



The Parish of the Ascension

Annual Report 2024-25

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%).

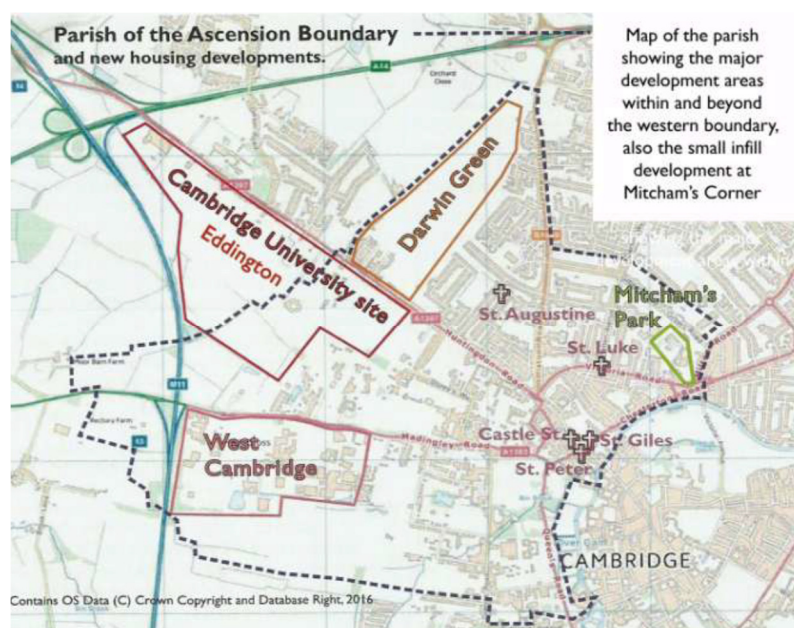
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/censuspopulationchange/E07000008/>

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 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)

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

Deanery Synod representatives 2023-2026 ex officio on PCC

St Augustine's	Gillian Mead
St Giles'	Oliver Coates
St Luke's	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 21st at St Andrew's Chesterton; October 15th at St Matthew's and Joint Deanery Synod May 13th 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 50th 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 RRRA.

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 transfer 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 150th Anniversary weekend on 19th/20th 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 17th 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 23rd 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 150th 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 150th 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.

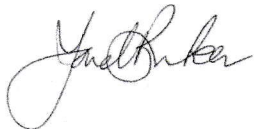
Policy on Reserves

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 £
Income						
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
Total Income		<u>263,784</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>263,784</u>	<u>278,479</u>
Expenditure						
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
Total Expenditure		<u>284,708</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>284,708</u>	<u>204,146</u>
Net Income/(Expenditure) Before Transfers		<u>(20,924)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(20,924)</u>	<u>74,333</u>
Transfer Between Funds:						
Transfer (to)/from Restricted Funds		-	-	-	-	-
Net Income/(Expenditure) for the year		<u>(20,924)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(20,924)</u>	<u>74,333</u>
Other recognised gains and (losses)						
Unrealised gains/(losses) on investment assets	6	8,879	5,114	1,032	15,025	33,560
Net Movement in Funds		<u>(12,045)</u>	<u>5,114</u>	<u>1,032</u>	<u>(5,899)</u>	<u>107,893</u>
Reconciliation of Funds:						
Fund balances b/fwd at 1 January 2023		<u>1,059,275</u>	<u>201,060</u>	<u>61,160</u>	<u>1,321,495</u>	<u>1,213,602</u>
Fund Balances c/fwd at 31 December 2024		<u>1,047,230</u>	<u>206,174</u>	<u>62,192</u>	<u>1,315,596</u>	<u>1,321,495</u>

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	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Investments	6		1,074,118		1,058,437
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	7	15,718		21,436	
Cash at Bank and In Hand		<u>233,996</u>		<u>245,188</u>	
		249,714		266,624	
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Creditors - Amounts Falling Due Within One Year	8	<u>8,236</u>		<u>3,566</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS		241,478	241,478		263,058
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			<u>1,315,596</u>		<u>1,321,495</u>
Creditors - Amounts Falling Due After More Than One Year			-		-
NET ASSETS			<u><u>1,315,596</u></u>		<u><u>1,321,495</u></u>
FUNDS					
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 £
Cash flow from operating activities:			
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
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	C	<u>245,188</u>	<u>194,926</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	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>
Net cash provided by operating activities	<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	<u>-</u>	<u>992</u>
	<u><u>5,523</u></u>	<u><u>2,589</u></u>

C) Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

Cash at bank and in hand	<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 £
(a) Donations & legacies:					
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>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>48,188</u>	<u>69,538</u>
(b) Charitable activities					
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>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>209,417</u>	<u>205,164</u>
(c) Investments:					
Bank interest & dividends	6,179	-	-	6,179	3,777
Rents and similar income	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>6,179</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,179</u>	<u>3,777</u>
Total Income	<u>263,784</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>263,784</u>	<u>278,479</u>

3 EXPENDITURE

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
(a) Raising Funds					
Cost of fund raising events	4,826	-	-	4,826	3,304
	<u>4,826</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,826</u>	<u>3,304</u>
(b) Parish share	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.					
(c) Ministerial Costs					
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>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,713</u>	<u>5,970</u>
(d) Costs of Church Activities					
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>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>136,803</u>	<u>72,832</u>
Administration costs					
Office costs	11,684	-	-	11,684	10,510
Staff costs	30,879	-	-	30,879	27,872
	<u>42,563</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</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 £
Mission Outreach:					
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>
(e) Governance Costs					
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>
Total Resources Expended	<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
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Mill Court
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Cambridgeshire
CB22 5LD

Date 29 May 2025