

# THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST PETER & ST PAUL, BLOCKLEY WITH ASTON MAGNA

England & Wales - Charity number 1181561

## Details

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**Other names** BLOCKLEY PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Other

**Registered** 2019-01-14

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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High Street  
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**Website** <http://www.blockleychurch.org.uk>

## Activities

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**Objects:** PROMOTING IN THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH THE WHOLE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

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## Classification

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- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- Gloucestershire

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£122,087	£91,159	-	-
2023-12-31	£87,801	£163,634	-	-
2022-12-31	£80,881	£156,923	-	-
2021-12-31	£68,260	£83,552	-	-
2020-12-31	£48,528	£77,502	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev DANA LURKSE DELAP	Chair	2015-10-01
ADRIAN PHILIP BENEY		2017-06-01
Anne Frances Jean Packer		2022-10-10
Christine Helen Moor		2023-05-14
Derek Luff		2020-10-25
Felicity Pamela Masheder		2025-05-11
Hannah Jane Louise Webb		2022-10-10
Laura Martha Muller Bradley		2024-04-28
PHILIP JAMES GEE		2020-11-02
ROBERT KINGSFORD BURCH		2018-06-01
Rhea Patricia Bazeley		2022-10-10
Sarah Anne Brazier		2022-10-10

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# Accounts

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Vale and Cotswold Edge Team

**St Peter and St Paul**

**Blockley with Aston Magna**

**Annual Accounts 2024**

# Independent Examiner's Report

To the members and trustees of the Parochial Church Council of Blockley with Aston Magna.

This report on the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024 is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011.

## Respective responsibilities of the trustees of the charity and the examiner

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The trustees consider that an audit is not required under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 and that an independent examination is needed.

It is the examiner's responsibility to

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- To state whether particular matters have come to the Examiner's attention.

## Basis of this report

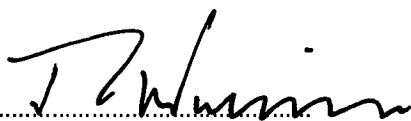
My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. That examination includes a review of the accounting records and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all 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 130 of the 2011 Act, and
  - \* to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Acthave 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.

Signed.....



Name John Wilkinson

Date.....

15/04/2025.

Address Croft House  
Station Road  
Chipping Campden  
GL55 6HY

**ST PETER & ST PAUL CHURCH, BLOCKLEY WITH ASTON MAGNA**  
**RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

Notes	Unrestricted		Restricted	2024	2023
	General Funds	Designated Funds			
<b>INCOME</b>					
<b>Giving</b>					
Parish Giving Scheme	25,378			25,378	26,237
Other giving and donations	13,351		250	13,601	13,117
Tax recovered through Gift Aid	6,036			6,036	5,875
<b>Church activities</b>					
Father Brown income from BBC	18,865			18,865	11,640
The Voice - subscriptions & donations		6,468		6,468	5,197
- advertising		3,678		3,678	2,973
Legacies					
Parochial Fees income	5,905			5,905	4,860
Concerts in church	807			807	600
Sundry income	1,253			1,253	5,179
<b>Investment income</b>					
Interest & investment income	912	727	921	2,560	2,074
<b>Income from extraordinary activities</b>					
Grant re VAT refund				-	7,849
Donations for reordering			28,608	28,608	
Fund raising events for reordering			4,086	4,086	
Donations from the Brownes	145			145	430
Non-recurring grants	758		3,312	4,070	
Special collections			627	627	1,770
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>73,410</b>	<b>10,873</b>	<b>37,804</b>	<b>122,087</b>	<b>87,801</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
<b>Outward Giving</b>					
Donations	(3,542)		(627)	(4,169)	(4,229)
<b>Running expenses</b>					
Parish Share	(35,711)			(35,711)	(33,375)
Minor repairs & routine maintenance	(4,580)		(3,312)	(7,892)	(4,298)
Clergy expenses	(2,023)			(2,023)	(3,009)
Vicarage expenses	(461)			(461)	
Visiting Clergy - fees & expenses	(101)			(101)	
Heating & lighting	(3,864)			(3,864)	(4,535)
The Voice costs		(7,950)		(7,950)	(5,542)
Father Brown costs	(1,845)			(1,845)	(600)
Insurance	(2,896)			(2,896)	(2,686)
Altar supplies	(280)			(280)	(506)
Music costs	(372)			(372)	(180)
Administration costs	(2,108)			(2,108)	(1,255)
Flowers	-			-	(308)
Youth work costs	(1,817)			(1,817)	(1,817)
Sundry costs	(4,724)			(4,724)	(4,287)
	(64,324)	(7,950)	(3,939)	(76,213)	(66,627)
<b>Extraordinary expenditure</b>					
Reordering project			(14,946)	(14,946)	(80,935)
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b>(64,324)</b>	<b>(7,950)</b>	<b>(18,885)</b>	<b>(91,159)</b>	<b>(147,562)</b>
<b>(Deficit)/surplus before gains &amp; losses</b>					
Transfers between funds	9,086	2,923	18,919	30,928	(59,761)
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before gains	(500)		500		
Gains/(Losses) on investment assets- unrealised	8,586	2,923	19,419	30,928	(59,761)
	1,003	799	1,013	2,815	6,848
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>9,589</b>	<b>3,722</b>	<b>20,432</b>	<b>33,743</b>	<b>(52,913)</b>
Funds brought forward at 1 January 2024	60,578	52,418	50,638	163,634	216,547
Funds carried forward at 31 December 2024	<b>£70,167</b>	<b>£56,140</b>	<b>£71,070</b>	<b>£197,377</b>	<b>£163,634</b>

continued


**ST PETER & ST PAUL CHURCH, BLOCKLEY WITH ASTON MAGNA  
RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024  
(CONTINUED)**


	2024	2023
Lloyds Treasurers' account	17,092	6,744
Lloyds Instant Saver	22,203	31,412
Lloyds re Voice	5,974	3,578
Lloyds re Reordering	25,895	-
CBF Investment Fund (accumulated income units) at Market Value.	49,443	47,041
CBF Investment Fund (income units) at Market Value.	18,475	18,062
United Trust Bank	56,901	55,212
Unbanked cash and cheques at 31st December	1,394	1,585
	<b>£197,377</b>	<b>£163,634</b>

**Total funds are represented by:**

Lloyds Treasurers' account  
 Lloyds Instant Saver  
 Lloyds re Voice  
 Lloyds re Reordering  
 CBF Investment Fund (accumulated income units) at Market Value.  
 CBF Investment Fund (income units) at Market Value.  
 United Trust Bank  
 Unbanked cash and cheques at 31st December

Accounts approved at a meeting of the Parochial Church Council on 18th March, 2025.

  
 Sarah Brazier (Churchwarden)

  
 Anne Packer (Churchwarden)

  
 Philip Gee (Treasurer)

**ST PETER & ST PAUL CHURCH, BLOCKLEY WITH ASTON MAGNA**  
**Notes to the Receipts & Payments Account for the year ended 31 December 2024**

1. The accounts have been prepared on the Receipts & Payments basis and are in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006.
2. After the financial activity during 2024, the detailed allocation of funds at 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2024 is:

**Restricted Funds:**

Chancel	33,168	
Robinson Organ (see note below)	7,949	
Bells	1,161	
Reordering	<u>28,792</u>	71,070

**Designated Funds:**

Future refurbishment work	50,205	
The Voice	<u>5,935</u>	56,140

**Unrestricted Funds** 70,167

£197,377

**Note:**

Each year £500 is credited to the Organ Fund. This is a donation from Doreen Robinson in lieu of notional payments that she would receive for playing the organ in regular services.

Vale and Cotswold Edge Benefice

## St Peter and St Paul, Blockley

### Annual Report for 2024

to be held in church at 10.45am on 11 May 2025



*Figure 1 The Northern Lights by Adrian Beney*

#### **Annual Meeting of Parishioners 2025**

Those present and apologies for absence  
Approval of minutes of 2024 AMP (below)  
Election of Church Wardens

#### **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

Those present and apologies for absence  
Approval of minutes of 2024 APCM (below)  
Annual Report (attached)  
Treasurer's Report (attached)  
Elections to PCC  
Appointment of PCC vice-chair, PCC Secretary, PCC Treasurer, Independent Examiner, Electoral Roll Officer and any co-options

**Minutes of the 2024 AMP and APCM**  
**28th April 2024 in SS Peter and Paul, Blockley**

*Following the morning service*

**Annual Meeting of Parishioners**

**Present:** The Revd Canon Dana Delap (Vicar), [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Charles Masheder (Secretary).

**Apologies received** from [REDACTED].

1. **The minutes from the last meeting (14<sup>th</sup> May 2023)** were unanimously accepted and signed.
  2. **Election of Church Wardens**
    - [REDACTED], proposed by [REDACTED] seconded by [REDACTED].
    - [REDACTED]; proposed by [REDACTED], seconded by [REDACTED].
    - Both were duly elected, none against. Dana thanked Sarah and Anne for all their service and support to her and to the Church, during the past year, with its various challenges.
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**Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

1. **Those present and apologies for absence** - as above.
2. **Approval of minutes of 14<sup>th</sup> May 2023 APCM** – were proposed by [REDACTED] and seconded by [REDACTED]. All agreed and they were signed.
3. **Treasurer's Report.** Philip Gee presented the accounts (previously circulated) which had been approved by PCC on March 5<sup>th</sup>, subject to being agreed by the Examiner, which had now happened. There was a surplus on the General fund of £8,909 this was the result of three items:
  - (a) An increase in income from the BBC (Father Brown) from £5,300 to £11,640;
  - (b) Last year's figures included £6,166 for churchyard lighting;
  - (c) No deficit on The Voice following its re-launch.Expenditure on the reordering project amounted to £80935. The VAT reclaim (Listed Places of Worship scheme) was £7,849. The funds held in the bank and investments accounts totalled £163,634. The Vicar expressed her and the PCC's gratitude to Philip was all his work as Treasurer and the meeting gave him a round of applause.
4. **The Annual Report.** Dana introducing the report, highlighted various aspects.
5. **Electoral Roll Report** - there are 80 people currently on the electoral roll. 4 names have been removed, which represents 9 new members since the APCM of 2023.

**Proceedings of the PCC** –particularly Safeguarding and the Reordering and Fund-raising.

**Children's work** - particularly Open the Book and other work with the School and the new Junior Church of the Third Sunday of each month.

**Safeguarding** – The Appointment of Hannah Webb as the Parish Safeguarding Officer with thanks to Carol Willott for her past work. Also the important need for PCC members and others to have the right level of training.
6. **Vicar's report** – Dana mentioned the considerable input from the Alpha course and subsequent Baptisms and Confirmations. She also spoke of the importance at this stage of the fund-raising for the Reordering Scheme and thanked [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] for their work with this. She mentioned that [REDACTED] had taken on the role of Lead

Support for those involved in pastoral ministry across the three parishes. She also thanked Sarah Luff for her role with Children's Work and Open Door. Finally she warmly thanked everyone for the part they play within the life of our Church, whatever that part may be.

██████████ and ██████████ thanked Dana on behalf of the Church for her leadership, even with her present health issues.

7. **Elections:** Synod Rep: ██████████ was proposed by ██████████ and seconded by ██████████ and was duly elected. PCC Members: **Derek Luff** was proposed by ██████████ and seconded by ██████████ and **Laura Bradley** was proposed by ██████████ and seconded by ██████████. Both were duly elected to the two vacancies. **Deputy Wardens** are now ██████████.
8. **Appointments:** ██████████ was appointed as Vice-Chair; **Charles Masheder** as PCC Secretary and **Philip Gee** as PCC Treasurer, who explained that he handles no cash and the Wardens or others do the counting and always in pairs. **John Wilkinson** was proposed as Independent Examiner by ██████████ and seconded by ██████████. All agreed. **Charles Masheder** was also co-opted on to the PCC. **Laura Bradley** offered to serve as Electoral Roll Officer, to be supported by ██████████ with the total revision to start at the beginning of 2025.
9. Dana ended the meeting with thanks to the many who serve.

## Blockley Annual Reports

### Electoral Roll Report

In 2024, there were 80 people on Blockley Church electoral roll. The Church of England's rules require all its parishes to renew the full roll completely every six years. In other years, it is simply updated. 2025 is such a year and letters and forms have been distributed to those previously on the roll except in obvious circumstances, such as a move away. Other people have been given such forms and the number now for the 2025 APCM is 61. We are still looking for someone to take on this responsibility for the future. (Very simple until 2031!) Being on the electoral roll entitles people to vote in the Annual Church Meetings, and to become office holders, such as members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC).

*Charles Masheder*

### Churchwardens' Report

We have a busy and positive year in and around Blockley Church to reflect on. From mid-November to March, most church services have been in the Jubilee Hall, as the church is very cold. The exceptions have been the major and joyous Christmas services, when the church was full to capacity, and also baptisms and funerals, whilst the monthly evening services have been in the Little Village Hall. We have enjoyed the warmth over the winter and congregation numbers have held up well. Now that spring is here it is even better to be back in church for services every week.

The new Junior Church every third Sunday of the month is now well established; the Open Door service every first Sunday of the month which also has a focus on children and young people is thriving; and it is excellent that there are children in church services almost every Sunday of the year.

Thanks to the fund raising group chaired by ██████████ we are making progress with our major church heating and re-ordering project as fast as we can – it is reliant on the requirements set by grant giving bodies (in particular the Heritage Fund of the National Lottery), and on local fundraising. Last year we reported that planning and Diocesan permissions were in place. Since then we have made a successful 'Expression of Interest' application to the Heritage Fund for a grant in their 'large' category, of over £250,000. We got this good news just before Christmas, and it followed a useful meeting with their team in Exeter in October. The fundraising group, on behalf of the PCC and congregation, are now working on a 'Stage1' application, for which HF have encouraged us to explore some additional items: work needed to conserve the East Window and additional heating options including air-source heat pumps and infra-red heaters. We hope to apply in May, together with an Activity Plan for three years linked to the capital works, which will encourage members of the local and school communities and other key audiences to learn more about the heritage in a variety of enjoyable ways. The application will go to the Heritage Fund Trustees, and we hope to have their reply by the end of

September. Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust have recently told us that they will give us £10,000, which is very welcome.

We had an excellent Candlemas party for Blockley, Bourton and Ebrington churches, moved this year from the Jubilee Hall to St George's Hall because we needed more space. It too was full to bursting with over 70 people enjoying a splendid home-cooked buffet, a tricky quiz from Dana and great musical entertainment from members of Longborough Opera Youth Chorus.

Last summer members of the three congregations enjoyed a tasty barbecue in the Vicarage garden, and we were delighted to share our hospitality then – also at the Candlemas party – with others who were on holiday, visiting Blockley for a day or two.

Father Brown stories continue to be a source of interest both to the village and to local visitors. Many fans come particularly to Blockley to see the church as a key location and to enjoy the local area. Locals and fans alike thoroughly enjoyed an 'Evening with Father Brown' in October in St George's Hall, with drinks, canapes, a sketch by Mark Williams and two of his actor colleagues and an opportunity for photos. The BBC will return again for filming this summer.

It is a privilege to be your Churchwardens and we are very aware that all of this vibrancy and development is enabled by the time and energy that so many volunteers contribute to the church community: more activities and names than we can list. Thank you all very much.

A few volunteers have recently stood down, to whom we are very grateful, and it would be lovely to welcome some new volunteers. A range of options are available and it's not a life sentence! So do get in touch with one of us or with Dana if you have some time regularly or from time to time that you'd be happy to use for church activities – we look forward to hearing from you.

We are all indebted to Dana in particular, as she looks after us all and leads the churches locally and beyond, while continuing to work through the implications of Long Covid, with the help of [REDACTED], and to the very valuable additional clergy resource we have locally in Charles Masheder, David Quin and others.

*Sarah Brazier and Anne Packer, Churchwardens*

### **Proceedings of the PCC in 2024**

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) performed its duties, which include consulting together on matters of general concern and importance to the parish, promoting the whole mission of the Church in the parish: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical and maintaining its relationship with the Diocese. The following activities were of particular note in 2024: Safeguarding and Role Descriptions; the proposed Re-ordering Scheme and its funding, in particular from the Heritage Fund; Finance; Building Maintenance; charitable Giving; Parish and Benefice events.

*Charles Masheder, PCC Secretary*

### **Treasurer's report**

The accounts for 2024 are in a document separate from the Annual Report. The accounts were approved and signed at the PCC meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2025. Our Independent Examiner, John Wilkinson, has completed his work and the accounts (see separate document) include his signed report dated 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2025 on page 2. I would like to draw your attention to the following points about the accounts:

As is shown near the bottom of page 3 (left hand column) there was a surplus on General Funds. This was £9,086 before adjusting for transfers between funds and the gains reflecting the increase in the market value of the two CBF investments. This was just a small increase on the General Fund surplus of £8,909 for 2023 despite an increase in income from the BBC for Father Brown filming of £7,225. It needs to be borne in mind that the level of income from the BBC is uncertain year on year and inevitably it will stop completely at some point in the future.

As can be seen from the Designated Funds column on page 3, the income from The Voice was again comfortably more than expenditure.

Expenditure continued on the reordering project during the year but, as is shown towards the foot of the Restricted column on page 3, this amounted £14,946 compared with £80,935 in 2023. This decrease in expenditure reflects the pause in work while an application for a substantial grant from the Heritage Fund is prepared.

As is shown in the income section of the Restricted column on page 3, donations for the reordering project totalled £28,608 and £4,086 was received from fundraising events. During the year

the PCC decided to open a separate account with Lloyds Bank to receive and hold large donations towards the reordering project. At 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2024 the balance on that account was £25,895 as shown in the list of bank and investment accounts on page 4. The funds held for the reordering project are listed on page 5 and totalled £78,997 at 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2024 – Restricted Funds £28,792, designated Funds £50,205. A full breakdown of the amounts held in Restricted, Designated and Unrestricted Funds is shown on page 5. Details of the funds held in bank and investment accounts are shown on page 4. At 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2024 these totalled £197,377. I am happy to answer any questions at the APCM on 11<sup>th</sup> May.

*Philip Gee PCC Treasurer*

### **Safeguarding Annual Report**

During the last year we have been actively encouraging all member of the PCC and other church officers to complete the various levels of safeguarding training required. Liz Jones, church administrator, continues to organise DBS checks as needed.

The Parish Dashboard online site is used to record safeguarding tasks and shows areas that need improvement. The dashboard can be used to create an Action Plan for use at PCC meetings which allows members to clearly see which duties are fulfilled and which areas may be lacking. This plan also helps give the PCC members a clear list of their duties and the requirements needed to meet their safeguard responsibilities. We use the Church of England Safeguarding Training Portal for online safeguard training and training can also be completed in person for those who prefer face to face training.

Church Activity groups such as Home Group and Junior Church have completed Safeguarding risk assessments, and all activity group key members have the training completed and DBS checks. All groups have safeguarding in place.

The PCC is committed to the importance and necessity of good safeguarding procedures and training.

A Pastoral Support Group, co-ordinated by [REDACTED] and overseen by Dana, has been set up to give support to those whose roles include giving pastoral guidance to members of the church and community. This group meets 3 times a year and is proving to be very beneficial and is fulfilling its remit by preventing volunteers feeling isolated in their roles

*Hannah Webb, Parish Safeguarding Officer*

### **Church Re-ordering**

Throughout 2024, work has continued preparing suitable applications to various funding bodies to achieve sufficient financial support to allow Reordering work to commence. That's a pretty bland and, indeed, fatuous statement, and gives absolutely no indication of the sheer effort that has had to be made by very few highly dedicated people to get us to where we are. As Chair of the Fund-raising committee, I do very little except tell others to get on with it – which is exactly what they have done, by and large very successfully.

A number of local people have pledged significant contributions towards our Reordering, for which we are very grateful indeed, and we have identified a range of Charitable Trusts who are able to support our kind of project. However, those efforts, by themselves, would never cover the Reordering cost and so our main activity has been centred on our application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund (HF) for a grant that would allow us to protect and enhance the Heritage of our church.

We had a "lightbulb moment" some months ago when we realised that, on the advice of HF amongst others, it would be far better were we to seek a much bigger grant than originally envisaged as, paradoxically, it would be no more difficult to apply for, would allow us to fund all aspects of the project, and might even get a quicker result. Thanks to the efforts of our small team – and the unstinting support of our consultant fund-raiser, Julia Holberry – the team has established good working relations with HF. Hence, we are hopeful of success, if not yet exactly confident. Having had our Expression of Interest endorsed by HF, we are now working to submit our Stage I Application in May of this year. This is no trivial exercise but essential if we are to achieve HF's support. Yes, HF is bureaucratic, and tedious in its demands, but it's handing out other peoples' money (in our case, we hope just short of £1M) and so needs to have confidence that we'll actually do what we promise in our application. All that means that the Reordering of our church is neither cheap, easy nor short-term, but I would ask

the congregation to bear with us as, unless we finish what we're doing, our church will inevitably fall into serious, and possibly terminal, decline. [REDACTED]

### **Open Door Multi-Generational Worship**

The Open Door Worship, which takes place on the first Sunday of every month, continues to be successful. Numbers are always healthy and have remained so, with a good mix of adults without children and families with younger children. Ages therefore range from a few months old all the way up to octogenarians. A typical service has about 40 members of the congregation. Some people come to virtually every service, whilst others attend when they are just staying for a short time in the parish. The service always starts with fellowship, with people talking and enjoying breakfast (usually a bacon sandwich). At this time, there is often a craft or activity for both children and adults to get involved with, which is linked in some way to the theme of the service or the Bible passage. These activities have included: making bird feeders as part of a service on Creation, decorating fruit cut-outs for Galatians 'fruit of the Spirit' and invisible writing, as part of the passage in Exodus about coming face to face with God and his love shining out to us. The service usually involves some interactivity for both adults and children alike and has a warm, friendly and relaxed manner. It has remained a successful model of multi-generational worship for many years now and the congregation truly feels like a family; even when new people arrive for the first time, they leave feeling like they belong.

The services are led by Dana and me, with support from a group of trusted individuals who all use their varied gifts to bring the services to light. [REDACTED], accompanied by [REDACTED] incorporate live music, often including use of children or other adults, for the welcome and for the hymns/songs. [REDACTED], along with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], help Dana to develop the theme or Bible passage into a reflective, visually engaging service. Worship has included acting out Bible passages, Godly plays and themed stations around the church. Sometimes we go outside into nature and sometimes we reflect with art and craft or hand written collective prayers. Taking home a piece of craft or an illuminated star, homemade biscuit, bird feeder, etc., helps our church family to continue to reflect on the sermon beyond the Sunday morning. [REDACTED]

### **Junior Church Report for Blockley, Bourton on the Hill and Ebrington**

Junior Church has now been happening for over a year at Blockley! We have continued to offer a session on the third Sunday of the month when school age children are invited to go out for their own bible story and related activities during the 9:30am communion service. These take place in the entrance hall when services are in the Jubilee Hall and in the Church Room next to the vicarage when services are in church. (We are looking forward to the day when we will be able to be in a room IN the church!) The children rejoin parents and carers for a blessing at the communion rail towards the end of the service. Our aim is to familiarize the children with stories and teaching from the bible, to celebrate and reassure each child of God's love and care for them and to help them feel that they belong and are valued in the church family.

This year the average age of the children attending is considerably younger than when we started these sessions and parents of younger preschool children have joined us with them. Aware of this we have tried to make the sessions more interactive and with a good variety of what we hope are enjoyable activities. Recently we have created the illusion of turning water into wine, made a junk model of the disciples' fishing boat, played games, made cakes with surprise fillings, planted seeds, along with traditional craft and colouring. If possible, our stories are taken from the readings set for the day in church, but sometimes we may take one from a nearby week which is more accessible for children. We choose a "memory verse" from our story or reading to focus on and use material and ideas from "Roots on the Web", a resource that produces ideas for All Age Worship and Children's work related to the lectionary, as our starting point.

The Junior Church leadership team is made up of [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]-[REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is one of the mums who come out with her children and we are delighted that she has agreed to join us in what we are doing. It has meant that since the beginning of 2025, [REDACTED] has been able to step back to focus on other things whilst still being involved with the admin and prayer support for Junior Church. When we are in

the church room, we need more adults for safeguarding reasons and we are very grateful to those members of the congregation who have volunteered to help. Numbers of children are in single digits but some are now attending quite regularly and, in any case, every single child is precious to God and we feel that there should be something available for them on a regular basis. We are thankful for the encouragement we have received. [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

### **Youth and Children's Ministry in the VaCE Benefice**

*PROVERBS 22:6 "TRAIN UP A CHILD IN THE WAY HE SHOULD GO; EVEN WHEN HE IS OLD HE WILL NOT DEPART FROM IT"*

Overview in Churches:

- 1st Sunday - TEN all age service St James Church – Amy
- 1st Sunday - Open Door - Blockley team
- 2nd Sunday - Muddy Church - Kate Irvin
- 3rd Sunday - Family service St James –Amy
- 3rd Sunday - Family service Willersey
- 3rd Sunday - Sunday school provision - Blockley team
- 4th Sunday of the month - Family service Mickleton - Amy

School work:

Bright Sparks after school club on going. Alternating termly throughout the schools across the VaCE Benefice.

CCS Mentoring KS3

TLG mentoring KS2

Collective worship St James and Ebrington school

Collective worship Mickleton school

Collective worship Honeybourne school

Collective worship Pebworth Church Visits, utilising the education departments Experience packs - Mickleton, Willersey, Pebworth, Honeybourne, St James & Ebrington school and Blockley Supporting OTB team in Willersey and Pebworth with the view to develop an OTB team across the VaCE as other schools have expressed an interest. School led Service within each church across the VaCE team. Leadership to offer reflection/prayers. Toddlers - Kiddywinks nursery visits to St James Church

Looking forward into the new terms:

Prayer/mindfulness Spaces in school

Eco Church Experience for schools across the team.

Family activities/ supporting events in our community.

After school Youth outreach to CCS students.

Engage with church toddler groups to help build relationship with new families.

Family days.

Discipling the young people within our team. Through a church context. Encouraging young leaders.

Update: Since [REDACTED] left our team. We have been focusing on maintaining links and relationships with our schools and church families. We have had several encouraging conversations with potential replacements. However, they have led to a dead end for now. With an advert now circulating, we are ever hopeful the right candidate will join our team.

Youth gatherings across the team have been a challenge after several attempts at gathering them all together. We have yet to achieve a regular established youth group. A number of factors causing this outcome, one being a number of our young people attend different schools, with difference schooling hours, extracurricular activities taking precedent for many of our young people. After speaking to a few of the youth, the consensus is that they are happy volunteering and becoming young leaders in a church context. They enjoy our all age services and would

attend youth socials on an infrequent basis. We are looking at how to best disciple our young people in the context they enjoy and how we can provide a youth outreach after school for students at CCS.

Please continue to pray for the children and young people across the VaCE, their families and all those faithful serving the children and young people.

### **Open the Book**

“Open the Book” takes place on Tuesday mornings at Blockley Primary School, in St. George’s Hall, with a team of storytellers who are members of the church community. The current team comprises [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and myself. We read and enact stories from the Bible, with the help of the children, from Reception Class upwards. “Open the Book” is a Bible Society initiative, and the Tuesday morning sessions are based on stories in a Children’s Bible specially produced by the Society. The latest version contains 90 stories, starting with Genesis and finishing with Revelation.

Each weekly session is planned to involve a number of children. Some stories provide opportunities for all Classes to take part; at other times a smaller number of children have speaking roles. There are often only a few minutes in which to rehearse! The Open the Book team provides costumes and props, and there is never a shortage of volunteers to take part. The School has a seemingly endless supply of talented, confident and enthusiastic young actors, and the Tuesday morning sessions are enjoyed not only by the children but also by the Open the Book team. We would very much welcome additional team members. There is no requirement to be an “actor” or to attend every Tuesday morning in the school year. Mandatory safeguarding checks are necessary. Open the Book does involve commitment; it is also very enjoyable and great fun.

None of this could happen without the support of the School and the team is very grateful to the Head Teacher, staff and pupils. [REDACTED]

### **Sacristans**

There is currently a team of four sacristans: [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and myself. Thanks to my colleagues’ unfailing efficiency, flexibility and good humour, the system has worked well over the past year.

On average each sacristan supports one or two services per month, but at some times of the year the church calendar and sacristans’ other commitments can make the rota a logistic challenge. Four sacristans really is a minimum number, and additional team members are needed. The role of sacristan is an interesting and important one, and the addition of one or two more would help to ensure that a sacristan is always available when needed.

The arrangement whereby Sunday services are currently held in the Jubilee Hall during Autumn and Winter rather than in church has presented the sacristans with some challenges, notably the need to transport the Eucharist silver to and from church. Despite this, all has gone smoothly to date. My thanks to Laurie, Catrina and Felicity for all that they do as sacristans. Their support is invaluable and greatly appreciated. [REDACTED]

### **Blockley Benefice Choir**

Again, our thanks to all concerned for the warmth and comfort of Jubilee Hall for choir rehearsals and services during the winter months. We have, as always, enjoyed singing together and the friendship that this engenders and our numbers continue to rise. This year we have welcomed [REDACTED] – a much needed tenor to support [REDACTED] – and [REDACTED] into the soprano line. [REDACTED] continues to support us for all major services and events and [REDACTED] Keay- [REDACTED] helps out when he is able.

Socially, we have enjoyed a number of special occasions this year. In June we partook of a delicious tea at Charingworth Manor and in September we celebrated [REDACTED] 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in style. This was a tea party hosted at Sara and Garry’s beautiful home and garden and we managed to keep it all a big secret from [REDACTED] until she arrived, when we welcomed her with a rendering of “When Irish Eyes are smiling!” In the autumn we enjoyed a workshop/supper to start off our preparations for Christmas music.

We have sung at 2 funerals this year but sadly no weddings. As mentioned in the last report we sang “Olivet to Calvary” on Good Friday and this year (2025) we shall be singing Stainer’s “Crucifixion” on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April at Ebrington Church and on Good Friday at Blockley church.

Finally our grateful thanks and appreciation to Doreen for her leadership and encouragement.

### **Blockley Bell Ringers**

2024 was another good year for Bellringing in Blockley. We had seven visiting teams we had last year, one of which rang a whole peal lasting 3 hours; there is only one booked this year. Otherwise, our 10 local ringers, without any help from our long term ringers from other towers, are not only safe, but fully competent to ring on our own.

Delightfully, we now have two ringers who have just begun to learn. We practice every Thursday evening from 7:30pm and ring on Sunday mornings, except the first in the month. Anyone who would like to have a go or just to see what we do is always welcome.

Some of us have been along to the Cheltenham and Gloucester ringing tours. These happen once a month, ringing in four or five towers, and making sure we have time for a good pub lunch.

The high light for us, though, was a trip on the Hedgehog bus to ring in Gloucester Cathedral. The circuitous route up to the ringing chamber was almost as fun as the ringing itself.

Mimi Stephens, Tower Captain

### **Home Group report**

The last year has been a full and varied one for the home groups. We currently have around 27 people attending across three groups and I will include a little of the feedback we’ve recently collected. From January to April 2024, each group followed the Church of England’s Pilgrim Course on The Lord’s Prayer, which was generally agreed to be excellent. As one person wrote: ‘I believe this prayer is often said without really thinking about what the words actually mean. It was interesting to break it down and focus on each part and discuss our thoughts on the meaning of each phrase.’

From April through to October (with a summer break), the three groups met together in the Little Village Hall for a course about the whole Bible, which endeavoured to give an overview of its history, geography, structure and overall ‘story’. Comments included: ‘Good to follow the Old Testament stories and see how they link in with the New Testament;’ and ‘Great to deepen understanding of the Bible and be inspired to read the whole book.’

From October (through to this March), we used The Prayer Course, with a video each week presented by Pete Greig of the 24/7 Prayer Movement. This was again very positively received, with comments such as: ‘Very insightful and helpful. I learnt a lot. Have been praying more and more,’ and ‘Loved this course. It has really helped with my prayer life. Liked the format of video and discussion.’ In addition to what we’ve all been learning, I think everyone agrees that the home groups are equally important in strengthening friendship and fellowship, and in enabling us all to ‘encourage one another and build each other up’, as the Apostle Paul encourages us to do (1 Thess 5:11). Anyone is welcome to join. If you are interested, please just speak to Dana or one of the leaders to find out more.

### **Charitable Giving Report**

The PCC has a policy of contributing annually to charities – generally 10 of these – which work locally, nationally or internationally. In 2024 the church contributed £300 to each. The charities chosen were: Buddy Bag Foundation; Power of Parenting; Replenished Life; Home Start Cotswolds; Christians Against Poverty; Medecins Sans Frontiers; Kidney Care; Bag Books; Campden Home Nursing; Gloucestershire Historic Churches’ Trust and our linked diocese of Tamale in Ghana.

For 2025 the chosen charities are (supporting local, national and international charities) Campden Nursing, Cotswolds Friends, Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust, North Cotswolds Food Bank, The Britain Nepal Medical Trust, The Children’s Society, Christian Aid, Church Missionary Society (for support for [redacted] and [redacted]), Keppelwray (supporting the work of [redacted]) and Diocese of Tamale, Ghana

## Church Flowers

Our overall aim continues: To present beautiful, sustainable flower displays in Church during the months when the Church is used for services, (except Advent and Lent.) The return to Church in 2024 coincided with Holy Week and the celebration of Easter. The congregation contributed generously to the purchase of Easter lilies.

The Summer of 2024 was a hive of activity. As well as the regular services the church was booked for a number of weddings throughout the summer. Many of these were local couples or couples with strong associations with Blockley who really appreciated our philosophy of providing sustainable arrangements using locally grown flowers and foraged foliage. Generous allotment gardeners were very happy for some of their flowers to be used particularly for weddings and special celebrations.

When the congregation moved up to the Jubilee Hall for winter services, the decision was again taken not to have flowers. However, during Advent the re-usable advent ring with Advent colour LED candles were again used.

With Christmas services back in Church the Christmas flowers were a joy to do and made the Church feel loved once more. We were able to forage for fresh foliage and re-use our lovely silk flower collection. This year we also used additional decorations and lights we keep at home. As the flowers were silk and the greenery was all evergreen we were able to leave everything in place for the whole of January, only dismantling when the Christmas trees were taken down at Epiphany.

██████ and I love doing the flowers in Church. We get tremendous joy from the task. However, sadly, during the winter we have both had challenges in our personal lives. Neither of us want to give up doing the church flowers, but it does mean that we can no longer offer wedding flowers in the same way this summer.

We very much hope that some other members of the congregation and community may come forward to offer their help with simple flowers for the services. There will be no expectation of anything elaborate, but we do hope that garden flowers and local foliage will continue to be celebrated in a sustainable fashion. ██████████ and ██████████

## The Voice Annual Report

Following the relaunch of the magazine at the beginning of 2023 last year was a year of consolidation. ██████████ retired as editor but remains a member of the editorial team and continues to edit the parish diary and the list of contacts for village organisations, which is such a valuable service. We said goodbye to ██████████, who since 2015 together with ██████████, had organised the wonderful team of volunteers who deliver the magazine. Taking over this task with ██████████ and ██████████, ██████████, also a member of the editorial team, brought his enthusiasm to the important role of collecting subscriptions. Later in the year ██████████ joined the team and has curated the local author's series. It is extraordinary how many authors have second houses or live in our area. ██████████ has done a great job in tracking them down.

We also welcomed our new editor Emily Wood who brought her enthusiasm and commitment to the magazine. It is no exaggeration to say that she transformed the layout and composition of the magazine, bringing a professional finish to the pages. Ebrington was added to our circulation area and covering that parish is now an important additional role. We continued to receive great support from Blockley Parish Council, both in terms of a generous grant and our own spot on the masthead of their web site for our digital edition. Since the launch in July 2023 it has received more than 12,000 views and helped us secure more advertising.

We have regular editorial meetings which encourage us to be more ambitious. In June we hosted at the Jubilee Hall an exhibition *Better Living in the Country*. The many visitors were impressed by just how many local organisations we have, helping us all to live life to the full. Opening the event together with his wife Julia was the Gloucestershire High Sheriff and Deputy Lieutenant Mark Hurrell. He was very generous of his time and has become a good friend to the magazine. The vision shown and shared at the exhibition has become a leitmotif for us and we try to express this in each edition. One success was to persuade the county council to include additional stops in Blockley for *The Robin* bookable community bus service.

At the end of 2024 we said a fond farewell to Emily who had secured a key role in a local secondary school leaving her with little time left for The Voice. We had four excellent applicants to replace her, any of whom would have been suitable, but we chose Margot Wharton. Living in Ebrington she has come back to the Cotswolds, where she grew up. One event early in 2025 needs to be reported here. The Gloucestershire High Sheriff Mark Hurrell has awarded a High Sheriff award to our former editor Emily Wood for her work as Editor for the Voice community magazine. The award was presented on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March and is a huge tribute to Emily and her Voice team. One of the criteria for the award is to help make Gloucestershire a desirable and safe place to live, work and enjoy. Buoyed by this success under our new editor Margot Worton the Voice team will continue to deliver each edition a magazine worthy of this award. ■■■■■, *Chairman of the Editorial Team*

### **Blockley Handbells**

As last year, our team of six ringers continues to practise regularly in the Church Room with the bells owned by the church, though in June we did play in *Church Gates* garden with ■■■■■ kind permission, the weather being clement; a few visitors to the village came and listened.

In December, we went over to Charlbury to entertain the folk at the Lunch Club there, and then, a few days later we rang at the Church Carol Service. So, we're not exactly busy, but are aiming to play not just for our own pleasure but to groups who would like to hear us and, if the weather allows, outside on occasions this year.

We are still keen to recruit one or two more people as, if any one of our present team is unable to ring, we are in difficulties. Most of us can't yet handle four bells at a time. Any new members would need to be able to read music. ■■■■■

### **Blockley, Bourton on the Hill and Ebrington Pastoral Support Group**

The Pastoral Support Group meets three times a year with the aim of offering support to those who lead pastoral care in our communities. We have adopted a protocol for confidentiality and work together in accordance with this. The Pastoral Support Group are encouraged to have open and honest communication, within a safe and supportive environment, to discuss concerns and challenges, while upholding the ethical responsibility to protect the privacy and dignity of the people we support. ■■■■■

### **Cakes and Company**

The year started well with our first meeting in February. It was lovely to be able to welcome our members back for tea after the Christmas period. The entertainment was a lively session of bingo. At our March meeting we welcomed the Blockley Handbells group where our members were able to sing along to a number of popular tunes. Our members do enjoy a good sing-a-long. In April great laughter rang through the Hall when Fourplay (side kick to the BAD Company) entertained us with some very funny verses and songs. They even brought some of their "groupies" with them. We had the largest group of people attending a Cakes & Company meeting in our history! Great fun was had by all.

In July we held our first Summer Lunch at the Jubilee Hall (Heritage Centre) -a delicious two course lunch with prosecco and fruit juice. This event was catered for us by ■■■■■ with the help of ■■■■■. After lunch we were entertained by Blockley Village School. It was a lovely way to wind up a wonderful lunch and afternoon. Once again, in August we held our annual Cake Sale in the Churchyard. Our team of ladies excelled themselves with a huge selection of cakes and savoury bakes. We raised an amazing £588 on the cake stall and £189 on the raffle. We opened the stall at 10.00 am and by 11.20 am we were sold out! The money from the sale will go towards our Summer lunch for our members and helpers in 2025.

In September Cakes & Company celebrated their 22nd birthday where we were entertained by Barry Jukes, a professional vocalist. We did wonder whether ■■■■■ would be able to entertain us as just before 3.00 pm we had a power cut, but ■■■■■ had it all under control as all his equipment was pre-charged. Thanks to ■■■■■ and ■■■■■ we were able to serve tea.

In December we held our Christmas Party, where we were delighted to present all our members with a small gift of a box of chocolates. We had a wonderful afternoon singing along to all the

old Christmas favourites lead by [REDACTED] [REDACTED] on the piano.

We'd like to thank everyone who graciously gave up their time to come and entertain us in 2024. We would also like to thank [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who made some delicious soups for Souper Monday, with the help of some of our team, they raised an amazing £288 which they donated to Cakes & Company. We'd also like to thank Blockley Parish Council for the grant which enabled [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] to hire the hall and buy the ingredients for Souper Monday to happen. The team would also like to thank the PCC who very kindly covers the hire of the Little Village Hall for our meetings, which we greatly appreciate.

The bank balance as at 31st December, 2024 stands at £1742.28. which provides a sound foundation for 2025. The Blockley Parish Council accidentally paid £240 into our account for Souper Monday, this should have been paid directly to Sue Salmon. Cakes & Company have paid this amount to Mrs [REDACTED] which leaves our bank account at a healthy balance of £1502.28 for 2025. Philip Gee has provided an Independent Examiner's Report confirming that the Accounts are in order. Yvonne hugely appreciates the continued support she receives from the 'helpers' and thanks them very much for providing all the wonderful cakes etc. and for all their hard work. All the food provided for the afternoon tea and the annual cake stall is donated by these wonderful ladies.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

### **Blockley Forum**

The Forum is the monthly Wednesday lunchtime space where we discuss topical issues, after coffee, tea and biscuits. And this year saw no more topical issue than the June General Election, for which we held a Forum Hustings. All the candidates except Reform took part, heard and questioned by over 100 people from widely around (as many as the Gloucester Cathedral's hustings, we gather). It was expertly chaired by Charles Masheder, whose stopwatch and bell kept even the most eminent candidates in order. *'Thank you - it helped me make up my mind'* was the comment of a number of participants, after the session which had laid bare the strengths and weaknesses of the candidates. So a useful service provided.

The Forum also received the customary annual report by Jon Bryan, Chair of the Blockley Parish Council. He gave a good and appreciated account of the work done by the Council, but went on to list the significant jobs not being fully done, because of the shortage of council members - his challenge, not yet risen to. At other Forums, the new Principal of Chipping Campden School, Gareth Burton, impressed all with his account of the good school he had inherited from John Sanderson, and also by his candour about the challenges of leading a school in today's world. Our own Stephanie Bevan reported on her published Coventry University research *Hidden Rural Hardship*, based on real-life evidence from the North Cotswolds. And just last month, Richard White, who manages the Northwick Park Business Park on behalf of the Parham Trust, shed fascinating light on the eighty companies on site, providing intriguing local services and 300 critical local jobs.

The Forum is now on a short sabbatical. We have planned to resume after the summer break. But there is an issue. *Everyone* tells me how good it is to have the Forum. That's good to hear – except that *the actual support* is patchy. For example, the Gloucestershire County Council's Cabinet Member travelled a long way to discuss the Council's plans for improving rural bus services – surely something that matters for a community like ours – yet his audience was barely into double figures. We cannot continue to ask busy people to give us their time, without enough actual participation. So - do we want the Forum to continue? Please tell me. And if so, I appreciate suggestions for subjects and people you would like the Forum to engage with.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

## Vicar's Report 2024

January started with a joint service for Plough Sunday at Ebrington. Epiphany was successfully wrapped into the service and a good number of people were able to attend. As usual, Ebrington's hospitality was warmly welcomed. The Epiphany party enjoyed excellent food organised by the Blockley wardens, and music from members of the Longborough Youth Chorus



In February, the clergy ran an excellent marriage preparation day. Our lives are hugely enriched by being part of the VaCE, and the leadership of Canon Craig Bishop. I was very ill with long covid for much of the first half of the year, and I relied on my church wardens, Peter, Anne, Sarah, Naomi and Philip, our retired clergy and readers, David, Charles, Peter, Nicholas, and Wayne among others and our Licenced Funeral minister, Angie. They sustain ministry in our churches. Thank you!

Professor Corrine Fowler came to lead a walk from Bourton to Seizoncote based on her book, *Our Island Stories*. This was well attended and still others gathered to hear her speak in church. Contested Heritage is an important issue for the Church of England, since a significant part of our wealth comes from slavery, and Corrine helped to put this in context. The three churches will all be looking at our monuments during the next 12 months to see if we need to offer interpretation.



In May, Bishop Rachel came to spend a weekend with us in the VaCE, and joined members of churches in Blockley, Bourton and Ebrington who have a particular pastoral ministry in safeguarding, and in discipling children and adults – [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Bourton on the Hill treated +Rachel to a flower festival with music, wonderfully arranged by [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. The bishop also spent time with wedding couples and young people and complimented the team on our active discipleship and mission.

The 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D Day was remembered in St James Chipping Campden, closely followed closely followed by our summer barbeque at Blockley Vicarage, which took place in sunshine in 2024.





An enormously successful Ride and Stride took place in September, organised by [redacted] and [redacted]. There were both striders and riders travelling from Ebrington to Bourton on the Hill via Blockley. Impressive sums were raised for the churches and for the Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust who continue to generously support work in our churches.



The usual team of strong and able men (and me!) put up the deanery tent for the Moreton Show, and the day received support for lay and ordained people from around the deanery. The day is attended by 20,000 visitors, and to have a church presence there is important. We value the support of the show and of the show chaplain, our own Revd David Quin.



And also in September, we celebrated [redacted] birthday and Dana's anniversary of her arrival in Blockley. We appreciate the excellent choir led by [redacted], who contribute so much to our weekly worship.



Junior Church took place every third Sunday in Blockley and continued to draw new families. Through this and Open Door, we have built new relationships with a generation of children and their families and carers. Second Sunday at Six and our home groups have offered introductions to faith and discipleship to 30+ people.



There is a strong sense of belonging in the church community, for which I am very thankful. 2025 brings the continuing challenges of fundraising for our conservation and development work, parties and gatherings, and the steady rhythm of Sunday Eucharists, as we delight in following the footsteps of Jesus.



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# Accounts

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# Vale and Cotswold Edge Benefice

## St Peter and St Paul, Blockley

### Annual Reports for 2023

#### Electoral Roll Report

There are currently 80 people on Blockley Church electoral roll, compared to 75 last year. This encouragingly reflects 9 more people joining since the last APCM, and taking off three people who have moved away, and sadly one - Kathri Lewis, a former deputy warden - who died last year. Being on the electoral roll entitles people to vote in the annual Church meetings, and to become office holders, such as members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC). The Church of England rules require us to renew the full roll from scratch every few years. The next of these will be next year: in 2025. Between times it is simply updated each year.

*Anne Packer, Electoral Roll officer*

#### Proceedings of the PCC for 2023

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) performed its duties, which include consulting together on matters of general concern and importance to the parish, promoting the whole mission of the Church in the parish: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical and maintaining its relationship with the Diocese. The following activities were of particular note over the last year:

safeguarding and appointment of a new Safeguarding Officer  
the proposed Re-ordering Scheme and its funding

*Revd Canon Charles Masheded, secretary*

#### Treasurer's Report and Appointment of Independent Examiner

Enclosed as an attached document

#### Churchwardens' Report

One of the privileges of being Churchwardens is that members and others feel able to share their thoughts on the church and how it is doing. And happily, what we hear is a quiet yet clear positivity, with the sense that the parish church is valued across the broad range of worshipping members and also the wider community of parishioners. Which is a useful cross-check of what we ourselves sense - positive growth and development.

For example, the Electoral Roll, which is now 80, compared with 75 at the 2023 APCM. The church was literally filled at both the Christmas and Easter services, including lots of young people. And on that front, we now have Junior Church for school-age children every third Sunday of the month – adding to Open Door on the first Sunday. We filled the Jubilee Hall to capacity for the New Year Party (including 11 new friends from St Eadburgha's) so that no one was turned away; we shared both our home-made food and a sense of 'village life being back vibrantly after the pandemic'. The alpha course has been followed through into three ongoing home groups. We thrived during the winter migration to the Jubilee Hall and enjoyed its warm hospitality. But it is also very good to be back in the church itself this spring.

And on that score, we now have all of the planning and Diocesan permissions in place for our new heating and the rest of our major re-ordering project. We now need to generate the funds to enable it to happen, and work is in hand for applications to the National Lottery Heritage Fund, and a range of grant making charitable trusts, together with valuable help from members and local supporters.

Finally, as last year, we reflect that none of this would happen, but for the time and energy which more people than we can list bring to the church community. Above all, we are indebted to the strong clergy

resource that we happily enjoy - now including Charles Masheder, who with <redacted> arrived in September, and was swiftly given the Bishop's Permission to Officiate.

But we are above all indebted to Dana, who looks after us, as we, all of us, with Adrian, help to look after Dana, while she works through <redacted>. There is a parable, somewhere in there.

*Sarah Brazier and Anne Packer, Churchwardens*

### **Safeguarding Annual Report**

Following the PCC meeting in January 2024, I took over the role of Parish Safeguarding Officer from Carol Willott, who we thank very much for taking on the role for so many years. Liz Jones, administrator at Chipping Campden, will continue to be responsible for DBS checks.

While records are in very good order, some changes have recently been made to the training requirements for members of the PCC and Churchwardens, so officers are currently being asked to add to current training and refresh training were necessary. We use a website called Parish Dashboard, this gives the PCC a clear indication of the duties and requirements of their safeguard responsibilities. An Action Plan can be generated from the Dashboard for PCC meetings which allows the PCC to clearly see which duties are fulfilled and where areas may be lacking. We use the Church of England Safeguarding Training Portal for online safeguard training and training can also be completed in person for those who prefer face to face training.

Church Activity groups are being asked to check their safeguarding procedures and update risk assessments, training is being completed where required. The PCC is committed to the importance and necessity of good safeguarding procedures and training.

The Vicar felt it is important that people within the church who have safeguarding roles are supported and has, therefore, asked <redacted> to co-ordinate a Pastoral Support Group. The first of these was in mid-April and the group will meet around 3 times a year.

*<redacted>, Parish Safeguarding Officer*

### **Children and Youth Leader**

#### **Church Services:**

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month – TEN all age service St James Church – Amy

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month – Open Door Blockley- Clara

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month -Family service St James -Amy

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month – Family service Willersey – Clara

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month – Family service Mickleton – Amy. Now Junior Church in Blockley

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday – Muddy church lead by Kate Irvin

#### **School work:**

Bright Sparks after school club – Blockley      Bright sparks lunch time club – Willersey

Bright Sparks after school club – Pebworth      Bright Sparks Lunch time club – St James school

CCS Mentoring KS3      TLG mentoring KS2

Collective worship St James and Ebrington school, Mickleton and Honeybourne schools

Reading Honeybourne school – building on relationships within school

Church Visits – Mickleton, Willersey, Pebworth, Honeybourne, St James & Ebrington school and Blockley  
“Experience packs”

Supporting OpenThe Book team in Willersey – with the view to develop an OTB team across the VaCE as other schools have expressed an interest.

School-led Service within each church across the VaCE team.

#### **Looking forward into the new term:**

Prayer/mindfulness Spaces in school – Soul Space CCS

Family activities/ supporting event in our community.

Youth service/ socials

CU – ecumenical working within CCS. Student lead and support from church youth leaders.

Engage with church toddler groups to help build relationship with new families in the community.

Summer Holiday activity day.

Clara has continued to work 10hrs a week for the children and youth ministry. Clara has been focusing on building relationships with the schools across the Vale. Her work has been immeasurable, with

relationships between the school and church community growing from strength to strength. As a team we continue to grow and develop. We look forward to the development with our young people from across the VaCE and all that God has in store for the year.

**Junior Church.** Starting in February 2024, Junior church has been offered during the main 9:30 service at Blockley on the third Sunday of each month. It has had a very positive start.

*Amy and Clara*

### **Deanery Synod Report**

The synod met three times in 2023. The work of the deanery synod has continued to inform best practice in our churches, and to consider the staffing of the deanery. The Deanery Plan includes aspirations for work with schools and families, the farming community and poverty.

### **Outward giving Report**

The PCC has a policy of contributing annually to charities – generally 10 of these – which work locally, nationally or internationally. In 2023 the church contributed £250 to each, as for a number of previous years. The charities chosen were Cotswold Friends, Campden Home Nursing, North Cotswolds Foodbank, the Samaritans (Cheltenham Branch), the Children's Society, Christian Aid, the Air Ambulance (Great Western), Fare Share (South West), Gloucestershire Historic Churches' Trust and our linked diocese of Tamale in Ghana.

For 2024 the giving will increase from £250 to £300 and the chosen charities are

1. Buddy Bag Foundation  
Making a difference to children in care
2. POP - Power of Parenting  
Helping to create ' Life as it should be' for foster children
3. Replenished Life  
Supporting those who have experienced abuse & trauma within faith
4. Home Start Cotswolds  
Supporting parents with young children
5. Christians Against Poverty  
UK churches tackling the causes of poverty in their local area
6. Médecins San Frontières  
Worldwide emergency surgery response
7. Kidney Care  
Ensuring no one faces kidney disease alone
8. Bag Books  
Multi-sensory stories for people with learning disabilities
9. Campden Home Nursing  
Providing support for serious illness, hospice care and bereavement
10. Diocese of Tamale, Ghana <redacted>

### **Sacristans**

<redacted> was a very hard act to follow, but hopefully is now enjoying a well-deserved retirement from sacristan duties. Many thanks are due to <redacted> for all her hard work over the years. The current team of four sacristans is working well, thanks to my three colleagues <redacted>, <redacted> and <redacted>. They are unfailingly efficient, organised and flexible. Tasked with the sacristan rota (which has the potential to be challenging), I have been very grateful for their good humour, help and support.

The dual arrangement for Sunday services at the Jubilee Hall as well as the church has presented some challenges, not least the transporting of the Eucharist silver which raises potential safeguarding issues. However, all has gone smoothly to date.

Additional sacristans would be welcome, especially at times of the year when other commitments make the rota more difficult to fill. It is a worthwhile and enjoyable role. Once again, my thanks to <redacted>, <redacted> and <redacted> for all that they do.

<redacted>

## **Blockley Benefice Choir Report**

An unusual year, but the warmth and comfort of Jubilee Hall for choir rehearsals and services during the worst of the winter months, has been appreciated by us all. A special thank you to the Churchwardens for all their help. Our return to church for Easter was a great joy! On Good Friday, we sang the cantata, "Olivet to Calvary" by J H Maunder. There were some extremely special moments for us all as, when Jesus tells us "a New Commandment give I unto you, to love one another". The three soloists, John, Bryan and Meriel were much appreciated and especially so John, who managed to be with us in spite of his family problems.

This year, we have sung at three funerals and one remembrance service – some services were for friends of members of the choir. Sadly, <redacted> <redacted> has now left us as she was finding it difficult to manage at home on her own and her sister <redacted> advises us that she is now happily settled in a Residential Home in Stow. It has been a great delight to welcome <redacted> and <redacted> in to the choir. As well as all the other contributions they make, they are both excellent choristers and their warmth and friendship is much appreciated. <redacted>, with a fine soprano voice from Ebrington church, is also welcomed as a part time member, wishing to keep her roots in her home church. Also <redacted> for coming in to help out on special occasions. In June we enjoyed a trip to Gloucester Cathedral to support <redacted> and <redacted> when they received their St. Kyneburgha award. So well deserved.

As a group, we never cease to be amazed at and appreciate, the Organist's musical skills and her willingness to help us all on an individual basis. Likewise, we so appreciate the mutual support and camaraderie we share with our fellow choristers in singing together. We now look forward to new musical challenges in the coming year.  
<redacted>

## **Church Flowers**

Our overall aim continues: To present beautiful, sustainable flower displays in Church. Our work in Church has been made so much easier this year by having a higher level of water pressure through the only tap available in the servery. The task of clearing up and washing vases is now much quicker. Sincere thanks to whoever organised this change. Last spring and summer we were again able to use local Blockley flowers thanks to the generosity of allotment growers and generous residents. We continue to use foraged local foliage throughout the year.

We were very lucky to have a large number of beautiful silk poppies donated by Liz Horn to use for Remembrance Sunday. These were added to our own collection of the same, and enabled us to produce a magnificent display. These will be used for many years to come.

When the congregation moved up to the Jubilee Hall for winter services the decision was taken not to have flowers because of the practical difficulties. However, during Advent we did make a re-usable advent ring with LED Advent colour candles. This can be used next year too.

With Christmas services back in Church we were able to forage for fresh foliage and were also donated a large amount of beautiful Christmas foliage by Jane Sked, our talented local freelance florist. We re-used the lovely growing collection of silk flowers we purchased last year. When we moved back into Church at Easter we were able to use fresh flowers again. The Easter Lilies were funded by generous donations from members of the congregation in remembrance of loved ones. The collection just covered the cost of the flowers.

We have noticed that the cost of flowers has risen considerably over the past year. We will have to be mindful of the expense and seek to use local Blockley flowers as often as possible. <redacted> continues to cultivate useful flowers on the small church allotment, and these are extremely useful. For special occasions we hope to be able to increasingly use local growers through 'Flowers from the Farm' co-operative.

<redacted> and I love doing the flowers in Church, and now that we are able to produce beautiful displays using natural method, we get tremendous joy from doing so.  
<redacted>

### **Report on the Home Groups**

Following our Alpha course, which finished in April last year, we were delighted that the majority of those who attended decided to sign up to join a home group. As a result, with around 25 people wanting to be involved, we needed to expand from one group to three. These three groups, led by <redacted>, <redacted> and myself, meet on alternate Monday evenings through most of the year, but with breaks during school holidays. The groups meet in the homes of various members according to who is around and has the space. Each group also has a second leader, which not only provides flexibility around holidays, etc., but also variety. The second leaders are <redacted>, <redacted> and <redacted>.

We started in this new configuration last summer by doing a series of Bible studies from the Gospel of John on the theme of 'Encounters with Jesus', using the very simple Discovery Bible Study method. In the autumn, we started using the Church of England's Pilgrim Course, beginning with a set of studies on the Creed and moving on this Spring to the second set of studies on the Lord's Prayer, which we have just finished. Throughout the year, we have all been encouraged by how stimulating our discussions have been, and by how each group has gelled into a mini-community of its own, where strong friendships have formed and people feel very comfortable sharing their thoughts and questions with one another.

Each group is made up of people at different stages on their faith journey. Some have been Christians for years, some are just starting out, and others are still very much at the uncommitted 'enquirer' stage. Many are regular attenders of one or more of our monthly services at Blockley Church, one or two attend other churches on Sundays, while some don't go to church at all. But everyone seems to get encouragement from attending the home groups and is hopefully, gently growing in faith. We are now looking forward to our next challenge, when – in response to demand - the three groups will come together again in the Little Village Hall for a ten-session course about the Bible as a whole.  
<redacted>

### **Bell Ringers**

2023 was a terrific year for Blockley Bell Tower. Three people who took up the challenge to ring for the King have mastered the skill and are able to take part in the Sunday morning team, making it possible for us to ring all 10 bells. The enthusiasm and commitment they have given to the tower has been a real contribution. We all enjoy ringing when it goes well, and the challenge to learn new methods means we never get bored!

In May we went on tour to Pershore Abbey, St Giles Church in Bredon and Tewkesbury Abbey. The experience in Pershore of venturing up to the "cage", high above and open to the nave is something we will never forget; some of us even deciding 'Never again!'

We are fortunate to have such fine set of 10 bells, and teams from other churches far and wide come to ring them. It is wonderful to hear a quarter peal rung well with perfect rhythm. It is something for us to aim for. Many thanks to <redacted>, our 'Steeple keeper' for maintaining the bells in good and safe order. Over the year he has learned the demands of such a responsibility, and his commitment has proved invaluable.

Anyone who'd like to have a go at ringing or just to see what we do is always welcome. Please come up to the tower on a Thursday evening. We are there from 7.30 to 9 o'clock.  
<redacted>

### **Handbell Ringers**

Our team of six ringers continues to practise with the bells owned by the church at least once a month, though we do try to make it twice; but so often, holidays and other activities get in the way! Nevertheless, we performed at the Church Carol Service in December and felt that our standard had improved since 2022. Although our plan to ring in the open at Church Gates when the garden was open to the public last summer didn't materialise (the weather wasn't kind on the Mondays we had available), we did play to Cakes and Company in March this year in the Little Village Hall, and that seemed to go down well. We're hoping that we can ring in the open sometime this summer.

We remain grateful to the church for allowing us to use the bells and the Church Room in which to practise, and as always, we would welcome one or two more people (who must be able to read music) to join our team to ensure that we always have a full complement of ringers.  
<redacted>

### **Open the Book**

"Open the Book" happens on Tuesday mornings at Blockley Primary School, with a team of storytellers who are members of the church community. We read and enact stories from the Bible, with enthusiastic input from the children, from Reception Class upwards.

"Open the Book" is a Bible Society initiative, and the Tuesday morning sessions are based on stories in a Children's Bible, specially produced by the Society. The latest version contains 90 stories, starting with Genesis and finishing with Revelation. The children are encouraged to take part: sometimes the whole school becomes an army, a sea or a queue of animals waiting to board Noah's Ark. At other times, a number of pupils have speaking parts. Costumes and props are provided. The school has a seemingly endless supply of talented and enthusiastic young actors, and the Tuesday morning sessions are great fun, not only for the children but also for the "Open the Book" team.

None of this could happen without the support of the school, and the team is very grateful to the Head Teacher, staff and pupils. There is currently a core storytelling team of five: <redacted> and myself. We are required to have mandatory safeguarding checks, and also to register with the Bible Society. New members would be welcome, but in general "Open the Book" seems to be thriving; my thanks to the team for all that they do.

<redacted>

### **The Voice Magazine**

Last year was a time of change and innovation for the magazine. Following the relaunch in February 2023 made possible by crowd-funding, an editorial team was set up and <redacted> was appointed editor on a remunerated basis but decided subsequently to retire. Deputy editor <redacted> generously took over the editor's baton and steered us through the rest of the year to a very positive position. The editorial team decided that to ensure a stable future for the magazine a professional editor was required. Advertising in the Cotswold Times attracted three applicants and Emily Wood was the unanimous choice of the team. Emily has brought enthusiasm, expertise and commitment to her role.

Financing the magazine, like any small business, is a permanent preoccupation. Given our new cost structure, increasing the cover price to £2 was unavoidable. The price had remained at £1 for many years. We have substantially increased our advertising revenue. The digital edition which we launched in July 2023 is crucial to this. This edition is getting more than 400 views each month. The SumUp feature on the web site allows viewers to make a donation or order a subscription online. <redacted> skilfully enabled this.

Blockley Parish Council have been very helpful both in grant aiding our digital edition and offering their support to the magazine. Vale Press too have been hugely supportive. Ebrington has been added to our masthead and brought new subscribers and enthusiasm.

Our ambition is to be a community - based magazine reporting regularly and thoroughly on events in the villages but also offering thoughtful and stimulating reading by commissioning articles from the extraordinary wealth of writing talent in our area.

Changes to the editorial team have seen the retirement of <redacted> who was responsible for subscriptions and delivery for many years and <redacted>, one of the original crowd-funders and a contributor. <redacted> and <redacted> have joined the team bringing great talent and enthusiasm. I am grateful to all for their support. Additionally I would like to thank <redacted> who has acted as treasurer for The Voice bank account and who has been helpful and supportive during our transition.

*Nigel Moor, Chair of The Voice Editorial Team*

### **Cakes and Company**

2023 started well with our first meeting in February. It was lovely to be able to welcome our members back for tea after Christmas. <redacted> organized a quiz on Father Brown.

Our March meeting was a very special event for us. One of our own members, <redacted>, entertained us on the piano where we all joined in singing the good old favourites loved by all. Sadly, we lost <redacted> at Christmas. It was an afternoon we shall remember with great fondness as <redacted> was the life and soul of the party.

At our meeting in May we celebrated the King's Coronation with a quintessential English tea. <redacted> made the official Coronation Quiche which was a big hit with our members. <redacted> put together a slide presentation looking back at past Coronation street parties and celebrations held in Blockley. In August we were able to hold our first Cake Sale since the Covid pandemic. Our team of ladies excelled themselves with a huge selection of cakes and savoury bakes. We raised just under £500 on the cake stall and £250 on the raffle. We opened the stall at 10.00 am and by 11.40 am we were sold out! The money from the sale will go towards a catered lunch for our members and helpers, either at Christmas or a Summer Lunch in 2024.

Cakes & Company celebrated their 21st birthday in September and we looked back at 75 years of the Blockley's Horticultural Society. A special cake was made by <redacted> and we toasted the occasion with a glass of prosecco. In December we held our Christmas Party, where we were delighted to present all our members with a Christmas cake and a chocolate Santa. We had a wonderful afternoon singing along to all the old Christmas favourites lead by <redacted> on the piano.

We'd like to thank everyone who graciously gave up their time to come and entertain us in 2023. We would also like to thank the PCC who very kindly covers the hire of the Little Village Hall for our meetings, which we greatly appreciate. The bank balance as at 26<sup>th</sup> December, 2023 stands at £1218.79 which provides a sound foundation for 2024.

<redacted> hugely appreciates the continued support she receives from the 'helpers' and thanks them very much for providing all the wonderful cakes etc. and for all their hard work. All the food provided for the afternoon tea is donated by these wonderful ladies.

<redacted>

### **Blockley Forum**

The Forum is the monthly Wednesday daytime space where we discuss topical issues, after coffee, tea and biscuits. It's also where we meet the local people in positions of power – thanking them for the hard work they do for us, alongside holding them to account.

So the Forum is where we brought together candidates Sue Jepson and Clare Turner for a Cotswold District Council election hustings, after which (*As a result of which?*) the Blockley seat changed political hands. (And looking ahead, another Forum hustings is planned for the candidates at the forthcoming General Election.) In November, Clare stood in as Deputy Chair of Blockley Parish Council to present the annual *State of the Parish Address*, setting out what the council had been up to, and planned for the year ahead.

Dr Furn Davies, Senior Partner at Mann Cottage, talked a large gathering through changes in the NHS locally. James Slattery, Head of Careers at Chipping Campden School talked about its close support for youngsters finding the right next step – whether university, or into good quality work – to an audience including directly-interested Blockley parents. Other Forum sessions dealt with the Cotswold Veg Box venture; Cotswold Friends' varied support programmes; Gloucestershire CPRE's care for good standards in both the countryside and built environment; and how the National Trust run Snowhill Manor, with 130 volunteers. And much else. Many thanks above all to the Forum presenters, happy to take time and travel some distance to be with us; to the 'volunteers' who chair the sessions; to coffee makers. And to everyone who comes along and makes every session lively and enjoyable.

<redacted>

### **Church Reordering**

The word "Reordering" has been hanging around Blockley church for years, and, like the elephant in the room, has brought excitement, consternation, concern and dread in various measures throughout the congregation. In spite of some "consultation" days, pouring over architects' plans and discussing what seemed theoretical options, nothing seemed to be happening. Not so.

In fact, a great deal of work has been going on behind the scenes in overcoming national and Diocesan bureaucracy. At last, all appropriate permissions have been obtained and the project can now begin to go ahead.

The full Reordering Project, which certainly isn't cheap or short, divides naturally into two separate projects. The first, currently well under way, is to secure the necessary funding to enable the work to go out to contract. The second, of course, is the physical reordering itself.

A vast amount of work has been done by a few volunteers to put us in a position where we can approach the various funding bodies to ask them to support us. With the help of two specialist consultants, we are now in a position to move forward rapidly. We have a timescale, with appropriate deadlines, for applying to the National Heritage Lottery Fund for a sizeable chunk of commitment and we anticipate an answer from that body by the autumn (you have no idea of the amount of detailed information that organisation demands!)

In parallel, we now have a (long) list of Charitable Trusts, each of whom supports aspects of what we want to do, such as heritage, inclusivity, disadvantaged people, increased usage, interpretation or increased numbers (whether faith-based or secular). As a result, each application has to be individually tailored to the Trust applied to – no small task.

We intend to have the first four applications made within the next few weeks and we then await responses (watch this space!). Meantime, subsequent applications will be prepared. The order of preparation is important as many Trustees meet only once or twice a year.

Finally, a plea: the work is being done, part time, by small group, each of whom has many other commitments, priorities and demands on their time. It would be wonderful if half a dozen of the congregation would be prepared to offer some of **their** time to help the team. Time is not on our side and it's important, if we really want our church to become warmer, brighter, safer and more welcoming we get our projects completed in the most efficient and cost-effective manner.

<redacted>

## Vicar's Report for 2023

January 2023 began with an excellent church party at the Jubilee Hall. We also started our first Alpha Course with a mixture of church community and new people who soon got stuck into difficult questions and wonderful puddings.

Open Door, our all age, intergenerational worship on the first Sunday of the month, went from strength to strength, as we shared leadership of words and music, and welcomed Clara as VaCE children and youth worker.

In February Open Door children, youth and adults wrote our prayers in chalk on the pavement outside church which caused some confusion. Through the year we also held pet services, prayer walks, nature hunts and laughed a lot. Our music is enhanced by <redacted>, <redacted> and the wonderful young people who play in the band.

On the theme of music, the choir continued to richly enhance our worship, and we have become established as a venue for chamber music (thanks to <redacted> ) and for occasional concerts by local and international musicians.

The bell ringers attracted new people interested in ringing for the Jubilee, and a very wet group of people gathered on Coronation Day in June at Blockley Vicarage for cake, tea with delightful accompaniment from the bells.

In fact, the celebration of the music we enjoy was completed by Bishop Rachel admitting Ann and Jeremy Bourne to the Order of St Kyneburgha. They join Doreen Robinson and Tony Skellet as recipients of this award. We are thankful that Ann and Jeremy continue to sing with the choir.



The summer also saw the return of the BBC Father Brown filming crew and actors, to the delight of tourists.

Some of our friends left Blockley Church to move to other places, and others joined us following the Alpha Course. We miss them, and others who have died, especially Kathri Lewis.

When they come visiting it is wonderful – like seeing family again after a break. The <redacted> family came to the Pet Service in August, but weren't able to bring pets from <redacted>, so brought an original collection of soft toys.

Our parish BBQ was excellent, although it looked as though it threatened rain all afternoon. As a church community we offer hospitality in so many ways, and we are known for our welcome. Jesus would be proud. I wonder if, in the course of the year, we offer not quite 6 stone water jars of wine, but not far off!

In September, Blockley and Bourton on the Hill ran the church stand at the Moreton Show. It's a brilliant opportunity to show the local and wider community what we do, and why we do it. We plan to run another one this year. Thank you to <redacted>, <redacted> and <redacted> and all the erectors of the tent.

Blockley and Bourton on the Hill welcomed Ebrington into our southern group of churches in the Vale and Cotswold Edge. While making parish ministry more complex for me, there are many advantages in our joint working, and I can't wait to see new partnerships developing over the coming years.

We had full immersion baptisms, reaffirmations of baptismal vows, confirmations and a number of children admitted to Holy Communion. These services at the beginning of November were magical, sparkling with energy and faith, and many of us found them very encouraging.

After Remembrance Day we moved out of the church to the Jubilee Hall. It came with blessings (warmth) and opportunities but a lot of extra work for the choir and musicians, sacristans and welcomers. My thanks to you all for making the transition look so easy.

Then in December we moved back to church for the usual services with school, community and visitors. As usual, Blockley Church put on a splendid show, and we survived the cold. Our cleaners coped with the cobwebs and 6 weeks accumulation of dust. Thank you.

Thank you to my amazing wardens, <redacted> and <redacted>, and to the PCC for their vision and care. Thank you to <redacted> for being our careful and gentle treasurer, and to <redacted> for bodily taking on being PCC treasurer.

Thank you too the growing number of people involved in the pastoral care of our church. Joining Revd David Quin as licenced associate minister was Revd Canin Charles Masheder. <redacted> <redacted> began her training to be a licenced funeral minister.

And thank you to those who are stepping down from roles in the church at this APCM, including Rob Greenstock, Graham and Vera New, Jane Elliman, Derek Luff among others. Well done, good and faithful servants of the Lord (Matthew 25.23).

2024 brings new opportunities for parties and joy. We remain full of hope for the success of fundraising for our reordering project. And we look forward to all that God has in store for us. Don't forget that in our offering of hospitality we may be entertaining angel unawares (Hebrews 13)!

Vale and Cotswold Edge Team

**St Peter and St Paul**

**Blockley with Aston Magna**

**Annual Accounts 2023**

**ST PETER & ST PAUL CHURCH, BLOCKLEY WITH ASTON MAGNA**

**TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER, 2023.**

The accounts for 2023 are attached with the Independent Examiner's Report which, due to lack of time, had not been signed at the time this report was printed. However a fully signed copy of the accounts should be available at the APCM on 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2024. The accounts were approved by the PCC at its meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2024 subject to Independent Examination.

I would like to draw your attention to the following points:

- ❖ As is shown near the bottom of page two (left hand column) there was a surplus on General Funds. This was £8,909 before adjusting for transfers between funds and the gains reflecting the increase in the market value of the two CBF investments. For ease of reference I have highlighted this figure in green on the Receipts and Payments account. This compares with a deficit of £8,688 in 2022. There are a number of factors that have led to this improvement but three significant items were:
  - An increase in income from the BBC from £5,300 to £11,640.
  - Last year's figures included £6,166 for the replacement of the churchyard lighting.
  - No deficit on The Voice following its relaunch at the beginning of 2023. It is now self funding and the balance on The Voice bank account has been generated during 2023.
  
- ❖ Expenditure has continued on the reordering project and during the year, as mentioned in Note 2 to the accounts, this amounted to £80,935. I have highlighted this figure in yellow on the Receipts and Payments account. This expenditure was partially offset by a grant from the Listed Places of Worship scheme of £7,849 which I have highlighted in blue. This grant was a repayment of part of the VAT on the Reordering . A further claim will be submitted for expenditure incurred after the date of the claim.
  
- ❖ As a result of the net expenditure on the refurbishment project the designated fund for that work has reduced to £48,840. However there are also restricted funds for this project of £9,835 as shown in Note 3 to the accounts.
  
- ❖ Details of the funds held in bank and investment accounts are shown on page 3. At 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2023 these totalled £163,634.

I am happy to answer any questions.

**Philip Gee**

**Treasurer**

# Independent Examiner's Report

To the members and trustees of the Parochial Church Council of Blockley with Aston Magna.

This report on the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023 is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011.

## Respective responsibilities of the trustees of the charity and the examiner

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The trustees consider that an audit is not required under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 and that an independent examination is needed.

It is the examiner's responsibility to

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- To state whether particular matters have come to the Examiner's attention.

## Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. That examination includes a review of the accounting records 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 concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all 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 130 of the 2011 Act, and
  - \* to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Acthave 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.

Signed.....



Name John Wilkinson

Date.....

23/04/2024 .

Address Croft House  
Station Road  
Chipping Campden  
GL55 6HY

**ST PETER & ST PAUL CHURCH, BLOCKLEY WITH ASTON MAGNA  
RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

Notes	Unrestricted		Restricted	2023	2022
	General Funds	Designated Funds		TOTAL	TOTAL
<b>INCOME</b>					
<b>Giving</b>					
Parish Giving Scheme	26,237			26,237	24,380
Other giving and donations	13,117			13,117	12,751
Tax recovered through Gift Aid	5,875			5,875	5,308
<b>Church activities</b>					
Father Brown income from BBC	11,640			11,640	5,300
Father Brown income from merchandise sales					2,989
The Voice - subscriptions & donations		5,197		5,197	2,379
- advertising		2,973		2,973	1,068
- funding for 2023					950
Legacy					500
Parochial Fees income	4,860			4,860	7,277
Concerts in church	600			600	746
Donations for use of church					120
Sundry income	4,801		378	5,179	249
<b>Investment income</b>					
Interest & investment income	855	601	618	2,074	1,431
<b>Income from extraordinary activities</b>					
Grant re VAT refund		7,849		7,849	16,100
Donations from the Brownes	430			430	450
Special collections			1,770	1,770	
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>68,415</b>	<b>16,620</b>	<b>2,766</b>	<b>87,801</b>	<b>81,998</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
<b>Outward Giving</b>					
Donations	(2,650)		(1,579)	(4,229)	(3,146)
<b>Running expenses</b>					
Parish Share	(33,375)			(33,375)	(33,375)
Minor repairs & routine maintenance	(4,298)			(4,298)	(4,403)
Replacement of churchyard lighting					(6,166)
Clergy expenses	(3,009)			(3,009)	(2,109)
Heating & lighting	(4,535)			(4,535)	(6,917)
The Voice costs		(4,592)	(950)	(5,542)	(5,307)
Father Brown costs	(600)			(600)	
Father Brown merchandise costs					(921)
Insurance	(2,686)			(2,686)	(2,505)
Altar supplies	(506)			(506)	(513)
Music costs	(180)			(180)	(306)
Administration costs	(1,255)			(1,255)	(753)
Flowers	(308)			(308)	(207)
Youth work costs	(1,817)			(1,817)	(1,817)
Sundry costs	(4,287)			(4,287)	(3,747)
	(59,506)	(4,592)	(2,529)	(66,627)	(72,192)
<b>Extraordinary expenditure</b>					
Reordering project		(80,935)		(80,935)	(84,731)
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b>(59,506)</b>	<b>(85,527)</b>	<b>(2,529)</b>	<b>(147,562)</b>	<b>(156,923)</b>
<b>(Deficit)/surplus before gains &amp; losses</b>					
	8,909	(68,907)	237	(59,761)	(74,925)
Transfers between funds	(500)		500		
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before gains	8,409	(68,907)	737	(59,761)	(74,925)
Gains/(Losses) on investment assets- unrealised	2,825	1,984	2,039	6,848	(6,377)
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>11,234</b>	<b>(66,923)</b>	<b>2,776</b>	<b>(52,913)</b>	<b>(81,302)</b>
Funds brought forward at 1 January 2023	49,344	119,341	47,862	216,547	297,849
Funds carried forward at 31 December 2023	<b>£60,578</b>	<b>£52,418</b>	<b>£50,638</b>	<b>£163,634</b>	<b>£216,547</b>

continued

**ST PETER & ST PAUL CHURCH, BLOCKLEY WITH ASTON MAGNA**  
**RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**  
 (CONTINUED)

	2023	2022
Lloyds Treasurers' account	6,744	61,676
Lloyds Instant Saver	31,412	1,571
Lloyds re Voice	3,578	8,928
CBF Investment Fund (accumulated income units) at Market Value.	47,041	41,759
CBF Investment Fund (income units) at Market Value.	18,062	16,496
United Trust Bank	55,212	85,000
Unbanked cash and cheques at 31st December	1,585	1,117
	<b>£163,634</b>	<b>£216,547</b>

**Total funds are represented by:**

Lloyds Treasurers' account  
 Lloyds Instant Saver  
 Lloyds re Voice  
 CBF Investment Fund (accumulated income units) at Market Value.  
 CBF Investment Fund (income units) at Market Value.  
 United Trust Bank  
 Unbanked cash and cheques at 31st December

Accounts approved at a meeting of the Parochial Church Council on 5th March, 2024.

  
 Sarah Brazier (Churchwarden)

  
 Anne Packer (Churchwarden)

  
 Philip Gee (Treasurer)

**ST PETER & ST PAUL CHURCH, BLOCKLEY WITH ASTON MAGNA**

**Notes to the Receipts & Payments Account for the year ended 31 December 2023**

1. The accounts have been prepared on the Receipts & Payments basis and are in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006.
2. The amount of £80,935 represents expenditure (mainly professional fees) relating to the ongoing major refurbishment scheme for the church.
3. After the financial activity during 2023, the detailed allocation of funds at 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2023 is:

**Restricted Funds:**

Chancel	32,265	
Robinson Organ	7,233	
Bells	879	
Reordering	9,835	
Charity collections (to be paid over in 2024)	<u>426</u>	50,638

**Designated Funds:**

Future refurbishment work	48,840	
The Voice	<u>3,578</u>	52,418

**Unrestricted Funds**

60,578

**£163,634**

Each year £500 is credited to the Organ Fund. This is a donation from Doreen Robinson in lieu of notional payments that she would receive for playing the organ in regular services.

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# Accounts

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**ST PETER &  
ST PAUL CHURCH  
BLOCKLEY**

**Annual Report and  
Accounts 2022**

## **ANNUAL REPORTS 2022**

### **Electoral Roll Report**

There are currently 75 people on Blockley Church electoral roll.

This reflects 3 more people joining since the last APCM, and taking off 4 people who have moved away.

Being on the electoral roll entitles people to vote in the annual Church meetings, and to become office holders, such as members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC).

The Church of England rules require us to renew the full roll from scratch every few years.

The next of these will be in 2025. Between times it is simply updated each year.

Anne Packer, Electoral Roll officer

### **Proceeding of the PCC for 2022**

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) performed its duties which include consulting together on matters of general concern and importance to the parish, promoting the whole mission of the church in the parish: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical and maintaining its relationship with the diocese.

It took responsibility for the maintenance and repair of the church, churchyard and moveable objects, having overall charge of all expenditure.

The following activities were of particular note over the last year:

- Monitoring safeguarding and other health and safety issues.
- Plans for the refurbishment of the church which involved submission of documents and the statement of need to the DAC. We discussed and voted upon aspects of the reordering and the reports submitted by consultants, architect and engineers.
- Agreed to support the Alpha course which has been successful.
- Moreton Show where the church was represented in Sept 2022.
- We discussed and made decisions upon the Charities that we wished to support
- We discussed and approved the finances pertaining to the parish magazine (we were pleased to agree its continuation as a self-funding enterprise) and the table of fees for weddings etc.

### **Treasurer's Report and Appointment of Independent Examiner**

Enclosed as a separate document

### **Church Wardens' Fabric Report**

This first year as Churchwardens has shown us two good and important things about Blockley and its Church.

First, that every good church – and especially a sole Parish church in a village – needs to bring good things to its range of worshipping members and good things to its wider community of parishioners. This was especially demonstrated over this year, as the whole Blockley community ‘came to church’ to celebrate the Queen’s Jubilee in July – and then to mourn her death in September. This will happen again when we celebrate the new King’s Coronation. This service to the whole community applies through the yearly cycle too, at Christmas and Easter, at the January party ‘The Funny Thing about Laughter’, and the Harvest Festival lunch, through Blockley School, through the monthly Blockley Forum discussions, through the space we provide for community events.

Dual service and responsibility is also key to the church re-ordering which we have all been thinking about and planning for – a church building which is warm, accessible to all, and fit for now and the future. Outline proposals have gone to the Diocesan Advisory Committee; and fund-raising planning is underway. We will move to the Jubilee Hall from November for winter and the work to be carried out. With particular thanks to our ‘Master of Works’ Robert Burch.

The second good and important thing we have come to appreciate about this church is that nothing we do as Wardens is done by us alone. Starting with the responsibility we

feel for Dana, and she for us. Continuing with the help we have had from our predecessors Marie and Rob; from the four Deputy Wardens who lighten the load so much; from the members of the PCC and the Standing Committee set up to handle re-ordering issues between PCC meetings; from Doreen and the Choir; and for everyone else who makes the church look good and work well.

So thank you all. We look forward to another year in which good changes will take place, with your support, involvement and help.

Sarah Brazier and Anne Packer

### **Safeguarding Report**

Most training is now available online and we are up to date with all DBS checks. These are now handled by Liz Jones, the VaCE administrator in Chipping Campden church office. There was one referral to the Diocesan Safeguarding Team in 2022. We are on level 3 of the parish safeguarding dashboard, and Carol Willott continues as our designated safeguarding officer in Blockley and Bourton on the Hill.

### **Bell Ringers**

We have seven local Blockley ringers available for Sundays and weddings. Two more are learning with a nearby expert trainer as well as joining us on our practice night.

We have had an unfortunate run of broken stays, but this has spurred us on to find a local stay maker, and our maintenance volunteer is learning from them to make stays himself. We are also working on improving our bell control technique!

Ringers come from other towers for our Thursday night practice, so we are often able to ring all 10 bells. They come, not only because we have 10 bells, but also because we are a very friendly tower!

Mimi Stephens

### **Cakes & Co**

Sadly, we were unable to hold Cakes & Company for the first two months of 2022 due to the resurgence of Covid. We held our first meeting in March. It was lovely to be able to welcome our members back for tea and the entertainment was a Beetle Drive.

In June we held a Platinum Jubilee tea in celebration of our late Queen's amazing 70 year reign. In September Cakes & Company celebrated their 20<sup>th</sup> birthday and John Busby entertained our members with his ballads interspersed with his jokes. We all had a wonderful afternoon and were very happy to welcome our guests, Carolyn Willott and Mary West who were the original organisers of Cakes & Company and our vicar, Dana Delap.

In December we held our Christmas Party, where we were delighted to present all our members with a "goodie" bag containing an individual Christmas cake and pudding, savoury biscuits, a box of chocolates and a chocolate Santa. We had a wonderful afternoon singing along to all the old Christmas favourites lead by John Robinson on the piano. We'd like to thank everyone who graciously gave up their time to come and entertain us in 2022.

We would also like to thank the PCC who very kindly covers the hire of the Little Village Hall for our meetings, which we very much appreciate.

Yvonne Smith

### **Children and Youth Leader**

#### **Church services**

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month - 10@10 St James Church

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month - Family service Honeybourne

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month - Family service Mickleton

#### **School work**

Bright Sparks after school club – Blockley, Honeybourne, Pebworth

Bright sparks lunch time club – Willersey, St James school

CCS Mentoring

Collective worship - St James and Ebrington school, Mickleton school, Pebworth

Reading Honeybourne school – building on relationships within school

Church Visits – Mickleton school, St James & Ebrington school  
Supporting OTB team in Willersey – with the view to develop an OTB team across the VaCE.

### **Looking forward**

May/ June - Youth Service/gathering – for the growing youth within the VaCE  
Prayer Spaces in school – Soul Space CCS  
Summer Family fun days

### **Exciting news/development**

Mrs Clara Byrd has joined the team working 10hrs a week for the children and youth ministry. Clara is currently shadowing Amy in her work and building on relationships with both church, school, and the wider community. This term Clara has led BS lunchtime club and BS after school club in both Willersey and Pebworth.

Amy Todd

### **Church Choir**

The choir have enjoyed another year of singing together under the close direction of Doreen Robinson. This is something special that we all value and appreciate in a world where traditional music is often a scarce commodity!

At Easter, on Good Friday, we sang Stainer's Crucifixion with John, Bryan and David singing the solos. We have also enjoyed singing at two weddings and were delighted to be invited to sing choral evensong at Long Compton church. The vicar there is himself a choral scholar and added his voice to ours and we had a thoroughly enjoyable time of it!

On 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022, choir funds stood at £744.15p. with our main expenses being for music – Organist copies of the hymn book (2 books), Addington service sheets and extra copies of Stainer's Crucifixion.

Both John Connolly and Laura Shepherd continue to enjoy singing with us and as always, our grateful thanks to Doreen for her encouragement and guidance.

Margaret Oliver

### **Deanery Synod Report**

Like every deanery in the Gloucester Diocese, the North Cotswolds has continued framing a deanery strategic plan. Working together as deanery synod, chapter, benefices and parishes, we aim to reshape the mission and ministry of this deanery to be more focussed on our shared mission priorities whilst at the same time reducing our dependence on stipendiary ordained ministry to a level that is sustainable for the long term. Parish giving across the whole North Cotswolds increased and we are now closer than ever to reaching our share target.

### **Flower Arrangers**

Our continued aim is to ensure that the Church flowers are as sustainably sourced as possible and ALWAYS sustainably presented.

We have been able to use local garden and allotment flowers during the spring and summer months, and ALL the foliage we have used throughout the year has been locally foraged. During the winter months we had great difficulty sourcing suitable sustainable flowers at a reasonable price, particularly over the Christmas period. We decided to purchase re-usable silk flowers and to display them with natural foraged foliage. (We have been doing this for many years with the Poppies for Remembrance Sunday.) The silk flowers are being stored carefully in large, lidded boxes so that they remain in perfect condition and can be re-used for a number of years when sourcing sustainable flowers is difficult or too expensive. We have also had some large silk flowers donated by a member of the community.

We have tried not to purchase flowers from supermarkets, but when possible purchase from Blockley Shop. At big celebrations such as Easter this year, we placed an order from an online wholesale florist supplier. They source their flowers from the growers in Holland, so the supply chain has reasonably low environmental impact.

When visitors come into the Church while we are working on the flowers, we always take the opportunity to spread the word about working sustainably with flowers.

There is a large group of people in the Worcester area who are advocating sustainable Church flowers and Claire follows their ideas on Instagram. She has also become involved with the running of Blockley Horticultural Society and has introduced the concept of sustainable arrangements for the Spring and Summer Shows, giving our Church policy as an example.

We continue to have a very small team of people working with the flowers but would welcome any new members who are interested in helping.

Rhea Bazeley

### **Blockley Forum**

The Forum is now the well-established lunchtime place for the village to discuss topical issues and problems – with a cup of tea or coffee along the way. It's also where we thank the people in power for the good work they do for us, alongside holding them to account.

So we invite the Parish Council Chair at the end of each year to talk about what has been happening, and what is coming down the track. Likewise Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP had what he told his secretary was '*a fiery time*' when he spoke at the Forum on the trickiest day of the year, after Liz Truss's Budget had given big tax cuts for millionaires – on which Sir Geoffrey's comment was '*I wouldn't have done it.*' He obviously relayed what he heard at the Forum to his colleagues back at Westminster, and both the Budget and Prime Minister Liz Truss were both gone within days.

Other more local issues discussed included Ann Barry talking about the pleasures and challenges of leading Blockley School; Sam Stanley talking about the pains and pleasures of running a village shop; what the County Council was doing about ash tree dieback; Barbara Piranty of the Gloucestershire Rural Community Council talking the problems of hidden rural poverty; and Keith Sissons and Nik Sandars on the challenges of keeping footpaths in good order. Plus a Hustings with Cotswold election candidates Sue Jepson and Clare Turner making their pitches.

So – many thanks to all the busy Forum speakers for making the time. And to the 'volunteers' who chair the sessions. Most of all, thank you to everyone who came and contributed to the discussions. Finally, if there is a person you would like to hear from, or a subject you would like addressed, just let me know.

Leslie Packer

### **Giving and Mission**

Every year, Blockley PCC has a policy of agreeing a list of charities to give contributions to. Some are local and some are national; some the church contributes to fairly regularly and others less so. All have relevance to the community. In the past year - and on into this year – we have sent contributions to 10 charities, each for £250.

Since the 2022 APCM, the charities have been: North Cotswold Foodbank; Cotswold Friends; Campden Home Nursing; Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust; Blockley Educational Trust; Water Aid; the Children's Society; Macmillan Nursing; Royal British Legion; Practical Action; and UNICEF.

This spring, the PCC agreed for contributions later in the year to go to the Children's Society; Christian Aid; our linked diocese in Ghana; FareShare; the Samaritans; and the Air Ambulance.

Anne Packer

### **Handbell Ringers**

We have had the same team of six ringers for over a year now and have generally met twice a month (2nd and 4th Monday mornings) to practise with the 12 bells owned by the church, with the aim of playing to audiences of one kind or another. We have made reasonable progress but have some way to go before we can really be satisfied with our performance standard. We played at the Blockley Church Carol Service last Christmas, and think that, come some summer weather, we might try entertaining the public by the shop. Meanwhile, we are grateful to the church for allowing us to use the bells and the Church

Room in which to practise. We would welcome one or two more people (must be able to read music) to join our team to ensure that we always have a full complement of ringers.

Roger Thornburgh

### **Home Groups**

Our home group met fortnightly for Bible study and discussion throughout last year, with up to 12 members. Following a study of Colossians, we moved on to look at the first and second letters of Peter and finished the year with a Christmas party.

Last summer, we discussed the possibility of hosting an Alpha course for other people and, with Dana's agreement, over the autumn a few of us began to plan for this. As virtually all members of the home group wanted to be involved, either as host, helper or guest, we agreed to suspend home group meetings from the new year until Alpha was over.

Alpha ran weekly from 9<sup>th</sup> January to 3<sup>rd</sup> April this year with 23 people attending as 'guests', aged 35-96, from all backgrounds. More than half were not church goers, but at the end of the course the majority expressed an interest in joining a home group. As a result, we are about to split into 3 groups, with 8 or 9 people in each, and will restart meeting on alternate Monday evenings on 15<sup>th</sup> May.

Ginny Williams-Ellis

### **Open the Book**

After a Covid-enforced absence, the Open the Book team returned to its Tuesday morning slot at Blockley School last year. The core team comprises Sandra Gee, Kate Hope, Maggie Youell and myself, with support from others including Graham New, Sara Horner and Roger Morris. I am very grateful to them all for their commitment, enthusiasm and talent.

We aim to bring alive Bible stories and to involve as many children as possible, from Reception upwards. Sometimes the story involves a small number of children; on other occasions all classes take part. We are building up a growing resource of costumes and props for the children and the team.

The team is very grateful to the school staff for their support, and to the children. For us, being part of Open the Book is both a privilege and a pleasure.

Christine Moor

### **The Voice**

Earlier this year in order to ensure that *The Voice* could continue as a viable community magazine for Blockley and the surrounding villages, a number of us crowd funded the relaunch in February. The magazine has continued to be published on a regular monthly basis, and we plan a souvenir Coronation edition for June. In July we will also publish a digital edition which can be accessed via the Blockley Parish Council web site.

The editorial team has been strengthened with Carol Mann continuing as editor and Carol Willott as deputy editor. Although the magazine costs at least £2 an edition to print we decided at this difficult time not to increase the cover price.

Large efforts have been made to attract donations and to increase the advertising revenue. We are grateful for a grant from the Blockley Parish Council This is having positive results and it has been helped by our being able to inherit *The Voice* bank account without any negative accrual from last year.

New features have been added and the change of printer to Vale has gained us a more competitive print price, more colour and a digital edition. Advertising in the digital edition will enable readers to click on an email or web address and be directly linked to the advertiser.

Financially we can see a positive cash position through to 2024 but much of the existing advertising will be up for renewal this July, and hopefully the new advertising rates which include the digital edition will be acceptable.

We meet regularly as a team to discuss content, advertising and distribution. It does require a lot of effort but we are enjoying the ride and have received many compliments on the relaunch.

Nigel Moor, Chair Editorial Team

## Vicar's Report 2022



I started 2022 with a three-month sabbatical, a perk of having been ordained for over 7 years. As well as rest and a huge amount of reading, I spent time learning more about working with clay, and had a wonderful holiday touring Costa Rica. I enjoyed sitting the congregation with Adrian, and spending time with family and friends. I came back in time for Holy Week, refreshed and excited for all that the rest of the year would bring.

Easter brought its usual bounty of flowers, gardens and chocolate, with numbers in both churches at pre-pandemic levels. The Blockley churchyard trail was popular with children and families. No sooner was Easter over than we started to plan for the Platinum Jubilee. The communities of Bourton on the Hill, Blockley and all the villages of the ward rejoiced with Her Majesty's long reign. Mimi Stephens took over as Blockley tower captain from Ann Bourne, whose extraordinary service to the tower included working with me and others to introduce the new bell frame, head stocks and two new bells.



The BBC's Father Brown returned to Blockley, although the fees received were quite low in 2022. This highlights our dependence on the 5-8k we receive from filming, an issue that we must return to once the reordering is completed. The theme of reordering Blockley Church ran through the year, with Robert Burch guiding our conversations with various amenity societies and the DAC. Nigel Moor began work on a thoughtful and robust Statement of Significance of Blockley Church.

Over the late May bank holiday, Blockley Church, the Parish Council, Cakes and Co and the Heritage Society came together for the unveiling of the Blockley Bus Accident memorial plaque, with Margaret Baldwin doing the honours.





Meanwhile, in Vale and Cotswold Edge News, the team rector became Canon Craig Bishop, and Revd Scott Watts announced he was leaving. This led to some robust conversations within the team, as we struggled to work out how to make the team work in a new and more sustainable configuration.



There were some lovely occasional offices – baptisms and blessings, marriages and thanksgivings for marriage. Then in early September the North Cotswolds Deanery, the Diocese, Blockley and Bourton on the Hill supported a deanery tent at the Moreton Show. It was important to be present, but we made lots of mistakes, and this year we will put into practice some of our learning.

I went on holiday after the show, only to hear, 3 days later that HRH Queen Elizabeth has suddenly died. The church wardens, Philip and Naomi, Anne and Sarah, sprang into action, and arranged for candles, prayers and the memorial books to be out. Revd David Quin led services of reflection, which were much appreciated. The memorial books are in our church archives for future generations to see.

Our combined Harvest Lunch after a joint Open Door music group, organ and Choir-led service was marvellous, and a time for celebration. The strength of our community of Christians is a delight, and something that we should all celebrate.

Our Christmas services were joyful, the churches looking beautiful, and the ongoing work towards sustainable church working towards being carbon neutral was demonstrated by the tree at Bourton on the Hill.





Our parishes and the communities are thriving, despite the heavy weight of world-wide challenges. Global uncertainty is stressful, but I remain thankful for the resources within our community, and the joy of walking together with the Lord.

2023 brings the reordering projects to a fore. Bourton on the Hill's toilet will be in place by the end of the summer, and Blockley Church will close from November to May for the new heating, lighting, AV, servery, toilet and choir vestry. These are exciting times in the life of our churches. We will also begin to make a partnership with St Eadburgha's, Ebrington, who in time will become part of the southern group of the VaCE team, and under the care of the vicar at Blockley and Bourton on the Hill.

The Revd Canon Dana Delap

## **ST. PETER & ST. PAUL, BLOCKLEY WITH ASTON MAGNA**

### **TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER, 2022**

The accounts for 2022 are attached with the Independent Examiner's Report which has been signed by Alan Green. These accounts were approved by the PCC (subject to Independent Examination) at its meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2023. A copy of the accounts with 'live' signatures is available on request.

I would like to draw attention to the following points:

- As is shown near the bottom of page 2 (left hand column) there was a General Fund deficit of £8,688 before gains and losses. This compares with a surplus of £3,019 in 2021.
  - General Fund income increased by £6,170 from £56,968 to £63,138.
  - However, General Fund expenditure increased by £17,877 from £53,949 to £71,826. Three significant reasons for this increase were the one off costs of replacing the churchyard lighting (£6,166), the increase in energy costs (£4,211) and the increase in Parish Share (£3,098).
  
- Also as is shown near the bottom of page 2 (second column from the left) there was a deficit on Designated Funds before gains and losses of £67,839. This represents expenditure to date on the Reordering project less VAT reclaimed through the Listed Places of Worship Scheme and a proportion of interest and investment income.
  
- Details of the funds held in bank and investment accounts are shown on page 3.
  
- The notes to the accounts are shown on pages 4 and 5 and these include in Note 6 the decision taken by the PCC during 2022 to review the breakdown of its total funds. As a result of that review an amount of £190,709 was transferred to a Designated Fund for future work on the church. The amount of that Designated Fund was reduced by the year end to £119,341 as a result of net expenditure on the Reordering Project.

I am happy to answer any questions.

**Philip Gee**

**Treasurer**

Vale and Cotswold Edge Team

**St Peter and St Paul**

**Blockley with Aston Magna**

**Annual Accounts 2022**

# Independent Examiner's Report

To the members and trustees of the Parochial Church Council of Blockley with Aston Magna.

This report on the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022 is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011.

## Respective responsibilities of the trustees of the charity and the examiner

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The trustees consider that an audit is not required under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 and that an independent examination is needed.

It is the examiner's responsibility to

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- To state whether particular matters have come to the Examiner's attention.

## Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. That examination includes a review of the accounting records 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 concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all 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 130 of the 2011 Act, and  
\* to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act  
have 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.

Signed.....

Name A.R. GREEN.....

Date 7/ MAY / 2023.....

Address WILLOW TREE HOUSE  
GL56DGS

**ST PETER & ST PAUL CHURCH, BLOCKLEY WITH ASTON MAGNA**  
**RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

Notes	Unrestricted		Restricted	2022	2021
	General Funds	Designated Funds		TOTAL	TOTAL
<b>INCOME</b>					
<i>Giving</i>					
	£24,380			£24,380	£20,841
	£12,175		£576	£12,751	£12,102
	£5,308			£5,308	£4,687
<i>Church activities</i>					
	£5,300			£5,300	£10,650
2	£2,989			£2,989	£1,545
	£2,379			£2,379	£2,402
	£1,068			£1,068	£1,080
			£950		£0
	£500			£500	£2,000
	£7,277			£7,277	£5,308
	£746			£746	£0
	£120			£120	£168
	£117		£132	£249	£238
<i>Investment income</i>					
	£329	£792	£310	£1,431	£3,204
<i>Income from extraordinary activities</i>					
		£16,100		£16,100	£2,965
	£450			£450	£0
	£0			£0	£1,070
	<b>£63,138</b>	<b>£16,892</b>	<b>£1,968</b>	<b>£81,998</b>	<b>£68,260</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
<i>Outward Giving</i>					
	-£2,780		-£366	-£3,146	-£1,020
<i>Running expenses</i>					
	-£33,375			-£33,375	-£30,277
	-£4,403			-£4,403	-£5,020
3	-£6,166			-£6,166	£0
	-£2,109			-£2,109	-£2,734
	-£6,917			-£6,917	-£2,706
	-£5,307			-£5,307	-£2,770
2	-£921			-£921	-£823
	-£2,505			-£2,505	-£2,416
	-£513			-£513	-£118
	-£306			-£306	-£690
4	-£753			-£753	-£646
	-£207			-£207	-£178
	-£1,817			-£1,817	-£3,339
	-£3,747			-£3,747	-£2,232
	-£71,826		-£366	-£72,192	-£54,969
<i>Extraordinary expenditure</i>					
				£0	-£1,500
5		-£84,731		-£84,731	-£27,083
	<b>-£71,826</b>	<b>-£84,731</b>	<b>-£366</b>	<b>-£156,923</b>	<b>-£83,552</b>
<b>Deficit (-)/surplus before gains &amp; losses</b>					
	-£8,688	-£67,839	£1,602	-£74,925	-£15,292
6	-£500	£0	£500	£0	£0
	<b>-£9,188</b>	<b>-£67,839</b>	<b>£2,102</b>	<b>-£74,925</b>	<b>-£15,292</b>
	-£1,468	-£3,529	-£1,380	-£6,377	£9,206
<b>Net movement in funds</b>					
	-£10,656	-£71,368	£722	-£81,302	-£6,086
	£95,088		£202,761	£297,849	£303,935
6	-£35,088	£190,709	-£155,621	£0	£0
	<b>£49,344</b>	<b>£119,341</b>	<b>£47,862</b>	<b>£216,547</b>	<b>£297,849</b>

**ST PETER & ST PAUL CHURCH, BLOCKLEY WITH ASTON MAGNA**  
**RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**  
**(CONTINUED)**

2022	2021
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**Total funds are represented by:**

Lloyds Treasurers' account	£61,676	£88,906
Lloyds Instant Saver	£1,571	£5,080
Lloyds re Voice	£8,928	£4,231
CBF Investment Fund (accumulated income units) at Market Value.	£41,759	£45,946
CBF Investment Fund (income units) at Market Value.	£16,496	£18,686
Skipton Building Society	£0	£50,000
United Bank Trust	£85,000	£85,000
Unbanked cash and cheques at 31st December	£1,117	£0
	<b>£216,547</b>	<b>£297,849</b>

Accounts approved at a meeting of the Parochial Church Council on 7th March, 2023.

.....  
 Sarah Brazier (Churchwarden)

.....  
 Anne Packer (Churchwarden)

.....  
 Philip Gee (Treasurer)

**ST PETER & ST PAUL CHURCH, BLOCKLEY WITH ASTON MAGNA**

**Notes to the Receipts & Payments Account for the year ended 31 December 2022**

1. The accounts have been prepared on the Receipts & Payments basis and are in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006.
2. Father Brown merchandise has been sold again this year, mainly through Blockley Shop. Sales were again higher than the previous year mainly as a result of the lifting of Covid 19 restrictions. We continue to be grateful to Sam and his staff; the Shop receives part of the proceeds of each item sold.
3. The churchyard lighting was replaced during the year with LED fittings at a cost of £6,166. This will result in a substantial saving in future electricity costs.
4. The parish continued to pay an administrator who works with Dana one day a week.
5. The amount of £84,731 relates to further expenditure on the installation of a new heating system for the church. This relates to part of the ongoing major refurbishment scheme for the church.
6. Restricted funds are those raised explicitly for specific purposes such as for the maintenance, repair and improvement of the church and its contents and for funds resulting from special appeals. These funds can only be used for these purposes.

During the year the PCC reviewed the breakdown of its total funds of £297, 849 as shown in the accounts for 2021. After that review it was agreed that, for reasons that are not entirely clear, some years ago a significant amount was incorrectly allocated from Unrestricted Funds to Restricted Funds.

It was agreed that the correct allocation of the total funds of £297,849 as shown at 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2021 was:

**Restricted Funds:**

Chancel	31,259	
Robinson Organ	5,971	
Automaton	4,528	
Bells	332	
Reordering	5,000	
Charity collection (paid over in 2022)	<u>50</u>	47,140
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>		<u>250,709</u>
		<u>£297,849</u>

It was then agreed by the PCC that £190,709 should be transferred to a Designated Fund for future refurbishment work on the church leaving £60,000 to be carried forward as General Funds as at 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2022.

The prior year adjustment shown at the end of the Receipts and Payments account reflects the above adjustments to funds. After the financial activity during 2022, the allocation of funds at 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2022 is:

**Restricted Funds:**

Chancel	30,558	
Robinson Organ	6,350	
Bells	454	
Reordering	9,315	
The Voice (specific donations for 2023)	950	
Charity collection (paid over in 2023)	<u>235</u>	47,862

**Designated Fund:**

Future refurbishment work	119,341
---------------------------	---------

**Unrestricted Funds**

49,344

£216,547

Each year £500 is credited to the Organ Fund. This is a donation from Doreen Robinson in lieu of notional payments that she would receive for playing the organ in regular services.

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# Accounts

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Vale and Cotswold Edge  
**St Peter and St Paul Blockley Trustees Report for 2021**

### **Achievements and performance**

Blockley PCC has met 7 times since the April 2021 APCM. The PCC has largely met remotely on Zoom due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Safeguarding is an agenda item at each PCC meeting and any issues arising are discussed, excluding Standing Committee meetings.

Highlights of the year included:

- This year has been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic with services on Zoom, with help for people to access this from Ginny Williams Ellis and Sophie Le Metais. Dana thanked Robert Burch and Adrian Beney for technical support, and John Baldwyn and Doreen Robinson for music. Ministry and worship were sustained through the VaCE team through most difficult times, including ongoing work from our Children and Youth Leader. Shared with Bourton in the Hill, our home group became two home groups, plus a study group, and a group exploring the Christian faith. Services returned to the church building in April, including with the choir, following the Covid-19 pandemic lockdowns and restrictions
- The church continues to serve the local community, for example through VE Day Celebrations, Christmas services/activities, and supporting North Cotswold Foodbank.
- Dana Delap has continued to engage with other local charities, Bromford, social services and the police to care for those in need. The increase in poor mental health in the community led a number of us (including members of the Ministry Enabling Team) to take the Mental Health England Mental Health First Aid course. It has been valuable to both church and community engagement. She is also a trustee of or chair a number of charities which offer support to the most vulnerable in our community. These include educational trusts and Help in Need/Richard Perkins, alms houses and medical charities.
- The church has been trialling *Messy Church Goes Wild* as part of our Open-Door service. This service draws people from across the parishes, and it has been exciting watching this service develop its own musical group. Second Sunday at Six braved the cold church to also grow and develop its own congregation.
- Blockley Church is featuring in case study in Church of England for 'Church in Action'.
- An area of churchyard has been re-wilded with the local school with wildlife boxes and over 50 species of flower and grass growing. This included orchids. We were given a quantity of yellow rattle by Cotswold AONB to plant in both churchyards to keep the grasses from taking over. Bourton on the Hill was used by Gloucester Diocese for an inspirational video about ecological sustainability. (Bishop Robert was not told that the plant he identified as Herb Robert is a weed.)
- There are 72 people in total on the electoral roll, and none have been removed since our last APCM.
- Weddings and christenings were able to resume in church, and the BBC returned to continue filming Father Brown following the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions.
- Christmas services were well attended, including a carol service, crib service, midnight mass and Christmas Day communion. Once again live Advent Calendar windows were set up around Blockley.
- The PCC has continued to work on plans for installing a new heating system in the church, and reordering plans to improve accessibility, install a toilet, and provide greater

flexibility for using the nave for community gatherings, hospitality and activities. A consultation with the congregation and wider community were undertaken in October.

### **Church Wardens' Fabric Report**

Work on the installation of the new boilers continued but ended with only partial success. When the new plant was fired up leaks sprang from the old pipes with the result that our new system could not be commissioned. To allow continued (if somewhat chilly) use of the church, electric convector heaters were purchased as a temporary alternative. An additional mains supply was tapped from the vicarage.

As the boiler crew moved out attention turned to updating the Vestry which was re-decorated throughout. In the Upper Vestry the window was refurbished, access created to long term roof space storage, new floor covering laid, and storage racking installed. Downstairs a self-contained sink unit, additional heating, and new lighting fitted, and finally a new carpet.

The BBC returned to film a further series of Father Brown, although use of the church interior was somewhat less than previous years. The Christmas season also saw a welcome return to normality with fresh green trees atop the tower and in church, courtesy of the Northwick Estate. The overdue Quinquennial Inspection was carried out in late January by Caroline Edwards, a conservation architect working with Acanthus Clews. Her report has yet to be received.

The revision of the Church Inventory was finally tackled with the help of Anne Packer and Rob Willott and is currently being typed up with the aim of adding an additional photographic record. During Dana's sabbatical the normal pattern of services was maintained with the help of Craig, David, Ricarda and Jay, to whom we owe an immense debt of gratitude.

The problem of replacing the churchyard floodlighting has been resolved. Lightmaster Direct kindly donated their time and expertise in giving us a professional design solution resulting in efficient, eco-friendly LED lighting that doesn't pollute the night sky, with a fraction of previous running costs.

The following reports were received from groups within the church:

### **Safeguarding Report**

A document was collated which details the DBS number and completion dates of training for those required to undertake such training. Most training is now available online. There were no referrals to the Diocesan Safeguarding Team in 2021. Online paperwork has taken us to level 3 of the parish dashboard, a significant achievement, and we have contributed to the Past Case Review 2.

### **Bell Ringers**

After we were released from the second lockdown in June several of the Bell ringers were reluctant to restart ringing straight away as there was still so much Covid about and the ventilation in the Tower is not good even with the door open.

Regular Thursday practice nights recommenced in the Autumn and our two new ringers have been making good progress ever since, with extra tuition from a ringer in Offenham. We have not been able to return to regular ringing on Sundays before the Services but have rung for the Major Church Festivals, and hopefully with our two new local ringers we will be able to restart. on Sundays.

## **Children and Youth Leader**

Due to the pandemic, government restrictions and guidelines meant much of my workload was held online. School work consisted of leading collective worship via Microsoft Teams, writing Newsletter prayers, and recording short videos based around the value of the term. Church work was divided up into age groups - younger youth, youth and *bedtime church*. All provided continuity and helped to maintain relationships with and among the younger members of our church family.

As restrictions lifted, the level of in person engagement also changed. School started allowing in-person collective worship. To begin with many schools held class collective worship before moving back to whole school worship. Due to COVID numbers increasing within school, collective worship would often return to teams. Towards to end of the year visits took place in 7 out of our 8 schools, with mentoring, hosting collective worship and school clubs. Mindfulness days and transition days for school leavers as well as leavers services took place.

The older youth group meets regularly as a life group to study the bible. Christmas movies night and social gatherings resumed for the children and young people in the VaCE. Community involvement increased as a group of volunteers hosting craft and games at village festivals and gatherings. Ecumenical involvement also began again in Chipping Campden.

## **Church Choir**

By Easter of last year (2021) we were moving back into something like normality and had much pleasure in welcoming our newest members, John Connolly and Laura Shepherd. Although we have enjoyed no celebrations to compare with those of 2019 (Doreen Robinson's BEM), we have had especial joy at singing at two weddings of our own choristers, Beatrice and Andrew, and Meriel and Steve. We sang at two further weddings and one funeral at Blockley and one wedding at Chipping Campden.

The only downside to this period has been the freezing temperatures in church for services and practices. Hot water bottles were much in evidence! The choir's financial balance at 31<sup>st</sup> Dec. 2021 was £676.38p, our main expenses being music scores, music enlargements and wedding gifts for choristers.

## **Deanery Synod Report**

Like every deanery in the Gloucester Diocese, the North Cotswolds spent much of 2021 framing a deanery strategic plan. Working together as deanery synod, chapter, benefices and parishes, we aim to reshape the mission and ministry of this deanery to be more focussed on our shared mission priorities whilst at the same time reducing our dependence on stipendiary ordained ministry to a level that is sustainable for the long term. Parish giving across the whole North Cotswolds increased and we are now closer than ever to reaching our share target.

## **Flower Arrangers**

With no services for the first part of the year, flowers inside the church were not possible. We have been able to contribute to the reordering project. We have been very lucky to have added Jane Sked to our team. She is a professional florist with a particular interest in sustainability. She was able to create beautiful sustainable floristry arches around the door for Christmas and Easter. Because of Covid our team has been affected, a number of members have not felt able to continue as volunteers. We do need to build up a new generation of helpers who would like to contribute and are interested in sustainability.

We have continued to change floristry practices in church by reducing and finally eliminating the use and consumption of plastic and other materials which are toxic to the environment. We have begun to move away from the purchase of imported flowers for our regular

services. We are conscious of damaging air miles associated with out of season and exotic blooms.

We try to source foliage and flowers locally. Claire has been busy preparing and growing a limited number of flowers which can be used at various times of the year. This may not be possible for special occasions like weddings where particular colours or blooms are requested. If florists are employed they are asked not to use floral foam, and if they insist, they are asked to remove it immediately after the occasion. Local flowers grown in allotments in Blockley and Moreton have been donated by kind individuals for Harvest Festival and a beautiful local wedding.

### **Giving and Mission**

Our thanks go to Robert Willott for an enlightening talk on Save The Children charity. This resulted in the sum of £1,070 being sent to the charity.

### **Home Groups**

Despite the lockdowns, our home group continued to meet on alternate Monday evenings, as we moved our meetings onto Zoom. This worked well, enabling us to share screens, watch videos, and use breakout rooms. It also had the added benefit of enabling Vanessa Zimmerman, who now lives in Sweden, to join with us. After a long summer break, we reconvened in September, starting the new term with a bring-and-share supper. Dana joined us for this and gave us a fascinating introduction to Paul's letters to Colossians and Philemon, which we had chosen as our next study. The remaining meetings of the year were in person, but with Vanessa still joining us on Zoom, which has been great! Average attendance is generally around 6- 8, although we have reached 10 on occasions.

### **Ministry Enabling Team**

The Ministry Team met with Dana at the vicarage on as soon as they were able after lockdown ended. We shared hopes and dreams for the future of the church and spent time in prayer, asking for Gods leading and guiding in the growing of his family in this village. Discussion took place as to who would be responsible for various tasks during Dana's sabbatical, namely the running of the Open Door service and the liaising with clergy when enquiries were made re baptisms, funerals etc.

### **Open the Book**

There has been no Open the Book in-person collective worship since lockdown in March 2020. However, a number of videos were produced of Open the Book stories which were shared with Blockley school in the spring of 2021. We kept in contact with Ann Barry, the Head of Blockley School; she is very enthusiastic about our resuming, but Covid 19 has meant that safety remained a concern throughout the year.

The church continued to make charitable donations.

Safeguarding is an agenda item at each PCC meeting and any issues arising are discussed. Our policies are on the website [www.blockleychurch.org.uk](http://www.blockleychurch.org.uk).

Vale and Cotswold Edge Team

**St Peter and St Paul**

**Blockley with Aston Magna**

**Annual Accounts 2021**

# Independent Examiner's Report

To the members and trustees of the Parochial Church Council of Blockley with Aston Magna.

This report on the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021 is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011.

## Respective responsibilities of the trustees of the charity and the examiner

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The trustees consider that an audit is not required under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 and that an independent examination is needed.

It is the examiner's responsibility to

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- To state whether particular matters have come to the Examiner's attention.

## Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. That examination includes a review of the accounting records 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 concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all 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

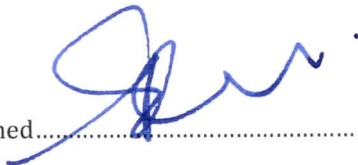
\* to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act, and

\* to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act

have 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.

Signed.....



Name.....

ALAN GREEN

Date.....

9<sup>th</sup> MAY 2022

Address

WILLOW TREE HOUSE

DITCHFORD HILL

GL56965

**ST PETER & ST PAUL CHURCH, BLOCKLEY WITH ASTON MAGNA**  
**RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted	2021	2020
			TOTAL	TOTAL
<b>INCOME</b>				
<b>Giving</b>				
Parish Giving Scheme	£20,841		£20,841	£18,168
Other giving and donations	£7,102	£5,000	£12,102	£11,588
Tax recovered through Gift Aid	£4,687		£4,687	£6,647
<b>Church activities</b>				
Father Brown income from BBC	£10,650		£10,650	£0
Father Brown income from merchandise sales	£1,545		£1,545	£1,060
The Voice sales and advertising	£3,482		£3,482	£3,161
Legacy	£2,000		£2,000	£0
Parochial Fees income	£5,308		£5,308	£2,696
Church Room lettings/nursery garden rent	£168		£168	£0
Sundry income	£238		£238	£0
<b>Investment income</b>				
Interest & investment income	£947	£2,257	£3,204	£4,208
<b>Income from extraordinary activities</b>				
Grant re VAT refund		£2,965	£2,965	£0
Donation from the Brownes			£0	£1,000
Appeal for Save the Children		£1,070	£1,070	£0
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>£56,968</b>	<b>£11,292</b>	<b>£68,260</b>	<b>£48,528</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
<b>Outward Giving</b>				
Donations		-£1,020	-£1,020	-£2,368
<b>Running expenses</b>				
Parish Share	-£30,277		-£30,277	-£30,277
Minor repairs & routine maintenance	-£5,020		-£5,020	-£4,803
Clergy expenses	-£2,734		-£2,734	-£2,065
Heating & lighting	-£2,706		-£2,706	-£3,356
The Voice costs	-£2,770		-£2,770	-£2,655
Conservator fees re Father Brown filming			£0	£0
Father Brown merchandise costs	-£823		-£823	-£389
Insurance	-£2,416		-£2,416	-£2,385
Fundraising costs			£0	£0
Parochial Fees paid to Diocese			£0	-£1,605
Music costs, including weddings	-£690		-£690	-£489
Administration costs	-£646		-£646	-£1,964
Flowers			£0	-£152
Youth work costs	-£3,339		-£3,339	-£334
Sundry costs	-£2,528		-£2,528	-£1,368
	-£53,949	-£1,020	-£54,969	-£54,210
<b>Extraordinary expenditure</b>				
Refund of donation from Abacus (Automaton)		-£1,500	-£1,500	£0
Reordering project		-£27,083	-£27,083	-£23,292
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b>-£53,949</b>	<b>-£29,603</b>	<b>-£83,552</b>	<b>-£77,502</b>
Surplus/(Deficit) before gains	£3,019	-£18,311	-£15,292	-£28,974
Transfers between funds	-£500	£500	£0	£0
Net outgoing resources before gains	£2,519	-£17,811	-£15,292	-£28,974
Gains on investment assets	£2,721	£6,485	£9,206	£4,114
Net movement in funds	£5,240	-£11,326	-£6,086	-£24,860
Funds brought forward at 1 January 2021	£89,848	£214,087	£303,935	£328,795
Funds carried forward at 31 December 2021	<b>£95,088</b>	<b>£202,761</b>	<b>£297,849</b>	<b>£303,935</b>

continued

**ST PETER & ST PAUL CHURCH, BLOCKLEY WITH ASTON MAGNA**  
**RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**  
**(CONTINUED)**

2021	2020
------	------

**Total funds are represented by:**

Lloyds Treasurers' account	£88,906	£69,926
Lloyds Instant Saver	£5,080	£4,604
Lloyds re Voice	£4,231	£1,304
CBF Investment Fund (accumulated income units) at Market Value.	£45,946	£39,089
CBF Investment Fund (income units) at Market Value.	£18,686	£16,337
Skipton Building Society	£50,000	£86,311
United Bank Trust	£85,000	£86,364
	<b>£297,849</b>	<b>£303,935</b>

Accounts approved at a meeting of the Parochial Church Council on 7th March, 2022.

Robert Greenstock (Churchwarden)

Marie Hildreth (Churchwarden)

Philip Gee (Treasurer)

**ST PETER & ST PAUL CHURCH, BLOCKLEY WITH ASTON MAGNA**  
**Notes to the Receipts & Payments Account for the year ended 31 December 2021**

1. The accounts have been prepared on the Receipts & Payments basis and are in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006.
2. The easing of the restrictions relating to the Covid 19 pandemic meant that it was possible to resume services in church part way through the year and the BBC was able to resume filming of Father Brown giving a much needed boost to income.
3. Restricted funds are those raised explicitly for specific purposes such as for the maintenance, repair and improvement of the church and its contents and for funds resulting from special appeals. These funds can only be used for these purposes.

The movements on the funds in 2021 were:

	<u>1<sup>st</sup> January, 2021</u>		<u>31<sup>st</sup> December, 2021</u>	
Restricted Funds:				
Chancel	30,032		31,259	
Robinson Organ	5,257		5,971	
Automaton	5,792		4,528	
Bells	319		332	
Reordering	--		5,000	
Other	<u>172,687</u>	214,087	<u>155,671</u>	202,761
Unrestricted Funds		<u>89,848</u>		<u>95,088</u>
		<u>£303,935</u>		<u>£297,849</u>

Each year £500 is credited to the Organ Fund. This is a donation from Doreen Robinson in lieu of notional payments that she would receive for playing the organ in regular services.

A phased scheme of a major refurbishment of the church is in progress and it is expected that the funds held by the church at the year end will be needed for this purpose.

4. Father Brown merchandise has been sold again this year, mainly through Blockley Shop; the easing of the Covid 19 restrictions has resulted in a welcome increase in sales compared with 2020. We continue to be grateful to Sam and his staff; the Shop receives part of the proceeds of each item sold.
5. A total of £5,020 was spent on minor repairs, routine maintenance and replacing items of routine use, such as candles.

6. The parish continued to pay an administrator who worked with Dana one day a week. Stacy left to take up employment elsewhere at the end of January, 2021 and was replaced by Sophie in June.
7. Amy, a Youth, Children and School's leader is employed by the Vale and Cotswold Edge Team and the costs are shared with other churches in the Team. The figure of £3,339 relates to £1,522 for 2020 and £1,817 for 2021. Contributions are paid monthly by standing order but for unknown reasons the bank ceased to make these payments in the early part of 2020. As a result a 'catch-up' payment was made in early 2021.
8. The amount of £27,083 relates to further expenditure on the installation of a new heating system for the church. This is part the first stage of the phased scheme of a major refurbishment of the church mentioned in Note 3 above.

## Independent Examiner's Report

To the members and trustees of the Parochial Church Council of Blockley with Aston Magna.

This report on the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021 is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011.

### Respective responsibilities of the trustees of the charity and the examiner

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The trustees consider that an audit is not required under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 and that an independent examination is needed.

It is the examiner's responsibility to

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- To state whether particular matters have come to the Examiner's attention.

### Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. That examination includes a review of the accounting records 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 concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all 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 130 of the 2011 Act, and
  - \* to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Acthave 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.

Signed.....

Name.....ALAN GREEN.....

Date.....9<sup>th</sup> MAY 2022.....

Address.....WILLOW TREE HOUSE  
DITCHFORD HILL  
GL56965

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# Accounts

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# Trustees' Annual Report for the period

		Period start date			Period end date		
<b>From</b>	1st	January	2020	<b>To</b>	31 <sup>st</sup>	December	2020

## Section A Reference and administration details

**Charity name** THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST PETER & ST PAUL, BLOCKLEY WITH ASTON MAGNA

**Other names charity is known by** BLOCKLEY PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

**Registered charity number (if any)** 1181561

**Charity's principal address** THE VICARAGE, HIGH STREET,  
BLOCKLEY, MORETON-IN-MARSH,  
GLOUCESTERSHIRE  
**Postcode** GL56 9ES

### Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Revd Canon DANA LURSKE DELAP	CHAIR		
2	GRAHAM NEW	Trustee		
3	CHRISTINE BODDINGTON	Trustee	Retired 25 October 2020	
4	ROBERT GRAHAM WILLOTT	Trustee	Retired 25 October 2020	
5	JOANNA SARAH KNIGHT*	Trustee		
6	BARBARA PATRICIA DUNN	Trustee		
7	ROBERT KINGSFORD BURCH	Trustee		
8	MARIE ANN HILDRETH	Trustee		
9	KAREN YOUDELL*	Trustee		
10	CHRISTINE HELEN MOOR	Trustee		
11	JOHN JAMES TAYLOR	Trustee		
12	ADRIAN PHILIP BENEY	Trustee		
13	ROBERT IAN GREENSTOCK	Trustee		
14	CAROLE DIANE MANN*	Trustee		
15	PHILIP GEE	Trustee	Appointed 2 November 2020	

16	Dr STEPHANIE BEVAN	Trustee	Appointed 25 October 2020	
17	DEREK LUFF	Trustee	Appointed 25 October 2020	
18				
19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Retired 25 April 2021</li> </ul>			

**Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)**

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

**Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)**

Type of adviser	Name	Address

**Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)**

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**Section B Structure, governance and management**

**Description of the charity's trusts**

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL POWERS MEASURE (1956) AS AMENDED AND CHURCH REPRESENTATION RULES THAT CAME INTO FORCE ON 02 JAN 1957
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	TRUST
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	ELECTED BY ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

**Additional governance issues (Optional information)**

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system

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and procedures to manage them.

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## **Section C Objectives and activities**

**Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document**

PROMOTING IN THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH THE WHOLE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

**Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)**

The PCC's charitable objects are focused primarily on the advancement of religion, which is recognised as a charitable purpose having public benefit. Regular public worship has been provided in the Parish Church free of charge and open to all.

During the period, public worship was adapted to accommodate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic by providing a mixture of restricted public worship in the Parish Church and other regular acts of worship conducted digitally.

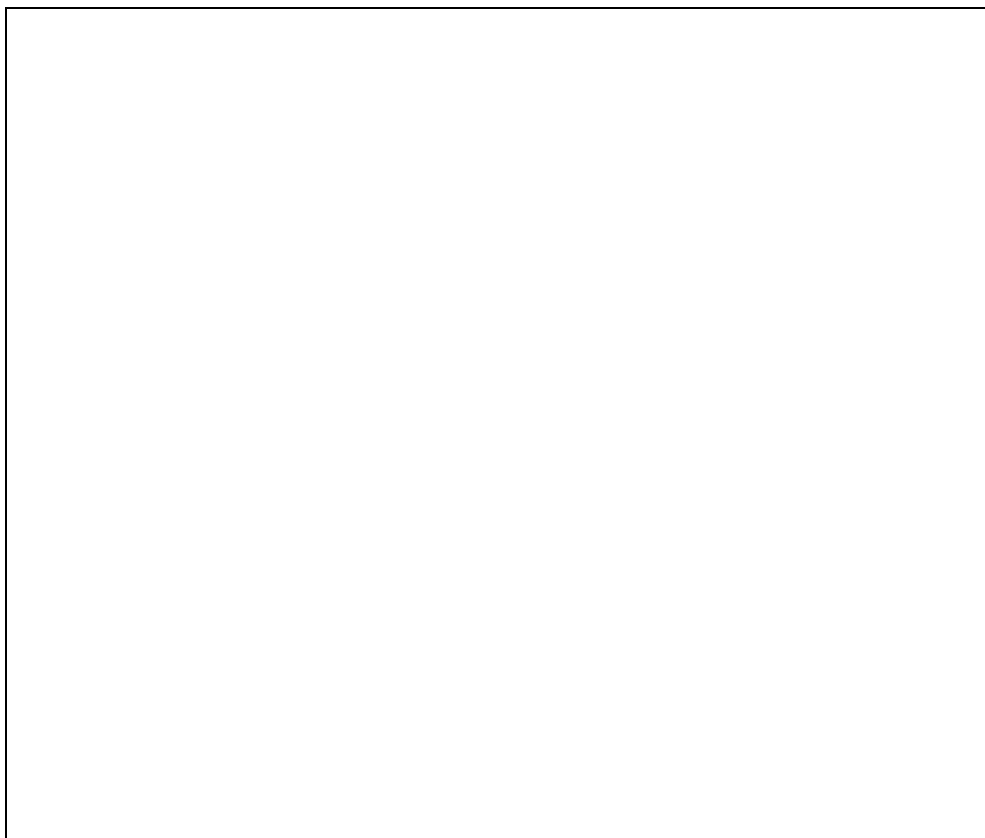
PCC's members also perform roles at Blockley Primary School, including teaching and taking school assemblies which contribute to the advancement of education which is recognised as a charitable purpose having public benefit.

Donations are made to other charities and our own projects provide public benefits in the relief of poverty and need, whether within or outside the ecclesiastical parish, often for minority groups with particular needs such as the elderly.

## Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.



## Section D

## Achievements and performance

**Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year**

Blockley PCC met five times during 2020, excluding Standing Committee meetings.

Highlights of 2020 included:

- Bird and hedgehog boxes were installed throughout the churchyard, with two bug hotels and a wild flower area. In field work by Phill Clayton, over 50 species of wild flower and grasses were found.
- Dana Delap led well-attended Sunday morning Zoom services with the Vale and Cotswold Edge Team throughout the Covid-19 pandemic from Palm Sunday. Regular emails and printed letters kept the congregation and village in contact with the church.
- Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Christmas services in Blockley Church took a different form this year, with services including carols in the churchyard, and a walk-through nativity. Live Advent windows were organised throughout Blockley which proved very popular, with hopes this may be repeated in future years.

Amy Todd, our children and youth leader, was furloughed for some of the year and adapted her work to enable her to continue to interact with and support the children and young people across the benefice, moving most of the groups on-line and developing new on-line services and recordings. She developed collective worship material for schools and developed activity and craft packs monthly to between 80-100 children.

Christine Moor continued in her role as a Foundation Governor at Blockley Primary School and is now Chair of Governors. Links with Ghana were strengthened, particularly with exchanges of videos between Tishigu School in Tamale and Blockley.

The school moved online for much of 2020, and Open the Book had to be suspended. But Canon Dana Delap recorded weekly videos for the children. The Ministry Enabling Team continued to work with the vicar, taking responsibility for Second Sunday at 6, Open Door, visiting and baptism preparation.

The merchandising group chaired by Karen Youdell continued to develop and sell *Father Brown* merchandise in conjunction with Blockley shop.

*The Voice* was published monthly under the leadership of Carole Mann (Editor), Carol Willott and Nigel Moor, working with Stan Cross (distribution) and Brenda (advertising) to increase its visibility and viability.

Preliminary work took place on church reordering with the aim of providing more flexible facilities in keeping with present-day needs. This work continues to be led by Robert Burch with Christine Moor and John Taylor. Robust debate and thorough evaluation have taken place throughout the year and, in conjunction with architects and the Diocese, a provisional plan has been developed.

The church continued to make charitable donations.

Safeguarding is an agenda item at each PCC meeting and any issues arising are discussed. Our policies are on the website [www.blockleychurch.org.uk](http://www.blockleychurch.org.uk).

## Section E

## Financial review

### Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

At 31 December 2020, Blockley PCC's reserves stood at approximately £303,935.

The PCC has started a major reordering project. In view of this project, those funds have been allocated as follows:

*Restricted funds*

£214,087 to be used as matching funds in raising the finance needed for the reordering project.

*Unrestricted (general) funds*

£89,848 to cover general running costs (of which about £55,000 would be required to cover one year's spending in the absence of any income), while the PCC works to increase income to make up for the probable decrease in income from the *Father Brown* filming by the BBC.

### Details of any funds materially in deficit

### Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

## Section G

## Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

### Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	ROBERT GRAHAM WILLOTT	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	TRUSTEE	
Date	4 OCTOBER 2021	

Vale and Cotswold Edge Team

**St Peter and St Paul**

**Blockley with Aston Magna**

**Annual Accounts 2020**

# Independent Examiner's Report

To the members and trustees of the Parochial Church Council of Blockley with Aston Magna.

This report on the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020 is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011.

## Respective responsibilities of the trustees of the charity and the examiner

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The trustees consider that an audit is not required under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 and that an independent examination is needed.

It is the examiner's responsibility to

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- To state whether particular matters have come to the Examiner's attention.

## Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. That examination includes a review of the accounting records 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 concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all 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 130 of the 2011 Act, and
  - \* to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Acthave 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.

Signed.....

Name...ALAN RONALD GREEN

Date...15<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2021

Address WILLOW TREE HOUSE  
DITCHFORD HILL  
GLOUCESTER GL56 9BS

**ST PETER & ST PAUL CHURCH, BLOCKLEY WITH ASTON MAGNA**  
**RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

**INCOME**

**Giving**

Parish Giving Scheme

Other giving and donations

Tax recovered through Gift Aid

**Church activities**

Father Brown income from BBC

Father Brown income from merchandise sales

Church & Villages News sales and advertising

Fund raising events

Parochial Fees income

Church Room lettings/nursery garden rent

Sundry income

**Investment income**

Interest & investment income

**Income from extraordinary activities**

Grant re VAT refund

Donation from the Brownes

Appeal for Ghana school desks

Bells Appeal/donations

**Total incoming resources**

**EXPENDITURE**

**Outward Giving**

Donations

**Running expenses**

Parish Share

Minor repairs & routine maintenance

Clergy expenses

Heating & lighting

Church & Villages News costs

Conservator fees re Father Brown filming

Father Brown merchandise costs

Insurance

Fundraising costs

Parochial Fees paid to Diocese

Music costs, including weddings

Administration costs

Flowers

Youth work costs

Sundry costs

**Extraordinary expenditure**

Cost of bells

Other major projects

**Total resources expended**

(Deficit) before gains

Transfers between funds

Net outgoing resources before gains

Gains on investment assets

Net movement in funds

Funds brought forward at 1 January 2020

Funds carried forward at 31 December 2020

Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted	2020	2019
<b>3</b>			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>INCOME</b>				
<b>Giving</b>				
Parish Giving Scheme	£18,168		£18,168	£16,012
Other giving and donations	£11,488	£100	£11,588	£15,313
Tax recovered through Gift Aid	£6,647		£6,647	£6,808
<b>Church activities</b>				
Father Brown income from BBC	£0		£0	£8,252
Father Brown income from merchandise sales	£1,060		£1,060	£5,509
Church & Villages News sales and advertising	£3,161		£3,161	£3,340
Fund raising events	£0		£0	£1,314
Parochial Fees income	£2,696		£2,696	£4,781
Church Room lettings/nursery garden rent	£0		£0	£0
Sundry income	£0		£0	£367
<b>Investment income</b>				
Interest & investment income	£1,263	£2,945	£4,208	£1,010
<b>Income from extraordinary activities</b>				
Grant re VAT refund	£0		£0	£268
Donation from the Brownes	£1,000		£1,000	£500
Appeal for Ghana school desks	£0		£0	£1,274
Bells Appeal/donations	£0		£0	£420
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>£45,483</b>	<b>£3,045</b>	<b>£48,528</b>	<b>£65,169</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
<b>Outward Giving</b>				
Donations	-£2,368		-£2,368	-£17,682
<b>Running expenses</b>				
Parish Share	-£30,277		-£30,277	-£29,203
Minor repairs & routine maintenance	-£4,803		-£4,803	-£6,307
Clergy expenses	-£2,065		-£2,065	-£3,076
Heating & lighting	-£3,356		-£3,356	-£3,204
Church & Villages News costs	-£2,655		-£2,655	-£4,023
Conservator fees re Father Brown filming	£0		£0	-£410
Father Brown merchandise costs	-£389		-£389	-£3,257
Insurance	-£2,385		-£2,385	-£2,318
Fundraising costs	£0		£0	-£1,104
Parochial Fees paid to Diocese	-£1,605		-£1,605	-£1,704
Music costs, including weddings	-£489		-£489	-£911
Administration costs	-£1,964		-£1,964	-£1,627
Flowers	-£152		-£152	-£257
Youth work costs	-£334		-£334	-£1,152
Sundry costs	-£1,368		-£1,368	-£383
	-£54,210	£0	-£54,210	-£76,618
<b>Extraordinary expenditure</b>				
Cost of bells		£0	£0	-£207
Other major projects		-£23,292	-£23,292	-£11,777
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b>-£54,210</b>	<b>-£23,292</b>	<b>-£77,502</b>	<b>-£88,602</b>
(Deficit) before gains	-£8,727	-£20,247	-£28,974	-£23,432
Transfers between funds	-£500	£500	£0	£0
Net outgoing resources before gains	-£9,227	-£19,747	-£28,974	-£23,432
Gains on investment assets	£1,235	£2,879	£4,114	£9,376
Net movement in funds	-£7,992	-£16,868	-£24,860	-£14,056
Funds brought forward at 1 January 2020	£97,840	£230,955	£328,795	£342,851
Funds carried forward at 31 December 2020	<b>£89,848</b>	<b>£214,087</b>	<b>£303,935</b>	<b>£328,795</b>

**Total funds are represented by:**

Lloyds Treasurers' account

Lloyds Instant Saver

Lloyds re Voice

CBF Investment Fund (accumulated income units) at Market Value.

CBF Investment Fund (income units) at Market Value.

Shawbrook Bank

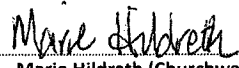
Skipton Building Society


United Trust Bank

£69,926	£5,197
£4,604	£16,142
£1,304	£1,143
£39,089	£35,782
£16,337	£15,531
£0	£85,000
£86,311	£85,000
£86,364	£85,000
<b>£303,935</b>	<b>£328,795</b>

Accounts approved at a meeting of the Parochial Church Council on 1st March, 2021.

 Robert Greenstock (Churchwarden)

 Marie Hildreth (Churchwarden)

 Philip Gee (Treasurer)

**ST PETER & ST PAUL CHURCH, BLOCKLEY WITH ASTON MAGNA**  
**Notes to the Receipts & Payments Account for the year ended 31 December 2020**

1. The accounts have been prepared on the Receipts & Payments basis and are in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006.
2. The Covid 19 pandemic and the suspension of 'live' church services along with the closure of the church building for the majority of the year had a significant impact on income, particularly that relating to Father Brown. Fortunately the income from the Parish Giving Scheme has increased.
3. Restricted funds are those raised explicitly for specific purposes such as for the maintenance, repair and improvement of the church and its contents and for funds resulting from special appeals. These funds can only be used for these purposes.

The movements on the funds in 2020 were:

	<u>1<sup>st</sup> January, 2020</u>		<u>31<sup>st</sup> December, 2020</u>	
Restricted Funds:				
Chancel	29,293		30,032	
Robinson Organ	4,640		5,257	
Automaton	5,650		5,792	
Bells	213		319	
Other	<u>191,159</u>	230,955	<u>172,687</u>	214,087
Unrestricted Funds		<u>97,840</u>		<u>89,848</u>
		<u>£328,795</u>		<u>£303,935</u>

Each year £500 is credited to the Organ Fund. This is a donation from Doreen Robinson in lieu of notional payments that she would receive for playing the organ in regular services.

The PCC has started a phased scheme of a major refurbishment of the church and it is expected that the funds held by the church at the year end will be needed for this purpose.

4. The sum of £11,488 came from collections in church, envelopes, the wall safe and donations.
5. Father Brown merchandise has been sold again this year, mainly through Blockley Shop but the effects of the Covid 19 pandemic has resulted in a much lower level of sales. We continue to be grateful to Sam and his staff; the Shop receives part of the proceeds of each item sold.
6. Each year the PCC decides upon charities to receive £200 each. The PCC also pays for the rent on the Little Village Hall for Cakes&Co afternoon tea meetings but these did not take place for the majority of 2020 because of the Covid 19 pandemic.

7. A total of £4,803 was spent on minor repairs, routine maintenance and replacing items of routine use, such as candles.
8. Two part time workers continued to support the church during 2020; Stacy, an administrator worked with Dana on Mondays and Amy, a youth worker, is shared with other churches in the Vale & Cotswold Edge Team.
9. The amount of £23,292 relates to early expenditure on the installation of a new heating system for the church which is due to be completed in the spring of 2021 This is the first stage of the phased scheme of a major refurbishment of the church mentioned in Note 3 above.