

Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts

Parish of Pucklechurch and Abson

1 January – 31 December 2024

Aim and purpose

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Pucklechurch and Abson (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent in promoting the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The PCC is also especially responsible for the maintenance of the churches of St Thomas a Becket, Pucklechurch and St James, Abson The Great. It has a special interest in Pucklechurch CE CC Primary School.

Objectives and activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our churches and to become part of the parish community. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the groups that live within the parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer, scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, the PCC has considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. We try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer.
- Learning about the Gospel and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish
- Mission and outreach work

To facilitate this work, it is important that we maintain the fabric of our two church buildings.

Achievements and Performance

Worship and Prayer

The PCC has been keen to offer a range of services during the week and over the course of the year that our community find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling. As an example, we offer prayer time outside of the traditional services, including Tuesday Morning Prayer and have offered a less formal service (Café church) at times throughout the church calendar. We also offered specific services at Christmas, 'All Souls' and Remembrance in November and Abson offers a monthly Evensong and monthly communion.

This year also saw the continuation of our Scarecrow Trail and the very popular Christmas Nativity (Christingle). The former as well as encouraging families into the church environment from the village and beyond also raised vital funds for the church. The nativity service again opens our door to families in our communities and helps enrich our relationship with Pucklechurch CE CC School. We also held a Christmas Tree Festival, inviting the village organisations to take part in decorating a Christmas Tree and displaying it in Church with a prize for the best tree and a prize for childrens

entries. This opened with church members serving tea and coffee on the Saturday and the church being open in the afternoons for a week so that people could enjoy the trees.

We again visited a local public house and organised a very well supported Carol Service raising funds and bringing the Christian message to the wider community.

At Abson church various events were held reaching out to the local community and beyond these include Snowdrop, Daffodil, and Rose Days – along with tea, coffee and cake. Abson also hold a monthly market.

All are welcome to attend our regular services. In 2024 we had 35 parishioners on the church electoral roll. In 2024 there were 5 baptisms, 0 weddings and 7 funeral services in the parish. Average Sunday attendance across both churches was 26, we see increased attendance at festivals for example Easter, Remembrance and Christmas.

Deanery and Diocesan Synod

Our representative stood down at the APCM after 15 years of service the position remains a vacancy.

Pastoral care

We had a Foundation Governor in place at the village primary school following the departure of the previous incumbent. The incumbent is working hard to further develop our pastoral care role in in school. The church continues to let out the church room to the village playgroup to support this village need where they were recently in inspected by Ofsted and achieved an outstanding rating.

Mission and Outreach

The church holds services to appeal to non-church members to enable mission. Contributions are made to Bristol Diocese via Parish Share to support the diocese's mission in other parts of Bristol including university students. Where the PCC made the decision to contribute £17209.31 to support the work of the diocese through Parish Share. We continued to build our relationship with Pucklechurch school and in particular the new vicar and lay members have led school assemblies, both in school and church. They have also hosted prayer spaces and told the Christmas and Easter stories through interactive play. It is PCC's policy to make annual donations to local and national charities which normally amounted circa £200. Specific donations were made to Christian Aid, Church Mission Society,

Financial review

For the year, income exceeded expenditure by £14246.82 up from £6006.00 deficit in the previous year with the biggest items of expenditure being the Parish Share payments. Our investment finances were also impacted by market conditions and at year end our investment fund was increased in value by £6499.00. We continue to raise funds via events such as Scarecrow Trail, Christmas Tree Festival and personal donations. A detailed breakdown of our assets and liabilities is attached in the financial statement which has been independently examined.

Reserves policy

It is our policy to invest our legacy funds balances with the BF Church of England Deposit Fund. The PCC maintains capital priorities register for St Thomas' building.

Volunteers

We would like to thank all the volunteers who contribute to the life and ministry of our church and enable it to function in a positive way - cleaners, flower arrangers, musicians, bakers, sides-people, along with many others.

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. In the parish, the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent, secretary, acting vergers, representatives and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral role of the parish. All members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance in the parish including safeguarding and how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

PCC member numbers were reviewed in line with diocese rules around the size of the electoral roll.

The PCC met 9 times in 2024 with an average attendance of 6.

The APCM was held on 18th March 2024

We are thankful that we have a safeguarding officer to assist with the safeguarding requirements. All members of the PCC have been DBS checked and have completed the relevant safeguarding training.

Administrative information

The Parish of Pucklechurch and Abson is in South Gloucestershire and in the Diocese of Bristol. The correspondence address is St. Thomas A Beckett Church, Westerleigh Road, Pucklechurch BS16 9RD.

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and a registered charity since 31 August 2017 (Reg No: 1174449).

There are no significant incidents to report.

PCC Members who have served from 1 January – 31 December 2024 are:

Incumbent:	Reverend Elaine Jones - From February 2024
Vergers:	(Acting) Julie Gibbs
Elected Members:	Mrs Joanne Fern (Minute Secretary)
	Mr Kevin Watkins
	Ms Julie Young
	Mrs L Silk
	Mr Alan Holder (resigned June 2024)
	Mr Mark Priest (resigned July 2024)
	Ms Gill Kavanagh (stepped down March 2024)

Mrs Jackie Yates (stepped down March 2024)

Mrs Joyce Harris (stepped down March 2024)

Trustees Report approved by the PCC on 23/10/2024

ST. THOMAS A BECKET CHURCH, PUCKLECHURCH

ST. JAMES THE GREAT, ABSON

ANNUAL REPORT

and

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

of the

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

for the year ended

31 DECEMBER 2024

Incumbent:

Rev. Elaine Jones
The Vicarage
Westerleigh Road
Pucklechurch
Bristol

Bank:

Lloyds TSB
124 High Street
Staple Hill
Bristol

Independent Examiner:

Mrs Trudi A Adams
49 Birch Drive
Pucklechurch
Bristol

ST. THOMAS A BECKET CHURCH, PUCKLECHURCH ST. JAMES THE GREAT, ABSON

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC

This report of the accounts of the PCC of St. Thomas a Becket, Pucklechurch and St. James the Great, Abson for the year ended 31 December 2024 which are set out in the following pages, is in respect of an examination carried out under Regulation 3(3) of the Church Accounting Regulations, 1997 and Section 43 of the Charities Act 1993.

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 3(3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 and Section 43(2) of the Charities Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of Regulation 25 of the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 and Regulation 7 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 1995.

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 43(7)(b) of the Act to be found in the guidance from the CBF. 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 accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that I would require in an audit; consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

In connection with my examination no matter has come to my attention 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 accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the requirements of the Act, as also contained in the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 have not been met.

Mrs Trudi A Adams
49 Birch Drive
Pucklechurch
Bristol

ST. THOMAS A BECKET CHURCH, PUCKLECHURCH ST. JAMES THE GREAT, ABSON

CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT (UNRESTRICTED)

<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Pucklechurch</u>	<u>Abson</u>	<u>Total 2024</u>	<u>Total 2023</u>
	£	£	£	£
<u>Incoming Resources from Donors</u>				
Standing Orders	9,246.64		9,246.64	8,967.37
HMRC Gift Aid	6,796.27	450.00	7,246.27	2,323.36
Collections	3,085.26	1,416.15	4,501.41	5,863.49
Gift Day for St Thomas	5,425.00		5,425.00	0.00
Collections for Charities	263.15		263.15	282.90
Smartie Tubes			0.00	184.20
Other	41.62		41.62	889.55
Harvest Supper		610.00	610.00	571.00
Hire of Boards		50.00	50.00	50.00
Snowdrop Sunday		191.37	191.37	0.00
Rose Day		287.00	287.00	0.00
Daffodil Sunday			0.00	227.50
Quilts & Roses			0.00	385.00
Miscellaneous		331.95	331.95	194.00
	<u>24,857.94</u>	<u>3,336.47</u>	<u>28,194.41</u>	<u>19,938.37</u>
<u>Other Voluntary Incoming Sources</u>				
Donations/Wall Safe	1,096.04	4,396.40	5,492.44	3,475.98
Grants	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,750.00</u>	<u>1,750.00</u>	<u>600.00</u>
	1,096.04	6,146.40	7,242.44	4,075.98
<u>Income from Charitable and Ancillary Trading</u>				
Room/Church Rent	5,376.00		5,376.00	4,752.50
PCC Fees (gross)	2,373.00		2,373.00	1,804.00
Investments	<u>7,315.00</u>		<u>7,315.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
	15,064.00	<u>0.00</u>	15,064.00	6,556.50
<u>Transfer from Knight Legacy Fund</u>	5,000.00		5,000.00	30,000.00
Total Receipts	46,017.98	9,482.87	55,500.85	60,570.85

<u>Payments</u>	<u>Pucklechurch</u>	<u>Abson</u>	<u>Total 2024</u>	<u>Total 2023</u>
	£	£	£	£
<u>Charitable Giving</u>				
Overseas, Home & Secular Charities	613.16		613.16	941.80
	<u>613.16</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>613.16</u>	<u>941.80</u>
<u>Activities Relating to the Work of the Church</u>				
Parish Share	13,999.96	1,000.00	14,999.96	27,037.00
Church Running Expenses	5,329.54	2,491.54	7,821.08	12,128.87
Diocesan Fees	1,114.00		1,114.00	979.00
Clergy Expenses	4.59		4.59	322.18
Maintenance	2,742.80	3,315.60	6,058.40	2,759.99
Service Expenses/Stationery	2,533.96		2,533.96	2,969.46
Churchyard	6,300.00	2,022.00	8,322.00	4,260.00
Honoraria			0.00	200.00
Organist	1,716.00	320.00	2,036.00	1,716.00
Quinquennial Report	1,397.50	613.00	2,010.50	0.00
Miscellaneous	695.81	120.67	816.48	530.58
Bookkeeping Fees	1,080.00	54.00	1,134.00	1,230.00
Organ Tuning			0.00	257.99
	<u>36,914.16</u>	<u>9,936.81</u>	<u>46,850.97</u>	<u>54,391.07</u>
Total Payments	37,527.32	9,936.81	47,464.13	55,332.87
Excess of Receipts over Payments	8,490.66	(453.94)	8,036.72	5,237.98
<u>General Fund Balance</u>	<u>Pucklechurch</u>	<u>Abson</u>	<u>Total 2024</u>	<u>Total 2023</u>
1 January	8,929.12	5,269.70	14,198.82	8,960.84
31 December	17,419.78	4,815.76	22,235.54	14,198.82
Increase/(Decrease) in Fund	8,490.66	(453.94)	8,036.72	5,237.98

PUCKLECHURCH & ABSON STATEMENT OF FUNDS, ASSETS & LIABILITIES

Bank Statements at 31/12/24

Fund Totals at 31/12/24

Pucklechurch

	£
Lloyds TSB Current a/c	9,759.04
Lloyds TSB Deposit a/c (2 year fixed)	0.00
CBF Deposit a/c	79,719.23
CBF Organ a/c	6,082.32
CBF Share Account	133,806.50
Cash in Hand	40.04
	<u>229,407.13</u>

Uncleared Cheques	
Cash not yet paid in	12,693.74

Pucklechurch Total **242,100.87**

	£
General	17,419.78
Restoration	6,745.23
Organ	6,154.55
Barnett Legacy	120,668.41
Knight Legacy	85,892.29
Knight Endowment	5,220.61

242,100.87

Abson

	£
Santander Current a/c	4,847.32
Cash in Hand	
	<u>4,847.32</u>

Uncleared Cheques	(146.56)
Cash not yet paid in	115.00

Abson Total **4,815.76**

	£
Unrestricted	4,815.76

4,815.76

Grand Total **246,916.63**

246,916.63

Fund Totals at 31/12/23 (for comparison)

233,123.75

ST. THOMAS A BECKET CHURCH, PUCKLECHURCH ST. JAMES THE GREAT, ABSON

CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS

Notes to the Consolidated Accounts:

1. The Central Board of Finance of the Church of England has issued regulations and guidance following the introduction of the 1993 Charity Act which says (para 1.3) that from 1 January 1997 the Act will be implemented for all PCCs. The two most significant consequences for Pucklechurch and Abson are that:-

- a) we are required to present consolidated accounts for the two parishes and
- b) that accounts must be separated out into restricted (where money is given for a specific purpose and cannot be used for any other purpose) and unrestricted (where funds can be used for any purpose).

2. Although there is a requirement to present consolidated accounts for Pucklechurch and Abson in fact they are financially independent and maintain their own bank accounts and practices. It is anticipated that this will continue.

3. The Joyce Barnett Legacy Fund represents a bequest to the St. Thomas a Becket Church. It is a restricted fund designated "for such objects connected with the fabric fund for the building of the church or other services provided by the church".

RESTORATION FUND (DESIGNATED FUND) PUCKLECHURCH

<u>Receipts</u>	2024	2023
	£	£
Scarecrow Trail	2,679.47	2,917.65
Recorder Concert	370.00	
Xmas Fayre	238.67	
Christingle	102.10	
Carol Service	110.36	
Beer and Carols fundraising	73.87	
Gingerbread Trail		129.95
Revel Refreshments		87.46
Carols in Pub		93.18
Total Income	3,574.47	3,228.24

<u>Payments</u>	2024	2023
	£	£
Advent Lighting	816.22	588.00
Scarecrow Expenses	1,024.39	516.91
Clearing Valley/Gulleys	1,500.00	475.00
New Heater for Toilet		495.00
Piano/Organ Expenses	540.71	275.29
Transfer to General Fund		
Total Expenditure	3,881.32	2,350.20

Excess of Receipts over Payments	(306.85)	878.04
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<u>Restoration Fund Balance</u>	2024	2023
1 January	7,052.08	6,174.04
31 December	6,745.23	7,052.08
Increase/(Decrease) in Fund	(306.85)	878.04

ORGAN FUND (DESIGNATED FUND) PUCKLECHURCH

<u>Receipts</u>	2024	2023
	£	£
Bank Interest	378.79	249.36

Total Income	378.79	249.36
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<u>Payments</u>	2024	2023
	£	£

Total Expenditure	0.00	0.00
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Excess of Receipts over Payments	378.79	249.36
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<u>Organ Fund Balance</u>	2024	2023
1 January	5,775.76	5,596.40
31 December	6,154.55	5,845.76
Increase/(Decrease) in Fund	378.79	249.36

BARNETT LEGACY FUND

<u>Receipts</u>	2024	2023
	£	£
Interest	2,310.26	1,828.96
Revaluation of Investment	6,499.08	14,296.07
Total Income	8,809.34	16,125.03
<u>Payments</u>	2024	2023
	£	£
Total Expenditure	0.00	0.00
Excess of Receipts over Payments	8,809.34	16,125.03
<u>Barnett Legacy Fund Balance</u>	2024	2023
1 January	111,859.07	95,734.04
31 December	120,668.41	111,859.07
Increase/(Decrease) in Fund	8,809.34	16,125.03

KNIGHT LEGACY FUND

<u>Receipts</u>	2024	2023
	£	£
Interest	1,839.24	2,231.82

Total Income	1,839.24	2,231.82
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<u>Payments</u>	2024	2023
	£	£
To General Fund for Parish Share	5,000.00	30,000.00

Total Expenditure	5,000.00	30,000.00
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Excess of Receipts over Payments	(3,160.76)	(27,768.18)
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<u>Knight Legacy Fund Balance</u>	2024	2023
1 January	89,053.05	116,821.23
31 December	85,892.29	89,053.05
Increase/(Decrease) in Fund	(3,160.76)	(27,768.18)

KNIGHT ENDOWMENT FUND

<u>Receipts</u>	2024	2023
	£	£
Interest	105.64	95.89

Total Income	105.64	95.89
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<u>Payments</u>	2024	2023
	£	£

Total Expenditure	0.00	0.00
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Excess of Receipts over Payments	105.64	95.89
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<u>Knight Endowment Fund Balance</u>	2024	2023
1 January	5,114.97	5,019.08
31 December	5,220.61	5,114.97
Increase/(Decrease) in Fund	105.64	95.89

St James the Great, Abson

Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2024

Unrestricted Funds Account

Income	£	Expenses	£
Church Collections	1,416.15	Electricity	676.88
Snowdrop Sunday	191.37	Water	81.47
Harvest Supper	610.00	Insurance	1,733.19
Rose Day	287.00	Building works	2,996.40
Donations	810.00	Churchyard maintenance	1,350.00
Donations from Friends - Building works	2,996.40	Cleaing gutters	200.00
Donations from Friends - Roses	400.00	Pat testing	47.20
Donations from Friends - Rent	135.00	Steeplejacks	72.00
Donations - Bell Ringer	55.00	Grass cutting	672.00
Hire of Art Boards	50.00	Quinquennial Report	613.00
Memorial stone	167.00	Bellringers	20.00
Refund for heaters	164.95	Organist	320.00
Grant from council	1,750.00	Book-keeper	54.00
Gift Aid	450.00	Parish share	1,000.00
		Miscellaneous	100.67
Income for 2024	9,482.87	Expenditue for 2004	9,936.81
Balance brought forward from 2023	5,269.70	Balance carried forward to 2025	4,815.76
	<u>14,752.57</u>		<u>14,752.57</u>
Deficit for year	453.94		

ST. THOMAS A BECKET CHURCH, PUCKLECHURCH ST. JAMES THE GREAT, ABSON

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC

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Mrs Trudi A Adams
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Pucklechurch
Bristol