

Finance Report 2024

2024 has been a challenge in terms of finance for the Church, having had two Treasurers, which inevitably impacted production of timely financial information due to the very limited handover.

General Funds

We are showing a final balance of £23.5K on the accounts; however, invoices due from 2024 remain outstanding to the value of £24.8K which were paid in 2025. Had these transactions been completed, in 2024 accounts the account would show a deficit of £1.2K. We did not have enough funds to pay our bills in the accounting year 2024.

Total income was £72.3K, income increased slightly by £655 from 2023 to 2024, and income generation remains a key focus for 2025. Mission income contributed over £10K for the Church. Social events in 2025 at both Woolston and Birchwood contributed £3.9K of Income to the Church, these two items represent £13.9K of the £74K received.

The accounts are showing expenses of £57.4K, but had the value of unpaid items been included, then this would have been £82K, a value we would not have been able to fund. There were no exceptional expenses for 2024, they relate to normal transactions expected, including: Utilities and Maintenance.

Parish Share

We failed to pay 4 Parish Share amounts in 2024, amounting to £21.5K; we are expected to pay this during 2025, and I expect to pay 2 of these payments in early 2025. We have Parish Share debts from previous years (2022 and 2023) of £12.6K, which the Diocese expects us to pay, we will be adding repayments into future budgets.

Restricted Funds - Fabric Fund

Whilst we have spent very little from this fund in 2024, it is not growing, so we need to consider how we grow this fund. Within FFM, Restricted funds within our church under our control. Giving goes directly to the General fund only.

Restricted Funds - Birchwood – Joshua Project

This project has come to an end, with a balance on the account of £534, there are some small outstanding expenses to be charged against this fund. This fund balance will transfer to an appropriate fund in 2025.

Restricted Fund - Birchwood – Community

The fund shows an increase in funding due to donations of £900; however, there are £2600 of costs to be paid from 2024, and had these had been paid in 2024 the balance on the fund would have been £5310. Funding of Birchwood community is a question we need to tackle as a church.

Reserves

Our overall reserves for 2024 stood at £64K; however, this value for 2024 in real terms would have been £39.2K, had we made all payments due for the year. Parish Share earlier years arrears would reduce this value further to £26.6K. Income generation needs to be our focus together with a reduction in costs.

2025 Focus

As we move towards FFM we need to have a better understanding of the true costs of running the church and our missional work. This will be a focus in 2025.

Parish Share for 2025 has been reduced, and we need to make it our priority to pay 2025 on time, and stop our debt level increasing, as we are still responsible for it. I am working with the Diocese to understand how we can start to reduce this debt.

We need to look closely at our income and expenditure and we are currently drawing up a Budget for 2025 for all funds. Within FFM, our budget will become critical to understand how we intend to spend our money, against all of our income. The budget will need to include Parish Share arrears. We will be expected to deliver a balanced budget.

Under FFM there will be funding available for many aspects of the church: we need to be more proactive, seek out funding and seize these opportunities for this church.

FFM does not change the financial structure of our church, our assets and liabilities stay with us. We will still produce a set of accounts, which will represent all of the normal expenses and costs we have in church today. We need to look at financial sustainability in the longer term, and the budget process will support the framing of that conversation.

Hilda Taylor
Treasurer

The United Parish of

BIRCHWOOD AND WOOLSTON

The Churches of the Transfiguration & the Ascension

Registered Charity Number 1185707 (England & Wales)

Parochial Church Council Annual Report & Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2024



The Ascension - Parish Church



The Transfiguration - Worship Centre

Incumbent:

Rev. Tabitha Rao

Bankers:

Barclays Bank Plc

Warrington Business Centre
23 Sankey Street

Warrington

CCLA

Senator House
85 Queen Victoria Street
London

Architect

Rebecca Grimshaw – Anthony Grimshaw Associates
6 Brideman Terrace, Wigan WN1 1SX

Treasurer

Hilda Taylor

Independent Examiner

Deborah Jacques (ACMA)

Approved by the PCC on 23 April 2025, then submitted to and approved by the APCM on 11th May 2025

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Hilda Taylor
Treasurer

Summary - All Funds - Year to 31 December 2024		Unrestricted	Restricted**	Total 2024	Total 2023
		£	£	£	£
Receipts					
Parish -	General	72,394	0	72,394	71,986
Ascension -	Fabric	0	296	296	526
Ascension -	Gorton	0	379	379	294
Ascension -	Organ	0	0	0	0
Transfiguration -	Special Projects	0	971	971	283
Transfiguration -	John Hicks	0	0	0	0
		<u>72,394</u>	<u>1,646</u>	<u>74,040</u>	<u>73,089</u>
Payments					
Parish -	General	57,387		57,387	67,140
Ascension -	Fabric	0	1,049	1,049	3,190
Ascension -	Gorton	0	0	0	0
Ascension -	Organ	0	0	0	192
Transfiguration -	John Hicks	0	0	0	5,310
Transfiguration -	Special Projects	0	3,780	3,780	0
		<u>57,387</u>	<u>4,829</u>	<u>62,216</u>	<u>75,832</u>
Surplus (Deficit)					
Parish -	General	15,007	0	15,007	4,846
Ascension -	Fabric	0	(753)	(753)	(2,664)
Ascension -	Gorton	0	379	379	294
Ascension -	Organ	0	0	0	(192)
Transfiguration -	Special Projects	0	(2,809)	(2,809)	(5,027)
Transfiguration -	John Hicks	0	(3,780)	(3,780)	0
		<u>15,007</u>	<u>(6,964)</u>	<u>8,044</u>	<u>(2,743)</u>
Opening Bank Balances					
Parish -	General	8,586		8,586	2,998
Ascension -	Fabric		15,364	15,364	18,028
Ascension -	Gorton		11,269	11,269	10,975
Ascension -	Organ				192
Transfiguration -	Special Projects		11,234	11,234	16,261
Transfiguration -	John Hicks		5,802	5,802	5,802
Agency Balances			0	0	5,802
		<u>8,586</u>	<u>43,669</u>	<u>52,255</u>	<u>60,058</u>
Closing Bank Balances					
Parish -	General	23,593		23,593	8,586
Ascension -	Fabric		14,611	14,611	15,364
Ascension -	Gorton		11,648	11,648	11,269
Transfiguration -	Special Projects		8,425	8,425	11,234
Transfiguration -	John Hicks		5,802	5,802	5,802
Agency Balances			0	0	0
		<u>23,593</u>	<u>40,486</u>	<u>64,079</u>	<u>52,255</u>

General Fund - Unrestricted - Year 2024 Receipts & Payments Account		2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
Receipts					
Incoming resources from donors					
Regular Planned Giving					
Gift Aid Giving		31,499		28,075	
Collections & Non Gift Aid Giving		11,605		15,067	
Occasional Giving					
Donations		3,151		3,153	
			46,255		46,295
Non Recurring Grants 2023					
Diocese of Liverpool - Sequestration Grant		2,535			
Diocese of Liverpool - Covid Support				615	
Council Tax Refund			2,535	142	757
Events and Activities					
Fund Raising & Events		4,322		5,090	
Hire of Church Hall		19,282		19,844	
			23,604		24,934
Total Receipts Year			<u>£72,394</u>		<u>£71,986</u>
Payments					
Mission		8,831		9,339	
Vicarage		1,663			
Church Utilities		4,742		9,105	
Woolston Church Service Expenses		2,034			
Church Maintenance		418		2,011	
Birchwood Church Expenses		488			
Community/Reach Out		1,477		639	
Fund Raising		345		515	
Diocese		35,664		44,618	
Other		1,725		913	
			57,387		67,140
Total Receipts Year			<u>£57,387</u>		<u>£67,140</u>
Excess of Receipts over (Payments)			15,007		4,846
Bank Balances					
Barclays Bank - current account at 31 December 2024			<u>£23,593</u>		<u>£7,844</u>

Fabric Fund - Restricted - Year 2024		2024		2023	
Receipts & Payments Account		£	£	£	£
Receipts					
Restricted Donations:					
Legacy				0	
Donations		296		475	
			296		475
Activities for generating funds					
Remembrance Book				25	
			0		25
Income from Investments					
Bank Interest			0		26
Total Receipts			296		526
Payments					
Activities directly relating to the work of the Church					
Church Hall - New Chairs				2,011	
Printer and Mission Cooker	£1,049			0	
Church Hall Repairs				1,087	
Inscribing Remembrance Book				92	
			1,049		3,190
Excess of Receipts over Payments			(753)		(2,664)
Bank Balances					
Barclays Bank current account at 31 December 2024	14,611			12,452	
Barclays Bank deposit accounts at 31 December 2024	0			2,912	
Barclays Bank current / deposit accounts at 31 December 2024	£14,611			£15,364	

This fund is designated for the maintenance of the Fabric of the Church & associated buildings

Gortan Memorial - Restricted - Year 2024 Receipts & Payments Account		2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
Receipts					
Restricted Donations:					
Donations		0		0	
Income from Investments					
Interest - CCLA		379		294	
Total Receipts		379		294	
Transfers					
Activities directly relating to the work of the Church		0		0	
Payments					
Major Repairs - Woolston		0		0	
Excess of Receipts over Payments		379		294	
Bank Balances					
Barclays Bank current account at 31 December 2024		1,804		1,804	
CCLA & Bank deposit accounts at 31 December 2024		9,844		9,465	
Bank deposit accounts at 31 December 2024		<u>£11,648</u>		<u>£11,269</u>	

This fund is restricted to the maintenance of the Fabric of Church Buildings & Contents in Woolston and certain other costs as detailed in original Gorton Trust Deed.

John Hicks - Restricted - Year 2024 Receipts & Payments Account		<u>2024</u>		<u>2023</u>	
		<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Incoming resources from donors - Occasional Giving					
Restricted Donations:					
Grants & Donations towards Replacement Ceiling					
Donations		0		0	
			0		0
Other Grants					
Grant s		0		0	
			0		0
Total Receipts			0		0
Payments					
Activities directly relating to the work of the Church					
Major Repairs - Birchwood			0		0
Excess of Receipts over Payments			0		0
Bank Balances					
Barclays Bank current account at 31 December 2024			<u>£5,802</u>		<u>£5,802</u>

This fund is designated for the maintenance of the Fabric of the Church & associated buildings in Birchwood

Birchwood - Community - Restricted	<u>2024</u>		<u>2023</u>	
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Incoming resources from donors - Occasional Giving				
Restricted Donations:				
Donations	0		0	
Food Parcel Grants	900		0	
Lunch Club Donations	71		168	
		971		168
Total Receipts		971		168
Payments				
Activities directly relating to the work of the Church				
Christian Community Worker:				
Office Rent	0		360	
Insurance	463		0	
Mobile Phone	0		71	
Food Parcels	0		0	
Lunch Club - Running Costs	380		303	
Other Costs	25		(11)	
		868		723
Excess of Receipts over Payments		103		(555)
Bank Balances				
Barclays Bank current account at 31 December 2024		7,890		7,788

This fund is restricted Community Development and associated works to serve the Birchwood part of our parish.

Birchwood - Joshua Project - Restricted		<u>2024</u>		<u>2023</u>	
		£	£	£	£
Receipts					
Occasional Giving					
Restricted Donations:					
Donations		0		115	
			0		115
Total Receipts			0		115
Payments					
Activities directly relating to the work of the Church					
Joshua Centre:					
Salaries & National Insurance		£2,347		3,973	
Payrol & Admin Costs		£246		257	
Insurance		£133		0	
Maintenance		60		142	
Messy Church		0		153	
Other		£125		0	
Activity Costs		0		62	
			2,912		4,587
Excess of Payments over Receipts			(2,912)		(4,472)
Bank Balances:					
Barclays Bank current account at 31 December 2024		534		3,446	

This fund is restricted for the development of a new congregation in Birchwood.

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of The United Parish of Birchwood and Woolston on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024, as set out on pages 1 to 7 of your Annual Report.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the PCC concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- 1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
- 2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: D Jacques

Date: 15th April 2024

IE's Name: MRS D JACQUES ACMA

address: 3 SAGE CLOSE WARRINGTON WA20 0UG