

# THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL BENEFICE OF THE ASCENSION, CAMBRIDGE (ST. GILES WITH ST. PETER, ST. LUKE AND ST. AUGUSTINE)

England & Wales - Charity number 1172822

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Other

**Registered** 2017-05-02

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

## Contact

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**Address** The Old School  
Harvey Goodwin Avenue  
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**Website** [www.churchatcastle.org](http://www.churchatcastle.org)

## Activities

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**Objects:** THE KEY FUNCTION OF THE PCC IS PROMOTING IN THE PARISH THE WHOLE MISSION OF THE CHURCH, PASTORAL, EVANGELISTIC, SOCIAL AND ECUMENICAL.

**Activities:** Regular public worship & provision of space for personal prayer & contemplation, open to all. Pastoral work, including visiting the sick & the bereaved. Teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses, small groups & school assemblies. Promoting the whole mission of the Church through activities for senior citizens, young families & groups with special need. Supporting UK & overseas charities.

## Classification

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- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, The General Public/mankind

## Geography

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- Cambridgeshire

## Finances

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Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£263,784	£284,708	-	-
2023-12-31	£278,479	£204,146	-	-
2022-12-31	£259,194	£312,480	-	-
2021-12-31	£305,050	£318,706	-	-
2020-12-31	£262,290	£281,442	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Angela Evelyn Gibbs		2025-05-18
Dr Antony William Rix		2022-05-26
Dr Oliver Coates		2024-04-24
Dr PATRICIA KAY MCGUIRE		2012-04-24
FRANCES MARY GOMERSALL KLEIN		2024-04-24
Gillian Elizabeth Ambrose		2015-05-05
Gillian Frances Mead		2024-04-24
Joan Margaret Jeans		2024-04-24
MARGARET COOPER		2016-04-19
MR. RICHARD FOOTITT		2012-05-16
Paul Derrick GIBBS		2015-04-21
Revd Dr Thomas Ambrose		2015-05-05
Stella Margaret Cross		2024-04-24

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# Accounts

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# The Parish of the Ascension

## Annual Report 2024-25

The Parish of the Ascension Cambridge  
Church at Castle ecumenical partnership

[www.churchatcastle.org](http://www.churchatcastle.org)

Parish of the Ascension Office, The Old School, Harvey Goodwin Avenue, Cambridge CB4 3EU



## The Parish of the Ascension

**The Parish of the Ascension** is a single benefice comprising four church buildings around Castle Hill and beyond (north of the river, as far as Gilbert Road, West Road, Histon Road and Madingley Road, beyond the M11). They form a family of community-serving churches. Resident numbers in the parish are increasing rapidly due to Cambridge's ever growing population as well as from new housing on sites such as the University's Eddington development and Darwin Green (see map). In Cambridge, the population size has increased by 17.6%, from around 123,900 in 2011 to 145,700 in 2021. This is higher than the overall increase for England (6.6%) and higher than the increase for the East of England (8.3%).

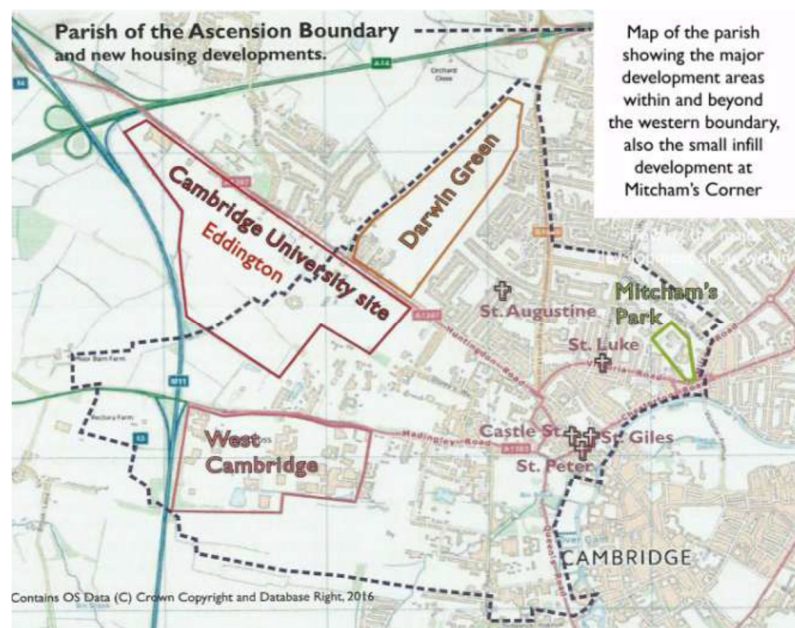
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/censuspopulationchange/E07000008/>

**St Augustine's** was built in 1898 as a multi-purpose building; a primary school and social space during the week and a church on Sundays. It continues to be very much at the heart of its community as it celebrates in 2023 its 125th anniversary of its founding and consecration.

**St Giles'** parish dates back to 1092. Open daily, the church is a quiet city centre space for prayer and meditation. At other times it welcomes people for the musical events, concerts, talks, celebrations and commemorations. The garden, a green space in a busy city, is used for lively fun days, garden parties and picnics as well as being cared for with the environment in mind.

**St Luke's Church** is a local ecumenical partnership between the United Reformed Church and the Church of England. The halls and church rooms, called St Luke's Church Centre, area venue for a wide variety of groups and activities including COPE (Cambridgeshire Older People's Enterprise) and a Montessori nursery.

**St Peter's Church** is located just across the road from St Giles' Church. Christians have been worshipping there for well over a thousand years. Day to day care of the church is shared with The Churches Conservation Trust. The building is open as a place of prayer and is sometimes used for exhibitions. Throughout the year special festivals are celebrated at St. Peter's and it is a quiet, sacred space for all to use.



# ChurchatCastle - an Ecumenical Group

Together with the United Reformed Church at St Luke's, Castle Street Methodist Church and the Romanian Orthodox congregation of St John the Evangelist, who worship in St Giles' Church, the churches offer an ecumenical witness in this northern area of the City of Cambridge. The umbrella name of 'ChurchatCastle' is used to describe the ecumenical character and activities of the churches and is reflected in the website, [www.churchatcastle.org](http://www.churchatcastle.org)

## Social profile

The social profile of the parish's population is as diverse as the city of which it forms a part. The Centre for Cities report 'Cities Outlook 2018' reported Cambridge as being the least equal city in England and Wales. The evolving new housing developments in the parish will see many international students, scholars and their families coming to live in the University of Cambridge's Eddington development with an equally diverse population moving into Darwin Green with its 40% affordable housing. A 2023 report states that 13.3% of households claimed benefits ('Mapping Poverty 2023', Cambridge City Council).

## Representation

### Parochial Church Council Terms of Reference

The PCC is the legally constituted body for the area with ultimate responsibility for all the activities of the churches in the parish. It may delegate some of its responsibilities to the Ecumenical Church Council (ECC) for St Luke's and District Church Councils (DCCs) for St Giles' and St Augustine's as it sees fit.

The Parish of the Ascension is committed to safeguarding in all its churches those who attend the worship and other activities that we offer. Safeguarding promotes the welfare of children and vulnerable adults and includes all actions to protect them from harm. Our Safeguarding Officer is Angela Gibbs.

- The Parish of the Ascension follows recommended safeguarding practice in recruiting, training and supporting our ordained and lay ministers, our employees and our volunteers.
- We follow the House of Bishops' Policy statement, '[Promoting a safer church](#)' (2017) and [guidelines](#) from the Diocese of Ely.

The PCC assumes particular responsibility for the Parish's contractual obligations in respect of the Parish Room and the Burial Ground, and in respect of the Parish Administrator and any other person that may be employed by or contracted to it. It will as a result draw up and agree a budget annually reflecting these responsibilities. It will also determine the level of financial support provided to the different churches in respect of their responsibilities for meeting some of the central administrative costs and parish share. The PCC will act as the final authority in respect of any dispute between the churches in the Parish, whether these are of a financial or other nature and in so far as it is within their jurisdiction.

Members of the PCC will be elected annually by members listed on the Electoral Roll.

### St Luke's Ecumenical Church Council (ECC)

St Luke's Ecumenical Church Council (ECC) is a partnership between the United Reformed Church and the Church of England. Authority is delegated to this body within a sharing agreement between the PCC of the Parish of the Ascension and the congregational meeting of the United Reformed Church in all matters pertaining to the management of St Luke's Church. The ECC meets bi-monthly, normally on the first Tuesdays of the month, except in August. Anyone in the congregation may ask for an item to be put on the agenda. Membership of the ECC consists of twelve lay members who are each elected for a period of three years, the URC minister and the Rector.

Congregational Meetings take place every other month after the morning service; they are the forum for debate and open to everyone in the congregation (although only those on the Common Roll may vote).

The Annual General Meeting takes place in March-May, when reports from the various organisations and activities are presented and elections are held.

## **Electoral Roll**

In accordance with the Church Representation Rules (2025 edition), following the six year cycle, a completely new roll has been prepared in advance of the annual parochial church meeting. The number of members is reduced to 83 since the last year. A roll of this size allows for nine elected lay representative members of the PCC and two elected representatives to the Deanery Synod.

I am grateful to churchwardens for their assistance with the preparation of this new roll.

Sheila Rozeik, Electoral Roll Officer  
May 2025

## **Elected members of the Parochial Church Council (post APCM 2024)**

### **Churchwardens ex-officio on PCC (elected annually)**

<b>St Augustine's</b>	Norma Davies, Gillian Mead
<b>St Giles'</b>	Oliver Coates
<b>St Luke's</b>	Paul Gibbs, Frances Klein

### **Deanery Synod representatives 2023-2026 ex officio on PCC**

<b>St Augustine's</b>	Gillian Mead
<b>St Giles'</b>	Oliver Coates
<b>St Luke's</b>	Jane Holmes

## **Parochial Church Council**

### **St Augustine's**

2022-2025 Patricia McGuire, Secretary

2023-2026 Antony Rix

2024-2027 vacancy

### **St Giles'**

2022-2025 Luis Jimenez Pina

2023-2026 Stella Cross

2024-2027 Richard Catchpole

### **St Luke's**

2022-2025 May Block

2023-2026 Gill Ambrose

2024-2027 Joan Jeans

**Parish Treasurer** Richard Footitt

**Safeguarding Officer** Angela Gibbs

## **District Church Councils**

### **St Augustine's**

2023-2026 Lisa Evans

2023-2026 vacancy

2024-2027 vacancy

### **St Giles'**

2022-2025 Helen Kinsey

2023-2026 Arthur Hibble

2024-2027 Luis Jimenez Pina

## **Ecumenical Church Council**

### **St Luke's Ecumenical Church Council:**

#### **as from the Annual Congregational Meeting 28 April 2024:**

May Block, Margaret Cooper, Judith Crowe, Lib Hallam, Jane Holmes, Joan Jeans, Frances Klein, Ken Smith, Doreen Ullinger

#### **as from Annual Congregational Meeting 23 March 2025:**

May Block, Margaret Cooper, Judith Crowe/ Sarah Herring, Isobel Fox, Angela Gibbs, Paul Gibbs, Lib Hallam, Brian Harrison, Jane Holmes, Frances Klein.

### **St Luke's Joint Council:**

#### **as from the Annual Congregational Meeting 28 April 2024**

Anglican: Margaret Cooper, Judith Crowe, Frances Klein, Alison Taylor

URC: May Block, Isobel Fox, Paul Gibbs, Brian Harrison

#### **as from Annual Congregational Meeting 23 March 2025:**

Anglican: Margaret Cooper, Judith Crowe, Frances Klein, Alison Taylor

URC: May Block, Isobel Fox, Angela Gibbs, Brian Harrison

## Ministry team (ex officio on the PCC)

Team Rector	Philipa King
Team Vicar	Janet Bunker
URC Minister	Deborah McVey (interim)
Assistant Priest	Tom Ambrose
Retired Priest	Owen Spencer Thomas
Licensed Lay Minister	Margaret Cooper
Authorised Lay Minister for children	Gill Ambrose

## Administrative information

**Parish of the Ascension**, The Old School, Harvey Goodwin Avenue, Cambridge, CB4 3EU  
Official correspondence to the Parish Administrator's Office at the above address.

### Bankers:

Co-operative Bank plc

### Legal advisers:

Diocesan Registrar; Barr Ellison, 39 Parkside, Cambridge, CB1 1PN

### Independent Examiner:

Julian Day FMAAT ACA BFP ACCA , Day Accountants Ltd., Quern House, Mill Court,  
Great Shelford, Cambridgeshire CB22 5LD

### Architect:

Nigel Walter, Archangel Architects, 3 Doctor's Close, Impington, Cambridge CB24 9ND

**Bookkeeper:** Day Accountants Ltd.

**Parish Administrator:** Sheila Rozeik



The sky on Easter Sunday 2025 over the parish

# REPORTS

## North Cambridge Deanery Report 2024-25

Since the last APCM, North Cambridge Deanery Synod has met 3 times; Joint Deanery Synod with S. Cambridge May 21<sup>st</sup> at St Andrew's Chesterton; October 15<sup>th</sup> at St Matthew's and Joint Deanery Synod May 13<sup>th</sup> 2025 at St John's, Hills Road.

**21 May 2024:** Chaired by Rev James Shakespeare, Rural Dean of Cambridge South and Lindsay Davies, Lay Chair of Cambridge North.

Guest Speaker: Rev Mark Rodel (Diocese of Ely, Development Officer for Learning) spoke about Open Christian Learning. Open Christian Learning seeks to use blended learning or a flipped-classroom model which has own-time learning (at your own pace, in your own time) combined with live sessions either in-person or online with a group (social spaces to bring learning together and test out our understanding with one-another). This model seeks to move from needing to be centralised to a greater range of local groups. OCL uses Moodle learning platform,

<https://ely.learn.anglican.org/>

Mark left the diocese in July 2024 and his work is being covered by Peter Leech, Director of Mission and Ministry.

The Bishop's Officer for Homelessness, Ely Diocese – Revd Kristian Hewitt (who couldn't attend in person) outlined his role at Cambridge Churches Homeless Project in a written summary.

Lay and clerical nominations to Diocesan Synod were encouraged.

**15 October 2024:** Canon Francis Burkitt gave a talk about the ministry of Ely Cathedral as a lay canon and member of Grantchester Parish Church. Recently many new members of the Cathedral Chapter have been appointed and there is a desire among the members to improve the bonds between the Chapter and the Diocese at large. Typically 300 people attend services on a Sunday morning, 30 at weekday Evensongs, 30,000 visitors over Holy Week and Easter and 25,000 during Advent. 450 volunteers are on call to improve the visitor experience.

### *Finding a new Bishop of Ely:*

Christopher Townsend, a member of the Crown Nomination Commission (CNC) for Ely, gave a report. He stated that the members of the CNC are sworn to a high level of confidentiality. However, he was able to confirm that they had been unable to reach a consensus last July.

### *Diocesan Synod elections:*

Nick Moir said some who had been elected to the Diocesan Synod are present this evening. It was the first contested election for many years. Most of those elected from North Cambridge were unhappy with the LLF process. He expressed his personal opinion that the outcome of the election was not representative of the Deanery as a whole. The voting system (first past the post) had been chosen by the Diocesan Synod.

### *General Synod (July 2024 meeting):*

Nick Moir reported that one of the major items was safeguarding. There had been heated discussion about this matter. There was pressure, for example, to have an independent investigation into Mike Pilavachi, the founder of 'Soul Survivor'. The main issue of contention was whether there should be safeguarding officers who are independent of the church. The present safeguarding officers are against this.

Chris Townsend then reported on the LLF votes. The motion had several parts (for details <https://lawandreligionuk.com/2024/07/08/general-synod-support-for-same-sex-relationships/>)

The results were as follows: Bishops 22 for, 12 against, 5 abstained. Clergy: 99 for, 88 against, 2 abstained. Laity: 95 for, 91 against, 2 abstained.

### *Diocesan Budget 2025:*

Nick Moir said that the Diocesan budget had been published rather later in the year than normal. He has pressed for the budget to be published in future in the Summer. One issue is that the Diocesan Secretary is on long-term sick leave. He stated that the figures for 'wider ministry costs' are not accurate.

Ministry share: Nick Moir gave an outline of the calculation: Dioceses have resources from former Glebe land. These subsidise parish ministry. Other money comes from Ministry Share. As a guideline, the direct cost of 1 stipendiary clergy person will be £55k in 2025. Wider costs: investing in the future e.g. curates (£12k); legal, archdeacons, safeguarding, DAC (£25k). So the full cost per clergy post is about £93k. All 'investing in the future' costs are covered by historic assets. One third of 'wider ministry costs' are also subsidised by historic assets.

### *Election of Standing Committee and Pastoral Committee:*

Nick Moir said the Standing Committee can carry out the business of the Synod between meetings. The Pastoral Committee is the official body in a deanery that has to be consulted about changes to church provision in the deanery. Please let him or Lindsay Davies know if you wish to be on these committees.

### **13 May 2025:** Joint Deanery Synod

Iain Osborne, Senior Chaplain and Strategy Advisor to the Acting Bishop of Ely, gave a realistic presentation on the current challenges to the diocese's strategy, missional priorities and finances. One piece of good news is that there is growth in the total worshipping community across the diocese, up 2.5% (2022-23) and up 4.2% in usual Sunday attendance; this is being seen across dioceses

(<https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/research/quiet-revival>)

Issues divided into,

Feeding the soil: Build trust, support key leaders and smallest churches, partnerships for growth and supporting churches in organisation.

Sowing seeds: Priorities over the next 2 years - outreach to new housing/communities; parish operations i.e. admin, finance; schools, children/youth/families work; leaders; social justice

Current challenges are recruiting for a new Diocesan Secretary (interviews in July) and appointing Diocesan Bishop (early Nov).

Finance: looking at diocese in deficit of c.£370k in 2025 mostly due to rise in NI and fall in ministry share.

No plans for large scale bids to the Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board before a bishop is appointed, except some funding for specialist curates i.e. pioneering and rural.

There was a report back from General Synod representatives on the February meeting which was dominated by safeguarding discussions. No one was available to give feedback on Diocesan Synod.

AOB: a call from Lindsay Davies for more participation in the long running Cambridge/Heidelberg Ecumenical group (Janet is meeting with them in September).

Thanks to Oliver Coates, Gill Mead and Jane Holmes for attending meetings.

Janet Bunker

## Report from the PCC

Report on activities of the PCC in 2024-25

The PCC had four ordinary meetings (28 May, 15 August, and 16 October 2024, and 20 February 2025) and one extraordinary meeting (18 November 2024) this year.

Janet Bunker continued as Chair, Patricia McGuire as secretary, Richard Footitt as Treasurer and Paul Gibbs as Lay Chair.

*Parish Room:* There were no tenants in place until early autumn, when Escapology Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu took up a tenancy. Extensive and sometimes costly repairs and surveys were required.

*Darwin Green:* Janet continued to follow progress on Darwin Green, which included that the community rooms became available for hire but the trigger occupancy level had not yet been reached for the library to be fitted out.

*Ministry:* Negotiations with parties including the Cambridgeshire Ecumenical Council and the URC Eastern Synod, about the constitution of our ECC partnership and plans for ministry, are ongoing. The Church of England ministry provision is also under consideration within the diocese. At the extraordinary meeting it was decided to increase our ministry share payments to 1.5 FTE, which was felt to be a wise decision, by Nick Moir, the Rural Dean for North Cambridge Deanery when he attended the February 20, 2025 meeting of the PCC, particularly when considering Janet's expected retirement in November.

*Parish Day of Wellbeing:* St Luke's hosted a parish Wellbeing event over the weekend beginning 18th October including a visit from St Luke's School on Friday, with Saturday being a free-of-charge Day of Wellbeing for the whole local community.

*Burial Ground:* The Commonwealth War Graves Commission erected a plaque at the entrance gate indicating the presence of war graves in the Ascension Parish Burial Ground. An art installation explored plant communication, with non-harmful electrodes inserted into the trees and the electrical signals turned into sounds. The Burial Ground and the parish were very saddened by the death of the tenant stone-carver Eric Marland, after a prolonged illness.

*Office and management:* The website, which had been managed by the Parish Administrator, is being better supported now by the web host. All of the parish policies were reviewed, updated as necessary and approved.

*St Luke's School:* The Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) visit was undertaken on October 4, to assess the relationship between the church and its school, and how well the Christian ethos is maintained at the school. See the school report, below.

*Authorised Lay Minister:* Gill Mead was approved to train for an Authorised Lay Ministry in Worship and Music.

Patricia McGuire, PCC Secretary

## Churchwardens' Reports

### St Augustine's Church

St Augustine's continues to provide its community with high quality musical and other events of great variety. On New Years Day, St Augustine's was full to bursting for a performance of Gilbert and Sullivan's HMS Pinafore by Cambridge Light Opera Group and the St Augustine's Singers. The St Augustine's Singers (now conducted by Paul Jackson) also took part in the popular Good Friday reflections and at the Easter Day service.

The eclectic Friday Night at St Augustine's talks continue to attract large and engaged audiences. We have had experts talking on topics from dancing to drains and water quality!

The monthly Sunday Community lunches (now in their 50<sup>th</sup> year) continue to thrive with over 50 people regularly attending and the twice weekly Cafe@99 is popular with locals, hall users and dogs alike! Additional helpers for both these valued community events are always welcome.

The Richmond Road Residents' Association annual Quiz Night proved as popular as ever and continues to bring people together in fun and frustration as well as raising vital funds for the RRRRA.

We are conscious of our commitments as a member of the Inclusive Church network, holding a 'Love is Love' weekend to coincide with Cambridge Pride which included a concert by St Augustine's Singers who gave rousing renditions of 'All You Need is Love' and Dame Ethel Smythe's 'March of the Women'. The priest, psychiatrist, writer and theologian Rev Dr Charlie Bell gave a witty and thought-provoking talk on Queer Holiness and we acknowledged Black History Month with a talk on Unconscious Racism and a jam-packed concert by local steel band, The Steel Invaders.

The church community mourned the loss of two long-term members, holding the funerals of David Wilson and Charmian Westwood and supporting those who mourned their passing.

We are a small but loyal congregation who strive to look outward to the needs of our wider community as much as possible with regular food collections for Cambridge Sustainable Food and many local groups using our upgraded facilities.

Gill Mead, Churchwarden

### St Giles' Church

Liturgical activities continue to include separate CofE and Romanian Orthodox services on Sundays, weekdays and festivals. Community activities continue with weekly hospitality, regular cake sales and occasional fetes. The church is open every day and, being close to the city centre, receives a steady flow of appreciative visitors.

The building is being damaged over time by rainwater, so it is very important to make sure the it keeps a 'dry hat and boots'. We were fortunate in securing a £216,667 grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and £3,000 from the Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust, for gutter, window and masonry renovation. So scaffolding is necessary outside and inside the south wall, and then the north wall. Completion will coincide with the building's sesquicentennial. Sufficiency of the grant cover is challenged by rising costs and a government decision to charge VAT on repairs to listed places of worship, but managing the site and involving the community is by volunteers, and completion is underwritten by reserves of St Giles' Church, the Friends of St Giles' Church and the parish. The main grant also supports restoration to public view of two historic banners in accordance with faculty granted in 2018. These banners will be available for reviewing by the general public in specially lit display cases at a later stage in the project.

Significant developments have been made in attempting to research, safeguard, and interpret the historical fabric of the church. These include the identification of a potentially significant painting within the church, and the commissioning of initial guidance on testing and dating of this work. Additionally, contextual information regarding the work has been gathered via research at the county Records Office in Ely, as well as at the University Library and online. A second and more recent focus of this work has been the Carre Memorial in the Lady Chapel, which is pending structural assessment for future restoration. Efforts have been made to provide interpretation for the monument, which is of considerable importance for its connection to Tudor Cambridge.

St Giles has received the papers of the late Sylvia Pick, including her history of St Giles and other research materials, and, more recently, Margaret Waring has kindly donated her research notes about the fabric of the church to the parish archive. Discussions are in process to secure the transferal of the church's archive to the County Records Office in Ely.

Oliver Coates, Churchwarden

### **St Luke's Church** (United Reformed and Anglican Local Ecumenical Partnership, LEP)

*(edited from Reports to the Annual Congregational Meeting, March 2025)*

St Luke's Common Roll update at the end of 2024 showed a total membership of 31. The average Sunday morning church attendance is 24, children seldom attend. There was one wedding, one baptism and four funerals. During 2024 we were deeply saddened by the deaths of Jane Hodgart, Beryl Steggall and Heather Taplin, our Church Centre Supervisor and Bookings Clerk.

Both denominations in St Luke's Local Ecumenical Partnership (Church of England with United Reformed Church) are still struggling with a shortage of ordained ministers. Revd Philipa King, Team Rector of Ascension Parish, is on long term sick leave and Revd Janet Bunker, Team Vicar, is providing parish leadership. We still have no stipendiary URC ministry, but we are very fortunate to have Revd Deborah McVey as our Interim Moderator of the Vacancy until a more permanent solution is worked out. We are very grateful to those who assist Janet, particularly Margaret Cooper, Tom Ambrose and Gill Ambrose. United Reformed Church ministers (generally retired) lead fourth Sundays, as 'pulpit supply' and the Communion elements are distributed in the URC style. Deborah has led many of these services, and we have also enjoyed ministry from Revds David Thompson, Lance Stone and David Tatem. Looking to future URC ministry in St Luke's, URC Eastern Synod has agreed to implement the principle of 'Mission Partnerships' where groups of churches will be linked together for mutual support with one ordained minister between them. Much has yet to be worked out, but it is likely that St Luke's will be in partnership with Downing Place URC, Fulbourn URC, and Stetchworth and Cheveley congregations (the latter two are very small) while still remaining part of the Parish of the Ascension.

We are grateful to Philip Mead and Jo Blakeman who now play for most of the services and others who can give occasional help.

The major social event of the year was the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary weekend on 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> October. The Saturday was billed as a day of well-being for the community, when everyone was welcomed to a very well-supported afternoon of free refreshments, performances and displays by all the groups who regularly hire the building, including CSD Brass, Acroyoga and many more. An historical photographic display was mounted and The Old School was also open with displays from today's pupils of St Luke's School. The church looked beautiful, thanks to the flower arrangers, Mavis Willis, May Block, Isobel Fox, Angela Gibb, Joan Jeans and Lib Hallam.

Heather Richardson wrote a fully illustrated booklet for the occasion. 'St Luke's in the community, 1874-2024', which is still available for sale at £5 for church funds. A huge success thanks to everybody, particularly Margaret Cooper as the mastermind. The church continues to host an art group, exhibitions, a knitting group, 'Breathing Space' – a prayer group, and many other local groups.

**Fundraising:** This continued with the popular Winter travel talks with supper; Tom and Gill Ambrose on 'Hidden Spain' and Angela and Paul Gibbs on South Korea.

Christian Aid week collection in May was organized as usual by Frances Klein and supported by a small group delivering gift envelopes to local streets. St Luke's was open on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September for the annual Historic Churches 'Ride and Stride', when the annual 'Spring clean' of the building was undertaken by a small group of willing helpers. Quarterly charity collections continued throughout the year; Red Hen, Salvation Army, Commitment for Life and Toilet Twinning during 2024, and Arthur Rank Hospice, RNIB, Commitment for Life and Embrace the Middle East were chosen for 2025.

**Joint Church Council (JCC):** Joint Council is composed of members of both the Anglican and the United Reformed denominations.

There are staff shortages of both sides of the Partnership. Along with the Anglicans there is a shortage of ordained ministry and finance to support those in post. It is proving difficult to find ordained URC ministers (retired or otherwise) to take the 'pulpit' on the fourth Sunday of the month. We are grateful for the support from Margaret Cooper and Gill and Tom Ambrose to help out on a regular basis.

Currently there are talks ongoing about Mission Partnerships and the sharing of people and skills. Mark Burleigh is the new County Ecumenical Officer.

**Safeguarding:** There were no safeguarding concerns reported at St Luke's within the past year. The focus for the Safeguarding Officer (Angela Gibbs) is therefore compliance with DBS checks and safeguarding training for all members of ECC. All members of ECC have up-to-date DBS checks but there is still outstanding basic and foundation training to be completed for some. In-person training sessions will be run for the whole parish once the new ECC and PCC have been elected, and there is an expectation that all those who have been unable to complete courses up until now, will attend.

**St Luke's Church Centre 2024:** Sadly, the Centre's manager, Heather Taplin, died on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2024 and although much has been done to pick up the work she did, this has taken time and is still not completely achieved. It is intended to appoint a new Centre Manager in the spring.

Meanwhile the Centre has continued to be extensively used. Smith's Nursery and COPE remain our major licensees. As the Steinway Grand Piano has been refurbished there have been more musical events and we have received more requests through the Church at Castle Website. The use of the Worship Area has increased from just local and national elections to conferences, large meetings, physical activities requiring high ceilings and musical performances, practices and rehearsals. The Old School has also been used for art classes and exhibitions, formal meetings, story-telling, elections, and parties. More use will be possible there when there is a resolution to the heating problem.

A second cleaner has been employed to look after the worship area and the Old School. Thanks are due to Caroline and Gordon for keeping the building clean and safe this year. Illegal Car Parking still presents a problem. We are grateful to ABIB and Hibbitts who rent car parking space and plans for control of the parking await the appointment of a new Centre Manager.

Maintenance of the building has been limited to general servicing and repairs which are required every year; Fire Safety, Boiler Servicing, Gutter Cleaning, Lift Servicing, Lightning Conductor and testing, Organ and Piano tuning and PAT testing. The Belfry was cleaned and woodworm protection applied, and the South Porch woodwork was oiled to prevent further weather damage.

Many thanks are due for the hard work that Frances Klein does on the church buildings and their bookings.

Janet Bunker

## **Finance and Accounts:**

St Luke's Church Centre and St Luke's Anglican Accounts are part of the Ascension Parochial Church Accounts. Basic unaudited accounts of the income and expenditure of the Church Centre and St Luke's Anglican in 2024 were presented at St Luke's Annual General Meeting in March 2025. The Ascension PCC is a charity and the combined Parish Accounts are published with the Annual Report of the Parish of the Ascension.

*St Luke's Church Centre:* This was a difficult year for the Centre and it was not possible for all transactions to be finalised during the calendar year. Some invoices for 2024 rents have not yet been put through and some expenditure has not been claimed. It is likely that the deficit recorded will be greater than reported although we are still awaiting the settlement of our insurance claim against the burglary in 2022.

Rents were less than in 2023 and most of our outgoings increased. 2025 will show further increases as we now have two cleaning contracts and there will be an increase in the cost of Centre Management as well as expenditure on office equipment. We will continue to do maintenance in line with the 2024 Quinquennial Review. The Old School needs better heating and other improvements, and has incurred a new cost, that of Council Tax which we are challenging. All this means that we need to increase our number of renters and consider increasing our rental charges above the level of inflation. The review of our energy installations and costs remains a priority.

*St Luke's Anglican Accounts:* Our planned giving and church collections did not quite cover the cost of the Parish Share this year. Our other costs were very small. We need to increase our giving if we are to be able to cover the increased Parish Share in 2025.

Thank you to all who contribute regularly to the church. Planned Giving Envelopes are available for anyone who would like to contribute regularly. Another way is by standing order. If you are able to gift aid your contributions this can increase the value to the church by twenty five percent

Frances Klein, Paul Gibbs- Churchwardens

## **Safeguarding Report**

Our safeguarding policy is reviewed and updated annually in February. My main job as safeguarding officer has been overseeing DBS checks and safeguarding training in the parish.

These are required for all members of ECC and PCC. We continue to make slow progress in completing this task. Some members are very diligent and are up to date, other have not started.

Training records are held on the parish safeguarding hub, enabling us to keep up to date with requirements.

Throughout the parish, there was one complaint of safeguarding concern over the past year. This concerned offence taken to a conversation during a regular community social event. As a result of this, an apology was issued and an action plan was implemented. This consisted of a policy of only meeting in the open church rather than the vestry, only meeting when suitable people are able to supervise the meeting and the compilation of a contact list.

Many thanks to Sheila Rozeik and Jane Bunker for their support.

Angela Gibbs

## **St Luke's (VA) Church of England Primary School**

St Luke's Primary School is on French's Road, not far from St Luke's Church, on a site to which the school moved in the 1960s, from a set of buildings that surrounded the church building itself. The original site, and its diverse buildings, reflected the school's foundations in the nineteenth century as several small educational establishments started with different purposes (e.g. one was an 'industrial school' for boys) and supported by a university-led charity, The Old Schools of Cambridge, to educate the growing population of needy

children from the newly developing industrial neighbourhood. The present extensive and beautiful site is still owned by The Old Schools Trust, and thus safe from development, representing a delightful and attractive green space for the children to enjoy.

After a period of turbulence, the school, led by Headteacher Mrs Ireland-Curtis, though much smaller in numbers than hitherto, is a stable and happy establishment. Staffing is stable and last year's validated KS2 results were well above the national average (which is 61%), with 82% of Year 6 children achieving the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths.

The school still has a diverse and transient population, reflecting the nature of the area, with the families of visiting university scholars and families in local temporary accommodation joining those who will spend the whole of their primary education at St Luke's. This is both enriching and challenging but, as any visitor will note, the school is a happy place, supporting confident children and now boldly celebrating its church foundation. This was recognised by a recent SIAMS inspection which recorded that

'Secure in their "environment of encouragement and compassion" the school community is inspired to take responsibility for others and the world. This leads to an outward-looking culture and builds concern for those within the school, in the city and beyond.'

St Luke's School is now part of the Diocese of Ely's academy trust, DEMAT, and it is also supported by the charity which succeeded The Old Schools Trust, the Church Schools of Cambridge. Janet Bunker, the Team Vicar, and Gill Ambrose are both members of the School's local governing body and are trustees of the CSOC Trust. Janet and Gill take it in turns to lead collective worship in the school each Thursday. The school also worships in St Luke's Church at the end of each term and held a special service last October to mark the Church's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Gill Ambrose, ALM

## **Parish of the Ascension Burial Ground**

The closed burial ground continues to be a place for quiet walks and contemplation by its' surrounding community. The Friends of the Burial Ground hold regular working parties in conjunction with the City Council's team who now have legal responsibility for the maintenance and upkeep of this precious community and wildlife asset.

### **Friends of the Ascension Burial Ground 2024**

The Friends of the Parish of the Ascension Burial Ground met for 11 work parties, and AGM and Christmas party, and lead tours to all who requested. Grass has been cut and raked throughout the year, ensuring that flowers could grow and gravestones were visible. A major project was mending and re-erecting 10 gravestones which otherwise were becoming invisible.

Alison Taylor



St Luke's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service



Repairs to monuments at the Ascension Burial Ground



Story Quilt made by St Luke's School



Lighting the Paschal Candle for baptism



Services and community activities continued at St Giles'



New Year's Day at St Augustine's

**THE PARISH OF THE ASCENSION  
CAMBRIDGE**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

Registered Charity number 1172822

**PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, CAMBRIDGE  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

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**PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, CAMBRIDGE  
ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

This is the annual report of the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Benefice of the Ascension, Cambridge (St Giles with St Peter, St Luke and St Augustine), known as the Parish of the Ascension, Cambridge for the year ended 31 December 2024.

**Background**

The Parish of the Ascension, Cambridge is the largest in the Diocese of Ely, covering an area in Cambridge bounded by Queens Road, Madingley Road, Huntingdon Road and Gilbert Road. The Parochial Church Council ("PCC") of the parish has the responsibility of co-operating with the Ministry Team in promoting in the Parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for St Luke's Church, The Old School, St Giles' Church, St Augustine's Church and the Parish Room (St Giles' Hall). In addition we work with the Romanian Orthodox Church who share the building at St. Giles'. It is a registered charity, no. 1172822, address Ascension Parish Office, The Old School, Harvey Goodwin Avenue, Cambridge CB4 3EU.

**Structure, governance and management**

The governing document is the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure (1956) as amended and Church Representation Rules that came into force on 2 January 1957; the latest edition of these rules, 2022, is available online <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/leadership-and-governance/legal-resources/church-representation-rules>

The PCC oversees the working of the parish through its regular meetings and through District Church Councils at St Augustine's and St Giles' and an Ecumenical Church Council at St Luke's Local Ecumenical Partnership.

Members of the PCC are those outlined as eligible under the Church Representation Rules 2022 (Section B: M15). During the year and to the time at which these accounts are approved, the following served as members of the PCC.

Rector	The Revd Canon Philipa King (on long term sickness absence)
Team Vicar	The Revd Dr Janet Bunker
Asst. Priest	The Revd Dr Tom Ambrose
URC Minister	The Revd Deborah McVey (interim)
Retired Priest	The Revd Canon Dr Owen Spencer Thomas
Licensed Lay Minister	Margaret Cooper
Authorised Lay Minister for Children	Gill Ambrose
Churchwardens	Norma Davies Gillian Mead Oliver Coates Paul Gibbs Frances Klein
Deanery Synod representatives	Jane Holmes Gillian Mead Oliver Coates
Treasurer	Richard Footitt
Elected Members, also secretary	Patricia McGuire, also Secretary Antony Rix Luis Jimenez Pina Stella Cross Richard Catchpole May Block Gill Ambrose Joan Jeans
Parish Safeguarding Officer	Angela Gibbs

**PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, CAMBRIDGE  
ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**Objectives and activities**

The key function of the charity is through its activities to promote in the Parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. In setting and reviewing the objectives and activities the Trustees have had due regard to the public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission.

**Achievements and Performance**

The Parish also looks to respond creatively to the Diocesan Vision prayer that we should be generous and visible people of Jesus Christ.

2024 has been another challenging year for all parishes as they recover and adapt to a post-Covid environment and with the continuing long term sickness absence of the Rector. Our main sources of income remain those received from the hire of our buildings to community groups and organisations, especially the rental of the Parish Room, planned giving from our congregations and events where donations are made. The completion of the refurbishment of The Old School at St Luke's has also enabled us to offer this space for rental to local organisations as a community asset.

There seems to have been pent up demand for meeting space as not only have most of our long term users returned, but also many new groups and users have sought to hire space in our churches. This is welcome but also puts extra pressure on the buildings and their management, the latter mostly undertaken by volunteers.

We continue to collaborate with those working for the common good and human flourishing within the parish and wider city especially looking to meet the needs of those experiencing the cost of living crisis. Each church has responded appropriately considering its resources, human and financial. So for example St Augustine's has supported financially the local authority's Akeman Community Centre Warm Space initiative working with and through one of the local residents' associations, and St Giles' has extended its weekly Tea@Three to include a simple soup lunch which complements the morning offering of hospitality from our neighbours Castle St Methodists. Each church supports a variety of local, national and international charities.

The year ahead looks no less challenging with anticipated changes in the deployment of clergy and ministers due to ill health, retirement and reduced capability of central church organisations to employ ministers. Employing good admin staff in Cambridge also presents challenges.

With continuing financial pressures on local authority services and community facilities and in such a diverse, busy and ever-growing place such as Cambridge where inequalities of opportunity can be very stark, we look to continue to use all our resources, physical, human and spiritual, to offer generous hospitality and an open welcome to those seeking rest, recreation, reflection, friendship and Christian fellowship.

We continue to hold firm to God's promise in our Saviour Jesus Christ that he will be with us until the end of the age and to use all we are and have for the benefit and building up of our communities.

**PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, CAMBRIDGE  
ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**Financial Review of the year**

The principal funding sources are through regular giving, collections at services, donations, and income from investments and rents.

Hall hire and rental incomes increased in the year, as did planned giving and donations for which we remain very grateful. Our overall income however fell slightly, reflecting the completion of work which was grant funded in 2023.

Day to day running costs increased on a broad front in line with inflation and the need to keep each church in good repair whilst maintaining our mission outreach. The change of tenants at St Giles's Hall (the Parish Room) was also a contributory factor, with the inevitable additional repairs and legal costs. Even so, the Parish was able to maintain the commitment to increase its Parish Share year-on-year.

So overall, 2024 recorded a shortfall of c£21 000 in respect of day to day activities.

By contrast, non-property investments held in CBF Church of England Funds generated a gain of nearly £16 000 in 2024.

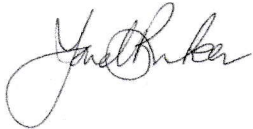
**Policy on Reserves**

Unrestricted funds are used by the PCC to pay for everyday expenses, including the upkeep and maintenance of the churches, and at their discretion for furthering the mission and ministry of the Church. These amounted to £962 000 at the end of the year as against £990 000 at the end of 2023.

Restricted funds are principally available for the capital development of the churches, totaling £273,754 for the year to 31 December 2024 up c£2 000 on the previous year end.

Much of the income from Endowment funds is available only for the upkeep of the burial ground, often for specific graves, but with a small sum available for more general purposes at the discretion of the PCC. These funds at the end of 2024 stood at c£63 000 as against c£61 000 at the start of the year.

On behalf of the PCC:



Date: 29/5/2025

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, CAMBRIDGE

I report on the accounts of Parochial Church Council of the Parish of the Ascension, Cambridge ("the PCC") for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 5 to 11.

### Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

The members of the Parochial Church Council are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### Basis of independent examiner's opinion

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statements below.

### Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act.
- (b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

*Day Accountants*

Julian Day FMAAT ACA BFP ACCA  
Day Accountants  
Quern House  
Mill Court  
Great Shelford  
Cambridgeshire  
CB22 5LD

Date 29 May 2025

PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, CAMBRIDGE  
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<b>Income</b>						
Donations & legacies	2(a)	48,188	-	-	48,188	69,538
Charitable activities	2(b)	209,417	-	-	209,417	205,164
Investments	2(c)	6,179	-	-	6,179	3,777
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>263,784</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>263,784</b>	<b>278,479</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>						
Raising funds	3(a)	4,826	-	-	4,826	3,304
Charitable Activities:						
Parish Share	3(b)	78,136	-	-	78,136	73,290
Ministerial costs	3(c)	8,713	-	-	8,713	5,970
Costs of church activities	3(d)	179,366	-	-	179,366	113,226
Governance Costs	3(e)	13,667	-	-	13,667	8,356
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>284,708</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>284,708</b>	<b>204,146</b>
<b>Net Income/(Expenditure) Before Transfers</b>		<b>(20,924)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(20,924)</b>	<b>74,333</b>
Transfer Between Funds:						
Transfer (to)/from Restricted Funds		-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net Income/(Expenditure) for the year</b>		<b>(20,924)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(20,924)</b>	<b>74,333</b>
<b>Other recognised gains and (losses)</b>						
Unrealised gains/(losses) on investment assets	6	8,879	5,114	1,032	15,025	33,560
<b>Net Movement in Funds</b>		<b>(12,045)</b>	<b>5,114</b>	<b>1,032</b>	<b>(5,899)</b>	<b>107,893</b>
<b>Reconciliation of Funds:</b>						
<b>Fund balances b/fwd at 1 January 2023</b>		<b>1,059,275</b>	<b>201,060</b>	<b>61,160</b>	<b>1,321,495</b>	<b>1,213,602</b>
<b>Fund Balances c/fwd at 31 December 2024</b>		<b>1,047,230</b>	<b>206,174</b>	<b>62,192</b>	<b>1,315,596</b>	<b>1,321,495</b>

Income and expenditure is derived solely from continuing operations

The notes on pages 8 - 11 form part of these financial statements

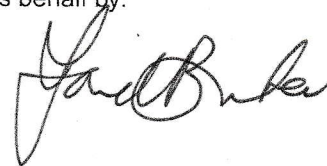
**PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, CAMBRIDGE  
BALANCE SHEET  
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	Note	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Investments	6		1,074,118		1,058,437
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors	7	15,718		21,436	
Cash at Bank and In Hand		<u>233,996</u>		<u>245,188</u>	
		249,714		266,624	
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>					
Creditors - Amounts Falling Due Within One Year	8		<u>8,236</u>		<u>3,566</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
		241,478	241,478		263,058
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>					
			<u>1,315,596</u>		<u>1,321,495</u>
Creditors - Amounts Falling Due After More Than One Year			-		-
<b>NET ASSETS</b>					
			<u><u>1,315,596</u></u>		<u><u>1,321,495</u></u>
<b>FUNDS</b>					
Unrestricted Funds	9		1,047,230		1,059,275
Restricted Funds	10		206,174		201,060
Endowment Funds	11		<u>62,192</u>		<u>61,160</u>
Total Funds			<u><u>1,315,596</u></u>		<u><u>1,321,495</u></u>

Approved by Church Meeting held on

29/5/25

and signed on its behalf by:



The notes on pages 8 - 11 form part of these financial statements

**PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, CAMBRIDGE  
STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS  
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	Note (below)	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Cash flow from operating activities:</b>			
Net cash provided by operating activities	A	(16,715)	47,672
Cash flow from investing activities	B	<u>5,523</u>	<u>2,590</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		(11,192)	50,262
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period</b>	C	<u>245,188</u>	<u>194,926</u>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period</b>	C	<u><u>233,996</u></u>	<u><u>245,188</u></u>

**Notes to the statement of cash flow**

**A) Reconciliation of net income to net cashflow from operating activities**

Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period as per the statement of financial activities	(5,899)	107,893
Gain/(Loss) on investments	(15,025)	(33,560)
Investment income	(6,179)	(3,777)
(Increase)/Decrease in debtors	5,718	(19,218)
(Decrease)/Increase in creditors	<u>4,670</u>	<u>(3,666)</u>
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<u><u>(16,715)</u></u>	<u><u>47,672</u></u>

**B) Cashflow from investing activities**

Investment income	6,179	3,777
Investment additions	(656)	(2,180)
Investment disposals	-	992
	<u><u>5,523</u></u>	<u><u>2,589</u></u>

**C) Analysis of cash and cash equivalents**

<b>Cash at bank and in hand</b>	<u><u>233,996</u></u>	<u><u>245,188</u></u>
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**PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, CAMBRIDGE  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**1 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**Basis of preparation**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the UK and the Republic of Ireland (SORP FRS102) and the Charities Act 2011. The charity is a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention modified to include certain items at fair value. Significant accounting policies are set out below. These policies have been applied consistently to all years unless otherwise stated.

**Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds are available to use at the discretion of the church in furtherance of its charitable objectives. They are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use.

Designated funds are funds which have been set aside for specific purposes, but which can be returned to general funds at any time, with the approval of the Church Meeting; there are no funds falling into this category in the year or prior year.

Restricted funds are subject to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor, or contained in the terms of the grant.

Endowment funds are funds where the capital given is not available to be spent or is only available to be spent under certain circumstances.

**Fixed assets and capital expenditure**

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011. Nor is any value included for moveable church furnishings held by the church wardens on special trust for the PCC since the PCC considers this to be inalienable property. All expenditure on consecrated or beneficed buildings and moveable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as repairs and improvement expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Where deemed material expenditure on other fixtures, fittings and equipment is capitalised and depreciated over its estimated useful life; no such assets are included in these financial statements. Expenditure on such items not deemed material is written off as incurred.

**Investments and Investment Properties**

Investments are included at their fair value on the balance sheet date. With the exception of property the PCC only has investments in the Central Board of Finance of the Church of England Deposit and Investment Funds for which quoted market value is available which is taken as fair value. Deposit investments are not for fixed terms and deposit value is taken as fair value. Property investments are included at their estimated market value. No formal valuation has been carried out and value given for the property is, in the opinion of the PCC, a reasonable representation of market value. Changes in valuation of investment and investment properties over the year are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

**Income**

All voluntary giving is included in the financial statements for the period in which it is received.

Donations under Gift Aid plus the associated tax recovery are recognised as income when the donation is received.

Legacies are accounted for when their receipt is certain and can be properly quantified.

All other income is generally recognised when it is receivable.

**Expenditure**

Expenditure is recognised in the period in which it is incurred and includes attributable VAT which cannot be recovered. It is allocated to the particular activity to which it relates on an actual attributable basis.

Governance costs represent direct expenditure on the governance of the church, including the production and independent scrutiny of these financial statements.

As most of the management and activity of the church is carried out by volunteers, this intangible cost is not included in the financial statements as this voluntary contribution to the life of the church is incalculable.

PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, CAMBRIDGE  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

2 INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
<b>(a) Donations &amp; legacies:</b>					
Planned giving - under gift aid	29,706	-	-	29,706	28,342
Tax Recoverable	-	-	-	-	-
Other planned giving	750	-	-	750	600
Collections in service	101	-	-	101	2,008
Grants	3,665	-	-	3,665	27,305
Sundry donations	13,966	-	-	13,966	11,283
Legacies	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>48,188</u>	-	-	<u>48,188</u>	<u>69,538</u>
<b>(b) Charitable activities</b>					
Fundraising / events	1,611	-	-	1,611	1,856
Fees	1,578	-	-	1,578	2,323
Hall and related rents	204,604	-	-	204,604	198,861
Children, Social events, Publications, Retreat	1,623	-	-	1,623	2,124
	<u>209,417</u>	-	-	<u>209,417</u>	<u>205,164</u>
<b>(c) Investments:</b>					
Bank interest & dividends	6,179	-	-	6,179	3,777
Rents and similar income	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>6,179</u>	-	-	<u>6,179</u>	<u>3,777</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>263,784</u>	-	-	<u>263,784</u>	<u>278,479</u>

3 EXPENDITURE

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
<b>(a) Raising Funds</b>					
Cost of fund raising events	4,826	-	-	4,826	3,304
	<u>4,826</u>	-	-	<u>4,826</u>	<u>3,304</u>
<b>(b) Parish share</b>	78,136	-	-	78,136	73,290
The church contributes to the central Diocese costs of training and providing ministers (including the centralised payment of stipends, pension contributions and other benefits for ministers), running the denomination, and the wider mission of the national church.					
<b>(c) Ministerial Costs</b>					
Ministers expenses	-	-	-	-	-
Worship resources	1,060	-	-	1,060	984
Musical life of the church	7,653	-	-	7,653	4,986
	<u>8,713</u>	-	-	<u>8,713</u>	<u>5,970</u>
<b>(d) Costs of Church Activities</b>					
Premises running costs:					
Rates and utilities	28,085	-	-	28,085	25,710
Insurance	15,029	-	-	15,029	9,075
Repairs and maintenance	71,346	-	-	71,346	18,130
Major building expenditure	-	-	-	-	-
Caretaker and cleaning	21,568	-	-	21,568	19,867
Legal and professional	771	-	-	775	50
	<u>136,803</u>	-	-	<u>136,803</u>	<u>72,832</u>
<b>Administration costs</b>					
Office costs	11,684	-	-	11,684	10,510
Staff costs	30,879	-	-	30,879	27,872
	<u>42,563</u>	-	-	<u>42,563</u>	<u>38,382</u>

PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, CAMBRIDGE  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

3 RESOURCES EXPENDED (Continued)

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
<b>Mission Outreach:</b>					
Other outreach costs	-	-	-	-	2,011
Donations	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,011</u>
	<u>179,366</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>179,366</u>	<u>113,225</u>
<b>(e) Governance Costs</b>					
Accountancy and Bookkeeping	13,667	-	-	13,667	8,356
	<u>13,667</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,667</u>	<u>8,356</u>
<b>Total Resources Expended</b>	<u>284,708</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>284,708</u>	<u>204,145</u>

4 STAFF COSTS

	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and Salaries	30,879	27,872
	<u>30,879</u>	<u>27,872</u>

No Trustee received remuneration or other benefit in the year.  
Covid19 Furlough grants received are recorded in grant income.

5 FIXED ASSETS

For the reasons stated in Accounting Policy note 1, the church buildings are not tangible fixed assets of the church.  
The principal operational asset apart from consecrated and beneficed property is the building known as the Old School House.  
No value is included in these accounts as no details are available as to original cost and it is not practicable to assign a meaningful value in use yet.

6 INVESTMENTS

	2024 £	2023 £
Fair value brought forward	1,058,436	1,023,688
Additions	656	2,180
Disposals	-	(992)
Net unrealised gains/(losses)	15,026	33,560
Fair value at 31 December 2024	<u>1,074,118</u>	<u>1,058,436</u>

Made up as follows:

Central Board of Finance of the Church of England:

Deposit Fund	74,036	72,084
Investment Fund	362,243	348,514
Investment Property - Parish Room	637,838	637,838
	<u>1,074,118</u>	<u>1,058,436</u>

7 DEBTORS

	2024 £	2023 £
Tax recoverable	-	-
Other debtors	15,718	21,436
	<u>15,718</u>	<u>21,436</u>

8 CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year.

	2024 £	2023 £
Other Creditors	8,236	3,566
	<u>8,236</u>	<u>3,566</u>

**PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, CAMBRIDGE  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**9 UNRESTRICTED FUNDS**

	2024	2023
	£	£
St Augustine's Income Account	10,946	13,150
St Augustine's Capital Account	5	5
St Giles Income Account	10,685	9,776
St Luke's Capital Account	1,159	1,159
St Luke's Church Centre Income Account	13,062	10,846
PCC Income Account	94,186	132,333
Parish Room	637,838	637,838
Parish Room Repairs	8,143	8,143
Mason Fund (residual legacy)	179,664	170,938
Old Junior School Income Fund	6,028	5,994
	<u>961,716</u>	<u>990,182</u>

**10 RESTRICTED FUNDS**

	2024	2023
	£	£
St Augustine's Mason Legacy	2,247	2,247
St Giles Fabric Fund	24,370	24,370
St Giles Legacies Fund	2,129	2,129
St Giles Organ Fund	3,704	3,704
Lewis Bequest Grave Trust	2,104	2,057
Fitzpatrick Grave Trust	2,937	2,871
St Luke's Church Centre Fabric Fund	906	906
St Luke's Income Account	88,592	68,248
St Luke's Legacies	33,887	33,887
St Luke's Belinda Parham legacy	6,869	6,523
St Luke's Elton Legacy	327	327
PCC Capital Fund	95,836	91,181
PCC Graves Maintenance	6,848	5,516
Crisp Legacy	2,997	2,997
	<u>273,754</u>	<u>246,963</u>

**11 ENDOWMENT FUNDS**

	2024	2023
	£	£
Stretten Ave Sale Proceeds	2,821	2,758
FC Shove Grave Trust	10,220	9,992
Braybrooke Grave Trust	14,645	14,448
Blackman Grave Trust	20,533	20,074
Mss FM Kent Bequest	5,098	4,947
Old Jnr School	9,650	9,061
	<u>62,967</u>	<u>61,280</u>

**12 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total £
Investments	832,837	178,313	62,967	1,074,117
Current Assets	137,115	95,440	-	232,556
Liabilities falling due within one year	(8,236)	-	-	(8,236)
Fund Balance	<u>961,716</u>	<u>273,754</u>	<u>62,967</u>	<u>1,298,437</u>

**13 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

There are no related party transactions requiring disclosure.

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, CAMBRIDGE

I report on the accounts of Parochial Church Council of the Parish of the Ascension, Cambridge ("the PCC") for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 5 to 11.

### Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

The members of the Parochial Church Council are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### Basis of independent examiner's opinion

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statements below.

### Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act.
- (b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

*Day Accountants*

Julian Day FMAAT ACA BFP ACCA  
Day Accountants  
Quern House  
Mill Court  
Great Shelford  
Cambridgeshire  
CB22 5LD

Date 29 May 2025

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# Accounts

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# The Parish of the Ascension

## Annual Report 2023-24

The Parish of the Ascension Cambridge  
Church at Castle ecumenical partnership

[www.churchatcastle.org](http://www.churchatcastle.org)

Parish of the Ascension Office, The Old School, Harvey Goodwin Avenue, Cambridge CB4 3EU

## The Parish of the Ascension

**The Parish of the Ascension** is a single benefice comprising four church buildings around Castle Hill and beyond (north of the river, as far as Gilbert Road, West Road, Histon Road and Madingley Road, beyond the M11). They form a family of community-serving churches. Resident numbers in the parish are increasing rapidly due to Cambridge's ever growing population as well as from new housing on sites such as the University's Eddington development and Darwin Green (see map). In Cambridge, the population size has increased by 17.6%, from around 123,900 in 2011 to 145,700 in 2021. This is higher than the overall increase for England (6.6%) and higher than the increase for the East of England (8.3%).

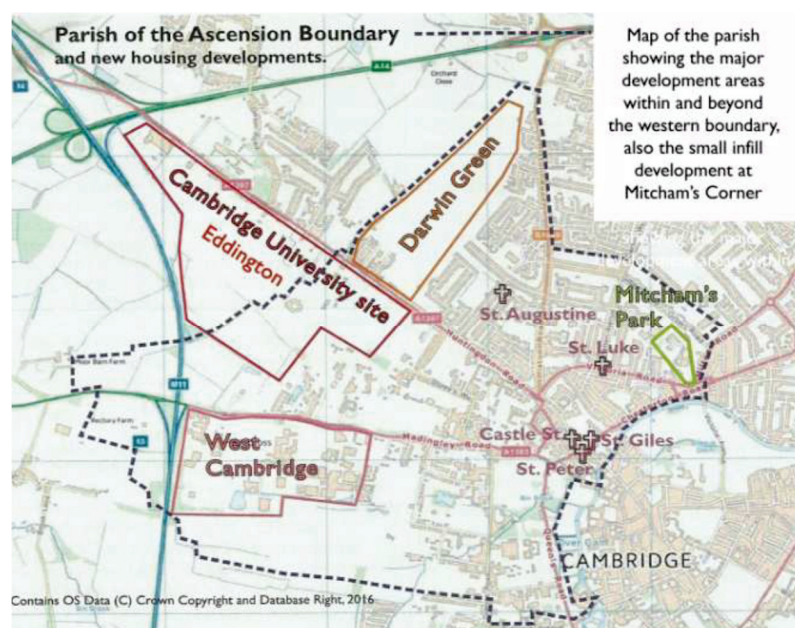
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/censuspopulationchange/E07000008/>

**St Augustine's** was built in 1898 as a multi-purpose building; a primary school and social space during the week and a church on Sundays. It continues to be very much at the heart of its community as it celebrates in 2023 its 125th anniversary of its founding and consecration.

**St Giles'** parish dates back to 1092. Open daily, the church is a quiet city centre space for prayer and meditation. At other times it welcomes people for the musical events, concerts, talks, celebrations and commemorations. The garden, a green space in a busy city, is used for lively fun days, garden parties and picnics as well as being cared for with the environment in mind.

**St Luke's Church** is a local ecumenical partnership between the United Reformed Church and the Church of England. The halls and church rooms, called St Luke's Church Centre, area venue for a wide variety of groups and activities including COPE (Cambridgeshire Older People's Enterprise) and a Montessori nursery.

**St Peter's Church** is located just across the road from St Giles' Church. Christians have been worshipping there for well over a thousand years. Day to day care of the church is shared with The Churches Conservation Trust. The building is open as a place of prayer and is sometimes used for exhibitions. Throughout the year special festivals are celebrated at St. Peter's and it is a quiet, sacred space for all to use.



## ChurchatCastle - an Ecumenical Group

Together with the United Reformed Church at St Luke's, Castle Street Methodist Church and the Romanian Orthodox congregation of St John the Evangelist, who worship in St Giles' Church, the churches offer an ecumenical witness in this northern area of the City of Cambridge. The umbrella name of 'ChurchatCastle' is used to describe the ecumenical character and activities of the churches and is reflected in the website, [www.churchatcastle.org](http://www.churchatcastle.org)

### Social profile

The social profile of the parish's population is as diverse as the city of which it forms a part. The Centre for Cities report 'Cities Outlook 2018' reported Cambridge as being the least equal city in England and Wales. The evolving new housing developments in the parish will see many international students, scholars and their families coming to live in the University of Cambridge's Eddington development with an equally diverse population moving into Darwin Green with its 40% affordable housing. A 2022 report states that one in seven households is defined as a 'benefit household' ('Mapping Poverty 2022', Cambridge City Council).

### Representation

#### Parochial Church Council Terms of Reference

The PCC is the legally constituted body for the area with ultimate responsibility for all the activities of the churches in the parish. It may delegate some of its responsibilities to the Ecumenical Church Council (ECC) for St Luke's and District Church Councils (DCCs) for St Giles' and St Augustine's as it sees fit.

The Parish of the Ascension is committed to safeguarding in all its churches those who attend the worship and other activities that we offer. Safeguarding promotes the welfare of children and vulnerable adults and includes all actions to protect them from harm. Our Safeguarding Officer is Angela Gibbs.

- The Parish of the Ascension follows recommended safeguarding practice in recruiting, training and supporting our ordained and lay ministers, our employees and our volunteers.
- We follow the House of Bishops' Policy statement, ['Promoting a safer church' \(2017\)](#) and [guidelines](#) from the Diocese of Ely.

The PCC assumes particular responsibility for the Parish's contractual obligations in respect of the Parish Room and the Burial Ground, and in respect of the Parish Administrator and any other person that may be employed by or contracted to it. It will as a result draw up and agree a budget annually reflecting these responsibilities. It will also determine the level of financial support provided to the different churches in respect of their responsibilities for meeting some of the central administrative costs and parish share. The PCC will act as the final authority in respect of any dispute between the churches in the Parish, whether these are of a financial or other nature and in so far as it is within their jurisdiction.

Members of the PCC will be elected annually by members listed on the Electoral Roll.

## **St Luke's Ecumenical Church Council (ECC)**

St Luke's Ecumenical Church Council (ECC) is a partnership between the United Reformed Church and the Church of England. Authority is delegated to this body within a sharing agreement between the PCC of the Parish of the Ascension and the congregational meeting of the United Reformed Church in all matters pertaining to the management of St Luke's Church. The ECC meets bi-monthly, normally on the first Tuesdays of the month, except in August. Anyone in the congregation may ask for an item to be put on the agenda. Membership of the ECC consists of twelve lay members who are each elected for a period of three years, the URC minister and the Rector.

Congregational Meetings take place every other month after the morning service; they are the forum for debate and open to everyone in the congregation (although only those on the Common Roll may vote).

The Annual General Meeting takes place in March/April, when reports from the various organisations and activities are presented and elections are held.

## **Electoral Roll**

In accordance with the Church Representation Rules (revised 2022) an updated roll of members has been prepared in advance of the annual parochial church meeting. Since April 2023, sadly we have lost six members who have died. A further seven former members have moved away or worship elsewhere, so the new roll has 101 members. I am grateful to churchwardens for their assistance with updating the roll.

Sheila Rozeik, Electoral Roll Officer  
April 2024

## **Elected members of the Parochial Church Council (post APCM 2023)**

**Churchwardens ex-officio on PCC** (elected annually)

<b>St Augustine's</b>	Gillian Mead, Mark Wills
<b>St Giles'</b>	Richard Catchpole
<b>St Luke's</b>	vacancy

**Deanery Synod representatives 2020-2023** ex officio on PCC

<b>St Augustine's</b>	Philip Mead
<b>St Giles'</b>	vacant
<b>St Luke's</b>	Jane Holmes

## **Parochial Church Council**

### **St Augustine's**

2021-2024 Patricia McGuire \*, Secretary

2022-2025 vacancy

2023-2026 Antony Rix

### **St Giles'**

2021-2024 vacancy

2022-2025 vacancy

2023-2026 vacancy

### **St Luke's**

2021-2024 Judith Crowe\*

2022-2025 Paul Gibbs

2023-2026 Frances Klein

*\* not eligible for re-election when current term ends*

## **District Church Councils**

### **St Augustine's**

2021-2024 vacancy

2022-2025 Lisa Evans

2023-2026 vacancy

### **St Giles'**

2021-2024 Margaret Waring

2022-2025 Helen Kinsey

2023-2026 Arthur Hibble

2023-2026 vacancy

## **Ecumenical Church Council**

### **St Luke's Ecumenical Church Council as from the Annual Congregational Meeting**

#### **30 April 2023:**

May Block, Margaret Cooper, Isobel Fox, Angela Gibbs, Paul Gibbs, Lib Hallam, Jane Holmes, Joan Jeans, Frances Klein, Ken Smith, Doreen Ullinger

### **St Luke's Joint Council as from the Annual Congregational Meeting 30 April 2023:**

May Block, Margaret Cooper, Judith Crowe, Isobel Fox, Paul Gibbs, Brian Harrison, Frances Klein and Alison Taylor.

## **Ministry team (ex officio on the PCC)**

<b>Team Rector</b>	Philipa King
<b>Team Vicar</b>	Janet Bunker
<b>URC Minister</b>	Deborah McVey (interim)
<b>Assistant Priest</b>	Tom Ambrose
<b>Retired Priest</b>	Owen Spencer Thomas
<b>Licensed Lay Minister</b>	Margaret Cooper
<b>Authorised Lay Minister for children</b>	Gill Ambrose

## **Administrative information**

**Parish of the Ascension**, The Old School, Harvey Goodwin Avenue, Cambridge, CB4 3EU

Official correspondence to the Parish Administrator's Office at the above address.

### **Bankers:**

Co-operative Bank plc

### **Legal advisers:**

Diocesan Registrar; Barr Ellison, 39 Parkside, Cambridge, CB1 1PN

### **Independent Examiner:**

Scott Reynolds ACCA , Day Accountants Ltd., Quern House, Mill Court, Great Shelford, Cambridgeshire CB22 5LD

### **Architect:**

Nigel Walter, Archangel Architects, 3 Doctor's Close, Impington, Cambridge CB24 9ND

**Bookkeeper:** Day Accountants Ltd.

**Parish Administrator:** Sheila Rozeik



The refurbished Old School building where the Parish Office is now located

# REPORTS

## North Cambridge Deanery Report 2023-24

Since the last APCM, North Cambridge Deanery Synod has met 3 times; June 2023 (Michaelhouse); November 2023 (Christ the Redeemer); January 2024 (St Clement's).

I would like to thank Phil Mead and Jane Holmes for accompanying me to these meetings when they could. In addition I met with Nick Moir, Andrew Day and David Maher on 30<sup>th</sup> October to discuss North Cambridge Development Deanery Planning.

### 22 June 2023

There was a discussion about Living in Love and Faith Debate and motions were voted on. The motions were as follows:

#### Motion 1:

We, the members of the Deanery Synod, are united in expressing our deep concerns regarding the impact of recent proposals from the Bishops regarding Prayers of Love and Faith. In the spirit of the Pastoral Principles, we warmly affirm the importance of pastoral care for all members of our congregations, we recognise the importance of speaking into issues of gender, sexuality and identity, which are to many the most pressing pastoral and theological issues of our time, and we lament the way that some members of the LGBTQ+ community have been treated in the Church. However, we are also united in our view that the proposals as they stand create significant difficulties for the unity and mission of the Church of England, including our Deanery. We acknowledge that there are differing views on the proposals, and especially that a number of us cannot in good conscience 'walk together' on this issue.

We understand that many find the prospect of 'pastoral reassurance' inadequate to meet the profound ecclesiological and moral differences that have been exposed.

We are anxious that the Bishop of Ely (and his successor), the Bishop of Huntingdon, the Bishop's staff, the Bishop's Council and Diocesan Synod should fully engage with this reality, and work urgently to address the full impact of these proposals for the life of the Church.

#### Motion 2:

This Deanery,

a) Regrets the motion passed at General Synod on Living in Love and Faith and would urge the Bishops and General Synod to withdraw their support for the proposed Prayers of Love and Faith and reconsider.

b) Supports the motion passed at General Synod on Living in Love and Faith, and its provision for the proposed Prayers of Love and Faith to be available to be used for same-sex couples.

c) Urges that preparations be made for a new structural settlement that accepts that we cannot simply 'walk together' on this matter.

The results of the votes on these motions were:

#### Clergy

Motion number	For	Against	Abstain
1	17	2	1
2a	12	7	0
2b	8	12	0
2c	14	4	1

## Laity

Motion number	For	Against	Abstain
1	21	3	0
2a	15	7	1
2b	8	13	1
2c	14	7	2

### 9 November 2023

A report was given from Diocesan Synod where the motions above were sent. A reply from Bishop Dagmar was read out,

“The Bishop’s Staff and Bishop’s Council are listening carefully to the various arguments made and the question before us adds to this. Please note that it is as yet quite unclear and undecided, what shape the ‘pastoral reassurance’ will take.

It will certainly not be decided by the Diocese of Ely but this Diocese will take its direction from the House of Bishops and the General Synod. The Bishop’s Staff in Ely Diocese are unanimous in respecting and defending freedom of conscience in the contended issues at hand.

However, we know we are far from unanimity in the diocese with a wide spectrum of views held concerning the LLF proposals. Each of us have to accept this reality.

There is furthermore no unanimity on how we best deal with this fact of widely different views, as the motion from Cambridge North Deanery demonstrates.

I welcome the mention of the Pastoral Principles as we live in this difficult situation while still awaiting a firming up of the package of LLF proposals.”

The Diocesan budget for 2024 was approved. A deficit of £200k is planned, largely due to the continuing impact of COVID. An increase of 4% in Ministry Share was announced as was an increase in the clergy stipend of 5% (this amount is lower than inflation).

Nick Moir said he had asked Deanery treasurers for a 5% rise in contributions rather than 4%. Synod then heard from paired parishes as part of the Deanery’s Planning exercise, St Andrews Chesterton & St Matthews, The Ascension & the Good Shepherd.

New Personnel in the Diocese: Deputy Director of Planning, Revd Iain Osborne. The main part of his remit will be new housing developments. Director of Ordinands, Revd David Newton.

### 31 January 2024

#### Appointment of a new Bishop of Ely

The six Diocesan representatives on CNC (Crown Nominations Commission) are: The Revd. Canon James Blandford-Baker, Canon Dr Felicity Cooke, The Revd Canon Sarah Gower, The Venerable Dr Alex Hughes, Canon Simon Kershaw, Mr Christopher Townsend.

Interviews of candidates for the post of Bishop of Ely are due to take place on 11-12 July.

If the CNC are successful in identifying a person to become our new bishop, an announcement can be expected in September but the new Bishop is unlikely to take up his/her position here until sometime in early 2025.

Nick Moir gave a report on General Synod (Nov 23). LLF: At present, prayers of love and faith may only be used at regular services. Stand-alone services are not yet permitted. The possibility of stand-alone services for same-sex couples will go through the full synodical process.

Nick Moir also reported that a new Diocesan office is being built on the outskirts of Ely (with good parking). It is planned that it will open around Easter. It is important to stress it was not paid for from the Parish Share.

There will be a safeguarding audit in 2026. Two parishes from the Deanery will be chosen. Resumption of Archdeacon Visitations: The Rural Dean will assist the Archdeacon with this matter in 2025. They will want to check on matters such as the church silver, wedding records, safeguarding. Training will be given in advance.

Deanery Planning: Final pairs talked about their context. Great St Mary's & St Clement's, St Andrew the Great and Christ Church.

Janet Bunker

## **Report from the PCC**

Report on activities of the PCC in 2023-24

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) met on 19 June 2023, 25 October 2023 and 6 February 2024. Additionally, business was carried out by email in September 2023 (an additional pair of speakers was approved to be installed at the back of the nave of St Giles'), February 2024 (Gill Ambrose was re-appointed as a Trustee of The Church Schools of Cambridge, with reference to St Luke's School) and March 2024 (the lease at St Giles's Hall was reassigned to The Biodiversity Company, under much the same terms as the sitting tenants who wished to be released from their obligations).

PCC officers elected at the June meeting were Janet Bunker (Chair), Paul Gibbs (lay chair), Richard Footitt (treasurer) and Patricia McGuire (secretary). The Resources Committee was active this year due partly to the changeover of bookkeepers and accountants to Day Accountants. The parish is facing financial challenges including declining congregation numbers, the increased cost of living and of heating, the quinquennial reviews at St Giles' (2023, which has revealed expensive roof work is needed) and at St Luke's (2024), financial pressures on the deanery being passed on to parishes, and unexpected roof repairs required in the Parish Room.

The PCC voted £2500 for the use of the Friends of the Ascension Parish Burial Ground, who reported on activities including new notice boards, biodiversity initiatives, earning the bronze Cambridgeshire Churchyard Conservation Award, and a very successful moth survey with interesting and surprising results. Work on re-erecting gravestones, and the installation of Clive Sinclair's memorial, were also reported to the PCC.

Patricia McGuire, PCC Secretary

## Churchwardens' Reports

### St Augustine's Church

From Cats to Ceilidhs, from Doom to Death - it's all been happening at St As this past year. As always there were many activities to engage with our wider community.

Some of the highlights include Catfest, festival of poetry, music, food on the subject of cats; Festival of Dance including a sermon on the Dance of the Trinity (perichoresis), contributions from Manor Mill Morris, Cambridge Morris Men, Colours of Dance, a concert on a Dance theme from St Augustine's Singers and an exhibition of dance pictures from the drawing group.

In November there was a weekend of remembering with a Friday evening talk on the theology of death by Dr H Shannon, a "death cafe"- coffee and cake mixed with discussions on wills and funerals, along with a Remembrance Day concert by St A's singers and finishing with BCP choral evensong. In the same month there was a change from the normal eucharistic service, instead there was morning prayer with a performance of the York Medieval Doom play including enthusiastic devils and Christ the King!



We have replaced more of the heavy padded chairs with lightweight, wooden, stackable chairs, thanks to a generous donation by the Richmond Road Residents' Association. In a flexible multi-use building, these make the constant moving of chairs so much easier.

On Pentecost Sunday morning, a small window pane broke on opening and it broke in the shape of a flame, appropriately for that day. It is hoped to replace the glass with a pane etched with the flame shape as a constant reminder of how the Holy Spirit gives us light and life.

In December St Augustine's was awarded an EcoChurch Silver Award and in February the film 'Pure Clean Water' produced by Tony Eva, a local environmentalist and campaigner, was screened in the church to a packed and engaged audience. The film explains how the demand for water in and around Cambridge is causing springs to dry up and disappear and the iconic River Cam to be badly degraded. We also held our first Nativity Set display where loved crib sets were brought into church before the Carol Service by the community accompanied by explanations of their history.

The Good Friday Meditation proved popular again this year with beautiful singing from St Augustine's singers and the projection of paintings by Sieger Köder.

As well as special events, the long running monthly Community Lunch continues to offer companionship as well as a good cooked meal for a reasonable price. Cafe@99 on Monday and Friday mornings also continues to be a welcoming space for good coffee, cake and chat. Great thanks is due to the volunteers who help run these facilities for the local community. And new volunteers are always welcome!

Gill Mead, Mark Wills, Churchwardens

## **St Giles' Church**

St Giles' church, in a parish renowned ecumenically, is kept freely open by volunteers in business hours for peaceful reflection, for visitor hospitality, for Anglican services twice a week and for student orchestra rehearsals etc. in the evenings. Our social events for the community included St Giles' Fair, St Nicholas' Fair, the Christmas Tree Festival, regular church tours, crafts, charity cake sales, and Tea@3 with extended times in winter. We enable local charities to raise funds through stalls at events and by using the church facilities for their own events. This year the garden enabled the Ukrainian Heritage Art & Music organisation to celebrate an important national festival and CamCrag raised funds to support both their work with refugees and Emmaus' work with the homeless. Although the costs of heating and running a large Victorian building have risen faster than achievable income, this year we won financial assistance by Cambridge City Council. The church gained a Bronze award in the national Eco Church scheme, with the garden gaining Gold status for its development as a bio-diverse, sustainable environment.

For the Romanian Orthodox communities of Cambridgeshire and neighbouring counties, the church is also dedicated to St John the Evangelist. To aid informal and formal worship there are beautiful icons, including ones for both of the saints to which the building is dedicated. For over ten years the orthodox congregations has grown to fill the large building and to appreciate its beautiful furnishings, and acoustics, enhanced now by added speakers.

To keep the open churchyard safe, a retaining wall on the boundary is being buttressed by Cambridge City Council. An area of roofing was repaired, as was a high gutter end that had dipped and thought the cause of localised damage and damp. Quinquennial Inspection by architects concluded a need now to correct other gutter ends and to support the gutters. They point out that effective collection and disposal of rainwater avoids hugely increased cost of building works. This will require scaffolding on both sides of the church, which will also allow economic attention to stonework spalling, pointing, stabilisation of window surround stonework and renovation of the windows themselves. It is hoped to obtain grants to cover some of the cost over two years of circa £180,000.

Richard Catchpole, Churchwarden

**St Luke's Church** (United Reformed and Anglican Local Ecumenical Partnership, LEP)  
(edited from Reports to the Annual Congregational Meeting, April 2024)

### **Churchwarden's Report**

Regular worship continued during the year with a variety of service styles. The common liturgy was used together with URC pulpit supply and a monthly Service of the Word. The Parish changed its pattern of services with every third week being a joint parish service rotated around the three churches. In-person worship continues on a regular basis, with over 20 people attending each week. Music has been provided by Philip Mead and Joanna Blakeman and we thank them both for their contributions to our worship.

The building repairs and safe replacement following an earlier break in is continuing. The Vestry door has been replaced and a new safe ordered and is awaiting delivery and installation.

Unfortunately, the church has continued to suffer some damage. At time of heavy rain, there is water ingress into the Wray Hall. It is difficult to find the source as the ingress continues despite regular gutter and gulley cleaning. A watching brief is being kept on the condition. The quinquennial is due this year and will be attended by Frances Klein and Paul Gibbs. The side path was deemed to be unsafe and access is prevented pending repair and upgrading to wheelchair standard.

The church owes a debt of gratitude to Frances Klein and Centre Manager Heather Taplin who put in a great deal of time and effort into ensuring the smooth running of the church. Heather oversees and manages the administration for the hiring of rooms etc., the day-to-day maintenance of the building including Centre security and overseeing outside contractors; good relations with and between Centre users; fire safety; cleanliness and control of inappropriate use of the car park and graveyard. External bookings remain strong. The Old School has been let and the Parish Office moved to the Old School during the year.

A defibrillator was purchased and installed. The defibrillator has been accessed several times showing that it is a valuable local resource. A Sum-up card reader has been purchased to enable cashless collections at concerts and events.

Philip Mead led occasional singing and music with the Gallery Quire. There were fundraising concerts by Jill Crossland, Willem Perkins and Yvonne Cheng.



The travel evenings recommenced in January 2024 with talks and they remain successful fundraising events.

The churchyard is managed by the City Council and overseen by Alison Taylor on behalf of the church and thanks are due for their endeavours with volunteers to maintain a safe, interesting and environmentally friendly area around the building. St Luke's Churchyard achieved Gold status in Land section of the national Eco Church scheme, for which St Luke's achieved a Bronze award overall.

### **Charitable Giving**

In 2023 we continued our usual practice of collecting money for four charities over the year. Money was raised for the Churches Homeless Project, Trussell Trust, Practical Action (innovative practical solutions to problems in the developing world caused by disease, disaster and particularly the effects of climate change) and for our annual Commitment for Life to Zimbabwe.

The four charities chosen for 2024 are the Red Hen Project, a very local project working directly with families promoting good parenting and positive relationships between school and home through support workers and helpful courses; The Salvation Army, Toilet Twinning and Commitment for Life to Zimbabwe.

In October the Cambridge Clarinet Choir gave an inspiring concert in memory of Paul Custerson, one of the longest serving members of the ensemble and our much-loved music director at St Luke's. This concert raised funds for Myeloma UK.

### **Christian Aid**

In the Parish we have continued to concentrate our fundraising to the Christian Aid Week in May. St Luke's continued with a Delivery-only Envelope distribution to about half of our original area, envelopes in Church and a Coffee Morning in the Old School. St Giles raised

funds at a dedicated Wednesday 'Tea at 3' and St Augustine's put on a cat themed poetry event. The annual Cambridge Christian Aid Service was held in Castle Street Methodist Church and the Bishop of Huntingdon, Bishop Dagmar preached the sermon. On December 9th a few people from the Parish joined with other Christian Aid supporters to sing Carols in the Grand Arcade.

### **Joint Church Council**

The annual meeting of the Joint Church Council (Anglican and URC) was held in person in June 2023, meeting with the Revd Lythan Nevard URC Eastern Synod Moderator as Chair.

The County Ecumenical Officer is now Mark Burleigh who has replaced Revd Diane Kenaston. Lythan informed the meeting that she was not able to offer us a replacement Minister or even a fixed share of one. Synod is moving forward with the development of Mission Partnerships which would involve three to five churches sharing URC Ministry. It is likely that St Luke's will be in partnership with Downing Place URC and Fulbourn URC, while still remaining part of the Parish of the Ascension. Revd Nigel Uden, minister of Downing Place and Fulbourn, spoke at an ECC meeting to help us explore St Luke's situation. Revd Deborah McVey is our Interim Moderator of the Vacancy until a more permanent solution is worked out. The fourth Sundays remain with URC-style distribution of Communion, and United Reformed Church ministers providing 'pulpit supply'.

### **Breathing Space Prayer Group**

This prayer group meets on the first Wednesday of the month in St Luke's at 5.30pm in the Lady Chapel. We have continued to start our meetings with some fellowship and refreshments, catching up on activities and things to share later in prayer. This gives anyone who is joining us from work, time to arrive. We would love to welcome you into this friendly, caring group.

For more information phone Margaret Cooper on C. 354561

Paul Gibbs

### **Safeguarding Report**

I am pleased to report that there were no safeguarding concerns reported within the parish over the past year.

Safeguarding is on the agenda of all PCC and ECC meetings, and the policy was last updated at PCC February 2024. My main focus as safeguarding officer is the completion of DBS checks and safeguarding training for all lay members of PCC and ECC. I am in the process of individually updating the five members of PCC with outstanding tasks.

Our safeguarding records are held on the Church of England safeguarding hub, which stipulates requirements for each PCC and ECC member and will in time produce reminders when training or DBS renewals are due. The hub keeps us up to date of any changes and gives us an action plan.

Many thanks to Sheila Rozeik and Janet Bunker for their support.

Angela Gibbs

## **St Luke's (VA) Church of England Primary School**

We are privileged to have a Church of England primary school in our parish. St Luke's School grew up around St Luke's church building to provide education for children in the new nineteenth century parish and was supported by a charity, the Old Schools of Cambridge, that had been founded around the beginning of the eighteenth century by the Rev'd William Whiston, who raised funds from senior University figures to provide education for poor children in the city. And it is still serving our community today.

The school is now part of the Diocese of Ely's academy trust, DEMAT, and it is also supported by the Church Schools of Cambridge Trust (successor to the Old Schools of Cambridge, cited above). Janet Bunker, Team Vicar, and Gill Ambrose are both on the School's local governing body and are trustees of the Trust. They also lead collective worship in the school each week.

The school continues to make good progress despite the challenges it faces; among these is the problem of fluctuating numbers and falling rolls, a dilemma faced by other primary schools in the City because of a falling birth rate at present. This creates competition between schools, especially with the popularity of the University Primary School at Eddington. Another challenge has been the school's transient population, with many children from overseas, whose families are in Cambridge for only a short time whilst they are working for the University. Although the school is enriched by their presence, many of these children arrive with little knowledge of English which makes it challenging to teach and include them in classwork.

Nevertheless, the school continues to be a caring and supportive environment for all its children, particularly for those with additional needs. Visits to the church for special services at Christmas, Easter and the end of terms have resumed and we hope that the school will be involved in the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations of St Luke's Church in October.

Gill Ambrose and Janet Bunker



St Luke's School parents and children: end of term service in St Luke's Church

## **Parish of the Ascension Burial Ground**

The closed burial ground continues to be a place for quiet walks and contemplation by its' surrounding community. The Friends of the Burial Ground hold regular working parties in conjunction with the City Council's team who now have legal responsibility for the maintenance and upkeep of this precious community and wildlife asset.

### **Friends of the Ascension Burial Ground 2023**

2023 was again a difficult year weather-wise for management of Ascension Burial Ground, dry in summer then very wet in autumn and winter, but we generally managed to keep most graves accessible and looking cared for. We were glad to win the Bronze Medal for careful management of wildlife in the Burial Ground, and to help biodiversity we provided modest water supplies, log piles, a bug hotel and compost heaps, uncut areas and plenty of ivy and nettles for butterflies. Nevertheless, numbers of dragonflies and damselflies have been low, but better than last year, when lack of water took a heavy toll. A survey of moths led by Adrian Matthews one night in June identified 187 moths of 57 species. The Friends have been promised another night of studying moths, on 27 April, so that we can compare the different seasons. We have provided a box high in the trees for owls for some years now, and this year we were at last able to put up a kestrel box that was donated by Liz and Richard Hall. As no herbicides or chemicals are used here and no wildflowers are planted, biodiversity tends to be stable.

We marked Remembrance Day, inviting neighbours to see graves of the war dead marked with poppies and short accounts of their lives. Janet Bunker gave moving prayers for the occasion, there was a tour of the Burial Ground (as it was the first visit for several local people), and warming drinks and food. Other tours during the year were given on request (usually by Mark Goldie), and this year included sixty children from Mayfield School. We also took advantage of Eric Marland's workshop (the Chapel) and his colleagues David Crowe and Rachel Butler to mend two significant gravestones that had fallen down and were at risk of further damage. A sad part of last summer was losing three of our long-serving and committed Friends within a few weeks: Mike Good 1955-2023, Dick Grove 1924-2023 and Martin Boyle 1932-2023. We miss them all.

This April we have been awarded a generous grant by Cambridge City Council to 'protect and enhance the biodiversity of a designated City Wildlife site, making it easier to improve people's enjoyment and access to this environment, and support volunteers'. Measures will include a small pond, bird boxes, informative notice boards, bicycle stands, and dowels fitted to hazardous gravestones to protect volunteers and visitors.

An important step forward was creation of a website by our Secretary and Treasurer James Clackson (see <https://ascensionparishburialground.uk>). Please send him more information that he can add.

Alison Taylor

Copies of this report are available online at <https://www.churchatcastle.org/about/>



Erecting a kestrel box  
in the Ascension Burial Ground



CamCrag Sleepout and Winter Fair at St Giles'



Morris dancing at St Augustine's Festival of Dance



Beautiful new icons of St Giles (far left) and St John the Evangelist (far right)

**THE PARISH OF THE ASCENSION  
CAMBRIDGE**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

Registered Charity number 1172822

PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, CAMBRIDGE  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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**PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, CAMBRIDGE  
ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

This is the annual report of the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Benefice of the Ascension, Cambridge (St Giles with St Peter, St Luke and St Augustine), known as the Parish of the Ascension, Cambridge for the year ended 31 December 2023.

**Background**

The Parish of the Ascension, Cambridge is the largest in the Diocese of Ely, covering an area in Cambridge bounded by Queens Road, Madingley Road, Huntingdon Road and Gilbert Road. The Parochial Church Council ("PCC") of the parish has the responsibility of co-operating with the Ministry Team in promoting in the Parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. (The Ministry Team includes Church of England, United Reformed Church and Methodist ministers and licensed and authorized lay ministers). It also has maintenance responsibilities for St Luke's Church, The Old School, St Giles' Church, St Augustine's Church and the Parish Room (St Giles' Hall). In addition we work with the Romanian Orthodox Church who shares the building at St. Giles'. It is a registered charity, no. 1172822, address Ascension Parish Office, The Old School, Harvey Goodwin Avenue, Cambridge CB4 3EU.

**Structure, governance and management**

The governing document is the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure (1956) as amended and Church Representation Rules that came into force on 2 January 1957; the latest edition of these rules, 2022, is available online <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/leadership-and-governance/legal-resources/church-representation-rules>

The PCC oversees the working of the parish through its regular meetings and through District Church Councils at St Augustine's and St Giles' and an Ecumenical Church Council at St Luke's Local Ecumenical Partnership.

Members of the PCC are those outlined as eligible under the Church Representation Rules 2022 (Section B: M15). During the year and to the time at which these accounts are approved, the following served as members of the PCC.

Rector	The Revd Canon Philipa King
Team Vicar	The Revd Dr Janet Bunker
Asst. Priest	The Revd Dr Tom Ambrose
URC Minister	The Revd Deborah McVey (interim)
Retired Priest	The Revd Canon Dr Owen Spencer Thomas
Licensed Lay Minister	Margaret Cooper
Authorised Lay Minister for Children	Gill Ambrose
Churchwardens	Philip Mead Mark Wills Richard Catchpole Doreen Ullinger
Deanery Synod representatives	Jane Holmes
Treasurer	Richard Footitt
Elected Members, also secretary	Patricia McGuire, also Secretary Antony Rix Judith Crowe Paul Gibb

**PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, CAMBRIDGE  
ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

**Objectives and activities**

The key function of the charity is through its activities to promote in the Parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. In setting and reviewing the objectives and activities the Trustees have had due regard to the public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission.

**Achievements and Performance**

The Parish also looks to respond creatively to the Diocesan Vision prayer that we should be generous and visible people of Jesus Christ.

2023 has been a challenging year for all parishes as they recover and adapt to a post-Covid environment. Our main sources of income remain those received from the hire of our buildings to community groups and organisations, especially the rental of the Parish Room, planned giving from our congregations and events where donations are made. The completion of the refurbishment of The Old School at St Luke's has also enabled us to offer this space for rental to local organisations as a community asset.

There seems to have been pent up demand for meeting space as not only have most of our long term users returned, but also many new groups and users have sought to hire space in our churches. This is welcome but also puts extra pressure on the buildings and their management, the latter mostly undertaken by volunteers.

We continue to collaborate with those working for the common good and human flourishing within the parish and wider city especially looking to meet the needs of those experiencing the cost of living crisis. Each church has responded appropriately considering its resources, human and financial. So for example St Augustine's has supported financially the local authority's Akeman Community Centre Warm Space initiative working with and through one of the local residents' associations and St Giles' has extended its weekly Tea@Three to include a simple soup lunch which complements the morning offering of hospitality from our neighbours Castle St Methodists.

The year ahead looks no less challenging with the continued after-effects of the pandemic, on both finances and the number of active volunteers available to manage the increased activity and community engagement to which we are committed.

With continuing financial pressures on local authority services and community facilities and in such a diverse, busy and ever-growing place such as Cambridge where inequalities of opportunity can be very stark, we look to continue to use all our resources, physical, human and spiritual, to offer generous hospitality and an open welcome to those seeking rest, recreation, reflection, friendship and Christian fellowship.

We continue to hold firm to God's promise in our Saviour Jesus Christ that he will be with us until the end of the age and to use all we are and have for the benefit and building up of our communities.

PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, CAMBRIDGE  
ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

**Financial Review of the year**

The principal funding sources are through regular giving, collections at services, donations, and income from investments and rents.

Hall hire and rental incomes picked up in 2023, almost returning to pre-COVID levels. The regular income and expenditure in 2023 was fairly similar to the prior year.

We're immensely grateful for all of the planned giving and generous donations received throughout the year - these have increased by £19,285 compared to the prior year and have more than covered the day to day running costs for the Parish leading to a surplus in unrestricted income funds.

The Parish was able to maintain the commitment to increase its Parish Share year-on-year.

Non-property investments generated a gain of nearly £33,560 in 2023. Investments other than property are held in CBF Church of England Funds, either in the Deposit Fund or in the Investment Fund, but with interest rates climbing slowly, the income during the year was negligible.

**Policy on Reserves**

Unrestricted funds are used by the PCC to pay for everyday expenses, including the upkeep and maintenance of the churches, and at their discretion for furthering the mission and ministry of the Church. These amounted to £1,059,275 at the end of the year as against £966,963 at the end of 2022.

Restricted funds are principally available for the capital development of the churches, totalling £201,060 for the year to 31 December 2023.

Much of the income from Endowment funds is available only for the upkeep of the burial ground, often for specific graves, but with a small sum available for more general purposes at the discretion of the PCC. These funds at the end of 2023 stood at £61,160 as against £57,261 at the start of the year.

On behalf of the PCC

Date 25/6/24

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, CAMBRIDGE

I report on the accounts of Parochial Church Council of the Parish of the Ascension, Cambridge ("the PCC") for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 5 to 11.

### Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

The members of the Parochial Church Council are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### Basis of independent examiner's opinion

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statements below.

### Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act.
- (b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

*Day Accountants*

Day Accountants  
Quern House  
Mill Court  
Great Shelford  
Cambridgeshire  
CB22 5LD

Date 26 June 2024

PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, CAMBRIDGE  
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

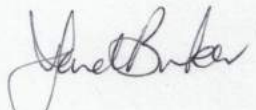

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
<b>Income</b>						
Donations & legacies	2(a)	69,538	-	-	69,538	81,608
Charitable activities	2(b)	205,164	-	-	205,164	103,180
Investments	2(c)	2,055	626	1,096	3,777	74,406
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>276,756</b>	<b>626</b>	<b>1,096</b>	<b>278,479</b>	<b>259,194</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>						
Raising funds	3(a)	3,304	-	-	3,304	56
Charitable Activities:						
Parish Share	3(b)	73,290	-	-	73,290	68,390
Ministerial costs	3(c)	5,970	-	-	5,970	4,990
Costs of church activities	3(d)	113,225	-	-	113,225	224,471
Governance Costs	3(e)	8,356	-	-	8,356	14,575
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>204,146</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>204,146</b>	<b>312,482</b>
<b>Net Income/(Expenditure) Before Transfers</b>		<b>72,611</b>	<b>626</b>	<b>1,096</b>	<b>74,333</b>	<b>(53,288)</b>
Transfer Between Funds:						
Transfer (to)/from Restricted Funds		-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net Income/(Expenditure) for the year</b>		<b>72,611</b>	<b>626</b>	<b>1,096</b>	<b>74,333</b>	<b>(53,288)</b>
<b>Other recognised gains and (losses)</b>						
Unrealised gains/(losses) on investment assets	6	19,702	11,055	2,803	33,560	(26,034)
<b>Net Movement in Funds</b>		<b>92,312</b>	<b>11,682</b>	<b>3,899</b>	<b>107,893</b>	<b>(79,322)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of Funds:</b>						
<b>Fund balances b/fwd at 1 January 2022</b>		<b>966,963</b>	<b>189,378</b>	<b>57,261</b>	<b>1,213,602</b>	<b>1,292,922</b>
<b>Fund Balances c/fwd at 31 December 2023</b>		<b>1,059,275</b>	<b>201,060</b>	<b>61,160</b>	<b>1,321,495</b>	<b>1,213,602</b>

Income and expenditure is derived solely from continuing operations

The notes on pages 8 - 11 form part of these financial statements

PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, CAMBRIDGE  
BALANCE SHEET  
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Note	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Investments	6		1,058,437		1,023,690
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors	7	21,436		2,218	
Cash at Bank and In Hand		<u>245,188</u>		<u>194,926</u>	
		266,624		197,144	
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>					
Creditors - Amounts Falling Due Within One Year	8	<u>3,566</u>		<u>7,232</u>	
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>			263,058		189,912
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			<u>1,321,495</u>		<u>1,213,602</u>
Creditors - Amounts Falling Due After More Than One Year			-		-
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			<u>1,321,495</u>		<u>1,213,602</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>					
Unrestricted Funds	9		1,059,275		966,963
Restricted Funds	10		201,060		189,378
Endowment Funds	11		<u>61,160</u>		<u>57,261</u>
Total Funds			<u>1,321,495</u>		<u>1,213,602</u>

Approved by Church Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2024 and signed on its behalf by:   


The notes on pages 8 - 11 form part of these financial statements

**PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, CAMBRIDGE  
STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS  
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	Note (below)	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Cash flow from operating activities:</b>			
Net cash provided by operating activities	A	47,672	(114,767)
Cash flow from investing activities	B	2,590	100,926
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		<u>50,262</u>	<u>(13,842)</u>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period</b>	C	<u>194,926</u>	<u>208,768</u>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period</b>	C	<u><u>245,188</u></u>	<u><u>194,926</u></u>

**Notes to the statement of cash flow**

**A) Reconciliation of net income to net cashflow from operating activities**

Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period as the statement of financial activities		107,893	(79,320)
Gain/(Loss) on investments		(33,560)	26,034
Investment income		(3,777)	(74,406)
(Increase)/Decrease in debtors		(19,218)	9,987
(Decrease)/Increase in creditors		(3,666)	2,938
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>		<u><u>47,672</u></u>	<u><u>(114,767)</u></u>

**B) Cashflow from investing activities**

Investment income		3,777	74,406
Investment additions		(2,180)	(85)
Investment disposals		992	26,605
		<u><u>2,590</u></u>	<u><u>100,926</u></u>

**C) Analysis of cash and cash equivalents**

Cash at bank and in hand		<u><u>245,188</u></u>	<u><u>194,926</u></u>
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**PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, CAMBRIDGE  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

**1 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**Basis of preparation**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the UK and the Republic of Ireland (SORP FRS102) and the Charities Act 2011. The charity is a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention modified to include certain items at fair value. Significant accounting policies are set out below. These policies have been applied consistently to all years unless otherwise stated.

**Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds are available to use at the discretion of the church in furtherance of its charitable objectives. They are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use.

Designated funds are funds which have been set aside for specific purposes, but which can be returned to general funds at any time, with the approval of the Church Meeting; there are no funds falling into this category in the year or prior year.

Restricted funds are subject to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor, or contained in the terms of the grant.

Endowment funds are funds where the capital given is not available to be spent or is only available to be spent under certain circumstances.

**Fixed assets and capital expenditure**

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011. Nor is any value included for moveable church furnishings held by the church wardens on special trust for the PCC since the PCC considers this to be inalienable property. All expenditure on consecrated or beneficed buildings and moveable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as repairs and improvement expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Where deemed material expenditure on other fixtures, fittings and equipment is capitalised and depreciated over its estimated useful life; no such assets are included in these financial statements. Expenditure on such items not deemed material is written off as incurred.

**Investments and Investment Properties**

Investments are included at their fair value on the balance sheet date. With the exception of property the PCC only has investments in the Central Board of Finance of the Church of England Deposit and Investment Funds for which quoted market value is available which is taken as fair value. Deposit investments are not for fixed terms and deposit value is taken as fair value. Property investments are included at their estimated market value. No formal valuation has been carried out and value given for the property is, in the opinion of the PCC, a reasonable representation of market value. Changes in valuation of investment and investment properties over the year are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

**Income**

All voluntary giving is included in the financial statements for the period in which it is received.

Donations under Gift Aid plus the associated tax recovery are recognised as income when the donation is received.

Legacies are accounted for when their receipt is certain and can be properly quantified.  
All other income is generally recognised when it is receivable.

**Expenditure**

Expenditure is recognised in the period in which it is incurred and includes attributable VAT which cannot be recovered. It is allocated to the particular activity to which it relates on an actual attributable basis.

Governance costs represent direct expenditure on the governance of the church, including the production and independent scrutiny of these financial statements.

As most of the management and activity of the church is carried out by volunteers, this intangible cost is not included in the financial statements as this voluntary contribution to the life of the church is incalculable.

PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, CAMBRIDGE  
 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

2 INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
<b>(a) Donations &amp; legacies:</b>					
Planned giving - under gift aid	28,342	-	-	28,342	27,424
Tax Recoverable	-	-	-	-	11,714
Other planned giving	600	-	-	600	6,313
Collections in service	2,008	-	-	2,008	2,984
Grants	27,305	-	-	27,305	3,621
Sundry donations	11,283	-	-	11,283	21,553
Legacies	-	-	-	-	8,000
	<u>69,538</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>69,538</u>	<u>81,608</u>
<b>(b) Charitable activities</b>					
Fundraising / events	1,856	-	-	1,856	1,023
Fees	2,323	-	-	2,323	137
Hall and related rents	198,861	-	-	198,861	101,009
Children, Social events, Publications, Retreat	2,124	-	-	2,124	1,010
	<u>205,164</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>205,164</u>	<u>103,180</u>
<b>(c) Investments:</b>					
Bank interest & dividends	2,055	626	1,096	3,777	1,245
Rents and similar income	-	-	-	-	73,161
	<u>2,055</u>	<u>626</u>	<u>1,096</u>	<u>3,777</u>	<u>74,406</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>276,756</u>	<u>626</u>	<u>1,096</u>	<u>278,479</u>	<u>259,194</u>

3 EXPENDITURE

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
<b>(a) Raising Funds</b>					
Cost of fund raising events	3,304	-	-	3,304	56
	<u>3,304</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,304</u>	<u>56</u>
<b>(b) Parish share</b>	73,290	-	-	73,290	68,390
The church contributes to the central Diocese costs of training and providing ministers (including the centralised payment of stipends, pension contributions and other benefits for ministers), running the denomination, and the wider mission of the national church.					
<b>(c) Ministerial Costs</b>					
Ministers expenses	-	-	-	-	50
Worship resources	984	-	-	984	410
Musical life of the church	4,986	-	-	4,986	4,529
	<u>5,970</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,970</u>	<u>4,990</u>
<b>(d) Costs of Church Activities</b>					
Premises running costs:					
Rates and utilities	25,710	-	-	25,710	23,168
Insurance	9,075	-	-	9,075	13,572
Repairs and maintenance	18,130	-	-	18,130	33,119
Major building expenditure	-	-	-	-	104,382
Caretaker and cleaning	19,866	-	-	19,866	15,856
Legal and professional	50	-	-	50	-
	<u>72,832</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>72,832</u>	<u>190,097</u>
<b>Administration costs</b>					
Office costs	10,510	-	-	10,510	7,555
Staff costs	27,872	-	-	27,872	25,425
	<u>38,382</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>38,382</u>	<u>32,980</u>

PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, CAMBRIDGE  
 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

3 RESOURCES EXPENDED (Continued)

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
<b>Mission Outreach:</b>					
Other outreach costs	2,011	-	-	2,011	1,394
Donations	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>2,011</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,011</u>	<u>1,394</u>
	<u>113,225</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>113,225</u>	<u>224,471</u>
<b>(e) Governance Costs</b>					
Independent Examiner	-	-	-	-	-
Accountancy and Book-keeping	8,356	-	-	8,356	14,575
	<u>8,356</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,356</u>	<u>14,575</u>
<b>Total Resources Expended</b>	<u>204,146</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>204,146</u>	<u>312,482</u>

4 STAFF COSTS

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and Salaries	27,872	25,425
	<u>27,872</u>	<u>25,425</u>

No Trustee received remuneration or other benefit in the year.  
 Covid19 Furlough grants received are recorded in grant income.

5 FIXED ASSETS

For the reasons stated in Accounting Policy note 1, the church buildings are not tangible fixed assets of the church. The principal operational asset apart from consecrated and beneficed property is the building known as the Old School House. No value is included in these accounts as no details are available as to original cost and it is not practicable to assign a meaningful value in use yet.

6 INVESTMENTS

	2023 £	2022 £
Fair value brought forward		
Additions	1,023,689	1,076,243
Disposals	2,180	85
Net unrealised gains/(losses)	(992)	(26,605)
Fair value at 31 December 2023	<u>33,560</u>	<u>(26,034)</u>
	<u>1,058,436</u>	<u>1,023,689</u>

Made up as follows:

Central Board of Finance of the Church of England:

Deposit Fund	72,084	66,913
Investment Fund	348,516	318,939
Investment Property - Parish Room	637,838	637,838
	<u>1,058,437</u>	<u>1,023,690</u>

7 DEBTORS

	2023 £	2022 £
Tax recoverable	-	-
Other debtors	21,436	2,218
	<u>21,436</u>	<u>2,218</u>

8 CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year.

	2023 £	2022 £
Other Creditors	3,566	7,232
	<u>3,566</u>	<u>7,232</u>

PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, CAMBRIDGE  
 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

9 UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

	2023	2022
	£	£
St Augustine's Income Account	13,150	12,605
St Augustine's Capital Account	5	5
St Giles Income Account	9,776	3,838
St Luke's Capital Account	1,159	1,159
St Luke's Church Centre Income Account	10,846	23,067
PCC Income Account	132,333	96,697
Parish Room	637,838	637,838
Parish Room Repairs	8,143	8,143
Mason Fund (residual legacy)	170,938	151,742
Old Junior School Income Fund	5,994	5,147
	<u>990,183</u>	<u>940,241</u>

10 RESTRICTED FUNDS

	2023	2022
	£	£
St Augustine's Mason Legacy	2,247	2,247
St Giles Fabric Fund	24,370	24,370
St Giles Legacies Fund	2,129	2,129
St Giles Organ Fund	3,704	3,704
Lewis Bequest Grave Trust	2,057	1,880
Fitzpatrick Grave Trust	2,871	2,624
St Luke's Church Centre Fabric Fund	906	906
St Luke's Income Account	68,248	49,789
St Luke's Legacies	33,887	33,887
St Luke's Belinda Parham legacy	6,523	6,321
St Luke's Elton Legacy	327	327
PCC Capital Fund	91,181	81,003
PCC Graves Maintenance	5,516	3,917
Crisp Legacy	2,997	2,997
	<u>246,964</u>	<u>216,101</u>

11 ENDOWMENT FUNDS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Stretton Ave Sale Proceeds	2,758	2,521
FC Shove Grave Trust	9,992	9,132
Braybrooke Grave Trust	14,448	13,592
Blackman Grave Trust	20,074	18,347
Mss FM Kent Bequest	4,947	4,608
Old Jnr School	9,061	9,061
	<u>61,279</u>	<u>57,261</u>

12 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total
	£	£	£	£
Investments	824,077	173,199	61,161	1,058,437
Current Assets	169,672	73,764	-	243,436
Liabilities falling due within one year	(3,566)	-	-	(3,566)
Fund Balance	<u>990,183</u>	<u>246,964</u>	<u>61,161</u>	<u>1,298,307</u>

13 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There are no related party transactions requiring disclosure.

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# Accounts

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# **The Parish of the Ascension**

## **Annual Report 2022-23**

**The Parish of the Ascension  
Church at Castle ecumenical partnership**

[www.churchatcastle.org](http://www.churchatcastle.org)

Parish of the Ascension Office, The Old School, Harvey Goodwin Avenue, Cambridge CB4 3EU



## The Parish of the Ascension

**The Parish of the Ascension** is a single benefice comprising four church buildings around Castle Hill and beyond (north of the river, as far as Gilbert Road, West Road, Histon Road and Madingley Road, beyond the M11). They form a family of community-serving churches. Resident numbers in the parish are increasing rapidly due to Cambridge's ever growing population as well as from new housing on sites such as the University's Eddington development and Darwin Green (see map). In Cambridge, the population size has increased by 17.6%, from around 123,900 in 2011 to 145,700 in 2021. This is higher than the overall increase for England (6.6%) and higher than the increase for the East of England (8.3%).

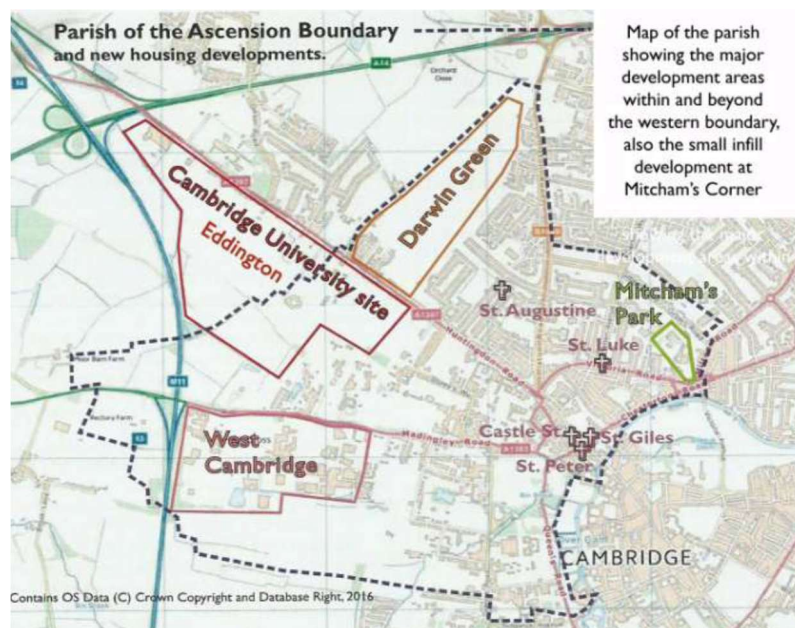
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/censuspopulationchange/E07000008/>

**St Augustine's** was built in 1898 as a multi-purpose building; a primary school and social space during the week and a church on Sundays. It continues to be very much at the heart of its community as it celebrates in 2023 its 125th anniversary of its founding and consecration.

**St Giles'** parish dates back to 1092. Open daily, the church is a quiet city centre space for prayer and meditation. At other times it welcomes people for the musical events, concerts, talks, celebrations and commemorations. The garden, a green space in a busy city, is used for lively fun days, garden parties and picnics as well as being cared for with the environment in mind.

**St Luke's Church** is a local ecumenical partnership between the United Reformed Church and the Church of England. The halls and church rooms, called St Luke's Church Centre, area venue for a wide variety of groups and activities including COPE (Cambridgeshire Older People's Enterprise) and a Montessori nursery.

**St Peter's Church** is located just across the road from St Giles' Church. Christians have been worshipping there for well over a thousand years. Day to day care of the church is shared with The Churches Conservation Trust. The building is open as a place of prayer and is sometimes used for exhibitions. Throughout the year special festivals are celebrated at St. Peter's and it is a quiet, sacred space for all to use.



## ChurchatCastle - an Ecumenical Group

Together with the United Reformed Church at St Luke's, Castle Street Methodist Church and the Romanian Orthodox congregation of St John the Evangelist, who worship in St Giles' Church, the churches offer an ecumenical witness in this northern area of the City of Cambridge. The umbrella name of 'ChurchatCastle' is used to describe the ecumenical character and activities of the churches and is reflected in the website, [www.churchatcastle.org](http://www.churchatcastle.org)

### Social profile

The social profile of the parish's population is as diverse as the city of which it forms a part. The Centre for Cities report 'Cities Outlook 2018' reported Cambridge as being the least equal city in England and Wales. The evolving new housing developments in the parish will see many international students, scholars and their families coming to live in the University of Cambridge's Eddington development with an equally diverse population moving into Darwin Green with its 40% affordable housing. A 2022 report states that one in seven households is defined as a 'benefit household' ('Mapping Poverty 2022', Cambridge City Council).

### Representation

#### Parochial Church Council Terms of Reference

The PCC is the legally constituted body for the area with ultimate responsibility for all the activities of the churches in the parish. It may delegate some of its responsibilities to the Ecumenical Church Council (ECC) for St Luke's and District Church Councils (DCCs) for St Giles' and St Augustine's as it sees fit.

The Parish of the Ascension is committed to safeguarding in all its churches those who attend the worship and other activities that we offer. Safeguarding promotes the welfare of children and vulnerable adults and includes all actions to protect them from harm. Our Safeguarding Officer is Angela Gibbs.

- The Parish of the Ascension follows recommended safeguarding practice in recruiting, training and supporting our ordained and lay ministers, our employees and our volunteers.
- We follow the House of Bishops' Policy statement, '[Promoting a safer church](#)' (2017) and [guidelines](#) from the Diocese of Ely.

The PCC assumes particular responsibility for the Parish's contractual obligations in respect of the Parish Room and the Burial Ground, and in respect of the Parish Administrator and any other person that may be employed by or contracted to it. It will as a result draw up and agree a budget annually reflecting these responsibilities. It will also determine the level of financial support provided to the different churches in respect of their responsibilities for meeting some of the central administrative costs and parish share. The PCC will act as the final authority in respect of any dispute between the churches in the Parish, whether these are of a financial or other nature and in so far as it is within their jurisdiction.

Members of the PCC will be elected annually by members listed on the Electoral Roll.

## **St Luke's Ecumenical Church Council (ECC)**

St Luke's Ecumenical Church Council (ECC) is a partnership between the United Reformed Church and the Church of England. Authority is delegated to this body within a sharing agreement between the PCC of the Parish of the Ascension and the congregational meeting of the United Reformed Church in all matters pertaining to the management of St Luke's Church. The ECC meets bi-monthly, normally on the first Tuesdays of the month, except in August. Anyone in the congregation may ask for an item to be put on the agenda. Membership of the ECC consists of twelve lay members who are each elected for a period of three years, the URC minister and the Rector.

Congregational Meetings take place every other month after the morning service; they are the forum for debate and open to everyone in the congregation (although only those on the Common Roll may vote).

The Annual General Meeting takes place in March/April, when reports from the various organisations and activities are presented and elections are held.

## **Electoral Roll**

In accordance with the Church Representation Rules ('CRR'), an updated roll has been prepared in advance of the annual parochial church meeting. In May 2022 the new electoral roll had 124 members. Since then, sadly we have lost six members who have died, and a further six former members have moved away or worship elsewhere. We have gained two new members, so the new roll has 114 members. I am grateful to Helen Cunnington, Ken Smith and Richard Catchpole for their assistance with updating the roll.

Sheila Rozeik, Electoral Roll Officer  
May 2023

## **Elected members of the Parochial Church Council (post APCM 2022)**

### **Churchwardens ex-officio on PCC (elected annually)**

<b>St Augustine's</b>	Philip Mead, Mark Wills
<b>St Giles'</b>	Richard Catchpole
<b>St Luke's</b>	Doreen Ullinger

### **Deanery Synod representatives 2020-2023 ex officio on PCC**

<b>St Augustine's</b>	vacant
<b>St Giles'</b>	vacant
<b>St Luke's</b>	Jane Holmes

## Parochial Church Council

### St Augustine's

2020-2023 Antony Rix

2021-2024 Patricia McGuire \*, Secretary

2022-2025 vacancy

### St Giles'

2020-2023 vacancy

2021-2024 vacancy

2022-2025 vacancy

### St Luke's

2020-2023 Gill Ambrose\*

2021-2024 Judith Crowe\*

2019-2022 Paul Gibbs

*\* not eligible for re-election when current term ends*

## District Church Councils

### St Augustine's

2020-2023 vacancy

2021-2024 vacancy

2022-2025 Lisa Evans

### St Giles'

2020-2023 Valerie Anderson

2020-2023 Arthur Hibble

2021-2024 Margaret Waring

2022-2025 Helen Kinsey

## Ecumenical Church Council

### St Luke's Ecumenical Church Council as from Annual Congregational Meeting

#### 27<sup>th</sup> March 2022:

May Block, Margaret Cooper, Isobel Fox, Angela Gibbs, Paul Gibbs, Lib Hallam, Joan Jeans, Frances Klein, Sue Mudie (resigned June 2022), Clare Redfern (resigned end of 2022), Ken Smith, and Doreen Ullinger

### St Luke's Joint Council as from Annual Congregational Meeting 27<sup>th</sup> March 2022:

May Block, Margaret Cooper, Judith Crowe, Paul Custerson (until November 2022), Isobel Fox, Paul Gibbs, Frances Klein and Alison Taylor.

## **Ministry team (ex officio on the PCC)**

<b>Team Rector</b>	Philipa King
<b>Team Vicar</b>	Janet Bunker
<b>URC Minister</b>	Charles Mather (retired April 2022) Deborah McVey (interim)
<b>Assistant Priest</b>	Tom Ambrose
<b>Retired Priest</b>	Owen Spencer Thomas
<b>Licensed Lay Minister</b>	Margaret Cooper
<b>Authorised Lay Minister for children</b>	Gill Ambrose
<b>Authorised Lay Pastoral Minister</b>	Sue Mudie (until June 2022)
<b>LLM Emerita</b>	Sylvia Pick

## **Administrative information**

**Parish of the Ascension**, St. Giles' Church, Castle Street, Cambridge, CB3 0AQ (until end of March 2023). Since then: The Old School, Harvey Goodwin Avenue, Cambridge, CB4 3EU

Official correspondence to the Parish Administrator's Office at the above address.

### **Bankers:**

Co-operative Bank plc

### **Legal advisers:**

Diocesan Registrar; Barr Ellison, 39 Parkside, Cambridge, CB1 1PN

### **Independent Examiner:**

Scott Reynolds ACCA , Day Accountants Ltd., Quern House, Mill Court, Great Shelford, Cambridgeshire CB22 5LD

### **Architect:**

Nigel Walter, Archangel Architects, 3 Doctor's Close, Impington, Cambridge CB24 9ND

**Bookkeeper:** Laetitia Smith (until the end of November 2022). Since then: Day Accountants Ltd.

**Parish Administrator:** Sheila Rozeik

# REPORTS

## North Cambridge Deanery Report 2022-23

Since the last APCM, North Cambridge Deanery Synod has met 3 times; 5<sup>th</sup> July 2022 (Joint meeting with South Cambridge Deanery, Holy Trinity); 10<sup>th</sup> November 2022 (St Mary's Fen Ditton); 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023 (Old Schoolhouse, St Luke's).

Nick Moir (Vicar of Fen Ditton, Rector of Horningsea and Rector of Teversham) was commissioned as Rural Dean for the Cambridge North Deanery in November 2022 for a period of 5 years. Lindsay Davies (Churchwarden, Horningsea) became Lay Chair of the Deanery also in November.

**Joint meeting July 2022:** Karin Voth Harman (St Andrews, Cherry Hinton) talked about major housing development and growth in the area, with 50,000 new homes planned over the next 20 years affecting both Cambridge deaneries. Christopher Townsend and Nick Moir discussed the agenda for the July General Synod meeting in York. St Mark's Newnham and St John's Hills Road have both achieved their Eco Church Bronze Award. Sophie Young, Chaplain to the Homeless and Streetlife Community, sent a written report outlining the partnership with *It Takes a City* and other organisations to provide a pop-up hostel, offering 24-hour safe emergency accommodation, was a successful venture over the winter of 202-22. Crossways on Chesterton Road is planned to continue in the winter of 2022-23 with additional activities. Parishes outlined how they were supporting Ukrainian refugees.

**November 2022:** Nick Moir spoke about Deanery planning and the setting up of a Deanery Planning Group. Every deanery is being asked to develop a plan for how the deanery might work together to grow in confidence as Christians, develop healthy churches and leaders, serve communities, re-imagine the use of buildings and focus limited resources efficiently. The Planning Group will share their findings every term with the Synod. Nick sent out the planning questionnaire in January 2023 and the Planning Group are Nick Moir, Lindsay Davies, Dave Maher (Good Shepherd, Arbury), Andrew Day (St Clement's) and Chris Lowe (St John's, Orchard Park).

**March 2023:** Synod was welcomed to the newly refurbished Old Schoolhouse at St Luke's. Prayers and a minute's silence were held for Anna Matthews.

Danny Driver (Christ the Redeemer, Barnwell) talked about his context. There is a growing congregation (about 30-50) with the possibility of a constructing a new church building as part of an area redevelopment. The parish is one of the poorest in the country, with a high proportion of social housing. There are good historic relations with Barnwell Baptists. Jimmy's at present runs modular housing on the church site.

Andy Atkins talked about St George's Chesterton. About 9000 people live in the parish where there are three primary schools, the Science Park, 1000 travellers and 8000 new homes are due to be built on the sewage works site. St George's was built in 1938 and it became a part time post in 2012. He was appointed a pioneer to develop Hope Church in 2018 and became the incumbent last September. There are three non-stipendiary clergy and an outreach worker.

Dorothy Peyton-Jones then talked about St John's Orchard Park. It is a mostly young congregation, of about 30+ adults with children. They often eat together after church. The young people (teenagers) go to Christchurch. Chris Lowe is involved at the primary school, taking assemblies. Outreach takes place in the community centre. Outreach to men is needed. Also mental health training.

Nick Moir fed back about the last General Synod. The debate on prayers for same sex couples lasted 8 hours with many amendments, all but one failed. The proposals came from the bishops (GS2289). There was no consensus among the bishops to change the doctrine of marriage but the bishops' proposals came without a theological rationale. Chris Townsend said all were united about extending a welcome to all people. Nick Moir asked members to email him with thoughts about a debate at the next Deanery Synod in June. He called a vote about postponing discussion of Deanery planning: 22 were in favour, 2 against, 3 abstentions.

Janet Bunker

## **Report from the PCC**

The PCC met three times between the 26 May 2022 Annual Parochial Church Meeting and the May 2023 APCM: 28 June 2022, 10 November 2022, and 6 February 2023. Janet chaired. In addition some business was conducted by email in October 2022 (to appoint Day Accountants as the Parish accountants and bookkeepers) and February 2023 (the annual review of the safeguarding policy).

A £500 contribution was voted to the Friends of the Parish of the Ascension Burial Ground to enable them to develop some work to increase their membership and income streams. A 'draft faculty' was produced to balance the interests of the City Council, the Friends, the parish, and people who use the burial ground as an amenity or for visiting graves of relations.

The PCC was kept up to date as Day Accountants took over as bookkeepers for the Parish. The outgoing bookkeeper and the long-serving treasurers in each church were thanked for their invaluable service, and new financial representatives were put forward by the churches to operate the new accounting software.

A DCC representative for St Augustine's and one for St Giles' were elected. A new Safeguarding Officer was appointed upon Ank's retirement. The PCC decided that only the Safeguarding policy will be reviewed yearly, the other policies would be reviewed every 3 years. The parish safeguarding procedures have been made more robust by reason of new legislation. The PCC considered its responsibilities as Charity Trustees, including its strengths and weaknesses. All members of the PCC (and the Safeguarding Officer) are now listed on the Charity Commission website.

By Easter, all three churches were holding all services in-person, sometimes with the option to join by Zoom. Illnesses put some strain on the Ministry Team early in the year and it was decided to hold only one, joint parish service on the third Sunday of each month, rotating through the three churches.

The PCC's vote of a donation to the Cambridge Mosque was directed towards the urgent need for a boiler and kitchen facilities.

The PCC discussed various ways to respond to the 'Warm Spaces' initiative (to combat the cost of living/pay gap) and the churches took actions appropriate to their circumstances.

The St Luke's School Fair was held on 2 July 2022, and a parish Coronation bring-and-share lunch on 8 May 2023. The parish continued to support CamCrag by hosting two of its now annual fund-raising events at St Giles': a fair and sleepover and a ceilidh enabling CamCrag to raise over £3,000.

Janet kept the PCC informed of progress on Darwin Green [the community rooms were to open March 2023]

The parish office moved to the Whibley room in The Old School on St Luke's site.

Patricia McGuire, PCC Secretary

## **Churchwardens' Reports**

### **St Augustine's**

As with the other churches in the parish, the use of our buildings by the community has not only returned to pre-Covid levels but has shown increased activity as people want to meet socially outside their homes. St Augustine's remains a popular venue for parties for children and adults and for groups looking for a small, affordable rentable space, so we have new groups learning about the Japanese Tea Ceremony, Tai Chi and new parent and children's groups.

Cafe@99, run by the Richmond Road Residents' Association (RRRA) on Monday and Friday mornings, continues to be popular with hall users and local residents looking for good company and cake. Friday Night talks and Saturday evening musical events also remain popular and free to attend. This Spring Term's programme has included talks on retrofitting existing buildings to make them more energy efficient, the history of the Museum of Cambridge, Calais Migrants and the writer W.H Hudson. A concert by local children gave great pleasure to its audience and many of the children had a chance to play in public for the first time.

St Augustine's remains a collection point for the Cambridge Foodbank and contributes to the work of Akeman [Street] Community Centre in supporting those struggling with the cost of living. The monthly Community Lunch, now in its 48th year, continues to nourish and entertain 40 -50 members of the parish and beyond. Children from Mayfield School visit St Augustine's annually to understand more about their local church and its activities. In February, Dragos Herescu (Principal of IOCS) brought a group of Romanian theology students to visit St Augustine's and hear about parish ministry in the Church of England. Also in February, RRRA held an open event in the church with archive material on the history of the area and of the church which was well attended.

At the diocese's request, Mike Good is undertaking diocesan training to move from being an occasional preacher to an Authorised Lay Minister (ALM) in Preaching. The Team Vicar continues to attend the Darwin Green Steering Group and North West Cambridge Forum, both local authority led.

Sadly, we lost two long standing members of St Augustine's, Don and June Anderson who are much missed. Don's family gave a painting of his to the church which is now hung in the Café area.

Our services remain hybrid (in person and online/phone) which allows as many people as possible to join our worship. We are always grateful to the St Augustine's Singers for the beauty they add to our worship on special occasions such as the meditation on Good Friday and Easter Day celebrations.

Philip Mead, Mark Wills, Churchwardens

## **St Giles' Church**

Services, events, hire, volunteering and finance at St Giles' have recovered to pre-pandemic levels, despite the congregation declining gently like the CofE at large. Our Anglican services continued as hybrid, with regular participation online by those unable to attend in person. Romanian orthodox services continued to fill St Giles' on Sundays and during the week for occasional services. Neighbouring Magdalene College used our church whenever numbers were too large for their own chapel.

Our regular social events for the community included St Giles' Fair, the Christmas Tree Festival, regular church tours, crafts, Tea@3 with the addition of Welcome Wednesdays during the cold weather, and coronation celebrations. We enabled local charities to raise funds through stalls at events and by using the church facilities for their own events.

Our large and beautiful indoor space near the city centre is open daily and was hired most weekday evenings, especially by student music groups. Locals strolled, met and relaxed in our beautifully kept churchyard. Visitors from the UK and abroad visited to admire the historic beauty of the church, or for a moment of quiet reflection.

The generosity of our modest band of volunteers in giving their time to enable all of this is hugely appreciated. Many hours were spent preparing and serving food, sitting with visitors and rearranging the vestry to be safer and more efficient.

In 2022 we experienced significant repair and maintenance costs for the building, albeit offset by grants. We had another break-in and a theft that were largely covered by insurance.

So, finances finished the year similarly to previous years, however, for the listed Victorian building to be sustainable we must budget for escalating costs of the fabric for evolving use, and build corresponding reserves. We are grateful to the Friends of St Giles' Church for their continuing support and designated donations.

Richard Catchpole, Churchwarden

## **St Luke's Church** (United Reformed and Anglican Local Ecumenical Partnership, LEP)

From the report presented to the Annual Congregational Meeting 30<sup>th</sup> April 2023

We were very pleased when Doreen Ullinger agreed to accept the role as churchwarden as Paul Gibbs stood down after 7 years in that post.

St Luke's were delighted to see Philipa back leading our worship after her absence due to ill health. St Luke's are grateful to all the ministers who supported the church during Philipa's absence. In-person worship returned on a regular basis, with over 20 people attending each week.

The church is an older building and requires regular maintenance and upkeep. The pandemic and associated restrictions delayed many activities, but these are now being addressed. During the year the lift required extensive renovation and refurbishment. The maintenance cost approximately £75,000 and the lift now has a further life expectancy of 25 years. The amount was split three ways equally between the Church Centre, the Anglican and the URC accounts. The church heating system presented its usual problems and was closely monitored to control the temperature more economically and accurately. The diocese had given £600 to help offset energy costs. The gas supply to the cooker was also a problem, probably due to lack of use during lockdown. The defective solenoid was replaced, and the cooker was successfully used to cook the food for the fund-raising travel evenings. Also during the year an inventory of the kitchen equipment took place.

Covid delayed the installation of curtains in the Parham room necessary to improve the acoustics within The Old School (TOS). The thermally lined curtains have now been installed, paid for out of the building budget. There have been several lettings of TOS, especially to church-curated art exhibitions, and it is hoped there will be more over the forthcoming year. The parish office has now moved into the Whibley Room in TOS on the ground floor.

First Aid courses were attended during the year and safeguarding courses have also been completed.

Unfortunately, the church fabric suffered some damage and losses. Heavy rain led to water ingress in the Wray Hall on several occasions over the year during torrential downpours. This occurs despite regular gutter and gulley cleaning. A watching brief is being kept on the condition. St Luke's suffered another break-in which resulted in a small amount of cash being taken but a large amount of damage being caused. The safe was damaged beyond repair and discussions are ongoing with insurers regarding its replacement,

St Luke's mourned the sad loss of its music director Paul Custerson who died in October. The funeral was held in November and the celebration of his life was very well attended. He will be sadly missed. We have since been blessed with Philip Mead taking over music direction for our church though unfortunately for two Sundays only each month. The organ was tuned during the year and it was lovely to hear it being played in services and it is also used for practice.

It is with grateful thanks to a very kind donor, Stephen Lawrence, for providing a substantial amount of money for the renovation of the Steinway piano. Thanks are also due to Philip Mead for organising the renovation and for his donation of a piano stool and quilted cover. Its arrival was celebrated with several piano recitals and it is planned to build on this and utilise it in our fund-raising events. There was a particularly successful and enjoyable recital with cake and coffee celebrating the New Year.

The travel evenings recommenced in the early part of the year with talks by Bill Block and Margaret Cooper. They followed the usual format with a meal before the talk. We are pleased they remain successful fundraising events.

The churchyard is managed by the City Council and overseen by Alison Taylor on behalf of the church and thanks are due for their endeavours with volunteers to maintain a safe, interesting and environmentally friendly area around the building. We also thank our centre Manager Heather who oversees and manages all the administration for the hiring of rooms etc; the day-to-day maintenance of the building including Centre security and overseeing outside contractors; good relations with and between Centre users; fire safety; cleanliness and control of inappropriate use of the car park and graveyard. External bookings have recovered well and remain near capacity

Paul Gibbs. Previous Church Warden

### **St Luke's (VA) Church of England Primary School**

The Headteacher, Beccy Ireland-Curtis, and her staff continue to work hard on raising standards at the school as well as providing a caring and nurturing environment for all the children.

The school is part of DEMAT, (Diocese of Ely Multi-Academy Trust) and also receives support from the Church Schools of Cambridge Trust (CSoC). Gill Ambrose and Janet Bunker are school governors, trustees of CSoC and continue to take a weekly school assembly in term time. The school received an Ofsted visit in March 2023.

### **Parish of the Ascension Burial Ground**

The closed burial ground continues to be a place for quiet walks and contemplation by its' surrounding community. The Friends of the Burial Ground hold regular working parties in conjunction with the City Council's team who now have legal responsibility for the maintenance and upkeep of this precious community and wildlife asset. The burial ground gained a Bronze Cambridgeshire Churchyard Conservation Award from The Wildlife Trust in recognition of the steady progress that is being made.

## Our challenges

Like most church communities we are still recovering from the effects of the Covid pandemic and counting its cost to us in financial and social terms. We have held together as three worshipping communities but also enjoyed more worship across the three churches with online and combined services. The combined parish service now happens regularly on the third Sunday of the month. This serves as a welcome reminder that we are one parish within the wider Church at Castle grouping.

The other main challenge is the stepping back from active ministry and reduced capacity of some members of the ministry team and as we await the appointment of a URC minister. With a complex and ever growing parish with increasing needs, this spreads the remaining ministry very thin at times. We are grateful for the help and support we have received from others during this time.

But mainly our faith and hope rests in the Lord, the rock of our salvation.

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.'

Matthew 9: 35-38



Newly restored St Luke's Steinway piano



Eco Church/Cambridge Carbon Footprint Stall



Advent Carol Service

**THE PARISH OF THE ASCENSION  
CAMBRIDGE**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

Registered Charity number 1172822

**PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, CAMBRIDGE  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

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**PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, CAMBRIDGE  
ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

This is the annual report of the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Benefice of the Ascension, Cambridge (St Giles with St Peter, St Luke and St Augustine), known as the Parish of the Ascension, Cambridge for the year ended 31 December 2022.

**Background**

The Parish of the Ascension, Cambridge is the largest in the Diocese of Ely, covering an area in Cambridge bounded by Queens Road, Madingley Road, Huntingdon Road and Gilbert Road. The Parochial Church Council ("PCC") of the parish has the responsibility of co-operating with the Ministry Team in promoting in the Parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. (The Ministry Team includes Church of England, United Reformed Church and Methodist ministers and licensed and authorized lay ministers). It also has maintenance responsibilities for St Luke's Church, The Old School, St Giles' Church, St Augustine's Church and the Parish Room (St Giles' Hall). In addition we work with the Romanian Orthodox Church who shares the building at St. Giles'. It is a registered charity, no. 1172822, address Ascension Parish Office, St. Giles' Church, Cambridge, CB3 0AQ.

**Structure, governance and management**

The governing document is the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure (1956) as amended and Church Representation Rules that came into force on 2 January 1957; the latest edition of these rules, 2020, is available online <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/leadership-and-governance/ecclesiastical-law/church-representation-rules>

The PCC oversees the working of the parish through its regular meetings and through District Church Councils at St Augustine's and St Giles' and an Ecumenical Church Council at St Luke's Local Ecumenical Partnership.

Members of the PCC are those outlined as eligible under the Church Representation Rules 2020 (Section B: M15). During the year and to the time at which these accounts are approved, the following served as members of the PCC.

Rector	The Revd Canon Philipa King
Team Vicar	The Revd Dr Janet Bunker
Asst. Priest	The Revd Dr Tom Ambrose
URC Minister	The Revd Charles Mather (retired April 2022)
Retired Priest	The Revd Canon Dr Owen Spencer Thomas
Licensed Lay Minister	Margaret Cooper
Authorised Lay Pastoral Minister	Sue Mudie (until June 2022)
Authorised Lay Minister for Children	Gill Ambrose
Churchwardens	Philip Mead Mark Wills Richard Catchpole Doreen Ullinger
Deanery Synod representatives	Jane Holmes
Treasurer	Richard Footitt
Elected Members, also secretary	Patricia McGuire, also Secretary Antony Rix Judith Crowe Paul Gibbs

**PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, CAMBRIDGE  
ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

**Objectives and activities**

The key function of the charity is through its activities to promote in the Parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. In setting and reviewing the objectives and activities the Trustees have had due regard to the public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission.

**Achievements and Performance**

The Parish also looks to respond creatively to the Diocesan Vision prayer that we should be generous and visible people of Jesus Christ.

2022 has been a challenging year for all parishes as they recover and adapt to a post-Covid environment. Our main sources of income remain those received from the hire of our buildings to community groups and organisations, especially the rental of the Parish Room, planned giving from our congregations and events where donations are made. The completion of the refurbishment of The Old School at St Luke's has also enabled us to offer this space for rental to local organisations as a community asset.

There seems to have been pent up demand for meeting space as not only have most of our long term users returned, but also many new groups and users have sought to hire space in our churches. This is welcome but also puts extra pressure on the buildings and their management, the latter mostly undertaken by volunteers.

We continue to collaborate with those working for the common good and human flourishing within the parish and wider city especially looking to meet the needs of those experiencing the cost of living crisis. Each church has responded appropriately considering its resources, human and financial. So for example St Augustine's has supported financially the local authority's Akeman Community Centre Warm Space initiative working with and through one of the local residents' associations and St Giles' has extended its weekly Tea@Three to include a simple soup lunch which complements the morning offering of hospitality from our neighbours Castle St Methodists.

The year ahead looks no less challenging with the continued after-effects of the pandemic, on both finances and the number of active volunteers available to manage the increased activity and community engagement to which we are committed.

With continuing financial pressures on local authority services and community facilities and in such a diverse, busy and ever-growing place such as Cambridge where inequalities of opportunity can be very stark, we look to continue to use all our resources, physical, human and spiritual, to offer generous hospitality and an open welcome to those seeking rest, recreation, reflection, friendship and Christian fellowship.

We continue to hold firm to God's promise in our Saviour Jesus Christ that he will be with us until the end of the age and to use all we are and have for the benefit and building up of our communities.

**PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, CAMBRIDGE  
ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

**Financial Review of the year**

The principal funding sources are through regular giving, collections at services, donations, and income from investments and rents.

Hall hire and rental incomes picked up in 2022 owing to a year with fewer COVID restrictions, almost returning to pre-COVID levels. The regular income and expenditure in 2022 was fairly similar to the prior year when the expenditure from the redevelopment of St Luke's old school is omitted from the figures. A large proportion of the grants, donations and funding for this redevelopment was received in the two years prior - leading to a deficit in this year's figures when the remaining works were completed.

We're immensely grateful for all of the planned giving and generous donations received throughout the year - these have increased by £20,379 compared to the prior year and have more than covered the day to day running costs for the Parish leading to a surplus in unrestricted income funds.

The Parish was able to maintain the commitment to increase its Parish Share year-on-year, despite incurring additional expenditure when an unexpected change of tenants took place at the Parish Hall.

The accounts include substantial expenditure which is related to the redevelopment of the Old School at St Luke's including major repairs and development costs of £104,382 incurred throughout the course of the year, upgrading the lifts, restoring the piano and curtains.

Additional costs were also incurred for a variety of smaller maintenance projects as required during the year at each church to ensure the upkeep of the church buildings and grounds.

Non-property investments generated a loss of of nearly £26,034 in 2022. Investments other than property are held in CBF Church of England Funds, either in the Deposit Fund or in the Investment Fund, but with interest rates remaining very low, the income during the year was negligible

**Policy on Reserves**

Unrestricted funds are used by the PCC to pay for everyday expenses and at their discretion for furthering the mission and ministry of the Church. These amounted to £966,963 at the end of the year as against £958,971 at the end of 2021.

Restricted funds are principally available for the upkeep and maintenance of the churches, and amounted to £189,378 as against £272,961 in 2021, with the difference largely accounted for by the development of the old school house at St Luke to which some of these restricted funds had been allocated.

Much of the income from Endowment funds is available only for the upkeep of the burial ground, often for specific graves, but with a small sum available for more general purposes at the discretion of the PCC. These funds at the end of 2022 stood at £57,261 as against £60,990 at the start of the year.

On behalf of the PCC

Date

## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, CAMBRIDGE**

I report on the accounts of Parochial Church Council of the Parish of the Ascension, Cambridge ("the PCC") for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on pages 5 to 11.

### **Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner**

The members of the Parochial Church Council are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **Basis of independent examiner's opinion**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statements below.

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

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act.
- (b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Scott Reynolds ACCA  
Chartered Accountants (ICAEW)  
Day Accountants Ltd  
Quern House  
Mill Court  
Great Shelford  
Cambridgeshire  
CB22 5LD

Date

**PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, CAMBRIDGE**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
<b>Income</b>						
Donations & legacies	2(a)	68,879	12,730	-	81,608	155,323
Charitable activities	2(b)	35,924	67,256	-	103,180	81,989
Investments	2(c)	73,382	1,024	-	74,406	67,738
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>178,185</b>	<b>81,010</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>259,194</b>	<b>305,050</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>						
Raising funds	3(a)	56	-	-	56	56
Charitable Activities:						
Parish Share	3(b)	53,390	15,000	-	68,390	64,416
Ministerial costs	3(c)	4,990	-	-	4,990	5,379
Costs of church activities	3(d)	81,968	142,502	-	224,471	237,738
Governance Costs	3(e)	14,575	-	-	14,575	11,117
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>154,978</b>	<b>157,502</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>312,480</b>	<b>318,706</b>
<b>Net Income/(Expenditure) Before Transfers</b>		<b>23,207</b>	<b>(76,492)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(53,286)</b>	<b>(13,656)</b>
Transfer Between Funds:						
Transfer (to)/from Restricted Funds		-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net Income/(Expenditure) for the year</b>		<b>23,207</b>	<b>(76,492)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(53,286)</b>	<b>(13,656)</b>
<b>Other recognised gains and (losses)</b>						
Unrealised gains/(losses) on investment assets	6	(15,215)	(7,090)	(3,729)	(26,034)	37,737
<b>Net Movement in Funds</b>		<b>7,992</b>	<b>(83,583)</b>	<b>(3,729)</b>	<b>(79,320)</b>	<b>24,081</b>
<b>Reconciliation of Funds:</b>						
<b>Fund balances b/fwd at 1 January 2021</b>		<b>958,971</b>	<b>272,961</b>	<b>60,990</b>	<b>1,292,922</b>	<b>1,268,841</b>
<b>Fund Balances c/fwd at 31 December 2022</b>		<b>966,963</b>	<b>189,378</b>	<b>57,261</b>	<b>1,213,602</b>	<b>1,292,922</b>

Income and expenditure is derived solely from continuing operations

The notes on pages 8 - 11 form part of these financial statements

**PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, CAMBRIDGE  
BALANCE SHEET  
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022**

		2022		2021	
	Note	£	£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Investments	6		1,023,690		1,076,243
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors	7	2,218		12,205	
Cash at Bank and In Hand		<u>194,926</u>		<u>208,768</u>	
		197,144		220,973	
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>					
Creditors - Amounts Falling Due Within One Year	8	<u>7,232</u>		<u>4,294</u>	
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
			189,912		216,679
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>					
			<u>1,213,602</u>		<u>1,292,922</u>
Creditors - Amounts Falling Due After More Than One Year			-		-
<b>NET ASSETS</b>					
			<u><u>1,213,602</u></u>		<u><u>1,292,922</u></u>
<b>FUNDS</b>					
Unrestricted Funds	9		966,963		958,971
Restricted Funds	10		189,378		272,961
Endowment Funds	11		<u>57,261</u>		<u>60,990</u>
Total Funds			<u><u>1,213,602</u></u>		<u><u>1,292,922</u></u>

Approved by Church Meeting held on

and signed on its behalf by:

The notes on pages 8 - 11 form part of these financial statements

**PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, CAMBRIDGE  
STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS  
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022**

	Note (below)	2022 £	2021 £
<b>Cash flow from operating activities:</b>			
Net cash provided by operating activities	A	(114,767)	(63,411)
Cash flow from investing activities	B	<u>100,926</u>	<u>71,586</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		(13,842)	8,175
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period</b>			
	C	<u>208,768</u>	<u>200,593</u>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period</b>			
	C	<u><u>194,926</u></u>	<u><u>208,768</u></u>

**Notes to the statement of cash flow**

**A) Reconciliation of net income to net cashflow from operating activities**

Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period as the statement of financial activities	(79,320)	24,081
Gain/(Loss) on investments	26,034	(37,737)
Investment income	(74,406)	(67,738)
(Increase)/Decrease in debtors	9,987	22,656
(Decrease)/Increase in creditors	<u>2,938</u>	<u>(4,673)</u>
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<u><u>(114,767)</u></u>	<u><u>(63,411)</u></u>

**B) Cashflow from investing activities**

Investment income	74,406	67,738
Investment additions	(85)	(34,426)
Investment disposals	<u>26,605</u>	<u>38,274</u>
	<u><u>100,926</u></u>	<u><u>71,586</u></u>

**C) Analysis of cash and cash equivalents**

<b>Cash at bank and in hand</b>	<u><u>194,926</u></u>	<u><u>208,768</u></u>
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**PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, CAMBRIDGE  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

**1 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**Basis of preparation**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the UK and the Republic of Ireland (SORP FRS102) and the Charities Act 2011. The charity is a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention modified to include certain items at fair value. Significant accounting policies are set out below. These policies have been applied consistently to all years unless otherwise stated.

**Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds are available to use at the discretion of the church in furtherance of its charitable objectives. They are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use.

Designated funds are funds which have been set aside for specific purposes, but which can be returned to general funds at any time, with the approval of the Church Meeting; there are no funds falling into this category in the year or prior year.

Restricted funds are subject to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor, or contained in the terms of the grant.

Endowment funds are funds where the capital given is not available to be spent or is only available to be spent under certain circumstances.

**Fixed assets and capital expenditure**

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011. Nor is any value included for moveable church furnishings held by the church wardens on special trust for the PCC since the PCC considers this to be inalienable property. All expenditure on consecrated or beneficed buildings and moveable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as repairs and improvement expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Where deemed material expenditure on other fixtures, fittings and equipment is capitalised and depreciated over its estimated useful life; no such assets are included in these financial statements. Expenditure on such items not deemed material is written off as incurred.

**Investments and Investment Properties**

Investments are included at their fair value on the balance sheet date. With the exception of property the PCC only has investments in the Central Board of Finance of the Church of England Deposit and Investment Funds for which quoted market value is available which is taken as fair value. Deposit investments are not for fixed terms and deposit value is taken as fair value. Property investments are included at their estimated market value. No formal valuation has been carried out and value given for the property is, in the opinion of the PCC, a reasonable representation of market value. Changes in valuation of investment and investment properties over the year are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

**Income**

All voluntary giving is included in the financial statements for the period in which it is received.

Donations under Gift Aid plus the associated tax recovery are recognised as income when the donation is received.

Legacies are accounted for when their receipt is certain and can be properly quantified.

All other income is generally recognised when it is receivable.

**Expenditure**

Expenditure is recognised in the period in which it is incurred and includes attributable VAT which cannot be recovered. It is allocated to the particular activity to which it relates on an actual attributable basis.

Governance costs represent direct expenditure on the governance of the church, including the production and independent scrutiny of these financial statements.

As most of the management and activity of the church is carried out by volunteers, this intangible cost is not included in the financial statements as this voluntary contribution to the life of the church is incalculable.

PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, CAMBRIDGE  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

2 INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
<b>(a) Donations &amp; legacies:</b>					
Planned giving - under gift aid	27,424	-	-	27,424	28,703
Tax Recoverable	11,714	-	-	11,714	7,699
Other planned giving	6,313	-	-	6,313	6,585
Collections in service	2,984	-	-	2,984	2,097
Grants	3,621	-	-	3,621	341
Major Grants and Fundraising	-	-	-	-	13,000
Contributions from URC	-	-	-	-	34,094
St Luke's ECC Castle End Mission Bequest	-	-	-	-	60,000
Sundry donations	8,824	12,730	-	21,553	2,804
Legacies	8,000	-	-	8,000	-
	<u>68,879</u>	<u>12,730</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>81,608</u>	<u>155,323</u>
<b>(b) Charitable activities</b>					
Fundraising / events	1,023	-	-	1,023	247
Missions	-	-	-	-	1,996
Fees	137	-	-	137	1,428
Hall and related rents	33,753	67,256	-	101,009	77,142
Children, Social events, Publications, Retreat	1,010	-	-	1,010	1,176
	<u>35,924</u>	<u>67,256</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>103,180</u>	<u>81,989</u>
<b>(c) Investments:</b>					
Bank interest & dividends	221	1,024	-	1,245	1,382
Rents and similar income	73,161	-	-	73,161	66,356
	<u>73,382</u>	<u>1,024</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>74,406</u>	<u>67,738</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>178,185</u>	<u>81,010</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>259,194</u>	<u>305,050</u>

3 EXPENDITURE

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
<b>(a) Raising Funds</b>					
Cost of fund raising events	56	-	-	56	56
	<u>56</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>56</u>
<b>(b) Parish share</b>	53,390	15,000	-	68,390	64,416
The church contributes to the central Diocese costs of training and providing ministers (including the centralised payment of stipends, pension contributions and other benefits for ministers), running the denomination, and the wider mission of the national church.					
<b>(c) Ministerial Costs</b>					
Ministers expenses	50	-	-	50	-
Worship resources	410	-	-	410	818
Musical life of the church	4,529	-	-	4,529	4,561
	<u>4,990</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,990</u>	<u>5,379</u>
<b>(d) Costs of Church Activities</b>					
Premises running costs:					
Rates and utilities	6,511	16,657	-	23,168	17,906
Insurance	7,833	5,739	-	13,572	10,014
Repairs and maintenance	33,119	-	-	33,119	25,722
Major building expenditure	-	104,382	-	104,382	126,926
Caretaker and cleaning	10,851	5,005	-	15,856	13,414
Legal and professional	-	-	-	-	5,550
	<u>58,314</u>	<u>131,783</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>190,097</u>	<u>199,532</u>
<b>Administration costs</b>					
Office costs	5,097	2,457	-	7,555	9,982
Staff costs	17,163	8,262	-	25,425	24,794
	<u>22,261</u>	<u>10,719</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>32,980</u>	<u>34,776</u>

PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, CAMBRIDGE  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

3 RESOURCES EXPENDED (Continued)

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
<b>Mission Outreach:</b>					
Other outreach costs	1,394	-	-	1,394	1,779
Donations	-	-	-	-	1,651
	<u>1,394</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,394</u>	<u>3,430</u>
	<u>81,968</u>	<u>142,502</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>224,471</u>	<u>307,589</u>
<b>(e) Governance Costs</b>					
Independent Examiner	-	-	-	-	775
Accountancy and Book-keeping	14,575	-	-	14,575	10,342
	<u>14,575</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14,575</u>	<u>11,117</u>
<b>Total Resources Expended</b>	<u>154,978</u>	<u>157,502</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>312,480</u>	<u>318,706</u>

4 STAFF COSTS

	2022 £	2021 £
Wages and Salaries	25,425	24,795
	<u>25,425</u>	<u>24,099</u>

No Trustee received remuneration or other benefit in the year.  
Covid19 Furlough grants received are recorded in grant income.

5 FIXED ASSETS

For the reasons stated in Accounting Policy note 1, the church buildings are not tangible fixed assets of the church. The principal operational asset apart from consecrated and beneficed property is the building known as the Old School House.

No value is included in these accounts as no details are available as to original cost and it is not practicable to assign a meaningful value in use yet.

6 INVESTMENTS

	2022 £	2021 £
Fair value brought forward	1,076,243	1,042,354
Additions	85	34,426
Disposals	(26,605)	(38,274)
Net unrealised gains/(losses)	(26,034)	37,737
Fair value at 31 December 2021	<u>1,023,690</u>	<u>1,076,243</u>

Made up as follows:

Central Board of Finance of the Church of England:

Deposit Fund	66,913	71,042
Investment Fund	318,939	367,363
Investment Property - Parish Room	637,838	637,838
	<u>1,023,690</u>	<u>1,076,243</u>

7 DEBTORS

	2022 £	2021 £
Tax recoverable	-	6,575
Other debtors	2,218	5,630
	<u>2,218</u>	<u>12,205</u>

8 CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year.

	2022 £	2021 £
Other Creditors	7,232	4,294
	<u>7,232</u>	<u>4,294</u>

**PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, CAMBRIDGE**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

**9 UNRESTRICTED FUNDS**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
St Augustine's Income Account	12,605	9,687
St Augustine's Capital Account	5	5
St Giles Income Account	3,838	(1,570)
St Luke's Income Account	49,789	8,607
St Luke's Capital Account	1,159	1,159
PCC Income Account	96,697	122,998
Parish Room	637,838	637,838
Parish Room Repairs	8,143	8,143
Mason Fund (residual legacy)	151,742	166,957
Old Junior School Income Fund	5,147	5,147
	<u>966,963</u>	<u>958,971</u>

**10 RESTRICTED FUNDS**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
St Augustine's Mason Legacy	2,247	2,247
St Giles Fabric Fund	24,370	26,241
St Giles Legacies Fund	2,129	2,129
St Giles Organ Fund	3,704	3,633
Lewis Bequest Grave Trust	1,880	2,031
Fitzpatrick Grave Trust	2,624	2,874
St Luke's Church Centre Fabric Fund	906	906
St Luke's Legacies	33,887	58,692
St Luke's Belinda Parham legacy	6,321	6,235
St Luke's Church Centre Income Account	23,067	71,776
St Luke's Elton Legacy	327	327
St Luke's Castle End Mission Sale		1,263
PCC Capital Fund	81,003	87,693
PCC Graves Maintenance	3,917	3,917
Crisp Legacy	2,997	2,997
	<u>189,378</u>	<u>272,961</u>

**11 ENDOWMENT FUNDS**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Stretten Ave Sale Proceeds	2,521	2,773
FC Shove Grave Trust	9,132	10,130
Braybrooke Grave Trust	13,592	14,106
Blackman Grave Trust	18,347	20,095
Mss FM Kent Bequest	4,608	4,825
Old Jnr School	9,061	9,061
	<u>57,261</u>	<u>60,990</u>

**12 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS**

	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>Restricted funds</b>	<b>Endowment funds</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Investments	804,034	162,395	57,262	1,023,690
Current Assets	170,161	26,984	-	197,145
Liabilities falling due within one year	(7,232)	-	-	(7,232)
Fund Balance	<u>966,963</u>	<u>189,378</u>	<u>57,262</u>	<u>1,213,603</u>

**13 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

There are no related party transactions requiring disclosure.

## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, CAMBRIDGE**

I report on the accounts of Parochial Church Council of the Parish of the Ascension, Cambridge ("the PCC") for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on pages 5 to 11.

### **Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner**

The members of the Parochial Church Council are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **Basis of independent examiner's opinion**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statements below.

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

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act.
- (b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Scott Reynolds ACCA  
Chartered Accountants (ICAEW)  
Day Accountants Ltd  
Quern House  
Mill Court  
Great Shelford  
Cambridgeshire  
CB22 5LD

Date

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# Accounts

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**THE PARISH OF THE ASCENSION  
CAMBRIDGE**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

Registered Charity number 1172822

**PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, CAMBRIDGE  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

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Statement of Cashflows	7
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**PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, CAMBRIDGE  
ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

This is the annual report of the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Benefice of the Ascension, Cambridge (St Giles with St Peter, St Luke and St Augustine), known as the Parish of the Ascension, Cambridge for the year ended 31 December 2021.

**Background**

The Parish of the Ascension, Cambridge is the largest in the Diocese of Ely, covering an area in Cambridge bounded by Queens Road, Madingley Road, Huntingdon Road and Gilbert Road. The Parochial Church Council ("PCC") of the parish has the responsibility of co-operating with the Ministry Team in promoting in the Parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. (The Ministry Team includes Church of England, United Reformed Church and Methodist ministers and licensed and authorized lay ministers). It also has maintenance responsibilities for St Luke's Church, St Giles' Church, St Augustine's Church and the Parish Room (St Giles' Hall). In addition we work with the Romanian Orthodox Church who shares the building at St. Giles'. It is a registered charity, no. 1172822, address Ascension Parish Office, St. Giles' Church, Cambridge, CB3 0AQ.

**Structure, governance and management**

The governing document is the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure (1956) as amended and Church Representation Rules that came into force on 2 January 1957; the latest edition of these rules, 2017, is available online <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/policy-and-thinking/church-representation-rules>.

The PCC oversees the working of the parish through its regular meetings and through District Church Councils at St Augustine's and St Giles' and an Ecumenical Church Council at St Luke's Local Ecumenical Partnership.

Members of the PCC are elected at the Annual General Meeting in accordance with the Representation Rules. During the year and to the time at which these accounts are approved the following served as members of the PCC.

Rector	The Revd Philipa King
Team Vicar	The Revd Dr Janet Bunker
Asst. Priest	The Revd Ank Rigelsford
Asst. Priest	The Revd Dr Tom Ambrose
URC Minister	The Revd Charles Mather
Retired Priest	Owen Spencer Thomas
Licensed Lay Minister	Margaret Cooper
	Marie Lucchetta Redmond (until 30 June 2021)
	Sylvia Pick (Emerita)
Authorised Lay Pastoral Minister	Sue Mudie
Authorised Lay Minister for Children	Gill Ambrose
Churchwardens	Philip Mead
	Mark Wills
	Richard Catchpole
	Paul Gibbs
Deanery Synod representatives	Jane Holmes
Treasurer	Richard Footitt
Elected Members, also secretary	Patricia McGuire
	Anthony Rix
	Frances Klein
	Gill Ambrose
	Judith Crowe

**PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, CAMBRIDGE  
ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

**Objectives and activities**

The key function of the charity is through its activities to promote in the Parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. In setting and reviewing the objectives and activities the Trustees have had due regard to the public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission.

**Achievements and Performance**

The Parish looks to respond creatively to the Diocesan Vision prayer that we should be generous and visible people of Jesus Christ.

2021 has been a challenging year for all parishes. Covid pandemic restrictions have severely affected the usual sources of income, particularly that received from the hire of our buildings to community groups and organisations. We have been fortunate that planned giving from our congregations has remained fairly steady and that despite the change in tenancy of the Parish Room, the rental of that building continues to make a vital contribution to our overall finances.

Many of the usual parish activities and events had to be cancelled or postponed but others have arisen to meet the needs of our communities in this time of restriction and lockdown.

Members of our congregations have been active members of local Covid mutual help groups and supporters of the Cambridge Foodbank. Under lockdown and Covid restrictions, worship and fellowship went online and then, as pandemic conditions eased, moved to in-person as well as online (hybrid).

The repairs and renovations on the Old Schoolhouse at St Luke's have finally been completed and it is ready for the next stage in its life as a community asset.

We are always looking to collaborate with those working for the common good and human flourishing within the parish and wider city. We provide volunteers and venues for local events and organisations and support numerous local, national and international charities. When conditions permitted, we resumed those numerous social and community events which look to address social exclusion and loneliness, build up community cohesion and resilience. We aim to work ecumenically where possible so as to benefit from the diversity and richness of Christian tradition in this part of the city.

With continuing financial pressures on local authority services and community facilities and in such a diverse, busy and ever-growing place such as Cambridge, where inequalities of opportunity can be very stark, we look to continue to use all our resources, physical, human and spiritual, to offer generous hospitality and an open welcome to those seeking rest, recreation, reflection and friendship and Christian fellowship.

The year ahead looks no less challenging than what has gone before, and although there is hope that the pandemic is waning, its after-effects, financial and social, will be felt for some time to come. We continue to hold firm to God's promise in our Saviour Jesus Christ that he will be with us until the end of the age and to use all we are and have for the benefit and building up of our communities.

**PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, CAMBRIDGE  
ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

**Financial Review of the year**

The principal funding sources are through regular giving, collections at services, donations, and income from investments and rents.

Both income and expenditure in 2021 remained substantially affected by the Covid pandemic and the restrictions on the use of our buildings which this required. Although day-to-day expenditure at c£320 000 exceeded income (at c£305 000) during the year, the shortfall was more than met by an increase in investment income, leaving the Parish with a improved balance sheet at the end of the year.

Planned giving and generous donations together provided the largest source of income during the year, with rental income from letting our churches and Parish Room close behind. Rental income, however, fell below that of 2020, but is expected to pick up sharply in 2022 as community groups and others return to pre-Covid levels.

The Parish was able to maintain the commitment to increase its Parish Share year-on-year, despite incurring additional expenditure when an unexpected change of tenants took place at the Parish Hall.

The accounts record substantial income and expenditure related to the redevelopment of the Old School at St Luke's including income of £34 094 from St Luke's URC, £60 000 from the Castle End Mission Bequest to St Luke's ECC (held in a URC trust), and additionally £34 094 was used from the Belinda Parham Legacy.

Additional costs were also incurred maintaining the heating system at St Luke's, repairing part of the roof at St Augustine's, and reglazing some of the windows at St Giles (financed by The Friends of St Giles).

Non-property investments generated gains of nearly £38 000 in 2021, enabling the Parish to register a net positive outcome in 2021. Investments other than property are held in CBF Church of England Funds, either in the Deposit Fund or in the Investment Fund, but with interest rates remaining very low, the income during the year was negligible

**Policy on Reserves**

Unrestricted funds are used by the PCC to pay for everyday expenses and at their discretion for furthering the mission and ministry of the Church. These amounted to £958,971 at the end of the year as against £947,564 at the end of 2020.

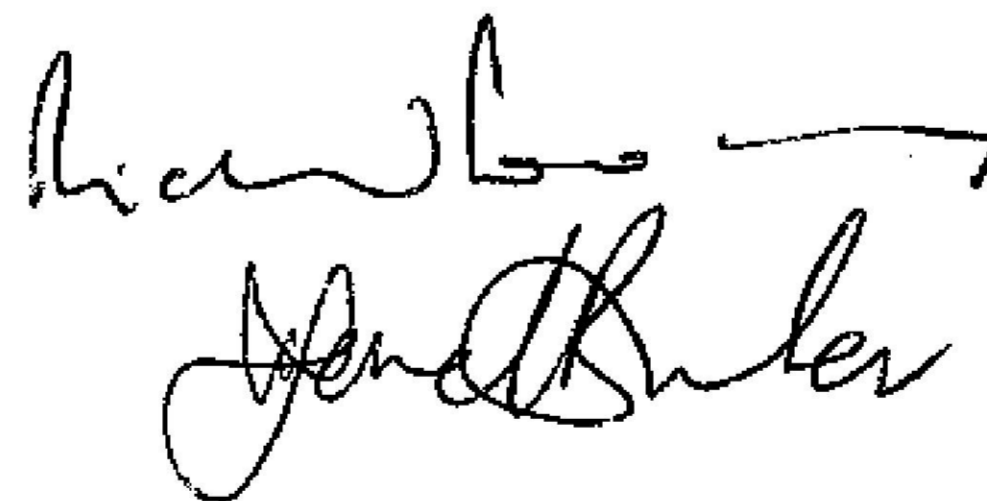
Restricted funds are principally available for the upkeep and maintenance of the churches, and amounted to £272,961 as against £264,977 in 2020, with the difference largely accounted for by the development of the old school house at St Luke to which some of these restricted funds had been allocated.

The income from Endowment funds is generally available only for the upkeep of specific graves or for the augmentation of the stipend of the Vicar of St Luke's Church and goes directly to the Diocese for this purpose. These funds at the end of 2021 stood at £60,990 as against £56,300 at the start of the year.

On behalf of the PCC

Date

14 October '22



**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, CAMBRIDGE**

I report on the accounts of Parochial Church Council of the Parish of the Ascension, Cambridge ("the PCC") for the year ended 31 December 2021, which are set out on pages 5 to 11.

**Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner**

The members of the Parochial Church Council are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiner's opinion**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statements below.

**Independent examiner's statement**

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  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act.
- (b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Stephen Patrick Wilson ACA  
Chartered Accountant (ICAEW)  
Waller Wilson & Co  
Old Forge  
Newmarket Road  
Worlington  
Suffolk  
IP28 8RZ

5/10/2022  
Date

**PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, CAMBRIDGE  
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
<b>Income</b>						
Donations & legacies	2(a)	61,229	94,094	-	155,323	106,398
Charitable activities	2(b)	19,088	62,901	-	81,989	84,036
Investments	2(c)	66,493	941	304	67,738	71,856
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>146,810</b>	<b>157,936</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>305,050</b>	<b>262,290</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>						
Raising funds	3(a)	56	-	-	56	3,332
Charitable Activities:						
Parish Share	3(b)	49,416	15,000	-	64,416	63,333
Ministerial costs	3(c)	5,379	-	-	5,379	8,099
Costs of church activities	3(d)	60,255	177,483	-	237,738	195,303
Governance Costs	3(e)	11,117	-	-	11,117	11,375
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>126,223</b>	<b>192,483</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>318,706</b>	<b>281,442</b>
<b>Net Income/(Expenditure) Before Transfers</b>		<b>20,587</b>	<b>(34,547)</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>(13,656)</b>	<b>(19,152)</b>
Transfer Between Funds:						
Transfer (to)/from Restricted Funds		(34,094)	34,094	-	-	-
<b>Net Income/(Expenditure) for the year</b>		<b>(13,507)</b>	<b>(453)</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>(13,656)</b>	<b>(19,152)</b>
<b>Other recognised gains and (losses)</b>						
Unrealised gains/(losses) on investment assets	6	24,914	8,437	4,386	37,737	20,292
<b>Net Movement in Funds</b>		<b>11,407</b>	<b>7,984</b>	<b>4,690</b>	<b>24,081</b>	<b>1,140</b>
<b>Reconciliation of Funds:</b>						
<b>Fund balances b/fwd at 1 January 2021</b>		<b>947,564</b>	<b>264,977</b>	<b>56,300</b>	<b>1,268,841</b>	<b>1,267,701</b>
<b>Fund Balances c/fwd at 31 December 2021</b>		<b>958,971</b>	<b>272,961</b>	<b>60,990</b>	<b>1,292,922</b>	<b>1,268,841</b>

Income and expenditure is derived solely from continuing operations

The notes on pages 8 - 11 form part of these financial statements

**PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, CAMBRIDGE  
BALANCE SHEET  
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021**

	Note	2021		2020	
		£	£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Investments	6		1,076,243		1,042,354
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors	7		12,205		34,861
Cash at Bank and In Hand			<u>208,768</u>		<u>200,593</u>
			220,973		235,454
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>					
Creditors - Amounts Falling Due Within One Year	8		<u>4,294</u>		<u>8,967</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>			216,679		226,487
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			<u>1,292,922</u>		<u>1,268,841</u>
Creditors - Amounts Falling Due After More Than One Year			-		-
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			<u>1,292,922</u>		<u>1,268,841</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>					
Unrestricted Funds	9		958,971		947,564
Restricted Funds	10		272,961		264,977
Endowment Funds	11		60,990		56,300
Total Funds			<u>1,292,922</u>		<u>1,268,841</u>

Approved by Church Meeting held on *26<sup>th</sup> May 2022* and signed on its behalf by:

*Handwritten signature*  
*Janet Baker*

The notes on pages 8 - 11 form part of these financial statements

**PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, CAMBRIDGE  
STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS  
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021**

	Note (below)	2021 £	2020 £
<b>Cash flow from operating activities:</b>			
Net cash provided by operating activities	A	(63,411)	(43,178)
Cash flow from investing activities	B	<u>71,586</u>	<u>51,844</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		8,175	8,666
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period</b>			
	C	<u>200,593</u>	<u>191,927</u>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period</b>	C	<u><u>208,768</u></u>	<u><u>200,593</u></u>

**Notes to the statement of cash flow**

**A) Reconciliation of net income to net cashflow from operating activities**

Net (expenditure)/income for the reporting period as the statement of financial activities	24,081	1,140
Gains on investments	(37,737)	(20,292)
Investment income	(67,738)	(71,856)
(Increase)/Decrease in debtors	22,656	43,009
(Decrease)/Increase in creditors	(4,673)	4,821
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<u><u>(63,411)</u></u>	<u><u>(43,178)</u></u>

**B) Cashflow from investing activities**

Investment income	67,738	71,856
Investment additions	(34,426)	(72,694)
Investment disposals	<u>38,274</u>	<u>52,682</u>
	<u><u>71,586</u></u>	<u><u>51,844</u></u>

**C) Analysis of cash and cash equivalents**

<b>Cash at bank and in hand</b>	<u><u>208,768</u></u>	<u><u>200,593</u></u>
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**PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, CAMBRIDGE  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

**1 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**Basis of preparation**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the UK and the Republic of Ireland (SORP FRS102) and the Charities Act 2011. The charity is a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention modified to include certain items at fair value. Significant accounting policies are set out below. These policies have been applied consistently to all years unless otherwise stated.

**Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds are available to use at the discretion of the church in furtherance of its charitable objectives. They are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use.

Designated funds are funds which have been set aside for specific purposes, but which can be returned to general funds at any time, with the approval of the Church Meeting; there are no funds falling into this category in the year or prior year.

Restricted funds are subject to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor, or contained in the terms of the grant.

Endowment funds are funds where the capital given is not available to be spent or is only available to be spent under certain circumstances.

**Fixed assets and capital expenditure**

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011. Nor is any value included for moveable church furnishings held by the church wardens on special trust for the PCC since the PCC considers this to be inalienable property. All expenditure on consecrated or beneficed buildings and moveable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as repairs and improvement expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Where deemed material expenditure on other fixtures, fittings and equipment is capitalised and depreciated over its estimated useful life; no such assets are included in these financial statements. Expenditure on such items not deemed material is written off as incurred.

**Investments and Investment Properties**

Investments are included at their fair value on the balance sheet date. With the exception of property the PCC only has investments in the Central Board of Finance of the Church of England Deposit and Investment Funds for which quoted market value is available which is taken as fair value. Deposit investments are not for fixed terms and deposit value is taken as fair value. Property investments are included at their estimated market value. No formal valuation has been carried out and value given for the property is, in the opinion of the PCC, a reasonable representation of market value. Changes in valuation of investment and investment properties over the year are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

**Income**

All voluntary giving is included in the financial statements for the period in which it is received.

Donations under Gift Aid plus the associated tax recovery are recognised as income when the donation is received.

Legacies are accounted for when their receipt is certain and can be properly quantified.  
All other income is generally recognised when it is receivable.

**Expenditure**

Expenditure is recognised in the period in which it is incurred and includes attributable VAT which cannot be recovered. It is allocated to the particular activity to which it relates on an actual attributable basis.

Governance costs represent direct expenditure on the governance of the church, including the production and independent scrutiny of these financial statements.

As most of the management and activity of the church is carried out by volunteers, this intangible cost is not included in the financial statements as this voluntary contribution to the life of the church is incalculable.

PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, CAMBRIDGE  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

2 INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
<b>(a) Donations &amp; legacies:</b>					
Planned giving - under gift aid	28,703	-	-	28,703	31,828
Tax Recoverable	7,699	-	-	7,699	8,437
Other planned giving	6,585	-	-	6,585	4,800
Collections in service	2,097	-	-	2,097	1,890
Grants	341	-	-	341	3,374
Major Grants and Fundraising	13,000	-	-	13,000	-
Contributions from URC	-	34,094	-	34,094	51,299
St Luke's ECC Castle End Mission Bequest	-	60,000	-	60,000	-
Sundry donations	2,804	-	-	2,804	4,770
Legacies	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>61,229</u>	<u>94,094</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>155,323</u>	<u>106,398</u>
<b>(b) Charitable activities</b>					
Fundraising / events	107	140	-	247	771
Missions	1,996	-	-	1,996	787
Fees	1,398	30	-	1,428	1,198
Hall and related rents Children, Social events, Publications, Retreat	14,411	62,731	-	77,142	79,778
	<u>1,176</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,176</u>	<u>1,502</u>
	<u>19,088</u>	<u>62,901</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>81,989</u>	<u>84,036</u>
<b>(c) Investments:</b>					
Bank interest & dividends	137	941	304	1,382	1,856
Rents and similar income	66,356	-	-	66,356	70,000
	<u>66,493</u>	<u>941</u>	<u>304</u>	<u>67,738</u>	<u>71,856</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>146,810</u>	<u>157,936</u>	<u>304</u>	<u>305,050</u>	<u>262,290</u>

3 EXPENDITURE

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
<b>(a) Raising Funds</b>					
Cost of fund raising events	56	-	-	56	3,332
	<u>56</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>3,332</u>
<b>(b) Parish share</b>	49,416	15,000	-	64,416	63,333
The church contributes to the central Diocese costs of training and providing ministers (including the centralised payment of stipends, pension contributions and other benefits for ministers), running the denomination, and the wider mission of the national church.					
<b>(c) Ministerial Costs</b>					
Ministers expenses	-	-	-	-	454
Worship resources	818	-	-	818	875
Musical life of the church	4,561	-	-	4,561	6,770
	<u>5,379</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,379</u>	<u>8,099</u>
<b>(d) Costs of Church Activities</b>					
Premises running costs:					
Rates and utilities	5,226	12,680	-	17,906	18,382
Insurance	4,389	5,625	-	10,014	10,267
Repairs and maintenance	13,473	12,249	-	25,722	14,333
Major building expenditure	-	126,926	-	126,926	99,447
Caretaker and cleaning	7,332	6,082	-	13,414	14,931
Legal and professional	5,550	-	-	5,550	8
	<u>35,970</u>	<u>163,562</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>199,532</u>	<u>157,368</u>
<b>Administration costs</b>					
Office costs	7,941	2,041	-	9,982	10,149
Staff costs	14,594	10,200	-	24,794	24,099
	<u>22,535</u>	<u>12,241</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>34,776</u>	<u>34,248</u>

**PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, CAMBRIDGE  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

**3 RESOURCES EXPENDED (Continued)**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
<b>Mission Outreach:</b>					
Other outreach costs	99	1,680	-	1,779	205
Donations	1,651	-	-	1,651	3,482
	<u>1,750</u>	<u>1,680</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,430</u>	<u>3,687</u>
	<u>60,255</u>	<u>177,483</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>237,738</u>	<u>195,303</u>
<b>(e) Governance Costs</b>					
Independent Examiner	775	-	-	775	775
Accountancy and Book-keeping	10,342	-	-	10,342	10,600
	<u>11,117</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,117</u>	<u>11,375</u>
<b>Total Resources Expended</b>	<u>126,223</u>	<u>192,483</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>318,706</u>	<u>281,442</u>

**4 STAFF COSTS**

	2021 £	2020 £
Wages and Salaries	24,795	24,099
	<u>24,795</u>	<u>24,099</u>

No Trustee received remuneration or other benefit in the year.  
Covid19 Furlough grants received are recorded in grant income.

**5 FIXED ASSETS**

For the reasons stated in Accounting Policy note 1, the church buildings are not tangible fixed assets of the church. The principal operational asset apart from consecrated and beneficed property is the building known as the Old School House.

No value is included in these accounts as no details are available as to original cost and it is not practicable to assign a meaningful value in use yet.

**6 INVESTMENTS**

	2021 £	2020 £
Fair value brought forward	1,042,354	1,002,050
Additions	34,426	72,694
Disposals	(38,274)	(52,682)
Net unrealised gains/(losses)	37,737	20,292
Fair value at 31 December 2021	<u>1,076,243</u>	<u>1,042,354</u>

Made up as follows:

Central Board of Finance of the Church of England:

Deposit Fund	71,042	65,907
Investment Fund	367,363	338,609
Investment Property - Parish Room	637,838	637,838
	<u>1,076,243</u>	<u>1,042,354</u>

**7 DEBTORS**

	2021 £	2020 £
Tax recoverable	6,575	1,455
Other debtors	5,630	33,406
	<u>12,205</u>	<u>34,861</u>

**8 CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year.**

	2021 £	2020 £
Other Creditors	4,294	8,967
	<u>4,294</u>	<u>8,967</u>

**PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, CAMBRIDGE  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

**9 UNRESTRICTED FUNDS**

	2021 £	2020 £
St Augustine's Income Account	9,667	10,891
St Augustine's Capital Account	5	5
St Giles Income Account	(1,570)	(793)
St Luke's Income Account	8,607	6,696
St Luke's Capital Account	1,159	1,159
PCC Income Account	122,998	136,442
Parish Room	637,838	637,838
Parish Room Repairs	8,143	8,143
Mason Fund (residual legacy)	166,957	142,043
Old Junior School Income Fund	5,147	5,140
	<u>958,971</u>	<u>947,564</u>

**10 RESTRICTED FUNDS**

	2021 £	2020 £
St Augustine's Mason Legacy	2,247	2,247
St Giles Fabric Fund	26,241	26,241
St Giles Legacies Fund	2,129	2,129
St Giles Organ Fund	3,633	3,633
Lewis Bequest Grave Trust	2,031	1,865
Fitzpatrick Grave Trust	2,874	2,602
St Luke's Church Centre Fabric Fund	906	906
St Luke's Legacies	58,692	58,692
St Luke's Belinda Parham legacy	6,235	40,309
St Luke's Church Centre Income Account	71,776	72,752
St Luke's Elton Legacy	327	2,007
St Luke's Castle End Mission Sale	1,263	-
PCC Capital Fund	87,693	45,600
PCC Graves Maintenance	3,917	2,997
Crisp Legacy	2,997	2,997
	<u>272,961</u>	<u>264,977</u>

**11 ENDOWMENT FUNDS**

	2021 £	2020 £
Stretton Ave Sale Proceeds	2,773	2,499
FC Shove Grave Trust	10,130	9,055
Braybrooke Grave Trust	14,106	13,066
Blackman Grave Trust	20,095	18,193
Mss FM Kent Bequest	4,825	4,426
Old Jnr School	9,061	9,061
	<u>60,990</u>	<u>56,300</u>

**12 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total £
Investments	819,245	196,008	60,990	1,076,243
Current Assets	143,921	77,052	-	220,973
Liabilities falling due within one year	(4,195)	(99)	-	(4,294)
Fund Balance	<u>958,971</u>	<u>272,961</u>	<u>60,990</u>	<u>1,292,922</u>

**13 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

There are no related party transactions requiring disclosure.

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# Accounts

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**THE PARISH OF THE ASCENSION  
CAMBRIDGE**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

Registered Charity number 1172822

PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, CAMBRIDGE  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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**PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, CAMBRIDGE  
ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

This is the annual report of the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Benefice of the Ascension, Cambridge (St Giles with St Peter, St Luke and St Augustine), known as the Parish of the Ascension, Cambridge for the year ended 31 December 2020.

**Background**

The Parish of the Ascension, Cambridge is the largest in the Diocese of Ely, covering an area in Cambridge bounded by Queens Road, Madingley Road, Huntingdon Road and Gilbert Road. The Parochial Church Council ("PCC") of the parish has the responsibility of co-operating with the Ministry Team in promoting in the Parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. (The Ministry Team includes Church of England, United Reformed Church and Methodist ministers and licensed and authorized lay ministers). It also has maintenance responsibilities for St Luke's Church, St Giles' Church, St Augustine's Church and the Parish Room (St Giles' Hall). In addition we work with the Romanian Orthodox Church who shares the building at St. Giles'. It is a registered charity, no. 1172822, address Ascension Parish Office, St. Giles' Church, Cambridge, CB3 0AQ.

**Structure, governance and management**

The governing document is the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure (1956) as amended and Church Representation Rules that came into force on 2 January 1957; the latest edition of these rules, 2017, is available online <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/policy-and-thinking/church-representation-rules>.

The PCC oversees the working of the parish through its regular meetings and through District Church Councils at St Augustine's and St Giles' and an Ecumenical Church Council at St Luke's Local Ecumenical Partnership.

Members of the PCC are elected at the Annual General Meeting in accordance with the Representation Rules. During the year and to the time at which these accounts are approved the following served as members of the PCC.

Rector	The Revd Philipa King
Team Vicar	The Revd Dr Janet Bunker
Asst. Priest	The Revd Ank Rigelsford
Asst. Priest	The Revd Dr Tom Ambrose
URC Minister	The Revd Charles Mather
Retired Priest	Owen Spencer Thomas
Licensed Lay Minister	Margaret Cooper
LLM	Marie Lucchetta Redmond
ALM	Sue Mudie (Pastoral)
	Gill Ambrose (Children)
Churchwardens	Gillian Mead
	Mark Wills
	Arthur Hibble
	Richard Catchpole
	Paul Gibbs
Deanery Synod representatives	Joyce Jarvis
	Alison Taylor/Jane Holmes
	Mark Wills
Treasurer	Richard Footitt
Elected Members, also secretary	Patricia McGuire
	Caroline Wilson/Anthony Rix
	John Jarvis
	Clare Walker Gore
	Frances Klein
	Gill Ambrose
	Judith Crowe
	George Owers

**PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, CAMBRIDGE  
ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

**Objectives and activities**

The key function of the charity is through its activities to promote in the Parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. In setting and reviewing the objectives and activities the Trustees have had due regard to the public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission.

**Achievements and Performance**

The Parish looks to respond creatively to the Diocesan Vision prayer that we should be generous and visible people of Jesus Christ.

2020 has been a challenging year for all parishes. Covid pandemic restrictions have severely affected the usual sources of income, particularly that received from the hire of our buildings to community groups and organisations. We have been fortunate that planned giving from our congregations has remained fairly steady and that despite the change in tenancy of the Parish Room, the rental of that building continues to make a vital contribution to our overall finances.

Many of the usual parish activities and events have been cancelled or postponed but others have arisen to meet the needs of our communities in this time of restriction and lockdown.

In the early days of schools having to transfer learning online, the parish made a contribution to the cost of providing laptops to our church school, St Luke's. St Augustine's has initiated a weekly foodbank collection and has been a distribution point for leaflets from the local mutual aid group, the Castle Covid Support Association. Worship has moved online as well as in person (hybrid) and everyone has had to become familiar with remote meetings and groups thanks to the ever-present Zoom. The Old Schoolhouse at St Luke's has finally been renovated and made ready for the next stage in its life a community asset.

The Friends of St Giles' Church continue to provide vital funds and resources to support and promote this historic building including vital repair work to its windows. In May 2020 the parish's burial ground was officially closed by order of the Privy Council and the Friends of the Ascension Burial Ground work closely with Cambridge City Council who are now responsible for the maintenance and repair of this historic and vital green space.

We are always looking to collaborate with those working for the common good and human flourishing within the parish and wider city. We provide volunteers and venues for the Cambridge Churches Homeless Project, Castle Hill Open Day, support numerous local, national and international charities including the local foodbank directly through donations or through the activities of our congregations. We host numerous social and community events throughout the year which look to address social exclusion and loneliness and which build up community cohesion and resilience. We aim to work ecumenically where possible so as to benefit from the diversity and richness of Christian tradition in this part of the city.

With continuing financial pressures on local authority services and community facilities and in such a diverse, busy and ever-growing place such as Cambridge, where inequalities of opportunity can be very stark, we will continue to use all our resources, physical, human and spiritual, to offer generous hospitality and welcome to those seeking rest, recreation and friendship and as well as opportunities to know the love of God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

As we move into 2021, there is cautious hope that the pandemic may be brought under control by vaccination and that although challenging, the year ahead may provide the parish with new opportunities to serve and rebuild its communities.

**PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, CAMBRIDGE  
ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

**Financial Review of the year**

The principal funding sources are through regular giving, collections at services, donations and income from investments and rents.

Both income and expenditure in 2020 were substantially affected by the COVID pandemic, particularly the income generated from letting our churches for community use. Income overall decreased by £54,106 on 2019, with hall rents accounting for £27,358 of this reduction, and overall expenditure increased over the same period by £68,791. These figures also reflect, however, the work carried out to redevelop the Old School House at St Luke's, funded by a legacy received in 2019 (Belinda Parham) and a substantial contribution received in 2020 from the URC, our partners at St Luke's: this work will be completed in 2021. Planned giving over the year held up remarkably well in the circumstances, and the rental income from letting St Giles's Hall increased following the renewal of the current lease. Leaving aside the costs of redeveloping the Old School House at St Luke's, expenditure on most other items increased marginally over the year, reflecting the additional work needed to manage the parish during the pandemic as well as a larger contribution to the parish share.

Despite a volatile start to the year, non-property investments gained £20,292 over the year as stock markets recovered from their earlier losses, and although this was down on 2019 (£31,570), it has ensured that net movement in funds after transfers remained positive. Investments other than investment property are held in CBF Church of England Funds, either in the Deposit Fund or in the Investment Fund.

**Policy on Reserves**

Unrestricted funds are used by the PCC to pay for everyday expenses and they are used at the discretion of the PCC for furthering the mission and ministry of the Church. The funds at the end of the year totalled £947,564 compared to £917,633 at the end of the prior year.

Restricted funds are principally for the upkeep and maintenance of the churches and amounted to £264,977 at the end of 2020 against £296,651 in the previous year. The decrease in those funds is due to the development of the old school house at St Luke to which some of these restricted funds had been allocated.

The income from Endowment funds is generally available only for the upkeep of specific graves or for the augmentation of the stipend of the Vicar of St Luke's Church and goes directly to the Diocese for this purpose. Endowment funds at the end of the year stood at £56,300 as against £53,417 at the start of the year.

On behalf of the PCC



Date 22/9/21

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, CAMBRIDGE

I report on the accounts of Parochial Church Council of the Parish of the Ascension, Cambridge ("the PCC") for the year ended 31 December 2020, which are set out on pages 5 to 11.

### Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

The members of the Parochial Church Council are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

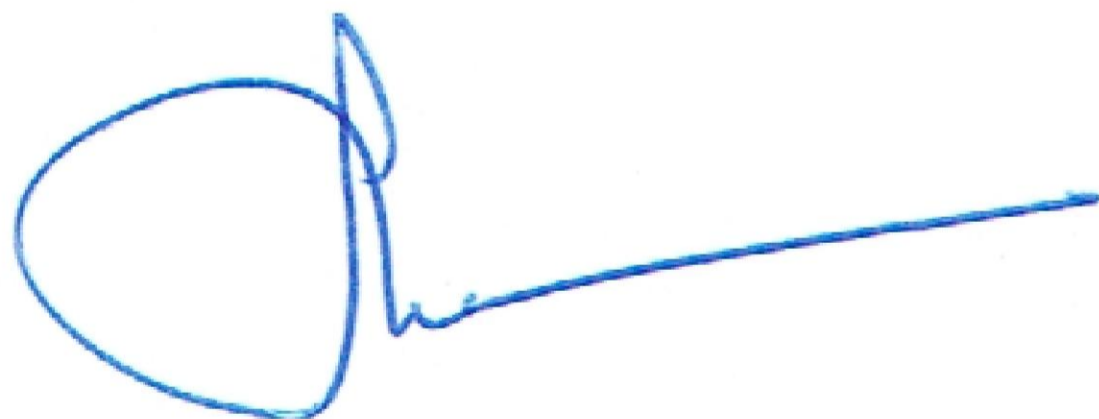
### Basis of independent examiner's opinion

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statements below.

### Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act.
- (b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Stephen Patrick Wilson ACA  
Chartered Accountant (ICAEW)  
Waller Wilson & Co  
Old Forge  
Newmarket Road  
Worlington  
Suffolk  
IP28 8RZ

Date 23/09/21

PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, CAMBRIDGE  
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
<b>Income</b>						
Donations & legacies	2(a)	52,161	54,237	-	106,398	128,606
Charitable activities	2(b)	20,428	63,608	-	84,036	118,040
Investments	2(c)	70,668	894	294	71,856	69,750
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>143,257</b>	<b>118,739</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>262,290</b>	<b>316,396</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>						
Raising funds	3(a)	3,332	-	-	3,332	3,819
Charitable Activities:						
Parish Share	3(b)	49,333	14,000	-	63,333	58,683
Ministerial costs	3(c)	8,099	-	-	8,099	9,592
Costs of church activities	3(d)	54,370	140,933	-	195,303	131,853
Governance Costs	3(e)	11,375	-	-	11,375	8,704
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>126,509</b>	<b>154,933</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>281,442</b>	<b>212,651</b>
<b>Net Income/(Expenditure) Before Transfers</b>		<b>16,748</b>	<b>(36,194)</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>(19,152)</b>	<b>103,745</b>
Transfer Between Funds:						
Transfer (to)/from Restricted Funds		-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net Income/(Expenditure) for the year</b>		<b>16,748</b>	<b>(36,194)</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>(19,152)</b>	<b>103,745</b>
<b>Other recognised gains and (losses)</b>						
Unrealised gains/(losses) on investment assets	6	13,183	4,520	2,589	20,292	31,570
<b>Net Movement in Funds</b>		<b>29,931</b>	<b>(31,674)</b>	<b>2,883</b>	<b>1,140</b>	<b>135,315</b>
<b>Reconciliation of Funds:</b>						
Fund balances b/fwd at 1 January 2020		917,633	296,651	53,417	1,267,701	1,132,386
Fund Balances c/fwd at 31 December 2020		947,564	264,977	56,300	1,268,841	1,267,701

Income and expenditure is derived solely from continuing operations

The notes on pages 8 - 11 form part of these financial statements

PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, CAMBRIDGE  
BALANCE SHEET  
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Note	2020		2019	
		£	£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Investments	6		1,042,354		1,002,050
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors	7	34,861		77,870	
Cash at Bank and In Hand		<u>200,593</u>		<u>191,927</u>	
		235,454		269,797	
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>					
Creditors - Amounts Falling Due Within One Year	8	<u>8,967</u>		<u>4,146</u>	
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>			226,487		265,651
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			<u>1,268,841</u>		<u>1,267,701</u>
Creditors - Amounts Falling Due After More Than One Year			-		-
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			<u><u>1,268,841</u></u>		<u><u>1,267,701</u></u>
<b>FUNDS</b>					
Unrestricted Funds	9		947,564		917,633
Restricted Funds	10		264,977		296,651
Endowment Funds	11		<u>56,300</u>		<u>53,417</u>
Total Funds			<u><u>1,268,841</u></u>		<u><u>1,267,701</u></u>

Approved by Church Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> SEPT 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

The notes on pages 8 - 11 form part of these financial statements

**PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, CAMBRIDGE  
STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS  
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020**

	Note (below)	2020 £	2019 £
<b>Cash flow from operating activities:</b>			
Net cash provided by operating activities	A	(43,178)	(36,176)
Cash flow from investing activities	B	<u>51,844</u>	<u>73,113</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		8,666	36,937
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period</b>			
	C	<u>191,927</u>	<u>154,990</u>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period</b>	C	<u><u>200,593</u></u>	<u><u>191,927</u></u>

**Notes to the statement of cash flow**

**A) Reconciliation of net income to net cashflow from operating activities**

Net (expenditure)/income for the reporting period as the statement of financial activities	1,140	135,315
Gains on investments	(20,292)	(31,570)
Investment income	(71,856)	(69,750)
(Increase)/Decrease in debtors	43,009	(67,997)
(Decrease)/Increase in creditors	4,821	(2,174)
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<u><u>(43,178)</u></u>	<u><u>(36,176)</u></u>

**B) Cashflow from investing activities**

Investment income	71,856	69,750
Investment additions	(72,694)	(390)
Investment disposals	52,682	3,753
	<u><u>51,844</u></u>	<u><u>73,113</u></u>

**C) Analysis of cash and cash equivalents**

<b>Cash at bank and in hand</b>	<u><u>200,593</u></u>	<u><u>191,927</u></u>
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PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, CAMBRIDGE  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

**1 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**Basis of preparation**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the UK and the Republic of Ireland (SORP FRS102) and the Charities Act 2011. The charity is a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention modified to include certain items at fair value. Significant accounting policies are set out below. These policies have been applied consistently to all years unless otherwise stated.

**Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds are available to use at the discretion of the church in furtherance of its charitable objectives. They are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use.

Designated funds are funds which have been set aside for specific purposes, but which can be returned to general funds at any time, with the approval of the Church Meeting; there are no funds falling into this category in the year or prior year.

Restricted funds are subject to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor, or contained in the terms of the grant.

Endowment funds are funds where the capital given is not available to be spent or is only available to be spent under certain circumstances.

**Fixed assets and capital expenditure**

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011. Nor is any value included for moveable church furnishings held by the church wardens on special trust for the PCC since the PCC considers this to be inalienable property. All expenditure on consecrated or beneficed buildings and moveable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as repairs and improvement expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Where deemed material expenditure on other fixtures, fittings and equipment is capitalised and depreciated over its estimated useful life; no such assets are included in these financial statements. Expenditure on such items not deemed material is written off as incurred.

**Investments and Investment Properties**

Investments are included at their fair value on the balance sheet date. With the exception of property the PCC only has investments in the Central Board of Finance of the Church of England Deposit and Investment Funds for which quoted market value is available which is taken as fair value. Deposit investments are not for fixed terms and deposit value is taken as fair value. Property investments are included at their estimated market value. No formal valuation has been carried out and value given for the property is, in the opinion of the PCC, a reasonable representation of market value. Changes in valuation of investment and investment properties over the year are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

**Income**

All voluntary giving is included in the financial statements for the period in which it is received.

Donations under Gift Aid plus the associated tax recovery are recognised as income when the donation is received.

Legacies are accounted for when their receipt is certain and can be properly quantified. All other income is generally recognised when it is receivable.

**Expenditure**

Expenditure is recognised in the period in which it is incurred and includes attributable VAT which cannot be recovered. It is allocated to the particular activity to which it relates on an actual attributable basis.

Governance costs represent direct expenditure on the governance of the church, including the production and independent scrutiny of these financial statements.

As most of the management and activity of the church is carried out by volunteers, this intangible cost is not included in the financial statements as this voluntary contribution to the life of the church is incalculable.

PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, CAMBRIDGE  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

2 INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2019 £
<b>(a) Donations &amp; legacies:</b>					
Planned giving - under gift aid	31,828	-	-	31,828	29,601
Tax Recoverable	8,437	-	-	8,437	9,133
Other planned giving	4,800	-	-	4,800	4,800
Collections in service	1,890	-	-	1,890	7,208
Grants	436	2,938	-	3,374	400
Major Grants and Fundraising	-	-	-	-	-
Contributions from URC	-	51,299	-	51,299	-
Sundry donations	4,770	-	-	4,770	5,126
Legacies	-	-	-	-	72,338
	<u>52,161</u>	<u>54,237</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>106,398</u>	<u>128,606</u>
<b>(b) Charitable activities</b>					
Fund raising events	317	454	-	771	1,363
Missions	787	-	-	787	3,102
Fees	1,198	-	-	1,198	2,021
Hall and related rents	16,624	63,154	-	79,778	107,136
Children, Social events, Publications, Retreat	1,502	-	-	1,502	4,418
	<u>20,428</u>	<u>63,608</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>84,036</u>	<u>118,040</u>
<b>(c) Investments:</b>					
Bank interest & dividends	668	894	294	1,856	2,937
Rents and similar income	70,000	-	-	70,000	66,813
	<u>70,668</u>	<u>894</u>	<u>294</u>	<u>71,856</u>	<u>69,750</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>143,257</u>	<u>118,739</u>	<u>294</u>	<u>262,290</u>	<u>316,396</u>

3 EXPENDITURE

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2019 £
<b>(a) Raising Funds</b>					
Cost of fund raising events	3,332	-	-	3,332	3,819
	<u>3,332</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,332</u>	<u>3,819</u>
<b>(b) Parish share</b>	49,333	14,000	-	63,333	58,683
The church contributes to the central Diocese costs of training and providing ministers (including the centralised payment of stipends, pension contributions and other benefits for ministers), running the denomination, and the wider mission of the national church.					
<b>(c) Ministerial Costs</b>					
Ministers expenses	454	-	-	454	381
Worship resources	875	-	-	875	1,215
Musical life of the church	6,770	-	-	6,770	7,996
	<u>8,099</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,099</u>	<u>9,592</u>
<b>(d) Costs of Church Activities</b>					
Premises running costs:					
Rates and utilities	6,415	11,967	-	18,382	19,926
Insurance	4,545	5,722	-	10,267	10,038
Repairs and maintenance	7,709	6,624	-	14,333	41,398
Major building expenditure	825	98,622	-	99,447	2
Caretaker and cleaning	8,772	6,159	-	14,931	15,391
Legal and professional	8	-	-	8	8,198
	<u>28,274</u>	<u>129,094</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>157,368</u>	<u>94,953</u>
<b>Administration costs</b>					
Office costs	7,567	2,582	-	10,149	9,055
Staff costs	14,857	9,242	-	24,099	23,047
	<u>22,424</u>	<u>11,824</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>34,248</u>	<u>32,102</u>

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3 RESOURCES EXPENDED (Continued)

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2019 £
<b>Mission Outreach:</b>					
Other outreach costs	205	-	-	205	696
Donations	3,467	15	-	3,482	4,102
	<u>3,672</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,687</u>	<u>4,798</u>
	<u>54,370</u>	<u>140,933</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>195,303</u>	<u>131,853</u>
<b>(e) Governance Costs</b>					
Independent Examiner	775	-	-	775	775
Accountancy and Book-keeping	10,600	-	-	10,600	7,929
	<u>11,375</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,375</u>	<u>8,704</u>
<b>Total Resources Expended</b>	<u>126,509</u>	<u>154,933</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>281,442</u>	<u>212,651</u>

4 STAFF COSTS

	2020 £	2019 £
Wages and Salaries	24,717	24,291
	<u>24,717</u>	<u>24,291</u>

No Trustee received remuneration or other benefit in the year.  
 Covid19 Furlough grants received are recorded in grant income.

5 FIXED ASSETS

For the reasons stated in Accounting Policy note 1, the church buildings are not tangible fixed assets of the church.  
 The principal operational asset apart from consecrated and beneficed property is the building known as the Old School House.  
 No value is included in these accounts as no details are available as to original cost and it is not practicable to assign a meaningful value in use yet.

6 INVESTMENTS

	2020 £	2019 £
Fair value brought forward	1,002,050	973,843
Additions	72,694	390
Disposals	(52,682)	(3,753)
Net unrealised gains/(losses)	20,292	31,570
Fair value at 31 December 2020	<u>1,042,354</u>	<u>1,002,050</u>

Made up as follows:

Central Board of Finance of the Church of England:

Deposit Fund	65,907	62,676
Investment Fund	338,609	301,536
Investment Property - Parish Room	637,838	637,838
	<u>1,042,354</u>	<u>1,002,050</u>

7 DEBTORS

	2020 £	2019 £
Tax recoverable	1,455	-
Belinda Parham Legacy	-	72,338
Other debtors	33,406	5,532
	<u>34,861</u>	<u>77,870</u>

8 CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year.

	2020 £	2019 £
Other Creditors	8,967	4,146
	<u>8,967</u>	<u>4,146</u>

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9 UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

	2020	2019
	£	£
St Augustine's Income Account	10,891	15,793
St Augustine's Capital Account	5	5
St Giles Income Account	(793)	3,980
St Luke's Income Account	6,696	8,632
St Luke's Capital Account	1,159	1,159
PCC Income Account	136,442	108,145
Parish Room	637,838	637,838
Parish Room Repairs	8,143	8,143
Mason Fund (residual legacy)	142,043	128,859
Old Junior School Income Fund	5,140	5,079
	<u>947,564</u>	<u>917,633</u>

10 RESTRICTED FUNDS

	2020	2019
	£	£
St Augustine's Mason Legacy	2,247	2,247
St Giles Fabric Fund	26,241	26,241
St Giles Legacies Fund	2,129	2,129
St Giles Organ Fund	3,633	3,633
Lewis Bequest Grave Trust	1,865	1,745
Fitzpatrick Grave Trust	2,602	2,435
St Luke's Church Centre Fabric Fund	906	906
St Luke's Legacies	58,692	76,485
St Luke's Belinda Parham legacy	40,309	72,338
St Luke's Church Centre Income Account	72,752	59,893
St Luke's Elton Legacy	2,007	2,007
PCC Burial Ground and Memorials	2,997	2,228
PCC Capital Fund	45,600	41,367
Crisp Legacy	2,997	2,997
	<u>264,977</u>	<u>296,651</u>

11 ENDOWMENT FUNDS

	2020	2019
	£	£
Stretten Ave Sale Proceeds	2,499	2,338
FC Shove Grave Trust	9,055	8,472
Braybrooke Grave Trust	13,066	12,348
Blackman Grave Trust	18,193	17,022
Mss FM Kent Bequest	4,426	4,176
Old Jnr School	9,061	9,061
Funds, prior year	<u>56,300</u>	<u>53,417</u>

12 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total
	£	£	£	£
Investments	794,327	191,727	56,300	1,042,354
Current Assets	157,313	78,141	-	235,454
Liabilities falling due within one year	(4,076)	(4,891)	-	(8,967)
Fund Balance	<u>947,564</u>	<u>264,977</u>	<u>56,300</u>	<u>1,268,841</u>

13 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There are no related party transactions requiring disclosure.