



The Parish of the Ascension

Annual Report 2023-24

The Parish of the Ascension Cambridge
Church at Castle ecumenical partnership

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 Maddingley 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%).

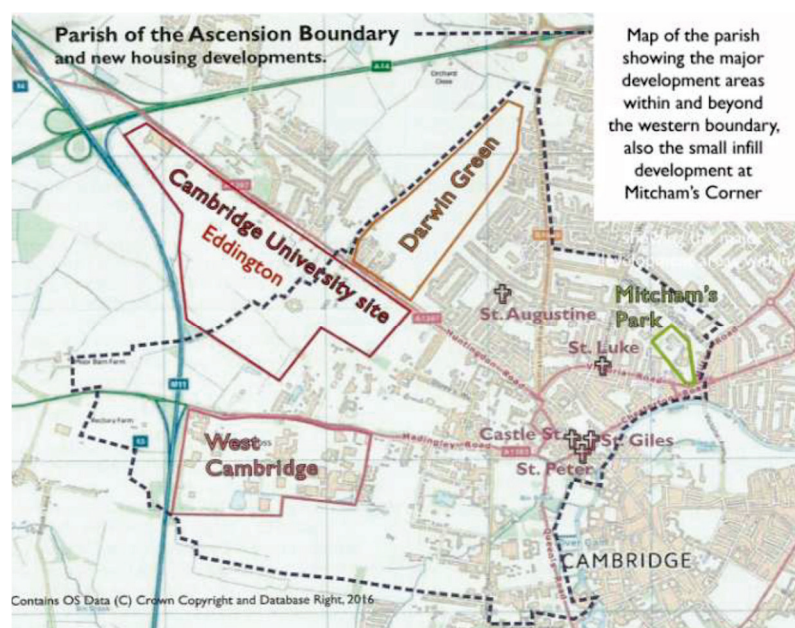
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/censuspopulationchange/E07000008/>

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

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)

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| St Augustine's | Gillian Mead, Mark Wills |
| St Giles' | Richard Catchpole |
| St Luke's | vacancy |

Deanery Synod representatives 2020-2023 ex officio on PCC

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| St Augustine's | Philip Mead |
| St Giles' | vacant |
| St Luke's | 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)

| | |
|---|-------------------------|
| 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:

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 30th 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 150th 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

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

| Contents | Pages |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Annual Report | 1 |
| Independent Examiner's Report | 4 |
| Statement of Financial Activities | 5 |
| Balance Sheet | 6 |
| Statement of Cashflows | 7 |
| Notes to the Financial Statements | 8 |

**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 |

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 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.

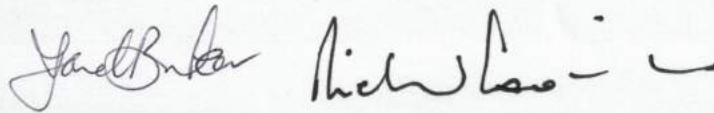
Policy on Reserves

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 £ |
|--|------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Income | | | | | | |
| 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 |
| Total Income | | 276,756 | 626 | 1,096 | 278,479 | 259,194 |
| Expenditure | | | | | | |
| 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 |
| Total Expenditure | | 204,146 | - | - | 204,146 | 312,482 |
| Net Income/(Expenditure) Before Transfers | | 72,611 | 626 | 1,096 | 74,333 | (53,288) |
| Transfer Between Funds: | | | | | | |
| Transfer (to)/from Restricted Funds | | - | - | - | - | - |
| Net Income/(Expenditure) for the year | | 72,611 | 626 | 1,096 | 74,333 | (53,288) |
| Other recognised gains and (losses) | | | | | | |
| Unrealised gains/(losses) on investment assets | 6 | 19,702 | 11,055 | 2,803 | 33,560 | (26,034) |
| Net Movement in Funds | | 92,312 | 11,682 | 3,899 | 107,893 | (79,322) |
| Reconciliation of Funds: | | | | | | |
| Fund balances b/fwd at 1 January 2022 | | 966,963 | 189,378 | 57,261 | 1,213,602 | 1,292,922 |
| Fund Balances c/fwd at 31 December 2023 | | 1,059,275 | 201,060 | 61,160 | 1,321,495 | 1,213,602 |



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

Approved by Church Meeting held on 17th 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 £ |
|---|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Cash flow from operating activities: | | | |
| 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> |
| Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period | C | <u>194,926</u> | <u>208,768</u> |
| Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period | 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 |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | <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> |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|

**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 £ |
|---|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| (a) Donations & legacies: | | | | | |
| 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) Charitable activities | | | | | |
| 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> |
| (c) Investments: | | | | | |
| 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> |
| Total Income | <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 £ |
|--|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| (a) Raising Funds | | | | | |
| 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) Parish share | 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. | | | | | |
| (c) Ministerial Costs | | | | | |
| 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> |
| (d) Costs of Church Activities | | | | | |
| 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> |
| Administration costs | | | | | |
| 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 £ |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Mission Outreach: | | | | | |
| 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> |
| (e) Governance Costs | | | | | |
| 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> |
| Total Resources Expended | <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

Investment Fund

Investment Property - Parish Room

| | | |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| | 72,084 | 66,913 |
| | 348,516 | 318,939 |
| | <u>637,838</u> | <u>637,838</u> |
| | <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 |
| Mrs 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.