



The
DAMASCUS
Parish

Drayton | Appleford | Milton
Sutton Courtenay | Steventon



2024 Report and accounts for the DAMASCUS Parochial Church Council

St Peter's, **Drayton**
St Peter & St Paul's, **Appleford**
St Blaise, **Milton**
All Saints', **Sutton Courtenay**
St Michael & All Angels', **Steventon**

Nurturing faith, bringing hope, and sharing love

Introduction to the DAMASCUS Parish

The DAMASCUS Parish is a single parish, formed from the five, growing, semi-rural villages of Drayton, Appleford, Milton, Sutton Courtenay, and Steventon in 2017. We are continuing to enable one another to flourish and grow together. The Parish is situated between Abingdon and Didcot with boundaries abutting both towns. There are considerable numbers of professional people in the area, with Oxford University, Oxford Brookes University, Harwell, Culham, Didcot Power Station and Milton Park Enterprise Zone all in the locality. The easy access to Didcot Parkway Station means that many parishioners commute to London, Oxford, Reading, Swindon and beyond

Aim and Purposes

The DAMASCUS Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Helen Kendrick, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the churches of St Peter's Drayton, St Peter and St Paul's Appleford, St Blaise Milton, All Saints' Sutton Courtenay and St Michael and All Angels' Steventon and St Michael's Hall Steventon.

Our Vision and Mission

Our vision is to be a living Christian presence at the heart of our communities, nurturing faith, bringing hope, and sharing love.

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

When planning our activities for the year, the incumbent and the PCC have considered the Charity 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.
- Missionary and outreach work.
- To facilitate this work, it is important that we maintain the fabric of the five churches in the parish.

Achievements and Performance

Worship and prayer

Throughout 2024 the number of regular worshippers across the Parish has increased slightly but with a different age and attendance profile (younger age range but attending less frequently). The revised service pattern has enabled us to sustain a pattern of one service in every church every week. Main Sunday services take place at 9.30 or 11.00, except for the fifth Sunday when there is a DAMASCUS Parish service in one of the five churches. Mid-week services are held in two churches on different days of the week. All five churches are open during the day every day for our local community and visitors to enjoy and use for private prayer. Limited live streaming of Sunday services has been available but proved to be a challenge due to technical difficulties and lack of expertise. The Ministry team continued to provide service sheets for people to worship at home where requested. During 2024 there were 198 people on the Parish Electoral Roll.

As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey of life. Throughout 2024 the requests for live-streaming of funerals continued to increase and live-streaming of weddings, particularly in All Saints', Sutton Courtenay was made available when requested. In the DAMASCUS parish we have celebrated 30 baptisms, 10 weddings 3 blessings and 29 funeral services in church, 6 funeral services at crematoriums. In 2024 we had three confirmation candidates who were prepared for confirmation by the Reverend Canon Dr Phillip Tovey and Mike Blanch and the Reverend Canon Helen Kendrick.

Remembrance Sunday Services were well supported. Four of the five churches participated in the government's Warm Spaces scheme and offered a variety of opportunities for individuals and families to benefit from free hospitality and activities with the benefit of a grant from local government.

We focused on sharing faith through various prayer and study groups which were hosted in the River Room and/or online and open to all. A Lent Group ran in the River Room using the Bishop of Oxford's Come and See Material – The Way of Love. This was well attended by people across the parish. An Advent Course, hosted in the River Room for the whole parish, was based on the film The Nativity which led to good discussions of the characters and their relationships. A new weekly Home Group started in the Autumn led by Chris and Wendy Leake, attended by people from across the parish. The Tuesday online prayer group has continued this year, and Chris Leake has taken over the organisation.

We would like to thank our Rector, The Reverend Canon Helen Kendrick, our Associate Ministers - The Reverend Phil Sutton, The Reverend Rosie Bruce, our new Curate The Reverend Dov Whittle and Reverend Dr Phillip Tovey (retired PTO) and all the Licensed Lay Ministers for their hard work leading, nurturing, inspiring and teaching us during this year.

The following paragraphs present points about worship and ministry specific to each of the five churches in the parish.

Drayton

The Worship team continues to meet regularly to plan the Thursday morning service rota and the leadership of the monthly Praise Services. Members of the team usually lead one service per month on the Thursday rota. The Praise Services continue to provide interesting topics with music provided by Kay Davies and her team. Reverend Rosie Bruce supports the group, along with the congregation. One member of the team organises the organist's rota, while another plans the hymns for each Sunday service.

The virtual prayer meetings continue to be held on the 4th Mondays of the month. The group has not met physically due to the cold weather and various health problems. It is hoped that they can meet together physically in the spring when the weather is warmer.

Healing Ministry continues to be supported at St Peter's. The team meet up on the Saturday evening before the healing service, when prayer requests and cards left on the prayer board are offered for healing prayers. During the services the following morning, the congregation are invited to receive healing prayer by the laying on of hands.

The Comms team continues to connect St Peter's with the village community through different forms of media. They post regularly on the St Peter's Facebook page and the Drayton Village Community page. They also cross-post with Sutton Courtenay. The number of followers has increased during the year many of whom are not connected with the church. Additional posts are made for special occasions, services and events. They update the church noticeboard regularly which attracts a lot of interest. They also put together the church page in the Drayton Chronicle each month.

Pebbles continues to flourish under the leadership of Cheryl Jarvis and Katy Hoyle. It draws in mothers and carers from a wide area. A great number of children moved on to school or nursery at the end of the summer term, however, since September the numbers have increased again. This year the nativity was led by Rev Dov Whittle, who also led the crib service on Christmas Eve, both of which were very well attended.

The First Tuesday Connections group continues to meet on the first Tuesday of the month with a range of activities throughout the year, as well as tea and chat. Their annual summer party was a great success as was the Christmas party.

The Care Team continue to visit people on a regular basis. Phone calls are made to those who have not been seen for a while. Bereavement cards are sent on the anniversary of someone's death and are much appreciated. The group also sends out baptism and wedding anniversary cards.

Appleford

A service is held every week in the church and the numbers have remained stable throughout 2024. Breakfast Church is on the first Sunday of every month which continues to attract all ages. The WhatsApp group managed by Vicky Shepherd continues to be a useful method of promotion and communication as well as the parish council Facebook page.

For Mothering Sunday flowers and prayer cards and for Easter, greeting cards and seeds, were distributed to every home in the village. These were very well received and helped to remind people that the church community was still active and praying for the wider community.

The Street Nativity was extremely well attended and once again a donkey was supplied by The Donkey Sanctuary. The Appleford Community Project paid for the donkey and provided refreshments in the farmyard at the end which was much appreciated by all who attended. Several people helped to knit bells which were then distributed around the village by the church families, for people to find and hang on their own Christmas trees. The carol service was led by The Reverend Dov Whittle and well attended with children and adults all playing a part. Midnight Communion was a shared service with Sutton Courtenay, held in Appleford.

Milton

The typical attendance at the main Sunday service is 12 adults, but for family services typical attendance is 17 adults and seven children. One Sunday each month we have had a lay led service, Faith Conversations, this is a café style service and has been led by a variety of members of the congregation and a wide range of topics have been discussed. Our Family services have been well supported, and the young people have been willing contributors.

We have monthly joint services with Milton Methodists, the Palm Sunday procession began at St Blaise and walked to Milton Methodist church for the service. We were pleased to welcome some members of Milton Methodists to our service celebrating St Blaise Day and on Remembrance Sunday and on Christmas Eve. We enjoyed the Methodists covenant service and a summer picnic service. Through the year we have experienced a variety of service styles in each church.

For Easter a village craft afternoon blew and decorated eggs which added a colourful display as part of our Easter decorations. For Remembrance Sunday, the knitted poppy cascade was fixed around the porch entrance and in church there was a display of information about those whose names appear on our war memorial, this was much appreciated by the Milton community.

We had a successful Christingle service, and the children (and adults!) enjoyed making their Christingles during this service. The nativity play performed by the young people was particularly well supported and very much enjoyed by the congregation. After the success of the carol service in previous years we again held a Christmas Eve carol service by candlelight with a mix of traditional, contemporary and performance readings and music. The congregational singing was enhanced by the support of the Milton AHA Choir. The church was beautifully decorated and very full; everyone appreciated this lovely service.

Sutton Courtenay

This has been another year of growth where we have welcomed new people to our worshipping community. The pattern of services has remained the same with a Family Service on the first Sunday, Holy Communion on second and fourth Sunday and Morning Worship on the third Sunday. The major festivals have been well attended.

During Holy Week the Maundy Thursday service followed by a Lamb Supper was open to the whole Parish and was appreciated by all who came. This year we just had a family service on Good Friday. Then the church was left open with stations for reflection set up around the church for private prayer and reflection. The Easter Day Family Eucharist was very popular. The children enjoyed their annual Easter Egg Hunt around the graveyard.

Christmas Services again were well supported. The Torchlight Procession returned with torches this year and attracted 1000 people. Christmas Eve Crib Service had 74 children dressing up and taking part in the 'Star' Story. Over 700 bells were crafted by individuals for the Christmas Bell Hunt for members of the community to find and hang on their own tree – along with the 'Follow the Star' Booklet produced by the CofE.

Steventon

The size of the congregation at each Sunday service has increased slightly in 2024 but continues to show a more occasional pattern of attendance. This is most noticeable in our monthly family service which attracts five village families and the most infrequent attenders (averaging once every 2-3 months). Midweek communion services maintain an average of eight attenders which include parishioners who do not attend Sunday services. The monthly service of Evening Prayer has developed into Evensong and attended by upwards of 12 worshippers (from a total of 18 frequent attenders).

End of term school services, village Christingle and Crib services plus weddings and funerals have led to the church having attendances of over 150 for 11 services in 2024. Occasional services including Harvest, Remembrance and special summer celebrations all attracted congregations of greater than 70.

Social and fund raising

Many of the social activities provide outreach and mission opportunities within the village communities. Thanks to grant support we were able to offer a warm space and free activities and refreshments in some of our churches in January, February, March and December for a few hours each week. This has helped many who are struggling with heating and eating.

Drayton

The annual plant sale in May went well and raised £400. The Christmas Cracker event at the end of November raised over £700 and drew in many people from the village. Homemade cards are on sale in church throughout the year and add to the fund raising.

The monthly Knit and Natter sessions not only provide an opportunity to make garments for charity, as well as knitting for ourselves, but provide a social gathering. A number of people who attend are not church goers and numbers have increased during the year.

Appleford

Monthly coffee mornings continue to be held, courtesy of Richard and Linda Payne, and are well supported by villagers and people from further afield. They provide an invaluable point of social contact and are much appreciated. The money raised goes to the Appleford Fabric Fund. The Appleford 100 Club continues to run and bring in some much-needed income. The draw is held at the monthly coffee morning. A sell-out Winter Warmer Lunch and Quiz was held in the Village Hall in November. The Christmas Carol Singing Evening was very well supported and raised several hundred pounds for Oxfordshire Homeless.

Milton

Our twice monthly tea, chat and craft afternoons offer an opportunity for companionship particularly for older villagers and these have run regularly through the year. The crafters in the group enjoyed planning and running the Easter craft event and making items for the craft fair.

On Shrove Tuesday we held a pancake event with many pancakes and a variety of competitions and races. The young people had a great time and were probably surprised at how competitive parent and grandparent races can be! Lots of pancakes were tossed and consumed. Donations at this event went to our Lent Charity.

In April we held the Milton Duck race. The rain held off and lots of villagers turned up to support their duck and to share tea and cake in the church after the racing. We raised over £1000 for church funds, and it continues to be a popular community event.

Working in partnership with the church, MICE (Miltonians in Community Events) have led in the promotion of a 100 Club and other events from which the 'church' benefitted, both financially and socially. In July MICE joined the church in running a food stall at TRUCK over a warm weekend. They sold out and raised over £2000 for church funds.

The craft and jigsaw fair in November, featuring several talented village crafters as well as the church stall. This event was well supported raised over £700 for the church funds and got our Advent and Christmas season off to an enjoyable and profitable start.

Our Lent Charity was EMBRACE the Middle East and at Christmas we supported the DAWN (Didcot, Abingdon and Wantage Talking Newspaper). There was good support for Oxford Historic Churches Ride and Stride – with one family visiting churches and well sponsored. We also had welcomers at St Blaise for most of the day, who did a grand job tidying the churchyard, cleaning the church and decorating for harvest festival during quiet periods!

Sutton Courtenay

The regular events such as Community Cafe, Community Brunch, Movie Matinee, WeCare2, Together in Stitches, Knit and Natter have continued and have reached out to the community. A free family craft afternoon was offered to the community which attracted over 40 children and adults.

Specific Fundraising events included: The Vicar's Funday on Spring Bank Holiday Monday - which raised money for the 26th Abingdon Scouts; The Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project and All Saints' Church Fabric Fund; Moonrakers Concert; Orwell Society annual visit with Cream teas; Cream teas during August.

100 hampers were distributed again at Christmas, reaching a lot more families in need than past years.

The collections at the Village Carol Singing and at the Torchlight Procession and Bonfire raised over £1,000 for DEC Middle East Humanitarian Appeal.

The River Room has continued to be well used both for church activities and external bookings. It is being used by the wider church community, such as a Clergy Quiet Day, run by the diocese, PCC away days by PCCs from Abingdon. It is becoming popular as a venue for Baptism parties and Wakes.

Steventon

The Lent lunches, were well supported, raising over £1000 for Christian Aid. Two pasty parties, a plant sale, a concert, a harvest supper, two history group events, and the church fete all provided successful fund-raising opportunities for both the general fund and the church fabric fund. The annual TRUCK festival provided the opportunity of generating substantial funds for both the parish general fund and Steventon church fabric maintenance. A tremendous amount of work was involved in providing food for 20,000+ festival goers including a tonne of baked potatoes, 260kg of bacon, 4,000 crumpets and more than 30 catering sized tins of baked beans. Truck 2024 broke all records for the amount of food served, monies taken and the number of volunteers drawn from church families and villagers highlighting the level of support and encouragement for the church and its service to the community.

Music

There are regular weekly choirs in Steventon and Sutton Courtenay. Singers from across the Parish regularly combine forces for weddings and funerals and for shared DAMASCUS Services.

Drayton

The former members of the choir join with other choirs from the DAMASCUS Parish for certain DAMASCUS services as well as for some weddings. Drayton and Sutton Courtenay held a joint 9 lessons and carols service at which **the** choirs combined. A big thank you to the organists who play for us at Sunday services as well as Brian Thompson who accompanies us on guitar. Also, to Kay Davies who leads the music at our Praise services and frequently teaches us new hymns.

Appleford

With no regular organist, Iris Ramkisson continues to choose and upload the hymns to the church iPod and the sound system is used to good effect. Organist support is provided for special services (Christmas Carols and Midnight Mass) thanks to John Napper and Philip Agg.

Milton

We do not have a regular organist, so we have effectively use music from CDs. Through the year we have continued to experiment with using some of the less well known hymns in our hymn book with the support of choirs from around the world via YouTube.

Sutton Courtenay

The 'Singing Saints' have continued to support our worship and they were joined by a good number of 'guest' voices for the Carol Service in December to make a 25-strong choir. Our thanks go to Philip and Keiran Agg who rehearsed the choir, conducted and played the organ for the Christmas services. They are very grateful indeed to John Napper, who plays the organ, and to Barbara Vellacott for her piano playing during the year. Barbara retired at the end of 2024 due to ill-health.

Steventon

Two long standing members of the choir sadly died in 2024 reducing the choir's numbers to an average of 5-6 for services of Morning Worship and Holy Communion. All the members are very loyal and have all been with the choir for very many years. The choir rehearses once a month and sings at three services a month leading the congregation in the singing of hymns. For special occasions we can call on members of Steventon Choral Society to help with singing. The Choral Society joins the church choir annually for the traditional Christmas carol service and performs a concert on Palm Sundays in the church. Helen Pearce continues to serve as organist and Terry Pearce as choirmaster.

Bells

The bells in Drayton, Milton, Sutton Courtenay, and Steventon have all rung regularly for services during 2024. Practices have been held most weeks at all four churches. Ringing at Sutton Courtenay during 2024 has been restricted because of a broken gudgeon on the fifth bell, so that bell has been unringable for much of 2024, it is anticipated that this will be repaired in spring 2025. The bells at Appleford remain unringable.

In addition to services and weddings the bells have been rung for local and national events. Most notably this year was the ringing at Steventon in April to mark the 90th birthday of Jack Jarvis and his retirement as Licensed Lay Minister. Steventon ringers were delighted that the Dean of Westminster accepted their invitation to dedicate a peal board and to deliver the address during a service of evensong on the church's Feast Day. The Dean attended in the Abbey's role as the patron of Steventon church. The beautiful, hand-made board marked the 75th anniversary of Jack's membership of the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Bell Ringers. There was ringing at Steventon and Milton in June as part of the national initiative Ring out

for Peace marking the 80th anniversary of the D-Day Landings. In November there was ringing at all the churches for Remembrance celebrations in our villages.

We are pleased to report that learners recruited at Drayton, Milton, Sutton Courtenay, and Steventon have all been making good progress. All four of our ringable towers have been pleased to be able to welcome visiting bands and to host branch practices for ringers from the local area. During 2024 there were two peals and six quarter peals rung at Drayton; 19 peals and ten quarter peals rung at Milton; ten quarter peals rung at Steventon; and one quarter peal rung at Sutton Courtenay. Of note, two ringers, one from Steventon and one from Milton, rang their first quarter peal and two called their first quarter peal at Steventon, several ringers rang their first quarter in a method they had not rung before. There were also several peal achievements among the more experienced ringers, most notably Colin Turner rang his 8000th peal, the first person ever to reach this milestone.

Routine checks and maintenance of the bells has been carried out by the bellringers at each tower during the year. Sutton Courtenay bells had an annual maintenance visit from Whites of Appleton in March which identified a broken gudgeon preventing that bell being rung until the gudgeon is replaced. The clappers of Drayton bells were refurbished in July. We are grateful to visiting ringers, peal, and quarter peal bands for the donations they make to our church bell funds which help with paying for ropes and necessary repair work on our bells.

Flowers

All the churches in the Parish are decorated for festivals and special occasions. We thank the many volunteer flower arrangers and those who organise flower rotas for all their efforts to make our churches look so beautiful.

Drayton

Sally Dixon and Val Cross decorate the church for the major festivals, with help from other members of the congregation. At Easter, Tony Allen and Sally create an Easter garden beneath the altar and at Christmas they create a nativity scene. If a member of the congregation would like a loved one remembered, then a pedestal arrangement is done.

Appleford

A team of people from the church and village ensure there are flowers each week in the church and come together to decorate the church for the major festivals. They are much appreciated by the congregation and visitors alike. We are grateful to Richard Mathews who maintains the two tubs outside the church door with all year around blooms.

Milton

Whilst there is no flower arranging group at St Blaise, a variety of volunteers organised decoration of the church for Easter, Harvest, Remembrance Day, and Christmas.

Sutton Courtenay

The Flower arranging team, under the leadership of Ann White, have continued to provide a dedicated service, with most providing the flowers at their own expense despite their being funds available to compensate them. We are grateful to Richard Mathews who maintains the two tubs outside the church door with all year around blooms. The Easter Lilies continue to be very popular, and a number of people support their purchase to dedicate lilies in memory of loved ones who have died.

Steventon

The church flower arrangers team provide flowers for church every Sunday; about twelve volunteers together decorate the church for the main festivals of Easter, Harvest and Christmas. During the Covid pandemic when gathered acts of worship were not permitted, fresh flowers were placed on the altar as an act of worship. The placing of flowers on the altar on a Sunday has now become a tradition of a rural community praising God for the beauty and wonder of His creation.

During 2024 the Team joined with the families to provide floral decorations for both weddings and funerals. The Church Flower Arrangers continue to provide only sustainable flowers and foliage, i.e. grown locally or in the UK and to eschew the use of floral foam as completely as possible, thus reducing their carbon footprint.

Schools

Within the DAMASCUS Parish there are four primary schools of which the three in Milton, Sutton Courtenay and Steventon are Church of England schools. The clergy and lay people are actively involved in a variety of ways – as governors, taking assemblies, helping to deliver the RE curriculum, *Open the Book*, and as reading volunteers.

Drayton

There continues to be limited engagement with Drayton Community Primary School.

Appleford

There is no school in Appleford but links are maintained with families in the village who attend Europa; Long Wittenham, Sutton Courtenay and other local schools.

Milton

Milton CofE Primary School continues to have a strong link with the parish through the Reverend Phil Sutton who is a Foundation Governor with additional responsibilities for Safeguarding and staff wellbeing.

The demands on the pastoral care resources of the school have reached unprecedented levels as families find the high cost of food and energy pushing them further into debt and hunger. The need for emergency and maintained pastoral support reached such a level at

Christmas 2024 that longer term support mechanisms will be considered and implemented in 2025.

At the end of the school year in July 2024, the school bade a fond farewell to their Head, Ruth Leach and a welcome to the new Head, Becky Costello. The transition has been a very successful one with the school achieving a 'Good' Ofsted rating with warm praise for its Christian ethos of care, nurture and positive learning environment. Class visits to the church have taken place during the year, but it has not been possible to hold School services in the church due to the complications of transporting the children to the church.

Sutton Courtenay

A small team has continued to take Open the Book assemblies to Sutton Courtenay CofE Primary School. These are always well received and the Year 6's enjoy taking on roles too. Year 6 have also come to All Saints' for a variety of Experiences, including Holy week and Pentecost. The children have time to reflect and talk about the events surrounding the Easter stories. Years 5 and 4 came to the Church for the Christmas Experience. Nursery visited for an Angel Hunt around the Church and their Christmas party. The school also come to All Saints' for end of term services at Easter, Summer Leavers' Service and Christmas.

2024 has been a time of huge transition for the school with the departure of the head, Rachel Hornsey and the majority of the other members of staff. A new head, Raluca Chende, started in September 2024 and good relationships are continuing between school and church. We are currently seeking a new Foundation Governor to replace Bryony Landsbert who stood down after several years of service.

Steventon

Steventon St Michael's CofE Primary School joined the Abingdon Learning Trust Academy in December 2024 after 2 years of careful analysis of our options as to becoming an academy school or remaining as a LEA school. The school, Trust and governing body were delighted to celebrate our school becoming the fourth school in ALT when the complex legal process was complete. The benefits of enhanced senior teacher mentoring, curriculum and learning monitoring are already in evidence. The Trust is committed to enabling us to further develop our community and church links and to model such examples for the Trust's three Abingdon schools.

The small Open the Book team continues to offer a whole school assembly once a fortnight which receives strong support from the children via their pupil parliament. Revd Phil Sutton continues to offer whole school and classroom assemblies as well as coordinating a pastoral support resource for families in crisis. Typically, four families will be receiving significant resources at any one time. Kathryn Mendus resigned as a Foundation Governor in the autumn and the governing body are actively seeking a replacement governor in conjunction with the Oxford Diocese and Didcot based churches.

Fabric

In all five churches routine maintenance has taken place, including clearance of drains and gutters and servicing of boilers, fire extinguishers, lightning conductors, roof alarms, CCTV, clocks, and organs. One quinquennial inspection took place during this year. For each church other specific activity related to maintaining the building and churchyard is given in the following paragraphs.

Drayton

The repairs to the south wall and guttering have been done. Work remains to be done on the tower. At the end of the year the central heating was creating problems which was caused by a faulty radiator. This has now been removed.

There were many complaints in the spring when our gardener was unable to cut the grass in the churchyard. Drayton Parish Council has now taken on the responsibility for grass cutting from Spring 2025.

Appleford

In September 2024 Brian Blakeman agreed to take on the role of Clerk of Works for Appleford alongside his work in All Saints', Sutton Courtenay. A tree survey was undertaken and as a result the yew tree closest to the Church Cottage boundary had significant work done to make it safe; the front path yew trees were trimmed to a more manageable size and general pruning was carried out throughout the churchyard. Thanks to the team of volunteers headed up by Jacob Shepherd.

Milton

The church building and its interior are in good condition following the major projects in recent years. Work carried out during the year includes improving the lighting in the chancel by replacing all the light bulbs with daylight LEDs; realigning and repointing stonework of the back vestry porch, repointing the roof joint between the north side of the nave roof and the chancel wall, re-building the top section of the high wall on the north-west side of the churchyard. Further work has been carried out clearing ivy from the churchyard walls. We would like to record our thanks to Paul Browning for the many tasks he has ably and enthusiastically carried out to maintain the church; to all those involved in cutting the churchyard grass and to the Churchyard Working Group that has done so much to keep the churchyard tidy.

Sutton Courtenay

Thanks go to Brian Blakeman, the All Saints' clerk of works, for continuing to help maintain the fabric of the church and the River Room. During the year the South Pillar on the main gate was rebuilt. The chancel lights were repaired and upgraded so they can now be dimmed. The Tower Clock was finally repaired and is back in working order. Path lights to the River Room have been replaced with pillar lights. The Main Entrance Inner Door has had the fabric covering replaced. Work continues on coming up with a solution to enable live streaming of services.

Steventon

Minor repairs have been undertaken to curtain poles and screen panels, a faculty was obtained for the installation of a commemorative plaque to celebrate the lifelong service to the church and community by Mr Jack Jarvis. A second faculty application was submitted in the autumn for the replacement of eroded and broken external stone on the church tower and north wall along with extensive repointing of the south wall. This work was specified in the 2020 quinquennial report and the specification and contract documents were prepared by the same architect.

Deanery Synod

During 2024 Deanery Synod has met in February, May, October and November. Standing agenda items have included finance and parish share, and it was good to be able to again report that Abingdon Deanery parishes have all paid their share in full, so that a Diocesan discount continues to apply. It was wonderful to hear the news that St Helens Dry Sandford was able to reopen during the year, following remedial works to dangerous stonework. Other happy news included the appointment of Rev Wealands Bell, the former chaplain at Magdalen College School to be incumbent of Appleton with Besselsleigh, and Rev Dr AKMA Adams, a New Testament tutor at Oxford University to support the team at St Helen's Abingdon. The Area Dean's focus for the year has been on Children Young People and Families ministry, and this has carried across to our own PCC meetings. This initiative was also supported by a presentation to Deanery Synod by Anne Ferry – the newly appointed Parish Development Advisor for Dorchester Archdeaconry.

Volunteers

We would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make our five churches lively and vibrant communities. Particularly we thank welcomers, sidespeople, readers, intercessors, junior church leaders, refreshment providers and all those who assist with the financial processes, and all those who work behind the scenes who make for an efficient operation and ensuring we have well-presented buildings and churchyards.

Ministry Team

The Reverend Helen Kendrick was installed as an Honorary Canon at Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford on Saturday 27th January where she was supported by family and friends from the Parish. This was in recognition of her services to the Diocese over 25 years.

The Reverend Dov Whittle and his wife Katy, and sons Daniel and Isaac moved into Drayton Vicarage as Dov commenced his Curacy in the DAMASCUS Parish. Members of the parish attended his ordination at Christ Church Cathedral at the end of June.

Financial review

This financial review covers the period 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024. Income has exceeded £250,000 so we continue to prepare and present the accounts using the accruals method. Income and expenditure are therefore recognised as soon as entitlement is established, e.g., gift aid must be recognised when the income is received even though the actual claim may be received in the subsequent year.

Accruals accounts consist of a SOFA (Statement of Financial Activities), a balance sheet, a cash flow statement, and further explanatory notes. The SOFA is on page 19, the balance sheet is on page 20, the cash flow statement is on page 21 and the notes on pages 22-32.

Total unrestricted income during 2024 was £183,593, a small increase on the previous year's income of £178,793 primarily due to an increase in tax efficient and other planned giving, an increase in fund raising income for the unrestricted fund and an increase in interest. There was a decrease in income to the unrestricted fund from statutory fees because some statutory fees are now being paid to relevant church fabric funds. Overall, the income from statutory fees in 2024 was similar to that in 2023 as was total income from fund raising activities, but the share of these monies between unrestricted and restricted funds has changed. Total income from interest was higher in 2024 due to the high interest rates, but most of this income is in restricted funds.

Total unrestricted expenditure increased slightly from £158,175 to £165,837, this is mainly due to an increase in the Parish share, as we had a £5,000 reduction in the payment of the Parish Share in 2023 as recompense for the Rector taking the role of Acting Assistant Archdeacon during a vacancy. There was a decrease in the cost of church utilities from £22,925 in 2023 to £16,150 in 2024, this was partly due to a modest reduction in the cost of electricity and gas but mostly was due to a hugely overestimated gas bill in one church in 2023 and it took most of 2024 to use up the balance of the overestimate. We purchased a new parish photocopier during 2024.

In 2024 there was a net gain in unrestricted funds of £20,186. Consequently, the unrestricted funds carried forward to 2025 are £97,573. The increase in unrestricted funds means we have a cushion above the limit set by our reserves policy (see below). As we review our ministry staffing in 2025 and plan for the future, the modest gains in the unrestricted fund for three years despite increasing costs, will allow us to consider whether an increase in the ministry team might be sustainable.

A designated fund established in 2022 to handle short term grants for warm spaces projects, received a further grant of £8,000 in January 2024. This, together with the remaining money from previous grants, allowed funding of Warm Spaces activities in January to March and in December 2024. The balance of £6,725 in the fund will continue to be used for Warm Spaces activities in 2025.

The overall income to the restricted funds during 2024 was £87,697, an increase on the previous year's income of £74,794. There were more voluntary donations and associated gift aid to restricted funds and the income from interest has been higher. There was a legacy

of £10,000 to one Fabric Fund and increased grant income from Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme. The expenditure from the restricted funds was higher in 2024 at £71,677 than in 2023 when it was £46,400. This increase in expenditure in the restricted funds is mostly in major capital expenditure and in church running costs because of several minor maintenance or fabric repair projects across the five churches and the start of a more major fabric project in Steventon Church. Overall, there was an increase in the balance of the restricted funds of £16,988, though this is largely an increase in the balance of two of the restricted funds. All the church fabric funds have an adequate balance for day-to-day expenditure, but most would require fund raising if there are essential large building repairs required.

Investment funds, which are all endowment funds, increased in value from £674,784 to £686,409. For most of these funds only interest or dividends may be spent.

In summary, we have had a successful year with modest increases in the overall balances of both the restricted and unrestricted funds despite high inflationary increases in costs and more minor maintenance activity. However, we must continue to pay close attention to the level of unrestricted funds if we are to increase our ministry staffing. Considering the age profile of our committed regular givers, we need to continue regular stewardship campaigns if this important source of income is to be maintained into the next decade. Additional fund raising will be required, particularly for the five church fabric funds, if we are to continue keeping the churches in good repair.

Reserves Policy

It is PCC policy to maintain a balance on free reserves (net current assets) which equates to at least two months unrestricted payments. This is equivalent to £30,000. It is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies. It is our policy to invest short term balances with the CCLA Church of England Deposit Fund and longer-term reserves in the CCLA Church of England Investment fund.

Structure, governance, and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. In the DAMASCUS Parish the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent, other members of the clergy team, churchwardens, licensed lay ministers, and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the parish. All those who are members of the congregations 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 to the parish including deciding how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. The PCC met six times during the year all were in-person meetings. The Local Church Committees (LCC), with responsibility for considering local activity and provide local church feedback to the PCC and who act as a forum for the PCC to consult with the congregations of each of the five churches continued to meet in the alternative months to the PCC. Each of the five LCCs provide a report to every PCC meeting. For each church Pro-Wardens, elected at the APCM, carry out roles ensuring the smooth running of their church and maintain order in the church and grounds.

A Standing Committee consisting of the incumbent, the churchwardens, the PCC Secretary, the PCC Treasurer and two other members of the PCC meet bi-monthly (in the months between PCC meetings) to transact business delegated to them by the PCC.

Administrative information

The Ministry team

Clergy

Parish Rector – The Reverend Helen Kendrick
Associate Priest (Half-Time Stipendiary) – The Reverend Phil Sutton
Associate Priest (SSM) - The Reverend Rosie Bruce
Retired PTO – The Reverend Canon Dr Phillip Tovey
PTO – The Reverend Geoff Morgan
Assistant Curate – The Reverend Dov Whittle (from July 2024)

Licensed Lay Ministers

Dr Tim Budd (PTO)
Mr Jack Jarvis (PTO) (until April 2024)
Mrs Alex Landsbert (PTO)

Authorised Preacher

Mr Paul James

The DAMASCUS Parish is part of the Abingdon Deanery within the Diocese of Oxford within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Parish Office, All Saints Church, The Green, Sutton Courtenay, Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX14 4AE. The PCC is a body corporate

(PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and a charity registered with the Charity Commission, with registered charity number 1175551.

PCC members who have served at any time from 1 January 2024 until the date this report was approved are:

Ex Officio members:

Incumbent: The Reverend Helen Kendrick (Chairman)

Associate Minister: The Reverend Phil Sutton

Associate Priest: The Reverend Rosie Bruce

Licensed Lay Minister: Mr Jack Jarvis

Licensed Lay Minister: Mrs Alex Landsbert

Churchwarden: Dr Hilary Otterburn (until July 2024)

Mr Anton King representative in Deanery Synod

Mr Michael Murray representative in Deanery Synod

Mrs Sue Harris, Secretary

Mrs Sue Jenkins, Safeguarding Officer

Elected members:

Mrs Valerie Cross

Mrs Linda Johnson (until May 2024)

Mrs Nicola Turner (Hon. Treasurer)

Dr Elaine Maxwell

Mrs Alison Budd (Churchwarden from July 2024)

Professor David King

Mrs Caroline Miller

Mr Tony Sloggett

Local Church Committee members who have served at any time from 1 January 2024 until the date this report was approved are:

Drayton LCC: Val Cross (Pro-Warden); Gareth Davies (Clerk of Works); Sally Dixon; Sue Harris; Sue Icke; Linda Johnson (Pro-warden until June 2024); Anton King; and The Reverend Canon Helen Kendrick and The Reverend Dov Whittle

Appleford LCC: Elizabeth Duffield; William Finch; Sue Helby; Linda Payne; Iris Ramkissoo; Jacob Shepherd (Pro-Warden from November 2024) and The Reverend Canon Helen Kendrick and The Reverend Dov Whittle

Milton LCC: Mike Blanch, Pat Capuzzimati, Elaine Maxwell (Pro-Warden), Janet Money, Janet Taylor, Nicola Turner (Pro-Warden) and The Reverend Canon Helen Kendrick and The Reverend Dov Whittle.

Sutton Courtenay: Brian Blakeman (Clerk of Works), Alison Budd (Pro-Warden), Susan Jenkins, David King, Alex Landsbert, Vivienne Maunders, Malcolm Ross, Phil Stubley, Mary Warrington and The Reverend Canon Helen Kendrick and The Reverend Dov Whittle.

Steventon: Alan Binning (Pro-Warden), Diana Bowder, Doreen Goddard, Jack Jarvis, Andrew Loutit, Caroline Miller, Mike Murray, Hilary Otterburn (Pro-Warden), Terry Pearce, David Sandford, Tony Sloggett and The Reverend Phil Sutton.

DAMASCUS PARISH
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE PAROCHIAL
CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF DAMASCUS

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 December 2024 which are set out on pages 19 to 32.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the ICAEW, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed



Caroline Webster, FCA

UHY Ross Brooke
Suite I, Windrush Court, Abingdon Business Park, OX14 1SY

Date: 13.05.2025

DAMASCUS PARISH
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year to 31 December 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS							
Voluntary income	2a	139,821	8,000	36,090	-	183,911	160,237
Activities for generating funds	2b	19,702	-	15,505	-	35,207	35,820
Church activities	2c	14,439	-	7,368	-	21,807	23,996
Dividends, interest, income from property etc.	2d	3,496	-	28,734	-	32,230	27,964
Other incoming resources	2e	6,135	-	-	-	6,135	5,570
TOTAL INCOME		183,593	8,000	87,697	-	279,290	253,587
EXPENDITURE							
Church activities	3a	126,787	136	3,315	-	130,238	121,004
Church expenses	3b	35,725	1,418	58,815	-	95,958	81,796
Costs of generating income	3c	1,189	-	3,372	-	4,561	3,022
Major capital expenditure	3d	-	-	5,568	-	5,568	-
Other expenditure	3e	2,136	-	607	-	2,743	717
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		165,837	1,554	71,677	-	239,068	206,539
NET INCOME/EXPENDITURE BEFORE INVESTMENT GAINS		17,756	6,446	16,020	-	40,222	47,048
NET GAINS ON INVESTMENTS					11,625	11,625	43,687
NET INCOME/EXPENDITURE		17,756	6,446	16,020	11,625	51,847	90,735
TRANSFER BETWEEN FUNDS		2,430	(3,398)	968	-	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		20,186	3,048	16,988	11,625	51,847	90,735
Total funds brought forward		77,387	3,677	182,546	674,784	938,394	847,659
Total fund carried forward		97,573	6,725	199,534	686,409	990,241	938,394

DAMASCUS PARISH BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

		2024 Total £	2023 Total £
FIXED ASSETS	Notes		
Tangible	6	1,240	-
Investments	7	686,409	674,784
		<u>687,649</u>	<u>674,784</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors and prepayments	8	15,340	13,271
Short-term deposits		200,434	170,402
Cash at bank and in hand		89,812	84,968
		<u>305,586</u>	<u>268,641</u>
LIABILITIES			
Creditors - amounts falling due in one year	9	2,994	5,031
NET CURRENT ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)		<u>302,592</u>	<u>263,610</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		990,241	938,394
Creditors - amounts falling due after one year	10	-	-
TOTAL NET ASSETS		<u>990,241</u>	<u>938,394</u>
PARISH FUNDS			
Unrestricted	11	104,298	81,064
Restricted	12	199,534	182,546
Endowment		686,409	674,784
		<u>990,241</u>	<u>938,394</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 12/5/2025 and signed on its behalf by:

The Revd Helen Kendrick (Chair) H Kendrick

Nicola Turner (Treasurer) Nicola Turner

DAMASCUS PARISH
CASH FLOW STATEMENT AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
Net cash from operating activities	4,506	(3,606)
Cash flows from investing activities		
Dividends, interest and rent from investments	32,230	27,964
Interest paid	-	-
Proceeds from sale of:		
Tangible fixed assets	-	-
Tangible fixed investments	-	-
Purchase of:		
Tangible fixed assets for the use of the PCC	(1,860)	-
Fixed asset investments	-	-
Cash flows from financing activities		
Loans (outstanding balances)	-	-
Net cash provided by/ (used in) investing activities	30,370	27,964
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	34,876	24,358
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January	255,370	231,012
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December	<u>290,246</u>	<u>255,370</u>
Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) before investment gains		
Net income before investment gains 31 December	40,222	47,048
Adjustment for:		
Depreciation charges	620	203
Dividends, interest and rent from investments	(32,230)	(27,964)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	(2,069)	(1,760)
(Decrease)/Increase in creditors	(2,037)	(21,133)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	<u>4,506</u>	<u>(3,606)</u>
Analysis of cash and cash equivalents		
Cash in hand	89,812	84,968
Notice deposits (less than 3 months)	200,434	170,402
	<u>290,246</u>	<u>255,370</u>

DAMASCUS PARISH
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The Parish is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared under The Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and with the Regulations "true and fair view" provisions, together with FRS102 as the applicable accounting standard and the 2019 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP (FRS102)). The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown as fair value.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis. There are no material uncertainties in respect of the charities ability to continue as a going concern for the foreseeable future.

ASSETS

Consecrated and benefice property

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by s.10(2) of the Charities Act 2011. All expenditure incurred during the year on such property is written off as expenditure in the SOFA and separately disclosed

Moveable church furnishings

These are capitalised at cost and depreciated over their useful economic life (normally 20 years) other than when insufficient cost information is available. In this case the item is not capitalised, but all items are included in the Church's inventory in any case.

Tangible fixed assets for use by the charity

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and cost at least £1,000. The Parish photocopier comes within this scope and has been depreciated over 3 years.

FUNDS

Unrestricted Funds

These represent the remaining income funds of the PCC available for spending on general purposes of the PCC. They include designated funds that have been set aside by the PCC for specific purposes.

Restricted Funds

These are income funds that must be spent on restricted purposes and details of funds held and restrictions provided are shown in the notes to the accounts.

Endowment Funds

These are restricted funds that must be retained as trust capital either permanently or subject to a discretionary power to spend capital as income.

INCOME

Collections and planned giving are recognised when received by or on behalf of the Parish. Income tax recoverable on covenants or gift aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised. Grants and legacies to the church are accounted for as soon as the Parish is notified of its legal entitlement and the amount due. Funds raised by fund-raising events are accounted for as gross. Sales of books and magazines are accounted for as gross.

INVESTMENT INCOME

Interest on bank balances is accounted for on an accruals basis with interest recognised in the period to which the interest relates.

Dividend income is recognised on the date the share interest becomes ex-dividend or when the right to the dividend can be established.

EXPENDITURE AND LIABILITIES

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal and constructive obligation and settlement is probable and quantifiable.

DAMASCUS PARISH
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2024

2 INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
2(a) Voluntary income						
All other giving and voluntary receipts, including Special Appeals (recurring and one-off)	4,624	-	15,889	-	20,513	17,156
Collections at services	15,083	-	1,644	-	16,727	16,576
Collections at services for charity	4,973	-	-	-	4,973	4,029
Gift Aid recovered	24,300	-	2,112	-	26,412	25,752
Grants (include recurring and one-off)	4,564	8,000	4,745	-	17,309	13,037
Other planned giving	4,347	-	-	-	4,347	2,216
Legacies received (capital value)	-	-	10,000	-	10,000	1,000
Tax efficient planned giving	81,930	-	1,700	-	83,630	80,471
	<u>139,821</u>	<u>8,000</u>	<u>36,090</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>183,911</u>	<u>160,237</u>
2(b) Activities for generating funds						
Gross income from fundraising activities	19,702	-	15,505	-	35,207	35,820
	<u>19,702</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,505</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>35,207</u>	<u>35,820</u>
2(c) Church activities						
Additional wedding and funeral fees	2,267	-	60	-	2,327	1,416
Gross income from trading (e.g. hall lettings, magazine, bookstall). NOT fundraising.	4,454	-	4,524	-	8,978	11,961
Statutory fees retained by the PCC (weddings, funerals etc)	7,718	-	2,784	-	10,502	10,619
	<u>14,439</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,368</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>21,807</u>	<u>23,996</u>
2(d) Dividends, interest, income from property etc.						
Dividends, interest, income from property etc.	3,496	-	28,734	-	32,230	27,964
	<u>3,496</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>28,734</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>32,230</u>	<u>27,964</u>
2(e) Other incoming resources						
Other incoming resources	6,135	-	-	-	6,135	5,570
	<u>6,135</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,135</u>	<u>5,570</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>183,593</u>	<u>8,000</u>	<u>87,697</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>279,290</u>	<u>253,587</u>

DAMASCUS PARISH
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2024

3 EXPENDITURE

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
3(a) Church activities						
<i>Clergy and staff expenses</i>	2,841	136	-	-	2,977	3,319
<i>Diocesan parish share contribution</i>	105,785	-	-	-	105,785	96,292
<i>Mission giving and donations</i>	11,371	-	175	-	11,546	11,443
<i>Salaries, wages and honoraria</i>	6,790	-	3,140	-	9,930	9,950
	<u>126,787</u>	<u>136</u>	<u>3,315</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>130,238</u>	<u>121,004</u>
3(b) Church expenses						
<i>Mission and evangelism costs</i>	274	1,418	4,425	-	6,117	5,962
<i>Church running expenses</i>	19,953	-	51,481	-	71,434	51,528
<i>Church utility bills</i>	13,678	-	2,472	-	16,150	22,925
<i>Cost of trading</i>	-	-	437	-	437	218
<i>Independent examiner's costs</i>	1,200	-	-	-	1,200	960
<i>Depreciation on church equipment</i>	620	-	-	-	620	203
	<u>35,725</u>	<u>1,418</u>	<u>58,815</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>95,958</u>	<u>81,796</u>
3(c) Costs of generating income						
<i>Costs of fundraising activities</i>	1,189	-	3,372	-	4,561	3,022
	<u>1,189</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,372</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,561</u>	<u>3,022</u>
3(d) Major capital expenditure						
<i>Major repairs to the church building</i>	-	-	5,568	-	5,568	-
<i>New building work</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,568</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,568</u>	<u>-</u>
3(e) Other expenditure						
<i>Other outgoing resources/ payments</i>	2,101	-	607	-	2,708	682
<i>Governance costs</i>	35	-	-	-	35	35
	<u>2,136</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>607</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,743</u>	<u>717</u>
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	<u>165,837</u>	<u>1,554</u>	<u>71,677</u>		<u>239,068</u>	<u>206,539</u>

DAMASCUS PARISH
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

4 STAFF COSTS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Parish administrator	6,760	6,720
Cleaner	1,590	1,515
Groundsman	615	615
Gravedigger	-	-
Organist	935	1,100
Vergers	30	-
Bell ringers	-	-
	<u>9,930</u>	<u>9,950</u>

Note: All staff above are self-employed

Parish administrator	1	1
Cleaner	1	1
Groundsman	1	1
Gravedigger	-	-
Organist	3	5
Vergers	1	-
Bellringers	-	-

None of the Trustees received any remuneration or employee benefits during the year. The lay trustees, where applicable, who acted as agents to the PCC in making approved payments on its behalf, were reimbursed for these expenses on presentation of suitable documentary evidence.

Clergy working expenses were reimbursed in accordance with Church of England guidelines.

There were no related party transactions.

DAMASCUS PARISH
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

5 TRANSFER OF FUNDS

	Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £	Total £
From Warm Spaces Grant (Designated Fund WARM) to General and restricted funds depending on the expenditure	2,430	(3,398)	968	-

DAMASCUS PARISH
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

6 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Office equipment £	Total £
Cost of valuation		
At 1 January 2024	-	-
Additions	1,860	-
Disposals	-	-
At 31 December 2024	<u>1,860</u>	<u>1,860</u>
Depreciation		
At 1 January 2024	-	-
Charge for the year	<u>620</u>	<u>620</u>
At 31 December 2024	<u>620</u>	<u>620</u>
Net book value at 31 December 2024	<u>1,240</u>	<u>1,240</u>
Net book value at 31 December 2023	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

DAMASCUS PARISH
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

7 INVESTMENTS

	Market value at 31st December 2023 £	Additions £	Disposals £	Market value at 31st December 2024 £	Change in value Jan 1 to Dec 31 2024 £
Milton Milton - Church Lands	601,309	-	-	611,253	9,944
Drayton Bradfield Trust	10,607	-	-	10,850	243
Drayton Clerk's Piece CO3056670	933	-	-	954	21
Drayton Miss Emma Hyde for maintenance of church fabric CO3055160-001	2,600	-	-	2,658	58
Drayton Hyde's charity for psalmody CO3057211	893	-	-	913	20
Steventon CB3031650 - ENDOWMENT FUND	34,329	-	-	35,115	786
Steventon CB3031648 - N01 INVESTMENT FUND	24,101	-	-	24,653	552
DAMASCUS PCC CB3030966 *	12	-	-	13	1
	674,784	-	-	686,409	11,625

* This investment was purchased for £10.00 on 21 Aug 2018 by a parishioner for the Parish but was omitted from the investment list in 2018 to 2021 inclusive.

DAMASCUS PARISH
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

8 DEBTORS

	2024	2023
	£	£
HMRC Gift Aid	3,025	3,330
Statutory fees due	160	99
Collections to be banked	2,282	1,065
Fund raising to be banked	793	1,593
Parish share rebate	4,274	2,558
Dividends, interest, income from property etc.	4,299	4,402
Miscellaneous debtors	507	224
TOTAL	<u>15,340</u>	<u>13,271</u>

9 CREDITORS falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Accounts examination costs	1,200	960
Mission and evangelism costs	-	732
Clergy expenses	146	-
Church running expenses	863	812
Mission giving	-	1,627
Parish Administrator	600	560
Organist	25	175
Cleaner	150	165
Miscellaneous creditors	10	-
TOTAL	<u>2,994</u>	<u>5,031</u>

10 CREDITORS falling due after one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
	-	-
TOTAL	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

DAMASCUS PARISH
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2024

11 UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

	Brought Forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer £	Carried forward £
General funds	77,387	183,593	165,837	2,430	97,573
Designated funds					
DAMASCUS Warm Spaces	3,677	8,000	1,554	(3,398)	6,725
	<u>3,677</u>	<u>8,000</u>	<u>1,554</u>	<u>(3,398)</u>	<u>6,725</u>

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS IN 2023

	Brought Forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer £	Carried forward £
General funds	54,554	178,793	158,175	2,215	77,387
Designated funds					
DAMASCUS Warm Spaces	8,034	-	1,349	(3,008)	3,677
Steventon Roots and Shoots	615	-	615	-	-
	<u>8,649</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,964</u>	<u>(3,008)</u>	<u>3,677</u>

DAMASCUS PARISH
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

12 RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Brought Forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer £	Carried forward £
Drayton fabric	9,316	4,181	5,279	188	8,406
Drayton Carpenters legacy	1,314	54	-	-	1,368
Drayton Bells	3,602	605	1,985	-	2,222
Drayton Clerk's Piece	424	26	-	-	450
Drayton Hydes for Psalmody	690	25	-	-	715
Appleford fabric fund	13,779	1,622	2,515	-	12,886
Milton bells	14,461	1,322	234	-	15,549
Milton building	14,486	3,454	7,156	-	10,784
Milton Church Lands	70,078	24,023	10,200	195	84,096
Sutton Courtenay Fabric	21,240	34,333	28,414	477	27,636
Sutton Courtenay Ringers	246	155	-	715	1,116
Sutton Courtenay Fun Day	8,162	7,260	7,058	(715)	7,649
Steventon Fabric	7,021	9,792	8,777	108	8,144
Steventon Churchyard	14,787	609	-	-	15,396
Steventon Tower	2,940	236	59	-	3,117
	182,546	87,697	71,677	968	199,534

RESTRICTED FUNDS IN 2023

	Brought Forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer £	Carried forward £
Drayton fabric	9,317	6,014	6,015	-	9,316
Drayton Carpenters legacy	1,269	45	-	-	1,314
Drayton Bells	3,244	358	-	-	3,602
Drayton Clerk's Piece	398	26	-	-	424
Drayton Hydes for Psalmody	665	25	-	-	690
Appleford fabric fund	10,498	4,308	1,027	-	13,779
Milton bells	13,224	1,302	65	-	14,461
Milton building	12,779	2,899	1,192	-	14,486
Milton Church Lands	54,084	21,632	5,723	85	70,078
* Sutton Courtenay Fabric	14,008	25,333	18,809	708	21,240
Sutton Courtenay Ringers	705	16	475	-	246
Sutton Courtenay Fun Day	8,732	4,573	5,143	-	8,162
** Steventon Fabric	6,880	7,144	7,003	-	7,021
Steventon Churchyard	14,871	516	600	-	14,787
Steventon Tower	2,685	603	348	-	2,940
	153,359	74,794	46,400	793	182,546

* During 2023 the Restricted Fund called Sutton Courtenay River Room was merged with Sutton Courtenay Fabric

** During 2023 the Restricted Fund called Steventon Church Repair was merged with Steventon Fabric

DAMASCUS PARISH
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

SUMMARY OF ASSETS BY FUND

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	TOTAL 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	1,240	-	-	1,240
Investment fixed assets	-	-	686,409	686,409
Current assets	105,223	200,363	-	305,586
Liabilities				
<i>Amounts falling due in one year</i>	(2,165)	(829)	-	(2,994)
<i>Amounts falling due after one year</i>	-	-	-	-
	<hr/> 104,298	<hr/> 199,534	<hr/> 686,409	<hr/> 990,241