# THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL WANTAGE

England & Wales · Charity number 1181640

## Details

| | |
|---|---|
| **Other names** | PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WANTAGE |
| **Status** | Registered |
| **Legal form** | Other |
| **Registered** | 2019-01-18 |
| **Register** | View on the Charity Commission register |

## Contact

| | |
|---|---|
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| **Email** | parishofwantage@gmail.com |
| **Website** | www.wantageparish.com |

## Activities

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

**Activities:** THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. PETER AND ST.PAUL WANTAGE

## Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

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## Geography

- Oxfordshire

## Finances

| Period end | Income | Expenditure | Assets | Employees |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2024-12-31 | £208,320 | £250,515 | - | - |
| 2023-12-31 | £158,382 | £187,316 | - | - |
| 2022-12-31 | £179,689 | £229,095 | - | - |
| 2021-12-31 | £159,774 | £248,183 | - | - |
| 2020-12-31 | £207,116 | £165,939 | - | - |

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## Trustees

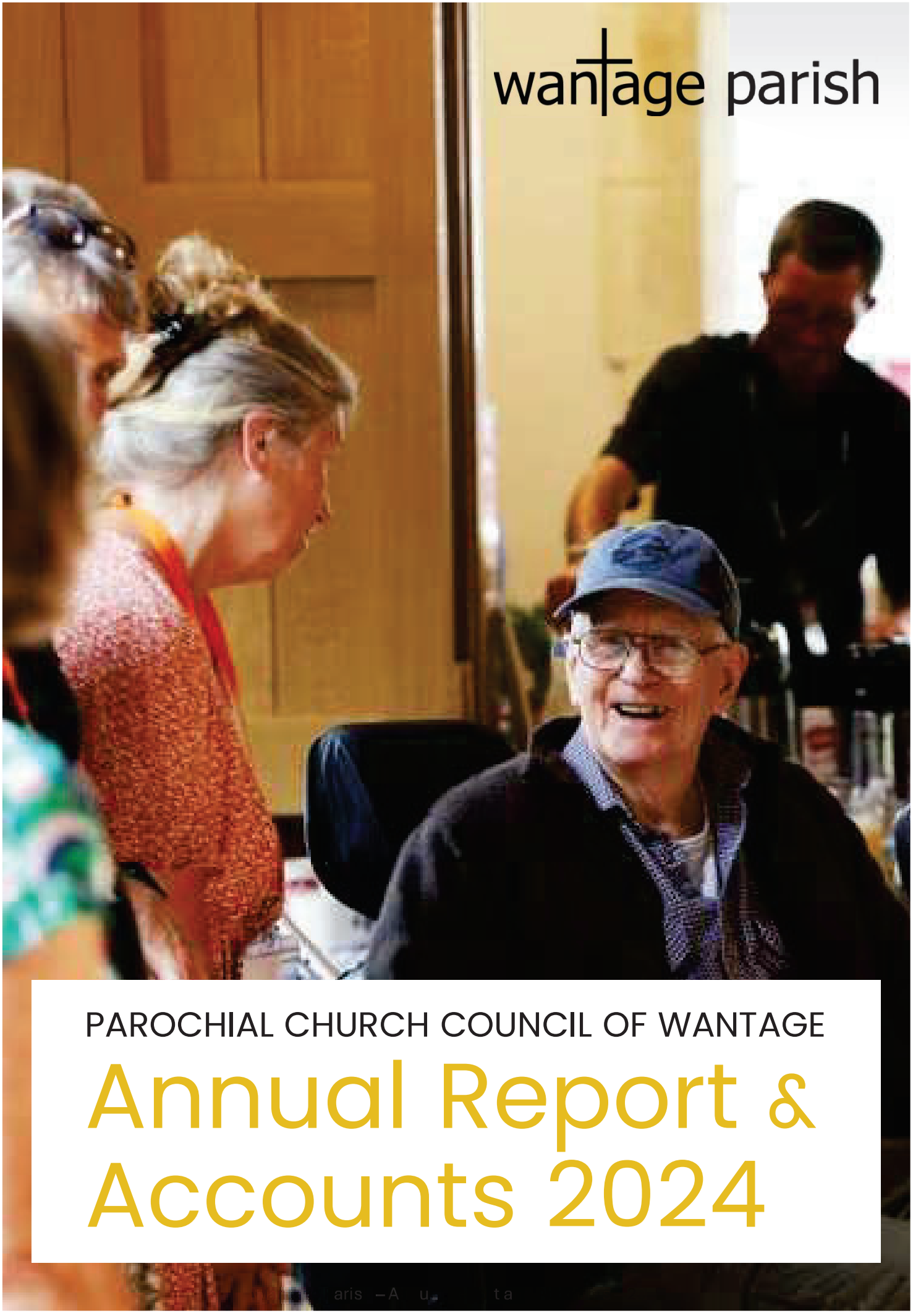
| Name | Role | Appointed |
|---|---|---|
| ALASTAIR JAMES HUNTER | | 2023-05-21 |
| Amanda Smith | | 2026-05-17 |
| Benjamin David Hugh Mabbett | | 2021-04-25 |
| Bridget Procter | | 2020-10-11 |
| Claire Hunter | | 2023-05-21 |
| David Richardson | | 2021-04-25 |
| Dr Suzanne Gwendolen Lapwood | | 2018-04-22 |
| Erica Brenda Mackay | | 2025-05-18 |
| Ian Courtney | | 2026-05-17 |
| Janet Gwenllian Kingdon | | 2023-05-21 |
| Katie Courtney | | 2026-05-17 |
| Peter King | | 2021-04-25 |
| Philip Graeme Johnson | | 2025-05-18 |
| Rev Katherine Ann Magdalene Price | | 2022-07-21 |
| Rev'd Dr Thomas Frances Caroe | | 2024-06-29 |
| Susan Thwaite | | 2026-05-17 |
| Vince Wilkins | | 2025-05-18 |

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THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL

England & Wales - Charity number 1181640

# Accounts



wantage parish

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WANTAGE

# Annual Report & Accounts 2024

Cover Photo:  Round Table in action at Holy Trinity Church

# Vicar's Foreword



They always say, if you want to make God laugh, tell him your plans! We ended last year's foreword with the prediction that 2024 would be an exciting year in the Parish. In fact, of the many new developments we hoped to see flourishing in 2024, some have met with frustration, whilst others are only now beginning to bear fruit at the time of writing in Spring 2025. At the same time, there has been much to celebrate in the ongoing life of the parish, and much to give us hope for the future.

# People



The most significant development for us has been welcoming a new colleague in ministry. In April, we said goodbye to Fr Benji Tyler after nearly four years as curate in Wantage. Fr Benji accompanied our Parish in some of its most turbulent times, during Covid and the subsequent vacancy, and a whole coachload of Wantage folk made the trip to Chippenham to wish him well in his new post! In the Summer, we welcomed the Revd Dr Thomas Frances Caroe as our new curate, along with his wife Hannah. Combined with the retirement of Fr Robert Teare, this has meant our Parish has needed to adapt to having only one minister who is in priest's orders and able to celebrate the Eucharist, and we have been grateful for everyone's flexibility and understanding.





There have been several other goodbyes in 2024, but others who have stepped up into new or expanded ministries. In April, David Richardson handed over the Churchwarden's stave to Janet Kingdon, as he began training as an authorised lay preacher. He preached for the first time in this role in October 2024 and is now fully authorised by the Diocese and taking a regular preaching slot on the rota. In September, we sent Parish Assistant Rosi Bartlett on her way with our blessings, as she took up a role as a university chaplaincy assistant in London. She is now part way through the formal process of selection for ordained ministry. Meanwhile James Clarke has stayed on in a new expanded role as Parish Assistant for Children and Families, finally beginning to fulfil an aspiration we have held in this Parish for several years. This means we now have four regular voices preaching in the Parish, alongside the generous support of The Revd Mary Harwood and Fr Nicholas Cheeseman.

Our loss was Chippenham's gain for the second time towards the end of the year, when Assistant Churchwarden Ian Stone and caretaker Lucy Stone moved away from the area. Their presence is much missed at Holy Trinity and across the Parish. This also leaves Holy Trinity significantly underrepresented at PCC. This is a shame, as Holy Trinity is increasingly central to our mission and outreach.





Around Table is going from strength to strength, celebrating its first anniversary in February 2024 and being awarded four stars for food hygiene. A substantial grant at the start of the year enabled new built-in storage at Holy Trinity to help ease some of the challenges of sharing the space. The far-sighted reordering project from 2017-18 to create a shared community space has borne fruit to an extent not envisaged at the time - but we can't ignore the real challenges that has posed for the worshipping community. The Churchwardens and I are grateful to everyone for their co-operation as we continue to manage how we make this work for everyone.

There have also been goodbyes of a more solemn kind. In 2024 we gathered for the funerals of Betty Collins, Win Colman and Helene Lister Cheese, as well as the interment of ashes for Michael Paterson who died in Scotland. We also formally brought to a close the Parish's longstanding link with Greenfields School in Thokoza, Johannesburg, as we could no longer guarantee the security of funds being transferred to South Africa. We are exploring alternative parish links. Many thanks are due to Judy Tren for all she has done and continues to do in her personal capacity to support the school.

# Projects

The new pattern of Saturday afternoon services, which was trialled between Easter and Advent, did not attract new worshippers from outside our existing community. So, it is back to the drawing board for that! There has also been disappointing take-up for the Personal Discipleship Plan, which was launched towards the end of 2023. We will see whether a relaunch in January 2025 increases the demand on our wonderful PDP Encouragers! Other frustrations have come from an ultimately fruitless Deanery and Diocesan bid to fund a team of children's and youth workers; the reduced scale of AlfredFest as well as of the ecumenical Palm Sunday celebrations; and limited progress on the proposed Parish Church refurbishment project. We're glad to say there are already good signs that 2025 will be a better year for some of these activities.



But the year has also had some notable highlights. After Easter, we welcomed +Steven, the Bishop of Oxford, to administer the sacrament of Confirmation. This was a significant moment in the life of our Parish, as Wantage had not welcomed the Diocesan bishop in many years. Bishop Steven was clearly conscious of the importance of this moment, which set a seal on what our Parish began in inviting our first female Vicar. The day was made extra special by the confirmation candidates, including a last-minute entry from our brother Andrew Haines, as well as 93-year-old Vernon showing it is never too late to turn to Christ.

In Summer, the Parish Church showcased the remarkable creative talents in our congregation in visual arts. This was the first of what we hope will be a regular programme of exhibitions, co-ordinated by our newly appointed volunteer arts co-ordinator Bahar Murphy.





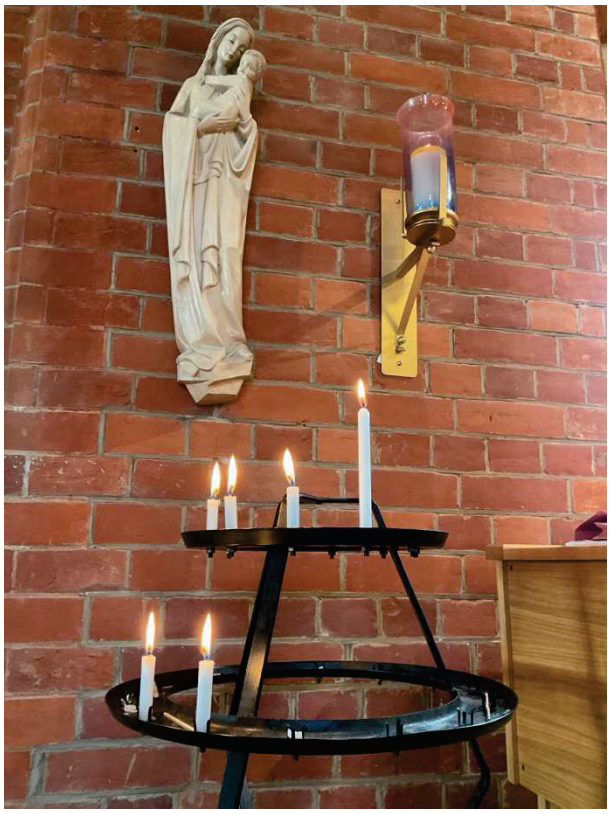


Our churches have also continued to be present for the community in times of both joy and sorrow, hosting the first Mayor's Big Thank You in April, and opening the doors to well over five hundred mourners after the tragic death of a young local footballer. So much of what we do is not measured in 'initiatives' of the type that show up in mission statistics or feature in grant applications, and much may not even be visible to the Sunday morning congregations, but rather it lies in responding to the opportunities God places in our way.

# ~~Prediction~~ Prayer

Last year, we ended this foreword with a look ahead to the coming year. But at the beginning of 2025, we are already living in a much more unsettled and unpredictable world. Yet within the parish, we are also seeing God at work in some remarkable ways we would not have foreseen a year ago.

We commend this Annual Report to your attention, with many thanks to all who have contributed to it, and most of all we ask you to keep all of them and everything we do in this Parish in your prayers throughout the year to come.



Katherine

# Trustees' Report



We, the Parochial Church Council of Wantage ("the PCC"), are pleased to present our annual report for 2024. The report reviews the life of the Parish of Wantage and our two churches: the Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul, and Holy Trinity Church in Charlton. It is a public account of Parish activities during 2024. The report is followed by the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2024.

The PCC is a charity registered with the Charity Commission (registered number 1181640). Our full registered name is the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Peter & St Paul Wantage. PCC members are trustees, responsible for Parish affairs under charity law.

Our Parish is a member of the Wantage Deanery, in the Diocese of Oxford. As part of the wider Church of England, the Parish benefits from the work that goes into training and supporting clergy, as well as from the wider support and guidance of the Diocese.



# Growing, Praying & Flourishing as a Church community

We have been blessed to see a slow but steady growth in our congregation this year in all age groups. Four people were confirmed by the Bishop of Oxford, ranging in age from teens to 90s!

In 2024, following on from the Welcome Sunday, we went to the next stage by:

- holding a "Freshers Fair" type event where new members especially could find out about the various groups and activities and identify areas where they feel they might be able to contribute.
- helping new members of the congregation grow their sense of belonging and finding their niche, be that in reading at a service, helping with coffee, or one of the other areas that will help them feel part of the church family.

Whether people are new or not quite so new(!), there are plenty of social events that folk can join in and share fun, food and friendship. There has been a full social and community programme during the year, highlights including Shrove Tuesday Pancake Party, Patronal Festival (with art exhibition), film nights at Holy Trinity, Dickensian Evening, Harvest lunch and the Wantage Wassail, as well as the regular after-church refreshments, T Bar, Parish Breakfast, and the Around Table hospitality ministry.





It is encouraging to welcome newcomers to church week by week, and to see people taking up opportunities to explore and develop in their faith journey. Bible

Reading Book Club and Old Testament study group continued through 2024. Building on last year's progress, the Praying, Growing Flourishing Planning and Delivery Group informed or facilitated various new initiatives, mostly lay-led, with prayer as a particular focus. This has gone on to bear fruit in a number of new groups and initiatives in the start of 2025. Take-up of the Personal Discipleship Plan was muted during 2024 but has been relaunched at the start of 2025.



A group met weekly online in Advent using the 'Pray as you Go' retreat materials, following which we relaunched the online Julian prayer group monthly. A small group again appreciated an Advent quiet morning in church, streamed live online by a Church Times team. We also collated and circulated information about resources to support prayer and discipleship, particularly for Advent and Lent, which people have found useful, and we continue to provide free topical Bible-based resources for visitors to pick up in both churches.

Plans progress for a Parish Pilgrimage to Northern England in 2025, with good uptake.

The Parish Church is open every day, where our church watchers play an important role in guiding tourists and directing visitors with pastoral needs.

Pastoral visiting continues. In particular, we have forged close connections with the care homes in Wantage, where we now hold monthly services, predominantly of Holy Communion, in all but one (with conversations to establish a service progressing in this last). These are led by Frances, James, and Laurence. At Christmas, volunteers from the choir supported a Service of Lessons and Carols in each of the homes, which was very warmly welcomed, and which drew many who do not habitually attend worship.



**Next steps:** The start of 2025 has already seen the launch of a new home group, a book group and prayer initiatives, as well as a Bible study group for the secondary school age group. Next steps include producing welcome resources.

# Worship

By the beginning of 2024, the average attendance at the 10.30am Sunday Eucharist at the Parish Church had increased to over 90 and this level was sustained through the year. The number of worshippers at the 9.15am Sunday Eucharist
at Holy Trinity has remained at around 25. In contrast, the number attending the early 8am Eucharist at the Parish Church fell and by the end of the year was typically around 10. The weekday Eucharists continue to attract between 3 and 15 worshippers. Our choral evening services remain popular, with increased congregations over the year, with well over 300 at the Christmas carol service.





The Christmas Crib Service aimed at families with young children also drew over 300 people, a noticeable increase over the previous year. The main Eucharist services on Easter Day and at Christmas were well attended, with 225 worshippers across both churches at Easter and 190 at Christmas (similar numbers to 2023).



We experimented with two new service offerings on a Saturday afternoon following extensive consultation within the parish. After a trial period of several months, it has become clear that this is not fulfilling the identified needs. We are looking at other options moving forward.

We decided to drop livestreaming at the start of 2024. This had become excessively burdensome on the small number of volunteers involved, and faced repeated technical challenges. In spite of theoretical enthusiasm from care homes for screening the services to their residents, practical barriers meant this was not taken up in practice, and we have agreed that our ministry to those unable to attend in person is better served by providing home communion. However, an online offering has continued in the form of an online prayer group.



In 2024, we had 16 baptisms, 4 confirmations, 5 marriages (or prayer services following a civil marriage), and 20 funerals in our churches .





The minor changes in serving procedure at the 10.30 service are bedding in well, we have a good number of servers (adults and children) and are always recruiting more. We are trialling some new hypoallergenic fairtrade incense in response to feedback. We continue to respond to feedback on how we pick hymns in the Parish Church and Holy Trinity.

# Outreach & Service to our Town

Around Table celebrated its first anniversary in February 2024 and continues to be one of our major areas of outreach. It is perhaps not surprising that this initiative continues to grow but it is doubtful that we could have imagined the impact that it has had on so many lives within our community. Each week around 130 people access Around Table with the majority enjoying the companionship of eating together in Holy Trinity. A few people request their meal as a takeaway and our stalwart drivers deliver 25-30 meals to people at





home. None of this would be possible without the commitment of our team of 25 volunteers, many drawn from our own church but also an increasing number of others coming from other churches and the community. The kitchen team is ably led by James Hart, who is the mastermind behind sourcing all the food

from the hubs, planning the menu, and then cooking up the weekly feast: a 3-course meal with various options for children and those with special dietary needs. He has hardly had a week off in two years. The hard work and professionalism of the Around Table team have been recognised both in our 4* hygiene rating and in the substantial grants we have received from the local council and others.

Around Table continues to be free to all, without question. Although we source as much as possible from local food hubs which distribute surplus food from supermarkets and elsewhere, this has become an increasing challenge, and we rely on grants and individual donations to keep going.

The Around Table Steering Group has worked hard through 2024 to make Around Table sustainable and compliant, as well as to ensure Holy Trinity remains suitable for worship and other users, including through upgrades to the kitchen and storage areas.




We continue to take sustainability seriously, and for Harvest Festival, invited the Revd Mark Newman, a local farmer and Farming Community Network representative, to preach at Evensong. A reception was arranged beforehand, taking up Mark's challenge to use only food grown and produced within 30 miles of Wantage.




Our churches remain central to the local community and to celebrations of the town's common life. AlfredFest was held again this year, albeit in slightly reduced circumstances, during which Mass in the Market again demonstrated our commitment to a public faith. National commemorations were held at the war memorial in the churchyard, including for the Battle of Britain and Remembrance

Sunday. The latter this year drew together many more people than in previous years, it seems, perhaps as a response to fears about conflict in Europe. It is good that we are able to provide a Christian witness to hope in worrying times.



Holy Trinity is well used by local community groups, which helps to generate revenue at the same time as demonstrating our openness to the community. Thanks to our new art advisor, there was a successful art exhibition alongside our Patronal festival last year, with plans in place for a multimedia art exhibition on the Cross in 2025.



We also continue to support local ecumenical projects such as Street Pastors and the Food Bank.

Dickensian Evening fell on a particularly wet and windy evening, and as well as providing the usual array of stalls, the church became a refuge providing warmth and a dry space. As part of the evening, the Lady Chapel was transformed into a BeSpace prayer area, and the High Altar housed the traditional crib and opportunity to light candles; between them, these two offerings gave many a prayerful space of quiet in the midst of a busy Christmas season.

# Giving

At the heart of the Christian faith is the generosity of God who entered the world to save humankind for a relationship with himself. How do we respond in faith, hope and love towards the church and towards those in need in the world around us?

We are called to put our gifts at God's service, and that includes our financial resources, although we have often been reluctant to talk about this. The Church of England encourages church members to give 5% of their income to the Church and 5% to other charitable causes. There were just over 90 regular givers during 2024. Regular giving by church members was almost £78,000 (before the recovery of Gift Aid from the government), compared with just under £70,000 in 2023.

To give to the Church, we promote the use of the cost-effective Parish Giving Scheme to collect regular contributions, in place of previous giving methods. We recognize the declining use of cash in our society and a contactless "tap-and-pay" device for donations is now used regularly as a means of giving.

We supported a number of charities in the year and our Christmas Appeal raised a wonderful total of £2,772 which was divided between the local charity BeSpace, Sobell House Hospice and the British Red Cross Gaza Appeal.

We are most grateful for the practical and financial support of church members and the many volunteers who give their time and support to the Parish. The activities described throughout this report are made possible only by the generosity of church members.

# Deanery Synod

Deanery Synod is a great opportunity to hear about, support and engage with what is going on across the Deanery, to learn from each other, as well as to help shape what we might best do together rather than separately, and then to support engagement as appropriate from our own parish. The Personal Discipleship Plan was a case in point: we heard about it at Deanery Synod. Our parish wanted to engage, so we held the initial Deanery training for Encouragers in our church (and pleasingly had very high uptake from Wantage/Charlton as well as a few from other parishes in the Deanery).

Synod includes all the Deanery clergy and elected lay representatives from each benefice.

Following a presentation from the diocese in November 2023 the deanery was encouraged to develop a bid (to a national church fund via the diocese) for employment of children and families workers for the deanery.

Much work went into this before the diocese unexpectedly rejected it in October 2024. There has also been disappointing lack of progress on a school chaplaincy project, again partly due to difficulty accessing funds. We have, however, received some helpful feedback, and we are currently thinking about how we might nevertheless work closely as a deanery on work with children and families.

Area Dean John Durant was due to step down in April 2025, but has agreed to stay on to the end of 2025, when our vicar is expected to be taking over as Area Dean. She is supporting him in the role of Associate Area Dean in the meantime.

# Children, Schools and Families

We have a vision for an intergenerational community in which children are a full and equal part of our worshipping life. We are delighted that we have been able to appoint James Clark to an expanded role as Parish Assistant for Children and Families and he has taken the lead on developing this area of our mission both with children in our worshipping community and through outreach to schools and families.







**Trinity Tots** continues to provide an affordable, friendly and supportive toddler group at Holy Trinity. We aim to keep the cost per family as low as possible with only a small increase from 2023. Attracting new families almost weekly, we have in the region of 30 pre-school children registered, with the majority returning week after week. Each session offers play, crafts, singing, snack-time and story-time, always with a Christian theme. Tots is facilitated by a small and dedicated team of volunteers whose presence is deeply appreciated. James is increasingly growing the Christian content and volunteers are becoming more confident in leading the sessions.



**Storytime Service** was enjoyed by the few families that attended. However, it wasn't as popular as we had hoped. More thought is being put into what we do next to nurture the existing congregation's spirituality and in attracting and welcoming new families.

Two successful **Messy Church** events took place in 2024, one at the Parish Church and one at Holy Trinity, attracting about 30 families to one or both events.



We have seen continued and improved relationships with local schools. We have welcomed students from almost every primary school year to our churches for events such as Christingle, Passion Plays, concerts and Prayer Spaces.

The Vicar and Assistant Curate maintain a presence at Wantage Church of England Primary

School leading collective worship. Our **Open the Book** team continues to act out stories from the Bible every Friday morning during term time. At the end of the school year, a Prayer Space morning in the Parish Church helped to prepare year 6 students for moving on to secondary school, and school services provide bookends to the school year.

Other local schools have also been welcomed to our churches for educational trips and Christmas concerts. James Clarke has evolved the relationship with Stockham Primary School and plans to take Prayer Spaces into the school. It's particularly exciting that we now have a way in to King Alfred's College as volunteers have been invited in to facilitate a reflection space for students in Years 7 and 8 at King Alfred's West Site, working with other churches in the deanery to offer pastoral support for students.

**Christingle** at Holy Trinity and the **Crib Service** at the Parish Church were both well received. Scheduling around how festivals fall in relation to the weekend and the school holidays remains a challenge which we learn more from each year!



The children's area in the Parish Church has been expanded to meet increased demand, and James continues to work on ways to engage children of all ages with our shared worship. He has been developing resources related to the readings on Sunday, which are suitable for use by older children both in the choir and children's corner.

An exciting development across the Church of England is the increase in teenagers choosing to come to church which we have seen within our own Parish Community, and this will be something to build on. James responded to a request from the young people by putting on the new Teens' Bible Group every Monday after school hours during term time.

# Safeguarding

2024 was a difficult year for Safeguarding in the Church of England, with the publication in November of the Makin Review into church safeguarding failures and the subsequent resignation of Archbishop Justin Welby. At the same time, our own Diocese of Oxford received a very positive report from an independent audit of safeguarding functions, and we continue to be grateful for the support of Erica Hegg and others at the Diocese. Matt Godfrey, our Parish Safeguarding Officer, and the Vicar were able to respond to the Makin Report with a very timely Safeguarding Sunday presentation which was well received.

We acknowledge that we have a duty of care towards the vulnerable in our church community. We have maintained our commitment to compliance with the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults, as set out in the Church of England Parish Safeguarding Handbook.

We had been asked to consider how Volunteer Agreements might be implemented in the parish. They are an important part of Safer Recruiting, which, in turn, is a component of Safeguarding. Currently implemented for Around Table, a consistent approach is proposed for Trinity Tots. When this has been implemented, the approach can be adopted more widely across Parish activities.

Matt Godfrey continued to play a key role as our Parish Safeguarding Officer through 2024, with Klara Ignell due to take up the post in 2025. Recruiting a new PSO to take over the role with no gap was an important priority.

Key activities in the year have included:

- Keeping our Parish safeguarding policy under review
- Displaying safeguarding posters in both our churches
- Ensuring that all necessary DBS checks are carried out for people in relevant positions within our church community – 14 DBS checks completed
- Ensuring that safeguarding training is completed by people in relevant roles, in line with diocesan requirements – 30 training courses completed
- Liaison, when necessary, with the diocesan safeguarding team and statutory bodies

- Working towards a more rigorous ‘safer recruitment' process for all appointments to relevant positions, both paid and voluntary. Around Table became the first volunteer team to receive role descriptions, helping to ensure that volunteers know their responsibilities and how to access advice and support when needed
- Maintaining data for the Diocese's Parish Dashboards scheme to monitor our safeguarding status and produce an Action Plan

# The Bell Ringers



Our bellringers had another busy year in 2024. On Sunday, 14 April they rang a quarter peal of Grandsire Doubles prior to the Confirmation Service presided over by the Bishop of Oxford, and in celebration of the life of Beryl Stoter, the mother of a longstanding ringer.

On Sunday, 30 June a quarter peal of Grandsire Doubles was rung to welcome our new curate, Frances Caroe, and on Tuesday, 16 July a quarter peal of Plain Bob Triples in memory of a member of the local Mind Group.

On Remembrance Sunday the bells were rung half muffled for the morning service prior to the parade.

Over the Christmas period, in addition to normal Sunday services, the bellringers rang for the Advent Carol service, Carols by Candlelight, the Crib Service, Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve and the Christmas Day service.

On 31 December the Old Year was rung out and the New Year in on all eight bells thanks to a ringer from Steventon who joined us. The team rang diminishing rounds with the tenor tolling 12 times prior to ringing rounds at midnight and on 5 January they rang for the Epiphany Carol Service.

During the past year the bells have been rung for five weddings, one memorial service and seven funerals. For five funerals the 6th bell was tolled and for two funerals a band of six rang with bells half muffled. The bellringers have shown creativity and generosity in responding to unusual pastoral circumstances including the funerals of a young man and a baby.

Recently, two trainee ringers have joined the team. Anyone interested in learning to ring or finding out what that involves, is encouraged to contact Jenny Bennett, the newly appointed Tower Captain and Secretary.

# The Choir

Our Parish Choir maintains the Anglican choral tradition and is held to be among the best in the Diocese. There are currently 35 full-time adult members, a handful of occasional singers, and 13 trebles (junior members up to the age of 14). As well as singing on Sunday mornings, there are monthly choral evensong services, choral services on major festivals, and carol services for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany.





Previous success with the Junior Choir (trebles) has been maintained, and numbers have increased slightly to a total of 13. As two of our older trebles outgrow the Junior Choir, they will be the starting point for a Young People's Choir which we plan to start developing later in 2025. The regular singing outreach visits to the Wantage

CE Primary school have continued, and our Assistant Director of Music has established an additional link with Charlton Primary school, which we plan to expand on over the coming year. Special thanks go to all of those who have helped with recruitment and supervision of our trebles and our outreach into schools. The work we do with children would not be possible without the volunteers who provide this support every single week.



Choir members funded a choir tour to Lancashire in the summer of 2024. They stayed at the world-renowned Stonyhurst College, where our organists and organ scholars had access to no fewer than five pipe organs! The tour included the chance to sing Evensong in Liverpool Cathedral, where the choir was given an extensive tour of the building and all of our organists, organ scholars, and organ enthusiasts were then treated to the opportunity to play the largest organ in the UK. The choir also sang a well-received concert at Broughton Parish Church and finished the tour with a weekend of services at Blackburn Cathedral (live-streamed worldwide). Choir tours, as well as being great fun, are a great opportunity to expand repertoire, reinforce a sense of purpose, and develop friendships through a shared love of music and the Christian faith.

Members of the choir are parishioners first and foremost, fully involved in the broader life and mission of the church. The choir plays a role in supporting worship, attracting new members to the congregation, and offers concerts and

fundraising events each year. This year, our supremely talented Sheenagh Dernie wrote a second pantomime for us - Dick Whittington, of Wantage fame – performed during the early part of 2025. This was a hugely successful and rewarding event, bringing together both members of the choir and members of the congregation to produce something special and to raise money to support the musical life of the church. This event, alongside the Wassail and others over the course of the year, raised a significant sum of money for the Wantage Parish Music Guild (WPMG).





WPMG is a separate charity set up to raise money to support music-making in the Parish. The WPMG supports the salary of our Assistant Director of Music, Barbara Kennedy, which in turn allows us to expand our musical outreach with children and young people. The WPMG (generously supported by the Community of St Mary the Virgin) also supports the musical education of our trebles (including introductory piano, organ and singing lessons), our organ and choral scholarships, and grants towards the cost of choir tours so that all choir members have an equal opportunity to participate.

The spiritual and musical education of children and young people through the choir is very important and would not be possible without support from WPMG, the Community of St Mary the Virgin, and many volunteers.

# Buildings and Infrastructure

We are fortunate to have two beautiful church buildings. The Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul, just off the Market Place in the centre of Wantage, dates from the medieval period and has a grade I listing because of its historical significance. Holy Trinity Church in the Charlton area of the town dates from the early 20th century.





Both churches are inspected every five years by our quinquennial architect, Christian Randall, a specialist conservation architect accredited by the Royal Institute of British Architects. The last inspection was carried out in September 2020. Points raised in the inspections, which were significant from a safety point of view or in terms of keeping the buildings weathertight, have been addressed, as have several more minor points. The next quinquennial inspection will take place in the latter part of 2025.

During 2024, a number of repairs were carried out at the Parish Church, most significantly:

- repair of an area of the south transept ceiling following a plaster fall;
- replacement of rotted timbers in the base of the south transept entrance lobby; and
- replacement of the roof flashings and some repointing in the north aisle to eliminate damp problems.

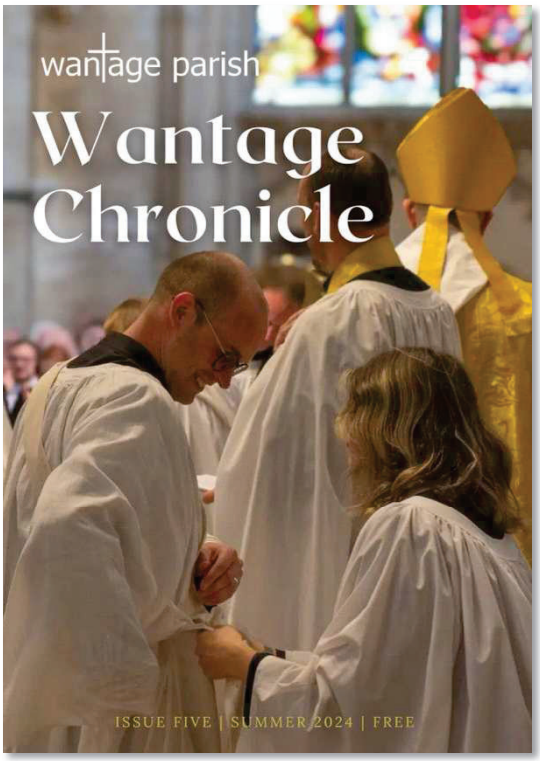
At Holy Trinity Church, some new storage cupboards and a worksurface were added in the vestry. The kitchen flooring was replaced to ensure continuing compliance with hygiene regulations.

Bluetooth receivers were added to the sound systems at both churches. This has been particularly valued at funerals, as CDs are no longer standard and proved a challenge for some families to provide. Routine maintenance tasks were undertaken as required during the year. The PCC is grateful to volunteers from the congregations who do much of this work.

# Communication and Administration

Over recent years, we have made a concerted effort to improve and streamline administrative processes. The main thrust so far has been implementing and managing the central cloud-based Parish Library (a shared drive), which is a means of providing secure access to all the parish administration documents, historical material, and a library of photographs and other resources for use in our communications and other publicity. We are using a powerful Microsoft online office application, and as a charity, we can access enormous amounts of storage for free for at least a ten-year period.

Three editions of the magazine were produced in 2024. Each edition has a theme highlighting things that are going on in the parish, particularly those things that members may not be aware of. We also now have A-frames outside the Parish Church to advertise when the church is open. Plans have been agreed for new external noticeboards.



# Governance

Our PCC's legal status and powers are determined by legislation, in particular the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 (as amended). Our PCC is a registered charity, and the members of the PCC are the charity's trustees under charity law.

The PCC is responsible for overseeing the life and activities of the Parish and for making decisions about all matters of general importance, including how the PCC's funds should be spent.

Membership of our PCC is governed by the Church Representation Rules. The Vicar, other clergy licensed to serve in the Parish and the Churchwardens are automatically members. Other members are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting by church members who are on the Electoral Roll of the Parish. We encourage everyone (aged 16 and over) who attends our churches regularly to register on the Electoral Roll. Our PCC has the power to co-opt additional members to fill casual vacancies. Co-opted members serve until the next Annual Parochial Church Meeting when they may stand for election.

The Electoral Roll was reviewed in March/April 2024 and has been published in the churches. At the time of the review, the Roll stood at 186, there having been 6 additions, 4 deletions, and no amendments.

Churchwardens are elected each year at the Annual Meeting of Parishioners, which is open to all residents of the Parish. They serve on the PCC from the date of their election and continue in office until their successor is admitted to office by the Bishop following the election.

The Vicar and the Churchwardens provide leadership and take day-to-day management decisions in the Parish. The Standing Committee normally consists of the Vicar, Churchwardens, and two other members of the PCC, and has delegated powers to take decisions between meetings of the PCC. Church members elect up to four people to serve on the Wantage Deanery Synod as well as on the PCC. Their term of office is three years. The current term runs to 30 June 2026. At the end of their term of office, Deanery Synod representatives may be re-elected for a second three-year term but must then take a break of at least a three-year term before standing again for election (unless the PCC decides otherwise).

We have agreed that there should be nine other elected PCC members, with a representative balance between those who normally worship at Holy Trinity Church and the Parish Church.

Trustees serve for terms of three years from the date of election. They may be re-elected for a second three-year term but must usually then take a break of at least a year before standing again for election.

The following are the members of our PCC at the date of this report. Except where shown, they served throughout 2024.

## Clergy

- Revd Katherine Price, Vicar
- Revd Frances Caroe, Curate (from 29 June 2024)

## Churchwardens

- Alastair Hunter
- Janet Kingdon (from 28 April 2024, PCC Secretary to 28 April 2024)

## Representatives on Deanery Synod

- Susie Lapwood
- Jan Ralston

## Elected and co-opted members

- Andrew Gregory
- Claire Hunter (PCC Treasurer)
- Ivie Johnson
- Peter King
- Ben Mabbett
- Bridget Procter
- David Richardson (Churchwarden to 28 April 2024)

In addition, the following were members of our PCC from the start of 2024 until the date shown:

- Fr Benji Tyler, Curate (to 7 April 2024)
- Simon Jones (to 28 April 2024)
- Ian Stone (to 2 December 2024)

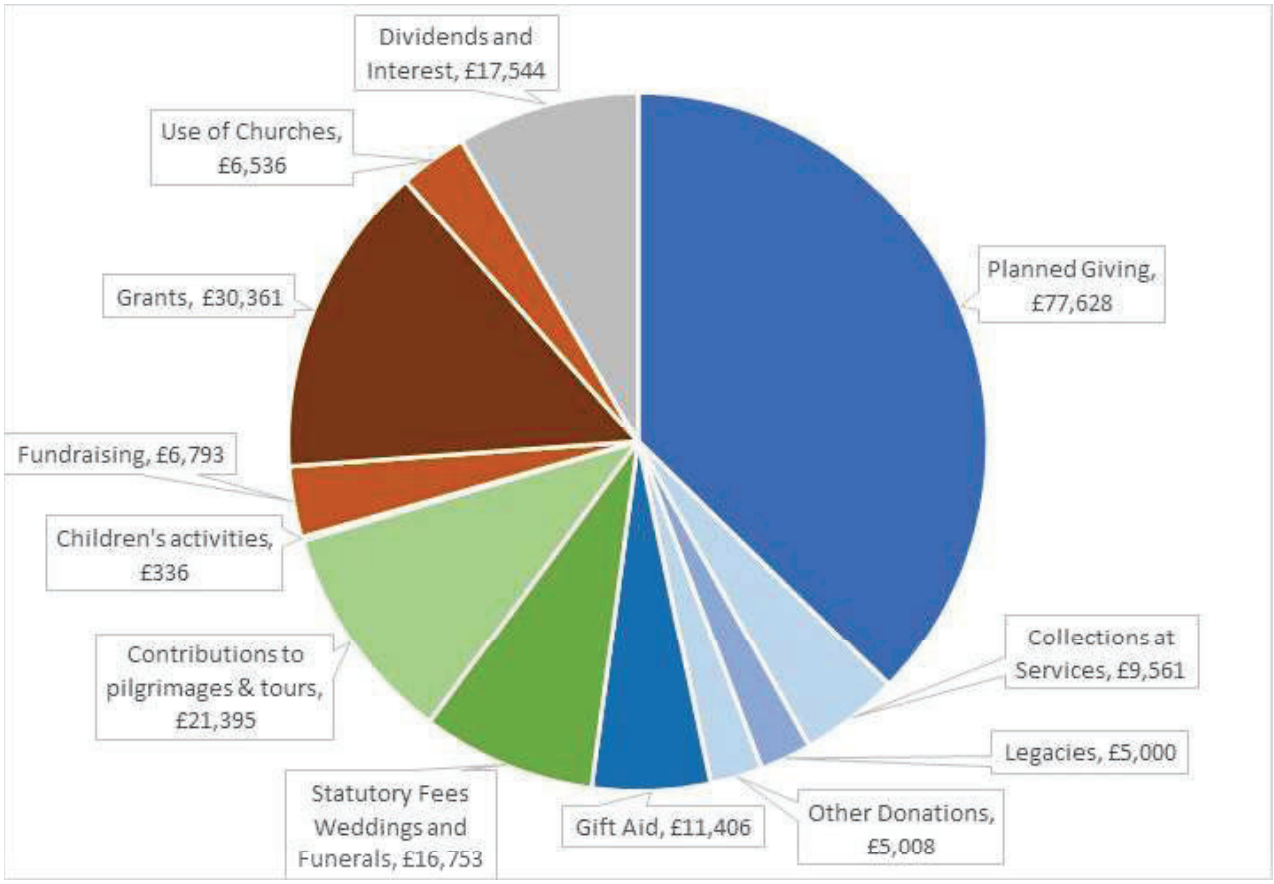
# Finance

**Financial position**

At the end of this report are the PCC's Annual Accounts for 2024, which set out our financial performance for the year and our levels of funds going into next year. These funds comprise:

- unrestricted funds – day-to-day income which can be used for any purpose within the broad charitable objectives of the PCC; and
- restricted funds – money which can only be used for specific purposes based on the origin of the funds or the wishes of the original donors.

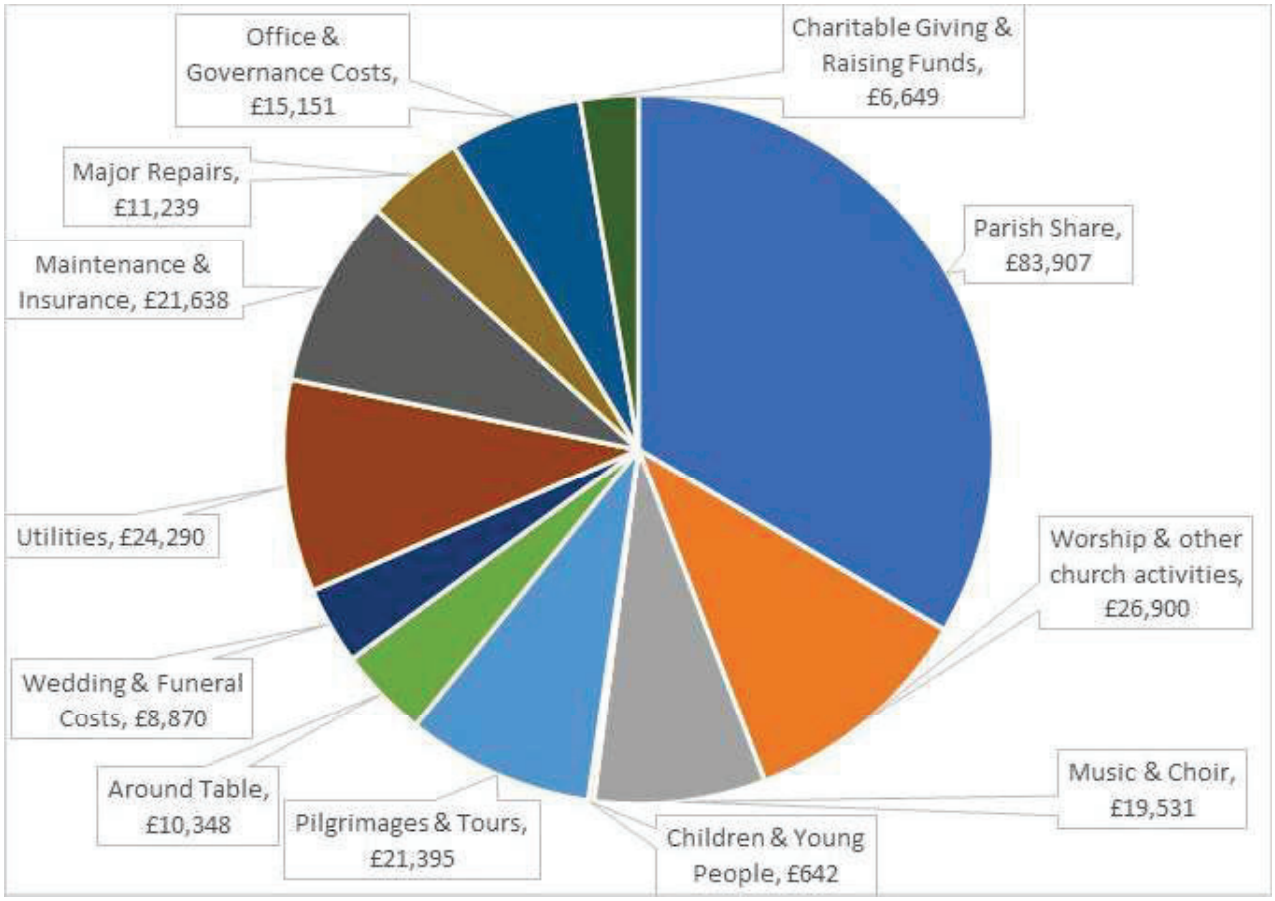
The Parish's income in 2024 was £208,320 (2023: £158,382). The chart below shows a breakdown of how this was generated. Income from giving of various sorts made up 49% of the total for 2024.




Of the total income received, £73,776 (35%) was for restricted uses. This was higher than in 2023 due to some particular grants and income. The Parish received £10,000 in external grants for the Around Table project, and £22,360 of

grants towards building repairs and running costs (from the Butler Trust and the government's VAT recovery scheme for listed places of worship). The contributions by participants to cover the costs of the Choir's successful tour to the Northwest of England, totalling £21,395, were also managed by the PCC this year, which is a change from previous years. It is matched by an equal increase in expenditure.

We spent £250,515 in 2024, increased from £187,316 in 2023. The chart below shows a breakdown of the expenditure. About a third represents the Parish Share which we pay to the Diocese for clergy stipends and training and other diocesan costs. Running our buildings accounts for 23% of our costs, and 33% is spent on worship, ministry, various Parish initiatives and external charitable giving.




Expenditure increased to reflect the higher income from grants (for Around Table and for building work at the Parish Church) and the costs of the choir tour (funded by contributions from participants). The PCC also decided to use its reserves to fund two Parish Assistants who are exploring their vocation. Utilities costs also remain high, costing £4,000 more than the previous year.

Overall, our outgoings exceeded our income by £42,195 (2023: £28,934), before taking account of changes in the value of our investments. Most of this was covered out of restricted funds, leaving only £6,161 (2023: £7,471) to come from unrestricted funds. The PCC is committed to seeking ways to reduce this deficit, with a particular focus on increasing income from giving by church members and from other activities. In February 2024, the PCC committed to a Financial Sustainability Action Plan which will continue to be delivered and monitored.

## Investments

During the year, the Parish saw its investments with CCLA increase in value by £13,495 (2023: £50,551). At the end of 2024, the PCC's investments were worth just over £602,000.

## Reserves policy and funds

It is the PCC's policy to maintain general unrestricted funds of approximately six months' unrestricted expenditure, to allow for fluctuations in income and unexpected repairs or other items of expenditure. This would amount to approximately £70,000. At the end of 2024 general unrestricted funds were £47,672. As mentioned above, the PCC is seeking to increase income in order to restore unrestricted reserves to their target level.

The PCC has designated part of its unrestricted funds to reflect the funds tied up in the house purchased for the use of an assistant curate training in the Parish. The amount (£40,000) represents the cost of the house when it was purchased many years ago (rather than its current value). For as long as these funds are tied up in the house, they are not available for other purposes.

The PCC is fortunate also to hold restricted funds, the largest element of which (totalling £581,017) arose from the sale of properties once owned by the PCC and a recent legacy. This money can be used at the PCC's discretion for any ecclesiastical purpose within the Parish. The PCC keeps under review the Parish's financial position and how these funds can best be used to:

- enable new ministry initiatives;
- invest in improvements to the Parish Church; and
- support Parish activities as work continues to increase current income to match day-to-day expenditure.

The PCC currently charges building costs to this fund, in order to maintain unrestricted funds at a prudent level. In 2024, the PCC also used some of these restricted funds to support the roles of the Parish Assistants. In total, £44,760 was used for these purposes (2023: £39,502).

Other restricted funds include:

- £40,000 designated for future work focused on children and young people;
- £8,552 for fabric and furnishing of Holy Trinity Church;
- £3,757 for the fabric of parish buildings generally;
- £1,250 for music in the Parish;
- £1,542 collected for external charitable giving;
- £270 for children's activities, (mostly used for Trinity Tots); and
- £1,115 for Around Table.

Overall, the Parish ended 2024 with total funds (restricted and unrestricted) of £725,215, a reduction of £28,700 compared with 2023.

This report was approved by the PCC on 1 May 2025
**Revd. Katherine Price**
**Vicar**

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WANTAGE
## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
## TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Parochial Church Council of Wantage for the year ended 31 December 2024.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act'). You are satisfied that the accounts of the charity are not required by charity law to be audited and have chosen instead to have an independent examination.

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

**Independent examiner's statement**

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

1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or

2 the accounts do not accord with those records; or

3 the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act; or

4 the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

**A Chapman FCA**
**Chapman Worth Limited**
2 Old Estate Yard
East Hendred
Oxfordshire
OX12 8JY

May 2025

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WANTAGE
## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

| | Notes | General unrestricted funds £ | Designated unrestricted funds £ | Restricted funds £ | Total 2024 £ | *Total 2023 £* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Income from:** | | | | | | |
| Donations and legacies | **2** | 103,018 | - | 5,585 | 108,603 | *101,231* |
| Charitable activities | **3** | 17,089 | - | 21,395 | 38,484 | *17,657* |
| Other operating activities | **4** | 13,211 | - | 30,478 | 43,689 | *22,265* |
| Investments | **5** | 1,226 | - | 16,318 | 17,544 | *17,229* |
| **Total income** | | 134,544 | - | 73,776 | 208,320 | *158,382* |
| **Expenditure on:** | | | | | | |
| Raising funds | **6** | 3,151 | - | - | 3,151 | *3,556* |
| Charitable activities | **6** | 137,554 | - | 109,810 | 247,364 | *183,760* |
| **Total resources expended** | | 140,705 | - | 109,810 | 250,515 | *187,316* |
| **Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains** | | (6,161) | - | (36,034) | (42,195) | *(28,394)* |
| Net gains/(losses) on investments | **9** | - | - | 13,495 | 13,495 | *50,551* |
| **Net income/(expenditure)** | | (6,161) | - | (22,539) | (28,700) | *21,617* |
| **Transfers between funds** | **14** | - | - | - | - | - |
| **Net movement in funds** | | (6,161) | - | (22,539) | (28,700) | *21,617* |
| Fund balances at 1 January | | 53,833 | 40,000 | 660,082 | 753,915 | *732,298* |
| **Fund balances at 31 December** | **14** | 47,672 | 40,000 | 637,543 | 725,215 | *753,915* |

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The comparative figures for the previous year are analysed on the next page.

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WANTAGE
## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

| *Comparative Figures for 2023* | Notes | General unrestricted funds £ | Designated unrestricted funds £ | Restricted funds £ | Total 2023 £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ***Income from:*** | | | | | |
| *Donations and legacies* | **2** | *99,941* | *-* | *1,290* | *101,231* |
| *Charitable activities* | **3** | *17,657* | *-* | *-* | *17,657* |
| *Other operating activities* | **4** | *13,889* | *-* | *8,376* | *22,265* |
| *Investments* | **5** | *1,139* | *-* | *16,090* | *17,229* |
| ***Total income*** | | *132,626* | *-* | *25,756* | *158,382* |
| ***Expenditure on:*** | | | | | |
| *Raising funds* | **6** | *3,556* | *-* | *-* | *3,556* |
| *Charitable activities* | **6** | *136,541* | *-* | *47,219* | *183,760* |
| ***Total resources expended*** | | *140,097* | *-* | *47,219* | *187,316* |
| ***Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains*** | | *(7,471)* | *-* | *(21,463)* | *(28,934)* |
| *Net gains/(losses) on investments* | **9** | *-* | *-* | *50,551* | *50,551* |
| ***Net income/(expenditure)*** | | *(7,471)* | *-* | *29,088* | *21,617* |
| ***Transfers between funds*** | **14** | *-* | *-* | *-* | *-* |
| ***Net movement in funds*** | | *(7,471)* | *-* | *29,088* | *21,617* |
| *Fund balances at 1 January* | | *61,304* | *40,000* | *630,994* | *732,298* |
| ***Fund balances at 31 December*** | **14** | *53,833* | *40,000* | *660,082* | *753,915* |

*The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.*

*All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.*

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WANTAGE
## BALANCE SHEET
## AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

| | Notes | 2024 £ | 2024 £ | *2023 £* | *2023 £* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Fixed assets** | | | | | |
| Tangible assets | **10** | | 41,212 | | *42,716* |
| Investments | **11** | | 602,084 | | *588,589* |
| | | | 643,296 | | *631,305* |
| **Current assets** | | | | | |
| Debtors | **12** | 13,160 | | *8,004* | |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | 72,989 | | *115,477* | |
| | | 86,149 | | *123,481* | |
| **Creditors: amounts falling due within one year** | **13** | (4,230) | | *(871)* | |
| **Net current assets** | | | 81,919 | | *122,610* |
| **Total assets less current liabilities** | | | 725,215 | | *753,915* |
| **Income funds** | | | | | |
| Restricted funds | **14** | | 637,543 | | *660,082* |
| Designated unrestricted funds | **14** | | 40,000 | | *40,000* |
| General unrestricted funds | **14** | | 47,672 | | *53,833* |
| | | | *725,215* | | *753,915* |

These accounts were approved on 1 May 2025

**Katherine Price**
Vicar

**Claire Hunter**
Treasurer

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WANTAGE
## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

### 1 Accounting policies

**Charity information**
The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Peter & St Paul Wantage is a registered charity (number 1181640). References in these accounts to "the PCC" are references to this charity. The members of the PCC are the trustees of the charity under charity law and are referred to in these accounts as "the trustees".

The PCC constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102.

### 1.1 Accounting convention
The accounts are for the year to 31 December 2024 and are presented in sterling, rounded to the nearest pound.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policies below or the subsequent notes.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with:

- the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102);
- the Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS102 (Charities SORP); and
- the Charities Act 2011

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation and uncertainty in the preparation of the accounts are set out below.

### 1.2 Charitable funds
The funds of the PCC are divided into the categories set out below, depending on the terms on which they were donated.

Endowment funds comprise capital sums which must be permanently held. The income which arises on endowment funds can be used for specified purposes in accordance with the terms under which the funds were given. The PCC holds no endowment funds at this time.

Restricted funds are held for specific purposes based on the origin of the funds or the wishes of the donors, and are not available for any other purpose. The PCC has designated certain restricted funds to be held for particular uses within the broader purposes specified. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in note 14 below.

Designated unrestricted funds are those which, although available for any purpose within the broad charitable objectives of the PCC, have been designated by the PCC to be held for a specified purpose.

General unrestricted funds are those which may be used for any purpose within the broad charitable objectives of the PCC.

### 1.3 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement
Preparation of the accounts requires the trustees to make judgements and estimates. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates. The estimates and underlying assumptions are kept under review. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised.

Significant judgements and estimates are made from time to time in relation to:

- estimating the likely amount of legacy income once the PCC is aware of its entitlement to receive a legacy; and
- estimating the useful economic life of tangible fixed assets.

**1 Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.4 Financial risk**

The main form of financial risk faced by the PCC relates to its investments and concerns volatility in equity and other investment markets due to wider economic conditions, the attitude of investors to investment risk, and changes in sentiment concerning equities and within particular investment sectors.

The PCC does not acquire options, derivatives or other complex financial instruments. Apart from its investments, the PCC only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments.

**1.5 Going concern**

The trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern assumption is appropriate in preparing these financial statements. The trustees have made this assessment in respect of a period of one year from the date of approval of the financial statements.

Because of the level of the PCC's financial reserves, the trustees have concluded that the PCC will have sufficient resources to meet its liabilities as they fall due and that the charity will be able to continue to operate as a going concern.

**1.6 Incoming resources**

Income is recognised once the PCC has entitlement to the incoming resources, any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations and grants are recognised when the PCC has confirmation of both the amount and settlement date. In the event of donations and grants pledged but not received, the amount is recorded when the receipt is considered probable. In the event that a donation or grant is subject to conditions, the income is deferred and not recognised until either the conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of the conditions is wholly within the control of the PCC and it is probable that they will be fulfilled in the reporting period. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid is recognised at the same time as the related donation.

Legacies are recognised when there is sufficient evidence to place a value on the amount the PCC is likely to receive. This is when either confirmation has been received from the executors of the estate, or probate has been granted, or a distribution is received. Recognition of legacies in a form other than cash or listed investments is subject to the value being reliably measurable. Where the PCC has or may have entitlement to a legacy but there is uncertainty about the amount or value, information is disclosed about the potential future asset.

Investment income is recognised once the PCC has been notified of the amount that is receivable. Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

**1 Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.7 Resources expended**

Expenditure is included in the statement of financial activities when incurred. It includes irrecoverable VAT. Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the PCC to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure comprises direct costs and support costs. Support costs represent indirect charitable expenditure. The costs of each activity include both those costs directly attributable to the category and a proportion of general support costs. Governance costs comprise the costs relating to the public accountability of the charity and compliance with regulation and good practice.

The classification between activities is as follows:

- expenditure on raising funds includes all expenditure associated with raising funds for the PCC;
- expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs associated with furthering the charitable purposes of the PCC, including governance costs.

Expenditure on charitable activities is split between:

- worship & ministry; and
- charitable giving in support of other charities and charitable activities.

No value is ascribed to the considerable effort of the many volunteers who support the ministry and other activities of the charity.

**1.8 Tangible fixed assets**

There are two Anglican church buildings within the Parish: the Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul and Holy Trinity Church, Charlton. In accordance with church legislation, the PCC is responsible for the upkeep of these buildings, including fixtures and furnishings within them, but does not own them. Accordingly, the church buildings and their contents are not included in these financial statements. All expenditure on maintaining and improving the church buildings, and on their fixtures and furnishings, is charged directly to the statement of financial activities when incurred.

All other tangible assets or groups of tangible assets costing more than £500 and with an expected useful economic life exceeding one year are capitalised. Depreciation is provided in order to write off the cost less any expected residual value over the estimated useful life of each asset (or group of assets) at the following annual rates:

- residential property – no depreciation as the expected residual value exceeds the cost;
- fixtures & fittings in residential property – on a straight-line basis over ten years;
- office equipment – on a straight-line basis over four years.

**1.9 Fixed asset investments**

The PCC's investments are held in investment funds managed by CCLA Investment Management. They are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing market price.

Realised gains (or losses) on investment assets are calculated as the difference between disposal proceeds and the opening carrying value at the beginning of the financial year (or the purchase value if acquired during the year). Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the fair value at the year end and the previous carrying value. Realised and unrealised investment gains (or losses) are combined in the statement of financial activities and are recorded in the year in which they arise.

**1 Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.10 Debtors**

Amounts of money owed to the PCC (referred to as debtors) are recognised at their settlement amount, less an allowance for any amounts which may not be recoverable. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid. Debtors and prepayments are discounted to the present value of the future cash receipt where such discounting is material.

**1.11 Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash at bank and in hand represents such accounts and balances that are available on demand or had an original maturity of less than three months. Term deposits for more than three months but less than one year are shown as short-term deposits. Cash placed on deposit for more than one year is included as part of fixed asset investments.

**1.12 Creditors**

Amounts of money owed by the PCC (referred to as creditors) and provisions for any other liabilities of the PCC are recognised when there is an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are recognised at the amount the PCC anticipates it will pay to settle the debt. They are discounted to the present value of the future cash payment where such discounting is material.

**2 Donations and legacies**

| | General unrestricted funds | Restricted funds | Total 2024 | *Total 2023* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Planned giving by church members | 77,628 | - | 77,628 | *69,567* |
| Collections at services | 5,976 | 3,585 | 9,561 | *5,723* |
| Legacies | 5,000 | - | 5,000 | - |
| Other donations | 3,008 | 2,000 | 5,008 | *9,430* |
| Tax recoverable on donations under Gift Aid | 11,406 | - | 11,406 | *16,511* |
| | 103,018 | 5,585 | 108,603 | *101,231* |
| ***Comparative figures for 2023*** | | | | |
| *Planned giving by church members* | *69,567* | - | | *69,567* |
| *Collections at services* | *5,293* | *430* | | *5,723* |
| *Legacies* | - | - | | - |
| *Other donations* | *8,570* | *860* | | *9,430* |
| *Tax recoverable on donations under Gift Aid* | *16,511* | - | | *16,511* |
| | *99,941* | *1,290* | | *101,231* |

## 3 Income from charitable activities

| | General unrestricted funds £ | Restricted funds £ | Total 2024 £ | *Total 2023 £* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fees & contributions for occasional offices | 16,753 | - | 16,753 | *17,384* |
| Publications, quiet days & children's activities | 336 | - | 336 | *273* |
| Contributions for pilgrimages and tours | - | 21,395 | 21,395 | - |
| | 17,089 | 21,395 | 38,484 | *17,657* |
| ***Comparative figures for 2023*** | | | | |
| *Fees & contributions for occasional offices* | *17,384* | - | | *17,384* |
| *Publications, quiet days & children's activities* | *273* | - | | *273* |
| | *17,657* | - | | *17,657* |

Fees & contributions for occasional offices relate to baptisms, weddings and funerals held in the two Anglican churches of the Parish.

## 4 Income from other operating activities

| | General unrestricted funds £ | Restricted funds £ | Total 2024 £ | *Total 2023 £* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fundraising | 6,675 | 117 | 6,792 | *12,700* |
| Grants | - | 30,361 | 30,361 | *6,800* |
| Use of churches by other organisations | 6,536 | - | 6,536 | *2,765* |
| Rental income | - | - | - | - |
| | 13,211 | 30,478 | 43,689 | *22,265* |
| ***Comparative figures for 2023*** | | | | |
| *Fundraising* | *11,124* | *1,576* | | *12,700* |
| *Grants* | *-* | *6,800* | | *6,800* |
| *Use of churches by other organisations* | *2,765* | *-* | | *2,765* |
| *Rental income* | *-* | *-* | | *-* |
| | *13,889* | *8,376* | | *22,265* |

## 5 Income from investments

| | General unrestricted funds £ | Restricted funds £ | Total 2024 £ | *Total 2023 £* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Investment income | 1,226 | 16,318 | 17,544 | *17,229* |
| ***Comparative figures for 2023*** | *1,139* | *16,090* | | *17,229* |

## 6 Expenditure

| | Notes | Clergy costs £ | Church buildings £ | Other costs £ | Total 2024 £ | *Total 2023 £* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Expenditure on charitable activities** | | | | | | |
| Worship & ministry | | 89,411 | 56,554 | 96,386 | 242,351 | *179,537* |
| Charitable giving | 7 | - | - | 5,013 | 5,013 | *4,223* |
| | | 89,411 | 56,554 | 101,399 | 247,364 | *183,760* |
| **Costs of raising funds** | | - | - | 3,151 | 3,151 | *3,556* |
| | | 89,411 | 56,554 | 104,550 | 250,515 | *187,316* |
| **Analysis by type of fund:** | | | | | | |
| Unrestricted funds | | 89,411 | - | 51,294 | 140,705 | *140,097* |
| Restricted funds | | - | 56,554 | 53,256 | 109,810 | *47,219* |
| | | 89,411 | 56,554 | 104,550 | 250,515 | *187,316* |
| ***Comparative figures for 2023*** | | | | | | |
| ***Expenditure on charitable activities*** | | | | | | |
| *Worship & ministry* | | *90,089* | *37,107* | *52,341* | | *179,537* |
| *Charitable giving* | *7* | *-* | *-* | *4,223* | | *4,223* |
| | | *90,089* | *37,107* | *56,564* | | *183,760* |
| ***Costs of raising funds*** | | *-* | *-* | *3,556* | | *3,556* |
| | | *90,089* | *37,107* | *60,120* | | *187,316* |
| ***Analysis by type of fund:*** | | | | | | |
| *Unrestricted funds* | | *90,089* | *-* | *50,008* | | *140,097* |
| *Restricted funds* | | *-* | *37,107* | *10,112* | | *47,219* |
| | | *90,089* | *37,107* | *60,120* | | *187,316* |

Expenditure includes:

- staff costs of £43,752 in respect of 8 part-time employees employed for all or part of the year *(2023: £24,764 for seven part-time employees)*.
- governance costs of £1,682 *(2023: £2,430*), being the cost of the independent examination of these accounts and assistance in their preparation.
- Clergy costs include £83,907 *(2023: £83,075)* paid to the Diocese of Oxford as the Parish's contribution to diocesan costs, principally stipend, training and other costs relating to parish clergy.

## 7 Charitable giving

| | 2024 | 2023 |
|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ |
| UNICEF Ukraine appeal | - | 1,505 |
| Bishops' Outreach Fund | 813 | 105 |
| Vale Community Impact | - | 1,505 |
| Support for Greenfields School, Thokoza | 1,326 | 1,000 |
| Wantage & Grove Street Pastors | - | 108 |
| Children's Society – Christingle Service | 68 | - |
| Sweatbox Wantage | 1,403 | - |
| Christian Aid | 1,403 | - |
| | 5,013 | 4,223 |

## 8 Trustees

The members of the Parochial Church Council are the trustees of the charity and are responsible for the overall direction and control of the charity. The Vicar and Churchwardens provide leadership and take day-to-day management decisions.

In accordance with the Church of England's normal policy, the Assistant Curate in the Parish lives in a house provided by the PCC; from January 2024 to May 2024 this was occupied by Fr Benjamin Tyler, and from June 2024 by his successor, Fr Frances Caroe. Except as noted in this paragraph and in note 16, none of the trustees (or anyone connected with them) received from the PCC any remuneration, benefit or payment for services during the year (or the preceding year).

Five trustees were reimbursed a total of £3,651 for expenses which they incurred on behalf of the PCC *(2023: Four trustees reimbursed £4,619)*. These expenses comprised travel and office costs for the clergy serving the Parish and goods and services purchased for use in our churches.

Trustees made unrestricted donations to the PCC totalling £11,936 *(2023: £14,991)* during the periods when they were trustees.

## 9 Net gains/(losses) on investments

| | General unrestricted funds | Restricted funds | Total 2024 | *Total 2023* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Revaluation of investments | - | 13,495 | 13,495 | *50,551* |
| ***Comparative figures for 2023*** | *-* | *50,551* | | *50,551* |

## 10 Tangible fixed assets

| | Freehold land and buildings | Fixtures and | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ | £ |
| **Cost** | | | |
| At 1 January 2024 | 40,000 | 15,036 | 55,036 |
| Additions | - | - | - |
| At 31 December 2024 | 40,000 | 15,036 | 55,036 |
| **Depreciation and impairment** | | | |
| At 1 January 2024 | - | 12,320 | 12,320 |
| Depreciation charged in the year | - | 1,504 | 1,504 |
| At 31 December 2024 | - | 13,824 | 13,824 |
| **Carrying amount** | | | |
| At 31 December 2024 | 40,000 | 1,212 | 41,212 |
| *At 31 December 2023* | *40,000* | *2,716* | *42,716* |

The freehold property comprises a house which is provided for the assistant curate serving the Parish. As the residual value is greater than the original cost, no depreciation is provided. The property was valued at £270,000 in 2015 and will have gone up further in value since then.

## 11 Fixed asset investments

| | 2024 | *2023* |
|---|---|---|
| **Managed investments** | £ | *£* |
| Market value at 1 January 2024 | 588,589 | *538,016* |
| Additions | - | - |
| Withdrawals | - | - |
| Income reinvested | 40 | *22* |
| Unrealised gains/(losses) | 13,455 | *50,551* |
| Market value at 31 December 2024 | 602,084 | *588,589* |

Investments comprise holdings in the following funds managed by CCLA Investment Management:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| CBF Church of England Investment Fund | 601,310 | *587,854* |
| CBF Church of England Deposit Fund | 774 | *735* |
| | 602,084 | *588,589* |

### 12 Debtors

| | 2024 | *2023* |
|---|---|---|
| **Amounts falling due within one year** | **£** | ***£*** |
| Tax recoverable on donations under Gift Aid | 10,670 | *7,650* |
| Other debtors & prepayments | 2,490 | *354* |
| | 13,160 | *8,004* |

### 13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

| | 2024 | *2023* |
|---|---|---|
| | **£** | ***£*** |
| Other creditors & accruals | 4,229 | *871* |

### 14 Funds

The table on the following page summarises the different funds held by the PCC (the subsequent page shows comparative figures for the previous year).

The largest element of the restricted reserves arose from the sale of properties once owned by the PCC and a restricted legacy. This element is available to be spent on any ecclesiastical purpose within the Parish. The funds concerned totalled £621,017 at the end of 2024 *(2023: £635,964)*. The PCC previously designated £40,000 of this element of the restricted funds to cover the cost (net of grants to be received) of employing a Children and Families Worker for five years from 2022/23. This appointment did not go ahead, but the PCC has retained the designation with a view to developing other work with children and young people.

The PCC has designated £40,000 *(2022: £40,000)* of its unrestricted reserves as a curate's housing fund. This represents the cost of the property purchased by the PCC as a house for an assistant curate in training in the Parish. The amount has been designated as a separate fund since this cannot currently be realised and used for any other purpose.

**14 Funds (continued)**

| | Balance at 1 January 2024 £ | Movement in funds: Incoming resources £ | Resources expended £ | Revaluation gains and losses £ | Transfers between reserves £ | Balance at 31 December 2024 £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Restricted funds** | | | | | | |
| Funds arising from properties once owned by the PCC and a legacy: | | | | | | |
| Designated for work with children & young people | 40,000 | - | - | - | - | 40,000 |
| Available for any ecclesiastical purpose within the Parish | 595,964 | 16,318 | (44,760) | 13,495 | - | 581,017 |
| | 635,964 | 16,318 | (44,760) | 13,495 | - | 621,017 |
| Other restricted funds: | | | | | | |
| Fabric of Parish buildings | 5,125 | 22,360 | (23,728) | - | - | 3,757 |
| Fabric & furnishing of Holy Trinity Church | 11,277 | - | (2,725) | - | - | 8,552 |
| Music in the Parish | 5,000 | - | (3,750) | - | - | 1,250 |
| Pilgrimages, choir tours and parish visits | - | 21,395 | (21,395) | - | - | - |
| Charitable giving fund | 2,002 | 3,703 | (4,162) | - | - | 1,542 |
| Children's activities | 714 | - | (445) | - | - | 270 |
| Around Table | - | 10,000 | (8,845) | - | - | 1,155 |
| | 660,082 | 73,776 | (109,810) | 13,495 | - | 637,543 |
| **Designated unrestricted funds** | | | | | | |
| Curate's housing fund | 40,000 | - | - | - | - | 40,000 |
| **General unrestricted funds** | 53,833 | 134,544 | (140,705) | - | - | 47,672 |
| **Total funds** | 753,915 | 208,320 | (250,515) | 13,495 | - | 725,215 |

**14 Funds (continued)**

***Comparative Figures for 2023***

| | *Balance at 1 January 2023* | *Movement in funds* | | | | *Balance at 31 December 2023* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *Incoming resources* | *Resources expended* | *Revaluation gains and losses* | *Transfers between reserves* | |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| ***Restricted funds*** | | | | | | |
| *Funds arising from properties once owned by the PCC and a legacy:* | | | | | | |
| *Designated for work with children & young people* | *40,000* | *-* | *-* | *-* | *-* | *40,000* |
| *Available for any ecclesiastical purpose within the Parish* | *568,825* | *16,090* | *(39,502)* | *50,551* | *-* | *595,964* |
| | *608,825* | *16,090* | *(39,502)* | *50,551* | *-* | *635,964* |
| *Other restricted funds:* | | | | | | |
| *Fabric of Parish buildings* | *4,790* | *-* | *335* | *-* | *-* | *5,125* |
| *Fabric & furnishing of Holy Trinity Church* | *11,936* | *-* | *(659)* | *-* | *-* | *11,277* |
| *Music in the Parish* | *-* | *6,800* | *(1,800)* | *-* | *-* | *5,000* |
| *Charitable giving fund* | *4,217* | *2,007* | *(4,222)* | *-* | *-* | *2,002* |
| *Children's activities* | *1,226* | *-* | *(512)* | *-* | *-* | *714* |
| *Around Table* | *-* | *859* | *(859)* | *-* | *-* | *-* |
| | *630,994* | *25,756* | *(47,219)* | *50,551* | *-* | *660,082* |
| ***Designated unrestricted funds*** | | | | | | |
| *Curate's housing fund* | *40,000* | *-* | *-* | *-* | *-* | *40,000* |
| ***General unrestricted funds*** | *61,304* | *132,626* | *(140,097)* | *-* | *-* | *53,833* |
| ***Total funds*** | *732,298* | *158,382* | *(187,316)* | *50,551* | *-* | *753,915* |

## 15 Analysis of net assets between funds

| | General unrestricted funds | Designated unrestricted funds | Restricted funds | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Fund balances at 31 December 2024 were represented by: | | | | |
| Tangible assets | 1,212 | 40,000 | - | 41,212 |
| Investments | - | - | 602,084 | 602,084 |
| Other current assets/(liabilities) | 46,460 | - | 35,459 | 81,919 |
| | 47,672 | 40,000 | 637,543 | 725,215 |

***Comparative figures for 2023***

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Fund balances at 31 December 2023 were represented by:* | | | | |
| *Tangible assets* | *2,716* | *40,000* | *-* | *42,716* |
| *Investments* | *-* | *-* | *588,589* | *588,589* |
| *Other current assets/(liabilities)* | *51,117* | *-* | *71,493* | *122,610* |
| | *53,833* | *40,000* | *660,082* | *753,915* |

## 16 Related party transactions

The husband of one trustee, Ivie Johnson, is employed by the PCC as Director of Music at an annual salary and expenses at the end of 2024 of £7,384 *(2023: £6,970)* under a contract which pre-dates her appointment as a trustee in April 2021. She takes no part in the determination of her husband's salary. The wife of another trustee, Ian Stone, who stood down in October 2024, was employed by the PCC as a caretaker to October 2024. Her remuneration during 2024 totalled £1,698 *(2023: £2,071)*. These arrangements pre-date Ian Stone's appointment as a trustee in April 2022. He took no part in the determination of his wife's salary.

The William John Butler Memorial Fund (commonly referred to as the Butler Trust) is a charity whose objects are to advance the Christian religion, in particular (but not exclusively) by the maintenance, repair and improvement of the Parish Church in Wantage and Holy Trinity Church, Charlton. The trustees of the Butler Trust include the Vicar, Churchwardens and Treasurer who are also members of the PCC. In 2024, the PCC's income included £19,871 of grant from the Butler Trust towards roof repairs and building maintenance and running costs *(2023: £nil)*. There were no amounts due to the PCC from the Butler Trust at the end of either 2024 or 2023.

The Wantage Parish Music Guild is a charity whose objects are to support music in the Parish. The trustees of the Music Guild during 2024 and 2023 included two individuals who are married to people who were members of the PCC for parts of 2024 and/or 2023. In 2024, the PCC's income included a grant of £5,000 from the Music Guild towards the cost of the PCC employing an Assistant Organist *(2023: £6,800)*. There were no amounts due to the PCC from the Music Guild at the end of either 2023 or 2024.

## Administrative information

Our website is at
www.wantageparish.com

Address for correspondence:
Parish Office
The Butler Centre
Church Street
Wantage
OX12 8BL

The PCC's principal bankers:
CAF Bank Limited
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
ME19 4JQ

Independent examiner of the PCC's accounts:
A Chapman FCA
Chapman Worth Limited
3 Old Estate Yard
East Hendred
OX12 8JY




## WANTAGE PARISH

**The Parish Office**

Butler Centre, Church Street, Wantage OX12 8BL

administrator@wantageparish.com

01235 764533

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL

England & Wales - Charity number 1181640

# Accounts

wantage parish

WantageParish.com

**Annual Report & Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023**

CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1181640





# Vicar's Foreword

This is my second Annual Report as your Vicar, covering my first full year in post, which perhaps means I'm finally no longer 'the new vicar'! The honeymoon period may be over, but I'm glad to say this still feels like a very loving partnership, and I want to take this opportunity to celebrate all we have done together over the past year and raise a toast to the year to come. As you will read in the coming pages, 2023 has been a positive year in the life of the Parish. Big thanks to all who have made it happen and to all who have contributed to this report.

## Where we're at

In many ways 2023 has been a year for consolidation, although there have also been some new initiatives which will hopefully bed in and begin to bear fruit in the coming year.

Numbers in the worshipping community are rising, with new faces in both churches. Christmas was particularly encouraging, as we saw the fruits of a reinvigorated approach to publicity in record numbers at some services. The Personal Discipleship Plan scheme was launched in November 2023 (by friend of the parish Toby Wright, soon to be Dean of Wells Cathedral) and we also held a Giving Day in October which saw modest but pleasing results. Overall, news on the financial side has been better than expected but remains a priority.

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Chapman Worth Limited
3 Old Estate Yard
East Hendred
OX12 8JY

This report was approved by the Standing Committee on behalf of the PCC on 16 April 2024.

**Revd. Katherine Price**
**Vicar**



wantage parish
THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

One of Jesus' first acts in his ministry was to call around him the twelve who became the Apostles (and Judas, of course, although I hope that's not an example relevant in our case!). He is the model to us of Christian leadership which is never exercised in isolation but as friends and disciples travelling the Christian way together. For me as incumbent, a major task of 2023 has been getting a new team in place, with several new appointments. Cathryn Stanton started work as Parish Administrator in January 2023, and we appointed Barbara Kennedy as Assistant Director of Music in the Summer followed by the two parish assistants Rosi Bartlett and James Clark. These new appointments, along with our existing staff Lucy, Flora and Phil, have already made a big contribution in helping free up my time and attention for longer-term parish priorities.

There were also significant changes in the lay leadership team, with Jan Ralston being succeeded as churchwarden by Alastair Hunter, as well as a new treasurer and PCC secretary in Claire Hunter and Janet Kingdon respectively. The appointment of Andrew Gregory and Ian Stone to the new role of Assistant Warden was a great success, helping to make the warden role more manageable and to ensure that both church communities are represented at every level. Huge thanks as ever to all the team, who daily make me give thanks that I found myself in this parish!

The other structural change last year was the introduction of the PADs (Planning and Development groups). It is fair to say that these have faced some of the same challenges as their predecessors (the Mission Action Groups) especially around scheduling meetings and in moving from ideas to implementation. However I hope you will see from the rest of this report that we are beginning to deliver on the areas we had identified as priorities.

What has turned out to be one of the most significant features of Parish life in 2023 was barely even on the agenda at the end of 2022. Around Table, our parish project at Holy Trinity serving free hot meals made largely from surplus food, launched in February. An essentially simple concept, it has had a far greater impact than any of those involved had anticipated, serving nearly 5000 hot meals in its first year, being spotlighted by the Diocese of Oxford as an example for other parishes to follow, and receiving a grant from Vale of White Horse district council to continue and expand our work. What makes Around Table special is that it is distinctively Christian without being a vehicle for overt evangelism: providing a restaurant-style meal and service to people from all walks of life on a no-questions basis models God's unconditional welcome and abundant hospitality and has begun to create a sense of community which cuts across all the demographics of our parish population. It definitely illustrates that mission is God's, and our job is to get out of his way!







At the same time, there's a lot of determined paddling going on under the surface. Transitioning Around Table from a temporary response to the cost of living crisis to an ongoing parish project has required us to retrofit a lot of the governance and procedures needed to underpin this scale of project. A massive thank you is due to the volunteers and the Steering Group, and also to the congregation at HT for their ongoing patience with the sometimes unpredicted demands the project has placed on the building.

In the reordering project the HT congregation embraced the idea of Holy Trinity as a shared space for worship and community use, but it is right to acknowledge that the reality of this still takes some adjustment and open communication to find the right balance.

Other highlights of the year have included the Sustainable Flowers Festival and Alfredfest, both of which brought together partnerships from across the town and filled the churches with people from beyond our regular congregations. These projects, along with Around Table, have all been initiatives of our outgoing (in all ways!) curate, Fr Benji Tyler. Benji has been one of the people who has most helped us as a parish, and me personally, to take risks in faith – a product both of his natural inclinations and of the freedom afforded by curacy. It says a lot for the strength of this parish family that we have been able to back him and to nurture this aspect of his approach to ministry.

I have been really encouraged throughout the year by the leadership shown by the PCC, their openness, flexibility, and willingness to take risks. In supporting Around Table's transition from a temporary to an ongoing project, the Parish has shown a willingness to step out in faith, combined with a realism about the limitations of the project and our resources. Likewise, in our appointment of two parish assistants, the Parish has put its money where its mouth is, investing in the future generation of ministers - as well as the wellbeing of the current ones!



## Investments and funds

In 2023, the Parish saw its investments, managed by CCLA, increase in value by £50,551 (in 2022 they reduced by £66,159 due to the economic downturn). This meant that, overall, the Parish ended the year with total funds of £753,916, an increase of £21,618 compared with 2022.

## Reserves policy

General unrestricted funds at the end of 2023 were £53,833. It is the PCC's policy to maintain general unrestricted funds of approximately six months' unrestricted expenditure, to allow for fluctuations in income and unexpected repairs or other items of expenditure.

The PCC has designated part of its unrestricted funds to reflect the funds tied up in the house purchased for the use of an assistant curate training in the Parish. The amount (£40,000) represents the cost of the house when it was purchased some years ago (rather than its current value). For as long as these funds are tied up in the house, they are not available for other purposes.

The PCC is fortunate also to hold restricted funds, the largest element of which (totalling £635,965) arose from the sale of properties once owned by the PCC and a recent legacy. This money can be used at the PCC's discretion for any ecclesiastical purpose within the Parish. The PCC has designated £40,000 of this for work with children and young people. The PCC is undertaking a review of the Parish's financial position and strategy which will consider how the balance of these funds can best be used to:

- enable new ministry initiatives;
- invest in improvements to the Parish Church; and
- support Parish activities as work continues to increase current income to match day-to-day expenditure.

The PCC currently charges building costs to this fund and is using it to support the roles of the recently appointed Parish Assistants. In 2023, £39,502 was used for these purposes (2022: £33,500).

Other restricted funds include:

- £11,277 for fabric and furnishing of Holy Trinity Church
- £5,126 for fabric of Parish Buildings
- £5,000 for music in the Parish, to fund the Assistant Music Director for 2024
- £2,002 for charitable giving
- £715 for children's activities, which is used for Trinity Tots.

# Financial Position

Attached as an appendix of this report are the Parish's Annual Accounts for 2023, which set out our financial performance for the year and our levels of funds going into 2024, split between:

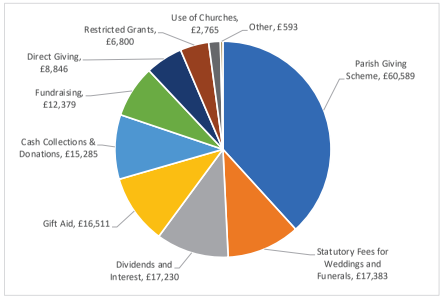
- unrestricted funds – day-to-day income which can be used for any purpose within the broad charitable objectives of the PCC; and
- restricted funds – money which can only be used for specific purposes based on the origin of the funds or the wishes of the original donors.

We received income of £158,382 in 2023, and the first chart opposite shows a breakdown of how this was generated. Income from Giving made up 72% of our total income.

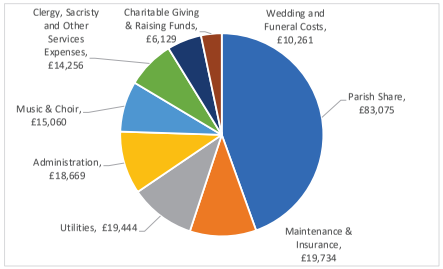
We spent £187,316, reduced from £229,095 in 2022 as we had a relatively quiet year for spend on building maintenance. Our Parish Share, which we pay to the Diocese for clergy stipends and training and other diocesan costs, made up 44% of expenditure. Running our buildings accounted for 20% of our costs, and 18% was spent on Services, Outreach, Parish Initiatives and Charitable Giving. 10% of expenditure was spent on Administration, including printing.

Our outgoings continued to exceed our income, before factoring in our investments, by £28,934 (2022: £49,406), which is a smaller deficit than in recent previous years due to increased giving and reduced buildings costs. The PCC is committed to seeking ways to reduce this deficit, with a particular focus on income from giving by church members and from other activities.

Income




Expenditure









# Where we're heading

A phrase I used in last year's report was 'nice problems to have', and I still find myself turning to those words frequently. Around Table will require ongoing energy and imagination if it is to be sustainable through 2024 and beyond. A growing congregation, both adults and children, calls for more provision than at present for nurture and discipleship at all ages. Both these 'nice problems' are highlighting the restrictions of our buildings, as well as of our dedicated but not superhuman pool of volunteers!

There are more changes to come in the leadership team, with David Richardson retiring as Churchwarden, although he will still be on the team as he pursues a new ministry within the parish as an authorised preacher. Fr Benji's presence amongst us for the whole of 2023 was an unexpected bonus, but he will also belatedly be moving on, and (God and the Bishop willing) our new curate Thomas Frances Caroe will be joining us at Petertide. The fact that Benji is moving on to a substantial incumbency, and that the Diocese has approved us as a training parish for another term (following a rigorous application process) are testimony to the strength and health of the parish. Please pray for both Benji and Frances as they prepare for their new ministries.

The church would not run without the many **volunteers** and others who serve God and one another in a whole variety of ways, in services, in managing and caring for the buildings, and in our work with children, schools, and the community. When everything goes smoothly it can be easy to forget that this is due to the hard work and reliability of many, many people in our parish family. Please take this as a big, big thank you! But the best thing we can do for our volunteers is **join them**! It is one of the distinctive features of Christian community that we seek to draw on and nurture the talents of everyone, especially those who may have been overlooked in other contexts, and I am keen to see our volunteer base reflecting the breadth of our worshipping family. At the same time it is important to recognise that, if we are successful in welcoming young families and those of working age, as well as older people who may have caring responsibilities, they will necessarily contribute to parish life in a different way from the generation of active retired people on whom churches have long relied. Our model of how we get things done in church may need to be flexible to move with these changes.

A **revised pattern of weekday services** will be trialled from Spring 2024. This has been agreed by the PCC after thorough consultation, both to ensure that ministry remains sustainable with (for a time) only one minister in priest's orders, as well as to begin delivering on the desire expressed in the Parish Profile for a greater range of services. Our aim must be to serve the pastoral and spiritual needs of our wider community, whilst not watering down our commitment to the eucharistic fellowship as the fullest expression of the church, nor buying into a 'market economy' of faith which segregates rather than uniting.

My priority for the year to come will be **children and families**. It is a conviction of our tradition that children are equally and fully part of the Body of Christ, regardless of their level of personal understanding. I am delighted that the Parish has recognised this in the vote to admit children to communion prior to Confirmation. At the time of writing the parish has held its first Messy Church since before the pandemic, and conversations are ongoing at Deanery and Diocesan level about exciting new opportunities to work with children and young people in our area. I have been



inspired by the great work going on in this Diocese to nurture children's spirituality, and I hope we can bring some of this into our work with children in the parish, as adults in turn learn from them how to enter the Kingdom 'like little children'. At the same time we need to look honestly at our capacity and ensure our existing activities are sustainable.





The following are the members of the PCC at the date of this report. Except where shown, they served throughout 2023.

Clergy
Revd Katherine Price, Vicar

Churchwardens
David Richardson
Alastair Hunter (from 21 May 2023)

Representatives on Deanery Synod
Susie Lapwood
Jan Ralston (from 21 May 2023; Churchwarden to 13 June 2023)

Elected and co-opted members
Andrew Gregory (from 21 May 2023)
Claire Hunter (PCC Treasurer) (from 21 May 2023)
Ivie Johnson
Simon Jones
Peter King
Janet Kingdom (PCC Secretary) (from 21 May 2023)
Ben Mabbett
Bridget Procter
Ian Stone

In addition, the following were members of the PCC from the start of 2023 until the date shown:
Fr Benji Tyler, Curate (to 7 April 2024)
Ann Gregory, Deanery Synod Representative (to 30 June 2023)
Robert Chaplow (to 21 May 2023)
Ralph Cobham (to 30 June 2023)
David Law (to 21 May 2023)
Elizabeth Marshall (to 21 May 2023)

# Governance

The PCC's legal status and powers are determined by legislation, in particular the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 (as amended). The PCC is a registered charity, and the members of the PCC are the charity's trustees under charity law.

The PCC is responsible for overseeing the life and activities of the Parish and for making decisions about all matters of general importance, including how the PCC's funds should be spent.

Membership of the PCC is governed by the Church Representation Rules. The Vicar, other clergy licensed to serve in the Parish and the Churchwardens are automatically members. Other members are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting by church members who are on the Electoral Roll of the Parish. We encourage everyone (aged 16 and over) who attends our churches regularly to register on the Electoral Roll. The PCC has the power to co-opt additional members to fill casual vacancies. Co-opted members serve until the next Annual Parochial Church Meeting when they may stand for election.

Churchwardens are elected each year at the Annual Meeting of Parishioners, which is open to all residents of the Parish. They serve on the PCC from the date of their election and continue in office until their successor is admitted to office by the Bishop following election. The Vicar and the Churchwardens provide leadership and take day-to-day management decisions in the Parish. The Vicar, Churchwardens, Treasurer, Secretary and two PCC representatives comprise the Standing Committee of the PCC, which has delegated powers to take decisions between meetings of the PCC.

Church members elect up to four people to serve on the Wantage Deanery Synod as well as on the PCC. Their term of office is three years. The current term runs to 30 June 2026. At the end of their term of office, Deanery Synod representatives may be re-elected for a second three-year term but must then take a break of at least a three-year term before standing again for election (unless the PCC decides otherwise).

The Parish has agreed that there should be nine other elected PCC members, with a representative balance between those who normally worship at Holy Trinity Church and the Parish Church. Trustees serve for terms of three years from the date of election. They may be re-elected for a second three-year term but must usually then take a break of at least a year before standing again for election.

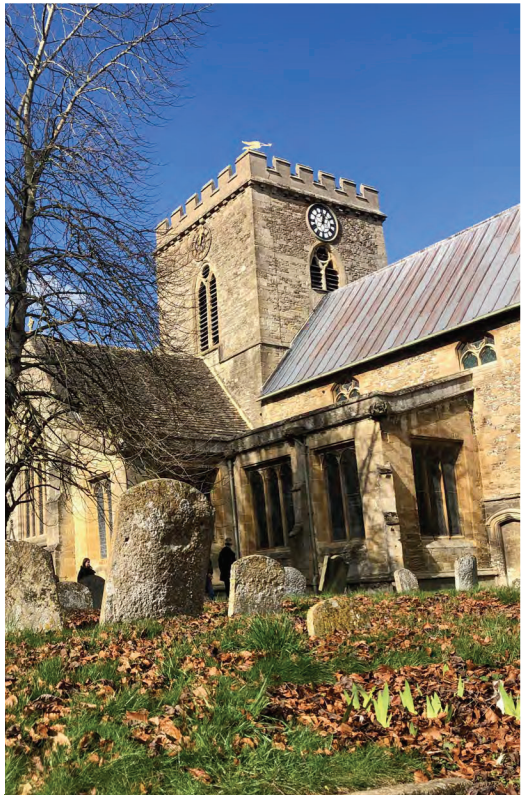


The **refurbishment of the Parish Church** has been on the agenda for some years, but it has been difficult to get started on any part of it because of its interconnected nature. The first steps were taken by the PCC in the second half of 2023, with an energy audit and a Vision Day for what we need our building to do better. It is easy for churches to get bogged down in buildings, or to get carried away with the idea that changes to the building will magically transform their fortunes; the challenge for us will be to go forward with imagination and with realism, ensuring first and foremost that the space serves our needs, and that we in turn honour and conserve the beauty which has been entrusted to us by our forebears.

When I was appointed, Charles Chadwick (known to many of you as our parish development adviser) told me to expect that I would get less done in my first year than I expected – but more than I expected in the first five years. Well, the first half of that prediction has come true! But it feels as though we are on the brink of exciting things, and we pray that God will give us both the patience to wait on his will and the courage and imagination to keep up with all he is doing amongst us.

Katherine





# Safeguarding

The PCC acknowledges that it has a duty of care towards the vulnerable in our church community. We have maintained our commitment to compliance with the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults, as set out in the Church of England Parish Safeguarding Handbook.

Matt Godfrey continues to play a key role as our **Parish Safeguarding Officer**.

Key activities in the year have included:

- Keeping the Parish safeguarding policy under review.
- Displaying safeguarding posters in both our churches
- Ensuring that all necessary DBS checks are carried out for people in relevant positions within our church community.
- Ensuring that safeguarding training is completed by people in relevant roles, in line with diocesan requirements.
- Liaison when necessary with the diocesan safeguarding team and statutory bodies.
- Following a 'safer recruitment' process for all appointments to relevant positions, both paid and voluntary.
- Maintaining data for the Diocese's Parish Dashboards scheme to monitor our safeguarding status and produce an Action Plan.



# Buildings and infrastructure

The PCC is responsible for the care of the Parish's two church buildings, as well as the house where our assistant curate lives. The **Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul**, just off the Market Place in the centre of Wantage, is a Grade I listed building, dating from the mediaeval period. **Holy Trinity Church** was built in the early 20th century in the Charlton area of the town.

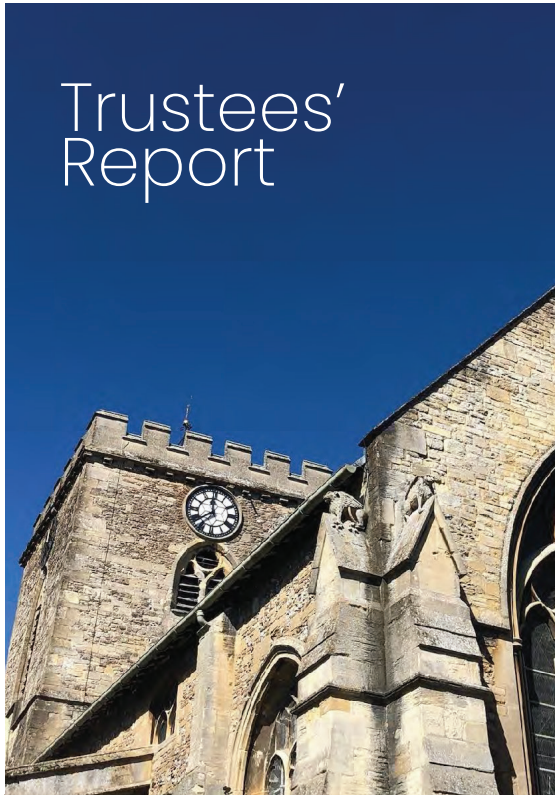
The Parish seeks to care for the fabric of its churches to support mission, enhance worship, and serve the local community. We endeavour to make our buildings accessible and welcoming to all. We are committed to sustainability, in energy usage and other ways, for example a policy on sustainable church flowers.
During 2023, day-to-day maintenance was carried out as necessary, but no major repair work was required. Towards the end of the year, an area of roof leak became apparent in the nave of the Parish Church during heavy rain. Remedial work to address this will be carried out in 2024.

An independent energy audit at the Parish Church was undertaken during 2023 as part of a programme supported by the Diocese of Oxford. This provided medium- and longer-term options to make the Parish Church more energy efficient, creating a more sustainable and comfortable environment as well as moving us towards the Church of England's net zero carbon target. The recommendations are being considered as part of wider plans to refurbish the church.

The last major refurbishment of the interior of the Parish Church was some 25 years ago. During 2023, the PCC started to consider ways in which the building could better serve current needs both as a centre of worship and a significant community building. Further discussions and planning will continue through 2024.



# Trustees' Report



The Parochial Church Council of Wantage ("the PCC") is pleased to present its annual report and accounts for 2023.

The PCC is a charity registered with the Charity Commission (registered number 1181640). Its full registered name is the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Peter & St Paul Wantage. PCC members are trustees, responsible for Parish affairs under charity law.

Our Parish is a member of the Wantage Deanery, in the Diocese of Oxford. As part of the wider Church of England, the Parish benefits from the work that goes into training and supporting clergy, as well as from the wider support and guidance of the Diocese. In the Wantage area, we participate in Deanery Synod discussions, a report on which is being submitted to the April APCM.

The **Electoral Roll** was updated in April 2024 and has been published in the churches.

**This first part of our annual report reviews the life of the Parish of Wantage in our two churches: the Parish Church of Saint Peter and Saint Paul; and Holy Trinity Church in Charlton. It is a public account of Parish activities during 2023. Part 2 presents the Accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2023.**







# Praying, growing and flourishing as a worshipping community




This was an exciting year in our church life as we sought to live out our vision to encounter and share God's transforming love. It has been a particular joy to see new faces in church week by week, as people have moved into the area or have responded to a nudge to explore or revisit their Christian faith. Our task has been to ensure that our worship and welcome respond to this: that our worship does not presuppose everyone is 'an old hand'; that there is a pathway from first welcome to further involvement and integration; and that those seeking a deeper relationship with God are able to find support for that in this community.

Regular attendance at the Parish Church has increased (see the section on Worship). Numbers at Holy Trinity remain significantly lower than pre-Covid, but we have new regular members at both churches. Seven people were confirmed (or baptised and confirmed) by +Gavin during Eastertide. The PCC voted in March 2023 to admit children to communion prior to confirmation, and three children received their first communion in 2023.

Last year's report highlighted a need to do more to nurture spirituality and discipleship, with a first step being the formation of new Planning and Delivery groups. After discussions in PCC, these are now in place. The new **Praying, Growing, Flourishing group** held its first meeting in September, building on the work of the previous Mission Action Group, generating plenty of ideas and agreeing initial priorities, and a draft budget.

The Parish's commitment to spiritual and pastoral care was confirmed by the revival of the Parish Assistant role. We were delighted to see both James Clark and Rosi Bartlett step forward from within our community to be commissioned as part time **Parish Assistants**. They have undergone initial training and have started to share in ministry liturgically, in facilitating groups and in care homes.







Unfortunately, 2023 saw the coming of age of our Organist, Mr John Ridgway, who after 21 years with us, retired. John has been appointed to the honorary post of Organist Emeritus of Wantage Parish and still plays an active role assisting with the trebles, playing a monthly service at Holy Trinity Church, and playing occasionally at the Parish Church. With every disappointment comes an opportunity, and this is no different. John's retirement allowed us the chance to reinvent the role as Assistant Director of Music with more duties devoted to the recruitment, retention, and education of children and young people in the choir. We appointed Barbara Kennedy to this new post in September 2023. We take this opportunity to formally thank John, and to welcome Barbara into our community.

Members of the choir are parishioners first and foremost, fully involved in the broader life and mission of the church. The choir plays a role in supporting worship, attracting new members to the congregation, and offers concerts and fundraising events each year. This year the choir combined with the Silver Band for a joint Remembrance Sunday concert in addition to supporting a literary festival event arranged by and hosted in the Parish Church. These events, alongside the Wassail and others over the course of the year, raised a significant sum of money for the Wantage Parish Music Guild (WPMG), and for other charities. WPMG is a separate charity set up to raise money to support music making in the Parish. This year the WPMG was successful in obtaining a grant to support the appointment of our new Assistant Director of Music, Barbara Kennedy. The WPMG (generously supported by the Community of St Mary the Virgin) also supports the musical education of our trebles, our two organ scholarships, choral scholarships, and grant support for our choir tours so that all choir members have an equal opportunity to participate.

Looking forward to 2024 the choir will enjoy a tour to Lancashire, with services arranged in Liverpool and Blackburn Cathedrals, and a concert at Broughton Parish Church. The majority of the trebles are coming and this will be a wonderful chance for them to experience a shared trip, and to sing every day. Over the coming year the choir also hopes to further expand its music outreach - particularly in relation to teenagers and young adults.

Anyone (of any age) interested in being involved in the musical life of the Parish can contact the Music Director Phil Johnson.









# The Choir

The Parish Choir maintains the Anglican choral tradition and is held to be among the best in the Diocese. It currently boasts 34 full-time adult members, 6 occasional singers, and 11 trebles. As well as singing on Sunday mornings, there are monthly choral evensong services, services on each of the major festivals, and carol services for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany.

Previous success with the Junior Choir (trebles) has been maintained, and numbers remain at a total of 11 (although there have been a couple of changes to the faces!). The regular singing outreach visits to the church primary school have continued, and our new Assistant Director of Music is tasked with expanding these to additional schools. Special thanks go to all of those who have helped with recruitment and supervision of our trebles. The work we do with children would not be possible without the volunteers who provide this support.

Choir members funded a choir tour to our twin town, Seesen in Germany, in the summer of 2023. The Choir made valuable links with local musicians and dignitaries and had the opportunity for intensive rehearsals supplemented by concerts and a choral evensong in the Lutheran church in Seesen.

Choir tours, whilst great fun, are a great opportunity to expand repertoire, reinforce the sense of purpose of the choir, and develop friendships through a shared love of music and our Christian faith. The choir's singing really developed over the course of the tour, and surprised many at the concerts with the quality on show.





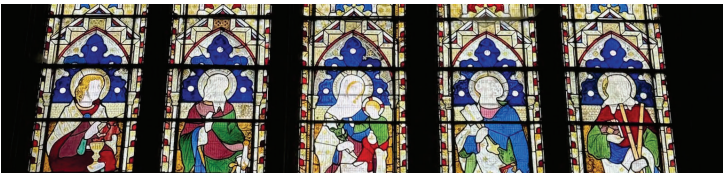
# Welcome

We have seen several small but significant changes as a result of our deep reflection together on what it means to be a welcoming community, especially at the Parish Church where we recognise that the size of the congregation can be both a blessing and a challenge when it comes to welcoming new people:

- Welcome cards to help welcome and integrate newcomers and keep in touch with them. Katherine has responded to at least twenty of these since they were introduced in October.
- Training for our welcome team, who are vital in providing the key 'first impression' to newcomers
- Our first welcome event for people relatively new to the church, sharing conversation and information and helping people get to know each other over tasty treats after church. This will be repeated with some changes to the format.
- Improvements to the entrance area displays, layout, resources and prayer facilities, which remains an ongoing project.

Welcome is all our responsibility and it is very pleasing to hear increasingly positive feedback from visitors and newcomers about the warmth of our welcome. We owe a debt to everyone who contributes to this in many different ways, from welcomers to coffee servers to each of us noticing and gently reaching out with kindness to those around us week by week.

**Social events** such as Harvest Brunch and another very successful Wantage Wassail have further helped to bring people together, sharing food, fun and friendship. These are in addition to regular events such as refreshments after church, the monthly T Bar at Holy Trinity, and breakfast at the Parish Church. We want to do more to create a calendar of social events to which we can invite those on the edge of our worshipping community.



# Prayer and Discipleship

A main focus for 2023 was preparing for **the Personal Discipleship Plan (PDP) initiative** which was launched in November 2023 at a service with Fr Toby Wright, following training and piloting with our team of Encouragers. This is a flexible Diocesan scheme to encourage people in their Christian faith and service, which we have adapted to our context. Those interested can pick up a leaflet in church or contact pdp@wantageparish.com for further information or to sign up for a supportive conversation with an Encourager.

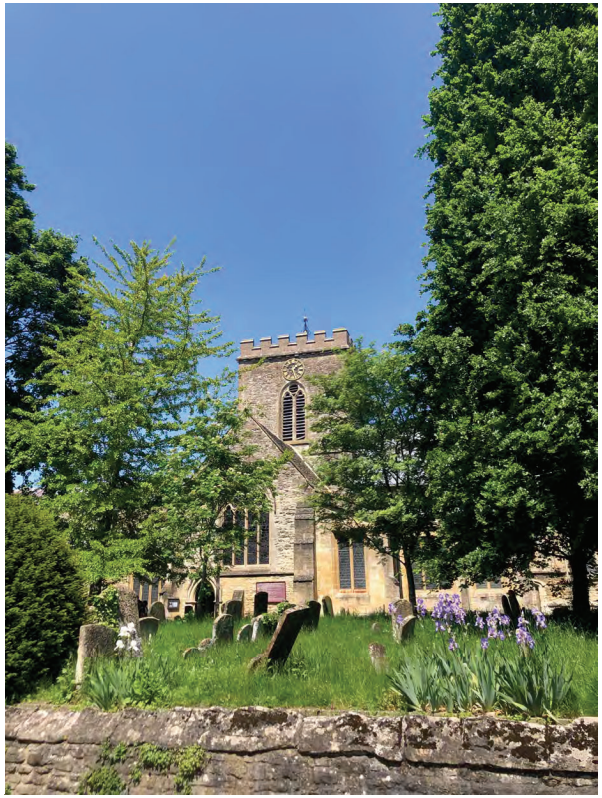
Following the success of its introduction at Witney, the hope was that this would be the key mechanism for reinvigorating people's engagement with their spiritual life and would give rise to new lay-led initiatives for spiritual support and growth. It is fair to say that takeup immediately following the launch was disappointing, and more work may be needed on communication going during 2024. Nevertheless, encouraging and empowering members of the church has borne fruit with **two new weekly Bible groups**. The online Julian prayer group will also transition to being lay-led in 2024.

We continue to provide free topical Bible-based resources to support and explain Christian faith through different situations and seasons, and we have started to compile and share other recommendations to **support spiritual life**, which can be found at www.wantageparish.com/services/spiritual-resources.html A small group appreciated a 'hybrid' pre-Advent quiet morning in church (focussed around Julian of Norwich), facilitated live on line by a Church Times team.

Our pastoral care priority has been to build up our capacity to provide **communion to care homes** and those unable to attend church. With the help of the Pastoral Assistants and under the leadership of Fr Benji Tyler, our assistant curate, there is now a regular programme for this.

**Next steps:** We look forward to continuing to build on this progress, with other developments to follow as time and personnel allow. Next steps will include developing a social events calendar, improving baptism preparation and follow-up, and producing a welcome pack.





# The Bell Ringers

The bells are regularly rung for Sunday Services and the Tuesday practice nights.

The main event for 2023 was the **Coronation of King Charles III** with bells across the UK being rung for the occasion. On Sunday 7th May Coronation call changes, plain hunt triples and more call changes prior to the Civic Service of Celebration were rung by all members of the band. And on Monday 8th May a quarter peal (1260 changes) of Grandsire Doubles to celebrate the Coronation was rung on the front six bells.

We rang on Christmas Eve for both the morning and midnight services and also Christmas Day. On the 31st we rang the Old Year out and the New Year in; all on the front six bells. During the past year we also rang for five weddings and one blessing. The 6th bell was tolled for four funerals.

Although we have a core group of 10 ringers, we do not always manage to ring all 8 of our bells. Recently we have gained a relapsed ringer (!) who will be a welcome addition to the band.

Anyone interested in learning to ring or finding out what that involves, please contact Jenny Bennett, the Tower Secretary or David Endacott, Tower Captain.

**The Crib Service** was held on 23rd December this year due to Christmas falling on a Monday. This may have contributed to a drop in numbers compared with our record turnout in 2022, but the Parish Church still felt comfortably full. The Junior Choir sang Rutter's Nativity Carol accompanied by junior organ scholar, Amelia, on piano. The Open the Book team and children from the congregation presented the Nativity story, with Gin the donkey adding authenticity although sadly December lambs are increasingly a thing of the past. This year was extra special as we had a real baby Jesus, played beautifully by baby Freya with her mum, Harriet, as Mary.

A small team of committed volunteers have contributed to the various activities with children and young people that form an important outreach within our local communities. However, we are always looking for more volunteers in order to ensure these activities can continue, and to create further opportunities to engage with young people and their families.

## Servers

Having finally emerged from the shadow of Covid, all the servers at our services can now fully carry out their roles. Our aim is to train all, at least adult, servers in all of the serving roles, and William has become a most assured M/C. The vicar has introduced some positive changes, which particularly increase the role and visibility of the acolytes.

The serving team is at an all-time high with a number of new recruits. Our average age has dropped considerably with the arrival of Victor, Bright, Gift and (in 2024) Delama. Some new adult recruits have also joined us – Vince in 2023 and Jane in 2024 and there are roles for our Parish Assistants Rosi and James. But there is always room for more!







## Worship

The **pattern of regular worship** was sustained through 2023, with a daily Eucharist somewhere in the Parish (either at one of our two churches or at the CSMV Convent) and at least three Eucharistic services on Sundays. In addition we celebrate monthly Choral Evensong, usually at the Parish Church and occasionally at the Convent.

During 2023, the number of worshippers attending the 10.30am Sunday Eucharist at the Parish Church showed a further increase, building on the growth in 2022. We are particularly pleased that the number of children typically at the service almost doubled during the year. By the end of 2023, the average attendance was over 90, including 13 children. Attendance at our other Sunday morning Eucharist services (8am at the Parish Church and 9.15am at Holy Trinity) continued at around 40 in total during 2023. Several weekday Eucharists are celebrated across our two churches, typically attended by between four and ten worshippers. Our monthly choral evensong (or alternative choral service, depending on the season) draws a number of people who do not regularly worship with us on Sunday mornings. The congregation for these services showed some growth during 2023, as did the congregations at services around Easter and Christmas.



We have been delighted to welcome a good number of new worshippers again this year, as well as several new members of the serving team and junior choir. The Vicar has tried to instil a mindset of always assuming new people will be present, with announcements about receiving communion and the provision of gluten free wafers now a routine part of the service. A 'teaching Eucharist' was held on one Sunday in the Summer to help explain the meaning and intention of different parts of the service.

Numbers for the **carol services and midnight mass** were particularly pleasing, and the Christingle service trialled last year at Holy Trinity was run again in 2023 with good numbers in attendance. Another highlight was the Patronal Festival Evensong, which benefitted both from being part of the amazingly successful Sustainable Flowers Festival and from a link with the Wantage Summer Arts programme.

**Livestreaming** of services from the Parish Church, which began at the beginning of the first lockdown in 2020, continued to take place monthly in 2023 under the leadership of Assistant Warden Andrew Gregory. The livestreaming team have battled numerous technical gremlins to achieve a more reliable and higher quality service, but the sustainability and focus of this ministry will need reviewing in 2024.

Different seasons and events have provided the opportunity for special services, enhanced by creative use of seasonal liturgies, music, flowers and displays (the latter often masterminded by Fr Benji). Patronal celebrations and a Sustainable Flowers Festival were notable successes in bringing people together. A 'quiet **Mothering Sunday'** service provided a welcome opportunity for those who find that day difficult, complementing the focus of other services that day, and an 'Alternative Benediction' combined traditional sacramental worship with modern recorded and improvised music.

A priority going forward is to increase the proportion of non-eucharistic services, both to ensure that our pattern of services remains sustainable with only one ordained priest, as well as to meet the spiritual needs of those currently on the edge of our worshipping community (such as those who attend Around Table or funerals and baptisms) who may not be communicant members of the church. The PCC held a review and consultation around midweek (Monday to Saturday) services, the results of which will begin to be implemented in 2024.









# Children, Schools and Families

**Trinity Tots** met throughout 2023 at Holy Trinity from 9am until 11am on the 1st and 3rd Mondays in the month during term time. Capacity gradually increased up to 15 families. Pre-booking and payment (£2.50 per family) continued to be via Eventbrite. Attendees are mainly non-church families with a few pre- and post-Baptism children. Some families have asked to be added to the church email list. The sessions include play, craft, singing, story time, snacks and drinks for all. Ann is assisted by an essential rota of loyal volunteers.

The Holy Trinity **Christingle Service** was attended by 60 children and 40 adults, a mixture of families new to the event and those who have attended before. The session was in the style of Messy Church with free flow activities and refreshments followed by informal worship and singing.

We continue to have a close relationship with **Wantage CE Primary School** where three of our congregation are governors, two are staff members, and several are parents! In addition to the weekly Open the Book sessions, Katherine now leads Collective Worship on a regular monthly basis. In 2023, the Parish hosted three school services and the Year 5 Passion Play, and the Parish made gifts of New Testaments to all Year 6 leavers. We have been able to welcome other schools in the parish for some events and visits, and we are working to expand our capacity and engagement with all local schools.

The **Open the Book** team have continued to visit the school on a weekly basis. The children and staff say that they look forward to the Friday morning assembly, and children are always keen to take part. Jan Patten has recently stepped down as organiser of the group and the team are very grateful to her for the enthusiasm, creativity and acting prowess, that she has shared over the years. It has been encouraging to welcome a couple of new members to the group this year. However, it would be really good to have some more volunteers for what is an immensely enjoyable and rewarding activity that takes very little time but is so valuable to the children.



# Giving

The Church of England encourages church members to give 5% of their income to the church and 5% to other charitable causes.

We emphasise the use of the **Parish Giving Scheme** to collect regular contributions, in place of earlier envelope and standing order schemes. The Parish recognises the rapid decline in the use of cash in our society. A **contactless "click-and-pay"** device for donations, installed last year, is now being used regularly as a means of giving.

We supported a number of charities in the year. The **Christmas Appeal** raised a wonderful total of £2,395, which was divided between the local charity Sweatbox, The Children's Society, and the Christian Aid Middle East Appeal.



The Parish is most grateful for the practical and financial support of church members and the many volunteers who give their time and support the Parish. The activities described throughout this report are made possible only by the generosity of church members.







# Outreach

As we release ourselves from the grip of the pandemic, the parish has explored many ways of engaging with our community. Here, we will highlight just a few of the extraordinary activities that have brought faith and Christian action beyond the expected.

Foremost amongst the achievements in the realm of social action was the Parish's primary response to the Cost of Living Crisis. Following an extended period of consultation, the PCC was willing to launch **Around Table** in February 2023. This food initiative has grown beyond what any of us might have imagined with over 5000 free meals served to the community this year. Blessed by the Bishop of Dorchester and drawing on the extraordinary generosity of over 25 regular volunteers both from the church and wider community, the initiative has become an symbol of the love of Christ, a lifeline for many in need and a place where community is being built. Some key principles underpin the project. It is a free 'no strings' service to the community. Food is provided on a no-questions basis, regardless of income, postcode, or previous access, so that people in all situations of life, from a broad cross-section of our community meet together as guests and equals. Our restaurant-style food, service, and layout respects everyone as a patron or guest not as a recipient of charity. We do not use Around Table to evangelise; the Parish seeks to show God's love in action without any expectation of religious commitment from either volunteers or guests.

The Diocese of Oxford has shown considerable interest in supporting it and using it as a blueprint for other parishes. Our thanks go to the kitchen and front of house staff and to all our guests, supporters and benefactors.

Another Diocesan-wide event put on by the parish was the **Sustainable Church Flowers** Festival in June/ July. This four-day event attracted over 500 visitors, engaged over 100 people from the community in the implementation - including students and teachers from King Alfred's Academy, the Women's' Institute, Charlton Park Garden Centre, local businesses, and countless individuals - and raised £4,500 for the church. Together with the full support of the national Sustainable Church Flowers team including Shane Connolly, the Coronation Florist, who gave the opening night demonstration, the flower teams from our churches pulled off an event of never-before-seen magnitude, inviting many into the orbit of the important faith/ environmental conversation.

The Church continues to be blessed by a close connection with the civic and community life of the town. The third **Alfredfest** was staged in October half-term, larger than its predecessors owing to the incredible support of the Town Council, museum and local businesses. The celebration of Wantage's most famous son began with a mass celebrated in the West End, followed by feasting on Hog Roast provided by King Alfred's Head and 'burnt' cakes (a sell-out) by Marmalade. A specially commissioned play was then performed with dancing and music. Later on, the Parish Church was full for a lecture on King Alfred by Dr Conor O'Brien, in collaboration with the Wantage Literary Festival culminating with a concert by the Wantage Parish Choir. Thanks to all who enabled this event to continue in growth and ever-wider community engagement.





We have continued to support local ecumenical projects such as **Street Pastors.**

The Parish takes its **civic responsibilities** and relationships seriously. For example, the town's annual Christmas festival **Dickensian Evening**, brought some 1,700 visitors into the Parish Church. It was a major fundraising event, but more importantly we again offered a beautiful space for contemplation, the leaving of prayer notes, lighting candles and visiting the Crib. In the preceding month, our **Remembrance Day** service saw some 500 worshippers present in the churchyard. At a time when societal and community bonds seem stretched, this civic presence is clearly valued by townspeople.









wantage parish

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WANTAGE**

# ACCOUNTS

## for the year ended

# 31 DECEMBER 2023




# wantage parish

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WANTAGE
## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
## TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Parochial Church Council of Wantage for the year ended 31 December 2023.

### Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act'). You are satisfied that the accounts of the charity are not required by charity law to be audited and have chosen instead to have an independent examination.

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

### Independent examiner's statement

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

1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or

2 the accounts do not accord with those records; or

3 the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act; or

4 the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

**A Chapman FCA**
**Chapman Worth Limited**
2 Old Estate Yard
East Hendred
Oxfordshire
OX12 8JY

April 2024

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WANTAGE
## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

| | Notes | General unrestricted funds £ | Designated unrestricted funds £ | Restricted funds £ | Total 2023 £ | *Total 2022 £* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Income from:** | | | | | | |
| Donations and legacies | **2** | 99,941 | - | 1,290 | 101,231 | *97,473* |
| Charitable activities | **3** | 17,657 | - | - | 17,657 | *14,662* |
| Other operating activities | **4** | 13,889 | - | 8,376 | 22,265 | *51,903* |
| Investments | **5** | 1,139 | - | 16,090 | 17,229 | *15,651* |
| **Total income** | | 132,626 | - | 25,756 | 158,382 | *179,689* |
| **Expenditure on:** | | | | | | |
| Raising funds | **6** | 3,556 | - | - | 3,556 | *2,762* |
| Charitable activities | **6** | 136,541 | - | 47,219 | 183,760 | *226,333* |
| **Total resources expended** | | 140,097 | - | 47,219 | 187,316 | *229,095* |
| **Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains** | | (7,471) | - | (21,463) | (28,934) | *(49,406)* |
| Net gains/(losses) on investments | **9** | - | - | 50,551 | 50,551 | *(66,159)* |
| **Net income/(expenditure)** | | (7,471) | - | 29,088 | 21,617 | *(115,565)* |
| **Transfers between funds** | **14** | - | - | - | - | - |
| **Net movement in funds** | | (7,471) | - | 29,088 | 21,617 | *(115,565)* |
| Fund balances at 1 January | | 61,304 | 40,000 | 630,994 | 732,298 | *847,863* |
| **Fund balances at 31 December** | **14** | 53,833 | 40,000 | 660,082 | 753,915 | *732,298* |

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The comparative figures for the previous year are analysed on the next page.

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WANTAGE
## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

### *Comparative figures for 2022*

| | Notes | General unrestricted funds £ | Designated unrestricted funds £ | Restricted funds £ | Total 2022 £ | Total 2021 £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ***Income from:*** | | | | | | |
| *Donations and legacies* | **2** | *94,427* | *-* | *3,046* | *97,473* | *97,036* |
| *Charitable activities* | **3** | *14,662* | *-* | *-* | *14,662* | *9,697* |
| *Other operating activities* | **4** | *10,099* | *-* | *41,804* | *51,903* | *37,617* |
| *Investments* | **5** | *174* | *-* | *15,477* | *15,651* | *15,424* |
| ***Total income*** | | *119,362* | *-* | *60,327* | *179,689* | *159,774* |
| ***Expenditure on:*** | | | | | | |
| *Raising funds* | **6** | *2,762* | *-* | *-* | *2,762* | *2,326* |
| *Charitable activities* | **6** | *127,195* | *-* | *99,138* | *226,333* | *245,857* |
| ***Total resources expended*** | | *129,957* | *-* | *99,138* | *229,095* | *248,183* |
| ***Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains*** | | *(10,595)* | *-* | *(38,811)* | *(49,406)* | *(88,409)* |
| *Net gains/(losses) on investments* | **9** | *-* | *-* | *(66,159)* | *(66,159)* | *74,798* |
| ***Net income/(expenditure)*** | | *(10,595)* | *-* | *(104,970)* | *(115,565)* | *(13,611)* |
| ***Transfers between funds*** | **14** | *13,000* | *(13,000)* | *-* | *-* | *-* |
| ***Net movement in funds*** | | *2,405* | *(13,000)* | *(104,970)* | *(115,565)* | *(13,611)* |
| *Fund balances at 1 January* | | *58,899* | *53,000* | *735,964* | *847,863* | *861,474* |
| ***Fund balances at 31 December*** | **14** | *61,304* | *40,000* | *630,994* | *732,298* | *847,863* |

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WANTAGE
## BALANCE SHEET
## AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

| | Notes | 2023 £ | 2023 £ | *2022* *£* | *2022* *£* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Fixed assets** | | | | | |
| Tangible assets | **10** | | 42,716 | | *44,220* |
| Investments | **11** | | 588,589 | | *538,016* |
| | | | 631,305 | | *582,236* |
| **Current assets** | | | | | |
| Debtors | **12** | 8,004 | | *5,773* | |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | 115,477 | | *146,742* | |
| | | 123,481 | | *152,515* | |
| **Creditors: amounts falling due within one year** | **13** | (871) | | *(2,453)* | |
| **Net current assets** | | | 122,610 | | *150,062* |
| **Total assets less current liabilities** | | | 753,915 | | *732,298* |
| **Income funds** | | | | | |
| Restricted funds | **14** | | 660,082 | | *630,994* |
| Designated unrestricted funds | **14** | | 40,000 | | *40,000* |
| General unrestricted funds | **14** | | 53,833 | | *61,304* |
| | | | 753,915 | | *732,298* |

These accounts were approved on 16 April 2024

**Katherine Price**
Vicar

**Claire Hunter**
Treasurer

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WANTAGE
## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

### 1 Accounting policies

**Charity information**

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Peter & St Paul Wantage is a registered charity (number 1181640). References in these accounts to "the PCC" are references to this charity. The members of the PCC are the trustees of the charity under charity law and are referred to in these accounts as "the trustees".

The PCC constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102.

### 1.1 Accounting convention

The accounts are for the year to 31 December 2023 and are presented in sterling, rounded to the nearest pound.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policies below or the subsequent notes.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with:

- the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102);
- the Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS102 (Charities SORP); and
- the Charities Act 2011.

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation and uncertainty in the preparation of the accounts are set out below.

### 1.2 Charitable funds

The funds of the PCC are divided into the categories set out below, depending on the terms on which they were donated.

Endowment funds comprise capital sums which must be permanently held. The income which arises on endowment funds can be used for specified purposes in accordance with the terms under which the funds were given. The PCC holds no endowment funds at this time.

Restricted funds are held for specific purposes based on the origin of the funds or the wishes of the donors, and are not available for any other purpose. The PCC has designated certain restricted funds to be held for particular uses within the broader purposes specified. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in note 14 below.

Designated unrestricted funds are those which, although available for any purpose within the broad charitable objectives of the PCC, have been designated by the PCC to be held for a specified purpose.

General unrestricted funds are those which may be used for any purpose within the broad charitable objectives of the PCC.

### 1.3 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Preparation of the accounts requires the trustees to make judgements and estimates. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates. The estimates and underlying assumptions are kept under review. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised.

Significant judgements and estimates are made from time to time in relation to:

- estimating the likely amount of legacy income once the PCC is aware of its entitlement to receive a legacy; and
- estimating the useful economic life of tangible fixed assets.

**1 Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.4 Financial risk**

The main form of financial risk faced by the PCC relates to its investments and concerns volatility in equity and other investment markets due to wider economic conditions, the attitude of investors to investment risk, and changes in sentiment concerning equities and within particular investment sectors.

The PCC does not acquire options, derivatives or other complex financial instruments. Apart from its investments, the PCC only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments.

**1.5 Going concern**

The trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern assumption is appropriate in preparing these financial statements. The trustees have made this assessment in respect of a period of one year from the date of approval of the financial statements.

Because of the level of the PCC's financial reserves, the trustees have concluded that the PCC will have sufficient resources to meet its liabilities as they fall due and that the current circumstances do not impact on the charity's ability to operate as a going concern.

**1.6 Incoming resources**

Income is recognised once the PCC has entitlement to the incoming resources, any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations and grants are recognised when the PCC has confirmation of both the amount and settlement date. In the event of donations and grants pledged but not received, the amount is recorded when the receipt is considered probable. In the event that a donation or grant is subject to conditions, the income is deferred and not recognised until either the conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of the conditions is wholly within the control of the PCC and it is probable that they will be fulfilled in the reporting period. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid is recognised at the same time as the related donation.

Legacies are recognised when there is sufficient evidence to place a value on the amount the PCC is likely to receive. This is when either confirmation has been received from the executors of the estate, or probate has been granted, or a distribution is received. Recognition of legacies in a form other than cash or listed investments is subject to the value being reliably measurable. Where the PCC has or may have entitlement to a legacy but there is uncertainty about the amount or value, information is disclosed about the potential future asset.

Investment income is recognised once the PCC has been notified of the amount that is receivable. Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

**1 Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.7 Resources expended**

Expenditure is included in the statement of financial activities when incurred. It includes irrecoverable VAT. Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the PCC to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure comprises direct costs and support costs. Support costs represent indirect charitable expenditure. The costs of each activity include both those costs directly attributable to the category and a proportion of general support costs. Governance costs comprise the costs relating to the public accountability of the charity and compliance with regulation and good practice.

The classification between activities is as follows:

- expenditure on raising funds includes all expenditure associated with raising funds for the PCC;
- expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs associated with furthering the charitable purposes of the PCC, including governance costs.

Expenditure on charitable activities is split between:

- worship & ministry; and
- charitable giving in support of other charities and charitable activities.

No value is ascribed to the considerable effort of the many volunteers who support the ministry and other activities of the charity.

**1.8 Tangible fixed assets**

There are two Anglican church buildings within the Parish: the Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul and Holy Trinity Church, Charlton. In accordance with church legislation, the PCC is responsible for the upkeep of these buildings, including fixtures and furnishings within them, but does not own them. Accordingly, the church buildings and their contents are not included in these financial statements. All expenditure on maintaining and improving the church buildings, and on their fixtures and furnishings, is charged directly to the statement of financial activities when incurred.

All other tangible assets or groups of tangible assets costing more than £500 and with an expected useful economic life exceeding one year are capitalised. Depreciation is provided in order to write off the cost less any expected residual value over the estimated useful life of each asset (or group of assets) at the following annual rates:

- residential property – no depreciation as the expected residual value exceeds the cost;
- fixtures & fittings in residential property – on a straight-line basis over ten years;
- office equipment – on a straight-line basis over four years.

**1.9 Fixed asset investments**

The PCC's investments are held in investment funds managed by CCLA Investment Management. They are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing market price.

Realised gains (or losses) on investment assets are calculated as the difference between disposal proceeds and the opening carrying value at the beginning of the financial year (or the purchase value if acquired during the year). Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the fair value at the year end and the previous carrying value. Realised and unrealised investment gains (or losses) are combined in the statement of financial activities and are recorded in the year in which they arise.

**1 Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.10 Debtors**

Amounts of money owed to the PCC (referred to as debtors) are recognised at their settlement amount, less an allowance for any amounts which may not be recoverable. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid. Debtors and prepayments are discounted to the present value of the future cash receipt where such discounting is material.

**1.11 Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash at bank and in hand represents such accounts and balances that are available on demand or had an original maturity of less than three months. Term deposits for more than three months but less than one year are shown as short-term deposits. Cash placed on deposit for more than one year is included as part of fixed asset investments.

**1.12 Creditors**

Amounts of money owed by the PCC (referred to as creditors) and provisions for any other liabilities of the PCC are recognised when there is an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are recognised at the amount the PCC anticipates it will pay to settle the debt. They are discounted to the present value of the future cash payment where such discounting is material.

**2 Donations and legacies**

| | **General unrestricted funds** | **Restricted funds** | **Total 2023** | ***Total 2022*** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **£** | **£** | **£** | ***£*** |
| Planned giving by church members | 69,567 | - | 69,567 | *66,512* |
| Collections at services | 5,293 | 430 | 5,723 | *7,898* |
| Legacies | - | - | - | - |
| Other donations | 8,570 | 860 | 9,430 | *6,421* |
| Tax recoverable on donations under Gift Aid | 16,511 | - | 16,511 | *16,642* |
| | 99,941 | 1,290 | 101,231 | *97,473* |
| ***Comparative figures for 2022*** | | | | |
| *Planned giving by church members* | *66,512* | - | | *66,512* |
| *Collections at services* | *4,984* | *2,914* | | *7,898* |
| *Legacies* | - | - | | - |
| *Other donations* | *6,289* | *132* | | *6,421* |
| *Tax recoverable on donations under Gift Aid* | *16,642* | - | | *16,642* |
| | *94,427* | *3,046* | | *97,473* |

### 3 Income from charitable activities

| | General unrestricted funds £ | Restricted funds £ | Total 2023 £ | *Total 2022 £* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fees & contributions for occasional offices | 17,384 | - | 17,384 | *14,397* |
| Publications, quiet days & children's activities | 273 | - | 273 | *265* |
| | 17,657 | - | 17,657 | *14,662* |
| ***Comparative figures for 2022*** | | | | |
| *Fees & contributions for occasional offices* | *14,397* | - | | *14,397* |
| *Publications, quiet days & children's activities* | *265* | - | | *265* |
| | *14,662* | - | | *14,662* |

Fees & contributions for occasional offices relate to baptisms, weddings and funerals held in the two Anglican churches of the Parish.

### 4 Income from other operating activities

| | General unrestricted funds £ | Restricted funds £ | Total 2023 £ | *Total 2022 £* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fundraising | 11,124 | 1,576 | 12,700 | *8,508* |
| Grants | - | 6,800 | 6,800 | *40,252* |
| Use of churches by other organisations | 2,765 | - | 2,765 | *3,143* |
| Rental income | - | - | - | - |
| | 13,889 | 8,376 | 22,265 | *51,903* |
| ***Comparative figures for 2022*** | | | | |
| *Fundraising* | *6,956* | *1,552* | | *8,508* |
| *Grants* | - | *40,252* | | *40,252* |
| *Use of churches by other organisations* | *3,143* | - | | *3,143* |
| *Rental income* | - | - | | - |
| | *10,099* | *41,804* | | *51,903* |

### 5 Income from investments

| | General unrestricted funds £ | Restricted funds £ | Total 2023 £ | *Total 2022 £* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Investment income | 1,139 | 16,090 | 17,229 | *15,651* |
| ***Comparative figures for 2022*** | *174* | *15,477* | | *15,651* |

**6 Expenditure**

| | Notes | Clergy costs £ | Church buildings £ | Other costs £ | Total 2023 £ | *Total 2022 £* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Expenditure on charitable activities** | | | | | | |
| Worship & ministry | | 90,089 | 37,107 | 52,341 | 179,537 | *224,371* |
| Charitable giving | 7 | - | - | 4,223 | 4,223 | *1,962* |
| | | 90,089 | 37,107 | 56,564 | 183,760 | *226,333* |
| **Costs of raising funds** | | - | - | 3,556 | 3,556 | *2,762* |
| | | 90,089 | 37,107 | 60,120 | 187,316 | *229,095* |
| **Analysis by type of fund:** | | | | | | |
| Unrestricted funds | | 90,089 | - | 50,008 | 140,097 | *129,957* |
| Restricted funds | | - | 37,107 | 10,112 | 47,219 | *99,138* |
| | | 90,089 | 37,107 | 60,120 | 187,316 | *229,095* |
| ***Comparative figures for 2022*** | | | | | | |
| ***Expenditure on charitable activities*** | | | | | | |
| *Worship & ministry* | | *90,765* | *95,386* | *38,220* | | *224,371* |
| *Charitable giving* | *7* | - | - | *1,962* | | *1,962* |
| | | *90,765* | *95,386* | *40,182* | | *226,333* |
| ***Costs of raising funds*** | | - | - | *2,762* | | *2,762* |
| | | *90,765* | *95,386* | *42,944* | | *229,095* |
| ***Analysis by type of fund:*** | | | | | | |
| *Unrestricted funds* | | *90,765* | - | *39,192* | | *129,957* |
| *Restricted funds* | | - | *95,386* | *3,752* | | *99,138* |
| | | *90,765* | *95,386* | *42,944* | | *229,095* |

Expenditure includes:

- staff costs of £24,764 in respect of seven part-time employees employed for all or part of the year *(2022: £19,713 for five part-time employees)*.
- governance costs of £2,430 *(2022: £1,648*), being the cost of the independent examination of these accounts and assistance in their preparation.

Clergy costs include £83,075 *(2022: £86,649)* paid to the Diocese of Oxford as the Parish's contribution to diocesan costs, principally stipend, training and other costs relating to parish clergy.

### 7 Charitable giving

| | 2023 | *2022* |
|---|---|---|
| | £ | *£* |
| UNICEF Ukraine appeal | 1,505 | *600* |
| Bishops' Outreach Fund | 105 | *160* |
| Vale Community Impact | 1,505 | - |
| Support for Greenfields School, Thokoza | 1,000 | *1,202* |
| StreetPastors | 108 | - |
| | 4,223 | *1,962* |

### 8 Trustees

The members of the Parochial Church Council are the trustees of the charity and are responsible for the overall direction and control of the charity. The Vicar and Churchwardens provide leadership and take day-to-day management decisions.

In accordance with the Church of England's normal policy, Fr Benji Tyler as Assistant Curate in the Parish lives in a house provided by the PCC. Except as noted in this paragraph and in note 16, none of the trustees (or anyone connected with them) received from the PCC any remuneration, benefit or payment for services during the year (or the preceding year).

Four trustees were reimbursed a total of £4,619 for expenses which they incurred on behalf of the PCC *(2022: Four trustees reimbursed £3,393).* These expenses comprised travel and office costs for the clergy serving the Parish and goods and services purchased for use in our churches.

Trustees made unrestricted donations to the PCC totalling £14,991 *(2022: £12,911)* during the periods when they were trustees.

### 9 Net gains/(losses) on investments

| | General unrestricted funds | Restricted funds | Total 2023 | *Total 2022* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ | £ | *£* |
| Revaluation of investments | - | 50,551 | 50,551 | *(66,159)* |
| ***Comparative figures for 2022*** | - | *(66,159)* | | *(66,159)* |

### 10 Tangible fixed assets

| | Freehold land and buildings £ | Fixtures and fittings £ | Total £ |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Cost** | | | |
| At 1 January 2023 | 40,000 | 15,036 | 55,036 |
| Additions | - | - | - |
| At 31 December 2023 | 40,000 | 15,036 | 55,036 |
| **Depreciation and impairment** | | | |
| At 1 January 2023 | - | 10,816 | 10,816 |
| Depreciation charged in the year | - | 1,504 | 1,504 |
| At 31 December 2023 | - | 12,320 | 12,320 |
| **Carrying amount** | | | |
| At 31 December 2023 | 40,000 | 2,716 | 42,716 |
| *At 31 December 2022* | *40,000* | *4,220* | *44,220* |

The freehold property comprises a house which is provided for the assistant curate serving the Parish. As the residual value is greater than the original cost, no depreciation is provided. The property was valued at £270,000 in 2015 and will have gone up further in value since then.

### 11 Fixed asset investments

| | 2023 | *2022* |
|---|---|---|
| **Managed investments** | **£** | ***£*** |
| Market value at 1 January | 538,016 | *530,697* |
| Additions | - | *73,000* |
| Withdrawals | - | - |
| Income reinvested | 22 | *478* |
| Unrealised gains/(losses) | 50,551 | *(66,159)* |
| Market value at 31 December | 588,589 | *538,016* |
| Investments comprise holdings in the following funds managed by CCLA Investment Management: | | |
| CBF Church of England Investment Fund | 587,854 | *537,303* |
| CBF Church of England Deposit Fund | 735 | *713* |
| | 588,589 | *538,016* |

### 12 Debtors

| | 2023 | *2022* |
|---|---|---|
| **Amounts falling due within one year** | **£** | ***£*** |
| Tax recoverable on donations under Gift Aid | 7,650 | *4,800* |
| Other debtors & prepayments | 354 | *973* |
| | 8,004 | *5,773* |

### 13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

| | 2023 | *2022* |
|---|---|---|
| | **£** | ***£*** |
| Other creditors & accruals | 871 | *2,453* |

### 14 Funds

The table on the following page summarises the different funds held by the PCC (the subsequent page shows comparative figures for the previous year).

The largest element of the restricted reserves arose from the sale of properties once owned by the PCC. This element is available to be spent on any ecclesiastical purpose within the Parish. The funds concerned totalled £635,964 at the end of 2023 *(2022: £608,825)*. The PCC previously designated £40,000 of this element of the restricted funds to cover the cost (net of grants to be received) of employing a Children and Families Worker for five years from 2022/23. This appointment did not go ahead, but the PCC has retained the designation with a view to developing other work with children and young people.

The PCC has designated £40,000 *(2022: £40,000)* of its unrestricted reserves as a curate's housing fund. This represents the cost of the property purchased by the PCC as a house for an assistant curate in training in the Parish. The amount has been designated as a separate fund since this cannot currently be realised and used for any other purpose.

**14 Funds (continued)**

| | Balance at 1 January 2023 | Movement in funds: Incoming resources | Resources expended | Revaluation gains and losses | Transfers between reserves | Balance at 31 December 2023 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| **Restricted funds** | | | | | | |
| Funds arising from properties once owned by the PCC: | | | | | | |
| Designated for work with children & young people | 40,000 | - | - | - | - | 40,000 |
| Available for any ecclesiastical purpose within the Parish | 568,825 | 16,090 | (39,502) | 50,551 | | 595,964 |
| | 608,825 | 16,090 | (39,502) | 50,551 | - | 635,964 |
| Other restricted funds: | | | | | | |
| Fabric of Parish buildings | 4,790 | - | 335 | - | - | 5,125 |
| Fabric & furnishing of Holy Trinity Church | 11,936 | - | (659) | - | - | 11,277 |
| Diocesan grant for energy costs | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Music in the Parish | - | 6,800 | (1,800) | - | - | 5,000 |
| Charitable giving fund | 4,217 | 2,007 | (4,222) | - | - | 2,002 |
| Children's activities | 1,226 | - | (512) | - | - | 714 |
| Around Table | - | 859 | (859) | - | - | - |
| | 630,994 | 25,756 | (47,219) | 50,551 | - | 660,082 |
| **Designated unrestricted funds** | | | | | | |
| Curate's housing fund | 40,000 | - | - | - | - | 40,000 |
| **General unrestricted funds** | 61,304 | 132,626 | (140,097) | - | - | 53,833 |
| **Total funds** | 732,298 | 158,382 | (187,316) | 50,551 | - | 753,915 |

**14 Funds (continued)**

***Comparative Figures for 2022***

| | *Balance at 1 January 2022* | *Movement in funds* | | | | *Balance at 31 December 2022* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *Incoming resources* | *Resources expended* | *Revaluation gains and losses* | *Transfers between reserves* | |
| | *£* | *£* | *£* | *£* | *£* | *£* |
| ***Restricted funds*** | | | | | | |
| *Funds arising from properties once owned by the PCC:* | | | | | | |
| *Designated for work with children & young people* | *40,000* | *-* | *-* | *-* | *-* | *40,000* |
| *Available for any ecclesiastical purpose within the Parish* | *653,008* | *15,476* | *(33,500)* | *(66,159)* | | *568,825* |
| | *693,008* | *15,476* | *(33,500)* | *(66,159)* | *-* | *608,825* |
| *Other restricted funds:* | | | | | | |
| *Fabric of Parish buildings* | *23,784* | *35,674* | *(54,668)* | *-* | *-* | *4,790* |
| *Fabric & furnishing of Holy Trinity Church* | *16,076* | *-* | *(4,140)* | *-* | *-* | *11,936* |
| *Diocesan grant for energy costs* | *-* | *3,078* | *(3,078)* | *-* | *-* | *-* |
| *Music in the Parish* | *-* | *1,500* | *(1,500)* | *-* | *-* | *-* |
| *Charitable giving fund* | *1,580* | *4,599* | *(1,962)* | *-* | *-* | *4,217* |
| *Children's activities* | *1,516* | *-* | *(290)* | *-* | *-* | *1,226* |
| | *735,964* | *60,327* | *(99,138)* | *(66,159)* | *-* | *630,994* |
| ***Designated unrestricted funds*** | | | | | | |
| *Curate's housing fund* | *40,000* | *-* | *-* | *-* | *-* | *40,000* |
| *Long-term organ maintenance fund* | *13,000* | *-* | *-* | *-* | *(13,000)* | *-* |
| ***General unrestricted funds*** | *58,899* | *119,362* | *(129,957)* | *-* | *13,000* | *61,304* |
| ***Total funds*** | *847,863* | *179,689* | *(229,095)* | *(66,159)* | *-* | *732,298* |

### 15 Analysis of net assets between funds

| | General unrestricted funds | Designated unrestricted funds | Restricted funds | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Fund balances at 31 December 2023 were represented by: | | | | |
| Tangible assets | 2,716 | 40,000 | - | 42,716 |
| Investments | - | - | 588,589 | 588,589 |
| Other current assets/(liabilities) | 51,117 | - | 71,493 | 122,610 |
| | 53,833 | 40,000 | 660,082 | 753,915 |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ***Comparative figures for 2022*** | | | | |
| *Fund balances at 31 December 2022 were represented by:* | | | | |
| *Tangible assets* | *4,220* | *40,000* | *-* | *44,220* |
| *Investments* | *-* | *-* | *538,016* | *538,016* |
| *Other current assets/(liabilities)* | *57,084* | *-* | *92,978* | *150,062* |
| | *61,304* | *40,000* | *630,994* | *732,298* |

### 16 Related party transactions

The husband of one trustee, Ivie Johnson, is employed by the PCC as Director of Music at an annual salary at the end of 2023 of £6,970 (2022: £6,500) under a contract which pre-dates her appointment as a trustee in April 2021. She takes no part in the determination of her husband's salary. The wife of another trustee, Ian Stone, is employed by the PCC as a caretaker. Her remuneration during 2023 totalled £2,071 (2022: £5,345). These arrangements pre-date Ian Stone's appointment as a trustee in April 2022. He takes no part in the determination of his wife's salary.

The William John Butler Memorial Fund (commonly referred to as the Butler Trust) is a charity whose objects are to advance the Christian religion, in particular (but not exclusively) by the maintenance, repair and improvement of the Parish Church in Wantage and Holy Trinity Church, Charlton. The trustees of the Butler Trust include the Vicar, Churchwardens and Treasurer who are also members of the PCC. In 2023, the PCC's income did not include any grant from the Butler Trust *(2022: £28,072 for repairs to the fabric of Wantage Parish Church)*. There were no amounts due to the PCC from the Butler Trust at the end of either 2023 or 2022.

The Wantage Parish Music Guild is a charity whose objects are to support music in the Parish. The trustees of the Music Guild during 2022 and 2023 included three individuals who are married to people who were members of the PCC for parts of 2021 and/or 2022. In 2023, the PCC's income included a grant of £6,800 from the Music Guild towards the cost of the PCC employing an Assistant Organist *(2022: £1,500)*. There were no amounts due to the PCC from the Music Guild at the end of either 2022 or 2023.

wantage parish

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

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wantage parish

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WANTAGE**

# ACCOUNTS

## for the year ended

# 31 DECEMBER 2023




# wantage parish

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WANTAGE
## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
## TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Parochial Church Council of Wantage for the year ended 31 December 2023.

### Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act'). You are satisfied that the accounts of the charity are not required by charity law to be audited and have chosen instead to have an independent examination.

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

### Independent examiner's statement

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

1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or

2 the accounts do not accord with those records; or

3 the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act; or

4 the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

**A Chapman FCA**
**Chapman Worth Limited**
2 Old Estate Yard
East Hendred
Oxfordshire
OX12 8JY

April 2024

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WANTAGE
## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

| | Notes | General unrestricted funds £ | Designated unrestricted funds £ | Restricted funds £ | Total 2023 £ | *Total 2022 £* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Income from:** | | | | | | |
| Donations and legacies | **2** | 99,941 | - | 1,290 | 101,231 | *97,473* |
| Charitable activities | **3** | 17,657 | - | - | 17,657 | *14,662* |
| Other operating activities | **4** | 13,889 | - | 8,376 | 22,265 | *51,903* |
| Investments | **5** | 1,139 | - | 16,090 | 17,229 | *15,651* |
| **Total income** | | 132,626 | - | 25,756 | 158,382 | *179,689* |
| **Expenditure on:** | | | | | | |
| Raising funds | **6** | 3,556 | - | - | 3,556 | *2,762* |
| Charitable activities | **6** | 136,541 | - | 47,219 | 183,760 | *226,333* |
| **Total resources expended** | | 140,097 | - | 47,219 | 187,316 | *229,095* |
| **Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains** | | (7,471) | - | (21,463) | (28,934) | *(49,406)* |
| Net gains/(losses) on investments | **9** | - | - | 50,551 | 50,551 | *(66,159)* |
| **Net income/(expenditure)** | | (7,471) | - | 29,088 | 21,617 | *(115,565)* |
| **Transfers between funds** | **14** | - | - | - | - | - |
| **Net movement in funds** | | (7,471) | - | 29,088 | 21,617 | *(115,565)* |
| Fund balances at 1 January | | 61,304 | 40,000 | 630,994 | 732,298 | *847,863* |
| **Fund balances at 31 December** | **14** | 53,833 | 40,000 | 660,082 | 753,915 | *732,298* |

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The comparative figures for the previous year are analysed on the next page.

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WANTAGE
## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

### *Comparative figures for 2022*

| | Notes | General unrestricted funds £ | Designated unrestricted funds £ | Restricted funds £ | Total 2022 £ | Total 2021 £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ***Income from:*** | | | | | | |
| *Donations and legacies* | **2** | *94,427* | *-* | *3,046* | *97,473* | *97,036* |
| *Charitable activities* | **3** | *14,662* | *-* | *-* | *14,662* | *9,697* |
| *Other operating activities* | **4** | *10,099* | *-* | *41,804* | *51,903* | *37,617* |
| *Investments* | **5** | *174* | *-* | *15,477* | *15,651* | *15,424* |
| ***Total income*** | | *119,362* | *-* | *60,327* | *179,689* | *159,774* |
| ***Expenditure on:*** | | | | | | |
| *Raising funds* | **6** | *2,762* | *-* | *-* | *2,762* | *2,326* |
| *Charitable activities* | **6** | *127,195* | *-* | *99,138* | *226,333* | *245,857* |
| ***Total resources expended*** | | *129,957* | *-* | *99,138* | *229,095* | *248,183* |
| ***Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains*** | | *(10,595)* | *-* | *(38,811)* | *(49,406)* | *(88,409)* |
| *Net gains/(losses) on investments* | **9** | *-* | *-* | *(66,159)* | *(66,159)* | *74,798* |
| ***Net income/(expenditure)*** | | *(10,595)* | *-* | *(104,970)* | *(115,565)* | *(13,611)* |
| ***Transfers between funds*** | **14** | *13,000* | *(13,000)* | *-* | *-* | *-* |
| ***Net movement in funds*** | | *2,405* | *(13,000)* | *(104,970)* | *(115,565)* | *(13,611)* |
| *Fund balances at 1 January* | | *58,899* | *53,000* | *735,964* | *847,863* | *861,474* |
| ***Fund balances at 31 December*** | **14** | *61,304* | *40,000* | *630,994* | *732,298* | *847,863* |

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WANTAGE
## BALANCE SHEET
## AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

| | Notes | 2023 £ | 2023 £ | *2022* *£* | *2022* *£* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Fixed assets** | | | | | |
| Tangible assets | **10** | | 42,716 | | *44,220* |
| Investments | **11** | | 588,589 | | *538,016* |
| | | | 631,305 | | *582,236* |
| **Current assets** | | | | | |
| Debtors | **12** | 8,004 | | *5,773* | |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | 115,477 | | *146,742* | |
| | | 123,481 | | *152,515* | |
| **Creditors: amounts falling due within one year** | **13** | (871) | | *(2,453)* | |
| **Net current assets** | | | 122,610 | | *150,062* |
| **Total assets less current liabilities** | | | 753,915 | | *732,298* |
| **Income funds** | | | | | |
| Restricted funds | **14** | | 660,082 | | *630,994* |
| Designated unrestricted funds | **14** | | 40,000 | | *40,000* |
| General unrestricted funds | **14** | | 53,833 | | *61,304* |
| | | | 753,915 | | *732,298* |

These accounts were approved on 16 April 2024

**Katherine Price**
Vicar

**Claire Hunter**
Treasurer

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WANTAGE
## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

### 1 Accounting policies

**Charity information**

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Peter & St Paul Wantage is a registered charity (number 1181640). References in these accounts to "the PCC" are references to this charity. The members of the PCC are the trustees of the charity under charity law and are referred to in these accounts as "the trustees".

The PCC constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102.

### 1.1 Accounting convention

The accounts are for the year to 31 December 2023 and are presented in sterling, rounded to the nearest pound.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policies below or the subsequent notes.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with:

- the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102);
- the Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS102 (Charities SORP); and
- the Charities Act 2011.

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation and uncertainty in the preparation of the accounts are set out below.

### 1.2 Charitable funds

The funds of the PCC are divided into the categories set out below, depending on the terms on which they were donated.

Endowment funds comprise capital sums which must be permanently held. The income which arises on endowment funds can be used for specified purposes in accordance with the terms under which the funds were given. The PCC holds no endowment funds at this time.

Restricted funds are held for specific purposes based on the origin of the funds or the wishes of the donors, and are not available for any other purpose. The PCC has designated certain restricted funds to be held for particular uses within the broader purposes specified. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in note 14 below.

Designated unrestricted funds are those which, although available for any purpose within the broad charitable objectives of the PCC, have been designated by the PCC to be held for a specified purpose.

General unrestricted funds are those which may be used for any purpose within the broad charitable objectives of the PCC.

### 1.3 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Preparation of the accounts requires the trustees to make judgements and estimates. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates. The estimates and underlying assumptions are kept under review. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised.

Significant judgements and estimates are made from time to time in relation to:

- estimating the likely amount of legacy income once the PCC is aware of its entitlement to receive a legacy; and
- estimating the useful economic life of tangible fixed assets.

**1 Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.4 Financial risk**

The main form of financial risk faced by the PCC relates to its investments and concerns volatility in equity and other investment markets due to wider economic conditions, the attitude of investors to investment risk, and changes in sentiment concerning equities and within particular investment sectors.

The PCC does not acquire options, derivatives or other complex financial instruments. Apart from its investments, the PCC only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments.

**1.5 Going concern**

The trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern assumption is appropriate in preparing these financial statements. The trustees have made this assessment in respect of a period of one year from the date of approval of the financial statements.

Because of the level of the PCC's financial reserves, the trustees have concluded that the PCC will have sufficient resources to meet its liabilities as they fall due and that the current circumstances do not impact on the charity's ability to operate as a going concern.

**1.6 Incoming resources**

Income is recognised once the PCC has entitlement to the incoming resources, any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations and grants are recognised when the PCC has confirmation of both the amount and settlement date. In the event of donations and grants pledged but not received, the amount is recorded when the receipt is considered probable. In the event that a donation or grant is subject to conditions, the income is deferred and not recognised until either the conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of the conditions is wholly within the control of the PCC and it is probable that they will be fulfilled in the reporting period. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid is recognised at the same time as the related donation.

Legacies are recognised when there is sufficient evidence to place a value on the amount the PCC is likely to receive. This is when either confirmation has been received from the executors of the estate, or probate has been granted, or a distribution is received. Recognition of legacies in a form other than cash or listed investments is subject to the value being reliably measurable. Where the PCC has or may have entitlement to a legacy but there is uncertainty about the amount or value, information is disclosed about the potential future asset.

Investment income is recognised once the PCC has been notified of the amount that is receivable. Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

**1 Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.7 Resources expended**

Expenditure is included in the statement of financial activities when incurred. It includes irrecoverable VAT. Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the PCC to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure comprises direct costs and support costs. Support costs represent indirect charitable expenditure. The costs of each activity include both those costs directly attributable to the category and a proportion of general support costs. Governance costs comprise the costs relating to the public accountability of the charity and compliance with regulation and good practice.

The classification between activities is as follows:

- expenditure on raising funds includes all expenditure associated with raising funds for the PCC;
- expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs associated with furthering the charitable purposes of the PCC, including governance costs.

Expenditure on charitable activities is split between:

- worship & ministry; and
- charitable giving in support of other charities and charitable activities.

No value is ascribed to the considerable effort of the many volunteers who support the ministry and other activities of the charity.

**1.8 Tangible fixed assets**

There are two Anglican church buildings within the Parish: the Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul and Holy Trinity Church, Charlton. In accordance with church legislation, the PCC is responsible for the upkeep of these buildings, including fixtures and furnishings within them, but does not own them. Accordingly, the church buildings and their contents are not included in these financial statements. All expenditure on maintaining and improving the church buildings, and on their fixtures and furnishings, is charged directly to the statement of financial activities when incurred.

All other tangible assets or groups of tangible assets costing more than £500 and with an expected useful economic life exceeding one year are capitalised. Depreciation is provided in order to write off the cost less any expected residual value over the estimated useful life of each asset (or group of assets) at the following annual rates:

- residential property – no depreciation as the expected residual value exceeds the cost;
- fixtures & fittings in residential property – on a straight-line basis over ten years;
- office equipment – on a straight-line basis over four years.

**1.9 Fixed asset investments**

The PCC's investments are held in investment funds managed by CCLA Investment Management. They are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing market price.

Realised gains (or losses) on investment assets are calculated as the difference between disposal proceeds and the opening carrying value at the beginning of the financial year (or the purchase value if acquired during the year). Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the fair value at the year end and the previous carrying value. Realised and unrealised investment gains (or losses) are combined in the statement of financial activities and are recorded in the year in which they arise.

**1 Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.10 Debtors**

Amounts of money owed to the PCC (referred to as debtors) are recognised at their settlement amount, less an allowance for any amounts which may not be recoverable. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid. Debtors and prepayments are discounted to the present value of the future cash receipt where such discounting is material.

**1.11 Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash at bank and in hand represents such accounts and balances that are available on demand or had an original maturity of less than three months. Term deposits for more than three months but less than one year are shown as short-term deposits. Cash placed on deposit for more than one year is included as part of fixed asset investments.

**1.12 Creditors**

Amounts of money owed by the PCC (referred to as creditors) and provisions for any other liabilities of the PCC are recognised when there is an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are recognised at the amount the PCC anticipates it will pay to settle the debt. They are discounted to the present value of the future cash payment where such discounting is material.

**2 Donations and legacies**

| | **General unrestricted funds** | **Restricted funds** | **Total 2023** | ***Total 2022*** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **£** | **£** | **£** | ***£*** |
| Planned giving by church members | 69,567 | - | 69,567 | *66,512* |
| Collections at services | 5,293 | 430 | 5,723 | *7,898* |
| Legacies | - | - | - | - |
| Other donations | 8,570 | 860 | 9,430 | *6,421* |
| Tax recoverable on donations under Gift Aid | 16,511 | - | 16,511 | *16,642* |
| | 99,941 | 1,290 | 101,231 | *97,473* |
| ***Comparative figures for 2022*** | | | | |
| *Planned giving by church members* | *66,512* | - | | *66,512* |
| *Collections at services* | *4,984* | *2,914* | | *7,898* |
| *Legacies* | - | - | | - |
| *Other donations* | *6,289* | *132* | | *6,421* |
| *Tax recoverable on donations under Gift Aid* | *16,642* | - | | *16,642* |
| | *94,427* | *3,046* | | *97,473* |

### 3 Income from charitable activities

| | General unrestricted funds £ | Restricted funds £ | Total 2023 £ | *Total 2022 £* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fees & contributions for occasional offices | 17,384 | - | 17,384 | *14,397* |
| Publications, quiet days & children's activities | 273 | - | 273 | *265* |
| | 17,657 | - | 17,657 | *14,662* |
| ***Comparative figures for 2022*** | | | | |
| *Fees & contributions for occasional offices* | *14,397* | - | | *14,397* |
| *Publications, quiet days & children's activities* | *265* | - | | *265* |
| | *14,662* | - | | *14,662* |

Fees & contributions for occasional offices relate to baptisms, weddings and funerals held in the two Anglican churches of the Parish.

### 4 Income from other operating activities

| | General unrestricted funds £ | Restricted funds £ | Total 2023 £ | *Total 2022 £* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fundraising | 11,124 | 1,576 | 12,700 | *8,508* |
| Grants | - | 6,800 | 6,800 | *40,252* |
| Use of churches by other organisations | 2,765 | - | 2,765 | *3,143* |
| Rental income | - | - | - | - |
| | 13,889 | 8,376 | 22,265 | *51,903* |
| ***Comparative figures for 2022*** | | | | |
| *Fundraising* | *6,956* | *1,552* | | *8,508* |
| *Grants* | - | *40,252* | | *40,252* |
| *Use of churches by other organisations* | *3,143* | - | | *3,143* |
| *Rental income* | - | - | | - |
| | *10,099* | *41,804* | | *51,903* |

### 5 Income from investments

| | General unrestricted funds £ | Restricted funds £ | Total 2023 £ | *Total 2022 £* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Investment income | 1,139 | 16,090 | 17,229 | *15,651* |
| ***Comparative figures for 2022*** | *174* | *15,477* | | *15,651* |

**6 Expenditure**

| | Notes | Clergy costs £ | Church buildings £ | Other costs £ | Total 2023 £ | *Total 2022 £* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Expenditure on charitable activities** | | | | | | |
| Worship & ministry | | 90,089 | 37,107 | 52,341 | 179,537 | *224,371* |
| Charitable giving | 7 | - | - | 4,223 | 4,223 | *1,962* |
| | | 90,089 | 37,107 | 56,564 | 183,760 | *226,333* |
| **Costs of raising funds** | | - | - | 3,556 | 3,556 | *2,762* |
| | | 90,089 | 37,107 | 60,120 | 187,316 | *229,095* |
| **Analysis by type of fund:** | | | | | | |
| Unrestricted funds | | 90,089 | - | 50,008 | 140,097 | *129,957* |
| Restricted funds | | - | 37,107 | 10,112 | 47,219 | *99,138* |
| | | 90,089 | 37,107 | 60,120 | 187,316 | *229,095* |
| ***Comparative figures for 2022*** | | | | | | |
| ***Expenditure on charitable activities*** | | | | | | |
| *Worship & ministry* | | *90,765* | *95,386* | *38,220* | | *224,371* |
| *Charitable giving* | *7* | - | - | *1,962* | | *1,962* |
| | | *90,765* | *95,386* | *40,182* | | *226,333* |
| ***Costs of raising funds*** | | - | - | *2,762* | | *2,762* |
| | | *90,765* | *95,386* | *42,944* | | *229,095* |
| ***Analysis by type of fund:*** | | | | | | |
| *Unrestricted funds* | | *90,765* | - | *39,192* | | *129,957* |
| *Restricted funds* | | - | *95,386* | *3,752* | | *99,138* |
| | | *90,765* | *95,386* | *42,944* | | *229,095* |

Expenditure includes:

- staff costs of £24,764 in respect of seven part-time employees employed for all or part of the year *(2022: £19,713 for five part-time employees)*.
- governance costs of £2,430 *(2022: £1,648*), being the cost of the independent examination of these accounts and assistance in their preparation.

Clergy costs include £83,075 *(2022: £86,649)* paid to the Diocese of Oxford as the Parish's contribution to diocesan costs, principally stipend, training and other costs relating to parish clergy.

### 7 Charitable giving

| | 2023 | *2022* |
|---|---|---|
| | £ | *£* |
| UNICEF Ukraine appeal | 1,505 | *600* |
| Bishops' Outreach Fund | 105 | *160* |
| Vale Community Impact | 1,505 | - |
| Support for Greenfields School, Thokoza | 1,000 | *1,202* |
| StreetPastors | 108 | - |
| | 4,223 | *1,962* |

### 8 Trustees

The members of the Parochial Church Council are the trustees of the charity and are responsible for the overall direction and control of the charity. The Vicar and Churchwardens provide leadership and take day-to-day management decisions.

In accordance with the Church of England's normal policy, Fr Benji Tyler as Assistant Curate in the Parish lives in a house provided by the PCC. Except as noted in this paragraph and in note 16, none of the trustees (or anyone connected with them) received from the PCC any remuneration, benefit or payment for services during the year (or the preceding year).

Four trustees were reimbursed a total of £4,619 for expenses which they incurred on behalf of the PCC *(2022: Four trustees reimbursed £3,393).* These expenses comprised travel and office costs for the clergy serving the Parish and goods and services purchased for use in our churches.

Trustees made unrestricted donations to the PCC totalling £14,991 *(2022: £12,911)* during the periods when they were trustees.

### 9 Net gains/(losses) on investments

| | General unrestricted funds | Restricted funds | Total 2023 | *Total 2022* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ | £ | *£* |
| Revaluation of investments | - | 50,551 | 50,551 | *(66,159)* |
| ***Comparative figures for 2022*** | - | *(66,159)* | | *(66,159)* |

### 10 Tangible fixed assets

| | Freehold land and buildings £ | Fixtures and fittings £ | Total £ |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Cost** | | | |
| At 1 January 2023 | 40,000 | 15,036 | 55,036 |
| Additions | - | - | - |
| At 31 December 2023 | 40,000 | 15,036 | 55,036 |
| **Depreciation and impairment** | | | |
| At 1 January 2023 | - | 10,816 | 10,816 |
| Depreciation charged in the year | - | 1,504 | 1,504 |
| At 31 December 2023 | - | 12,320 | 12,320 |
| **Carrying amount** | | | |
| At 31 December 2023 | 40,000 | 2,716 | 42,716 |
| *At 31 December 2022* | *40,000* | *4,220* | *44,220* |

The freehold property comprises a house which is provided for the assistant curate serving the Parish. As the residual value is greater than the original cost, no depreciation is provided. The property was valued at £270,000 in 2015 and will have gone up further in value since then.

### 11 Fixed asset investments

| | 2023 | *2022* |
|---|---|---|
| **Managed investments** | **£** | ***£*** |
| Market value at 1 January | 538,016 | *530,697* |
| Additions | - | *73,000* |
| Withdrawals | - | - |
| Income reinvested | 22 | *478* |
| Unrealised gains/(losses) | 50,551 | *(66,159)* |
| Market value at 31 December | 588,589 | *538,016* |
| Investments comprise holdings in the following funds managed by CCLA Investment Management: | | |
| CBF Church of England Investment Fund | 587,854 | *537,303* |
| CBF Church of England Deposit Fund | 735 | *713* |
| | 588,589 | *538,016* |

### 12 Debtors

| | 2023 | *2022* |
|---|---|---|
| **Amounts falling due within one year** | **£** | ***£*** |
| Tax recoverable on donations under Gift Aid | 7,650 | *4,800* |
| Other debtors & prepayments | 354 | *973* |
| | 8,004 | *5,773* |

### 13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

| | 2023 | *2022* |
|---|---|---|
| | **£** | ***£*** |
| Other creditors & accruals | 871 | *2,453* |

### 14 Funds

The table on the following page summarises the different funds held by the PCC (the subsequent page shows comparative figures for the previous year).

The largest element of the restricted reserves arose from the sale of properties once owned by the PCC. This element is available to be spent on any ecclesiastical purpose within the Parish. The funds concerned totalled £635,964 at the end of 2023 *(2022: £608,825)*. The PCC previously designated £40,000 of this element of the restricted funds to cover the cost (net of grants to be received) of employing a Children and Families Worker for five years from 2022/23. This appointment did not go ahead, but the PCC has retained the designation with a view to developing other work with children and young people.

The PCC has designated £40,000 *(2022: £40,000)* of its unrestricted reserves as a curate's housing fund. This represents the cost of the property purchased by the PCC as a house for an assistant curate in training in the Parish. The amount has been designated as a separate fund since this cannot currently be realised and used for any other purpose.

**14 Funds (continued)**

| | Balance at 1 January 2023 | Movement in funds: Incoming resources | Resources expended | Revaluation gains and losses | Transfers between reserves | Balance at 31 December 2023 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| **Restricted funds** | | | | | | |
| Funds arising from properties once owned by the PCC: | | | | | | |
| Designated for work with children & young people | 40,000 | - | - | - | - | 40,000 |
| Available for any ecclesiastical purpose within the Parish | 568,825 | 16,090 | (39,502) | 50,551 | | 595,964 |
| | 608,825 | 16,090 | (39,502) | 50,551 | - | 635,964 |
| Other restricted funds: | | | | | | |
| Fabric of Parish buildings | 4,790 | - | 335 | - | - | 5,125 |
| Fabric & furnishing of Holy Trinity Church | 11,936 | - | (659) | - | - | 11,277 |
| Diocesan grant for energy costs | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Music in the Parish | - | 6,800 | (1,800) | - | - | 5,000 |
| Charitable giving fund | 4,217 | 2,007 | (4,222) | - | - | 2,002 |
| Children's activities | 1,226 | - | (512) | - | - | 714 |
| Around Table | - | 859 | (859) | - | - | - |
| | 630,994 | 25,756 | (47,219) | 50,551 | - | 660,082 |
| **Designated unrestricted funds** | | | | | | |
| Curate's housing fund | 40,000 | - | - | - | - | 40,000 |
| **General unrestricted funds** | 61,304 | 132,626 | (140,097) | - | - | 53,833 |
| **Total funds** | 732,298 | 158,382 | (187,316) | 50,551 | - | 753,915 |

**14 Funds (continued)**

***Comparative Figures for 2022***

| | *Balance at 1 January 2022* | *Movement in funds* | | | | *Balance at 31 December 2022* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *Incoming resources* | *Resources expended* | *Revaluation gains and losses* | *Transfers between reserves* | |
| | *£* | *£* | *£* | *£* | *£* | *£* |
| ***Restricted funds*** | | | | | | |
| *Funds arising from properties once owned by the PCC:* | | | | | | |
| *Designated for work with children & young people* | *40,000* | *-* | *-* | *-* | *-* | *40,000* |
| *Available for any ecclesiastical purpose within the Parish* | *653,008* | *15,476* | *(33,500)* | *(66,159)* | | *568,825* |
| | *693,008* | *15,476* | *(33,500)* | *(66,159)* | *-* | *608,825* |
| *Other restricted funds:* | | | | | | |
| *Fabric of Parish buildings* | *23,784* | *35,674* | *(54,668)* | *-* | *-* | *4,790* |
| *Fabric & furnishing of Holy Trinity Church* | *16,076* | *-* | *(4,140)* | *-* | *-* | *11,936* |
| *Diocesan grant for energy costs* | *-* | *3,078* | *(3,078)* | *-* | *-* | *-* |
| *Music in the Parish* | *-* | *1,500* | *(1,500)* | *-* | *-* | *-* |
| *Charitable giving fund* | *1,580* | *4,599* | *(1,962)* | *-* | *-* | *4,217* |
| *Children's activities* | *1,516* | *-* | *(290)* | *-* | *-* | *1,226* |
| | *735,964* | *60,327* | *(99,138)* | *(66,159)* | *-* | *630,994* |
| ***Designated unrestricted funds*** | | | | | | |
| *Curate's housing fund* | *40,000* | *-* | *-* | *-* | *-* | *40,000* |
| *Long-term organ maintenance fund* | *13,000* | *-* | *-* | *-* | *(13,000)* | *-* |
| ***General unrestricted funds*** | *58,899* | *119,362* | *(129,957)* | *-* | *13,000* | *61,304* |
| ***Total funds*** | *847,863* | *179,689* | *(229,095)* | *(66,159)* | *-* | *732,298* |

### 15 Analysis of net assets between funds

| | General unrestricted funds | Designated unrestricted funds | Restricted funds | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Fund balances at 31 December 2023 were represented by: | | | | |
| Tangible assets | 2,716 | 40,000 | - | 42,716 |
| Investments | - | - | 588,589 | 588,589 |
| Other current assets/(liabilities) | 51,117 | - | 71,493 | 122,610 |
| | 53,833 | 40,000 | 660,082 | 753,915 |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ***Comparative figures for 2022*** | | | | |
| *Fund balances at 31 December 2022 were represented by:* | | | | |
| *Tangible assets* | *4,220* | *40,000* | *-* | *44,220* |
| *Investments* | *-* | *-* | *538,016* | *538,016* |
| *Other current assets/(liabilities)* | *57,084* | *-* | *92,978* | *150,062* |
| | *61,304* | *40,000* | *630,994* | *732,298* |

### 16 Related party transactions

The husband of one trustee, Ivie Johnson, is employed by the PCC as Director of Music at an annual salary at the end of 2023 of £6,970 (2022: £6,500) under a contract which pre-dates her appointment as a trustee in April 2021. She takes no part in the determination of her husband's salary. The wife of another trustee, Ian Stone, is employed by the PCC as a caretaker. Her remuneration during 2023 totalled £2,071 (2022: £5,345). These arrangements pre-date Ian Stone's appointment as a trustee in April 2022. He takes no part in the determination of his wife's salary.

The William John Butler Memorial Fund (commonly referred to as the Butler Trust) is a charity whose objects are to advance the Christian religion, in particular (but not exclusively) by the maintenance, repair and improvement of the Parish Church in Wantage and Holy Trinity Church, Charlton. The trustees of the Butler Trust include the Vicar, Churchwardens and Treasurer who are also members of the PCC. In 2023, the PCC's income did not include any grant from the Butler Trust *(2022: £28,072 for repairs to the fabric of Wantage Parish Church)*. There were no amounts due to the PCC from the Butler Trust at the end of either 2023 or 2022.

The Wantage Parish Music Guild is a charity whose objects are to support music in the Parish. The trustees of the Music Guild during 2022 and 2023 included three individuals who are married to people who were members of the PCC for parts of 2021 and/or 2022. In 2023, the PCC's income included a grant of £6,800 from the Music Guild towards the cost of the PCC employing an Assistant Organist *(2022: £1,500)*. There were no amounts due to the PCC from the Music Guild at the end of either 2022 or 2023.

wantage parish

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

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THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL

England & Wales - Charity number 1181640

# Accounts

wantage parish

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WANTAGE

# Annual Report & Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022

**CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1181640**



# PART 1 ANNUAL REVIEW



*In this report we have used photographs from 2022 and early 2023 to illustrate Parish life.*

# Vicar's Foreword

Welcome to the Parish Report for 2022! This is my first annual report, and I hope I can confidently say the first of many. I joined the parish as Vicar in July 2022, so much of this report covers activities before I arrived and for which I certainly can't take credit! I hope here just to give you an overview of my time here so far, my first impressions, and my hopes for the year to come.

First of all, a massive thank you to the whole parish for your welcome, your patience, and your friendship! Jan Ralston and David Richardson have been an absolute dream team, and the whole community of staff and volunteers has done an exceptional job, alongside Fr Benji and with the support of other clergy in the parish and deanery, keeping the show on the road during the interregnum and supporting me as I find my feet here.

**Where we've been**

The Trustees report from the PCC that follows will say more about everything that's happened in 2022, but I'd like to highlight two stand-out moments. First was "Operation London Bridge", responding to the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in September. This was a totally unexpected challenge as well as an unrivalled opportunity for the church to be visible and relevant in our town. I was so proud of everyone here that we worked together on a very tight timescale, to minister appropriately to the needs of our local community at a time of national mourning.

A more joyful (and more predictable!) occasion was Christmas. The Crib Service at the Parish Church was standing room only, with an estimated 400 people of all ages in attendance. The Christingle service at Holy Trinity was a new initiative for 2022, co-ordinated by the Trinity Tots team, which proved to be a resounding success.

**Where we are**

It's clear that the parish has very much re-grouped after Covid, with longstanding traditions being revived and others being invented, including a return to more visible ecumenical co-operation in the Wantage and Grove Church Partnership. The relationship with the church school is already strong and we hope to build this up as we emerge from covid, as well as further developing links with other schools.

It's become evident to me in my short time here that we are very good at doing what we do, and we should celebrate that and show our appreciation for one another. The challenge is how we free up resources of time and money to do the things we haven't been used to doing. Around Table strictly falls outside the remit of the 2022 report but it illustrates both the enormous positive energy for outward-facing mission and the practical challenges.

We are a growing parish, which feels like a 'nice problem to have'! The last few months has seen new faces in both churches, and we know we need to be more intentional in how we welcome new members, help them integrate, and nurture the faith of both children and adults. I've mentioned our amazing lay team, but there is perhaps a cultural expectation that certain things can only be done properly by the clergy, which can make me the 'bottleneck' as the congregation grows. As we go forward, I hope more people will feel called and empowered to take on ministries in worship, spirituality, and pastoral care.

**Where we're going**

How can we be the Body of Christ here in Wantage? That question has to be answered in three dimensions: upwards, in our relationship with God; inwards, in our relationship with one another; and outwards, in our relationship with the wider community.

Certain priorities and questions have become immediately apparent from my short time here.

How do we respond to the growing population in Kingsgrove, working constructively with Wantage Community Church whilst at the same time being clear that Kingsgrove is an integral part of the parish for which we have the "cure of souls"?



How do we build on the distinctive strengths and opportunities of Holy Trinity, in its building and location, releasing that worshipping community to have its own identity whilst also strengthening our fellowship as one parish?

How do we respond to the challenges facing the community of Wantage, looking outwards, and serving the community in a way which doesn't simply duplicate existing efforts but makes a distinctive Christian contribution? Feedback from the Crime Forum (held in the Parish Church) and from the school family links worker who has been running a parenting class in Holy Trinity, suggests that young people in the area face particular challenges and are often demonised by other sections of the community. How might we make a constructive Christian response to this?

We are already doing lots of amazing children's work, in school and in our own buildings, and we have drawn more children into the worshipping life of the church through the newly re-established junior choir as well as in the serving team. We are affirming the full membership of children in the Body of Christ and beginning to model the intergenerational community which is God's will for us – but we know we still need to do more to help parents feel comfortable bringing their children to church. There is more thinking to be done in how we meet the distinctive needs of children, nurturing their spirituality for their own sake, rather than needing to 'entertain' or 'keep them occupied' for the sake of adults. The recruitment of a Children and Families worker (which was paused due to difficulty in recruiting followed by the pandemic) remains on hold whilst we explore this more fully.

There is a lot of interest in doing more to nurture our **spirituality and discipleship** and a memory of house groups and parish pilgrimages, but there is still a very English culture of reticence about our spiritual life. Several people have been involved in exploring the Personal Discipleship Plan tool and the next step is to formally launch it in the parish.

Finances remain a perennial challenge. How can we be realistic but positive, responding creatively rather than fearfully?

**The year ahead**

As a first step in our response to these priorities, the PCC has approved the formation of the new Planning and Delivery Groups to replace the Mission Action Groups. The revised structure recognises the need to 'do the basics right' in terms of buildings maintenance and administration, planning ahead and communicating in an effective way, as well as improving accountability to the PCC. It also makes explicit the distinctive focus on Holy Trinity and a more outward-looking understanding of mission. These groups will begin meeting after the new PCC is elected.

Two immediate challenges face us in the year ahead. Fr Benji has now almost completed his training and we expect he will be 'snapped up' by a new parish at some point in the next several months. This means we urgently need to review the pattern of services, especially during the week, to ensure it is sustainable with one member of clergy. We are also expecting a review of "Around Table" at the first meeting of the new PCC in July. Without pre-empting that report, it seems almost certain we will want to continue this initiative which has absolutely outstripped our expectations. That means putting it on a more sustainable footing for the long term.

**Finally…**

…thank you to everyone who has contributed to this report. Whether you are new to the parish or a longstanding worshipper, I hope you will read it with interest and optimism, and keep the parish and your new PCC representatives in your prayers.



# PCC Trustees' Report

The Parochial Church Council of Wantage ("the PCC") is pleased to present its Report and Accounts for 2022. The PCC is a charity registered with the Charity Commission (registered number 1181640). Its full registered name is the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Peter an St Paul Wantage. PCC members are trustees, responsible for Parish affairs under charity law.

Our Parish is a member of the Wantage Deanery, in the Diocese of Oxford. As part of the wider Church of England, the Parish benefits from the work that goes into training and supporting clergy, as well as from the wider support and guidance of the Diocese. In the Wantage area, we participate in Deanery Synod discussions, a report on which is being submitted to the May APCM.

This document reports the life of the Parish of Wantage in our two churches: the Parish Church of Saint Peter and Saint Paul; and Holy Trinity Church in Charlton. It is a public account of Parish activities during 2022 and includes the Accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2022.

We would highlight four major events in national and parish life as milestones in 2022.

By March, most Coronavirus restrictions in the UK had been lifted. It is probably fair to describe 2022 as one of gradual return to normality, recognising that a virus threat lingers on. June saw extensive celebrations in town and church for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. In July we celebrated the Installation of the Reverend Katherine Magdalene Price as Vicar of Wantage. The service of Institution and Induction took place on Thursday 21 July 2022, the Eve of St Mary Magdalene.

In September the nation deeply mourned the death of Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth but rejoiced in the accession of King Charles the Third.

The **Electoral Roll** was reviewed in April/May 2023 and has been published in the churches. The Roll now stands at 184, there having been 25 additions, 5 deletions and 3 amendments.

**OUR VISION:**
***Encountering and Sharing God's Transforming Love***

**Encountering**
through inspiring, uplifting and enriching worship, and faithful, compassionate prayer
**Sharing**
by a generous, open and embracing welcome, courageous and relevant outreach, and compassionate care
**Transformed**
through committed discipleship and nurturing spiritual growth

## Worship, welcome and care

This was an exciting year in church life. There was much careful reflection around our patterns of worship during the vacancy, which informed the crafting of our Parish Profile and appointment of our new Vicar.

The Parish offers a range of opportunities to worship, to pray and to grow spiritually. These include daily Eucharist in one or other of our two church buildings, a Vigil on Saturdays and three services on Sundays, each with its own style.

Our principal Sunday service at Holy Trinity attracts 20 or more worshippers; and the main Sunday Eucharist in the Parish Church has approximately 70-80 in attendance, including a good number of new worshippers this year. In addition to our regular Eucharistic services, we celebrate monthly Choral Evensong at the Parish Church.

We provide some variety of **worship styles** across the Parish, principally through variation between the two churches, while maintaining our liturgical and choral traditions.

Livestreaming of services, which began at the beginning of the first lockdown in 2020, continued on an occasional basis in 2022.

We seek an inclusive approach to every aspect of the church's life and ministry, and actively affirm the inclusion, ministry, and relationships of those who identify as LGBTQ+.



We seek to make services as welcoming as possible, and to engage our community in places where people are. For example, in October we celebrated King Alfred's day with a Eucharist in the Market Place, breaking locally-baked bread among the market stalls and with lively singing of King Alfred's War Song! Our connection to the town was again in evidence on Remembrance Sunday, when many hundreds of Townspeople joined us in the churchyard.

Over the last year there has been significant focus on developing our **welcome, prayer, and Christian nurture**, as well as preparing for the Personal Discipleship Planning initiative. Members of our Mission Action Group for Worship, Adult Formation and Pastoral Care engaged regularly with the clergy over ongoing initiatives and emerging priorities, with group members and others working together to take forward Worship, Prayer and Christian nurture.

**Resources to support prayer and nurture** were provided to tie in with different seasons and events, including creative use of seasonal liturgies, music, flowers and displays (the latter mainly masterminded by Father Benji through the vacancy). Patronal and choral anniversary celebrations were notable successes in bringing people together, as was the moving Commemoration service for HRH Queen Elizabeth II and, with rather less solemnity, social events such as the Wantage Wassail.

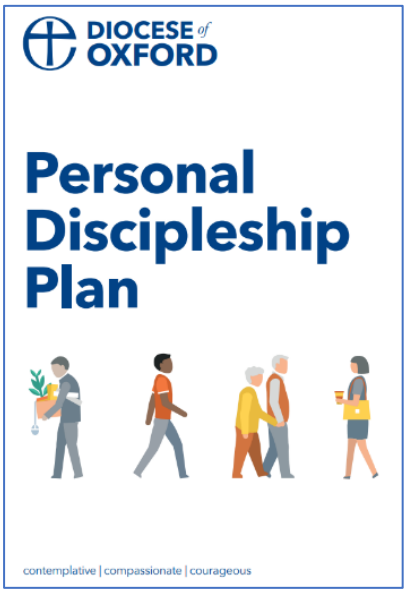
**Lent** 2022 included a range of offerings to support prayer, including a prayer focus for Ukraine and a weekly sung compline service, in addition to the Diocesan 'Come and See' Lent course based on the Lord's Prayer, and a weekly Julian Prayer group, both via Zoom. The Julian meetings continued with varying frequency through the year, mainly facilitated by Fr Benji. And many were moved by creative liturgies in **Holy Week and Easter**.

The Lifewords booklet **'Inspiring Prayer'** proved popular and helpful, along with booklets from Gloucester Diocese about different ways of praying. These remain available (free) in both churches.

Other free **Lifewords** Biblical resources have been available in both churches throughout the year, explaining and nurturing Christian faith, supplemented by specific titles for specific seasons and circumstances. For example, for Advent and Christmas the publications 'Outside/ In' and 'Meet the Cast' were made available for visitors, regular congregation and Trinity Tots families. Copies of 'Living with Loss' have been appreciated, particularly around funerals, All Souls Day, Remembrance, and following the death of HM the Queen.

Eight parishioners from our benefice participated in local training to use the Diocesan **Spacemakers** Contemplative Prayer Toolkit (also enhancing links between church and school locally). Spacemakers was devised for use with children and young people, especially in schools, but is suitable for all ages and settings. It follows the same themes as the adult 'contemplative toolkit': stilling, noticing, dwelling, mending, blessing. Going forward, the exercises could potentially be used in schools, Open the Book, Prayer Space, all age worship and Messy Church events, as well as with a wider age group, to help nurture prayer and faith for all.

**Personal Discipleship Planning** (PDP) is a flexible Diocesan scheme to encourage people in their Christian life and service, using trained 'Encouragers'. We hosted an introductory training evening for



the Deanery in October, which was well attended by potential 'Encouragers' from Wantage and Charlton. We currently have 10 people training and piloting the materials. We hope to launch this exciting scheme for our parishes in the summer of 2023.

The **pastoral team** was about to be formally commissioned when the first lockdown happened. The small team of 6 (including clergy) finally met face-to face in the spring and summer of 2022. Although not yet formally commissioned as a team, individual members have endeavoured to respond pastorally to needs arising during the year, and followed up on those who have not returned to church after Covid. The team has reflected on pastoral impacts of the pandemic and discussed ideas for the future for this ministry. The time is right to regroup and re-prioritise for the future.

In recent months, with the growing numbers of newcomers and people returning to church, a priority will be enhancing our welcome for individuals. It has been good to hear many appreciative comments about the increasing warmth and accessibility of our welcome and services. We owe a debt to everyone who contributes to this in many different ways, from welcomers to coffee servers to each of us noticing and gently reaching out with kindness to those around us week by week.

## Outreach

The last year has seen a concerted effort to re-engage with our wider mission to the community. The urgency of mission was brought into sharp focus by the war in Ukraine, the death of her late Majesty the Queen and the onset of a cost-of-living crisis.

In different ways these events allowed the Church to respond in loving service with courage and creativity, working alongside other charitable and social organisations in a collaborative effort to relieve distress, We have continued to support local ecumenical projects such as **Street Pastors.**

**Pastoral visiting** has fully resumed after Coronavirus with regular home communions, both to individuals and nursing homes in the community. We are especially indebted to Fr Robert Teare for his ongoing commitment to this ministry. We actively encourage visitors to our church buildings, with church watchers having a low profile but vital role. Opening our buildings to community groups and events,



also helps to generate revenue.

We seek to sustain the distinctive Christian ethos of Wantage **Church of England Primary School**, for example through the *Open the Book* bible stories programme. The clergy and laity provide regular support to both the Church School and Charlton Primary School, giving assemblies, church visits and leading collective worship. **Prayer Space** for Year 5 and 6 children took place in the Vicarage

**Trinity Tots, Parish Breakfast and T-bar** at Holy Trinity offer hospitality to differing age groups and have become firm fixtures in the monthly social calendar.

Throughout the year we made ourselves and our churches available pastorally for those affected by the ongoing tragedy of **war in Ukraine**. We supported the UNICEF Ukrainian Children's Fund in our Christmas Appeal.

Upon the death of the monarch in September, the Church responded immediately according to official guidance, providing a focal point for grief, **civic mourning** and liturgical expression. This openness enabled the church to be seen as welcoming and empathetic at times of acute national feeling.

Then when, in the later part of the year, the **cost-of-living crisis** descended upon the country, the PCC commissioned a social engagement audit to be carried out so that it might be made aware of where the major gaps in local support were. The identification of four main areas - lack of community drivers since Covid, rising winter fuel costs, inability

to obtain a free hot meal, and the lack of intentional warm spaces - enabled the PCC to invite the congregations to offer what they felt able. This has borne fruit going into 2023.

The Parish takes its **civic responsibilities** and relationships seriously. For example, our Remembrance Day service saw over 200 attendees in the churchyard.



The town's annual Christmas festival, **Dickensian Evening**, brought more than 1,500 visitors into the Parish Church. It was a major fundraising event, but more importantly we again created a beautiful space for contemplation, the leaving of prayer notes, lighting candles and visiting the Crib. All of this was clearly valued by townspeople.

The Parish supports the Wantage Foodbank and the "Community Fridge", to which our Harvest Festival gifts were donated.

## Giving

The Church of England encourages church members to give 5% of their income to the church and 5% to other charitable causes.

We emphasise the use of the **Parish Giving Scheme** to collect regular contributions, in place of earlier envelope and standing order schemes. The Parish recognises the rapid decline in the use of cash in our society. A **contactless "click-and-pay"** device for donations, installed last year, is now being used regularly as a means giving.

We supported a number of charities in the year. Funds raised by our **Christmas Appeal** were donated to Vale Community Impact and UNICEF's work in Ukraine. The Parish has also for many years hosted a long-term charitable endeavour, founded upon a parishioner's personal commitment to a school in the South African Township of **Thokoza**.

The Parish is most grateful for the practical and financial support of church members and the many volunteers who give their time and support the Parish. None of the activities described in this report would be possible without the generosity of church members.

## Young people

A group of committed and reliable volunteers is enabling our children and families work and providing an important outreach opportunity.

As Covid restrictions changed in 2022 our regular events were able to restart and increase as the year went by. **Trinity Tots** met throughout 2022 at Holy Trinity on the 1st and 3rd Monday in the month during term time. Revised guidance (to reflect the necessary changing Covid precautions and vaccination status) and risk assessments were agreed and shared. Capacity gradually increased up to 12 families. Pre-booking and payment (£2.50 per family) has been via Eventbrite. Attendees are mainly non-church families with a few pre- and post-Baptism children. The sessions include play, craft, singing, story time, snacks and drinks for all.



**Open the Book** returned face-to-face to the Friday school assemblies at Wantage Church of England Primary School as Covid restrictions reduced. The group is well-received in school with many positive comments from children and staff. The school benefited from input from the **Schools Chaplain**, Rachel Woods who was in post until July 22. She worked on projects linked to

Collective Worship and Spiritual Development.

A **Prayer Space** session for the older children at Wantage Church of England Primary School enabled the children to focus and learn together, facilitated by our volunteers. The school also participated in a Christingle Service in December.

**Children's spaces in church** offer inviting areas for families in the Parish Church and Holy Trinity during the Sunday services with toys, books and simple activity ideas.

Staff from the church school and Millbrook School in Grove ran a 12-week programme called **Family Links** which supports families who are struggling to cope with behavioural and emotional issues in their children. They used Holy Trinity with a rota of parish members to make tea/coffee on arrival. Staff and parent feedback was very positive. We have also made use of **Space Makers**, a resource for schools and churches from the Diocese of Oxford. Training sessions have been attended by some parishioners.

A **Children's Choir** was established and participated in the Crib Service. The Holy Trinity Christingle was attended by 100 attendees with many new visitors to the church. The session was in the style of Messy Church with free flow activities and refreshments followed by the informal worship and singing.



A **Crib Service** on the 24th December at the Parish Church included a presentation by the Open the Book team and children from the congregation taking the roles of angels, kings, shepherds, star and lambs. This popular service, an established Wantage highlight, attracted many families. There was very positive feedback, on the afternoon, from children, parents and grandparents.

The Parish has a close and longstanding relationship with the **Community of St Mary the Virgin in Wantage**, singing occasional services in their chapel and valuing their prayers for us. The order was founded with a commitment to education and the Convent site now houses the central offices of the Vale Academy Trust and of the Oxford Diocesan Schools Trust.

Recruitment of a **Children and Families Worker** is on hold.

## The Servers



Serving has revived, post Covid. Our venerable Head Server, Dick Peters, retired during the year. But the team has had an injection of 'new blood' that has made the team larger and more diverse than ever.

The team remains open to new recruits and is thankful to the clergy and parishioners for supporting the serving tradition of the parish.

## The Choir

Our Parish Choir maintains the Anglican choral tradition and is held to be among the best in the Diocese.

We currently have **46 full time choristers**. As well as singing on Sunday mornings, there are monthly choral evensong services, services on each of the major festivals, and carol services for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. The choir has deputised in cathedrals at home and abroad.

Members of the choir are committed parishioners, fully involved in the broader life and mission of the church; and the choir plays a part in attracting new members to the congregation,

A priority in 2022 was the redevelopment of the **Junior Choir**. Numbers increased to 11 junior choristers and probationers. There are now termly singing outreach visits to the church primary school, and more recruitment efforts are planned for the coming year. Special thanks goes to all of those who have



helped with recruitment of junior choristers, and with supervision at their weekly rehearsal.

Choir members funded a choir tour to Brecon Cathedral in August, an opportunity for intensive rehearsals and daily services, expanding our repertoire and forming a tighter bond between choir members. The quality of singing over the tour was exemplary and the choir received generous compliments from the music staff and clergy of Brecon Cathedral.

The choir undertakes concerts and fundraising events each year. This year the choir changed the usual Remembrance Sunday concert to try something new, celebrating King Alfred. This concert, alongside the Wantage Wassail and other events over the course of the year, raised a significant sum of money for the **Wantage Parish Music Guild** (WPMG). WPMG is a separate charity, set up to raise money to support music making in the Parish. It makes a significant contribution towards the organist's stipend and, generously supported by the Convent, supports the musical education of our Junior Choir, the organ scholarship and the choral scholarships. WPMG also helps to support the cost of tours for some choir members so everyone has an equal opportunity to participate.

In 2023, the choir will enjoy a tour to Seesen, Germany (Wantage's twin town), and we will be searching for a new organist, following the retirement after Easter of John Ridgway, who has been our talented and dedicated organist for 21 years.

## The Bellringers

The bellringers regularly ring for Sunday Services and hold their practice nights on Tuesday evenings.

During 2022 there were a number of **special events and occasions** when the bells of SS Peter and Paul were also rung. These included celebrating the anniversary of the Accession to the throne of the late Queen Elizabeth II in February as well as part of the Civic events to celebrate her Platinum Jubilee in June. We were pleased to participate and ring to welcome Katherine when she came in July. In September we joined with bells from all over the country and the world, in tolling for the passing of the late Queen. We rang a quarter peal (45 minutes non-stop) following the Mayor's announcement of the accession of King Charles III on 11 September.



Six ringers from Wantage took part in our local **Branch Striking Competition** which we won. We have a very lovely trophy up in the ringing room. This meant we went on the Oxford Guild finals in October, held at Shaw-cum-Donnington where we came 5th, with only 17 faults. We ended the year by ringing the 'Old Year Out' on half muffled bells on New Year's Eve.

Although we have a core group of 9 ringers, we do not always manage to ring all 8 of our bells. So if anyone is interested in learning to ring or finding out what that involves, please contact me Jenny Bennett, the Tower Secretary.

## Buildings and infrastructure



The PCC is responsible for the care of the Parish's two church buildings and the house where our assistant curate lives. The Parish seeks to care for the fabric of its churches to support mission, enhance worship, and serve the local community. We endeavour to make our buildings accessible and welcoming to all. We are committed to sustainability, in energy usage and other ways, for example a policy on sustainable church flowers.

**The Parish Church** of St Peter & St Paul is a Grade I listed building, dating from the mediaeval period. During 2022, the renewal of the lead roof on the north aisle was completed together with related plaster repairs and redecorating of the interior of that part of the church. Other significant work included cleaning and regilding of the weathervane on the roof of the tower, as well as replacing the cables which hold it in place. It is now turning again in the wind and looks great! Day-to-day repairs and maintenance were undertaken through the year. Our next Quinquennial inspection is due in 2025. A full report on fabric and maintenance has been prepared for the APCM in May 2023..

Only minor repairs and maintenance have been required at **Holy Trinity Church** following its major refurbishment completed in 2018. We are pleased that the church continues to be used by various community groups as well as for worship, and we aim to grow community use in future.

Looking forward, renewal of the interior of the Parish Church, including lighting and heating, will soon need to be addressed as the last major refurbishment was some 25 years ago. This will provide an opportunity to **improve the energy efficiency** of the building, which is increasingly urgent both for financial reasons and in line with the commitment of the Diocese and national Church of England's to a net zero carbon target. [Note: To move this forward, an independent energy audit has been undertaken since the end of 2022. This provided medium- and longer-term options to make the Parish Church more energy efficient, creating a more sustainable and comfortable environment and moving towards the net zero carbon target. This will be followed up by the PCC during 2023].

## Safeguarding

The PCC acknowledges that it has a duty of care towards the vulnerable in our church community. Matt Godfrey continued play a key role as our **Parish Safeguarding Officer**.

During 2022 we continued to take steps to ensure that the Parish complies with the duty to have regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults, as set out in the Church of England Parish Safeguarding Handbook.

These actions included:

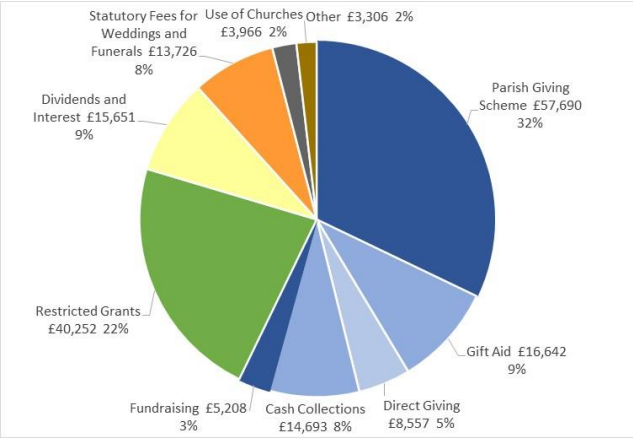
- Keeping the Parish safeguarding policy under review
- Displaying safeguarding posters in both our churches
- Ensuring that all necessary DBS checks are carried out for people in relevant positions within our church community
- Ensuring that safeguarding training is completed by people in relevant roles, in line with diocesan requirements
- Liaison when necessary with the diocesan safeguarding team and statutory bodies
- Following a 'safer recruitment' process for all appointments to relevant positions, both paid and voluntary
- Maintaining data for the Diocese's Parish Dashboards scheme to monitor our safeguarding status and produce an Action Plan
- Using the annual 'Safeguarding Sunday' event to raise awareness of our provision.

## Finance

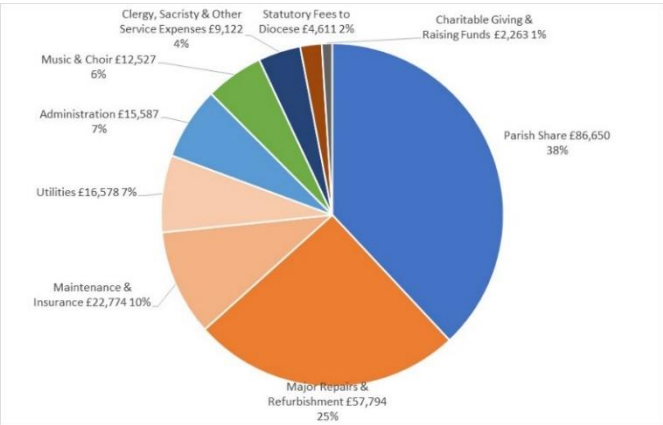
In Part 2 of this report you will find the Parish's Annual Accounts for 2022, which set out our financial performance for the year and our levels of funds going into next year, covering:

- **Unrestricted funds**, that is day-to-day income which can be used for any purpose within the broad charitable objectives of the PCC; and
- **Restricted funds**, the money which can only be used for specific purposes based on the origin of the funds or the wishes of the original donors.

In 2022 **we received income of £179,689**, increased from £159,774 in 2021, and the chart below shows a breakdown of how our income was generated. Income from Giving, highlighted in the blue sections of the chart, makes up 57% of our total income. We received £40,252 in grants towards building costs.




**We spent £229,095**, reduced from £248,183 in 2021. Of this, 38% is spent on our Parish Share which we pay to the Diocese for clergy stipends and training and other diocesan costs. Running our buildings accounts for 43% of our costs, highlighted in the orange sections in the chart, with the major refurbishment being largely funded by grants from the Butler Trust. The breakdown is presented below.




Our outgoings continue to exceed our income, before factoring in our investments, by £49,406, which is a similar deficit level to previous years. The PCC is committed to seeking ways to reduce this deficit, with a particular focus on income from giving from church members and other activities.

Income from Giving and hall hire is recovering to pre-COVID levels. Currently we are all experiencing the impact of the Cost of Living crisis on our daily lives, and the Church's financial position has also been impacted. Inflation saw our utility bills and general running costs increase, and we received a grant of £3,078 from the Diocese towards our energy costs. The economic downturn widely reported in the Autumn has impacted on our investments, which had reduced in value by £66,159 in December, and whilst in the longer term we would expect our investments to recover, there is still some uncertainty throughout 2023 on how these investments will perform next year.

Turning to **Reserves policy,** General unrestricted funds at the end of 2022 were £61,304. It is the PCC's policy to maintain general unrestricted funds of approximately six months' unrestricted expenditure, to allow for fluctuations in income and unexpected repairs or other items of expenditure. The current level of general unrestricted funds is still below this target.

The PCC has designated part of its unrestricted funds to reflect the funds tied up in the house purchased for the use of an assistant curate training in the Parish. The amount (£40,000) represents the cost of the house when it was purchased some years ago (rather than its current value). For as long as these funds are tied up in the house, they are not available for other purposes.

This year the PCC has decided to undesignate the £13,000 long-term organ maintenance fund to bolster our general funds, as future organ works will likely be considerably in excess of this amount, and it will not be possible to fund these from unrestricted reserves.

In addition, the PCC decided for the first time to charge some £33,500 of our building

running costs to our restricted funds, again to ensure our general fund levels are maintained.

Without these decisions around funds, general unrestricted funds would have reduced to around £12,000. This highlights the need to increase income from both regular giving by church members and fundraising activities in the years ahead.

The PCC is fortunate also to hold restricted funds, the largest element of which (totalling just over £568,000) arose from the sale of properties once owned by the PCC and a recent Legacy. This money can be used at the PCC's discretion for any ecclesiastical purpose within the Parish. The PCC is undertaking a review of the Parish's financial position and strategy which will consider how these funds can best be used to:

- enable new ministry initiatives;
- invest in improvements to the Parish Church; and
- support Parish activities as we seek to increase current income to match day-to-day expenditure.

Other restricted funds include:

- £40,000 for work focussed on Children and Young People.
- £11,936 for fabric and furnishing of Holy Trinity Church
- £4,217 held for charitable giving
- £1,226 for children's activities, which is used for Trinity Tots.

## PCC governance

The PCC's legal status and powers are determined by legislation, in particular the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 (as amended). The PCC is a registered charity, and the members of the PCC are the charity's trustees under charity law.

The PCC is responsible for overseeing the life and activities of the Parish and for making decisions about all matters of general importance, including how the PCC's funds should be spent.

Membership of the PCC is governed by the **Church Representation Rules**. The Vicar, other clergy licensed to serve in the Parish and the Churchwardens are automatically members. Other members are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting by church members who are on the Electoral Roll of the Parish. We encourage everyone (aged 16 and over) who attends our churches regularly to register on the Electoral Roll. The PCC has the power to co-opt additional members to fill casual vacancies. Co-opted members serve until the next Annual Parochial Church Meeting when they may stand for election.

**Churchwardens** are elected each year at the Annual Meeting of Parishioners, which is open to all residents of the Parish. They serve from the date they are subsequently admitted to office by the Bishop and continue in office until their successor is admitted by the Bishop following election.

The Vicar (supported by the Curate) and the Churchwardens provide leadership and take day-to-day management decisions in the Parish. In 2022, the Vicar, Churchwardens, Treasurer, Secretary and two PCC representatives (Ian Stone and Susie Lapwood) comprised the **Standing and Finance Committee of the PCC**, which has delegated powers to take decisions between meetings of the PCC.

Church members elect up to four people to serve on the **Wantage Deanery Synod** as well as on the PCC. Their term of office is three years. The current term runs to 30 June 2023. At the end of their term of office, Deanery Synod representatives may be re-elected for a second three-year term but must then take a break of at least a three-year term before standing again for election (unless the PCC decides otherwise).

The Parish has agreed that there should be nine other **elected PCC members**, with a representative balance between those who normally worship at Holy Trinity Church and the Parish Church. Trustees serve for terms of three years from the date of election. They may be re-elected for a second three-year term but must usually then take a break of at least a year before standing again for election.

The following have served as **members of the PCC in 2022:**

Clergy
Revd Katherine Price Vicar (from July 2022)
Fr Benji Tyler, Curate

Churchwardens
Jan Ralston
David Richardson

Representatives on Deanery Synod
Ralph Cobham (from 24 April 2022)
Ann Gregory
Susie Lapwood
John Ridgway (to 24 April 2022).

Elected and co-opted members
Robert Chaplow (PCC Secretary)
Ivie Johnson
Simon Jones
Peter King
David Law (PCC Treasurer)
Elizabeth Marshall
Ben Mabbett
Bridget Procter
Ian Stone (from 24 April 2022)

## Administrative information

Our website is at www.wantageparish.com.

Address for correspondence:
Parish Office
The Butler Centre
Church Street
Wantage, OX12 8BL

The PCC's bankers:

Barclays Bank plc
17 Market Place
Wantage, OX12 8AG

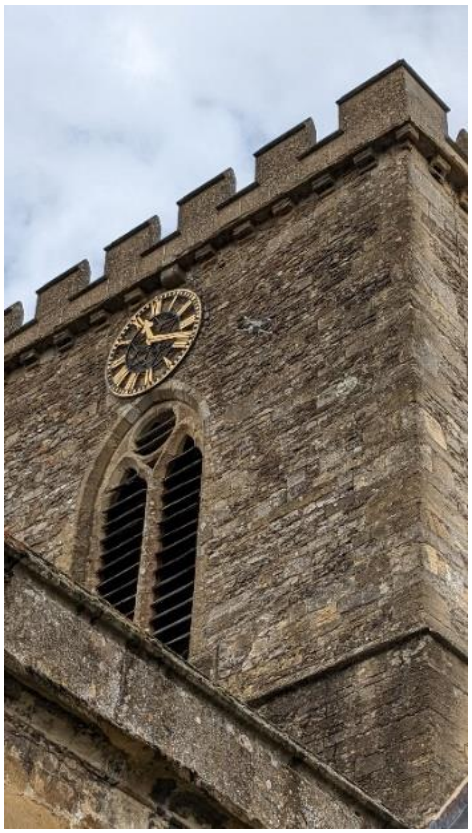
Independent examiner of the PCC's accounts:

A Chapman FCA
Chapman Worth Limited
3 Old Estate Yard
East Hendred. OX12 8JY

## Date of this report

15 May 2023

# PART 2 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS



## Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act'). You are satisfied that the accounts of the charity are not required by charity law to be audited and have chosen instead to have an independent examination.

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

## Independent examiner's statement

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

1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or

2 the accounts do not accord with those records; or

3 the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act; or

4 the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

**A Chapman FCA**
**Chapman Worth Limited**
3 Old Estate Yard
East Hendred
Oxfordshire
OX12 8JY

TBC May 2023

| | Notes | General unrestricted funds £ | Designated unrestricted funds £ | Restricted funds £ | Total 2022 £ | *Total 2021 £* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Income from:** | | | | | | |
| Donations and legacies | **2** | 94,427 | - | 3,046 | 97,473 | *97,036* |
| Charitable activities | **3** | 14,662 | - | - | 14,622 | *9,697* |
| Other operating activities | **4** | 10,099 | - | 41,804 | 51,903 | *37,617* |
| Investments | **5** | 174 | - | 15,477 | 15,651 | *15,424* |
| **Total income** | | 119,362 | - | 60,327 | 179,689 | *159,774* |
| **Expenditure on:** | | | | | | |
| Raising funds | **6** | 2,762 | - | - | 2,762 | *2,326* |
| Charitable activities | **6** | 127,195 | - | 99,138 | 226,333 | *245,857* |
| **Total resources expended** | | 129,957 | - | 99,138 | 229,095 | *248,183* |
| **Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains** | | (10,595) | - | (38,811) | (49,406) | *(88,409)* |
| Net gains/(losses) on investments | **9** | - | - | (66,159) | (66,159) | *74,798* |
| **Net income/(expenditure)** | | (10,595) | - | (104,970) | (115,565) | *(13,611)* |
| **Transfers between funds** | **14** | 13,000 | (13,000) | - | - | - |
| **Net movement in funds** | | 2,405 | (13,000) | (104,970) | (115,565) | *(13,611)* |
| Fund balances at 1 January | | 58,899 | 53,000 | 735,964 | 847,863 | *861,474* |
| **Fund balances at 31 December** | **14** | 61,304 | 40,000 | 630,994 | 732,298 | *847,863* |

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The comparative figures for the previous year are analysed on the next page.

## *Comparative figures for 2021*

| | Notes | General unrestricted funds £ | Designated unrestricted funds £ | Restricted funds £ | Total 2021 £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ***Income from:*** | | | | | |
| *Donations and legacies* | **2** | *94,173* | *-* | *2,863* | *97,036* |
| *Charitable activities* | **3** | *9,697* | *-* | *-* | *9,697* |
| *Other operating activities* | **4** | *7,459* | *-* | *30,158* | *37,617* |
| *Investments* | **5** | *1,008* | *-* | *14,416* | *15,424* |
| ***Total income*** | | *112,337* | *-* | *47,437* | *159,774* |
| ***Expenditure on:*** | | | | | |
| *Raising funds* | **6** | *2,326* | *-* | *-* | *2,326* |
| *Charitable activities* | **6** | *158,036* | *-* | *87,821* | *245,857* |
| ***Total resources expended*** | | *160,362* | *-* | *87,821* | *248,183* |
| ***Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains*** | | *(48,025)* | *-* | *(40,384)* | *(88,409)* |
| *Net gains/(losses) on investments* | **9** | *-* | *-* | *74,798* | *74,798* |
| ***Net income/(expenditure)*** | | *(48,025)* | *-* | *34,414* | *(13,611)* |
| ***Transfers between funds*** | **14** | *(1,000)* | *1,000* | *-* | *-* |
| ***Net movement in funds*** | | *(49,025)* | *1,000* | *34,414* | *(13,611)* |
| *Fund balances at 1 January* | | *107,924* | *52,000* | *701,550* | *861,474* |
| ***Fund balances at 31 December*** | **14** | *58,899* | *53,000* | *735,964* | *847,863* |

*The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.*

*All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.*

| | Notes | 2022 £ | 2022 £ | *2023 £* | *2023 £* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Fixed assets** | | | | | |
| Tangible assets | **10** | | 44,220 | | *45,724* |
| Investments | **11** | | 538,016 | | *530,697* |
| | | | 582,236 | | *576,421* |
| **Current assets** | | | | | |
| Debtors | **12** | 5,773 | | *12,444* | |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | 146,742 | | *262,125* | |
| | | 152,515 | | *274,569* | |
| **Creditors: amounts falling due within one year** | **13** | (2,453) | | *(3,127)* | |
| **Net current assets** | | | 150,062 | | *271,442* |
| **Total assets less current liabilities** | | | 732,298 | | *847,863* |
| **Income funds** | | | | | |
| Restricted funds | **14** | | 630,994 | | *735,964* |
| Designated unrestricted funds | **14** | | 40,000 | | *53,000* |
| General unrestricted funds | **14** | | 61,304 | | *58,899* |
| | | | 732,298 | | *847,863* |

These accounts were approved on 15th May 2023

..... .....

**Katherine Price** **David Richardson**

Vicar Churchwarden

## 1 Accounting policies

### Charity information

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Peter & St Paul Wantage is a registered charity (number 1181640). References in these accounts to "the PCC" are references to this charity. The members of the PCC are the trustees of the charity under charity law and are referred to in these accounts as "the trustees".

The PCC constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102.

### 1.1 Accounting convention

The accounts are for the year to 31 December 2022 and are presented in sterling, rounded to the nearest pound.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policies below or the subsequent notes.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with:

- the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102);
- the Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS102 (Charities SORP); and
- the Charities Act 2011.

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation and uncertainty in the preparation of the accounts are set out below.

### 1.2 Charitable funds

The funds of the PCC are divided into the categories set out below, depending on the terms on which they were donated.

Endowment funds comprise capital sums which must be permanently held. The income which arises on endowment funds can be used for specified purposes in accordance with the terms under which the funds were given. The PCC holds no endowment funds at this time.

Restricted funds are held for specific purposes based on the origin of the funds or the wishes of the donors, and are not available for any other purpose. The PCC has designated certain restricted funds to be held for particular uses within the broader purposes specified. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in note 14 below.

Designated unrestricted funds are those which, although available for any purpose within the broad charitable objectives of the PCC, have been designated by the PCC to be held for a specified purpose.

General unrestricted funds are those which may be used for any purpose within the broad charitable objectives of the PCC.

### 1.3 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Preparation of the accounts requires the trustees to make judgements and estimates. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates. The estimates and underlying assumptions are kept under review. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised.

Significant judgements and estimates are made from time to time in relation to:

- estimating the likely amount of legacy income once the PCC is aware of its entitlement to receive a legacy; and
- estimating the useful economic life of tangible fixed assets.

## 1 Accounting policies (continued)

### 1.4 Financial risk

The main form of financial risk faced by the PCC relates to its investments and concerns volatility in equity and other investment markets due to wider economic conditions, the attitude of investors to investment risk, and changes in sentiment concerning equities and within particular investment sectors.

The PCC does not acquire options, derivatives or other complex financial instruments. Apart from its investments, the PCC only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments.

### 1.5 Going concern

The trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern assumption is appropriate in preparing these financial statements. The trustees have made this assessment in respect of a period of one year from the date of approval of the financial statements.

Because of the level of the PCC's financial reserves, the trustees have concluded that the PCC will have sufficient resources to meet its liabilities as they fall due and that the current circumstances do not impact on the charity's ability to operate as a going concern.

### 1.6 Incoming resources

Income is recognised once the PCC has entitlement to the incoming resources, any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations and grants are recognised when the PCC has confirmation of both the amount and settlement date. In the event of donations and grants pledged but not received, the amount is recorded when the receipt is considered probable. In the event that a donation or grant is subject to conditions, the income is deferred and not recognised until either the conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of the conditions is wholly within the control of the PCC and it is probable that they will be fulfilled in the reporting period. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid is recognised at the same time as the related donation.

Legacies are recognised when there is sufficient evidence to place a value on the amount the PCC is likely to receive. This is when either confirmation has been received from the executors of the estate, or probate has been granted, or a distribution is received. Recognition of legacies in a form other than cash or listed investments is subject to the value being reliably measurable. Where the PCC has or may have entitlement to a legacy but there is uncertainty about the amount or value, information is disclosed about the potential future asset.

Investment income is recognised once the PCC has been notified of the amount that is receivable. Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

**1 Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.7 Resources expended**

Expenditure is included in the statement of financial activities when incurred. It includes irrecoverable VAT. Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the PCC to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure comprises direct costs and support costs. Support costs represent indirect charitable expenditure. The costs of each activity include both those costs directly attributable to the category and a proportion of general support costs. Governance costs comprise the costs relating to the public accountability of the charity and compliance with regulation and good practice.

The classification between activities is as follows:

- expenditure on raising funds includes all expenditure associated with raising funds for the PCC;
- expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs associated with furthering the charitable purposes of the PCC, including governance costs.

Expenditure on charitable activities is split between:

- worship & ministry; and
- charitable giving in support of other charities and charitable activities.

No value is ascribed to the considerable effort of the many volunteers who support the ministry and other activities of the charity.

**1.8 Tangible fixed assets**

There are two Anglican church buildings within the Parish: the Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul and Holy Trinity Church, Charlton. In accordance with church legislation, the PCC is responsible for the upkeep of these buildings, including fixtures and furnishings within them, but does not own them. Accordingly, the church buildings and their contents are not included in these financial statements. All expenditure on maintaining and improving the church buildings, and on their fixtures and furnishings, is charged directly to the statement of financial activities when incurred.

All other tangible assets or groups of tangible assets costing more than £500 and with an expected useful economic life exceeding one year are capitalised. Depreciation is provided in order to write off the cost less any expected residual value over the estimated useful life of each asset (or group of assets) at the following annual rates:

- residential property – no depreciation as the expected residual value exceeds the cost;
- fixtures & fittings in residential property – on a straight-line basis over ten years;
- office equipment – on a straight-line basis over four years.

**1.9 Fixed asset investments**

The PCC's investments are held in investment funds managed by CCLA Investment Management. They are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing market price.

Realised gains (or losses) on investment assets are calculated as the difference between disposal proceeds and the opening carrying value at the beginning of the financial year (or the purchase value if acquired during the year). Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the fair value at the year end and the previous carrying value. Realised and unrealised investment gains (or losses) are combined in the statement of financial activities and are recorded in the year in which they arise.

## 1 Accounting policies (continued)

### 1.10 Debtors

Amounts of money owed to the PCC (referred to as debtors) are recognised at their settlement amount, less an allowance for any amounts which may not be recoverable. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid. Debtors and prepayments are discounted to the present value of the future cash receipt where such discounting is material.

### 1.11 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash at bank and in hand represents such accounts and balances that are available on demand or had an original maturity of less than three months. Term deposits for more than three months but less than one year are shown as short-term deposits. Cash placed on deposit for more than one year is included as part of fixed asset investments.

### 1.12 Creditors

Amounts of money owed by the PCC (referred to as creditors) and provisions for any other liabilities of the PCC are recognised when there is an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are recognised at the amount the PCC anticipates it will pay to settle the debt. They are discounted to the present value of the future cash payment where such discounting is material.

## 2 Donations and legacies

| | General unrestricted funds | Restricted funds | Total 2022 | *Total 2021* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ | £ | *£* |
| Planned giving by church members | 66,512 | - | 66,512 | *55,096* |
| Collections at services | 4,984 | 2,914 | 7,899 | *5,559* |
| Legacies | - | - | - | *2,515* |
| Other donations | 6,289 | 132 | 6,422 | *21,004* |
| Tax recoverable on donations under Gift Aid | 16,642 | - | 16,642 | *12,862* |
| | 94,427 | 3,046 | 97,475 | *97,036* |
| ***Comparative figures for 2021*** | | | | |
| *Planned giving by church members* | *55,096* | - | | *55,096* |
| *Collections at services* | *3,122* | *2,437* | | *5,559* |
| *Legacies* | *2,515* | - | | *2,515* |
| *Other donations* | *20,578* | *426* | | *21,004* |
| *Tax recoverable on donations under Gift Aid* | *12,862* | - | | *12,862* |
| | *94,173* | *2,863* | | *97,036* |

## 3 Income from charitable activities

| | General unrestricted funds £ | Restricted funds £ | Total 2022 £ | *Total 2021 £* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fees & contributions for occasional offices | 14,397 | - | 14,397 | *9,642* |
| Publications, quiet days & children's activities | 265 | - | 265 | *55* |
| | 14,662 | - | 14,662 | *9,697* |
| ***Comparative figures for 2021*** | | | | |
| *Fees & contributions for occasional offices* | *9,642* | - | | *9,642* |
| *Publications, quiet days & children's activities* | *55* | - | | *55* |
| | *9,697* | - | | *9,697* |

Fees & contributions for occasional offices relate to baptisms, weddings and funerals held in the two Anglican churches of the Parish.

## 4 Income from other operating activities

| | General unrestricted funds £ | Restricted funds £ | Total 2022 £ | *Total 2021 £* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fundraising | 6,956 | 1,552 | 8,508 | *7,381* |
| Grants | - | 40,252 | 40,252 | *28,178* |
| Use of churches by other organisations | 3,143 | - | 3,143 | *808* |
| Rental income | - | - | - | *1,250* |
| | 10,099 | 41,804 | 51,903 | *37,617* |
| ***Comparative figures for 2021*** | | | | |
| *Fundraising* | *4,470* | *2,911* | | *7,381* |
| *Grants* | *931* | *27,247* | | *28,178* |
| *Use of churches by other organisations* | *808* | - | | *808* |
| *Rental income* | *1,250* | - | | *1,250* |
| | *7,459* | *30,158* | | *37,617* |

## 5 Income from investments

| | General unrestricted funds £ | Restricted funds £ | Total 2022 £ | *Total 2021 £* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Investment income | 174 | 15,477 | 15,651 | *15,424* |
| ***Comparative figures for 2021*** | *1,008* | *14,416* | | *15,424* |

## 6 Expenditure

| | Notes | Clergy costs £ | Church buildings £ | Other costs £ | Total 2022 £ | *Total 2021 £* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Expenditure on charitable activities** | | | | | | |
| Worship & ministry | | 90,765 | 95,386 | 38,220 | 224,371 | *240,226* |
| Charitable giving | 7 | - | - | 1,962 | 1,962 | *5,631* |
| | | 90,765 | 95,386 | 40,182 | 226,333 | *245,857* |
| **Costs of raising funds** | | - | - | 2,762 | 2,762 | *2,326* |
| | | 90,765 | 95,386 | 42,944 | 229,095 | *248,183* |
| **Analysis by type of fund:** | | | | | | |
| Unrestricted funds | | 90,765 | - | 39,192 | 129,957 | *160,362* |
| Restricted funds | | - | 95,386 | 3,752 | 99,138 | *87,821* |
| | | 90,765 | 95,386 | 42,944 | 229,095 | *248,183* |
| ***Comparative figures for 2021*** | | | | | | |
| ***Expenditure on charitable activities*** | | | | | | |
| *Worship & ministry* | | *92,518* | *108,514* | *39,194* | | *240,226* |
| *Charitable giving* | *7* | - | - | *5,631* | | *5,631* |
| | | *92,518* | *108,514* | *44,825* | | *245,857* |
| ***Costs of raising funds*** | | - | - | *2,326* | | *2,326* |
| | | *92,518* | *108,514* | *47,151* | | *248,183* |
| ***Analysis by type of fund:*** | | | | | | |
| *Unrestricted funds* | | *92,518* | *28,728* | *39,116* | | *160,362* |
| *Restricted funds* | | - | *79,786* | *8,035* | | *87,821* |
| | | *92,518* | *108,514* | *47,151* | | *248,183* |

Expenditure includes:

- staff costs of £19,713 in respect of five part-time employees employed for all or part of the year *(2021:* £24,778 *for six part-time employees)*.
- governance costs of £1,648 *(2021: £1,398)*, being the cost of the independent examination of these accounts and assistance in their preparation.

Clergy costs include £86,649 *(2021: £86,931)* paid to the Diocese of Oxford as the Parish's contribution to diocesan costs, principally stipend, training and other costs relating to parish clergy.

## 7 Charitable giving

| | 2022 | *2021* |
|---|---|---|
| | £ | *£* |
| UNICEF Ukraine appeal | 600 | - |
| Family Links project | 289 | - |
| Bishops' Outreach Fund | 160 | - |
| Ray Collins Trust (Coronavirus support in the local community) | - | *1,606* |
| RAF Association | - | *91* |
| Support for Greenfields School, Thokoza | 1,202 | *3,934* |
| | 2,251 | *5,631* |

## 8 Trustees

The members of the Parochial Church Council are the trustees of the charity and are responsible for the overall direction and control of the charity. The Vicar and Churchwardens provide leadership and take day-to-day management decisions.

John Ridgway, who was a trustee for 2021 and part of 2022, was remunerated as Assistant Organist under a contract which pre-dated his appointment as a trustee. In 2022, he received £800 during the period when he was a trustee *(2021: £3,347)*. He took no part in the determination of his salary by the PCC. In accordance with the Church of England's normal policy, Fr Benji Tyler as Assistant Curate in the Parish lives in a house provided by the PCC. Except as noted in this paragraph and in note 16, none of the trustees (or anyone connected with them) received from the PCC any remuneration, benefit or payment for services during the year (or the preceding year).

Four trustees were reimbursed a total of £3,393 for expenses which they incurred on behalf of the PCC *(2021: seven trustees reimbursed £3,508).* These expenses comprised travel and office costs for the clergy serving the Parish and goods and services purchased for use in our churches.

Trustees made unrestricted donations to the PCC totalling £12,911 *(2021: £11,480)* during the periods when they were trustees.

## 9 Net gains/(losses) on investments

| | General unrestricted funds | Restricted funds | Total 2022 | *Total 2021* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ | £ | *£* |
| Revaluation of investments | - | (66,159) | (66,159) | *74,798* |
| ***Comparative figures for 2021*** | - | *74,798* | | *74,798* |

## 10 Tangible fixed assets

| | Freehold land and buildings £ | Fixtures and fittings £ | Total £ |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Cost** | | | |
| At 1 January 2022 | 40,000 | 15,036 | 55,036 |
| Additions | - | - | - |
| At 31 December 2022 | 40,000 | 15,036 | 55,036 |
| **Depreciation and impairment** | | | |
| At 1 January 2022 | - | 9,312 | 7,808 |
| Depreciation charged in the year | - | 1,504 | 1,504 |
| At 31 December 2022 | - | 10,816 | 9,312 |
| **Carrying amount** | | | |
| At 31 December 2022 | 40,000 | 4,220 | 44,220 |
| *At 31 December 2021* | *40,000* | *5,724* | *45,724* |

The freehold property comprises a house which is provided for the assistant curate serving the Parish. As the residual value is greater than the original cost, no depreciation is provided. The property was valued at £270,000 in 2015 and will have gone up further in value since then.

## 11 Fixed asset investments

| | 2022 | *2021* |
|---|---|---|
| **Managed investments** | **£** | ***£*** |
| Market value at 1 January 2022 | 530,697 | *636,133* |
| Additions | 73,000 | - |
| Withdrawals | - | *(182,580)* |
| Income reinvested | 478 | *2,346* |
| Unrealised gains/(losses) | (66,159) | *74,798* |
| Market value at 31 December 2022 | 538,016 | *530,697* |
| Investments comprise holdings in the following funds managed by CCLA Investment Management: | | |
| CBF Church of England Investment Fund | 537,303 | *530,462* |
| CBF Church of England Deposit Fund | 713 | *235* |
| | 538,016 | *530,697* |

## 12 Debtors

| | 2022 | *2021* |
|---|---|---|
| **Amounts falling due within one year** | **£** | ***£*** |
| Tax recoverable on donations under Gift Aid | 4,800 | *1,800* |
| Other debtors & prepayments | 973 | *10,644* |
| | 5,773 | *12,444* |

## 13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

| | 2022 | *2021* |
|---|---|---|
| | **£** | ***£*** |
| Other creditors & accruals | 2,453 | *3,127* |

## 14 Funds

The table on the following page summarises the different funds held by the PCC (the subsequent page shows comparative figures for the previous year).

The largest element of the restricted reserves arose from the sale of properties once owned by the PCC. This element is available to be spent on any ecclesiastical purpose within the Parish. The funds concerned totalled £593,826 at the end of 2022 *(2021: £693,008)*. The PCC previously designated £40,000 of this element of the restricted funds to cover the cost (net of grants to be received) of employing a Children and Families Worker for five years from 2022/23. This appointment did not go ahead, but the PCC has retained the designation with a view to developing other work with children and young people.

The PCC has designated £40,000 *(2021: £40,000)* of its unrestricted reserves as a curate's housing fund. This represents the cost of the property purchased by the PCC as a house for an assistant curate in training in the Parish. The amount has been designated as a separate fund since this cannot currently be realised and used for any other purpose.

The PCC has previously designated a long-term organ maintenance making a transfer into this fund each year of £1,000 from general unrestricted funds to reflect the need to undertake periodically a major service of the organ at the Parish Church. At the end of 2021, the balance on this fund was £13,000. Inspection of the organ has identified that the cost of the work likely to be necessary will be considerably in excess of this amount. As it will not be possible to fund this from unrestricted funds, this designation has been removed and the balance transferred back into general unrestricted funds.

**14 Funds (continued)**

| | Balance at 1 January 2022 | Movement in funds | | | | Balance at 31 December 2022 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Incoming resources | Resources expended | Revaluation gains and losses | Transfers between reserves | |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| **Restricted funds** | | | | | | |
| Funds arising from properties once owned by the PCC: | | | | | | |
| Designated for work with children & young people | 40,000 | - | - | - | - | 40,000 |
| Available for any ecclesiastical purpose within the Parish | 653,008 | 15,476 | (33,500) | (66,159) | | 568,825 |
| | 693,008 | 15,476 | (33,500) | (66,159) | - | 608,825 |
| Other restricted funds: | | | | | | |
| Fabric of Parish buildings | 23,784 | 35,674 | (54,668) | - | - | 4,790 |
| Fabric & furnishing of Holy Trinity Church | 16,076 | - | (4,140) | - | - | 11,936 |
| Diocesan grant for energy costs | - | 3,078 | (3,078) | - | - | - |
| Music in the Parish | - | 1,500 | (1,500) | - | - | - |
| Charitable giving fund | 1,580 | 4,599 | (1,962) | - | - | 4,217 |
| Children’s activities | 1,516 | - | (290) | - | - | 1,226 |
| | 735,964 | 60,327 | (99,138) | (66,159) | - | 630,994 |
| **Designated unrestricted funds** | | | | | | |
| Curate's housing fund | 40,000 | - | - | - | - | 40,000 |
| Long-term organ maintenance fund | 13,000 | - | - | - | (13,000) | - |
| **General unrestricted funds** | 58,899 | 119,362 | (129,957) | - | 13,000 | 61,304 |
| **Total funds** | 847,863 | 179,689 | (229,095) | (66,159) | - | 732,298 |

**14 Funds (continued)**

***Comparative figures for 2021***

| | *Balance at 1 January 2021* | *Movement in funds* | | | | *Balance at 31 December 2021* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *Incoming resources* | *Resources expended* | *Revaluation gains and losses* | *Transfers between reserves* | |
| | *£* | *£* | *£* | *£* | *£* | *£* |
| ***Restricted funds*** | | | | | | |
| *Funds arising from properties once owned by the PCC:* | | | | | | |
| *Designated for a Children's & Families Worker* | *40,000* | *-* | *-* | *-* | *-* | *40,000* |
| *Available for any ecclesiastical purpose within the Parish* | *563,795* | *14,415* | *-* | *74,798* | *-* | *653,008* |
| | *603,795* | *14,415* | *-* | *74,798* | *-* | *693,008* |
| *Other restricted funds:* | | | | | | |
| *Fabric of Parish buildings* | *77,000* | *10,644* | *(63,860)* | *-* | *-* | *23,784* |
| *Maintenance of Parish Church clock* | *1,663* | *-* | *(1,663)* | *-* | *-* | *-* |
| *Fabric & furnishing of Holy Trinity Church* | *15,109* | *15,230* | *(14,263)* | *-* | *-* | *16,076* |
| *Music in the Parish* | *-* | *1,800* | *(1,800)* | *-* | *-* | *-* |
| *Charitable giving fund* | *1,863* | *5,348* | *(5,631)* | | | *1,580* |
| *Children's activities* | *2,120* | *-* | *(604)* | *-* | *-* | *1,516* |
| | *701,550* | *47,437* | *(87,821)* | *74,798* | *-* | *735,964* |
| ***Designated unrestricted funds*** | | | | | | |
| *Curate's housing fund* | *40,000* | *-* | *-* | *-* | *-* | *40,000* |
| *Long-term organ maintenance fund* | *12,000* | *-* | *-* | *-* | *1,000* | *13,000* |
| ***General unrestricted funds*** | *107,924* | *112,337* | *(160,362)* | *-* | *(1,000)* | *58,899* |
| ***Total funds*** | *861,474* | *159,774* | *(248,183)* | *74,798* | *-* | *847,863* |

## 15 Analysis of net assets between funds

| | General unrestricted funds | Designated unrestricted funds | Restricted funds | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Fund balances at 31 December 2022 were represented by: | | | | |
| Tangible assets | 4,220 | 40,000 | - | 44,220 |
| Investments | - | - | 538,016 | 538,016 |
| Other current assets/(liabilities) | 57,084 | - | 92,978 | 150,062 |
| | 61,304 | 40,000 | 630,994 | 732,298 |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ***Comparative figures for 2021*** | | | | |
| *Fund balances at 31 December 2021 were represented by:* | | | | |
| *Tangible assets* | *5,724* | *40,000* | *-* | *45,724* |
| *Investments* | *-* | *-* | *530,697* | *530,697* |
| *Other current assets/(liabilities)* | *53,175* | *13,000* | *205,267* | *271,442* |
| | *58,899* | *53,000* | *735,964* | *847,863* |

## 16 Related party transactions

The husband of one trustee, Ivie Johnson, is employed by the PCC as Director of Music at an annual salary at the end of 2022 of £6,500 *(2021: £6,500)* under a contract which pre-dates her appointment as a trustee in April 2021. She takes no part in the determination of her husband's salary. The wife of another trustee, Ian Stone, is employed by the PCC as a caretaker and was also employed during 2022 as Parish Administrator. Her remuneration during 2022 totalled £5,345. These arrangements pre-date Ian Stone's appointment as a trustee in April 2022. He takes no part in the determination of his wife's salary.

The William John Butler Memorial Fund (commonly referred to as the Butler Trust) is a charity whose objects are to advance the Christian religion, in particular (but not exclusively) by the maintenance, repair and improvement of the Parish Church in Wantage and Holy Trinity Church, Charlton. The trustees of the Butler Trust are the Vicar, Churchwardens and David Law, who are also members of the PCC, together with a fifth trustee who is married to someone who was a member of the PCC for part of 2021. In 2022, the PCC's income included a grant of £28,072 from the Butler Trust for repairs to the fabric of Wantage Parish Church *(2021: £14,804 for work on the fabric and furnishings of Holy Trinity Church, Charlton)*. There were no amounts due to the PCC from the Butler Trust at the end of either 2022 or 2021.

The Wantage Parish Music Guild is a charity whose objects are to support music in the Parish. The trustees of the Music Guild during 2021 and 2022 included three individuals who are married to people who were members of the PCC for parts of 2021 and/or 2022. In 2022, the PCC's income included a grant of £1,500 from the Music Guild towards the cost of the PCC employing an Assistant Organist *(2021: £1,800)*. There were no amounts due to the PCC from the Music Guild at the end of either 2022 or 2021.

wantage parish

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

www.wantageparish.com

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WANTAGE
## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
## TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Parochial Church Council of Wantage for the year ended 31 December 2022.

### Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act'). You are satisfied that the accounts of the charity are not required by charity law to be audited and have chosen instead to have an independent examination.

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

### Independent examiner's statement

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

1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or

2 the accounts do not accord with those records; or

3 the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act; or

4 the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

**A Chapman FCA**
**Chapman Worth Limited**
2 Old Estate Yard
East Hendred
Oxfordshire
OX12 8JY

[..] May 2022

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WANTAGE
## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

| | Notes | General unrestricted funds £ | Designated unrestricted funds £ | Restricted funds £ | Total 2022 £ | *Total 2021 £* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Income from:** | | | | | | |
| Donations and legacies | **2** | 94,427 | - | 3,046 | 97,473 | *97,036* |
| Charitable activities | **3** | 14,662 | - | - | 14,662 | *9,697* |
| Other operating activities | **4** | 10,099 | - | 41,804 | 51,903 | *37,617* |
| Investments | **5** | 174 | - | 15,477 | 15,651 | *15,424* |
| **Total income** | | 119,362 | - | 60,327 | 179,689 | *159,774* |
| **Expenditure on:** | | | | | | |
| Raising funds | **6** | 2,762 | - | - | 2,762 | *2,326* |
| Charitable activities | **6** | 127,195 | - | 99,138 | 226,333 | *245,857* |
| **Total resources expended** | | 129,957 | - | 99,138 | 229,095 | *248,183* |
| **Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains** | | (10,595) | - | (38,811) | (49,406) | *(88,409)* |
| Net gains/(losses) on investments | **9** | - | - | (66,159) | (66,159) | *74,798* |
| **Net income/(expenditure)** | | (10,595) | - | (104,970) | (115,565) | *(13,611)* |
| **Transfers between funds** | **14** | 13,000 | (13,000) | - | - | - |
| **Net movement in funds** | | 2,405 | (13,000) | (104,970) | (115,565) | *(13,611)* |
| Fund balances at 1 January | | 58,899 | 53,000 | 735,964 | 847,863 | *861,474* |
| **Fund balances at 31 December** | **14** | 61,304 | 40,000 | 630,994 | 732,298 | *847,863* |

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The comparative figures for the previous year are analysed on the next page.

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WANTAGE
## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

### *Comparative figures for 2021*

| | Notes | General unrestricted funds £ | Designated unrestricted funds £ | Restricted funds £ | Total 2021 £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Income from:** | | | | | |
| Donations and legacies | 2 | 94,173 | - | 2,863 | 97,036 |
| Charitable activities | 3 | 9,697 | - | - | 9,697 |
| Other operating activities | 4 | 7,459 | - | 30,158 | 37,617 |
| Investments | 5 | 1,008 | - | 14,416 | 15,424 |
| **Total income** | | 112,337 | - | 47,437 | 159,774 |
| **Expenditure on:** | | | | | |
| Raising funds | 6 | 2,326 | - | - | 2,326 |
| Charitable activities | 6 | 158,036 | - | 87,821 | 245,857 |
| **Total resources expended** | | 160,362 | - | 87,821 | 248,183 |
| **Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains** | | (48,025) | - | (40,384) | (88,409) |
| Net gains/(losses) on investments | 9 | - | - | 74,798 | 74,798 |
| **Net income/(expenditure)** | | (48,025) | - | 34,414 | (13,611) |
| **Transfers between funds** | 14 | (1,000) | 1,000 | - | - |
| **Net movement in funds** | | (49,025) | 1,000 | 34,414 | (13,611) |
| Fund balances at 1 January | | 107,924 | 52,000 | 701,550 | 861,474 |
| **Fund balances at 31 December** | 14 | 58,899 | 53,000 | 735,964 | 847,863 |

*The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.*

*All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.*

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WANTAGE
## BALANCE SHEET
## AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

| | Notes | 2022 £ | 2022 £ | *2021* £ | *2021* £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Fixed assets** | | | | | |
| Tangible assets | **10** | | 44,220 | | *45,724* |
| Investments | **11** | | 538,016 | | *530,697* |
| | | | 582,236 | | *576,421* |
| **Current assets** | | | | | |
| Debtors | **12** | 5,773 | | *12,444* | |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | 146,742 | | *262,125* | |
| | | 152,515 | | *274,569* | |
| **Creditors: amounts falling due within one year** | **13** | (2,453) | | *(3,127)* | |
| **Net current assets** | | | 150,062 | | *271,442* |
| **Total assets less current liabilities** | | | 732,298 | | *847,863* |
| **Income funds** | | | | | |
| Restricted funds | **14** | | 630,994 | | *735,964* |
| Designated unrestricted funds | **14** | | 40,000 | | *53,000* |
| General unrestricted funds | **14** | | 61,304 | | *58,899* |
| | | | 732,298 | | *847,863* |

These accounts were approved on […] May 2022

..... .....

**Katherine Price** **David Richardson**

Vicar Churchwarden

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WANTAGE
## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

### 1 Accounting policies

**Charity information**

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Peter & St Paul Wantage is a registered charity (number 1181640). References in these accounts to "the PCC" are references to this charity. The members of the PCC are the trustees of the charity under charity law and are referred to in these accounts as "the trustees".

The PCC constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102.

### 1.1 Accounting convention

The accounts are for the year to 31 December 2022 and are presented in sterling, rounded to the nearest pound.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policies below or the subsequent notes.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with:

- the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102);
- the Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS102 (Charities SORP); and
- the Charities Act 2011.

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation and uncertainty in the preparation of the accounts are set out below.

### 1.2 Charitable funds

The funds of the PCC are divided into the categories set out below, depending on the terms on which they were donated.

Endowment funds comprise capital sums which must be permanently held. The income which arises on endowment funds can be used for specified purposes in accordance with the terms under which the funds were given. The PCC holds no endowment funds at this time.

Restricted funds are held for specific purposes based on the origin of the funds or the wishes of the donors, and are not available for any other purpose. The PCC has designated certain restricted funds to be held for particular uses within the broader purposes specified. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in note 14 below.

Designated unrestricted funds are those which, although available for any purpose within the broad charitable objectives of the PCC, have been designated by the PCC to be held for a specified purpose.

General unrestricted funds are those which may be used for any purpose within the broad charitable objectives of the PCC.

### 1.3 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Preparation of the accounts requires the trustees to make judgements and estimates. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates. The estimates and underlying assumptions are kept under review. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised.

Significant judgements and estimates are made from time to time in relation to:

- estimating the likely amount of legacy income once the PCC is aware of its entitlement to receive a legacy; and
- estimating the useful economic life of tangible fixed assets.

**1 Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.4 Financial risk**

The main form of financial risk faced by the PCC relates to its investments and concerns volatility in equity and other investment markets due to wider economic conditions, the attitude of investors to investment risk, and changes in sentiment concerning equities and within particular investment sectors.

The PCC does not acquire options, derivatives or other complex financial instruments. Apart from its investments, the PCC only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments.

**1.5 Going concern**

The trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern assumption is appropriate in preparing these financial statements. The trustees have made this assessment in respect of a period of one year from the date of approval of the financial statements.

Because of the level of the PCC's financial reserves, the trustees have concluded that the PCC will have sufficient resources to meet its liabilities as they fall due and that the current circumstances do not impact on the charity's ability to operate as a going concern.

**1.6 Incoming resources**

Income is recognised once the PCC has entitlement to the incoming resources, any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations and grants are recognised when the PCC has confirmation of both the amount and settlement date. In the event of donations and grants pledged but not received, the amount is recorded when the receipt is considered probable. In the event that a donation or grant is subject to conditions, the income is deferred and not recognised until either the conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of the conditions is wholly within the control of the PCC and it is probable that they will be fulfilled in the reporting period. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid is recognised at the same time as the related donation.

Legacies are recognised when there is sufficient evidence to place a value on the amount the PCC is likely to receive. This is when either confirmation has been received from the executors of the estate, or probate has been granted, or a distribution is received. Recognition of legacies in a form other than cash or listed investments is subject to the value being reliably measurable. Where the PCC has or may have entitlement to a legacy but there is uncertainty about the amount or value, information is disclosed about the potential future asset.

Investment income is recognised once the PCC has been notified of the amount that is receivable. Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

**1 Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.7 Resources expended**

Expenditure is included in the statement of financial activities when incurred. It includes irrecoverable VAT. Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the PCC to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure comprises direct costs and support costs. Support costs represent indirect charitable expenditure. The costs of each activity include both those costs directly attributable to the category and a proportion of general support costs. Governance costs comprise the costs relating to the public accountability of the charity and compliance with regulation and good practice.

The classification between activities is as follows:

- expenditure on raising funds includes all expenditure associated with raising funds for the PCC;
- expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs associated with furthering the charitable purposes of the PCC, including governance costs.

Expenditure on charitable activities is split between:

- worship & ministry; and
- charitable giving in support of other charities and charitable activities.

No value is ascribed to the considerable effort of the many volunteers who support the ministry and other activities of the charity.

**1.8 Tangible fixed assets**

There are two Anglican church buildings within the Parish: the Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul and Holy Trinity Church, Charlton. In accordance with church legislation, the PCC is responsible for the upkeep of these buildings, including fixtures and furnishings within them, but does not own them. Accordingly, the church buildings and their contents are not included in these financial statements. All expenditure on maintaining and improving the church buildings, and on their fixtures and furnishings, is charged directly to the statement of financial activities when incurred.

All other tangible assets or groups of tangible assets costing more than £500 and with an expected useful economic life exceeding one year are capitalised. Depreciation is provided in order to write off the cost less any expected residual value over the estimated useful life of each asset (or group of assets) at the following annual rates:

- residential property – no depreciation as the expected residual value exceeds the cost;
- fixtures & fittings in residential property – on a straight-line basis over ten years;
- office equipment – on a straight-line basis over four years.

**1.9 Fixed asset investments**

The PCC's investments are held in investment funds managed by CCLA Investment Management. They are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing market price.

Realised gains (or losses) on investment assets are calculated as the difference between disposal proceeds and the opening carrying value at the beginning of the financial year (or the purchase value if acquired during the year). Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the fair value at the year end and the previous carrying value. Realised and unrealised investment gains (or losses) are combined in the statement of financial activities and are recorded in the year in which they arise.

**1 Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.10 Debtors**

Amounts of money owed to the PCC (referred to as debtors) are recognised at their settlement amount, less an allowance for any amounts which may not be recoverable. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid. Debtors and prepayments are discounted to the present value of the future cash receipt where such discounting is material.

**1.11 Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash at bank and in hand represents such accounts and balances that are available on demand or had an original maturity of less than three months. Term deposits for more than three months but less than one year are shown as short-term deposits. Cash placed on deposit for more than one year is included as part of fixed asset investments.

**1.12 Creditors**

Amounts of money owed by the PCC (referred to as creditors) and provisions for any other liabilities of the PCC are recognised when there is an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are recognised at the amount the PCC anticipates it will pay to settle the debt. They are discounted to the present value of the future cash payment where such discounting is material.

**2 Donations and legacies**

| | General unrestricted funds | Restricted funds | Total 2022 | *Total 2021* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ | £ | *£* |
| Planned giving by church members | 66,512 | - | 66,512 | *55,096* |
| Collections at services | 4,984 | 2,914 | 7,898 | *5,559* |
| Legacies | - | - | - | *2,515* |
| Other donations | 6,289 | 132 | 6,421 | *21,004* |
| Tax recoverable on donations under Gift Aid | 16,642 | - | 16,642 | *12,862* |
| | 94,427 | 3,046 | 97,473 | *97,036* |
| ***Comparative figures for 2021*** | | | | |
| *Planned giving by church members* | *55,096* | - | | *55,096* |
| *Collections at services* | *3,122* | *2,437* | | *5,559* |
| *Legacies* | *2,515* | - | | *2,515* |
| *Other donations* | *20,578* | *426* | | *21,004* |
| *Tax recoverable on donations under Gift Aid* | *12,862* | - | | *12,862* |
| | *94,173* | *2,863* | | *97,036* |

### 3 Income from charitable activities

| | General unrestricted funds £ | Restricted funds £ | Total 2022 £ | *Total 2021 £* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fees & contributions for occasional offices | 14,397 | - | 14,397 | *9,642* |
| Publications, quiet days & children's activities | 265 | - | 265 | *55* |
| | 14,662 | - | 14,662 | *9,697* |
| ***Comparative figures for 2021*** | | | | |
| *Fees & contributions for occasional offices* | *9,642* | - | | *9,642* |
| *Publications, quiet days & children's activities* | *55* | - | | *55* |
| | *9,697* | - | | *9,697* |

Fees & contributions for occasional offices relate to baptisms, weddings and funerals held in the two Anglican churches of the Parish.

### 4 Income from other operating activities

| | General unrestricted funds £ | Restricted funds £ | Total 2022 £ | *Total 2021 £* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fundraising | 6,956 | 1,552 | 8,508 | *7,381* |
| Grants | - | 40,252 | 40,252 | *28,178* |
| Use of churches by other organisations | 3,143 | - | 3,143 | *808* |
| Rental income | - | - | - | *1,250* |
| | 10,099 | 41,804 | 51,903 | *37,617* |
| ***Comparative figures for 2021*** | | | | |
| *Fundraising* | *4,470* | *2,911* | | *7,381* |
| *Grants* | *931* | *27,247* | | *28,178* |
| *Use of churches by other organisations* | *808* | - | | *808* |
| *Rental income* | *1,250* | - | | *1,250* |
| | *7,459* | *30,158* | | *37,617* |

### 5 Income from investments

| | General unrestricted funds £ | Restricted funds £ | Total 2022 £ | *Total 2021 £* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Investment income | 174 | 15,477 | 15,651 | *15,424* |
| ***Comparative figures for 2021*** | *1,008* | *14,416* | | *15,424* |

**6 Expenditure**

| | Notes | Clergy costs | Church buildings | Other costs | Total 2022 | *Total 2021* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | £ | £ | £ | £ | *£* |
| **Expenditure on charitable activities** | | | | | | |
| Worship & ministry | | 90,765 | 95,386 | 38,220 | 224,371 | *240,226* |
| Charitable giving | 7 | - | - | 1,962 | 1,962 | *5,631* |
| | | 90,765 | 95,386 | 40,182 | 226,333 | *245,857* |
| **Costs of raising funds** | | - | - | 2,762 | 2,762 | *2,326* |
| | | 90,765 | 95,386 | 42,944 | 229,095 | *248,183* |
| **Analysis by type of fund:** | | | | | | |
| Unrestricted funds | | 90,765 | - | 39,192 | 129,957 | *160,362* |
| Restricted funds | | - | 95,386 | 3,752 | 99,138 | *87,821* |
| | | 90,765 | 95,386 | 42,944 | 229,095 | *248,183* |
| ***Comparative figures for 2021*** | | | | | | |
| ***Expenditure on charitable activities*** | | | | | | |
| *Worship & ministry* | | *92,518* | *108,514* | *39,194* | | *240,226* |
| *Charitable giving* | *7* | - | - | *5,631* | | *5,631* |
| | | *92,518* | *108,514* | *44,825* | | *245,857* |
| ***Costs of raising funds*** | | - | - | *2,326* | | *2,326* |
| | | *92,518* | *108,514* | *47,151* | | *248,183* |
| ***Analysis by type of fund:*** | | | | | | |
| *Unrestricted funds* | | *92,518* | *28,728* | *39,116* | | *160,362* |
| *Restricted funds* | | - | *79,786* | *8,035* | | *87,821* |
| | | *92,518* | *108,514* | *47,151* | | *248,183* |

Expenditure includes:

- staff costs of £19,713 in respect of five part-time employees employed for all or part of the year *(2021:* £24,778 *for six part-time employees)*.
- governance costs of £1,648 *(2021: £1,398)*, being the cost of the independent examination of these accounts and assistance in their preparation.

Clergy costs include £86,649 *(2021: £86,931)* paid to the Diocese of Oxford as the Parish's contribution to diocesan costs, principally stipend, training and other costs relating to parish clergy.

### 7 Charitable giving

| | 2022 | *2021* |
|---|---|---|
| | £ | *£* |
| UNICEF Ukraine appeal | 600 | - |
| Bishops' Outreach Fund | 160 | - |
| Ray Collins Trust (Coronavirus support in the local community) | - | *1,606* |
| RAF Association | - | *91* |
| Support for Greenfields School, Thokoza | 1,202 | *3,934* |
| | 1,962 | *5,631* |

In addition, a discount of £289 on Holy Trinity hall hire was given to the Family Links project.

### 8 Trustees

The members of the Parochial Church Council are the trustees of the charity and are responsible for the overall direction and control of the charity. The Vicar and Churchwardens provide leadership and take day-to-day management decisions.

John Ridgway, who was a trustee for 2021 and part of 2022, was remunerated as Assistant Organist under a contract which pre-dated his appointment as a trustee. In 2022, he received £800 during the period when he was a trustee *(2021: £3,347)*. He took no part in the determination of his salary by the PCC. In accordance with the Church of England's normal policy, Fr Benji Tyler as Assistant Curate in the Parish lives in a house provided by the PCC. Except as noted in this paragraph and in note 16, none of the trustees (or anyone connected with them) received from the PCC any remuneration, benefit or payment for services during the year (or the preceding year).

Four trustees were reimbursed a total of £3,393 for expenses which they incurred on behalf of the PCC *(2021: seven trustees reimbursed £3,508).* These expenses comprised travel and office costs for the clergy serving the Parish and goods and services purchased for use in our churches.

Trustees made unrestricted donations to the PCC totalling £12,911 *(2021: £11,480)* during the periods when they were trustees.

### 9 Net gains/(losses) on investments

| | General unrestricted funds | Restricted funds | Total 2022 | *Total 2021* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ | £ | *£* |
| Revaluation of investments | - | (66,159) | (66,159) | *74,798* |
| ***Comparative figures for 2021*** | *-* | *74,798* | | *74,798* |

### 10 Tangible fixed assets

| | Freehold land and buildings £ | Fixtures and fittings £ | Total £ |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Cost** | | | |
| At 1 January 2022 | 40,000 | 15,036 | 55,036 |
| Additions | - | - | - |
| At 31 December 2022 | 40,000 | 15,036 | 55,036 |
| **Depreciation and impairment** | | | |
| At 1 January 2022 | - | 9,312 | 9,312 |
| Depreciation charged in the year | - | 1,504 | 1,504 |
| At 31 December 2022 | - | 10,816 | 10,816 |
| **Carrying amount** | | | |
| At 31 December 2022 | 40,000 | 4,220 | 44,220 |
| *At 31 December 2021* | *40,000* | *5,724* | *45,724* |

The freehold property comprises a house which is provided for the assistant curate serving the Parish. As the residual value is greater than the original cost, no depreciation is provided. The property was valued at £270,000 in 2015 and will have gone up further in value since then.

### 11 Fixed asset investments

| | 2022 | *2021* |
|---|---|---|
| **Managed investments** | **£** | ***£*** |
| Market value at 1 January 2022 | 530,697 | *636,133* |
| Additions | 73,000 | - |
| Withdrawals | - | *(182,580)* |
| Income reinvested | 478 | *2,346* |
| Unrealised gains/(losses) | (66,159) | *74,798* |
| Market value at 31 December 2022 | 538,016 | *530,697* |
| Investments comprise holdings in the following funds managed by CCLA Investment Management: | | |
| CBF Church of England Investment Fund | 537,303 | *530,462* |
| CBF Church of England Deposit Fund | 713 | *235* |
| | 538,016 | *530,697* |

### 12 Debtors

| | 2022 | *2021* |
|---|---|---|
| **Amounts falling due within one year** | **£** | ***£*** |
| Tax recoverable on donations under Gift Aid | 4,800 | *1,800* |
| Other debtors & prepayments | 973 | *10,644* |
| | 5,773 | *12,444* |

### 13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

| | 2022 | *2021* |
|---|---|---|
| | **£** | ***£*** |
| Other creditors & accruals | 2,453 | *3,127* |

### 14 Funds

The table on the following page summarises the different funds held by the PCC (the subsequent page shows comparative figures for the previous year).

The largest element of the restricted reserves arose from the sale of properties once owned by the PCC. This element is available to be spent on any ecclesiastical purpose within the Parish. The funds concerned totalled £608,825 at the end of 2022 *(2021: £693,008)*. The PCC previously designated £40,000 of this element of the restricted funds to cover the cost (net of grants to be received) of employing a Children and Families Worker for five years from 2022/23. This appointment did not go ahead, but the PCC has retained the designation with a view to developing other work with children and young people.

The PCC has designated £40,000 *(2021: £40,000)* of its unrestricted reserves as a curate's housing fund. This represents the cost of the property purchased by the PCC as a house for an assistant curate in training in the Parish. The amount has been designated as a separate fund since this cannot currently be realised and used for any other purpose.

The PCC has previously designated a long-term organ maintenance making a transfer into this fund each year of £1,000 from general unrestricted funds to reflect the need to undertake periodically a major service of the organ at the Parish Church. At the end of 2021, the balance on this fund was £13,000. Inspection of the organ has identified that the cost of the work likely to be necessary will be considerably in excess of this amount. As it will not be possible to fund this from unrestricted funds, this designation has been removed and the balance transferred back into general unrestricted funds.

**14 Funds (continued)**

| | Balance at 1 January 2022 | Movement in funds: Incoming resources | Resources expended | Revaluation gains and losses | Transfers between reserves | Balance at 31 December 2022 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| **Restricted funds** | | | | | | |
| Funds arising from properties once owned by the PCC: | | | | | | |
| Designated for work with children & young people | 40,000 | - | - | - | - | 40,000 |
| Available for any ecclesiastical purpose within the Parish | 653,008 | 15,476 | (33,500) | (66,159) | | 568,825 |
| | 693,008 | 15,476 | (33,500) | (66,159) | - | 608,825 |
| Other restricted funds: | | | | | | |
| Fabric of Parish buildings | 23,784 | 35,674 | (54,668) | - | - | 4,790 |
| Fabric & furnishing of Holy Trinity Church | 16,076 | - | (4,140) | - | - | 11,936 |
| Diocesan grant for energy costs | - | 3,078 | (3,078) | - | - | - |
| Music in the Parish | - | 1,500 | (1,500) | - | - | - |
| Charitable giving fund | 1,580 | 4,599 | (1,962) | - | - | 4,217 |
| Children’s activities | 1,516 | - | (290) | - | - | 1,226 |
| | 735,964 | 60,327 | (99,138) | (66,159) | - | 630,994 |
| **Designated unrestricted funds** | | | | | | |
| Curate's housing fund | 40,000 | - | - | - | - | 40,000 |
| Long-term organ maintenance fund | 13,000 | - | - | - | (13,000) | - |
| **General unrestricted funds** | 58,899 | 119,362 | (129,957) | - | 13,000 | 61,304 |
| **Total funds** | 847,863 | 179,689 | (229,095) | (66,159) | - | 732,298 |

**14 Funds (continued)**

***Comparative figures for 2021***

| | *Balance at 1 January 2021* | *Movement in funds* | | | | *Balance at 31 December 2021* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *Incoming resources* | *Resources expended* | *Revaluation gains and losses* | *Transfers between reserves* | |
| | *£* | *£* | *£* | *£* | *£* | *£* |
| ***Restricted funds*** | | | | | | |
| *Funds arising from properties once owned by the PCC:* | | | | | | |
| *Designated for a Children's & Families Worker* | *40,000* | *-* | *-* | *-* | *-* | *40,000* |
| *Available for any ecclesiastical purpose within the Parish* | *563,795* | *14,415* | *-* | *74,798* | *-* | *653,008* |
| | *603,795* | *14,415* | *-* | *74,798* | *-* | *693,008* |
| *Other restricted funds:* | | | | | | |
| *Fabric of Parish buildings* | *77,000* | *10,644* | *(63,860)* | *-* | *-* | *23,784* |
| *Maintenance of Parish Church clock* | *1,663* | *-* | *(1,663)* | *-* | *-* | *-* |
| *Fabric & furnishing of Holy Trinity Church* | *15,109* | *15,230* | *(14,263)* | *-* | *-* | *16,076* |
| *Music in the Parish* | *-* | *1,800* | *(1,800)* | *-* | *-* | *-* |
| *Charitable giving fund* | *1,863* | *5,348* | *(5,631)* | | | *1,580* |
| *Children's activities* | *2,120* | *-* | *(604)* | *-* | *-* | *1,516* |
| | *701,550* | *47,437* | *(87,821)* | *74,798* | *-* | *735,964* |
| ***Designated unrestricted funds*** | | | | | | |
| *Curate's housing fund* | *40,000* | *-* | *-* | *-* | *-* | *40,000* |
| *Long-term organ maintenance fund* | *12,000* | *-* | *-* | *-* | *1,000* | *13,000* |
| ***General unrestricted funds*** | *107,924* | *112,337* | *(160,362)* | *-* | *(1,000)* | *58,899* |
| ***Total funds*** | *861,474* | *159,774* | *(248,183)* | *74,798* | *-* | *847,863* |

### 15 Analysis of net assets between funds

| | General unrestricted funds | Designated unrestricted funds | Restricted funds | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Fund balances at 31 December 2022 were represented by: | | | | |
| Tangible assets | 4,220 | 40,000 | - | 44,220 |
| Investments | - | - | 538,016 | 538,016 |
| Other current assets/(liabilities) | 57,084 | - | 92,978 | 150,062 |
| | 61,304 | 40,000 | 630,994 | 732,298 |

***Comparative figures for 2021***

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Fund balances at 31 December 2021 were represented by:* | | | | |
| *Tangible assets* | *5,724* | *40,000* | *-* | *45,724* |
| *Investments* | *-* | *-* | *530,697* | *530,697* |
| *Other current assets/(liabilities)* | *53,175* | *13,000* | *205,267* | *271,442* |
| | *58,899* | *53,000* | *735,964* | *847,863* |

### 16 Related party transactions

The husband of one trustee, Ivie Johnson, is employed by the PCC as Director of Music at an annual salary at the end of 2022 of £6,500 *(2021: £6,500)* under a contract which pre-dates her appointment as a trustee in April 2021. She takes no part in the determination of her husband's salary. The wife of another trustee, Ian Stone, is employed by the PCC as a caretaker and was also employed during 2022 as Parish Administrator. Her remuneration during 2022 totalled £5,345. These arrangements pre-date Ian Stone's appointment as a trustee in April 2022. He takes no part in the determination of his wife's salary.

The William John Butler Memorial Fund (commonly referred to as the Butler Trust) is a charity whose objects are to advance the Christian religion, in particular (but not exclusively) by the maintenance, repair and improvement of the Parish Church in Wantage and Holy Trinity Church, Charlton. The trustees of the Butler Trust are the Vicar, Churchwardens and David Law, who are also members of the PCC, together with a fifth trustee who is married to someone who was a member of the PCC for part of 2021. In 2022, the PCC's income included a grant of £28,072 from the Butler Trust for repairs to the fabric of Wantage Parish Church *(2021: £14,804 for work on the fabric and furnishings of Holy Trinity Church, Charlton)*. There were no amounts due to the PCC from the Butler Trust at the end of either 2022 or 2021.

The Wantage Parish Music Guild is a charity whose objects are to support music in the Parish. The trustees of the Music Guild during 2021 and 2022 included three individuals who are married to people who were members of the PCC for parts of 2021 and/or 2022. In 2022, the PCC's income included a grant of £1,500 from the Music Guild towards the cost of the PCC employing an Assistant Organist *(2021: £1,800)*. There were no amounts due to the PCC from the Music Guild at the end of either 2022 or 2021.

wantage parish




www.wantageparish.com

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WANTAGE
## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
## TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Parochial Church Council of Wantage for the year ended 31 December 2022.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act'). You are satisfied that the accounts of the charity are not required by charity law to be audited and have chosen instead to have an independent examination.

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

**Independent examiner's statement**

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

1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or

2 the accounts do not accord with those records; or

3 the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act; or

4 the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

**A Chapman FCA**
**Chapman Worth Limited**
2 Old Estate Yard
East Hendred
Oxfordshire
OX12 8JY

30 May 2023

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL

England & Wales - Charity number 1181640

# Accounts

wantage parish

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WANTAGE







# ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS
# FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WANTAGE
## ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

## CONTENTS


TRUSTEES' REPORT…….. 3
Introduction…… 3
The context of our year…… 3
The pandemic……... 3
The resignation and Interregnum…….. 3
Our vision and mission……..…. 4
Parish life in 2021……. 4
Worship – in and out of lockdown……. 4
Outreach…… 5
Giving……. 6
The choir……... 6
Buildings and infrastructure……... 7
Interregnum, Parish consultation and next Vicar……..…….. 8
Financial position…….. 9
Reserves policy…….. 10
Our structure & governance…… 11
Safeguarding…… 12
Statement of trustees' responsibilities……. 12
Administrative information……..….. 13
Conclusion…… 13
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT…….. 15
ACCOUNTS……..……. 16
Statement of Financial Activities…..……..…… 16
Balance Sheet……..……... 18
Notes to the Accounts……. 19


Charity registration number: 1181640

## Introduction

The members of the Parochial Church Council of Wantage ("the PCC") are pleased to present their report for 2021. The PCC is a charity registered with the Charity Commission (registered number 1181640). Its full registered name is the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Peter & St Paul Wantage. Further information about the structure and governance of the PCC is given towards the end of this report.

This document reports the life of the Parish of Wantage in our two churches: the Parish Church of Saint Peter and Saint Paul; and Holy Trinity Church in Charlton. It is a public account of Parish activities during 2021 and is in two parts:

**Part 1: The Annual Trustees' Report of the members of the PCC;** and

**Part 2: The Accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2021**.

The PCC is a charity and its members are trustees, responsible for its affairs under charity law.

## The context of our year

Two major events, one global, one local, dominated our year in 2021.

### *The pandemic*

The year opened with the UK in its third national lockdown, due to the global Covid-19 pandemic. As with all aspects of society and national life, this had a significant impact on Parish life, with both churches closed and our worshipping community sustained primarily online and by telephone.

Access to churches was restored in July. A wide portfolio of protective measures was introduced and kept under constant review, in line with evolving UK law and guidelines.



Through the second half of the year, the Parish went through a careful process of re-engaging in life as a worshipping community, culminating in a successful Christmas programme of services, social events and welcome to the people of Wantage.

### *The resignation and Interregnum*

Philip Wells resigned as Vicar in July 2021 to convert to Roman Catholicism, after less than three years in post.

Measures were implemented to sustain Parish life during the Interregnum, with the Assistant Curate, Father Benji Tyler, the churchwardens and volunteers across the Parish Family working together to sustain worship, pastoral care and community engagement. The Parish owes a debt of gratitude to Father Benji, the Diocese and the many members of the clergy who ministered to the Parish in 2021.

Through the second half of 2021, the churchwardens and PCC worked with the Diocese to advertise for and recruit a new Incumbent. The process included a major consultation of parishioners' feelings and opinions about our future direction, leading to the creation of a rich Parish Profile. It culminated with the selection, in March 2022, of the Revd Katherine Price as the next Vicar of Wantage.

## Our vison and mission

**ENCOUNTERING AND SHARING GOD'S TRANSFORMING LOVE**

**Encountering** *through*
Inspiring, uplifting and enriching worship
Faithful and compassionate prayer

**Sharing** *by*
A generous, open and embracing welcome
Courageous and relevant outreach
Compassionate care

**Transformed** *through*
Committed discipleship
Nurturing spiritual growth

In 2021 we maintained the vison for the Parish established in 2020, presented above.

The PCC, working with the Vicar (and following his resignation with the churchwardens and Curate) have continued to promote the mission of the Church of England in the Parish. This has been supported by recently-established Mission Action Groups: for finance, buildings, communication, children and families, and worship, adult formation and pastoral care.

The Parish is part of the Diocese of Oxford. Within the Diocese, our Parish is part of the Wantage Deanery.

As part of the wider Church of England, the Parish benefits from the work that goes into training and supporting clergy, as well as from the wider support and guidance of the Diocese. In the Wantage area, we participate in Deanery Synod discussions.

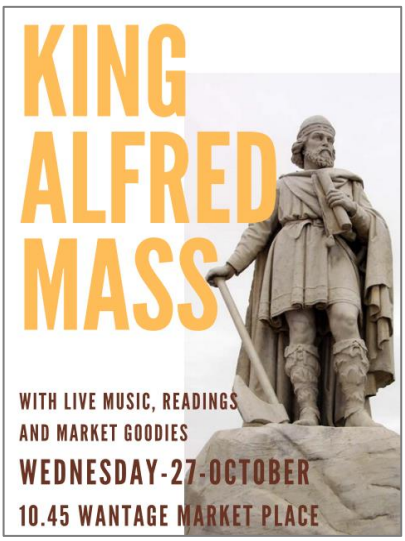
## Parish life in 2021

### *Worship – in and out of lockdown*

The PCC works with clergy to offer a range of opportunities to worship, to pray and to grow spiritually. These include daily Eucharist in one or other of our two church buildings, a Vigil on Saturdays and three services on Sundays, each with its own style.

In addition to our regular Eucharistic services, we celebrate monthly Choral Evensong at the Parish Church.

We aspire to make services as welcoming as possible. Working with the Curate, who brings warmth and creativity to our worship, we have made some innovations in recent months. For example, in October 2021 we celebrated King Alfred's day with a Eucharist in the Market Place, breaking locally-baked bread among the stalls on market day.




Sunday readings are printed on the notice sheet for people to follow. We provide some variety of worship styles across the Parish, principally through variation between the two churches, while maintaining our liturgical and choral traditions. We seek an inclusive approach to every aspect of the church's life and ministry, with a number in the congregation from the LGBTQ community.

Livestreaming of services began at the beginning of the first lockdown in 2020 and remained popular with the church and wider community in 2021. A weekly Eucharist was livestreamed on the Parish Facebook page, so that anyone with the technology could join the service.

When lockdown was lifted during the second half of the year, we carefully increased the use of the church buildings, with extensive precautions, including CO2 monitoring, to ensure that, so far as possible, our churches were Covid-secure. Seats were rearranged to provide social distancing, reducing our capacity.

All major services are now taking place once more. Our principal Sunday service at Holy Trinity attracts 18 - 25 worshippers; and the main Sunday Eucharist in the Parish Church has 50 - 70 in attendance, including some new worshippers this year. Others continue to worship at the smaller services. The Electoral Roll numbers 160, and most members have now returned to church attendance at some time in the week, although some remain cautious or have become housebound over the past two years.

As soon as we were permitted, the Parish Church opened the Lady Chapel for private prayer. Two prayer leaflets were produced, one an anthology of prayers, and the other based on the 23rd Psalm. A Julian prayer group and Advent course ran via Zoom.

By the autumn of 2021 we were enjoying a return to singing in church, and have appreciated gathering in greater numbers for some special services, including Harvest Festival and a moving service to remember those who have died during the pandemic.

After-church coffee sessions, which took place via Zoom during lockdown, were resumed in church, as were face-to-face meetings of the Parochial Church Council.



Our programme of Christmas services was a major success, with innovative lighting in the chancel leading up to the Crib; and a successful Crib Service in which our *Open the Book* team presented a beautifully narrated Nativity.

### *Outreach*

Inevitably, mission activities in the first half of the year were curtailed by Covid-19. However, from the start of the pandemic, many in our congregations signed up to form prayer, phone and email groups to support each other. Our pastoral care team facilitated these phone and prayer groups, and reviewed the Electoral Roll to check that everyone had some pastoral contact, especially those who were isolated.

The Parish has sought to rebuild engagement with the local community post-lockdown. Re-establishing pastoral support, including care of the bereaved has been led by the Curate, who has gained a reputation for sensitively engaging with those in need. We are again actively encouraging visitors to our church buildings and opening them to community groups and events, including concerts, WI meetings, an art group and dance practise sessions.

We seek to sustain the distinctive Christian ethos of Wantage Church of England Primary School, for example through the *Open the Book* bible stories programme. During lockdown, this was successfully taken online and has returned into school as restrictions were lifted. Prayer Space for Year 5 and 6 children took place in the Parish Church in July.

In 2021 the Deanery made a new appointment of a schools' chaplain. During our interregnum, following consultation with the Diocese, the Parish temporarily withdrew our successful proposal for a grant to fund a Children's and Families worker, with a view to resubmission when the new incumbent is in place. Our hope is that, in time, these two key roles will operate in partnership.

Since lockdown, *Trinity Tots*, a bi-monthly activity session for babies and toddlers and their carers has reopened its doors at Holy Trinity. The group is led by a rota of parishioners and volunteers, all of whom have DBS clearance and Safeguarding training. A seasonal or Bible story theme is incorporated into the sessions, but the group welcomes and reaches out to non-church families, and some children have come to baptism via the group. We have re-established welcoming children's corners in both churches.

The well-established *TBar*, a monthly afternoon social gathering at Holy Trinity, continued to meet through the pandemic on Zoom, then in the church garden. Now back inside Holy Trinity, it has also welcomed non-church visitors.

We have continued to support local ecumenical projects such as Street Pastors. The Parish also supports the Wantage Foodbank and the "Community Fridge", to which our Harvest Festival gifts were donated in 2021.

The Parish has a close and longstanding relationship with the Community of St Mary the Virgin in Wantage, singing occasional services in their chapel and valuing their prayers for us. The order was founded with a commitment to education; and there have exciting developments on the Convent site, which now houses the central offices of the Vale Academy Trust and of the Oxford Diocesan Schools Trust.



The Parish takes its take civic responsibilities and relationships seriously. For example, our Remembrance Day service saw some 200 attendees and took place for the first time in the churchyard, rather than in church.

The town's annual Christmas festival, Dickensian Evening, brought some 1,200 visitors into the Parish Church. It was a major fundraising event. More importantly, we focused, this year, on creating a beautiful space for contemplation, the leaving of prayer notes, lighting candles and visiting the Crib. All of this was clearly valued by townspeople. 'Outside In' booklets were made available to welcome visitors and invite exploration of Christian Faith.

The PCC is mindful of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, in particular the supplementary guidance in relation to charities for the advancement of religion.

### *Giving*

The Parish encourages church members to give 5% of their income to the church and 5% to other charitable causes, in line with recommendations of the Church of England nationally. We prefer the use of the Parish Giving Scheme to collect regular contributions, in place of earlier envelope and standing order schemes. A contactless "click-and-pay" device for donations has been installed.

We supported a number of other charities in the year through our Christmas appeal and other fundraising actions. Funds raised by our Christmas appeal were donated to local educational projects and the DEC programme of support to Ukraine.



The Parish also hosts a long-term charitable endeavour, founded upon a parishioner's personal commitment to a school in the South African Township of Thokoza.

The PCC would like to thank all volunteers who give their time and support the Parish in any way, and everyone who contributes financially. None of the activities described in this report would be possible without the generosity of church members.

### *The choir*

The Parish Choir maintains the Anglican choral tradition and is held to be among the best in the Diocese. It has more than 30 choristers and has deputised in cathedrals at home and abroad. As well as singing on Sunday mornings, there are monthly choral evensong services and carol services for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany.



During lockdown, our choir continued to rehearse and work on singing technique meeting on Zoom. Choir members funded a "Staycation" choir tour in 2021, bringing in professional singing coaches to offer training and development and presenting concerts in Wantage and Sparsholt. Post lockdown, choral music is now fully re-integrated into Sunday worship.

Most members of the choir are parishioners foremost, fully involved in the broader life and mission of the church. The choir plays a role in attracting some new members to the congregation, and offers concerts and fundraising events each year. For example, a concert was given on Remembrance Sunday, remembering the exiled European forces based in the UK during World War Two.



The Wantage Parish Music Guild (a separate charity) raises funds to support the organist's stipend. Our *Wantage Wassail* Christmas celebration and a wonderful panto (in February 2022) contributed significantly to this. The Music Guild (generously supported by the Convent) funds musical education for young people, including choral and organ scholarships.

### *Buildings and infrastructure*

The PCC is responsible for the care of the Parish's two church buildings and the house where our assistant curate lives.

The Parish seeks to care for the fabric of its churches to support mission, enhance worship, and serve the local community. We endeavour to make our buildings accessible and welcoming to all; and to ensure that they serve the church, rather than becoming its focus, which is a risk in buildings that are part of the national heritage.

We are committed to sustainability, in energy usage and other ways, for example a policy on sustainable church flowers.

A major refurbishment of Holy Trinity Church was completed in 2018 and new sanctuary furniture was delivered in March 2021. Use of Holy Trinity Church by community groups has been increasing since its refurbishment and we have appointed a caretaker to manage access and maintenance. Users were obviously unable to meet during lockdown, but demand has risen steadily since.



The Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul is a Grade I listed building dating from the mediaeval period. Essential major works have been under way on the North Aisle roof and ceiling.

It is almost 25 years since the interior of the church was last refurbished. The PCC has set up an action group to explore how the building can best serve the Parish's mission as well as local community needs going forward. Out of this will come proposals for renewal of the building. We have had initial meetings with Diocesan advisers on this and will move forward with wider consultation, in discussion with our new incumbent.

## Interregnum, Parish consultation and next Vicar

The resignation of our Vicar in July was a shock to the Parish and came at a time when Parish life was already damaged by the pandemic.

Throughout the interregnum, the PCC and churchwardens have endeavoured to build a clear understanding of the needs and aspirations of the Parish; and to manage a transparent recruitment process. A regular series of interregnum news updates for parishioners has been published by multiple media.



In October 2021, drawing on helpful support from the Diocese, we undertook an extensive Parish consultation, involving a public meeting attended by many in the congregation and wider community. Questionnaires about the current state and hoped-for future of the Parish, were returned through paper and digital media.

The consultation presented a Parish reviving after lockdown and recovering steadily from the Vicar's resignation, aware of its challenges and looking to grow and flourish in partnership with a new incumbent. It was clear that our relatively ageing congregation longs to be re-energised, attracting young families into our churches and reaching out to those moving into the new housing areas in Wantage.

There was recognition of the value of our heritage, rich in sacrament, holy ritual and the Anglican choral tradition. However, there was an awareness, too, that new potential members of our Parish family may sometimes find our ways confusing, even off-putting. We wish to build on our strengths, while increasing the breadth of appeal in our services.

The review confirmed our wish to operate wholeheartedly within the policies and practices of the Anglican Communion, and sustaining our role as a place where curates are trained and equipped to become inspired and inspirational pastoral leaders in the Church of England.

A Parish Profile and advertisement were developed, with a small team working on drafting and design. These were issued just after Christmas and received plaudits from the Diocese for their honesty and engaging layout.

While the outcome of the recruitment process occurred outside the period of this report, it is appropriate to report that, following a successful selection day in March 2022, the Bishop of Dorchester offered the position of Vicar of Wantage to the Reverend Katherine Price, who the selection panel assessed as an outstanding candidate and the right choice for Wantage.

We continue to pray for Katherine and her family in this transition, and look forward to a new and exciting phase of Parish life under her pastoral leadership.



## Financial position

The PCC's accounts on pages 16 to 30 distinguish between:

- unrestricted funds – day-to-day income which can be used for any purpose within the broad charitable objectives of the PCC; and
- restricted funds – money which can only be used for specific purposes based on the origin of the funds or the wishes of the original donors.

A summary of income and expenditure for 2021 is set out on page 16, with comparative figures for 2020 on the following page.

In 2021, our unrestricted income covered only 70% of our day-to-day expenditure, leading to a deficit on unrestricted funds of £48,025.

This is similar to the position in 2020. The unrestricted income reported for 2020 included a significant legacy of almost £72,000 and some £14,000 of additional Gift Aid that was recovered from the tax authorities in respect of earlier years. Excluding these exceptional items, the deficit on unrestricted funds in 2020 was £55,902.

Adjusting for the exceptional items in 2020, a comparison between the two years is as follows:

| | 2021 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ |
| Unrestricted income | 112,337 | 101,063 |
| Day-to-day expenditure | (160,362) | (156,965) |
| Deficit | (48,025) | (55,902) |

More information about unrestricted income is given in notes 2 to 5 of the accounts. Compared with 2020, there was a small increase in giving by church members and fundraising as restrictions resulting from Covid-19 began to ease. Donations also benefited from a one-off donation of £17,085. Without this, unrestricted income would have been below the adjusted figure of £101,063 for 2020, and the deficit on unrestricted funds would have been £65,000.

Expenditure out of unrestricted income in 2021 was broadly comparable to 2020 (see the analysis by type of fund in note 6). The Parish met its "parish share" commitment to the Diocese of Oxford in full, contributing £86,931 (2020: £87,810) towards the cost of clergy stipends and training and other diocesan costs.

The third column of figures on page 16 shows the movements in restricted funds during 2021. The restricted funds benefitted from investment income of £14,416 and increases in investment values of £74,798 (discussed further below). Significant expenditure was on the repair and renewal of the north aisle roof at the Parish Church (to be completed in 2022) and the purchase of a new altar and other sanctuary furnishings at Holy Trinity Church. An analysis of movements in the different restricted funds can be found in note 14 of the accounts.

The balance sheet on page 18 shows the assets held by the PCC at the end of 2021 (with comparative figures for 2020). Tangible assets are the house in Barnards Way occupied by our assistant curate (recorded at its cost of £40,000 some years ago) and a small amount for fixtures and fittings (mostly recent improvements to the curate's house).

Amounts owed to the PCC as debtors were unusually high at the end of 2020 because of the inclusion of the significant legacy referred to above. This was received in the early part of 2021 and debtors returned to a more typical level.

The PCC's investments are managed by CCLA Investment Management and recorded at their market value at the end of 2021. During the year, investment values continued to recover strongly as concerns about the Covid-19 pandemic receded and governments in many countries supported their economies. More recently, however, the turmoil and uncertainty caused by the war in Ukraine mean that investment values have fallen since 31 December 2021, and investment markets are likely to continue to be volatile in the months ahead.

### *Reserves policy*

The PCC has designated part of its unrestricted funds to reflect the funds tied up in the house purchased for the use of an assistant curate training in the Parish. The amount (£40,000) represents the cost of the house when it was purchased some years ago (rather than its current value). For as long as these funds are tied up in the house, they are not available for other purposes. The PCC has also designated a long-term organ maintenance fund to reflect the need periodically to undertake a major service of the organ at the Parish Church. A transfer of £1,000 is made into this fund each year out of general unrestricted funds.

Excluding the balances on these two designated funds, the general unrestricted funds of the PCC at the end of 2021 were some £58,899. It is the PCC's policy to maintain general unrestricted funds of approximately six months' unrestricted expenditure (about £80,000), to allow for fluctuations in income and unexpected repairs or other items of expenditure. The current level of general unrestricted funds is therefore somewhat below this target.

This highlights the need to increase income from both regular giving by church members and fundraising activities in the years ahead.

The PCC is fortunate also to hold restricted funds, the largest element of which (worth nearly £700,000 at the end of 2021) arose from the sale of properties once owned by the PCC. This money can be used at the PCC's discretion for any ecclesiastical purpose within the Parish, including for most types of expenditure which are normally met out of the PCC's unrestricted funds.

The PCC is undertaking a review of the Parish's financial position and strategy which will consider how this element of the restricted funds can best be used to:

- support Parish activities as work continues to increase current income to match day-to-day expenditure;
- enable new ministry initiatives; and
- invest in improvements to the Parish Church.

The PCC has designated a total of £40,000 of these reserves towards the cost of employing a Children's and Families Worker in the Parish for five years from 2022/23.

As far as other restricted funds given for specific purposes are concerned (detailed in note 14 to the financial statements), it is the policy of the PCC to spend them on those purposes as soon as reasonably possible.

## Our structure & governance

The PCC's legal status and powers are determined by legislation, in particular the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 (as amended). The PCC is a registered charity, and the members of the PCC are the charity's trustees under charity law.

Membership of the PCC is governed by the Church Representation Rules. The Vicar, other clergy licensed to serve in the Parish and the churchwardens are automatically members. Other members are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting by church members who are on the Electoral Roll of the Parish. We encourage everyone (aged 16 and over) who attends our churches regularly to register on the Electoral Roll.

Churchwardens are elected each year at the Annual Meeting of Parishioners, which is open to all residents of the Parish. They serve from the date they are subsequently admitted to office by the Bishop and continue in office until their successor is admitted by the Bishop following election.

Church members elect up to four people to serve on the Wantage Deanery Synod as well as on the PCC. Their term of office is three years. The previous term would normally have ended on 30 June 2020, but as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic was extended to 31 December 2020. The current term runs to 30 June 2023. At the end of their term of office, Deanery Synod representatives may be re-elected for a second three-year term but must then take a break of at least a three-year term

before standing again for election (unless the PCC decides otherwise).

There are up to nine other elected PCC members, three from among those who normally worship at Holy Trinity Church and six from among those who normally worship at the Parish Church. They serve for terms of three years from the date of election. They may be re-elected for a second three-year term but must then take a break of at least a year before standing again for election (unless the PCC decides otherwise). In 2020, as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, terms of office which would have expired in April were extended to the date of the delayed Annual Parochial Church Meeting which took place on 11 October 2020.

Under the Church Representation Rules, the PCC has the power to co-opt additional members to fill casual vacancies. Co-opted members serve until the next Annual Parochial Church Meeting when they may stand for election.

The following are the members of the PCC at the date of this report. Except where indicated, they served throughout 2021.

***Clergy***

Fr Philip Wells, Vicar (up to 10 August 2021)
Fr Benji Tyler, Assistant Curate

***Churchwardens***

Jan Ralston
David Richardson (from 2 September 2021)

***Representatives on Deanery Synod***

- ***from July 2017 to 31 December 2020 and re-elected on 9 April 2021 by the PCC to fill casual vacancies and serve to 30 June 2023***

  Susie Lapwood (from 15 May 2019; up to that date an elected member of the PCC from April 2018)
  John Ridgway
- ***elected 25 April 2021 to fill a casual vacancy and serve to 30 June 2023***

  Ann Gregory (prior to 25 April 2021, an elected member of the PCC from April 2015)

*There is currently one vacancy for an elected Deanery Synod representative.*

***Other elected members of the PCC***

- ***from April 2016, re-elected 28 April 2019***

  Catherine Mann
- ***from 22 April 2018, re-elected 25 April 2021***

  David Law (PCC Treasurer)
- ***from 11 October 2020***

  Elizabeth Marshall
  Bridget Procter
- ***from 25 April 2021***

  Simon Jones
  Peter King

***Co-opted members of the PCC***

- ***from 25 April 2021***

  Ivie Johnson
  Ben Mabbett

*There is currently one vacancy for an elected PCC member from the Holy Trinity congregation.*

In addition to those above, Alastair Hunter served on the PCC from the beginning of 2021 until coming to the end of his term of office at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 25 April 2021.

Bill Jestico was a member of the PCC from the beginning of 2021 until his term of office as a churchwarden ended on 2 September 2021.

The PCC is responsible for overseeing the life and activities of the Parish and for making decisions about all matters of general importance, including how the PCC's funds should be spent. The PCC met on 12 occasions during 2021. This was more often than usual because of the need to keep Covid-19 precautions under review and to address issues arising out of the interregnum and steps to appoint a new Vicar.

The Vicar and the two Churchwardens provide leadership and take day-to-day management decisions. Together with Catherine Mann and Susie Lapwood (elected by the PCC from its members) and David Law (PCC Treasurer), they comprise the Standing and Finance Committee of the PCC, which has delegated powers to take decisions between meetings of the PCC.

Bob Chaplow serves as secretary of the PCC but is not a member.

### *Safeguarding*

The PCC acknowledges that it has a duty of care towards the vulnerable in our church community. During 2021 we continued to take steps to ensure that the Parish is compliant with the safeguarding measures set out in the Church of England Parish Safeguarding Handbook.

These actions included:

- Keeping the Parish safeguarding policy under review
- Displaying safeguarding posters in both our churches
- Ensuring that all necessary DBS checks are carried out for people in relevant positions within our church community
- Ensuring that safeguarding training is completed by people in relevant roles, in line with diocesan requirements
- Liaison when necessary with the diocesan safeguarding team and statutory bodies
- Following a 'safer recruitment' process for all appointments to relevant positions, both paid and voluntary
- Enrolment in the Diocese's Parish Dashboards scheme to monitor our safeguarding status and produce an Action Plan

A new Parish Safeguarding Officer, Matt Godfrey, was appointed at the beginning of 2021.

### *Statement of trustees' responsibilities*

The members of the PCC, as the trustees of the charity, are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the accounts in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice. The trustees are required to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs and of its financial activities during the year.

In preparing these accounts, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- comply with applicable accounting standards and, in particular, prepare the accounts in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice on Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102);
- state whether the accounting standards and guidance referred to above have been followed; and
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the requirements referred to above. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

### *Administrative information*

Our website is at www.wantageparish.com.

The address for correspondence in relation to Parish matters is:

Parish Office
The Butler Centre
Church Street
Wantage
OX12 8BL

The PCC's bankers are:

Barclays Bank plc
17 Market Place
Wantage
OX12 8AG

The independent examiner of the PCC's accounts is:

A Chapman FCA
Chapman Worth Limited
3 Old Estate Yard
East Hendred
OX12 8JY

## Conclusion

The challenges faced by the Parish in 2021 were considerable, both because of the Covid-19 pandemic and as a result of the resignation of our Vicar in July.

However, through the efforts of many people, Parish life was sustained, and the consultation that informed the Parish Profile was valuable in helping us to think about our priorities.

By the end of the year a sense of renewal and optimism was emerging, and we now look forward with hope and faith in the future of the Parish and to welcoming the Revd Katherine Price as the next Vicar of Wantage.

This report was approved by the Standing Committee of the PCC on 31 March 2022 and signed on behalf of the trustees by:

**Jan Ralston**
Churchwarden

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# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WANTAGE
## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
## TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Parochial Church Council of Wantage for the year ended 31 December 2021.

### Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act'). You are satisfied that the accounts of the charity are not required by charity law to be audited and have chosen instead to have an independent examination.

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

### Independent examiner's statement

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

1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or

2 the accounts do not accord with those records; or

3 the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act; or

4 the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

**A Chapman FCA**
**Chapman Worth Limited**
3 Old Estate Yard
East Hendred
Oxfordshire
OX12 8JY

7 April 2022

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WANTAGE
## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

| | Notes | General unrestricted funds £ | Designated unrestricted funds £ | Restricted funds £ | Total 2021 £ | *Total 2020 £* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Income from:** | | | | | | |
| Donations and legacies | **2** | 94,173 | - | 2,863 | 97,036 | *161,999* |
| Charitable activities | **3** | 9,697 | - | - | 9,697 | *8,302* |
| Other operating activities | **4** | 7,459 | - | 30,158 | 37,617 | *21,780* |
| Investments | **5** | 1,008 | - | 14,416 | 15,424 | *15,035* |
| **Total income** | | 112,337 | - | 47,437 | 159,774 | *207,116* |
| **Expenditure on:** | | | | | | |
| Raising funds | **6** | 2,326 | - | - | 2,326 | *1,306* |
| Charitable activities | **6** | 158,036 | - | 87,821 | 245,857 | *164,633* |
| **Total resources expended** | | 160,362 | - | 87,821 | 248,183 | *165,939* |
| **Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains** | | (48,025) | - | (40,384) | (88,409) | *41,117* |
| Net gains/(losses) on investments | **9** | - | - | 74,798 | 74,798 | *33,724* |
| **Net income/(expenditure)** | | (48,025) | - | 34,414 | (13,611) | *74,901* |
| **Transfers between funds** | **14** | (1,000) | 1,000 | - | - | - |
| **Net movement in funds** | | (49,025) | 1,000 | 34,414 | (13,611) | *74,901* |
| Fund balances at 1 January | | 107,924 | 52,000 | 701,550 | 861,474 | *786,573* |
| **Fund balances at 31 December** | **14** | 58,899 | 53,000 | 735,964 | 847,863 | *861,474* |

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The comparative figures for the previous year are analysed on the next page.

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WANTAGE
## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

### *Comparative figures for 2020*

| | Notes | General unrestricted funds £ | Designated unrestricted funds £ | Restricted funds £ | Total 2020 £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ***Income from:*** | | | | | |
| *Donations and legacies* | **2** | *159,893* | *-* | *2,106* | *161,999* |
| *Charitable activities* | **3** | *8,302* | *-* | *-* | *8,302* |
| *Other operating activities* | **4** | *17,336* | *-* | *4,444* | *21,780* |
| *Investments* | **5** | *1,426* | *-* | *13,609* | *15,035* |
| ***Total income*** | | *186,957* | *-* | *20,159* | *207,116* |
| ***Expenditure on:*** | | | | | |
| *Raising funds* | **6** | *1,306* | *-* | *-* | *1,306* |
| *Charitable activities* | **6** | *155,659* | *-* | *8,974* | *164,633* |
| ***Total resources expended*** | | *156,965* | *-* | *8,974* | *165,939* |
| ***Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains*** | | *29,992* | *-* | *11,185* | *41,117* |
| *Net gains/(losses) on investments* | **9** | *-* | *-* | *33,724* | *33,724* |
| ***Net income/(expenditure)*** | | *29,992* | *-* | *44,909* | *74,901* |
| ***Transfers between funds*** | **14** | *(1,000)* | *1,000* | *-* | *-* |
| ***Net movement in funds*** | | *28,992* | *1,000* | *44,909* | *74,901* |
| *Fund balances at 1 January* | | *78,932* | *51,000* | *656,641* | *786,573* |
| ***Fund balances at 31 December*** | **14** | *107,924* | *52,000* | *701,550* | *861,474* |

*The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.*

*All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.*

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WANTAGE
## BALANCE SHEET
## AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

| | Notes | 2021 £ | 2021 £ | *2020* *£* | *2020* *£* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Fixed assets** | | | | | |
| Tangible assets | **10** | | 45,724 | | *47,228* |
| Investments | **11** | | 530,697 | | *636,133* |
| | | | 576,421 | | *683,361* |
| **Current assets** | | | | | |
| Debtors | **12** | 12,444 | | *106,320* | |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | 262,125 | | *74,043* | |
| | | 274,569 | | *180,363* | |
| **Creditors: amounts falling due within one year** | **13** | (3,127) | | *(2,250)* | |
| **Net current assets** | | | 271,442 | | *178,113* |
| **Total assets less current liabilities** | | | 847,863 | | *861,474* |
| **Income funds** | | | | | |
| Restricted funds | **14** | | 735,964 | | *701,550* |
| Designated unrestricted funds | **14** | | 53,000 | | *52,000* |
| General unrestricted funds | **14** | | 58,899 | | *107,924* |
| | | | 847,863 | | *861,474* |

These accounts were approved on 31 March 2022

..... .....

**Jan Ralston** **David Law**

Churchwarden Treasurer

### 1 Accounting policies

**Charity information**

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Peter & St Paul Wantage is a registered charity (number 1181640). References in these accounts to "the PCC" are references to this charity. The members of the PCC are the trustees of the charity under charity law and are referred to in these accounts as "the trustees".

The PCC constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102.

### 1.1 Accounting convention

The accounts are for the year to 31 December 2021 and are presented in sterling, rounded to the nearest pound.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policies below or the subsequent notes.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with:

- the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102);
- the Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS102 (Charities SORP); and
- the Charities Act 2011.

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation and uncertainty in the preparation of the accounts are set out below.

### 1.2 Charitable funds

The funds of the PCC are divided into the categories set out below, depending on the terms on which they were donated.

Endowment funds comprise capital sums which must be permanently held. The income which arises on endowment funds can be used for specified purposes in accordance with the terms under which the funds were given. The PCC holds no endowment funds at this time.

Restricted funds are held for specific purposes based on the origin of the funds or the wishes of the donors, and are not available for any other purpose. The PCC has designated certain restricted funds to be held for particular uses within the broader purposes specified. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in note 14 below.

Designated unrestricted funds are those which, although available for any purpose within the broad charitable objectives of the PCC, have been designated by the PCC to be held for a specified purpose.

General unrestricted funds are those which may be used for any purpose within the broad charitable objectives of the PCC.

### 1.3 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Preparation of the accounts requires the trustees to make judgements and estimates. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates. The estimates and underlying assumptions are kept under review. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised.

Significant judgements and estimates are made from time to time in relation to:

- estimating the likely amount of legacy income once the PCC is aware of its entitlement to receive a legacy; and
- estimating the useful economic life of tangible fixed assets.

**1 Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.4 Financial risk**

The main form of financial risk faced by the PCC relates to its investments and concerns volatility in equity and other investment markets due to wider economic conditions, the attitude of investors to investment risk, and changes in sentiment concerning equities and within particular investment sectors.

The PCC does not acquire options, derivatives or other complex financial instruments. Apart from its investments, the PCC only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments.

**1.5 Going concern**

The trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern assumption is appropriate in preparing these financial statements. The trustees have made this assessment in respect of a period of one year from the date of approval of the financial statements. The trustees acknowledge and recognise the impact of the Covid-19 coronavirus pandemic on the Parish. Church buildings were closed for long periods in 2020 and 2021. This reduced the PCC's income from collections, from the use of church buildings by other organisations, and because fundraising events could not be held. It will take time to rebuild these sources of income. The income of the PCC may also be affected because of volatility in investment values.

Despite these uncertainties, because of the level of the PCC's financial reserves, the trustees have concluded that the PCC will have sufficient resources to meet its liabilities as they fall due and that the current circumstances do not impact on the charity's ability to operate as a going concern.

**1.6 Incoming resources**

Income is recognised once the PCC has entitlement to the incoming resources, any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations and grants are recognised when the PCC has confirmation of both the amount and settlement date. In the event of donations and grants pledged but not received, the amount is recorded when the receipt is considered probable. In the event that a donation or grant is subject to conditions, the income is deferred and not recognised until either the conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of the conditions is wholly within the control of the PCC and it is probable that they will be fulfilled in the reporting period. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid is recognised at the same time as the related donation.

Legacies are recognised when there is sufficient evidence to place a value on the amount the PCC is likely to receive. This is when either confirmation has been received from the executors of the estate, or probate has been granted, or a distribution is received. Recognition of legacies in a form other than cash or listed investments is subject to the value being reliably measurable. Where the PCC has or may have entitlement to a legacy but there is uncertainty about the amount or value, information is disclosed about the potential future asset.

Investment income is recognised once the PCC has been notified of the amount that is receivable. Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

**1 Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.7 Resources expended**

Expenditure is included in the statement of financial activities when incurred. It includes irrecoverable VAT. Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the PCC to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure comprises direct costs and support costs. Support costs represent indirect charitable expenditure. The costs of each activity include both those costs directly attributable to the category and a proportion of general support costs. Governance costs comprise the costs relating to the public accountability of the charity and compliance with regulation and good practice.

The classification between activities is as follows:

- expenditure on raising funds includes all expenditure associated with raising funds for the PCC;
- expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs associated with furthering the charitable purposes of the PCC, including governance costs.

Expenditure on charitable activities is split between:

- worship & ministry; and
- charitable giving in support of other charities and charitable activities.

No value is ascribed to the considerable effort of the many volunteers who support the ministry and other activities of the charity.

**1.8 Tangible fixed assets**

There are two Anglican church buildings within the Parish: the Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul and Holy Trinity Church, Charlton. In accordance with church legislation, the PCC is responsible for the upkeep of these buildings, including fixtures and furnishings within them, but does not own them. Accordingly, the church buildings and their contents are not included in these financial statements. All expenditure on maintaining and improving the church buildings, and on their fixtures and furnishings, is charged directly to the statement of financial activities when incurred.

All other tangible assets or groups of tangible assets costing more than £500 and with an expected useful economic life exceeding one year are capitalised. Depreciation is provided in order to write off the cost less any expected residual value over the estimated useful life of each asset (or group of assets) at the following annual rates:

- residential property – no depreciation as the expected residual value exceeds the cost;
- fixtures & fittings in residential property – on a straight-line basis over ten years;
- office equipment – on a straight-line basis over four years.

**1.9 Fixed asset investments**

The PCC's investments are held in investment funds managed by CCLA Investment Management. They are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing market price.

Realised gains (or losses) on investment assets are calculated as the difference between disposal proceeds and the opening carrying value at the beginning of the financial year (or the purchase value if acquired during the year). Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the fair value at the year end and the previous carrying value. Realised and unrealised investment gains (or losses) are combined in the statement of financial activities and are recorded in the year in which they arise.

**1 Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.10 Debtors**

Amounts of money owed to the PCC (referred to as debtors) are recognised at their settlement amount, less an allowance for any amounts which may not be recoverable. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid. Debtors and prepayments are discounted to the present value of the future cash receipt where such discounting is material.

**1.11 Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash at bank and in hand represents such accounts and balances that are available on demand or had an original maturity of less than three months. Term deposits for more than three months but less than one year are shown as short-term deposits. Cash placed on deposit for more than one year is included as part of fixed asset investments.

**1.12 Creditors**

Amounts of money owed by the PCC (referred to as creditors) and provisions for any other liabilities of the PCC are recognised when there is an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are recognised at the amount the PCC anticipates it will pay to settle the debt. They are discounted to the present value of the future cash payment where such discounting is material.

**2 Donations and legacies**

| | General unrestricted funds | Restricted funds | Total 2021 | *Total 2020* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ | £ | *£* |
| Planned giving by church members | 55,096 | - | 55,096 | *53,924* |
| Collections at services | 3,122 | 2,437 | 5,559 | *5,570* |
| Legacies | 2,515 | - | 2,515 | *71,816* |
| Other donations | 20,578 | 426 | 21,004 | *3,534* |
| Tax recoverable on donations under Gift Aid | 12,862 | - | 12,862 | *27,155* |
| | 94,173 | 2,863 | 97,036 | *161,999* |
| ***Comparative figures for 2020*** | | | | |
| *Planned giving by church members* | *53,924* | - | | *53,924* |
| *Collections at services* | *3,464* | *2,106* | | *5,570* |
| *Legacies* | *71,816* | - | | *71,816* |
| *Other donations* | *3,534* | - | | *3,534* |
| *Tax recoverable on donations under Gift Aid* | *27,155* | - | | *27,155* |
| | *159,893* | *2,106* | | *161,999* |

### 3 Income from charitable activities

| | General unrestricted funds £ | Restricted funds £ | Total 2021 £ | *Total 2020 £* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fees & contributions for occasional offices | 9,642 | - | 9,642 | *7,869* |
| Publications, quiet days & children's activities | 55 | - | 55 | *433* |
| | 9,697 | - | 9,697 | *8,302* |
| ***Comparative figures for 2020*** | | | | |
| *Fees & contributions for occasional offices* | *7,869* | - | | *7,869* |
| *Publications, quiet days & children's activities* | *433* | - | | *433* |
| | *8,302* | - | | *8,302* |

Fees & contributions for occasional offices relate to baptisms, weddings and funerals held in the two Anglican churches of the Parish.

### 4 Income from other operating activities

| | General unrestricted funds £ | Restricted funds £ | Total 2021 £ | *Total 2020 £* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fundraising | 4,470 | 2,911 | 7,381 | *4,758* |
| Grants | 931 | 27,247 | 28,178 | *7,605* |
| Use of churches by other organisations | 808 | - | 808 | *1,917* |
| Rental income | 1,250 | - | 1,250 | *7,500* |
| | 7,459 | 30,158 | 37,617 | *21,780* |
| ***Comparative figures for 2020*** | | | | |
| *Fundraising* | *2,814* | *1,944* | | *4,758* |
| *Grants* | *5,105* | *2,500* | | *7,605* |
| *Use of churches by other organisations* | *1,917* | - | | *1,917* |
| *Rental income* | *7,500* | - | | *7,500* |
| | *17,336* | *4,444* | | *21,780* |

### 5 Income from investments

| | General unrestricted funds £ | Restricted funds £ | Total 2021 £ | *Total 2020 £* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Investment income | 1,008 | 14,416 | 15,424 | *15,035* |
| ***Comparative figures for 2020*** | *1,426* | *13,609* | | *15,035* |

**6 Expenditure**

| | Notes | Clergy costs £ | Church buildings £ | Other costs £ | Total 2021 £ | *Total 2020 £* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Expenditure on charitable activities** | | | | | | |
| Worship & ministry | | 92,518 | 108,514 | 39,194 | 240,226 | *161,844* |
| Charitable giving | 7 | - | - | 5,631 | 5,631 | *2,789* |
| | | 92,518 | 108,514 | 44,825 | 245,857 | *164,633* |
| **Costs of raising funds** | | - | - | 2,326 | 2,326 | *1,306* |
| | | 92,518 | 108,514 | 47,151 | 248,183 | *165,939* |
| **Analysis by type of fund:** | | | | | | |
| Unrestricted funds | | 92,518 | 28,728 | 39,116 | 160,362 | *156,965* |
| Restricted funds | | - | 79,786 | 8,035 | 87,821 | *8,974* |
| | | 92,518 | 108,514 | 47,151 | 248,183 | *165,939* |
| ***Comparative figures for 2020*** | | | | | | |
| ***Expenditure on charitable activities*** | | | | | | |
| *Worship & ministry* | | *90,838* | *37,327* | *33,679* | | *161,844* |
| *Charitable giving* | *7* | - | - | *2,789* | | *2,789* |
| | | *90,838* | *37,327* | *36,468* | | *164,633* |
| ***Costs of raising funds*** | | - | - | *1,306* | | 1,306 |
| | | *90,838* | *37,327* | *37,774* | | *165,939* |
| ***Analysis by type of fund:*** | | | | | | |
| *Unrestricted funds* | | *90,838* | *31,022* | *35,105* | | *156,965* |
| *Restricted funds* | | - | *6,305* | *2,669* | | *8,974* |
| | | *90,838* | *37,327* | *37,774* | | *165,939* |

Expenditure includes:

- staff costs of £24,778 in respect of six part-time employees employed for all or part of the year *(2020: £18,222 for five part-time employees)*.
- governance costs of £1,398 *(2020: £1,600)*, being the cost of the independent examination of these accounts and assistance in their preparation.

Clergy costs include £86,931 *(2020: £87,810)* paid to the Diocese of Oxford as the Parish's contribution to diocesan costs, principally stipend, training and other costs relating to parish clergy.

### 7 Charitable giving

| | 2021 | *2020* |
|---|---|---|
| | £ | *£* |
| Ray Collins Trust (Coronavirus support in the local community) | 1,606 | *500* |
| RAF Association | 91 | - |
| Toilet Twinning | - | *360* |
| Wantage Independent Advice Centre | - | *725* |
| Archbishop's Together in Unity Coronavirus Appeal | - | *307* |
| Support for Greenfields School, Thokoza | 3,934 | *897* |
| | 5,631 | *2,789* |

### 8 Trustees

The members of the Parochial Church Council are the trustees of the charity and are responsible for the overall direction and control of the charity. The Vicar and Churchwardens provide leadership and take day-to-day management decisions.

One trustee, John Ridgway, is remunerated as Assistant Organist under a contract which pre-dates his appointment as a trustee. In 2021, he received £3,347 *(2020: £2,562)*. He takes no part in the determination of his salary by the PCC. Russell Leigh, who was a trustee for part of 2020, sometimes plays the organ at services and is paid at the same rate as other occasional organists. In 2020, he received £60 during the period when he was a trustee. In accordance with the Church of England's normal policy, Fr Benji Tyler as Assistant Curate in the Parish lives in a house provided by the PCC. Except as noted in this paragraph and in note 16, none of the trustees (or anyone connected with them) received from the PCC any remuneration, benefit or payment for services during the year (or the preceding year).

Seven trustees were reimbursed a total of £3,508 for expenses which they incurred on behalf of the PCC *(2020: seven trustees reimbursed £5,288).* These expenses comprised travel and office costs for the clergy serving the Parish and goods and services purchased for use in our churches.

Trustees made unrestricted donations to the PCC totalling £11,480 *(2020: £8,671)* during the periods when they were trustees.

### 9 Net gains/(losses) on investments

| | General unrestricted funds | Restricted funds | Total 2021 | *Total 2020* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ | £ | *£* |
| Revaluation of investments | - | 74,798 | 74,798 | *33,724* |
| ***Comparative figures for 2020*** | - | *33,724* | | *33,724* |

### 10 Tangible fixed assets

| | Freehold land and buildings £ | Fixtures and fittings £ | Total £ |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Cost** | | | |
| At 1 January 2021 | 40,000 | 15,036 | 55,036 |
| Additions | - | - | - |
| At 31 December 2021 | 40,000 | 15,036 | 55,036 |
| **Depreciation and impairment** | | | |
| At 1 January 2021 | - | 7,808 | 7,808 |
| Depreciation charged in the year | - | 1,504 | 1,504 |
| At 31 December 2021 | - | 9,312 | 9,312 |
| **Carrying amount** | | | |
| At 31 December 2021 | 40,000 | 5,724 | 45,724 |
| *At 31 December 2020* | *40,000* | *7,228* | *47,228* |

The freehold property comprises a house which is provided for the assistant curate serving the Parish. As the residual value is greater than the original cost, no depreciation is provided. The property was valued at £270,000 in 2015 and will have gone up further in value since then.

### 11 Fixed asset investments

| | 2021 | *2020* |
|---|---|---|
| **Managed investments** | **£** | ***£*** |
| Market value at 1 January 2021 | 636,133 | *599,278* |
| Additions | - | - |
| Withdrawals | (182,580) | - |
| Income reinvested | 2,346 | *3,131* |
| Unrealised gains/(losses) | 74,798 | *33,724* |
| Market value at 31 December 2021 | 530,697 | *636,133* |

Investments comprise holdings in the following funds managed by CCLA Investment Management:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| CBF Church of England Investment Fund | 530,462 | *528,445* |
| CBF Church of England Deposit Fund | 235 | *107,688* |
| | 530,697 | *636,133* |

### 12 Debtors

| | 2021 | *2020* |
|---|---|---|
| **Amounts falling due within one year** | **£** | ***£*** |
| Tax recoverable on donations under Gift Aid | 1,800 | *29,520* |
| Legacies receivable | - | *71,816* |
| Other debtors & prepayments | 10,644 | *4,984* |
| | 12,444 | *106,320* |

### 13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

| | 2021 | *2020* |
|---|---|---|
| | **£** | ***£*** |
| Other creditors & accruals | 3,127 | *2,250* |

### 14 Funds

The table on the following page summarises the different funds held by the PCC (the subsequent page shows comparative figures for the previous year).

The largest element of the restricted reserves arose from the sale of properties once owned by the PCC. This element is available to be spent on any ecclesiastical purpose within the Parish. The funds concerned totalled £693,008 at the end of 2021 *(2020: £603,795)*. The PCC has designated £40,000 of this element of the restricted funds to cover the cost (net of grants to be received) of employing a Children and Families Worker for five years from 2022/23.

The PCC has designated £40,000 *(2020: £40,000)* of its unrestricted reserves as a curate's housing fund. This represents the cost of the property purchased by the PCC as a house for an assistant curate in training in the Parish. The amount has been designated as a separate fund since this cannot currently be realised and used for any other purpose.

The PCC has also designated a long-term organ maintenance fund totalling £13,000 *(2020: £12,000)*. A transfer is made into this fund each year from general unrestricted funds to reflect the need to undertake periodically a major service of the organ at the Parish Church.

**14 Funds (continued)**

| | Balance at 1 January 2021 | Movement in funds: Incoming resources | Resources expended | Revaluation gains and losses | Transfers between reserves | Balance at 31 December 2021 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| **Restricted funds** | | | | | | |
| Funds arising from properties once owned by the PCC: | | | | | | |
| Designated for a Children's & Families Worker | 40,000 | - | - | - | - | 40,000 |
| Available for any ecclesiastical purpose within the Parish | 563,795 | 14,415 | - | 74,798 | - | 653,008 |
| | 603,795 | 14,415 | - | 74,798 | - | 693,008 |
| Other restricted funds: | | | | | | |
| Fabric of Parish buildings | 77,000 | 10,644 | (63,860) | - | - | 23,784 |
| Maintenance of Parish Church clock | 1,663 | - | (1,663) | - | - | - |
| Fabric & furnishing of Holy Trinity Church | 15,109 | 15,230 | (14,263) | - | - | 16,076 |
| Music in the Parish | - | 1,800 | (1,800) | - | - | - |
| Charitable giving fund | 1,863 | 5,348 | (5,631) | | | 1,580 |
| Children's activities | 2,120 | - | (604) | - | - | 1,516 |
| | 701,550 | 47,437 | (87,821) | 74,798 | - | 735,964 |
| **Designated unrestricted funds** | | | | | | |
| Curate's housing fund | 40,000 | - | - | - | - | 40,000 |
| Long-term organ maintenance fund | 12,000 | - | - | - | 1,000 | 13,000 |
| **General unrestricted funds** | 107,924 | 112,337 | (160,362) | - | (1,000) | 58,899 |
| **Total funds** | 861,474 | 159,774 | (248,183) | 74,798 | - | 847,863 |

**14 Funds (continued)**

***Comparative figures for 2020***

| | *Balance at 1 January 2020* | *Movement in funds* | | | | *Balance at 31 December 2020* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *Incoming resources* | *Resources expended* | *Revaluation gains and losses* | *Transfers between reserves* | |
| | *£* | *£* | *£* | *£* | *£* | *£* |
| ***Restricted funds*** | | | | | | |
| *Funds arising from properties once owned by the PCC:* | | | | | | |
| *Designated for a Children's & Families Worker* | - | - | - | - | 40,000 | 40,000 |
| *Available for any ecclesiastical purpose within the Parish* | 556,462 | 13,609 | - | 33,724 | (40,000) | 563,795 |
| | 556,462 | 13,609 | - | 33,724 | - | 603,795 |
| *Other restricted funds:* | | | | | | |
| *Fabric of Parish buildings* | 77,000 | - | - | - | - | 77,000 |
| *Maintenance of Parish Church clock* | 1,663 | - | - | - | - | 1,663 |
| *Fabric & furnishing of Holy Trinity Church* | 21,414 | - | (6,305) | - | - | 15,109 |
| *Music in the Parish* | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| *Charitable giving fund* | 102 | 4,050 | (2,289) | - | - | 1,863 |
| *Children's activities* | - | 2,500 | (380) | - | - | 2,120 |
| | 656,641 | 20,159 | (8,974) | 33,724 | - | 701,550 |
| ***Designated unrestricted funds*** | | | | | | |
| *Curate's housing fund* | 40,000 | - | - | - | - | 40,000 |
| *Long-term organ maintenance fund* | 11,000 | - | - | - | 1,000 | 12,000 |
| ***General unrestricted funds*** | 78,932 | 186,957 | (156,965) | - | (1,000) | 107,924 |
| ***Total funds*** | 786,573 | 207,166 | (165,939) | 33,724 | - | 861,474 |

### 15 Analysis of net assets between funds

| | General unrestricted funds | Designated unrestricted funds | Restricted funds | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Fund balances at 31 December 2021 were represented by: | | | | |
| Tangible assets | 5,724 | 40,000 | - | 45,724 |
| Investments | - | - | 530,697 | 530,697 |
| Other current assets/(liabilities) | 53,175 | 13,000 | 205,267 | 271,442 |
| | 58,899 | 53,000 | 735,964 | 847,863 |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ***Comparative figures for 2020*** | | | | |
| *Fund balances at 31 December 2020 were represented by:* | | | | |
| *Tangible assets* | *7,228* | *40,000* | *-* | *47,228* |
| *Investments* | *44,098* | *-* | *592,035* | *636,133* |
| *Other current assets/(liabilities)* | *56,598* | *12,000* | *109,515* | *178,113* |
| | *107,924* | *52,000* | *701,550* | *861,474* |

### 16 Related party transactions

The husband of one trustee, Ivie Johnson, is employed by the PCC as Director of Music at an annual salary of £6,500 under a contract which pre-dates her appointment as a trustee. She takes no part in the determination of her husband's salary.

The William John Butler Memorial Fund (commonly referred to as the Butler Trust) is a charity whose objects are to advance the Christian religion, in particular (but not exclusively) by the maintenance, repair and improvement of the Parish Church in Wantage and Holy Trinity Church, Charlton. The trustees of the Butler Trust are the Vicar, Churchwardens and David Law, who are also members of the PCC, together with a fifth trustee who is married to someone who was a member of the PCC in 2020 and part of 2021. In 2021, the PCC's income included a grant of £14,804 from the Butler Trust for work on the fabric and furnishings of Holy Trinity Church, Charlton. No grants were received from the Butler Trust in 2020. There were no amounts due to the PCC from the Butler Trust at the end of either 2021 or 2020.

The Wantage Parish Music Guild is a charity whose objects are to support music in the Parish. The trustees of the Music Guild during 2020 and 2021 included two individuals who are married to people who were members of the PCC in 2020 and part of 2021. In 2021, the PCC's income included a grant of £1,800 from the Music Guild towards the cost of the PCC employing an Assistant Organist. No grants were received from the Music Guild in 2020. There were no amounts due to the PCC from the Music Guild at the end of either 2021 or 2020.

wantage parish

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

www.wantageparish.com

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL

England & Wales - Charity number 1181640

# Accounts

wantage parish

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WANTAGE

## ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WANTAGE
## ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

## CONTENTS


INTRODUCTION 3
TRUSTEES' REPORT…….. 4
Our aims, objectives and activities…… …. 4
Achievements and performance…….. . 5
Financial position…….. 7
Reserves policy…….. 8
Looking forward……... 8
Our structure & governance…… 9
Safeguarding…… 10
Statement of trustees' responsibilities…… 10
Administrative information……..….. 11
Conclusion…… 11
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT…….. 13
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS…… 14
Statement of Financial Activities…… 14
Balance Sheet…….. 16
Notes to the Financial Statements…… 17


Charity registration number: 1181640

## INTRODUCTION

There are two parts to this document:

- the Annual Report of the members of the Parochial Church Council ("the PCC"); and
- the Financial Statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2020.

The PCC is a charity and the members of the PCC are its trustees, responsible for its affairs under charity law. This annual report and the financial statements are a public account of Parish activities during 2020. We hope that the document will be of interest to the wider community which we serve as well as to church members.

The annual report provides information about the life of the Parish, including what has been going on in our two church buildings – the Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul and Holy Trinity Church in Charlton – and also online. Significant developments during 2020 included:

- Launch of our Mission Action Plan, setting our priorities for the next five years
- Obtaining grant funding to support the appointment of a Children and Families Worker later in 2021
- The arrival and ordination of Fr Beni Tyler as assistant curate to start his time of training with us
- The closure of our church buildings for extended periods as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic
- Telephone support groups to provide contact for those feeling isolated
- Livestreaming worship so that parishioners could continue to participate in worship from their own homes

More information about these developments and the life of the Parish more generally is given in the following annual report. Like other churches and charities, our activities have been significantly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. The impact of this is discussed in the report.

The members of the Parochial Church Council of Wantage ("the PCC") are pleased to present their report for 2020. The PCC is a charity registered with the Charity Commission (registered number 1181640). Its full registered name is the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Peter & St Paul Wantage. Further information about the structure and governance of the PCC is given towards the end of this report.

## Our aims, objectives and activities

The Parish is part of the Diocese of Oxford within the Church of England. Within the Diocese, our Parish is part of the Wantage Deanery.

The PCC, in collaboration with the Vicar, promotes the mission of the Church of England within the Parish.

This is our vision for the Parish:

**ENCOUNTERING AND SHARING GOD'S TRANSFORMING LOVE**

**Encountering**
through
Inspiring, uplifting and enriching worship
Faithful and compassionate prayer

**Sharing**
by
A generous, open and embracing welcome
Courageous and relevant outreach
Compassionate care

**Transformed**
through
Committed discipleship
Nurturing spiritual growth

The PCC works with the clergy of the Parish to offer a range of opportunities to worship, to pray and to grow spiritually. These normally include:

- Daily offering of the Eucharist in one or other of our two church buildings
- A Vigil Mass on Saturdays and three Masses on Sundays, each with their own style
- New worship initiatives focussed on families with young children
- Daily opening of the Parish Church for private prayer and (new in 2020) a weekly silent prayer group
- A range of other worship and prayer opportunities appropriate to different times in the church year

Through the dedication of many volunteers, the Parish normally reaches out to the local community through activities including:

- *Trinity Tots*, a weekly activity session for babies and toddlers and their carers
- *T bar* and *Men's Breakfast*, two regular welcoming drop-in sessions for chat with refreshments
- Individual pastoral support, including to the bereaved
- Visits to the housebound and residents of local care homes, including singing sessions at St Katherine's
- Sustaining the distinctive Christian ethos of Wantage Church of England Primary School, including through the *Open the Book* bible stories programme
- Supporting local ecumenical projects such as Street Pastors and welcome visits to people moving into new housing
- Encouraging visitors to our church buildings and opening them to community groups and events

Inevitably, many of these activities could not take place for much of 2020 because of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Parish responded to the challenges of the pandemic in various ways, as discussed below.

We support a number of other charities each year through a Christmas appeal and other fundraising.

In leading and guiding the work of the charity, the PCC has had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and in particular the supplementary guidance in relation to charities for the advancement of religion.

## Achievements and performance

Whilst the Covid-19 pandemic and its impact (discussed below) were challenging, there was much to celebrate in the life of the Parish in 2020. We give thanks for everything that was achieved and those who made it possible.

The PCC's focus in 2020 was on finalising a new Mission Action Plan for the Parish, setting an ambitious vision for how the Church in this place can develop and grow in the coming years. The plan has four sections, each looking at a key area of activity:

- Ministry amongst children and young people
- Worship, adult Christian formation and pastoral care
- Buildings and finance
- Communications

The Plan was presented at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in October 2020 and action groups have been set up in 2021 to take forward the different areas.

A key priority is to engage with more children, young people and their families, seeing them grow in faith and regular worship. The PCC has agreed to employ a Children & Families Worker to focus on this and was very pleased to be awarded grant funding from the Diocese of Oxford's Development Fund to support the cost of this post. An appointment is expected to be made later in 2021.

We were delighted during 2020 to welcome Fr Benji Tyler as Assistant Curate. Benji started work in the Parish in July, although because of Covid-19 his ordination was delayed until the autumn.

The Covid-19 pandemic created two major challenges for us:

- how to maintain some form of public worship when our church buildings were either closed or limited by social distancing in the number of people who could be accommodated; and
- keeping in touch with people who were having to spend much or all of the time at home.

From the very first week of lockdown, a weekly Mass was livestreamed on the Parish Facebook page so that anyone with the technology could join the service. Initially this was streamed by Fr Philip Wells, the Vicar, from the vicarage. Later Fr Philip was able to livestream from the Parish Church.

When lockdown was lifted for periods during the second half of the year, public worship in our churches resumed, but with precautions in place to make sure that the churches were Covid-secure. Inevitably, the numbers attending worship were lower because some people needed to shield or self-isolate at home. Social distancing also meant that the seating capacity was significantly reduced. One consequence of this was that the 9.15am Mass on Sunday mornings was moved from Holy Trinity to the Parish Church in order to allow more people to attend.

In the autumn, during a further period of lockdown, Fr Benji, our curate, initiated a new weekly Julian Prayer Meeting on Zoom.

We were able to open the Parish Church for Christmas and the PCC invested in additional technology so that all the principal services could be livestreamed. We also put on an additional carol service so that more people could celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord in church.

To bring the Christmas message to the wider community, the Parish created a *Follow the Star* trail around the town. Window and garden displays illustrating the Christmas theme (including some very creative nativity figures) were accompanied by a quiz sheet to engage younger children.

Although churches were allowed to stay open during the further period of lockdown which followed Christmas 2020, the Vicar and PCC decided not to do so. This was to reduce the risk of Covid-19 transmission in the local community at a time of high infection rates. We have continued to livestream a weekly Mass from the Parish Church.

The Covid-19 pandemic has increased loneliness and isolation. We started a weekly email to keep church members in touch and also increased Parish social media activity on Facebook, Twitter and, more recently, Instagram. This online activity and livestreaming of services have widened our church community and drawn new people into contact with us.

We recognise, however, that there are significant groups of people without access to this sort of technology. As a church community we responded by setting up telephone support groups to maintain contact between individuals. In addition, everyone on the church electoral roll was contacted by the clergy in March or April 2020. Prayer booklets were sent to all those who requested them.

In place of our *T bar* drop-in tea and chat sessions, we have run some online sessions using Zoom. There have also been opportunities during lockdown to meet on Zoom for coffee and chat after the livestreamed Mass on Sundays.

Our choir has continued to rehearse and work on singing technique during lockdown by meeting on Zoom.

Volunteers from the Parish normally present a weekly *Open the Book* assembly to the children at Wantage Church of England Primary School. The sessions bring to life a story from the bible, helping the children to relate what the bible has to say to their own lives. With schools closed or not allowing visitors for much of 2020, the resourceful team started video recording stories instead.

During 2020 we raised money for both the Archbishop's Together in Unity Coronavirus Appeal and the Wantage & Surrounding Area Coronavirus Support Group.

We look forward to being able to resume a much wider range of worship, prayer and other activities during the course of 2021.

One of the PCC's responsibilities is to look after the Parish's two church buildings and the house where our assistant curate lives.

A major refurbishment of Holy Trinity Church was completed in 2018. During 2020, a new altar and other sanctuary furniture were ordered and the two bells in the church were taken away for refurbishment. The bells have since been rehung and the new furniture delivered during March 2021.

Use of Holy Trinity Church by community groups has been increasing since its refurbishment (although many groups were not able to meet for extended periods during 2020 because of Covid-19). We were very pleased to receive, during 2020, a significant new booking for regular use of the church by Wantage Community Support Service. To facilitate community use of the church, we have appointed a caretaker to manage access and cleaning.

The Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul is a grade I listed building dating from the mediaeval period. It is almost 25 years since the interior of the church was last refurbished. The PCC has set up an action group to explore how the building can best serve the Parish's mission as well as local community needs going forward. Out of this will come proposals for renewal of the building.

The launch of a new volunteer *Company of Cleaners* for the Parish Church was put on hold because of the periods of lockdown.

Quinquennial architect's inspections of both our church buildings were carried out in 2020. The various issues identified are gradually being addressed. The inspections identified no major issues requiring urgent attention.

None of the activities and achievements described would be possible without the generous giving of money and time by church members. The Parish encourages church members to give 5% of their income to the church and 5% to other charitable causes, in line with recommendations of the Church of

England nationally. We prefer the use of the Parish Giving Scheme to collect regular contributions, in place of earlier envelope and standing order schemes. The PCC would like to thank all the volunteers who give their time and support the Parish in any way, and everyone who contributes financially.

Our parish is part of the wider Church of England. We benefit hugely from all the work that goes into training and supporting clergy, as well as from the wider support and guidance of the Diocese of Oxford. The Archdeacon of Dorchester visited the Parish in February 2020 to look at our buildings and records, and provided positive feedback. More locally in the Wantage area, we participate in Deanery Synod discussions.

## Financial position

The PCC's financial statements on pages 14 to 28 distinguish between:

- unrestricted funds – day-to-day income which can be used for any purpose within the broad charitable objectives of the PCC; and
- restricted funds – money which can only be used for specific purposes based on the origin of the funds or the wishes of the original donors.

A summary of income and expenditure for 2020 is set out on page 14, with comparative figures for 2019 on the following page.

The unrestricted income reported for 2020 includes a significant legacy of almost £72,000. We were informed of this legacy some time ago, but it was only in 2020 that the value became clear. The unrestricted income for 2020 also includes some £14,000 of additional Gift Aid that was recovered from the tax authorities in respect of earlier years. Our Gift Aid claims are now up to date.

What this means is that if these exceptional items are excluded, our unrestricted income was not sufficient to cover our day-to-day expenditure.

The day-to-day deficit for 2020 was almost £56,000, as follows:

| | £ |
|---|---|
| Surplus shown on page 14 | 29,992 |
| Less: Legacy | (71,816) |
| Less: Gift Aid for earlier years | (14,078) |
| Deficit on day-to-day income | (55,902) |

More information about unrestricted income is given in notes 2 to 5 of the financial statements. Collections at services, fundraising and some other income were reduced because of the closure of our churches for much of the year and other restrictions resulting from Covid-19. To some extent this was compensated for by grants received from Government for periods when our staff were furloughed. Rental income benefitted from the renting of the assistant curate's house in Barnards Way during the first half of the year, prior to the arrival of Fr Benji Tyler.

Expenditure out of unrestricted income was lower than in 2019 largely as a result of lower building maintenance costs (see the analysis by type of fund in note 6). The Parish met its "parish share" commitment in full, contributing £88,000 (2018: £87,000) towards the cost of clergy stipends and training and other diocesan costs.

The third column of figures on page 14 shows the movements in restricted funds during 2020. The restricted funds benefitted from investment income of £14,000 and increases in investment values of £34,000 (discussed further below). Apart from this, there was relatively little restricted income or expenditure from the restricted funds during 2020. An analysis of movements in the different restricted funds can be found in note 14 of the financial statements.

The balance sheet on page 16 shows the assets held by the PCC at the end of 2020 (with comparative figures for 2019). Tangible assets are the house in Barnards Way occupied by our assistant curate (recorded at its cost of £40,000 some years ago) and a small amount for fixtures and fittings (mostly recent improvements to the curate's house).

The PCC's investments are managed by CCLA Investment Management. The investments are recorded at their market value at the end of 2020. There was a sharp decline in investment values in March and April 2020 because of the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. Subsequent recoveries in values, however, meant that over the year as a whole the funds performed well, with gains in value of almost £34,000 (2019: £74,000) (as shown on page 14 and in note 11). The ongoing uncertainty caused by Covid-19 means that investment markets may continue to be volatile in the months ahead.

Amounts owed to the PCC as debtors were unusually high at the end of 2020 because of the inclusion of the legacy referred to above. This was received in the early part of 2021.

With effect from 2021, the PCC has decided to prepare accounts on the simpler receipts and payments method which does not take account of debtors or creditors until the relevant amounts are received or paid.

### *Reserves policy*

The PCC has designated part of its unrestricted funds to reflect the funds tied up in the house purchased for the use of an assistant curate training in the Parish. The amount (£40,000) represents the cost of the house when it was purchased some years ago (rather than its current value). For as long as these funds are tied up in the house, they are not available for other purposes. The PCC has also designated a long-term organ maintenance fund to reflect the need periodically to undertake a major service of the organ at the Parish Church. A transfer of £1,000 is made into this fund each year out of general unrestricted funds.

Excluding the balances on these two designated funds, the general unrestricted funds of the PCC at the end of 2020 were some £108,000. It is the PCC's policy to maintain general unrestricted funds of approximately six months' unrestricted expenditure, to allow for fluctuations in income and unexpected repairs or other items of expenditure. The current level of general unrestricted funds is a little above this target. Without the legacy recorded in 2020, however, the general unrestricted reserves would have fallen below the target level. This highlights the need to increase income from both regular giving by church members and fundraising activities in the years ahead.

The PCC is fortunate also to hold restricted funds, the largest element of which (totalling just over £600,000) arose from the sale of properties once owned by the PCC. This money can be used at the PCC's discretion for any ecclesiastical purpose within the Parish. The PCC is undertaking a review of the Parish's financial position and strategy which will consider how these funds can best be used to:

- enable new ministry initiatives;
- invest in improvements to the Parish Church; and
- support Parish activities as work continues to increase current income to match day-to-day expenditure.

Over the next five years, the PCC will be putting a total of £40,000 of these reserves towards the cost of employing a Children and Families Worker in the Parish.

As far as other restricted funds given for specific purposes are concerned (detailed in note 14 to the financial statements), it is the policy of the PCC to spend them on those purposes as soon as reasonably possible.

## Looking forward

The unprecedented situation caused by the Covid-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the Parish, as it has on society at large. For the first time for hundreds of years the local community could not meet, worship and pray together in its Parish Church.

As a result of the pandemic, a number of new initiatives planned for 2020 had to be deferred. As long as the Covid-19 situation continues to improve, we expect to be able to start making progress again in the implementation of the Parish's Mission Action during 2021. This will include the

appointment of a Children & Families Worker to start work in the autumn of 2021.

## Our structure & governance

The PCC's legal status and powers are determined by legislation, in particular the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 (as amended). The PCC is a registered charity, and the members of the PCC are the charity's trustees under charity law.

Membership of the PCC is governed by the Church Representation Rules. The Vicar, other clergy licensed to serve in the Parish and the churchwardens are automatically members. Other members are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting by church members who are on the Electoral Roll of the Parish. We encourage everyone (aged 16 and over) who attends our churches regularly to register on the Electoral Roll.

Churchwardens are elected each year at the Annual Meeting of Parishioners, which is open to all residents of the Parish. They serve from the date they are subsequently admitted to office by the Bishop and continue in office until their successor is admitted by the Bishop following election.

Church members elect up to four people to serve on the Wantage Deanery Synod as well as on the PCC. Their term of office is three years and the previous term would normally have ended on 30 June 2020, but as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic was extended to 31 December 2020. At the end of their term of office, Deanery Synod representatives may be re-elected for a second three-year term but must then take a break of at least a three-year term before standing again for election (unless the PCC decides otherwise).

There are up to nine other elected PCC members, three from among those who normally worship at Holy Trinity Church and six from among those who normally worship at the Parish Church. They serve for terms of three years from the date of election. They may be re-elected for a second three-year term but must then take a break of at least a year before standing again for election (unless the PCC decides otherwise). As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, terms of office which would have expired in April 2020 were extended to the date of the delayed Annual Parochial Church Meeting which took place on 11 October 2020.

The following are the members of the PCC at the date of this report. Except where indicated, they served throughout 2020.

***Clergy***
Fr Philip Wells, Vicar
Fr Benji Tyler (from 27 September 2020)

***Churchwardens***
Bill Jestico
Jan Ralston

***Representatives on Deanery Synod***
- ***from July 2017 to 31 December 2020 and re-elected on 9 April 2021 by the PCC to fill casual vacancies and serve to 30 June 2023***

Susie Lapwood (from 15 May 2019; up to that date an elected member of the PCC from April 2018)
John Ridgway
*There are currently two vacancies for elected Deanery Synod representatives.*

***Other elected members of the PCC***
- ***from April 2015, re-elected 22 April 2018***

Ann Gregory
Alastair Hunter
- ***from April 2016, re-elected 28 April 2019***

Catherine Mann
- ***from 22 April 2018***

David Law (PCC Treasurer)
- ***from 11 October 2020***

Elizabeth Marshall
Bridget Procter
*There are currently three vacancies for elected PCC members.*

In addition to those above, the following served on the PCC from the beginning of 2020 until standing down or coming to the end of their term of office at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 11 October 2020:
Russell Leigh
Lesley Royan (PCC Secretary)
Linda Knight
Sandra Ord
Lucy Stone

The PCC is responsible for overseeing the life and activities of the Parish and for making decisions about all matters of general importance, including how the PCC's funds should be spent. The PCC met on six occasions during 2020.

The Vicar and the two Churchwardens provide leadership and take day-to-day management decisions. Together with Ann Gregory and Alastair Hunter (elected by the PCC from its members) and David Law (PCC Treasurer), they comprise the Standing and Finance Committee of the PCC, which has delegated powers to take decisions between meetings of the PCC.

## *Safeguarding*

The PCC acknowledges that it has a duty of care towards the vulnerable in our church community. During 2020 we continued to take steps to ensure that the Parish is compliant with the safeguarding measures set out in the Church of England Parish Safeguarding Handbook.

These actions included:

- Keeping the Parish safeguarding policy under review
- Displaying safeguarding posters in both our churches
- Ensuring that all necessary DBS checks are carried out for people in relevant positions within our church community
- Safeguarding training for relevant members of the church community
- Liaison when necessary with the diocesan safeguarding team and statutory bodies
- Following a 'safer recruitment' process for all appointments to relevant positions, both paid and voluntary

The Parish Safeguarding Officer up to April 2020 was Cathryn Stanton. David Law then took over this role on an interim basis until January 2021 when Matt Godfrey was appointed.

## *Statement of trustees' responsibilities*

The members of the PCC, as the trustees of the charity, are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice. The trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs and of its financial activities during the year.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- comply with applicable accounting standards and, in particular, prepare the financial statements in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice on Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102);
- state whether the accounting standards and guidance referred to above have been followed; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the requirements referred to above. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

## *Administrative information*

Our website is at www.wantageparish.com.

The address for correspondence in relation to Parish affairs is:

Parish Office
The Butler Centre
Church Street
Wantage
OX12 8BL

The PCC's bankers are:

Barclays Bank plc
17 Market Place
Wantage
OX12 8AG

The independent examiner of the PCC's financial statements is:

A Chapman FCA
Chapman Worth Limited
3 Old Estate Yard
East Hendred
OX12 8JY

## Conclusion

The closure of our churches for long periods in 2020 and other restrictions as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic had a major impact on our activities. Despite this, regular worship was maintained and was livestreamed to people in their homes. Other initiatives helped to keep people in touch with one another.

During 2020 the PCC made progress in developing and launching a Mission Action Plan with a clear vision for what we want to achieve over the next five years and planned actions to achieve our goals. A major step forward was the awarding a grant by the Diocese of Oxford to support the appointment of a Children and Families Worker. We plan to make this appointment later this year.

Work has started on a number of other new initiatives which we look forward to taking forward as the Covid-19 situation eases.

This report was approved by the members of the PCC as the trustees of the charity on 9 April 2021 and signed on their behalf by:

**The Revd Philip Wells**
Chair

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# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WANTAGE
## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
## TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31 December 2020.

### Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

### Independent examiner's statement

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

1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or

2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or

3 the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

**A Chapman FCA**
**Chapman Worth Limited**
3 Old Estate Yard
East Hendred
Oxfordshire
OX12 8JY

9 April 2021

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WANTAGE
## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

| | Notes | General unrestricted funds £ | Designated unrestricted funds £ | Restricted funds £ | Total 2020 £ | *Total 2019 £* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Income from:** | | | | | | |
| Donations and legacies | **2** | 159,893 | - | 2,106 | 161,999 | *80,023* |
| Charitable activities | **3** | 8,302 | - | - | 8,302 | *6,456* |
| Other operating activities | **4** | 17,336 | - | 4,444 | 21,780 | *105,129* |
| Investments | **5** | 1,426 | - | 13,609 | 15,035 | *14,612* |
| **Total income** | | 186,957 | - | 20,159 | 207,116 | *206,220* |
| **Expenditure on:** | | | | | | |
| Raising funds | **6** | 1,306 | - | - | 1,306 | *310* |
| Charitable activities | **6** | 155,659 | - | 8,974 | 164,633 | *187,805* |
| **Total resources expended** | | 156,965 | - | 8,974 | 165,939 | *188,115* |
| **Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains** | | 29,992 | - | 11,185 | 41,117 | *18,105* |
| Net gains/(losses) on investments | **9** | - | - | 33,724 | 33,724 | *73,927* |
| **Net income/(expenditure)** | | 29,992 | - | 44,909 | 74,901 | *92,032* |
| **Transfers between funds** | **14** | (1,000) | 1,000 | - | - | - |
| **Net movement in funds** | | 28,992 | 1,000 | 44,909 | 74,901 | *92,032* |
| Fund balances at 1 January | | 78,932 | 51,000 | 656,641 | 786,573 | *694,541* |
| **Fund balances at 31 December** | **14** | 107,924 | 52,000 | 701,550 | 861,474 | *786,573* |

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The comparative figures for the previous year are analysed on the next page.

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WANTAGE
## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

### *Comparative figures for 2019*

| | Notes | General unrestricted funds £ | Designated unrestricted funds £ | Restricted funds £ | Total 2019 £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ***Income from:*** | | | | | |
| *Donations and legacies* | **2** | *77,856* | *-* | *2,167* | *80,023* |
| *Charitable activities* | **3** | *6,456* | *-* | *-* | *6,456* |
| *Other operating activities* | **4** | *25,631* | *-* | *79,498* | *105,129* |
| *Investments* | **5** | *231* | *-* | *14,381* | *14,612* |
| ***Total income*** | | *110,174* | *-* | *96,046* | *206,220* |
| ***Expenditure on:*** | | | | | |
| *Raising funds* | **6** | *310* | *-* | *-* | *310* |
| *Charitable activities* | **6** | *162,137* | *-* | *25,668* | *187,805* |
| ***Total resources expended*** | | *162,447* | *-* | *25,668* | *188,115* |
| ***Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains*** | | *(52,273)* | *-* | *70,378* | *18,105* |
| *Net gains/(losses) on investments* | **9** | *-* | *-* | *73,927* | *73,927* |
| ***Net income/(expenditure)*** | | *(52,273)* | *-* | *144,305* | *92,032* |
| ***Transfers between funds*** | **14** | *(1,000)* | *1,000* | *-* | *-* |
| ***Net movement in funds*** | | *(53,273)* | *1,000* | *144,305* | *92,032* |
| *Fund balances at 1 January* | | *132,205* | *50,000* | *512,336* | *694,541* |
| ***Fund balances at 31 December*** | **14** | *78,932* | *51,000* | *656,641* | *786,573* |

*The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.*

*All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.*

# PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF WANTAGE
## BALANCE SHEET
## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

| | Notes | 2020 £ | 2020 £ | *2019 £* | *2019 £* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Fixed assets** | | | | | |
| Tangible assets | **10** | | 47,228 | | *48,732* |
| Investments | **11** | | 636,133 | | *599,278* |
| | | | 683,361 | | *648,010* |
| **Current assets** | | | | | |
| Debtors | **12** | 106,320 | | *57,802* | |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | 74,043 | | *87,084* | |
| | | 180,363 | | *144,886* | |
| **Creditors: amounts falling due within one year** | **13** | (2,250) | | *(6,323)* | |
| **Net current assets** | | | 178,113 | | *138,563* |
| **Total assets less current liabilities** | | | 861,474 | | *786,573* |
| **Income funds** | | | | | |
| Restricted funds | **14** | | 701,550 | | *656,641* |
| Designated unrestricted funds | **14** | | 52,000 | | *51,000* |
| General unrestricted funds | **14** | | 107,924 | | *78,932* |
| | | | 861,474 | | *786,573* |

These financial statements were approved by the trustees on 9 April 2021

..... .....

**The Revd Philip Wells** **David Law**

Chair Treasurer

### 1 Accounting policies

**Charity information**

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Peter & St Paul Wantage is a registered charity (number 1181640). References in these financial statements to "the PCC" are references to this charity. The members of the PCC are the trustees of the charity under charity law and are referred to in these financial statements as "the trustees".

The PCC constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102.

### 1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements are for the year to 31 December 2020 and are presented in sterling, rounded to the nearest pound.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policies below or the subsequent notes.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with:

- the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102);
- the Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS102 (Charities SORP); and
- the Charities Act 2011.

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation and uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below.

### 1.2 Charitable funds

The funds of the PCC are divided into the categories set out below, depending on the terms on which they were donated.

Endowment funds comprise capital sums which must be permanently held. The income which arises on endowment funds can be used for specified purposes in accordance with the terms under which the funds were given. The PCC holds no endowment funds at this time.

Restricted funds are held for specific purposes based on the origin of the funds or the wishes of the donors, and are not available for any other purpose. The PCC has designated certain restricted funds to be held for particular uses within the broader purposes specified. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in note 14 below.

Designated unrestricted funds are those which, although available for any purpose within the broad charitable objectives of the PCC, have been designated by the PCC to be held for a specified purpose.

General unrestricted funds are those which may be used for any purpose within the broad charitable objectives of the PCC.

### 1.3 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Preparation of the financial statements requires the trustees to make judgements and estimates. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates. The estimates and underlying assumptions are kept under review. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised.

Significant judgements and estimates are made from time to time in relation to:

- estimating the likely amount of legacy income once the PCC is aware of its entitlement to receive a legacy; and
- estimating the useful economic life of tangible fixed assets.

**1 Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.4 Financial risk**

The main form of financial risk faced by the PCC relates to its investments and concerns volatility in equity and other investment markets due to wider economic conditions, the attitude of investors to investment risk, and changes in sentiment concerning equities and within particular investment sectors.

The PCC does not acquire options, derivatives or other complex financial instruments. Apart from its investments, the PCC only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments.

**1.5 Going concern**

The trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern assumption is appropriate in preparing these financial statements. The trustees have made this assessment in respect of a period of one year from the date of approval of the financial statements. The trustees acknowledge and recognise the impact of the Covid-19 coronavirus pandemic on the Parish. Church buildings were closed for long periods in 2020 and the first quarter of 2021. Restrictions on their use are likely to continue until later in 2021. This will reduce the PCC's income from collections, from the use of church buildings by other organisations, and because fundraising events cannot be held. The income of the PCC may also be affected because of volatility in investment values.

Despite these uncertainties, because of the level of the PCC's financial reserves, the trustees have concluded that the PCC will have sufficient resources to meet its liabilities as they fall due and that the current circumstances do not impact on the charity's ability to operate as a going concern.

**1.6 Incoming resources**

Income is recognised once the PCC has entitlement to the incoming resources, any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations and grants are recognised when the PCC has confirmation of both the amount and settlement date. In the event of donations and grants pledged but not received, the amount is recorded when the receipt is considered probable. In the event that a donation or grant is subject to conditions, the income is deferred and not recognised until either the conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of the conditions is wholly within the control of the PCC and it is probable that they will be fulfilled in the reporting period. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid is recognised at the same time as the related donation.

Legacies are recognised when there is sufficient evidence to place a value on the amount the PCC is likely to receive. This is when either confirmation has been received from the executors of the estate, or probate has been granted, or a distribution is received. Recognition of legacies in a form other than cash or listed investments is subject to the value being reliably measurable. Where the PCC has or may have entitlement to a legacy but there is uncertainty about the amount or value, information is disclosed about the potential future asset.

Investment income is recognised once the PCC has been notified of the amount that is receivable. Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

**1 Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.7 Resources expended**

Expenditure is included in the statement of financial activities when incurred. It includes irrecoverable VAT. Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the PCC to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure comprises direct costs and support costs. Support costs represent indirect charitable expenditure. The costs of each activity include both those costs directly attributable to the category and a proportion of general support costs. Governance costs comprise the costs relating to the public accountability of the charity and compliance with regulation and good practice.

The classification between activities is as follows:

- expenditure on raising funds includes all expenditure associated with raising funds for the PCC;
- expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs associated with furthering the charitable purposes of the PCC, including governance costs.

Expenditure on charitable activities is split between:

- worship & ministry; and
- charitable giving in support of other charities and charitable activities.

No value is ascribed to the considerable effort of the many volunteers who support the ministry and other activities of the charity.

**1.8 Tangible fixed assets**

There are two Anglican church buildings within the Parish: the Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul and Holy Trinity Church, Charlton. In accordance with church legislation, the PCC is responsible for the upkeep of these buildings, including fixtures and furnishings within them, but does not own them. Accordingly, the church buildings and their contents are not included in these financial statements. All expenditure on maintaining and improving the church buildings, and on their fixtures and furnishings, is charged directly to the statement of financial activities when incurred.

All other tangible assets or groups of tangible assets costing more than £500 and with an expected useful economic life exceeding one year are capitalised. Depreciation is provided in order to write off the cost less any expected residual value over the estimated useful life of each asset (or group of assets) at the following annual rates:

- residential property – no depreciation as the expected residual value exceeds the cost;
- fixtures & fittings in residential property – on a straight-line basis over ten years;
- office equipment – on a straight-line basis over four years.

**1.9 Fixed asset investments**

The PCC's investments are held in investment funds managed by CCLA Investment Management. They are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing market price.

Realised gains (or losses) on investment assets are calculated as the difference between disposal proceeds and the opening carrying value at the beginning of the financial year (or the purchase value if acquired during the year). Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the fair value at the year end and the previous carrying value. Realised and unrealised investment gains (or losses) are combined in the statement of financial activities and are recorded in the year in which they arise.

**1 Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.10 Debtors**

Amounts of money owed to the PCC (referred to as debtors) are recognised at their settlement amount, less an allowance for any amounts which may not be recoverable. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid. Debtors and prepayments are discounted to the present value of the future cash receipt where such discounting is material.

**1.11 Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash at bank and in hand represents such accounts and balances that are available on demand or had an original maturity of less than three months. Term deposits for more than three months but less than one year are shown as short-term deposits. Cash placed on deposit for more than one year is included as part of fixed asset investments.

**1.12 Creditors**

Amounts of money owed by the PCC (referred to as creditors) and provisions for any other liabilities of the PCC are recognised when there is an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are recognised at the amount the PCC anticipates it will pay to settle the debt. They are discounted to the present value of the future cash payment where such discounting is material.

**2 Donations and legacies**

| | General unrestricted funds | Restricted funds | Total 2020 | *Total 2019* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ | £ | *£* |
| Planned giving by church members | 53,924 | - | 53,924 | *58,482* |
| Collections at services | 3,464 | 2,106 | 5,570 | *10,910* |
| Legacies | 71,816 | - | 71,816 | - |
| Other donations | 3,534 | - | 3,534 | *4,152* |
| Tax recoverable on donations under Gift Aid | 27,155 | - | 27,155 | *6,479* |
| | 159,893 | 2,106 | 161,999 | *80,023* |
| ***Comparative figures for 2019*** | | | | |
| *Planned giving by church members* | *58,482* | - | | *58,482* |
| *Collections at services* | *10,910* | - | | *10,910* |
| *Legacies* | - | - | | - |
| *Other donations* | *1,985* | *2,167* | | *4,152* |
| *Tax recoverable on donations under Gift Aid* | *6,479* | - | | *6,479* |
| | *77,856* | *2,167* | | *80,023* |

### 3 Income from charitable activities

| | General unrestricted funds £ | Restricted funds £ | Total 2020 £ | *Total 2019 £* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fees & contributions for occasional offices | 7,869 | - | 7,869 | *5,783* |
| Publications, quiet days & pilgrimage visits | 433 | - | 433 | *673* |
| | 8,302 | - | 8,302 | *6,456* |
| ***Comparative figures for 2019*** | | | | |
| *Fees & contributions for occasional offices* | *5,783* | - | | *5,783* |
| *Publications, quiet days & pilgrimage visits* | *673* | - | | *673* |
| | *6,456* | - | | *6,456* |

Fees & contributions for occasional offices relate to baptisms, weddings and funerals held in the two Anglican churches of the Parish.

### 4 Income from other operating activities

| | General unrestricted funds £ | Restricted funds £ | Total 2020 £ | *Total 2019 £* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fundraising | 2,814 | 1,944 | 4,758 | *12,101* |
| Grants | 5,105 | 2,500 | 7,605 | *76,800* |
| Use of churches by other organisations | 1,917 | - | 1,917 | *4,892* |
| Rental income | 7,500 | - | 7,500 | *6,100* |
| Other income | - | - | - | *5,236* |
| | 17,336 | 4,444 | 21,780 | *105,129* |
| ***Comparative figures for 2019*** | | | | |
| *Fundraising* | *9,403* | *2,698* | | *12,101* |
| *Grants* | *-* | *76,800* | | *76,800* |
| *Use of churches by other organisations* | *4,892* | *-* | | *4,892* |
| *Rental income* | *6,100* | *-* | | *6,100* |
| *Other income* | *5,236* | *-* | | *5,236* |
| | *25,631* | *79,498* | | *105,129* |

### 5 Income from investments

| | General unrestricted funds £ | Restricted funds £ | Total 2020 £ | *Total 2019 £* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Investment income | 1,426 | 13,609 | 15,035 | *14,612* |
| ***Comparative figures for 2019*** | *231* | *14,381* | | *14,612* |

**6 Expenditure**

| | Notes | Clergy costs | Church buildings | Other costs | Total 2020 | *Total 2019* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | £ | £ | £ | £ | *£* |
| **Expenditure on charitable activities** | | | | | | |
| Worship & ministry | | 90,838 | 37,327 | 33,679 | 161,844 | *178,318* |
| Charitable giving | 7 | - | - | 2,789 | 2,789 | *9,487* |
| | | 90,838 | 37,327 | 36,468 | 164,633 | *187,805* |
| **Costs of raising funds** | | - | - | 1,306 | 1,306 | *310* |
| | | 90,838 | 37,327 | 37,774 | 165,939 | *188,115* |
| **Analysis by type of fund:** | | | | | | |
| Unrestricted funds | | 90,838 | 31,022 | 35,105 | 156,965 | *162,447* |
| Restricted funds | | - | 6,305 | 2,669 | 8,974 | *25,668* |
| | | 90,838 | 37,327 | 37,774 | 165,939 | *188,115* |
| ***Comparative figures for 2019*** | | | | | | |
| ***Expenditure on charitable activities*** | | | | | | |
| *Worship & ministry* | | *89,338* | *60,432* | *28,548* | | *178,318* |
| *Charitable giving* | *7* | - | - | *9,487* | | *9,487* |
| | | *89,338* | *60,432* | *38,035* | | *187,805* |
| ***Costs of raising funds*** | | - | - | *310* | | *310* |
| | | *89,338* | *60,432* | *38,345* | | *188,115* |
| ***Analysis by type of fund:*** | | | | | | |
| *Unrestricted funds* | | *89,338* | *46,051* | *27,058* | | *162,447* |
| *Restricted funds* | | - | *14,381* | *11,287* | | *25,668* |
| | | *89,338* | *60,432* | *38,345* | | *188,115* |

Expenditure includes:

- staff costs of £18,222 in respect of five part-time employees *(2019: £4,453 for three part-time employees)*.
- governance costs of £1,600 *(2019: £1,600)*, being the cost of the independent examination of these financial statements and assistance in their preparation.

Clergy costs include £87,810 *(2019: £87,071)* paid to the Diocese of Oxford as the Parish's contribution to diocesan costs, principally stipend, training and other costs relating to parish clergy.

### 7 Charitable giving

| | 2020 | *2019* |
|---|---|---|
| | £ | *£* |
| Toilet Twinning | 360 | - |
| Wantage Independent Advice Centre | 725 | - |
| Archbishop's Together in Unity Coronavirus Appeal | 307 | - |
| Wantage & Surrounding Area Coronavirus Support Group | 500 | |
| Disasters Emergency Committee | - | *2,443* |
| BeSpace | - | *1,243* |
| Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Charity | - | *1,243* |
| Royal British Legion | - | *819* |
| Royal Air Force Association | - | *176* |
| Support for Greenfields School, Thokoza | 897 | *3,563* |
| | 2,789 | *9,487* |

### 8 Trustees

The members of the Parochial Church Council are the trustees of the charity and are responsible for the overall direction and control of the charity. The Vicar and Churchwardens provide leadership and take day-to-day management decisions.

One trustee, John Ridgway, is remunerated as Assistant Organist under a contract which pre-dates his appointment as a trustee. In 2020, he received £2,562 *(2019: £1,800)*. He takes no part in the determination of his salary by the PCC. Russell Leigh, who was a trustee for part of 2020, sometimes plays the organ at services and is paid at the same rate as other occasional organists. In 2020, he received £60 *(2019: £570)* during the period when he was a trustee. In accordance with the Church of England's normal policy, Fr Benji Tyler as Assistant Curate in the Parish *(2019: Fr. Orazio Camaioni)* lives in a house provided by the PCC. Except as noted in this paragraph, none of the trustees (or anyone connected with them) received from the PCC any remuneration, benefit or payment for services during the year (or the preceding year).

Seven trustees were reimbursed a total of £5,288 for expenses which they incurred on behalf of the PCC *(2019: eight trustees reimbursed £3,656).* These expenses comprised travel and office costs for the clergy serving the Parish and goods purchased for use in our churches.

Trustees made unrestricted donations to the PCC totalling £8,671 *(2019: £8,610)* during the periods when they were trustees.

### 9 Net gains/(losses) on investments

| | General unrestricted funds | Restricted funds | Total 2020 | *Total 2019* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ | £ | *£* |
| Revaluation of investments | - | 33,724 | 33,724 | *73,927* |
| ***Comparative figures for 2019*** | *-* | *73,927* | | *73,927* |

### 10 Tangible fixed assets

| | Freehold land and buildings £ | Fixtures and fittings £ | Total £ |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Cost** | | | |
| At 1 January 2020 | 40,000 | 15,036 | 55,036 |
| Additions | - | - | - |
| At 31 December 2020 | 40,000 | 15,036 | 55,036 |
| **Depreciation and impairment** | | | |
| At 1 January 2020 | - | 6,304 | 6,304 |
| Depreciation charged in the year | - | 1,504 | 1,504 |
| At 31 December 2020 | - | 7,808 | 7,808 |
| **Carrying amount** | | | |
| At 31 December 2020 | 40,000 | 7,228 | 47,228 |
| *At 31 December 2019* | *40,000* | *8,732* | *48,732* |

The freehold property comprises a house which is provided for the assistant curate serving the Parish. As the residual value is greater than the original cost, no depreciation is provided. The property was valued at £270,000 in 2015 and will have gone up further in value since then.

### 11 Fixed asset investments

| | 2020 | *2019* |
|---|---|---|
| **Managed investments** | **£** | ***£*** |
| Market value at start of year | 599,278 | *513,476* |
| Additions | - | *50,000* |
| Withdrawals | - | *(41,500)* |
| Income reinvested | 3,131 | *3,375* |
| Unrealised gains/(losses) | 33,724 | *73,927* |
| Market value at end of year | 636,133 | *599,278* |

Investments comprise holdings in the following funds managed by CCLA Investment Management:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| CBF Church of England Investment Fund | 528,445 | *494,722* |
| CBF Church of England Deposit Fund | 107,688 | *104,556* |
| | 636,133 | *599,278* |

### 12 Debtors

| | 2020 | *2019* |
|---|---|---|
| **Amounts falling due within one year** | **£** | ***£*** |
| Tax recoverable on donations under Gift Aid | 29,520 | *57,802* |
| Legacies receivable | 71,816 | - |
| Other debtors & prepayments | 4,984 | - |
| | 106,320 | *57,802* |

### 13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

| | 2020 | *2019* |
|---|---|---|
| | **£** | ***£*** |
| Other creditors & accruals | 2,250 | *6,323* |

### 14 Funds

The table on the following page summarises the different funds held by the PCC (the subsequent page shows comparative figures for the previous year).

The largest element of the restricted reserves arose from the sale of properties once owned by the PCC. This element is available to be spent on any ecclesiastical purpose within the Parish. The funds concerned totalled £603,795 at the end of 2020 *(2019: £556,462)*. The PCC has designated £40,000 of this element of the restricted funds to cover the cost (net of grants to be received) of employing a Children and Families Worker for five years from later in 2021.

The PCC has designated £40,000 *(2019: £40,000)* of its unrestricted reserves as a curate's housing fund. This represents the cost of the property purchased by the PCC as a house for an assistant curate in training in the Parish. The amount has been designated as a separate fund since this cannot currently be realised and used for any other purpose.

The PCC has also designated a long-term organ maintenance fund totalling £12,000 *(2019: £11,000)*. A transfer is made into this fund each year from general unrestricted funds to reflect the need to undertake periodically a major service of the organ at the Parish Church.

**14 Funds (continued)**

| | Balance at 1 January 2020 | Movement in funds | | | | Balance at 31 December 2020 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Incoming resources | Resources expended | Revaluation gains and losses | Transfers between reserves | |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| **Restricted funds** | | | | | | |
| Funds arising from properties once owned by the PCC and available for any ecclesiastical purpose within the Parish: | | | | | | |
| Church House | 538,640 | 13,075 | - | 33,724 | - | 585,439 |
| Union Chapel | 17,822 | 534 | - | - | - | 18,356 |
| | 556,462 | 13,609 | - | 33,724 | - | 603,795 |
| Other restricted funds: | | | | | | |
| Fabric of Parish buildings | 77,000 | - | - | - | - | 77,000 |
| Maintenance of Parish Church clock | 1,663 | - | - | - | - | 1,663 |
| Fabric of Holy Trinity Church | 21,414 | - | (6,305) | - | - | 15,109 |
| Music in the Parish | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Charitable giving fund | 102 | 4,050 | (2,289) | - | - | 1,863 |
| Children's activities | - | 2,500 | (380) | - | - | 2,120 |
| | 656,641 | 20,159 | (8,974) | 33,724 | - | 701,550 |
| **Designated unrestricted funds** | | | | | | |
| Curate's housing fund | 40,000 | - | - | - | - | 40,000 |
| Long-term organ maintenance fund | 11,000 | - | - | - | 1,000 | 12,000 |
| **General unrestricted funds** | 78,932 | 186,957 | (156,965) | - | (1,000) | 107,924 |
| **Total funds** | 786,573 | 207,166 | (165,939) | 33,724 | - | 861,474 |

**14 Funds (continued)**

***Comparative figures for 2019***

| | *Balance at 1 January 2019* | *Movement in funds* | | | | *Balance at 31 December 2019* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *Incoming resources* | *Resources expended* | *Revaluation gains and losses* | *Transfers between reserves* | |
| | *£* | *£* | *£* | *£* | *£* | *£* |
| ***Restricted funds*** | | | | | | |
| *Funds arising from properties once owned by the PCC and available for any ecclesiastical purpose within the Parish:* | | | | | | |
| *Church House* | *464,713* | *14,244* | *(14,244)* | *73,927* | *-* | *538,640* |
| *Union Chapel* | *17,822* | *137* | *(137)* | *-* | *-* | *17,822* |
| | *482,535* | *14,381* | *(14,381)* | *73,927* | *-* | *556,462* |
| *Other restricted funds:* | | | | | | |
| *Fabric of Parish buildings* | *2,000* | *75,000* | *-* | *-* | *-* | *77,000* |
| *Maintenance of Parish Church* | *1,663* | *-* | *-* | *-* | *-* | *1,663* |
| *Fabric of Holy Trinity Church* | *21,414* | *-* | *-* | *-* | *-* | *21,414* |
| *Music in the Parish* | *-* | *1,800* | *(1,800)* | *-* | *-* | *-* |
| *Charitable giving fund* | *4,724* | *4,865* | *(9,487)* | *-* | *-* | *102* |
| *Children's activities* | *-* | *-* | *-* | *-* | *-* | *-* |
| | *512,336* | *96,046* | *(25,668)* | *73,927* | *-* | *656,641* |
| ***Designated unrestricted funds*** | | | | | | |
| *Curate's housing fund* | *40,000* | *-* | *-* | *-* | *-* | *40,000* |
| *Long-term organ maintenance fund* | *10,000* | *-* | *-* | *-* | *1,000* | *11,000* |
| ***General unrestricted funds*** | *132,205* | *110,174* | *(162,447)* | *-* | *(1,000)* | *78,932* |
| ***Total funds*** | *694,541* | *206,220* | *(188,115)* | *73,927* | *-* | *786,573* |

### 15 Analysis of net assets between funds

| | General unrestricted funds | Designated unrestricted funds | Restricted funds | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Fund balances at 31 December 2020 were represented by: | | | | |
| Tangible assets | 7,228 | 40,000 | - | 47,228 |
| Investments | 44,098 | - | 592,035 | 636,133 |
| Other current assets/(liabilities) | 56,598 | 12,000 | 109,515 | 178,113 |
| | 107,924 | 52,000 | 701,550 | 861,474 |

***Comparative figures for 2019***

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Fund balances at 31 December 2019 were represented by:* | | | | |
| *Tangible assets* | *8,732* | *40,000* | *-* | *48,732* |
| *Investments* | *18,721* | *-* | *580,557* | *599,278* |
| *Other current assets/(liabilities)* | *51,479* | *11,000* | *76,084* | *138,563* |
| | *78,932* | *51,000* | *656,641* | *786,573* |

### 16 Related party transactions

The William John Butler Memorial Fund (commonly referred to as the Butler Trust) is a charity whose objects are to advance the Christian religion, in particular (but not exclusively) by the maintenance, repair and improvement of the Parish Church in Wantage and Holy Trinity Church, Charlton. The trustees of the Butler Trust are the Vicar, Churchwardens and David Law, who are also members of the PCC, together with a fifth trustee who is married to a member of the PCC. In 2019, the PCC's income included a grant of £70,000 from the Butler Trust for work on the fabric of Parish buildings. No grants were received from the Butler Trust in 2020. There were no amounts due to the PCC from the Butler Trust at the end of either 2020 or 2019.

The Wantage Parish Music Guild is a charity whose objects are to support music in the Parish. The trustees of the Music Guild include two individuals who are married to members of the PCC. In 2019, the PCC's income included a grant of £1,800 from the Music Guild towards the cost of the PCC employing an Assistant Organist. No grants were received from the Music Guild in 2020. There were no amounts due to the PCC from the Music Guild at the end of either 2020 or 2019.