

**The Parish of Salisbury Plain
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st December 2024**

Administrative information

The Parish of Salisbury Plain was created on 1st January 2014 and is a one-parish benefice comprising the historic parishes of All Saints' & St Mary, Chitterne; St Mary's Orcheston; St Mary's Shrewton; and St Thomas à Becket, Tilshead. It is part of the Diocese of Salisbury within the Church of England.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity registered with the Charity Commission (No. 1173846) Registration was effective 18th July 2017. PCC members who have served from the 1st May 2024 until the date this report was approved are:

Incumbent: The Revd Canon Eleanor Rance Chairman

Wardens: Richard Essberger
 Ewart Grant
 Hilda Renshaw
 Ian Smith
 Marcelle Stobie

Representatives on the Deanery Synod:

Sarah Gooch
Mary Lace

Elected members: Mike Badham-Thornhill Vice Chairman & Secretary
 John Badgery
 Gay Jennings-Bramly
 Andrew Macdonald
 Debby Potter

Co-opted Members: Sam Shepherd Treasurer

Structure, governance and management

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

Objectives and Activities

The Salisbury Plain Benefice PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Revd Canon Eleanor Rance, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has oversight of the Maddington Church Room in the historic parish of Maddington/Shrewton.

Review of the year

The PCC met on 6th March, for the APCM on 1st May, 26th June, and 6th November by Zoom). The PCC complied with its duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 by having due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults within the parish. Those due for safeguarding refresher training attended a course online as provided by the diocese.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE & WORSHIP

On 1st May 2024 there were 143 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll.

The schedule for Sunday worship in 2024 continued to include a range of service forms including weekly mid-morning Communion Services, BCP Holy Communion, BCP Evensong, Family Service, and Zoom Evening Prayer. An average attendance across the parish settled at around 23 (21 in 2023) for the main morning service, and 13 (9 in 2023) children at the monthly Family Service/Tea. The attendance at most regular services showed a gentle upward trend. While service attendance at Easter were slightly lower than in 2023, services during Advent and at Christmas were returning to much healthier levels similar to those pre-pandemic. Weekday worship figures remained normal, with a good attendance at the additional 'Lent Conversations' in 2024.

The benefice choir has continued to offer support in worship across the parish, and, along with our two regular organists we have benefited from the support of visitors for a number of weddings and funerals during the course of 2024. We shared services in our 3 'closed' churches, and especially in Maddington where we had a number of weddings and funerals as well as a baptism at the end of the year.

Occasional Offices in the Benefice or at the crematorium (figures in brackets= 2023):

Baptisms	9	(2)	(Chitterne 1, Orcheston 0, Shrewton 7, Tilshead 1)
Marriages / blessings	6	(4)	(Chitterne 0, Orcheston 0, Shrewton 6, Tilshead 0)

Funerals

14 (7) (Chitterne 2, Orcheston 2, Shrewton 7, Tilshead 3)

In addition to this there were 9 (9) services to bury ashes (Chitterne 0, Orcheston 0, Shrewton/Rollestone/Maddington 8, Tilshead 1). Assistance and support to bereaved families was also offered to several families. The All Souls' service was well received, with many who attended taking gravelights or memorial candles away with them following the service.

MINISTRY, INCLUDING WORSHIP, WITH SCHOOLS & FAMILIES IN 2024

In both schools governance continued to be an important strand of our church ministry. Tilshead's school went successfully through its SIAMS and OFSTED inspections during 2024, with a significant presence of Foundation Governors at both. The events of Holy Week and Easter were marked with pupils from both schools. On 6th June 2024 we marked the 80th anniversary of D-Day with the whole school in Tilshead, and with representatives of the school in Shrewton at the Shrewton War Memorial. Leavers Services and activities were supported by the church in both primary schools. Throughout the year provision of financial and food support was coordinated between the clergy, Candlemas and the local schools. In December local community members once again donated small gifts, gift wrap and tags to the church, and we ran a very successful gifting scheme across 3 sites in the parish (see below). This allowed every child to select a gift for a family member at no charge. Remaining gifts, wrap and tags were placed into the new pantry so that the wider community could benefit from a temporary 'present drawer'. Family Service & Tea continued to be a popular and appreciated event during 2024, while Activity packs were distributed to families across the parish during every school holiday. At the end of the summer holidays our, now annual, Teddy Bears' Picnic drop in drew significant numbers from across the community.

The following resources were provided:

Weekly Collective worship	provided almost exclusively 'in person' for the year- for the first time across a whole academic year since 2018/19
Yr 6 Leavers	sessions with Tilshead Yr 6 thinking about moving on/ moving up
Harvest Services	In Shrewton & Tilshead Churches
'Experience Christmas'	the whole of Shrewton school attended an event in church to mark Christmas, culminating in selecting a gift for a loved one which was wrapped by volunteers and returned to school for distribution
'Christmas Gifting'	Along with the gifting event above for Shrewton school, we also shared this opportunity with pupils in Tilshead school, and at the Bustard, Shrewton, for home schooled children from the local area.

MINISTRY IN THE WIDER COMMUNITY IN 2024

Across the year each church collected items of food or gifts of money in support of local organisations, such as the Community pantry based in Shrewton, the Warminster Foodbank and Alabare.

Support to individuals and families struggling with the cost of living crisis was also made possible, in part, by the provision of a grant by the Church of England. Throughout the year the church community were instrumental in developing the reach and resources of the Community Pantry. Across the year occasional – ‘pop up’ shelves were introduced into the Pantry. Among these were those for Easter decorations, ‘Back to School’, games for the school holidays, cookery and kitchen, and the Christmas Gift & Wrap shelf.

One significant event early in 2024, was that on 14 March 2024 a Memorial Service was held for Nicola Trahan, MBE, Croix de Guerre and La Médaille de la Reconnaissance française, a courier for the SOE and the French Resistance in WW2, a resident for many years in the village and a great supporter of St Mary's, Orcheston. She died at home aged 97. The number attending, inside St Mary's, was one of the highest we can recall, 130 or more. There may have been funerals in the past at St Mary's attended by similarly large numbers, and a few years back our Christingle carol service saw 125, but it is a rare event for the church to host so many.

During September the incumbent took 4 weeks of study leave, and the parish enjoyed the support of a number of local and diocesan clergy covering both weekday and Sunday services. Local clergy, both retired, military, and serving in other parishes, also assisted with cover for Christmas and Easter and periods of annual leave. The richness of this provision is a joy for all, especially as we no longer have other clergy living and working within the parish. Worship with the rector resumed on 29th September with a Benefice Harvest celebration in Orcheston Village Hall. As well as being a wonderful opportunity for fellowship with the whole parish, funds were also donated to Salisbury foodbank.

Working ecumenically is a significant part of life within the parish, and in 2024 not only did we continue to work with our Methodist friends to prepare and distribute Activity packs, but we also began to work more closely with GUL, especially with regard to the Community Pantries (there is a second pantry at The Bustard), and visiting. Likewise members of the Plain Church community worshipped with us at a number of occasions, and assisted with the provision of music for Midnight Mass.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Total Receipts for the financial year including the redemption of investment funds were £127,500 (2023 £138,000). Actual income fell to £96,000 from £108,000.

Giving to the church through regular planned donations, one off donations and the collection plate over the year increased to £48,300. This total amount is only equal to 71% of our Parish Share that we paid over to the Diocese.

We continue to receive a number of generous grants from local organisations. For these we are most grateful to Tilshead Parish Council for a grant towards grass cutting costs. We are also grateful to the Friends of St Thomas for contributing half the cost of repairs to the organ.

Gift Aid receipts has remained similar to the previous year at around £10,000. Receipts from Parochial fees rose to £12,000 reflecting the increased number of weddings and funerals.

Receipts from fund raising events at fell to £5,600 from £8,700.

Income from Bank Deposits and Trusts increased slightly to £13,500.

Maddington Church Hall fee income has risen to £2,300.

During the year we recovered VAT by way of the Listed Places of Worship Scheme for building works in Chitterne and Shrewton.

We raised £26,600 from the redemption of some of our CCLA funds held in the Shrewton Lands Trust to meet a shortfall of income. The Eliza Collins Trust in Chitterne was wound up raising £5,100.

Total expenditure was £114,000 (2023 £150,000) to enable the Benefice in Ministry throughout our four villages.

Our contribution to the Parish Share was £68,000. This amount will rise each year by £2,500 until 2028.

Clergy expenses slightly reduced at £1,100. The Salisbury DBF share of parochial fees was similar to last year at £3,100.

General running costs of insurance, heating, electricity was about 9.5% higher at £14,950.

Expenditure on building works was considerably lower at £15,000.

We have continued to make grants from funds raised earlier from fabric and craft sales. We also continue to facilitate fund raising and expenditure for the community pantry. In addition we made donations to other causes including The Royal British Legion, CRESS, Julia's House, RE:ACT Ukraine, the Children's Society, Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust and the Churches Conservation Trust.

The overall financial result is an excess of receipts over expenditure of £13,000. However this surplus includes funds drawn down from our investment funds. The underlying figures show an income deficit of £11,000 for the year.

Our financial assets held in investment funds have decreased over the year by £20,000 to £518,000. This illustrates that although we are in deficit on our running costs, we do appear as having considerable assets.

Reserves Policy

At the PCC meeting on 6th June 2018 a Financial Management Policy paper was presented to and approved by the PCC, including the following "Salisbury Plain Benefice Reserves Policy".

1. The Reserves of Salisbury Plain Benefice are those unrestricted funds required to ensure prudent financial management.
2. The Reserves do not include funds that were raised for designated purposes, or are restricted in terms of their donation, or are endowments or property assets.
3. They will ensure that the PCC will meet all the normal costs of running the Benefice, including the ability to pay our Parish Share, our fees to the Diocesan Board of Finance, building insurance, utility bills, costs of service, administration and day to day repairs.
4. The reserves should also meet minor unexpected repair costs including minor works identified in Quinquennial reports.
5. The Reserves Policy recognises that through the Benefice, the four constituent villages will be able to support each other when necessary.
6. The expected running costs for 2025 will be around £100,000. Given recent experience of the pandemic it is prudent to increase the reserves above Church of England guidance of three months reserves to six months would give an appropriate reserve of £50,000.
7. In the event that our reserves are consistently below the target sum or are consistently above the target, the PCC will take responsibility to remedy the situation. When reserves drop too low funds should be allocated from a designated fund where that fund is not immediately required for the designated purpose. Where reserves are too high funds could, with the approval of the PCC, be used either supporting a project in the community or being designated to an underfunded fabric fund or similar.
8. This Policy should be reviewed annually.

Approved by the PCC on 26th February 2025 and signed on their behalf by Revd. Canon Eleanor Rance (PCC Chairman)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE SALISBURY PLAIN BENEFICE

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 2 to 5, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and section 43 of the Charities Act 1993 ('the Act').

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. You consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and section 43 (2) of the Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the regulations.

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43(7)(b) of the Act and to be found in the *Church Guidance*, 2006 edition, issued by the Finance Division of the Archbishops' Council. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
 - to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulationshave not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Date: 5 March 2025

Signature:



Name:

John Rhind-Tutt

Position:

EXAMINER

SALISBURY PLAIN BENEFICE PCC

Statement of Account as at 31 December 2024

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

	Shrewton	Orcheston	Chitterne	Tilshead	Maddington	Benefice	Total	2023 Total
RECEIPTS								
<u>Voluntary Receipts</u>								
Planned Giving - Gift Aid	11,519.00	7,030.00	8,640.00	1,980.00	480.00		29,649.00	29,575
Other Planned Giving	220.00						220.00	220
Church Collections	1,315.71	2,374.90	1,694.50	1,237.04			6,622.15	6,070
Sundry Donations	6,234.50	156.64	430.51	108.86	224.80	4,664.00	11,819.31	4,840
Grants	40.00	15.00		1,150.00			1,205.00	13,579
Gift Aid Refund	3,392.42	2,441.12	2,732.26	836.89	205.15	42.50	9,650.34	9,933
<u>Church Activities</u>								
Parochial Fees	8,923.00	579.00	1,269.50	1,331.00			12,102.50	9,179
<u>Generating Funds</u>								
Fund-Raising Events	1,014.82	1,378.22	1,865.71	365.44	947.16	57.00	5,628.35	8,693
<u>Receipts from Investments</u>								
Bank & Deposit Interest	12.16	1131.95	91.83	12.15			1,248.09	863
Trusts	2,303.03	438.00	420.65	9,105.43			12,267.11	12,805
<u>Other Receipts</u>								
Maddington Fees								
VAT Grant	1,892.25		455.15		2,315.00		2,315.00	1,695
Wayleaves	17.08						2,347.40	6,199
Allotment fees	301.50						17.08	17
Leaving Gift							301.50	319
CBF Investment Fund	26,600.00		5,113.01				-	870
Miscellaneous	145.00		264.65				31,713.01	30,000
Total Receipts	63,930.47	15,544.83	22,977.77	16,126.81	4,172.11	18.42	127,533.91	137,817
PAYMENTS								
<u>Church Activities</u>								
Diocesan Parish Share	32092.92	13214.73	13214.73	9439.10			67,961.49	62,927
Clergy Expenses	281.89	281.88	281.90	281.89			1,127.56	1,847
DBF Share of fees	2,213.00	282.00	332.00	292.00			3,119.00	3,018
<u>Running Expenses</u>								
Insurance	3,104.49	1,035.74	3,164.43	2,259.88	523.63		10,088.17	9,854
Electricity	524.56	294.25	668.92	1,043.01	721.88		3,252.62	2,676
Heating Oil	1,018.14						1,018.14	735
Water	443.81			56.93	82.19		582.93	389
Building Maintenance	9,209.46	410.00	540.97	1,456.83	3,619.14		15,236.40	55,357
Cost of Services	261.19	212.99	541.50	298.69		342.00	1,656.37	681
Upkeep of Churchyards	1,240.00		560.00	1,440.00			3,240.00	1,992
Leaving Gift							-	870
<u>Charitable Giving</u>								
Ukraine Fund grants							-	2,346
Fund Transfer							-	1,140
Overseas							-	510
Home	87.50	1,280.40	1,565.71	260.20		3,283.27	6,477.08	4,223
Corner Cottage							-	40
<u>Cost of Generating Funds</u>								
Fund-Raising Costs		86.51	15.00	47.35			148.86	451
<u>Church Management</u>								
Administration	138.58	79.75	108.36	79.27		28.52	434.48	789
Total Payments	50,615.54	17,178.25	20,993.52	16,955.15	4,946.84	3,653.79	114,343.10	149,845
Excess of Receipts over Payments (Payments over receipts)								
	13,314.93	(1,633.42)	1,984.25	(828.34)	(774.73)	1,128.13	13,190.81	(12,028)

31/12/2023	31/12/2024	
OPENING	CLOSING	CHANGE TO
BANK	BALANCE	CASH BALANCE

		DATE	DISCREPANCY		BANK	BALANCE	CASH BALANCE	
SHREWTON	CAF BANK	31/12/2023	£5,666.64		SHREWTON	£5,666.64		
	INCOME/EXPENDITURE 2024		£13,314.93				£18,981.57	
	BALANCE		£18,981.57					
							£13,314.93	
	CAF BANK	31/12/2024	£18,981.57	£0.00				
ORCHESTON	CAF BANK	31/12/2023	£2,212.96		ORCHESTON	£26,743.26		
	LLOYDS BANK	31/12/2023	£3,433.04					
	CCLA	31/12/2023	£21,097.26				£25,109.84	
	SUB-TOTAL BANK BALANCE	31/12/2023	£26,743.26					
	INCOME/EXPENDITURE 2024		-£1,633.42					
	BALANCE		£25,109.84					
	CAF BANK	31/12/2024	£1,363.38					
	LLOYDS BANK	31/12/2024	£1,529.40					
	CCLA	31/12/2024	£22,217.06					
	SUB-TOTAL BANK BALANCE	31/12/2023	£25,109.84	£0.00				
CHITTERNE	CAF BANK	31/12/2023	£1,273.13		CHITTERNE	£9,371.01		
	LLOYDS CURRENT	31/12/2023	£8,097.88					
							£11,355.26	
	SUB-TOTAL BANK BALANCE	31/12/2023	£9,371.01					
	INCOME/EXPENDITURE 2024		£1,984.25					
	BALANCE		£11,355.26					
	CAF BANK	31/12/2024	-£198.13					
	LLOYDS CURRENT & DEPOSIT	31/12/2024	£5,553.39					
	TRANSFER TO CBF DEPOSIT FUNI	31/12/2024	£6,000.00					
	SUB-TOTAL BANK BALANCE	31/12/2023	£11,355.26	£0.00				
TILSHEAD	CAF BANK	31/12/2023	£11,742.29		TILSHEAD	£11,742.29		
	INCOME/EXPENDITURE 2024		-£828.34				£10,913.96	
	BALANCE		£10,913.95					
							-£828.33	
	CAF BANK	31/12/2024	£10,913.96	£0.01				
MADDINGTON	CAF BANK	31/12/2023	£5,226.31		MADDINGTON	£5,226.31		
	INCOME/EXPENDITURE 2024		-£774.73					
	BALANCE		£4,451.58				£4,451.58	
							-£774.73	
	CAF BANK	31/12/2024	£4,451.58	£0.00				
BENEFICE	CAF BANK	31/12/2023	£8,383.00		BENEFICE	£8,383.00		
	INCOME/EXPENDITURE 2024		£1,128.13					
	BALANCE		£9,511.13				£9,511.13	
							£1,128.13	
	CAF BANK	31/12/2024	£9,511.13	£0.00				
							TOI	£13,190.83
							2024 GAIN	£13,190.81
							DISCREPANCY	-£0.02

SALISBURY PLAIN BENEFICE PCC

Statement of Assets as at 31 December 2024

		Shrewton	Orcheston	Chitterne	Tilshead	Maddington	Benefice
<u>Current & Deposit accounts</u>							
Orcheston Bank & Cash assets	31/12/23		£3,433.04				
	31/12/24		£1,529.40				
Chitterne Bank Current A/cs & Cash	31/12/23			£8,097.88			
	31/12/24			£5,553.39			
Benefice Current Account	31/12/23	£5,666.64	£2,212.96	£1,273.13	£11,742.29	£5,226.31	£8,383.00
	31/12/24	£18,981.57	£1,363.38	£198.13	£10,913.96	£4,451.58	£9,511.13
Outstanding Gift Aid to recover	31/12/23						£2,647.54
	31/12/24						£2,053.77
<u>Liabilities - DBF fees</u>	31/12/23	£189.00	£0.00	£16.00	£59.00		
	31/12/24	£981.00	£17.00	£17.00	£124.00		
<u>Investment Funds</u>							
Shrewton Church Land Fund 3,689.5159 sh:	31/12/23	£83,402.61					
2,557.9566 Shares in CBF CoE Investment Fd	31/12/24	£59,146.86					
Orcheston CCLA Fabric Fund	31/12/23		£21,097.26				
	31/12/24		£22,217.06				
Orcheston Church Cottage Income Shares	31/12/23		£14,693.44				
650 Shares in CBF CoE Investment Fund	31/12/24		£15,029.76				
Orcheston - Gaye - Income Shares	31/12/23		£1,085.05				
48 Shares in CBF CoE Investment Fund	31/12/24		£1,109.89				
Chitterne CBF Deposit Fund	31/12/23			£13,146.40			
	31/12/24			£19,797.96			
CBF Investment Fund	31/12/23			£10,171.48			
	31/12/24			£10,404.29			
CBF Accumulation Investment Fund Shares	31/12/23			£59,713.80			
	31/12/24			£62,762.20			
Eliza Collins Fund 220.41 Shares	31/12/23			£4,982.43			
	31/12/24			£0.00			
Tilshead Empire Bungalow Fund	31/12/23				£324,219.68		
14,342.64 Shares in CBF CoE Investment Fur	31/12/24				£331,640.56		
Tilshead Kempson Fund	31/12/23				£3,797.69		
168 Shares in CBF CoE Investment Fund	31/12/24				£3,884.61		
Shrewton Allotments	31/12/23	£1,000.00					
	31/12/24	£1,000.00					
Maddington Church Rooms	31/12/23					£1,000.00	
	31/12/24					£1,000.00	

- Note 1 Assets in current accounts have been adjusted for unpresented cheques at 31/12/23 & 31/12/24 plus cash held
- Note 2 25.7692 Shares sold for £600.00 in Shrewton Church Land Fund 21/03/2024 to pay for clearing collapsed wall at Maddington Church
- Note 3 1,105.7901 Shares sold for £26,000.00 in Shrewton Church Land Fund 22/11/2024 to pay towards Parish share
- Note 4 220.41 Shares redeemed as Eliza Collins Fund wound up 25/10/2024

Notes to the 2024 Accounts
Salisbury Plain Benefice PCC

1. The Benefice of Salisbury Plain was legally constituted at the end of 2013.
2. The accounts have been prepared on a Receipts & Payments method.
3. The Statement of Account lists separately the accounts for each of the four former parishes, for Maddington Church Rooms, and a general account, which are then consolidated.
4. The Statement of Assets shows all cash holdings and other investment funds held.
5. The investment funds are at market value as at 31st December 2024. These funds are invested in the CBF Investment Fund by CCLA on behalf of the Parish.
6. The Shrewton allotment land continues to be included at a nominal value of £1,000.
7. The Maddington Church Rooms in Shrewton continue to be included at a nominal value of £1,000.
8. Outstanding Gift Aid is the sum due to be reclaimed from qualifying donations in 2024.
9. Liabilities are those known fees owed to Salisbury Diocesan Board of Finance for fees incurred in the fourth quarter of 2024 but due for payment in January 2025.



CHITTERNE • ORCHESTON
SHREWTON • TILSHEAD

Charity Number 1173846