THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF EAST HARPTREE WITH WEST HARPTREE AND HINTON BLEWETT

England & Wales · Charity number 1187091

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	2019-12-20
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Church Farm Church Lane East Harptree Bristol BS40 6BD
Phone	01761221239
Email	whparishoffice@gmail.com
Website	www.eastharptree.org/church.html

Activities

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

Activities: We are a United Parish within the Church of England

Classification

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

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Geography

- Bath And North East Somerset

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£108,365	£108,778	-	-
2023-12-31	£337,531	£302,420	-	-
2022-12-31	£476,115	£597,157	-	-
2021-12-31	£236,527	£144,679	-	-
2020-12-31	£84,356	£80,758	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Christopher James Burt		2025-05-19
ELAINE ANNE AVERY		2011-04-02
Gillian Dorcas Stobart		2021-08-15
Guy Stobart		2015-04-12
Hazel Rider		2017-04-02
MARY ROSE COOKSON		2017-04-02
Rev Katrina Mary Dykes		2024-03-01

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THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF EAST HARPTREE WITH W

England & Wales - Charity number 1187091

Accounts

THE UNITED PARISH OF EAST HARPTREE WITH WEST HARPTREE AND HINTON BLEWETT-ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR 2024

Aims and Purpose

The PCC and the rector have the responsibility of promoting the whole mission of the Church (pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical), in the United Ecclesiastical Parish of East Harptree, with West Harptree and Hinton Blewett and the promotion of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England.

The PCC is a charity and was registered with the Charity Commission in 2019. The main activities undertaken by the PCC are those reflected in this report which the PCC consider furthered the PCC's aims for the public benefit. The PCC has had regard to the Charity Commission public benefit guidance, where relevant.

In February 2024 Rev Katrina Dykes was installed as the rector of the United Parish, and of the neighboring parishes of Compton Martin and All Saints North Mendip (Blagdon, Charterhouse and Ubley). We are all now working together as the Benefice of Chew Valley South. The formal creation of the benefice will follow in due course.

Structure, Governance and Management

The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure and the Church Representation Rules. It is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC membership consists of the rector, the churchwardens of the three churches (if appointed) and other members (who are on the Parish Electoral Roll) elected by the PCC and proposed by the Friends of East Harptree and the VCCs of West Harptree and Hinton Blewett.

Last year there were 54 people on the Parish Electoral Roll. Following the preparation of a new electoral roll there are now 53 people on the Parish Electoral Roll.

Specific responsibilities of members of the PCC during 2024 are set out in the section below entitled "Administrative Information". That section also sets out the responsibilities of others, not on the PCC, for particular areas of responsibility. All business of the PCC is conducted at its meetings referred to below. There is no separate standing committee.

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our churches and to become part of our parish community. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and considers how our services can involve the different groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament. We try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through worship and prayer; learning about the gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus and by the provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.

To facilitate this work, it is also important that the PCC maintains the fabric of the three churches in our parish. The PCC has the legal responsibility for the maintenance and upkeep of the three churches in the parish, although for all practical purposes the activities involved have been delegated to the Friends of St Laurence and to the VCCs of West Harptree and Hinton Blewett. They report to the PCC, who deal with faculty and grant applications and all formal matters, and the PCC generally oversees and ensures that the PCC's obligations are satisfactorily discharged by the Friends and VCCs.

The PCC meets five times a year with an extraordinary meeting after the APCM to elect officers. There is an agreed and set list of issues which are dealt with at particular PCCs throughout the year to ensure that the key issues for the PCC are not overlooked. This is managed by the PCC secretary. In addition, there are reports at each PCC meeting from the Friends and VCCs.

Administrative Information

The correspondence address for the parish is now Church Farm, Church Lane, East Harptree, Bristol, BS40 6BD.

Membership of the PCC in 2024

Chair	Mary Cookson (churchwarden East Harptree)
Vicar	Rev Katrina Dykes from February 2024
Secretary	Elaine Avery (elected representative from West Harptree)
Deanery Synod Representatives	Mary Cookson
Electoral Roll Officer	Elaine Avery
Treasurer	Guy Stobart (churchwarden East Harptree)
Other Members	Hazel Rider and Gill Stobart (elected representatives from East Harptree). Graham Sage (point of contact at Hinton Blewett) is copied into PCC papers and consulted where appropriate

Others Supporting the PCC

Safeguarding Officer	Gill Stobart
Parish News Editor	Gill Stobart
Parish Administrator	Joanna Brown resigned with effect from the end of January 2024 and the position is not being replaced.
House Group	Richard Martin
Open the Book	Murray Bennett during 2024, who has now resigned, and with Mary Cookson now taking this over.

Messy Church	Mary Cookson, Tilly Joskey, Hazel Rider, Guy and Gill Stobart, Jenny Cruse, Diana Martin

Huge thanks to all our volunteers who give their skill, experience and time to make our church community what it is.

We are ever more conscious of the risk that our small and relatively elderly congregations poses to the future if the parish. With this, comes the pressing need to grow and to be relevant to our wider communities.

Safeguarding

The parish and benefice have worked hard to create a culture where all in our church family understand what safeguarding is, how abuse might present itself and what to do if there are concerns. This means that safeguarding is the responsibility of all within the Church, not just those who work with children, young people or vulnerable adults We do this by making sure that all those working with children and young people and, if appropriate, certain work with vulnerable adults, are safely recruited and have the necessary DBS checks. Training is paramount and all those who have any role within the church family are asked to undertake the appropriate level of training for their role every three years.

Our Safeguarding Policy is reviewed on an annual basis, the appropriate safeguarding notices are displayed in all our three churches and the appropriate information is on websites where we have a presence.

Achievements and Performance

At a gathering in April 2024, representatives from across the benefice, considered and discussed how 'loving one another' might guide our life together in this new benefice. A consensus formed around the following expressions of loving one another:

- creating a culture of encouragement where we are willing to try things
- being outward facing rather than inward looking
- serving others with humility and forgiveness
- being creative and having fun!

Priorities were also agreed:

- developing sustainable worship patterns, which includes trying new things
- growing our connections with children, young people and their families
- developing resources
- reviewing governance

Developing sustainable worship patterns – worship and payer

A new pattern of services has been agreed across the benefice, enabling a spread and range of services across all the benefice churches as well as an opportunity for more lay-led services and with that the possibility for more people to be involved in planning and taking part in these services. We are blessed with a team of lay-readers, who bring their experience and creativity to our worship and to our wider work.

We generally have three Sunday morning services in the United Parish each month – a Holy Communion, an Iona Communion and a Morning Service. These are augmented by a monthly Evensong and by other, special, services at key times of the year. The third Sunday of the month is set aside for a benefice wide service in another of the benefice's churches. The opportunity to come together as a larger gathering has been hugely

encouraging. Other highlights have included the benefice Good Friday Pilgrimage to Charterhouse and the Advent Carol Service at East Harptree.

A Benefice Pilgrimage from one end of the benefice to the other in September was an enjoyable and encouraging day involving over 20 walkers for some or all of the route. They were joined by others for prayer, reflections and refreshments in all the benefice churches. During Advent the benefice was able to offer two groups for discussion and prayer. Members of the groups enjoyed them so much they continued into 2025.

Our choir continues to support services and thrives as a 4-part (SATB) choir; the only one in our whole deanery and quite possibly the only remaining regular such choir in any of the rural parishes in the diocese. With the introduction of the new schedule of services across the benefice, the choir has worked hard to adapt in order to continue to serve the regular round of Sunday services including evensongs. Looking to the future, they would like to develop the partnership with the school and the choir of the Benefice of North Mendip, continue to nurture and mentor the talent within the choir, to develop 'Come and Sing' events both within and outside the immediate local area and to explore the choir becoming a recognised organisation for the purposes of Social Prescribing for the local GPs.

Our other worship activities include a house group which has met every fortnight, and those who want to, take it in turn to lead the discussions. Believe it or not we have fun.

<u>Growing our connections with children, young people and their families</u> – and with the wider community

Our rector leads worship on a weekly basis in East Harptree C of E School. She has also joined the board of governors as a foundation governor and sits on the school's ethos committee, with a view to strengthening the links between the churches and the school communities, helping to promote and embed Christian values, and to create more opportunities for us to support one another and work together.

Messy Church and Open the Book are two important strands in our outreach work with children - our outreach to the school being a vital area of growth. They are both delivered to the pupils of East Harptree school once a term, supported by a number of dedicated volunteers from our congregation. Messy Church has continued to be well attended and enjoyed by the children and numbers remain stable. Open the Book has continued throughout the year. We are delighted to welcome the school into St Laurence church for these sessions and are always pleased at their response to our stories. We all believe it is vitally important that we can share bible teaching with the children in this way and we're glad that the school welcomes this link with the Church. We try to link the chosen story to the school's current value. We are hoping to develop a bigger team by working with people from Ubley who are interested in providing OTB for the children at the school there. We hope this may grow into a lively cross benefice initiative.

Our churches continue to give support to members of the community at life's milestones – in baptisms, marriages and funerals.

Wider community engagement comes via our monthly Parish News, produced as a printed magazine and delivered to about 320 households across the United Parish. It contains information about church and community activities as well as articles of church and local interest.

Our various fund-raising activities also remain an important part of our outreach, as well as raising much-needed funds for our three churches. Our suppers, coffee mornings, lunches fêtes etc have been well supported by individual villages and by the wider parish. Our thanks to all who run and support these efforts.

Developing resources

People from the United Parish have been involved in a number of cross benefice working groups to inform and support planning in the benefice. These have included the PCC treasurers working to agree parish share and safeguarding officers supporting one another in their roles. In addition, a worship working group co-ordinated a process of consultation and agreement for the new pattern of services for the benefice. As we entered 2025, a communications working group has begun work to consider how we can improve and develop our communications beyond the churches as well as between the worshipping communities.

In September 2024, following a safer recruitment process, a Benefice Administrator was appointed. She works part-time from home and is proving to be of great benefit.

Reviewing governance

It is felt that a strong governance structure would be the foundation for the future development of the new benefice. A governance working group made recommendations to PCCs for a way to collaborate in this area, but it has not yet met with universal approval, so there is more work to be done.

Deanery Synod

Our PCC Chair sits on the Deanery Synod, providing the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the Church.

Our Church Buildings

St Laurence, East Harptree

Although practical completion of the capital works to St Laurence was achieved in April 2023, snagging dragged on and was not finally completed until February 2025. The other aspects of Project Newton, in particular the activities set out in the Activity Plan, are ongoing. Notably, a new website and touchscreens, the completion of a research project, work with East Harptree Primary School, Learning Partnership West (an alternative provision school) and with Valley Arts. The National Heritage Lottery Fund has recently agreed to an extension to the completion of the whole project to May 2026, when the Bishop of Bath and Wells is due to come to mark the occasion. The National Heritage Lottery Fund has also increased their grant to enable two smallish additional building projects to be completed – the creation of steps up from the footpath on the northern boundary into the churchyard and the installation of a permanent exhibition of historic stones discovered during the building works.

Our Quinquennial inspection was completed in 2024 and the most pressing work identified has been undertaken under the guidance of our church architect. Our heating system continues to limp on, we hope for a bit longer. Thanks to a generous gift from a local kitchen cabinet company we have new kitchen units in our vestry.

A footnote – we continue to operate The School House Trust, whose trustees are all the churchwardens and the incumbent and which continues to support Christian education in East Harptree financially, notably EH School and it is also providing some support to Project Newton.

St Mary's West Harptree

Our ancient oil boiler and the flue were condemned in March and with the Church of England's push to become carbon neutral by 2030, various alternative forms of heating were investigated in succeeding months. Sadly, the lack of heat has meant services could not be held at St Mary's this past winter.

A leak in the porch roof was repaired and the porch light replaced. The sound system and hearing loop were tested and new corner posts were fitted to mark the cremation plot. Gutters & gulleys were cleared. It was decided to delay servicing the organ until services are due to resume. All Health & Safety tests were carried out including PAT testing, lightning conductor and fire extinguishers, and all reviews completed. A new full Fire Risk Assessment was carried out.

St Margaret's Hinton Blewett

The building is in good order and well cared for with flowers always displayed at the appropriate times. Sadly, the organ has reached the end of its life and despite every effort if appears it will have an ignominious end in being scrapped. The churchyard has continued to be sensitively cared by nearly 20 volunteers. The church has had its electricity, lightning conductor, fire equipment all checked appropriately during the year.

The VCC has met regularly as required and are investigating the installation of toilets by visiting other sites. This would be a huge commitment of both time and money so it is essential to establish St Margaret's usage and role in the benefice.

Financial Review

This is covered in the separate financial statements

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF EAST HARPTREE WITH WEST HARPTREE AND HINTON BLEWETT

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1187091

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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Independent Examiner's Report
To the Trustees of the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of East Harptree with West Harptree and Hinton Blewett
On the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024
set out on pages 2 to 8

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees 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;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- 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 charity 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 trustees 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 which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect,

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act, or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

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

Signed KMilbourn Dated 30/04/25

Name: KIMMA MILBOURN @ KLM ACCOUNTING SERVICES LTD

Qualification: CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

Address: LITTLE GABLES, BATTLE LANE, CHEW MAGNA, BS40 8PX.

Registered Charity no 1187091

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of East Harptree with West Harptree and Hinton Blewett

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES

	PCC	East Harptree	West Harptree	Hinton Blewett	TOTAL 2024	TOTAL 2023
	£	£			£	£
Investment Assets						
CBF Investment Fund - shares at market value					-	
Accumulation units	100,108	-	-	-	100,108	95,246
Income units	-	-	-	36,584	36,584	32,353
	100,108	**-**	**-**	**36,584**	**136,692**	**127,599**
Cash Funds						
Cash at bank and in hand	28,158	57,145	5,359	3,641	94,303	105,878
CBF Deposit Fund	-	2	21,783	17,268	39,053	36,223
	28,158	**57,147**	**27,142**	**20,909**	**133,356**	**142,100**
Current Assets/(Liabilities)						
Loan from Diocese		(8,333)			(8,334)	(16,667)
TOTAL NET ASSETS	**128,266**	**48,813**	**27,142**	**57,492**	**261,714**	**253,032**
Reserves - see notes 2 & 3 to the Financial Statements						
Opening balances						
Restricted	817	-	-	-	817	817
Designated	1,405	64,652	21,803	49,896	137,756	109,834
Unrestricted	114,459	-	-	-	114,459	96,920
	116,681	64,652	21,803	49,896	253,032	207,571
Result for the year	6,723	(15,839)	5,339	3,366	(412)	35,110
Investment gains/(losses)	4,862	-	-	4,230	9,092	10,351
	128,266	**48,813**	**27,142**	**57,492**	**261,713**	**253,032**
Closing balances						
Restricted	479	-	-	-	479	817
Designated	1,405	48,813	27,142	57,492	134,852	109,834
Unrestricted	126,382	-	-	-	126,382	96,920
	128,266	**48,813**	**27,142**	**57,492**	**261,713**	**253,032**
Movements in Investments						
Market values 1 January	95,246		-	32,353	127,599	117,247
Investments sold			-	-	-	
Unrealised gains/(losses)	4,862		-	4,230	9,092	10,352
Market values 31 December	**100,108**	**-**	**-**	**36,583**	**136,691**	**127,599**

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of East Harptree with West Harptree and Hinton Blewett

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

DETAILED ANALYSIS OF RECEIPTS

	PCC	East Harptree	West Harptree	Hinton Blewett	TOTAL 2024	TOTAL 2023
	£	£			£	£
Voluntary Receipts - Unrestricted						
Planned givings - STOs	18,630	-	-	1,080	19,710	19,905
Collections at services	4,497	-	-	-	4,497	4,190
Other donations	4,778			-	4,778	1,807
CM/All Saints contributions	1,988				1,988	-
Gift Aid recovered	5,232				5,232	5,634
	35,125	-	-	1,080	36,205	31,536
Voluntary Receipts - Restricted / designated						
Other donations	670	1,469	4,043	1,097	7,279	14,783
Gift Aid recovered	1,048	-	-	-	1,048	14,218
Grants	-	36,009	561	100	36,670	253,450
	1,718	37,478	4,604	1,197	44,997	282,451
Activities for Generating Funds - Unrestricted						
Magazine advertising	1,526	-	-	-	1,526	1,240
Activities for Generating Funds - Restricted / Designated						
Fund raising	-	5,974	5,619	2,109	13,702	11,135
Receipts from Church Activities - Unrestricted						
Fees	5,154	249	55	189	5,647	4,869
Magazine sales	2,352	-	-	-	2,352	2,267
	7,506	249	55	189	7,999	7,136
Investment income - Unrestricted						
Realised gains on disposal	-	-	-	-	-	-
Interest & dividends	751	0	1,098	2,087	3,936	2,913
	751	0	1,098	2,087	3,936	2,913
Other income - Restricted / Designated						
Hall rental	-	-	-		-	1,120
Total Receipts	**46,626**	**43,701**	**11,377**	**6,661**	**108,365**	**337,531**

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of East Harptree with West Harptree and Hinton Blewett

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

DETAILED ANALYSIS OF PAYMENTS

	PCC	East Harptree	West Harptree	Hinton Blewett	TOTAL 2024	TOTAL 2023
	£	£			£	£
Church Activities - Unrestricted						
Diocesan parish share	21,200	-	-	-	21,200	15,200
Clergy, organists & administration						
Administrator	504	-	-	-	504	2,184
Benefice Administrator	2,021				2,021	
Organists	3,146	-	-	-	3,146	2,937
Rector's expenses	1,378				1,378	-
Benefice Expenses	457				457	-
	7,506	-	-	-	7,506	5,121
Church Running Expenses - Unrestricted						
Equipment purchases			-	-	-	-
Magazine printing	2,968	-	-	-	2,968	3,023
Phone, copier, stationery etc	144	-	-	-	144	359
Other church running costs	2,468	-	-	-	2,468	4,900
	5,580	-	-	-	5,580	5,307
Church Running Expenses - Restricted / Designated						
Heat, light, water, insurance	-	4,143	2,046	2,498	8,687	10,296
Equipment purchases	110	830		-	940	2,561
Maintenance	-	1,486	3,822	798	6,107	7,375
Other church running costs	3,271	1,180			4,451	99,763
E Harptree - Newton project	-	48,783	-	-	48,783	147,638
Visiting Clergy	412	-	-	-	412	1,779
Professional fees	720	1,289			2,009	600
	4,513	57,712	5,868	3,296	71,389	270,012
Outward giving - Unrestricted						
Charitable donations	170	-	-	-	170	50
Outward giving - Restricted / Designated						
Charitable donations	934	80	-	-	1,014	691
Costs of Generating Funds - Unrestricted						
Fund raising expenses		1,748	171	-	1,919	-
Costs of Generating Funds - Restricted / Designated						
Fund raising expenses		-	-	-	-	3065
Total Payments	**39,903**	**59,540**	**6,038**	**3,296**	**108,778**	**302,420**
Receipts from page 4	**46,626**	**43,701**	**11,377**	**6,661**	**108,365**	**337,531**
Net Result for the year	**6,723**	**(15,839)**	**5,339**	**3,365**	**(413)**	**35,111**

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of East Harptree with West Harptree & Hinton Blewett

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

1. Basis of preparation

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis. This method of preparing the accounts means that income and expenses fall into the accounts for the year when the cash movements take place. This can lead to unexpected fluctuations if receipts or payments are delayed around the time of the year end, which may require additional explanations to ensure an understanding of the figures.

2. Fund accounting - unrestricted / designated funds

Unrestricted funds are funds which may be spent on any of the PCC's general purposes. These may however be designated by the PCC for particular purposes. In these financial statements, unrestricted funds held by the three individual churches have been designated by the PCC as specific to each church only, to be held and used for the maintenance and upkeep of that church.

3. Fund accounting - restricted funds

Restricted funds comprise donations for a specific purpose intended by the donor.
There are specific restricted funds managed by East Harptree and by the PCC as follows:

The Newton Project Fund at East Harptree

During 2019 the first grant funding was obtained from the National Heritage Lottery Fund to cover consultancy and set up costs for this project which has involved major works to East Harptree church, including essential structural repair work and works to conserve and restore significant heritage items, and works to improve the inclusive access to the church and the project also involves a number of Activities including with East Harptree Church of England Primary School, the Harptrees History Society and the East Harptree Environment Group and Learning Partnership West (an Alternative Learning Provider based in South Bristol). The project is ongoing and not due to complete until May 2026. However practical completion of the capital works was achieved in 2023 and snagging was completed in January 2025. The National Heritage Lottery Fund have recently increased their financial support to the project to cover a large part of the cost overruns on the capital works and to enable some small additional and complementary works to be undertaken. The final payment to the Main Contractor, Ellis and Co was made in February 2025.

The Choir Fund held by the PCC

This fund was introduced during 2018 for the choir's expenses, and started 2024 with a balance of £550. Expenditure of £171 was made from the fund during 2024 and there was a receipt from a wedding of £100 so the balance at the end of the year totalled £479.

4 Investment Assets

The investment assets of Hinton Blewett have been revalued to include units which historically had been kept separate from the Hinton Blewett balance sheet but is controlled by the Churchwarden and Treasurer and the income from which is paid into the main Hinton Blewett bank account. At the end of 2024 the value of the units was £3490.45

5. Outward giving during 2024

International Nepal Fellowship	£120
Royal British Legion	£300
Friends of Somerset Churches	£50
Bath and Wells Diocese/Ordination Fund	£534
InHope	£100

Since 31st December 2024 further payments have been made as follows:

International Nepal Fellowship	£548.33
Tear Fund	£333.33
Inhope	£333.33

6. Reserves

The three church buildings are managed and maintained by the respective Friends and Village Church Committees. All three churches have reserves, which it is believed are sufficient to cover all foreseeable emergencies. Such reserves may not be sufficient to cover major capital works, when additional fund raising may be necessary.

The PCC is responsible for maintaining a Christian Ministry in the Parish. Reserves held by the PCC are considered to be adequate for foreseeable eventualities.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of East Harptree with West Harptree and Hinton Blewett

Financial Review for the year ended 31 December 2024

Results

For the overall United Parish, payments exceeded receipts, with an overall deficit of £413 (for 2023 there was a surplus of £35,111). These continue, however, to be exceptional figures which continue to be distorted by the donations and grants and expenditure on Project Newton. Unrealised gains on investments amounting to £9,092 (compared to unrealised gains in 2023 of £10,351) as at the year end further distorted the situation.

Excluding investment gains, the PCC alone showed a net gain of £6,723 (there was a surplus of £6,843 in 2023), East Harptree showed a net deficit of £15,839 (it was a net surplus of £28,878 in 2023), West Harptree made a surplus of £5,339 (there was a deficit of £3,121 in 2023) and Hinton Blewett a surplus of £3,366 (it was a surplus of £2,509 in 2023).

Receipts

Combined receipts amounted to £108,365 (2023 - £337,531) with Project Newton still distorting these figures.

Planned giving appears stable at £19,710 (£19,905 in 2023), but this masks a further decline as £1,080 of the planned giving is in fact designated for one of our churches. However encouragingly church collections increased again to £4,497 (£4,190 in 2023).

Payments

Combined payments amounted to £108,778 (£302,420 in 2023), with £48,783 of this relating to Project Newton.

Reserves, and looking forward to 2025

Combined reserves appear strong at £261,714 (£253,032 at the end of 2023) but they will decline in 2025 with further expenditure on Project Newton and the anticipated significant shortfall of receipts against payments in 2025 – the PCC has committed to pay Parish Share of £34,443 in 2025 which is considerably more than Planned Giving, Collections and Gift Aid recovered in 2024 (£28,539) and takes no account of other expenses borne by the PCC (Rector's expenses, Benefice Administrator, Organist, Outward Giving etc)

As your treasurer, once more I express my gratitude on behalf of the PCC to all those who continue to support the church with regular standing orders. Thank you to you all. That giving is the backbone of the PCC financing and the payment of our Parish Share and PCC expenses. If anyone is considering giving to the PCC it would be hugely appreciated: please do get in touch with me about this. Likewise if any current donors were minded to increase their giving that also would be hugely appreciated.

Guy Stobart

April, 2025

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF EAST HARPTREE WITH W

England & Wales - Charity number 1187091

Accounts

THE UNITED PARISH OF EAST HARPTREE WITH WEST HARPTREE AND HINTON BLEWETT-ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR 2023

Aims and Purpose

The PCC and the Vicar have the responsibility of promoting the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical, in the United Ecclesiastical Parish of East Harptree, with West Harptree and Hinton Blewett and the promotion of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England.

The PCC is a charity and was registered with the Charity Commission in 2019. The main activities undertaken by the PCC are those reflected in this report which the PCC consider furthered the PCC's aims for the public benefit. The PCC has had regard to the Charity Commission public benefit guidance, where relevant.

Structure, Governance and Management

The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure and the Church Representation Rules. It is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC membership consists of the Vicar, the Churchwardens of the three churches and other members (who are on the Parish Electoral Roll) elected by the PCC and proposed by the Friends of East Harptree, and the VCCs of West Harptree and Hinton Blewett. There are 54 people on the Parish Electoral Roll at the date of this report (last year it was 52). One person asked to be removed after moving away and three new residents have joined. Anyone wishing to join the roll is invited to contact the electoral roll officer for an application form.

Specific responsibilities of members of the PCC during 2023 are set out in the section below entitled "Administrative Information". That section also sets out the responsibilities of others, not on the PCC, for particular areas. All business of the PCC is conducted at its meetings referred to below. There is no separate standing committee.

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our churches and to become part of our Parish community. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the Parish and considers how our services can involve the different groups that live within our Parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament. We try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our Parish community through Worship and prayer; learning about the gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus and by the provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.

To facilitate this work it is also important that the PCC maintain the fabric of the three churches in our Parish. The PCC has the legal responsibility for the maintenance and upkeep of the three churches in the Parish although for all practical purposes the activities involved have been delegated to the Friends of St Laurence and to the VCCs of West Harptree and Hinton Blewett. They report to the PCC, who deal with Faculty and Grant applications and all formal matters, and the PCC generally oversee and ensure that the PCC's obligations are satisfactorily discharged by the Friends and VCCs.

The PCC meets 5 times a year with an extraordinary meeting after the APCM to elect

officers. There is an agreed and set list of issues which are dealt with at particular PCCs throughout the year to ensure that the key issues for the PCC are not overlooked and this is managed by the PCC secretary. In addition there are reports at each PCC meeting from the Friends and VCCs.

Administrative Information

The correspondence address for the Parish is now Church Farm, Church Lane, East Harptree, Bristol BS40 6BD.

Membership of the PCC in 2023

Chair	Mary Cookson
Vicar	None in 2023 – We had been in a vacancy since October 2020 when Rev Karen Spray retired, although we are now part of a new benefice Chew Valley South with a new Rector Rev Katrina Dykes
Secretary	Elaine Avery (Elected representative from West Harptree)
Deanery Synod Representatives	Mary Cookson
Electoral Roll Officer	Elaine Avery
Treasurer	Guy Stobart (Churchwarden East Harptree)
Other Members	Hazel Rider and Gill Stobart (Elected Representatives from East Harptree). Graham Sage (Point of contact at Hinton Blewett) is copied into PCC papers

Others Supporting the PCC

Safeguarding Officer	Gill Stobart
Parish News Editor	Gill Stobart
Parish Administrator	Joanna Brown
House Group	Richard Martin
Open the Book	Murray Bennett
Messy Church	Mary Cookson, Tilly Joskey, Hazel

Rider, Guy and Gill Stobart, Jenny Cruse, Diana Martin

Overview from Mary Cookson

" Be cheerful no matter what; pray all the time; thank God no matter what happens. This is the way God wants you who belong to Christ Jesus, to live."
1 Thessalonians. 18.

" Dear friends, stand your ground. And don't hold back. Throw yourselves into the work of the Master, confident that nothing you do for him is a waste of time or effort."
1 Corinthians 58.

2023 was a year of immense effort and prayer by so many people with many causes for joy and thanksgiving. In retrospect it was a pivotal year for our parish.

The future of the United Parish

Following the discontent across the Deanery, after the publication of the first deployment plan, we were engaged in numerous meetings with people from Stowey, Bishop Sutton, Compton Martin and All Saints (North Mendip). The second deployment plan was better received across the Deanery as it was apparent that the concerns so widely expressed had been acknowledged. This plan was also shared with the congregation. Further conversations took place and from those it became clear that our future direction should be to resume discussion with BCMU (Blagdon, Compton Martin and Ubley). Consequently, during July and also in September, Guy and Mary had frank conversations with representatives from those parishes, to ascertain whether or not the past disagreements between them had been resolved, and to explore their willingness to work with us to form a new benefice. It was clear that we were now agreed that we would work together to develop a new benefice which would be called Chew Valley South.

We also discussed this situation with the Archdeacon Adrian Youings. In a separate development it emerged that a new priest had been appointed in Saltford. In an unusual initiative Bishop Michael, the Archdeacon, the Area Dean and the Lay Dean suggested that we might like to meet another priest who could well have been appointed in Saltford. We were under no obligation to ask to appoint his priest. The Lay Dean had individual discussions with representatives from each of the parishes, and as a result, we unanimously agreed that we would like to meet this priest. So, in September we had a searching, friendly conversation with Rev Katrina Dykes on Zoom, having previously sent her a ' mini profile' of all our parishes and a statement of what we hoped a future full time stipendiary priest might be able to offer us.

Rev. Katrina indicated that she would like to come and see us all, face to face, so on October 4th Katrina visited all our churches and was able to meet all the CWs and the PCCs and other key people. She also saw the rectories in Blagdon and Hinton Blewett, following agreement that she and her husband should choose where they would want to make their home. On October 5th a chosen group of representatives from each parish with the Archdeacon, Area and Lay Deans met with Katrina who gave a short homily following a bible reading she had chosen. A lively conversation followed, during which we were able to ask her questions we had previously discussed and agreed and Katrina was able to ask us

questions too. This was deliberately not designed as a formal interview but as a process through which we could learn more about each other and discern what the outcome might be. There was unanimous agreement that we would be blessed to have Katrina as our priest and we were delighted, when after discussion with her husband, Katrina confirmed that she would like to make her home in Blagdon and to work across all our parishes as our priest.

So after a long period in the wilderness on November 5th a joint declaration was made across the new Benefice that the Revd Katrina Dykes would be inducted at a service in St Laurence East Harptree on February 8th 2024 and we joyfully began planning for Katrina's arrival.

Worship in the UP throughout 2023.

Weekly worship continued in the UP, wonderfully supported by Rev Tony Wilds and Rev Trevor Stubbs and Lay Led services also contributed to our pattern of worship as well as monthly Choral Evensongs. The use of the Common Cup at Communion was reintroduced and congregation numbers began to increase.

We were able to use St Margaret's at Hinton Blewett for some services, hosted by Graham Sage and Robbie Drewett and throughout the time that the building works continued at St Laurence, we were immensely grateful to Elaine Avery, Maggie Brain and Lesley Zurburg for hosting services at St Mary's West Harptree.

Tricia and the choir continued to enrich our worship with their joyful music. A wonderful service, led by Rev Tony Wilds, was held at St Laurence on May 7th to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III and the reopening of St Laurence, followed by refreshments including a Coronation Cake.

On September 24th we held a Somerset Service at St Laurence attended by the High Sheriff of Somerset, Robbie Drewett. Tricia Rees Jones had researched Somerset hymns and hymn tunes, children read Somerset poems and skipping rhymes and afterwards we enjoyed Somerset themed refreshments and then Clog Dancing and folk dancing in the Theatre. We were also delighted that the school returned enthusiastically to church for regular Collective Worship, Award Assemblies and special services.

Project Newton

We had hoped that the capital works might have been completed by Christmas 2022 or early in 2023 but there were inevitable delays, due mainly to archeological finds and delays with some of the exterior work and particularly with the return of the bells. We continued to meet regularly with the builders and had supportive meetings with the NHLF team.

On March 1st 2023 the bells were returned and rehung much to the delight of many folk who came to witness this historic event. New kneelers for the main altar and the Lady Chapel were delivered in April 2023; the organ was unwrapped and tuned in April 2023 and some further remedial work was done later. In June Truespeed provided St Laurence with free broadband and new matting was laid in the main aisles, making the church warmer and more welcoming.

The builders had left in early April so we had a first professional clean to remove most of the dust, plaster, cobwebs and debris that inevitably had resulted from the amount of interior work undertaken. Then it was clear that a massive effort would be needed to wash the floors, polish the pews and clean the brass.

So we designed a plan whereby the church was divided into sections and then we appealed to the congregation and the village to volunteer to take responsibility for one section. We were overwhelmed by the ensuing positive response and it was a joy to find so many people happily moving furniture, polishing, dusting and cleaning every available surface to make the church absolutely sparkle in time for the reopening.

With St Laurence reopened we turned our minds to the Interpretation and Activities part of Project Newton. These are expected to continue into 2026.

Thanks

Reflecting on 2023 it's clear that we are blessed with people who are ready to ' throw themselves into the work of the Master'. So, our thanks are due to our PCC
to Elaine for her dedicated efficiency as our secretary
to Gill for her safeguarding diligence as well as her work as Foundation Governor and editor of Parish News.
to Guy for his assiduous attention to finances, his outstanding leadership on Project Newton and his dedication as Churchwarden.
to Hazel for her willing support and her wonderful organisation of Lunch Club and 30 years running Adventurers with Barry.
to Maggie for keeping our Health and Safety policy and Risk Assessments up to date,
to Tricia and the choir for their dedication and the wonderful music they give us
to Jo for 11 years of dedicated service as our Parish Administrator, always carried out with grace and efficiency.
to Adrian for his faithfulness as our server and willing' techie'
to Kevin as Gift Aid Officer and for his wise advice on interpretation elements of Project Newton.
to Jenny for keeping us abreast of comings and goings
to those who read and lead our intercessions
to Murray for organising OTB
to our Messy Church group
to Richard and Diana for hosting prayer meetings and house group.
to EHEG for their ongoing work and maintenance of our churchyard.
to our flower teams and those who clean our churches
and to all the congregation for their continued faithfulness and attendance at services .

Activities

Worship Planning

During 2023 Mary Cookson has been able to organise our service schedule, agreeing with Trevor and Tony and lay leaders which services they would lead so that we offered a variety of worship. The service schedule was carefully considered and approved by the PCC. Jo Brown, our Administrator, has been an invaluable help, producing Pew News every week and ensuring we had the appropriate Orders of Service each Sunday. Tricia has cheerfully

selected appropriate hymns and anthems, leading the choir and ensuring that wonderful music has enriched our worship.

House Group

We had an interesting summer studying Revelation. Many years ago I was told Revelation was a simple book. More than 25 years later we have found it to be a complicated book with a simple message.

We now have a shared leadership which is proving to be successful. We hope that the coming Alpha Course will add to our membership

Richard Martin

Prayer Group

The Prayer Group meets fortnightly and although with few participants we give thanks to God for the many blessings we have experienced in this parish over the past year. We continue in prayer for the year ahead in our benefice, as well as praying for our country and the wider world.

Richard and Diana Martin

Messy Church

Messy Church has continued on Monday afternoons in school following OTB in church. Attendance has been consistently good. We have had fun doing various activities linked to the school's chosen values of perseverance, justice, truthfulness, community and joy.
We are blessed by the participation Guy and Gill Stobart, Jenny Cruse, Tilly Joskey, Hazel Rider, Diana Martin and Mary Cookson.

Mary Cookson

St Laurence, East Harptree

Following the builders' departure in March 2023 an intensive clean and polish was carried out at St Laurence to ensure the church was in wonderful condition for our reopening on May 7th 2023 with a special service of celebration for the Coronation of King Charles III and the completion of the capital works at the church. Since then snagging work has continued and we are confident that our next Quinquennial, due in 2024, will not spring any surprises on us though we expect there will still be issues to address to ensure that St Laurence remains in a good state of repair for many years to come.

Regular worship, including Communion, Lay Led services and Choral Evensong have continued and services have generally been well attended. Since reopening we know, from our people counter, that footfall into the church has greatly increased. Many people have commented on the transformative work undertaken and the vastly improved access, particularly for disabled people, and the everchanging landscape in the churchyard. We still have long term issues to address, including the installation of a new heating system, as our

boiler is definitely aging! But we rejoice that the church is now a much more welcoming place and is being used far more by our school and other visiting groups.

A footnote – we continue to operate The School House Trust, whose trustees are all the churchwardens and the incumbent and which continues to support EH School financially and is also providing some support to Project Newton.

Mary Cookson and Guy Stobart

St Mary's West Harptree

St Mary's was pleased to continue hosting additional services until almost the end of April 2023 when a fall of ceiling plaster necessitated its temporary closure on safety grounds. However, the coincidental reopening of St Laurence following major works fortunately saved the day. St Mary's reopened in early October once repairs were completed.

All annual testing and servicing was carried out during the year and the Health & Safety Policy and associated documents were reviewed and updated.

The gate and north door were refurbished and woodworm treatment carried out to the main altar and a number of pews. Unfortunately during the Autumn the boiler failed several times, necessitating increasingly frequent repairs, and it was subsequently condemned. In the light of the Church of England's policy of reaching Net Zero by 2030, enquiries were needed to establish what can affordably be done to heat the church in future and these are ongoing.

In the absence of a Church Warden we rely heavily on a small group of people for day to day upkeep, service cover and fund raising and we warmly thank them for their support. We acknowledge also the volunteers who provide flowers, help at services, act as stewards for events, open and close the church, sweep the path & pavement, undertake occasional maintenance and help with fund-raising. Villagers from throughout the United Parish generously support our various social & fundraising events, which not only assist St Mary's financially, but help to boost community and parish life. Finally, we thank the East Harptree Wardens, who in the absence of a regular priest organized regular and life-event services, the clergy who took them and the musicians who graced them; and the Parish Administrator who until her retirement was a huge support in myriad ways. Thank you all.

The current members of our small Village Church Committee are all over 70 and would be delighted to welcome anyone interested in keeping the building in good repair and functioning in the years ahead. In particular we are urgently in need of a Treasurer to replace Adrian Phillips who wishes to retire. If sufficient new volunteers do not come forward, then we have to be seriously concerned for the future of St Mary's.

Elaine Avery on behalf of St Mary's VCC

St Margaret's Hinton Blewett

This was one of the quietest years probably in the history of the church. There was one wedding and one interment of ashes. The Crib and Candle Christmas Service Eve was as always very well supported with the Last Hour at the Cross as moving as always.The

mowing teams kept the churchyard in excellent order with new members joining. The church was always cleaned and flowers in situ all the year. We held the first fete on the village green for some years raising a magnificent £2000.

Graham Sage

Music

The choir continued to thrive post-covid with major services for the re-opening of St Laurence's, the Coronation, a celebration of Somerset, and the Advent and Christmas carols.

There have been a number of first performances: in the Coronation thanksgiving service we joined choirs throughout the country in in singing The Mountains Shall Bring Peace by Joanna Forbes l'Estrange, commissioned by the RSCM and July's evensong included first performances of the Harptree Preces and Responses and the anthem Praise the Lord by Julian McNamara. Perhaps the most unusual new work was The Crystal Spring by Hywel Davies, sung as part of the wonderful Somerset service in September. For the first time in many, many decades, this service dispensed with the organ and was accompanied by the Somerset Russets, an instrumental folk group modelled on the old village bands which were common until the end of the 19th century. Oakhill-based composer Hywel Davies was commissioned to make an arrangement of the local folk ballad, The Crystal Spring for choir and band. All the music in the service from the hymn tunes to the instrumental pieces before and after the service were from Somerset and the theme continued into the refreshments (apples featuring strongly!) and the post-service dancing demonstrations by local folk groups. It was a joyous celebration of all things Somerset.

Away from these special services the choir continues to serve with joy at regular Sunday morning services and monthly evensongs. We sang twice at Stowey and continue to value the musical friendship between our churches. With the re-opening of St Laurence's enabling the reestablishment of the normal pattern of services again, I would once again like to thank Elaine Avery and St Mary's for being such generous hosts to the choir while St Laurence's was out of action. Indeed, thanks are due to all the choristers who continue to give of their time and talents to enable choral music in the parish to thrive and "serve the Lord with gladness and come before his presence with a song.

Tricia Rees-Jones

Safeguarding

The diocese has fairly recently introduced safeguarding "dashboards" for parishes and benefices. It is a national online system which helps PSOs and PCCs to keep track of the work which is being done in a parish around safeguarding and tasks which need to be undertaken or reviewed. Some helpful reports can be generated, including the PCC's safeguarding action plan.

The Parish Safeguarding Policy is reviewed and updated as required by the PCC on an annual basis. This was done in July 2023 and is due to be reviewed at the meeting in September 2024.

It is diocesan policy that all those working directly with children or young people or vulnerable adults, church wardens and others such as the parish safeguarding officer and organist and choir leader should have DBS checks done. At the time of writing all checks are up to date, with a handful due to be renewed in the autumn of 2024. Until the end of 2022 the Church's guidance was that checks should be done every 5 years. From January 2023 that is now every 3 years.

Training is now mandatory for almost everyone who has any sort of role within the church. Over the last year I have contacted all those who need to do some training, most of whom have done so. There are still a few refuseniks and some of those who have done the training have not exactly embraced doing so, a culture we need to change. The importance of safeguarding was preached on last year and will be again this year when we mark Safeguarding Sunday.

We are required to follow the National Church's guidelines when recruiting any volunteer who will be working with children or young people (or, indeed, vulnerable adults). I have now started following these guidelines when recruiting new volunteers. It will not be retrospective.

It is also good practice for those in voluntary roles in the church to have role descriptions. We do not do so at the moment. As a benefice, we intend, over a period of time, to give our volunteers such role descriptions.

We are required to put certain information on our church noticeboards (the *"Promoting a Safer Church"* poster and a copy of the Parish Safeguarding Policy). There should also be appropriate information on any website. This is ongoing work and is in hand.

Gill Stobart

Parish News

Parish news continues to be an important part of the communication across our communities and is flourishing despite the growth of social media!

Gill Stobart

Health and Safety

In February 2024 the PCC agreed changes which would improve the monitoring and reporting processes. In particular lightning conductor tests will revert to annually, each church will adopt the Ecclesiastical Insurance Office's questionnaire for the 5 yearly fire assessment review and there will be a half yearly follow up of outstanding issues relating to the Health & Safety Risk Assessments including dates for legal requirements. Copies of all documentation to be sent to the PCC.

The Health & Safety Risk Assessments for East Harptree and West Harptree are up to date and all legal inspections and checks have either been carried out or are in hand. Dates for outstanding checks have been identified. Documentation has been sent to the PCC.

Hinton Blewett is in the process of sorting out the documentation but as yet the PCC has not

received any.

As the Parish Office has relocated the PCC is no longer responsible for Health & Safety matters there.

The United Parish Health & Safety Policy needs to be reviewed in the coming year.

M Brain

Financial Review

This is covered in the separate financial statements

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF EAST HARPTREE WITH WEST HARPTREE AND HINTON BLEWETT

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1187091

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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3	Statement of Assets and Liabilities
4	Analysis of Receipts
5	Analysis of Payments
6	Notes to the Accounts
7	Financial Review

Independent Examiner's Report
To the Trustees of the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of East Harptree with West Harptree and Hinton Blewett
On the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023
set out on pages 2 to 7

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees 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;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- 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 charity 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 trustees 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 which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect,

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act, or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

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

Signed..... Dated.....22/10/24.....

Name: KIMMH MILBOURN

Qualification: CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT.

Address: KLM ACCOUNTING SERVICES LIMITED
Little Gables, Battle Lane, Chew Magna, BS40 8PX.

Registered Charity no 1187091

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of East Harptree with West Harptree and Hinton Blewett.

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

RECEIPTS - see page 4 for detailed analysis	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	TOTAL 2023 £	TOTAL 2022 £
Voluntary receipts					
Planned giving	19,905	-	-	19,905	19,730
Collections at services	4,190	-	-	4,190	2,789
All other giving	1,807	14,783	-	16,590	101,671
Grants	-	253,450	-	253,450	299,083
Gift Aid recovered	5,634	14,218		19,852	27,636
	31,536	282,451	-	313,987	450,909
Activities for generating funds	1,240	11,135	-	12,375	14,589
Receipts from Church Activities	7,136	-	-	7,136	9,078
Investment Income	2,913	-	-	2,913	1,539
Other Receipts	-	-	1,120	1,120	
TOTAL RECEIPTS	**42,825**	**293,586**	**1,120**	**337,531**	**476,115**
PAYMENTS - see page 5 for detailed analysis					
Church activities:					
Diocesan parish contribution	15,200	-	-	15,200	18,039
Clergy, organists and administration	5,121	-	-	5,121	4,739
Church running expenses	8,282	168,188	101,824	278,294	568,338
Outward giving	50	-	691	741	3,253
Costs of generating funds	-	3,065	-	3,065	2,788
TOTAL PAYMENTS	**28,653**	**171,252**	**102,515**	**302,420**	**597,157**
Net receipts / (payments)	**14,172**	**122,333**	**(101,395)**	**35,111**	**(121,042)**
Unrealised gains/(losses) on investments	10,696	(344)	-	10,351	(9,297)
NET RESULT FOR THE YEAR	24,868	121,989	(101,395)	45,462	(130,339)
Fund balances at 1 January	102,469	150,617	(45,515)	207,570	337,909
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
FUND BALANCES AS AT 31 DECEMBER	127,337	272,606	(146,910)	253,032	207,570

Approved online by the PCC

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of East Harptree with West Harptree and Hinton Blewett

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES

	PCC	East Harptree	West Harptree	Hinton Blewett	TOTAL 2023	TOTAL 2022
	£	£			£	£
Investment Assets						
CBF Investment Fund - shares at market value					-	
Accumulation units	95,246	-	-	-	95,246	84,550
Income units	-	-	-	32,353	32,353	32,697
	95,246	**-**	**-**	**32,353**	**127,599**	**117,247**
Cash Funds						
Cash at bank and in hand	21,435	81,317	1,118	2,008	105,878	96,993
CBF Deposit Fund	-	2	20,685	15,536	36,223	18,332
	21,435	**81,319**	**21,803**	**17,544**	**142,100**	**115,324**
Current Assets/(Liabilities)						
Loan from Diocese		(16,667)			(16,667)	(25,000)
TOTAL NET ASSETS	**116,681**	**64,652**	**21,803**	**49,896**	**253,032**	**207,571**
Reserves - see notes 2 & 3 to the Financial Statements						
Opening balances						
Restricted	817	-	-	-	817	1,150
Designated	1,405	35,774	24,924	47,731	109,834	206,245
Unrestricted	96,920	-	-	-	96,920	130,515
	99,142	35,774	24,924	47,731	207,571	337,910
Result for the year	6,843	28,878	(3,121)	2,509	35,110	(121,042)
Investment gains/(losses)	10,696	-	-	(344)	10,351	(9,297)
	116,681	**64,652**	**21,803**	**49,896**	**253,032**	**207,571**
Closing balances						
Restricted	817	-	-	-	817	817
Designated	1,405	64,652	21,803	49,896	137,756	109,834
Unrestricted	114,459	-	-	-	114,459	96,920
	116,681	**64,652**	**21,803**	**49,896**	**253,032**	**207,571**
Movements in Investments						
Market values 1 January	84,550		-	32,697	117,247	126,544
Investments sold			-	-	-	
Unrealised gains/(losses)	10,696		-	(344)	10,352	(9,297)
Market values 31 December	**95,246**	**-**	**-**	**32,353**	**127,599**	**117,247**

Approved online by PCC

Mary R Cookson

Mary Cookson (Chair)

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

DETAILED ANALYSIS OF RECEIPTS

	PCC	East Harptree	West Harptree	Hinton Blewett	TOTAL 2023	TOTAL 2022
	£	£			£	£
Voluntary Receipts - Unrestricted						
Planned givings - STOs	18,840	-	-	1,065	19,905	19,730
Collections at services	4,190	-	-	-	4,190	2,789
Other donations	1,807			-	1,807	1,022
Gift Aid recovered	5,634				5,634	5,866
	30,471	-	-	1,065	31,536	29,407
Voluntary Receipts - Restricted / designated						
Other donations	2,160	10,789	1,394	440	14,783	100,649
Gift Aid recovered	7,109	6,590	249	270	14,218	21,770
Grants	89,535	163,040	375	500	253,450	299,083
	98,804	180,418	2,018	1,210	282,451	421,502
Activities for Generating Funds - Unrestricted						
Magazine advertising	1,240	-	-	-	1,240	1,520
Fund raising		-	-	-	-	
	1,240	-	-	-	1,240	1,520
Activities for Generating Funds - Restricted / Designated						
Fund raising	-	6,863	2,088	2,184	11,135	13,069
Receipts from Church Activities - Unrestricted						
Fees	3,359	735	775	-	4,869	6,747
Magazine sales	2,267	-	-	-	2,267	2,331
	5,626	735	775	-	7,136	9,078
Investment income - Unrestricted						
Realised gains on disposal	-	-	-	-	-	-
Interest & dividends	671	0	541	1,701	2,913	1,539
	671	0	541	1,701	2,913	1,539
Other income - Restricted / Designated						
Hall rental		-	-		-	
	1,120	-	-	-	1,120	
Total Receipts	**137,931**	**188,017**	**5,421**	**6,160**	**337,531**	**476,115**

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

DETAILED ANALYSIS OF PAYMENTS

	PCC	East Harptree	West Harptree	Hinton Blewett	TOTAL 2023	TOTAL 2022
	£	£			£	£
Church Activities - Unrestricted						
Diocesan parish share	15,200	-	-	-	15,200	18,039
Clergy, organists & administration						
Administrator	2,184	-	-	-	2,184	1,629
Organists	2,937	-	-	-	2,937	3,110
Rector's expenses					-	
	5,121	-	-	-	5,121	4,739
Church Running Expenses - Unrestricted						
Equipment purchases			-	-	-	-
Magazine printing	3,023	-	-	-	3,023	3,055
Phone, copier, stationery etc	359	-	-	-	359	209
Other church running costs	4,900	-	-	-	4,900	2,043
	8,282	-	-	-	8,282	5,307
Church Running Expenses - Restricted / Designated						
Heat, light, water, insurance	-	3,426	3,567	3,303	10,296	6,455
Equipment purchases		2,538		23	2,561	333
Maintenance	-	2,258	4,792	326	7,375	10,074
Other church running costs	99,445	318			99,763	36,667
E Harptree - Newton project	-	147,638	-	-	147,638	506,919
Visiting Clergy	1,779	-	-	-	1,779	1,983
Professional fees	600				600	600
	101,824	156,178	8,358	3,651	270,012	563,031
Outward giving - Unrestricted						
Charitable donations	50	-	-	-	50	1,158
Outward giving - Restricted / Designated						
Charitable donations	611	80	-	-	691	2,095
Costs of Generating Funds - Unrestricted						
Fund raising expenses		-	-	-	-	
Costs of Generating Funds - Restricted / Designated						
Fund raising expenses		2,881	184	-	3,065	2788
Total Payments	**131,088**	**159,139**	**8,542**	**3,651**	**302,420**	**597,157**
Receipts from page 4	**137,931**	**188,017**	**5,421**	**6,160**	**337,531**	**476,115**
Net Result for the year	**6,843**	**28,878**	**(3,121)**	**2,509**	**35,111**	**(121,042)**

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of East Harptree with West Harptree & Hinton Blewett

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

1. Basis of preparation

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis. This method of preparing the accounts means that income and expenses fall into the accounts for the year when the cash movements take place. This can lead to unexpected fluctuations if receipts or payments are delayed around the time of the year end, which may require additional explanations to ensure an understanding of the figures.

2. Fund accounting - unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds are funds which may be spent on any of the PCC's general purposes. These may however be designated by the PCC for particular purposes. In these financial statements, unrestricted funds held by the three individual churches have been designated by the PCC as specific to each church only, to be held and used for the maintenance and upkeep of that church.

3. Fund accounting – restricted and designated funds

Restricted and designated funds comprise donations for a specific purpose intended by the donor or funds designated as such by the PCC.

There are notable restricted and designated funds managed by East Harptree and by the PCC as follows:

The Newton Project Fund at East Harptree

The project has involved major works to East Harptree church, including essential structural repair work and works to conserve and restore significant heritage items, and works to improve the inclusive access to the church and a number of Activities including with East Harptree Church of England Primary School, the Harptrees History Society and the East Harptree Environment Group. The capital works were largely completed in 2023 and practical completion achieved in April 2023. Some snagging, however, remains outstanding and the project is ongoing and not due to complete until 2026. Further grants are due notably from the National Heritage Lottery Fund. It is anticipated that all the remaining funds held by East Harptree will be spent on the project. Other church running costs of £99445 include a payment to East Harptree of £96175 in respect of grants received into the PCC for the Newton Project.

The Choir Fund held by the PCC

This fund was introduced during 2018 for the choir's expenses. The fund started the year with £817. Expenditure of £267 was made from the fund during 2023 so the balance at the end of the year totalled £550.

4. Outward giving

International Nepal Fellowship	£100
Royal British Legion	£275
Friends of Somerset Churches	£50
C of E Children's Society	£96
Christian Aid	£140

5. Reserves

The three church buildings are managed and maintained by the respective Friends and Village Church Committees. All three churches have reserves, which it is believed are sufficient to cover all foreseeable emergencies. Such reserves may not be sufficient to cover major capital works, when additional fund raising may be necessary.

The PCC is responsible for maintaining a Christian Ministry in the Parish. Reserves held by the PCC are considered to be adequate for foreseeable eventualities.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of East Harptree with West Harptree and Hinton Blewett

Financial Review for the year ended 31 December 2023

Results

For the overall United Parish, receipts exceeded payments, with an overall surplus of £35,111 (there was a deficit of £121,042 in 2022). These were exceptional figures significantly distorted by the donations and grants and expenditure on Project Newton. Unrealised gains on investments amounted to £10,351 (compared to unrealised losses in 2022 of £9,297).

Excluding investment gains, the PCC alone made a small surplus of £6,843 (there was a loss of £25,450 in 2022). East Harptree showed a net surplus of £28,878 (£107,857 in 2022). West Harptree made a loss of £3121 (a surplus of £12,245 in 2021) and Hinton Blewett a surplus of £2509 (£20 in 2022).

Receipts

Combined receipts amounted to £337,531 (2022 - £476,115). Both 2022 and 2023 were distorted by significant grants and donations received towards Project Newton.

Planned giving appears stable at £19,905 (£19,730 in 2022), but this masks a further decline as £1,065 of the planned giving is in fact designated for one of our churches (Hinton Blewitt). However encouragingly church collections increased from £2789 in 2022 to £4190 in 2023.

Payments

Combined payments amounted to £302,420 (2022 - £597,157), with £147,638 of this relating to Project Newton and £96,175 relating to the distribution of grants received towards Project Newton.

Reserves, and looking forward to 2024

Reserves appear strong at £253,032 (£207,571 at the end of 2022). But a significant decline is anticipated in 2024 to cover further expenditure on Project Newton. Planned giving continues to show a steady decline and the increase in collections is likely to be reversed in 2024 as less services take place in the United Parish now that we are combined into the new benefice of Chew Valley South. There is both a clear need for a stewardship campaign to increase regular giving and a real opportunity to do this with the arrival of Katrina Dykes as the Rector of Chew Valley South.

As your treasurer, once again I express my gratitude on behalf of the PCC to all those who continue to support the church with regular standing orders. Thank you to you all. That giving is the backbone of the PCC financing and the payment of our Parish Share and PCC expenses. If anyone is considering giving to the PCC it would be hugely appreciated: please do get in touch with me about this. Likewise if any current donors were minded to increase their giving that also would be hugely appreciated.

Guy Stobart

August 2024

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF EAST HARPTREE WITH W

England & Wales - Charity number 1187091

Accounts

THE UNITED PARISH OF EAST HARPTREE WITH WEST HARPTREE AND HINTON BLEWETT-ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR 2022

Aims and Purpose

The PCC and the Vicar (we have, however, been in vacancy since 2020) have the responsibility of promoting the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical, in the United Ecclesiastical Parish of East Harptree, with West Harptree and Hinton Blewett and the promotion of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England.

The PCC is a charity and was registered with the Charity Commission in 2019. The main activities undertaken by the PCC are those reflected in this report which the PCC consider furthered the PCC's aims for the public benefit. The PCC has had regard to the Charity Commission public benefit guidance, where relevant.

Structure, Governance and Management

The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure and the Church Representation Rules. It is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC membership consists of the Vicar, the Churchwardens of the three churches and other members (who are on the Parish Electoral Roll) elected by the PCC and proposed by the Friends of East Harptree, and the VCCs of West Harptree and Hinton Blewett. There are 52 people on the Parish Electoral Roll at the date of this report (last year it was 53).

Specific responsibilities of members of the PCC during 2022 are set out in the section below entitled "Administrative Information". That section also sets out the responsibilities of others, not on the PCC, for particular areas. All business of the PCC is conducted at its meetings referred to below. There is no separate standing committee.

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our churches and to become part of our Parish community. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the Parish and considers how our services can involve the different groups that live within our Parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament. We try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our Parish community through Worship and prayer; learning about the gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus and by the provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.

To facilitate this work it is also important that the PCC maintain the fabric of the three churches in our Parish. The PCC has the legal responsibility for the maintenance and upkeep of the three churches in the Parish although for all practical purposes the activities involved have been delegated to the Friends of St Laurence and to the VCCs of West Harptree and Hinton Blewett. They report to the PCC, who deal with Faculty and Grant applications and all formal matters, and the PCC generally oversee and ensure that the PCC's obligations are satisfactorily discharged by the Friends and VCCs.

The PCC meets 5 times a year with an extraordinary meeting after the APCM to elect

officers. There is an agreed and set list of issues which are dealt with at particular PCCs throughout the year to ensure that the key issues for the PCC are not overlooked and this is managed by the PCC secretary. In addition there are reports at each PCC meeting from the Friends and VCCs.

Administrative Information

The correspondence address for the Parish is West Harptree Memorial Hall, Compton Martin Road, West Harptree, Bristol BS40 6EG.

Membership of the PCC in 2022

Chair	Mary Cookson
Vicar	None – We have been in a vacancy since October 2020 when Rev Karen Spray retired
Secretary	Elaine Avery (Elected representative from West Harptree)
Deanery Synod Representatives	Mary Cookson
Electoral Roll Officer	Elaine Avery
Treasurer	Guy Stobart (Churchwarden East Harptree)
Other Members	Hazel Rider and Gill Stobart (Elected Representatives from East Harptree). Graham Sage (Point of contact at Hinton Blewett) is copied into PCC papers

Others Supporting the PCC

Safeguarding Officer	Gill Stobart
Parish News Editor	Gill Stobart
Parish Administrator	Joanna Brown
House Group	Richard Martin
Open the Book	Murray Bennett
Messy Church	Mary Cookson, Tilly Joskey, Hazel Rider, Guy and Gill Stobart, Jenny Cruse, Diana Martin

Overview from Mary Cookson

" Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction and faithful in prayer." Romans 12. 12

Many signs of hope were evident in 2022 despite the unpredictability of events. As our vacancy continued we were greatly blessed by the ministry of Revd. Tony Wilds and Revd. Trevor Stubbs and we were pleased that Revd Tom Handy, who had moved to East Harptree, was able to lead occasional services.

Tricia Rees Jones and the choir enriched our worship through their dedication and joy in singing and a small team of lay leaders also ensured we could offer some non Communion services.

Early in the year the mandatory wearing of masks was lifted but then, due to a spike in Covid 19, the taking of wine at Communion was delayed until April, when after consultation with our clergy and congregation we were able to offer the option of wafers intincted by the priest.

Our attendees at services gradually increased though still remaining lower than pre covid times.

We were grateful that Elaine Avery and Maggie Brain willingly hosted the majority of our services at St Mary's once Project Newton started in March 2022. We also visited St Margaret's on a few occasions, by invitation of Graham Sage and Robbie Drewett.

In March we were able to resume OTB, which had to take place in school, and Messy Church also restarted.

On March 17th we held a very well attended coffee morning at the Pavilion , East Harptree , which raised £1400 for Afghan and Ukrainian refugees.

The future of the United Parish was much on our minds. In January we learned that the attempts to unite as one parish in BCMU had been paused. Consequently we stepped aside from our attempts to join with them, under Rev Simon Lewis's leadership. We were saddened to learn that Simon was leaving BCMU in May 2022.

A well attended Parish Meeting took place on March 17th to consider and discuss our future. It was accepted that we would inevitably have to join with another parish and the Churchwardens were supported in their suggestion that they should hold informal talks with a number of neighbouring parishes. A number of such meetings continued throughout 2022.

In April 2022 the Bishop's Council published a paper promoting the reduction of priests across the Diocese. This was followed by a draft Deanery Deployment plan being published in July 2022 indicating that the number of priests in the Chew Magna Deanery would be reduced from 9 to 7. The views of the PCC and the United Parish were sought and these were shared with the Area Dean and Lay Dean . Our views were reported at the Deanery Synod in October 2022 where it was evident that there was considerable discontent across

the Deanery and that a second version of the plan was essential, showing that a truly Deanery wide strategy would be offered for future consideration.

The continuing support of the congregation gave us hope but it is clear that all our attempts to discern our future and to ease the pain of uncertainty and change need to be underpinned by constant prayer. So please pray for our parish, the Churchwardens and the PCC as we live in patient hope to see how our future will be shaped.

Activities

Worship Planning

During 2022 Mary Cookson has been able to organise our service schedule, agreeing with Trevor and Tony and lay leaders which services they would lead so that we offered a variety of worship. The service schedule was carefully considered and approved by the PCC. Jo Brown, our Administrator, has been an invaluable help, producing Pew News every week and ensuring we had the appropriate Orders of Service each Sunday. Tricia has cheerfully selected appropriate hymns and anthems, leading the choir and ensuring that wonderful music has enriched our worship.

House Group

This House Group was formed to enable us to continue to meet after the first Alpha Group held in this parish and continued when we transferred to Christianity Explored. As covid developed we met out doors until it got too cold, so that we were not too sorry when we were told we could not continue. When an offer was made to meet again once we were allowed, I was very pleased at the enthusiasm to start from where we had left off.

We have been studying John's first letter for some time. I am not proud of this, but have to admit it is the first time I have studied this in over 50 years. It is very thought provoking as well as being quite wonderful.

Richard Martin

The Prayer Group was formed as it is our belief that nothing positive will happen in the parish unless we pray for God's blessing and guidance. It meets fortnightly and so far has been only sparsely attended. I know we are all busy, but perhaps we should give thought to the fact that all the work will be in vain unless we first pray.

Diana Martin

Open the Book and Messy Church

We were delighted to be able to restart Messy Church sessions in school on Monday afternoons, at 3.30pm, following after OTB . These began in March, using the values adopted for each term by the school. Uptake for Messy Church was wonderfully positive with numbers averaging about 40 during the rest of the year. Thanks to the team (Guy and

Gill Stobart, Jenny Cruse, Diana Martin, Tilly Joskey, Hazel Rider and Mary Cookson) who have supported these sessions and enjoying sharing activities with the children.

Mary Cookson

Adventurers

Adventurers continue to meet at West Harptree Hall with between 10 and 16 children attending each month (predominately boys). We have three female leaders but could really do with some male leaders. For the summer term we do outdoor activities, but in winter it is mostly Arts or Crafts.

Hazel Rider

St Laurence, East Harptree

Successful lay led services were held between January and March 2022, including a celebration of Candlemas, a Christingle and a Mothering Sunday service. St Laurence then closed so that Project Newton works could begin at the start of April. It was very exciting to see the different phases of the work unfolding and Ellis and Co, the builders, were very friendly , efficient and accommodating. The village showed great interest in what was happening and we were able to arrange a number of activities so that aspects of the project could be witnessed first hand. Tours were organised to the top of the tower. Ellis invited us to visit their workshop to see the stonemasons working on new carvings for the parapet. We were able to watch the Hunky Punks being cleaned . Many people came to see the bells being taken down and some then visited Nicholson's foundry in Bridport. People were able to climb the chancel scaffold to witness first hand the painstaking revealing of the wonderful wall paintings and to learn from Ruth McNeilage about her immense skill as a conservator. A visit to Holywell Glass in Wells was extremely enjoyable as we were able to see our Karl Parsons window, completely taken apart to be cleaned and restored. The very significant works on the entrance caused some disruption to our neighbours and we were grateful for their patience and understanding.

Careful monitoring, frequent discussions with Tom Griffin, our architect and meetings with members of NHLF team ensured we kept on track. Delays inevitably occurred so that our anticipated return date of Christmas 2022 slipped. Reopening was therefore unlikely until Spring 2023. The delays were caused by supply issues, the discovery of Medieval skeletons and a protracted delay in returning the bells. During this time we were hugely grateful to St Mary's who hosted the majority of our services, ensuring that worship in the parish remained in place.

We are delighted that St Laurence will now be in a stable state of good repair for many years to come and we look forward to the Interpretation and Activity elements of Project Newton which will continue until 2025.

A footnote – we continue to operate The School House Trust, whose trustees are all the churchwardens and the incumbent and which continues to support EH School financially and is also providing some support to Project Newton.

Mary Cookson and Guy Stobart

St Mary's West Harptree

St Mary's was pleased to host additional services during the extended closure in 2022 of St Laurence, whilst it underwent major refurbishment.

Various urgent repairs specified in the 2020 QI report were carried out by Ellis & Co at roof level and elsewhere. The suspect masonry at the east end was found to be stable and the temporary cordon removed accordingly. Further less urgent items remain to be tackled. The boiler, fire extinguishers and organ were serviced and the piano tuned.

In October, at the behest of his great-granddaughter Angela Calvert-Jones, we celebrated the bicentenary of the birth of William Sweetland of Bath in whose workshops the organ was built in 1891, and we are grateful to musicians from Downside School for a memorable concert.

In the absence of a Church Warden we rely heavily on a small team of people for day to day upkeep and fund raising and we warmly thank them for their support. We acknowledge also the volunteers who provide flowers, help at services, open and close the church, sweep the path & pavement, undertake occasional maintenance or help with fund-raising. Villagers from throughout the United Parish generously support our various events and the plant stall at Old Rosecroft Farm, which not only assist St Mary's financially but help to boost community and parish life. Finally, we acknowledge the East Harptree Wardens who organize regular and life-event services during a protracted vacancy, the clergy who take them and the musicians who grace them; and the Parish Administrator for her support in myriad ways. Thank you all.

The current members of the Village Church Committee are now all over 70 and would be delighted to welcome anyone interested in keeping St Mary's in good repair and functioning in the years ahead.

Elaine Avery on behalf of St Mary's VCC.

St Margaret's Hinton Blewett

During 2022 we have had one wedding, one baptism, three funerals and one internment of ashes.

No fundraising events were held for the Church in the absence of volunteers willing to pick up the mantle and, as a result, the finances of the VCC remain stretched. The number of supporters within the village is declining and, as they grow older, this poses a challenge, but there are indications during 2023 that the trend is reversing and that new volunteers are coming forward.

No major items of expenditure were incurred but it is noticeable that both the costs of maintenance and utilities has continued to rise at an alarming rate.

The Crib and Candle service was able to take place again in 2022 and proved popular with 84 attendees.

The flower ladies and grass cutting teams have continued to keep the Church and Churchyard look cared for with new villagers joining both teams, and we are grateful to them for all that they do to keep St Margaret's looking loved.

Graham Sage and Robbie Drewett

Music

At last, a return to normality!

With the restrictions of the previous years finally behind us, the choir have gone from strength to strength this year; leading the hymn singing at Sunday morning services, providing communion and other anthems and re-establishing monthly choral evensong services.

We have, of course, marked some significant national events. February 6 saw an evensong to mark the 70th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II's accession and a magnificent and moving occasion it was. In June we celebrated her Platinum Jubilee with evensong at Stowey but it was, of course, only a matter of months later that we marked the late Queen's death with a solemn and dignified service of mourning. The choir rose to the occasion magnificently, learning the Walford Davies setting of Psalm 121 on the morning of the service and singing it beautifully in the service (especial thanks to our soloists).

More locally, it's been a pleasure to visit our friends at Stowey for evensong again in October for harvest, Bishop Sutton for a Sunday morning service and the environs of Hinton Blewett for Rogation. The re-establishing of the pattern of services for Remembrance, Advent and Christmas has been a particular joy and we were delighted to welcome pupils and staff from Downside School for a concert to mark the bicentenary of William Sweetland, builder of the organs both at St Mary's and the Old Chapel at Downside. It is hoped to re-establish concerts in the parish in 2023/24.

It is an enormous pleasure and privilege to serve the United Parish and its choir as Director of Music and I thank the choir members, friends of the choir, the churchwardens, organisers and congregations of all 3 churches for their enthusiasm, support and help. An especial thank you to St Mary's for allowing the choir to transfer rehearsals (and a skeleton music library) there while Project Newton took St Laurence's out of action and to Joanne Brown who, as Parish Administrator, ensures in myriad and mostly unseen ways that everything happens so smoothly.

Tricia Rees-Jones

Safeguarding

The Parish Safeguarding Policy is reviewed and updated as required by the PCC on an annual basis. This was done in June 2022 and in July 2023.

It is Diocesan policy that all those working directly with children or young people or vulnerable adults, church wardens and others such as the parish safeguarding officer and organist and choir leader should have DBS checks done. At the time of writing all checks are up to date, with several due to be renewed at the end of this year. Until the end of 2022 the

Church's guidance was that checks should be done every 5 years. From January 2023 that is now every 3 years.

Training is now mandatory for almost everyone who has any sort of role within the church. Over the last year I have contacted all those who need to do some training. Some still need to do so. Thanks go to Tony Wilds who preached so well on the subject of taking the safeguarding of vulnerable people seriously.

We are required to follow the National Church's guidelines when recruiting any volunteer who will be working with children or young people (or, indeed, vulnerable adults). We have not recruited anyone to such a role for a little while, but we are mindful that when we do, we should follow the guidelines.

We are required to put certain information on our church noticeboards (the *"Promoting a Safer Church"* poster and a copy of the Parish Safeguarding Policy). Copies of an updated poster have recently been put in all our churches.

Gill Stobart

Parish News

Parish news continues to be an important part of the communication across our communities and is flourishing despite the growth of social media!

Gill Stobart

Health and Safety

The Health & Safety Risk Assessment reviews for all three churches are up to date. For East Harptree and West Harptree all legal inspections and safety checks have either been carried out or are in hand but for Hinton Blewitt this still needs to be confirmed. A review of the Parish Office Risk Assessment was carried out in February 2023. The paper guillotine has been oiled and now works properly. A folding step stool has been provided for access to items on higher shelves. PAT testing took place in February 2023. Several further queries have arisen and these are being followed up.

Maggie Brain

Financial Review

This is covered in the separate financial statements

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF EAST HARPTREE WITH WEST HARPTREE AND HINTON BLEWETT

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1187091

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

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2 Receipts and Payments Account

3 Statement of Assets and Liabilities

4 Analysis of Receipts

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6 Notes to the Accounts

7 Financial Review

Independent Examiner's Report
To the Trustees of the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of East Harptree with West Harptree and Hinton Blewett
On the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022
set out on pages 2 to 7

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees 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;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- 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 charity 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 trustees 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 which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect,

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act, or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

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

Signed..... Dated.....27/10/23.....

Name: KM Accounting Services Ltd.

Qualification: CA.

Address: Little Gables, Battle Lane, Chew Magna, Bristol BS40 8PX.

Registered Charity no 1187091

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of East Harptree with West Harptree and Hinton Blewett.

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

RECEIPTS - see page 4 for detailed analysis	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	TOTAL 2022 £	TOTAL 2021 £
Voluntary receipts					
Planned giving	19,730	-	-	19,730	19,670
Collections at services	2,789	-	-	2,789	1,989
All other giving	1,022	100,649	-	101,671	89,667
Grants	-	299,083	-	299,083	99,610
Gift Aid recovered	5,866	21,770		27,636	7,403
	29,407	421,502	-	450,909	218,339
Activities for generating funds	1,520	13,069	-	14,589	9,308
Receipts from Church Activities	9,078	-	-	9,078	6,694
Investment Income	1,539	-	-	1,539	985
Other Receipts	-	-	-	-	1,200
TOTAL RECEIPTS	**41,544**	**434,571**	**-**	**476,115**	**236,527**
PAYMENTS - see page 5 for detailed analysis					
Church activities:					
Diocesan parish contribution	18,039	-	-	18,039	34,157
Clergy, organists and administration	4,739	-	-	4,739	5,320
Church running expenses	5,307	540,146	22,885	568,338	102,746
Outward giving	1,158	-	2,095	3,253	1,480
Costs of generating funds	-	2,788	-	2,788	978
TOTAL PAYMENTS	**29,243**	**542,933**	**24,980**	**597,157**	**144,679**
Net receipts / (payments)	**12,301**	**(108,362)**	**(24,980)**	**(121,042)**	**91,847**
Unrealised gains/(losses) on investments	(8,478)	(819)	-	(9,297)	17,719
NET RESULT FOR THE YEAR	3,823	(109,181)	(24,980)	(130,339)	109,566
Fund balances at 1 January	98,646	259,798	(20,535)	337,909	228,343
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
FUND BALANCES AS AT 31 DECEMBER	102,469	150,617	(45,515)	207,570	337,909

Approved online by the PCC

PCC Chair: Mary R. Cookson.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of East Harptree with West Harptree and Hinton Blewett

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES

	PCC	East Harptree	West Harptree	Hinton Blewett	TOTAL 2022	TOTAL 2021
	£	£			£	£
Investment Assets						
CBF Investment Fund - shares at market value					-	
Accumulation units	84,550	-	-	-	84,550	93,028
Income units	-	-	-	32,697	32,697	33,516
	84,550	-	-	**32,697**	**117,247**	**126,544**
Cash Funds						
Cash at bank and in hand	14,592	60,773	20,780	848	96,993	134,398
CBF Deposit Fund	-	2	4,144	14,187	18,332	76,968
	14,592	**60,774**	**24,924**	**15,034**	**115,324**	**211,366**
Current Assets/(Liabilities)						
Loan from Diocese		(25,000)			(25,000)	
TOTAL NET ASSETS	**99,142**	**35,774**	**24,924**	**47,731**	**207,571**	**337,909**
Reserves - see notes 2 & 3 to the Financial Statements						
Opening balances						
Restricted	1,150	-	-	-	1,150	1,150
Designated	1,405	143,631	12,679	48,530	206,245	137,186
Unrestricted	130,515	-	-	-	130,515	90,007
	133,070	143,631	12,679	48,530	337,910	228,343
Result for the year	(25,450)	(107,857)	12,245	20	(121,042)	91,847
Investment gains/(losses)	(8,478)	-	-	(819)	(9,297)	17,719
	99,142	**35,774**	**24,924**	**47,731**	**207,571**	**337,909**
Closing balances						
Restricted	817	-	-	-	817	1,150
Designated	1,405	35,774	24,924	47,731	109,834	206,245
Unrestricted	96,920	-	-	-	96,920	130,515
	99,142	**35,774**	**24,924**	**47,731**	**207,571**	**337,909**
Movements in Investments						
Market values 1 January	93,028		-	33,516	126,544	139,030
Investments sold			-	-	-	(30,205)
Unrealised gains/(losses)	(8,478)		-	(819)	(9,297)	17,719
Market values 31 December	**84,550**	-	-	**32,697**	**117,247**	**126,544**

DETAILED ANALYSIS OF RECEIPTS

	PCC	East Harptree	West Harptree	Hinton Blewett	TOTAL 2022	TOTAL 2021
	£	£			£	£
Voluntary Receipts - Unrestricted						
Planned givings - STOs	19,730	-	-		19,730	19,670
Collections at services	2,789	-	-	-	2,789	1,989
Other donations	1,022			-	1,022	2,989
Gift Aid recovered	5,866			-	5,866	6,600
	29,407	-	-	-	29,407	31,248
Voluntary Receipts - Restricted / designated						
Other donations	3,628	82,954	12,956	1,111	100,649	86,678
Gift Aid recovered		18,718	3,052	-	21,770	803
Grants	400	297,261	1,172	250	299,083	99,610
	4,028	398,933	17,180	1,361	421,502	187,092
Activities for Generating Funds - Unrestricted						
Magazine advertising	1,520	-	-	-	1,520	1,129
Fund raising		-	-	-	-	
	1,520	-	-	-	1,520	1,129
Activities for Generating Funds - Restricted / Designated						
Fund raising	-	6,582	5,528	960	13,069	8,179
Receipts from Church Activities - Unrestricted						
Fees	6,697		50	-	6,747	4,211
Magazine sales	2,331	-	-	-	2,331	2,483
	9,028	-	50	-	9,078	6,694
Investment income - Unrestricted						
Realised gains on disposal	-	-	-	-	-	-
Interest & dividends	69	12	54	1,404	1,539	985
	69	12	54	1,404	1,539	985
Other income - Restricted / Designated						
Hall rental		-	-		-	1,200
	-	-	-	-	-	1,200
Total Receipts	**44,053**	**405,527**	**22,811**	**3,724**	**476,115**	**236,527**

DETAILED ANALYSIS OF PAYMENTS

	PCC	East Harptree	West Harptree	Hinton Blewett	TOTAL 2022	TOTAL 2021
	£	£			£	£
Church Activities - Unrestricted						
Diocesan parish share	18,039	-	-	-	18,039	34157
Clergy, organists & administration						
Administrator	1,629	-	-	-	1,629	2,750
Organists	3,110	-	-	-	3,110	2,570
Rector's expenses					-	
	4,739	-	-	-	4,739	5,320
Church Running Expenses - Unrestricted						
Equipment purchases			-	-	-	-
Magazine printing	3,055	-	-	-	3,055	2,678
Phone, copier, stationery etc	209	-	-	-	209	355
Other church running costs	2,043	-	-	-	2,043	2,414
	5,307	-	-	-	5,307	5,448
Church Running Expenses - Restricted / Designated						
Heat, light, water, insurance	-	2,788	1,813	1,854	6,455	4,936
Equipment purchases	333		-		333	10,366
Maintenance	-	793	8,529	752	10,074	655
Other church running costs	35,329	241		1,097	36,667	41,579
E Harptree - Newton project	-	506,919	-	-	506,919	36,890
Visitng Clergy	1,983	-	-	-	1,983	1,328
Professional fees	600				600	1,545
	38,245	510,741	10,342	3,704	563,031	97,298
Outward giving - Unrestricted						
Charitable donations	1,158	-	-	-	1,158	1,480
Outward giving - Restricted / Designated						
Charitable donations	2,015	80	-	-	2,095	-
Costs of Generating Funds - Unrestricted						
Fund raising expenses		-	-	-	-	340
Costs of Generating Funds - Restricted / Designated						
Fund raising expenses		2,563	224	-	2,788	638
Total Payments	**69,503**	**513,384**	**10,566**	**3,704**	**597,157**	**144,679**
Receipts from page 4	**44,053**	**405,527**	**22,811**	**3,724**	**476,115**	**236,527**
Net Result for the year	**(25,450)**	**(107,857)**	**12,245**	**20**	**(121,042)**	**91,847**

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of East Harptree with West Harptree & Hinton Blewett

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

1. Basis of preparation

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis. This method of preparing the accounts means that income and expenses fall into the accounts for the year when the cash movements take place. This can lead to unexpected fluctuations if receipts or payments are delayed around the time of the year end, which may require additional explanations to ensure an understanding of the figures.

2. Fund accounting - unrestricted / designated funds

Unrestricted funds are funds which may be spent on any of the PCC's general purposes. These may however be designated by the PCC for particular purposes. In these financial statements, unrestricted funds held by the three individual churches have been designated by the PCC as specific to each church only, to be held and used for the maintenance and upkeep of that church.

3. Fund accounting - restricted funds

Restricted funds comprise donations for a specific purpose intended by the donor.
There are specific restricted funds managed by East Harptree and by the PCC as follows:

The Newton Project Fund at East Harptree

During 2019 the first grant funding was obtained from the National Heritage Lottery Fund to cover consultancy and set up costs for this project which involves major works to East Harptree church, including essential structural repair work and works to conserve and restore significant heritage items, and works to improve the inclusive access to the church and the project also involves a number of Activities including with East Harptree Church of England Primary School, the Harptrees History Society and the East Harptree Environment Group. The project is ongoing and not due to complete until 2025. However major progress on the capital works was made during 2022. East Harptree carried forward cash assets of £143,631 from 2021 which were used against the costs incurred in 2022. Grants of £297,261 were received in 2022. However many grants are not payable until after milestones have been met or works completed and more grants have become payable and paid in 2023.

The Choir Fund held by the PCC

This fund was introduced during 2018 for the choir's expenses, and started 2021 with a balance of £1,150. Expenditure of £333 was made from the fund during 2022 so the balance at the end of the year totalled £817.

4. Outward giving

International Nepal Fellowship	£785
Royal British Legion	£225
Friends of Somerset Churches	£50
Tearfund	£285
InHope	£285
C of E Children's Society	£28.47
DEC Afganistan	£700
DEC Ukraine	£700
Help Bristol's Homeless	£115

5. Reserves

The three church buildings are managed and maintained by the respective Friends and Village Church Committees. All three churches have reserves, which it is believed are sufficient to cover all foreseeable emergencies. Such reserves may not be sufficient to cover major capital works, when additional fund raising may be necessary.

The PCC is responsible for maintaining a Christian Ministry in the Parish. Reserves held by the PCC are considered to be adequate for foreseeable eventualities.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of East Harptree with West Harptree and Hinton Blewett

Financial Review for the year ended 31 December 2022

Results

For the overall United Parish, payments exceeded receipts, with an overall deficit of £121,042 (for 2021 there was a surplus of £91,847). However these were exceptional figures significantly distorted by the donations and grants and expenditure on Project Newton and this annual shortfall was covered by grants, donations and reserves carried forward from 2021. Unrealised losses on investments amounting to £9,297 (compared to unrealised gains in 2021 of £17,719) as at the year end further distorted the situation.

Excluding investment losses, the PCC alone showed a net loss of £25,450 (there was a surplus of £25,181 in 2021). However if Other church running costs Restricted (£35,329) were to be excluded, which entirely relates to the distribution by the PCC of designated donations and gift aid retained by the PCC from previous years, the PCC made a small surplus in 2022. East Harptree showed a net deficit of £107,857 (it was a net surplus of £72,748 in 2021). West Harptree made a surplus of £12,245 (£631 in 2021) and Hinton Blewett a surplus of £20 (it was a deficit of £6,712 in 2021).

Receipts

Combined receipts amounted to £476,115 (2021 - £236,527). Both 2021 and 2022 were distorted by significant grants and donations received towards Project Newton (for instance in 2018, which predated Project Newton, they were £58,228). Receipts in 2022 included grants and donations of £297,261 (£109,041 in 2021) received for Project Newton.

Planned giving appears stable at £19,730 (£19,670 in 2021 and £21,095 in 2020), but this masks a further decline as £1,065 of the planned giving is in fact designated for one of our churches. However encouragingly church collections increased from £1989 in 2021 to £2789 in 2022.

Payments

Combined payments amounted to £597,157 (2021 - £144,679), with £506,919 of this relating to Project Newton.

Reserves, and looking forward to 2023

Reserves appear strong (£207,571 at the end of 2022) despite a steep decline (they were £337,909 at the end of 2021) with the decline largely representing money spent on Project Newton. But a further decline is anticipated in 2023 to cover further expenditure on Project Newton, although 2023 will also show further grants to be received in respect of Project Newton.

Many challenges lie in store for us all, particularly as we are approaching the third anniversary of our latest vacancy and we will need to work together in our communities to support and pray for one another and for those in positions of authority. As your treasurer, once more I express my gratitude on behalf of the PCC to all those who continue to support the church with regular standing orders. Thank you to you all. That giving is the backbone of the PCC financing and the payment of our Parish Share and PCC expenses. If anyone is considering giving to the PCC it would be hugely appreciated: please do get in touch with me about this. Likewise if any current donors were minded to increase their giving that also would be hugely appreciated..

Guy Stobart

August 2023

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF EAST HARPTREE WITH W

England & Wales - Charity number 1187091

Accounts

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF EAST HARPTREE WITH WEST HARPTREE AND HINTON BLEWETT

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1187091

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

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1	Independent Examiner's Report
2	Receipts and Payments Account
3	Statement of Assets and Liabilities
4	Analysis of Receipts
5	Analysis of Payments
6	Notes to the Accounts
7	Financial Review

Independent Examiner's Report
To the Trustees of the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of East Harptree with West Harptree and Hinton Blewett
On the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021
set out on pages 2 to 7

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees 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;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- 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 charity 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 trustees 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 which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect,

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act, or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

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

Signed EM Wilbourn Dated 25/10/22.

Name: ELM ACCOUNTING SERVICES LTD.

Qualification: CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT (ICAS)

Address: LITTLE GABLES, BATTLE LANE, CHEW MAGNA, BS40 8PX.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of East Harptree with West Harptree and Hinton Blewett

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

RECEIPTS - see page 4 for detailed analysis	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	TOTAL 2021 £	TOTAL 2020 £
Voluntary receipts					
Planned giving	19,670	-	-	19,670	21,095
Collections at services	1,989	-	-	1,989	1,047
All other giving	2,989	86,678	-	89,668	9,632
Grants	-	99,610	-	99,610	34,358
Gift Aid recovered	6,600	803		7,404	6,433
	31,248	187,092	-	218,341	72,565
Activities for generating funds	1,129	8,179	-	9,307	5,050
Receipts from Church Activities	6,694	-	-	6,694	4,846
Investment Income	985	-	-	985	1,795
Other Receipts	-	-	1,200	1,200	100
TOTAL RECEIPTS	**40,056**	**195,271**	**1,200**	**236,527**	**84,356**
PAYMENTS - see page 5 for detailed analysis					
Church activities:					
Diocesan parish contribution	34,157	-	-	34,157	35,163
Clergy, organists and administration	5,320	-	-	5,320	3,586
Church running expenses	5,448	74,413	22,885	102,746	41,057
Outward giving	1,480	-	-	1,480	123
Costs of generating funds	340	638	-	978	829
TOTAL PAYMENTS	**46,744**	**75,051**	**22,885**	**144,679**	**80,758**
Net receipts / (payments)	**(6,688)**	**120,220**	**(21,685)**	**91,847**	**3,598**
Unrealised gains/(losses) on investments	15,327	2,392	-	17,719	11,918
NET RESULT FOR THE YEAR	8,639	122,612	(21,685)	109,566	15,516
Fund balances at 1 January	90,007	137,186	1,150	228,343	212,827
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
FUND BALANCES AS AT 31 DECEMBER	98,646	259,798	(20,535)	337,909	228,343

Approved online by the PCC

PCC Chair:

Mary R Cookson.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of East Harptree with West Harptree and Hinton Blewett

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES

	PCC	East Harptree	West Harptree	Hinton Blewett	TOTAL 2021	TOTAL 2020
	£	£			£	£
Investment Assets						
CBF Investment Fund - shares at market value					-	
Accumulation units	93,028	-	-	-	93,028	106,611
Income units	-	-	-	33,516	33,516	32,419
	93,028	-	-	**33,516**	**126,544**	**139,030**
Cash Funds						
Cash at bank and in hand	40,042	83,879	8,589	1,887	134,398	28,434
CBF Deposit Fund	-	59,752	4,090	13,127	76,968	60,879
	40,042	**143,631**	**12,679**	**15,014**	**211,366**	**89,313**
Current Assets/(Liabilities)						
Loans to PCC from churches					-	-
TOTAL NET ASSETS	**133,070**	**143,631**	**12,679**	**48,530**	**337,910**	**228,343**
Reserves - see notes 2 & 3 to the Financial Statements						
Opening balances						
Restricted	1,150	-	-	-	1,150	5,879
Designated	1,405	69,588	12,048	54,145	137,186	115,203
Unrestricted	90,007	-	-	-	90,007	91,745
	92,562	69,588	12,048	54,145	228,343	212,827
Result for the year	25,181	72,748	631	(6,712)	91,847	3,598
Investment gains/(losses)	15,327	1,295	-	1,097	17,719	11,918
Net transfers from PCC						-
	133,070	**143,631**	**12,679**	**48,530**	**337,909**	**228,343**
Closing balances						
Restricted	1,150	-	-	-	1,150	17,402
Designated	1,405	143,631	12,679	48,530	206,245	120,934
Unrestricted	130,515	-	-	-	130,515	90,007
	133,070	**143,631**	**12,679**	**48,530**	**337,909**	**228,343**
Movements in Investments						
Market values 1 January	92,701	13,910	-	32,419	139,030	127,112
Investments sold	(15,000)	(15,205)	-	-	(30,205)	-
Unrealised gains/(losses)	15,327	1,295	-	1,097	17,719	11,918
Market values 31 December	**93,028**	-	-	**33,516**	**126,544**	**139,030**

DETAILED ANALYSIS OF RECEIPTS

	PCC	East Harptree	West Harptree	Hinton Blewett	TOTAL 2021	TOTAL 2020
	£	£			£	£
Voluntary Receipts - Unrestricted						
Planned givings - STOs	19,670	-	-	-	19,670	21,095
Envelope scheme	-	-	-	-	-	-
Collections at services	1,989	-	-	-	1,989	1,047
Other donations	2,989	-	-	-	2,989	941
Gift Aid recovered	6,600	-	-	-	6,600	6,245
	31,248	-	-	-	31,248	29,328
Voluntary Receipts - Restricted / designated						
Other donations	56,744	27,657	1,003	1,275	86,678	8,691
Gift Aid recovered	803	-	-	-	803	188
Grants	15,626	81,384	-	2,600	99,610	34,358
	73,174	109,041	1,003	3,875	187,092	43,237
Activities for Generating Funds - Unrestricted						
Magazine advertising	1,129	-	-	-	1,129	1,668
Fund raising		-	-	-	-	280
	1,129	-	-	-	1,129	1,948
Activities for Generating Funds - Restricted / Designated						
Fund raising	-	4,062	3,868	249	8,179	3,102
Receipts from Church Activities - Unrestricted						
Fees	4,186	0	25	-	4,211	2,589
Magazine sales	2,483	-	-	-	2,483	2,257
	6,669	-	25	-	6,694	4,846
Investment income - Unrestricted						
Realised gains on disposal	-	-	-	-	-	-
Interest & dividends	10	25	2	948	985	1,795
	10	25	2	948	985	1,795
Other income - Restricted / Designated						
Hall rental	1,200	-	-		1,200	100
	1,200	-	-	-	1,200	100
Total Receipts	**113,430**	**113,128**	**4,898**	**5,072**	**236,527**	**84,356**

DETAILED ANALYSIS OF PAYMENTS

	PCC	East Harptree	West Harptree	Hinton Blewett	TOTAL 2021	TOTAL 2020
	£	£			£	£
Church Activities - Unrestricted						
Diocesan parish share	34,157	-	-	-	34,157	35,163
Clergy, organists & administration						
Administrator	2,750	-	-	-	2,750	1,566
Organists	2,570	-	-	-	2,570	2,020
Rector's expenses					-	-
	5,320	-	-	-	5,320	3,586
Church Running Expenses - Unrestricted						
Equipment purchases			-	-	-	-
Magazine printing	2,678	-	-	-	2,678	3,192
Phone, copier, stationery etc	355	-	-	-	355	320
Other church running costs	2,414	-	-	-	2,414	893
	5,448	-	-	-	5,448	4,405
Church Running Expenses - Restricted / Designated						
Heat, light, water, insurance	-	1,704	1,863	1,369	4,936	4,942
Equipment purchases	-	96	-	10,269	10,366	495
Maintenance	-	311	279	65	655	5,385
Other church running costs	39,559	1,063	877	81	41,579	1,890
E Harptree - Newton project	-	36,890	-	-	36,890	22,514
Visitng Clergy	1,328	-	-	-	1,328	-
Professional fees	600		945		1,545	1,426
	41,487	40,064	3,963	11,784	97,298	36,652
Outward giving - Unrestricted						
Charitable donations	1,480	-	-	-	1,480	123
Outward giving - Restricted / Designated						
Charitable donations	-	-	-	-	-	-
Costs of Generating Funds - Unrestricted						
Fund raising expenses	340	-	-	-	340	-
Costs of Generating Funds - Restricted / Designated						
Fund raising expenses	18	316	304	-	638	829
Total Payments	**88,249**	**40,380**	**4,267**	**11,784**	**144,679**	**80,758**
Receipts from page 4	**113,430**	**113,128**	**4,898**	**5,072**	**236,527**	**84,356**
Net Result for the year	**25,181**	**72,748**	**631**	**(6,712)**	**91,847**	**3,598**

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of East Harptree with West Harptree & Hinton Blewett

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

1. Basis of preparation

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Unrestricted funds are funds which may be spent on any of the PCC's general purposes. These may however be designated by the PCC for particular purposes. In these financial statements, unrestricted funds held by the three individual churches have been designated by the PCC as specific to each church only, to be held and used for the maintenance and upkeep of that church.

3. Fund accounting - restricted funds

Restricted funds comprise donations for a specific purpose intended by the donor.

There are specific restricted funds managed by East Harptree and by the PCC as follows:

The Graham Veitch Bell Fund at East Harptree

This fund was set up in 2016 with donations in memory of the late Graham Veitch, for the purpose of maintaining the church bells and bell equipment at East Harptree. The balance is now £0 (£1,279) having been utilised during 2021 towards the works to the bells that form part of the Newton Project.

The Newton Project Fund at East Harptree

During 2019 the first grant funding was obtained from the National Heritage Lottery Fund to cover consultancy and set up costs for this project which will involve major works to East Harptree church, including essential structural repair work and works to conserve and restore significant heritage items, and works to improve the inclusive access to the church and the project will also involve a number of Activities including with East Harptree Church of England Primary School, the Harptrees History Society and the East Harptree Environment Group. During 2021 a second significant grant was awarded by the National Heritage Lottery Fund. During 2021 further funding was received totalling £109,041 and expenditure of £36,890 made on the project. The balance unspent at the end of the year was £87,124.

The Choir Fund held by the PCC

This fund was introduced during 2018 for the choir's expenses, and started 2021 with a balance of £1,150. No expenditure was made from the fund during 2021 so the balance at the end of the year totalled £ 1,150.

4. Outward giving

International Nepal Fellowship	£1020
Royal British Legion	£410
Friends of Somerset Churches	£50

5. Reserves

The three church buildings are managed and maintained by the respective Friends and Village Church Committees. All three churches have reserves, which it is believed are sufficient to cover all foreseeable emergencies. Such reserves may not be sufficient to cover major capital works, when additional fund raising may be necessary.

The PCC is responsible for maintaining a Christian Ministry in the Parish. Reserves held by the PCC are considered to be adequate for foreseeable eventualities.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of East Harptree with West Harptree and Hinton Blewett

Financial Review for the year ended 31 December 2021

Results

For the overall United Benefice, receipts exceeded payments, with an overall surplus of £91,847 (for 2020 there was a surplus of £3,598). However these were exceptional figures significantly distorted by the donations and grants and expenditure on Project Newton and much of the surplus will be spent on Project Newton in 2022. Unrealised gains on investments amounting to £17,719 as at the year end further improved the situation.

Excluding investment gains, the PCC alone showed a net surplus of £25,181. However these figures mask the fact that they contain restricted donations which are to be used towards Project Newton. East Harptree showed a net surplus of £72,748, but largely due to receiving a grants and donations in respect of Project Newton which will be spent in 2022. West Harptree made a surplus of £631 and Hinton Blewett a deficit of £6,712.

Receipts

Combined receipts amounted to £236,527 (2020 - £84,356). Both 2020 and 2021 were distorted by significant grants and donations received towards Project Newton (for instance in 2018, which predated Project Newton, they were £58,228). Receipts in 2021 included grants and donations of £109,041 received for Project Newton. Planned giving showed a further decrease to £19,670 (£21,095 in 2020), and unsurprisingly in the light of the COVID pandemic church collections remained low at £1989.

Payments

Combined payments amounted to £144,679 (2020 - £80,758), with £36,890 of this relating to Project Newton. Other church running costs (Restricted) showed a big increase due to the distribution of grants and donations towards Project Newton.

Reserves, and looking forward to 2022

Reserves appear strong but a large part will be spent in 2022 on Project Newton. During the year the PCC repaid the loans (totalling £15k) it had received from the individual churches.

The COVID 19 virus had a huge financial impact, not only on our own church income, but on the Church of England overall. Despite that our PCC and individual church results and the grants and donations towards Project Newton give cause for some optimism and the Project Newton works started in March 2022 and are now well advanced. Many challenges lie in store for us all, particularly as we are still in a vacancy and likely to be for some time, and we will need to work together in our communities to support and pray for one another and for those in positions of authority. As your treasurer, once more I express my gratitude on behalf of the PCC to all those who continue to support the church with regular standing orders. Thank you to you all.

Guy Stobart

October 2022

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF EAST HARPTREE WITH W

England & Wales - Charity number 1187091

Accounts

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF EAST HARPTREE WITH WEST HARPTREE AND HINTON BLEWETT

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1187091

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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1	Independent Examiner's Report
2	Receipts and Payments Account
3	Statement of Assets and Liabilities
4	Analysis of Receipts
5	Analysis of Payments
6-7	Notes to the Accounts
8	Financial Review

Independent Examiner's Report
To the Trustees of the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of East Harptree with West Harptree and Hinton Blewett
On the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020
set out on pages 2 to 8

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees 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;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- 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 charity 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 trustees 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 which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect,

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act, or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

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

Signed..... Dated.....14/05/21.....

Name: EMMA MILBOURN

Qualification: MEMBER OF INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS OF SCOTLAND

Address: LITTLE GABLES, BATTLE LANE, CHEW MAGNA, BS40 8PX.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of East Harptree with West Harptree and Hinton Blewett

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

RECEIPTS - see page 4 for detailed analysis	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	TOTAL 2020 £	TOTAL 2019 £
Voluntary receipts					
Planned giving	21,095	-	-	21,095	20,115
Collections at services	1,047	-	-	1,047	3,614
All other giving	941	8,691	-	9,632	11,669
Grants	-	250	34,108	34,358	43,243
Gift Aid recovered	6,245	188		6,433	9,813
	29,328	9,129	34,108	72,565	88,454
Activities for generating funds	1,948	3,102	-	5,050	18,326
Receipts from Church Activities	4,846	-	-	4,846	4,978
Investment Income	1,795	-	-	1,795	2,418
Other Receipts	-	-	100	100	100
TOTAL RECEIPTS	**37,917**	**12,231**	**34,208**	**84,356**	**114,276**
PAYMENTS - see page 5 for detailed analysis					
Church activities:					
Diocesan parish contribution	35,163	-	-	35,163	35,260
Clergy, organists and administration	3,586	-	-	3,586	6,466
Church running expenses	4,405	13,767	22,885	41,057	71,621
Outward giving	123	-	-	123	8,169
Costs of generating funds	-	829	-	829	3,200
TOTAL PAYMENTS	**43,277**	**14,596**	**22,885**	**80,758**	**124,716**
Net receipts / (payments)	**(5,360)**	**(2,365)**	**11,323**	**3,598**	**(10,440)**
Unrealised gains/(losses) on investments	8,581	3,337	-	11,918	22,481
NET RESULT FOR THE YEAR	3,221	972	11,323	15,516	12,041
Fund balances at 1 January	91,745	115,203	5,879	212,827	200,786
Transfers between funds	(3,684)	3,684	-	-	-
FUND BALANCES AS AT 31 DECEMBER	91,282	119,859	17,202	228,343	212,827

Approved online by the PCC

PCC Chair: Mary R. Cookson

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of East Harptree with West Harptree and Hinton Blewett

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

RECEIPTS - see page 4 for detailed analysis	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	TOTAL 2020 £	TOTAL 2019 £
Voluntary receipts					
Planned giving	21,095	-	-	21,095	20,115
Collections at services	1,047	-	-	1,047	3,614
All other giving	941	8,691	-	9,632	11,669
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	29,328	9,129	34,108	72,565	88,454
Activities for generating funds	1,948	3,102	-	5,050	18,326
Receipts from Church Activities	4,846	-	-	4,846	4,978
Investment Income	1,795	-	-	1,795	2,418
Other Receipts	-	-	100	100	100
TOTAL RECEIPTS	**37,917**	**12,231**	**34,208**	**84,356**	**114,276**
PAYMENTS - see page 5 for detailed analysis					
Church activities:					
Diocesan parish contribution	35,163	-	-	35,163	35,260
Clergy, organists and administration	3,586	-	-	3,586	6,466
Church running expenses	4,405	13,767	22,885	41,057	71,621
Outward giving	123	-	-	123	8,169
Costs of generating funds	-	829	-	829	3,200
TOTAL PAYMENTS	**43,277**	**14,596**	**22,885**	**80,758**	**124,716**
Net receipts / (payments)	**(5,360)**	**(2,365)**	**11,323**	**3,598**	**(10,440)**
Unrealised gains/(losses) on investments	8,581	3,337	-	11,918	22,481
NET RESULT FOR THE YEAR	3,221	972	11,323	15,516	12,041
Fund balances at 1 January	91,745	115,203	5,879	212,827	200,786
Transfers between funds	(3,684)	3,684	-	-	-
FUND BALANCES AS AT 31 DECEMBER	91,282	119,859	17,202	228,343	212,827

Approved online by the PCC

PCC Chair:

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES

	PCC	East Harptree	West Harptree	Hinton Blewett	TOTAL 2020	TOTAL 2019
	£	£			£	£
Investment Assets						
CBF Investment Fund - shares at market value					-	
Accumulation units	92,701	13,910	-	-	106,611	96,767
Income units	-	-	-	32,419	32,419	30,345
	92,701	**13,910**	**-**	**32,419**	**139,030**	**127,112**
Cash Funds						
Cash at bank and in hand	14,861	6,156	2,961	4,456	28,434	34,434
CBF Deposit Fund	-	44,522	4,087	12,270	60,879	51,281
	14,861	**50,678**	**7,048**	**16,726**	**89,313**	**85,715**
Current Assets/(Liabilities)						
Loans to PCC from churches	(15,000)	5,000	5,000	5,000	-	-
TOTAL NET ASSETS	**92,562**	**69,588**	**12,048**	**54,145**	**228,343**	**212,827**
Reserves - see notes 2 & 3 to the Financial Statements						
Opening balances						
Restricted	1,221	4,658	-	-	5,879	3,709
Designated	-	50,123	11,352	53,728	115,203	113,201
Unrestricted	91,745	-	-	-	91,745	83,876
	92,966	54,781	11,352	53,728	212,827	200,786
Result for the year	(5,301)	12,747	(1,576)	(2,272)	3,598	(10,440)
Investment gains/(losses)	8,581	1,263	-	2,074	11,918	22,481
Net transfers from PCC	(3,684)	797	2,272	615	-	-
	92,562	**69,588**	**12,048**	**54,145**	**228,343**	**212,827**
Closing balances						
Restricted	1,150	16,252	-	-	17,402	5,879
Designated	1,405	53,336	12,048	54,145	120,934	115,203
Unrestricted	90,007	-	-	-	90,007	91,745
	92,562	**69,588**	**12,048**	**54,145**	**228,343**	**212,827**
Movements in Investments						
Market values 1 January	84,120	12,647	-	30,345	127,112	118,747
Investments sold	-	-	-	-	-	(14,116)
Unrealised gains/(losses)	8,581	1,263	-	2,074	11,918	22,481
Market values 31 December	**92,701**	**13,910**	**-**	**32,419**	**139,030**	**127,112**

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

DETAILED ANALYSIS OF RECEIPTS

	PCC	East Harptree	West Harptree	Hinton Blewett	TOTAL 2020	TOTAL 2019
	£	£			£	£
Voluntary Receipts - Unrestricted						
Planned givings - STOs	21,095	-	-	-	21,095	20,085
Envelope scheme	-	-	-	-	-	30
Collections at services	1,047	-	-	-	1,047	3,614
Other donations	941	-	-	-	941	2,005
Gift Aid recovered	6,245	-		-	6,245	9,188
	29,328	-	-	-	29,328	34,922
Voluntary Receipts - Restricted / designated						
Other donations	3,705	4,732	254	-	8,691	9,664
Gift Aid recovered	-	-	188	-	188	625
Grants	-	34,108	-	250	34,358	43,243
	3,705	38,840	442	250	43,237	53,532
Activities for Generating Funds - Unrestricted						
Magazine advertising	1,668	-	-	-	1,668	1,910
Fund raising	280	-	-	-	280	1,850
	1,948	-	-	-	1,948	3,760
Activities for Generating Funds - Restricted / Designated						
Fund raising	-	1,647	1,209	246	3,102	14,566
Receipts from Church Activities - Unrestricted						
Fees	2,564	-	25	-	2,589	2,956
Magazine sales	2,257	-	-	-	2,257	2,022
	4,821	-	25	-	4,846	4,978
Investment income - Unrestricted						
Realised gains on disposal	-	-	-	-	-	884
Interest & dividends	41	196	31	1,527	1,795	1,534
	41	196	31	1,527	1,795	2,418
Other income - Restricted / Designated						
Hall rental	-	-	-	100	100	100
	-	-	-	100	100	100
Total Receipts	**39,843**	**40,683**	**1,707**	**2,123**	**84,356**	**114,276**

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

DETAILED ANALYSIS OF PAYMENTS

	PCC £	East Harptree £	West Harptree	Hinton Blewett	TOTAL 2020 £	TOTAL 2019 £
Church Activities - Unrestricted						
Diocesan parish share	35,163	-	-	-	35,163	35,260
Clergy, organists & administration						
Administrator	1,566	-	-	-	1,566	2,106
Organists	2,020	-	-	-	2,020	2,890
Rector's expenses					-	1,470
	3,586	-	-	-	3,586	6,466
Church Running Expenses - Unrestricted						
Equipment purchases	-	-	-	-	-	2,186
Magazine printing	3,192	-	-	-	3,192	3,229
Phone, copier, stationery etc	320	-	-	-	320	679
Other church running costs	893	-	-	-	893	1,207
	4,405	-	-	-	4,405	7,301
Church Running Expenses - Restricted / Designated						
Heat, light, water, insurance	80	2,237	1,581	1,044	4,942	5,035
Equipment purchases	-	148	124	223	495	11,704
Maintenance	20	1,401	978	2,986	5,385	8,314
Other church running costs	371	828	549	142	1,890	174
E Harptree - Newton project		22,514	-	-	22,514	-
Professional fees	1,396	-	30	-	1,426	39,093
	1,867	27,128	3,262	4,395	36,652	64,320
Outward giving - Unrestricted						
Charitable donations	123	-	-	-	123	368
Outward giving - Restricted / Designated						
Charitable donations	-	-	-	-	-	7,801
Costs of Generating Funds - Unrestricted						
Fund raising expenses	-	-	-	-	-	1,194
Costs of Generating Funds - Restricted / Designated						
Fund raising expenses	-	808	21	-	829	2,006
Total Payments	**45,144**	**27,936**	**3,283**	**4,395**	**80,758**	**124,716**
Receipts from page 4	**39,843**	**40,683**	**1,707**	**2,123**	**84,356**	**114,276**
Net Result for the year	**(5,301)**	**12,747**	**(1,576)**	**(2,272)**	**3,598**	**(10,440)**

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

1. Basis of preparation

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis. This method of preparing the accounts means that income and expenses fall into the accounts for the year when the cash movements take place. This can lead to unexpected fluctuations if receipts or payments are delayed around the time of the year end, which may require additional explanations to ensure an understanding of the figures.

2. Fund accounting - unrestricted / designated funds

Unrestricted funds are funds which may be spent on any of the PCC's general purposes. These may however be designated by the PCC for particular purposes. In these financial statements, unrestricted funds held by the three individual churches have been designated by the PCC as specific to each church only, to be held and used for the maintenance and upkeep of that church. Other unrestricted funds are split into two: a designated Music Fund, consisting of Gift Aid amounting to £1,575 recovered on the donation for 3 pianos bought in 2019, and general unrestricted reserves to ensure that funds are available to manage shortfalls and cash flow issues during the year.

3. Fund accounting - restricted funds

Restricted funds comprise donations for a specific purpose intended by the donor.

There are specific restricted funds managed by East Harptree and by the PCC as follows:

The Graham Veitch Bell Fund at East Harptree

This fund was set up in 2016 with donations in memory of the late Graham Veitch, for the purpose of maintaining the church bells and bell equipment at East Harptree. The balance of £1,279 remains unchanged this year.

The Newton Project Fund at East Harptree

During 2019 the first grant funding was obtained from the National Heritage Lottery Fund to cover consultancy and set up costs for this project which will involve major works to East Harptree church, including essential structural repair work and works to conserve and restore significant heritage items, and works to improve the inclusive access to the church and the project will also involve a number of Activities including with East Harptree Church of England Primary School, the Harptrees History Society and the East Harptree Environment Group. A balance of £ 3,379 remained at the start of 2020. During 2020 further funding was received totalling £ 34,108. The balance unspent at the end of the year was £ 14,973.

The Choir Fund held by the PCC

This fund was introduced during 2018 for the choir's expenses, and started 2020 with a balance of £1,221.
During the year £ 371 was spent on new anthem books offset by donations of £300 leaving a balance at the end of the year totalling £ 1,150.

	B/fwd	Receipts	Payments	C/fwd
Choir Fund	1,221	300	(371)	1,150
Graham Veitch Bell Fund	1,279			1,279
Newton Project Fund	3,379	34,108	(22,514)	14,973
	£ 5,879	£ 34,408	(£ 22,885)	£ 17,402

4. Outward giving

	2020	2019
TearFund	-	630
Crisis Centre Ministries	-	250
International Nepal Fellowship	-	500
Royal British Legion	50	230
East Harptree fete proceeds to the family of Max Sewart	-	7,309
Meserete Kristos Church	-	(750)
	£ 8,169	£ 8,169

The donation to Meserete Kristos Church was unable to be processed in 2019, due to the collapse of the banking system in Ethiopia. The PCC was unable to make the intended donation, which had been outstanding at the end of 2018.

5. Reserves

The three church buildings are managed and maintained by the respective Friends and Village Church Committees. All three churches have reserves, which it is believed are sufficient to cover all foreseeable emergencies. Such reserves may not be sufficient to cover major capital works, when additional fund raising may be necessary.

The PCC is responsible for maintaining a Christian Ministry in the Parish. Reserves held by the PCC are considered to be adequate for foreseeable eventualities.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of East Harptree with West Harptree and Hinton Blewett

Financial Review for the year ended 31 December 2020

Results

For the overall United Benefice, receipts exceeded payments, with an overall surplus of £3,598 (for 2019 there was a deficit of £10,440), and unrealised gains on investments amounting to £8,581 as at the year end further improved the situation to a net surplus for the year of £15,516.

However, excluding investment gains, the PCC alone showed a net deficit of £5,301 (2019 – £6,000), East Harptree showed a net surplus of £12,747, but largely due to receiving a further grant from the National Heritage Lottery Fund in respect of Project Newton, West Harptree's deficit was £1,576 and Hinton Blewett's was £2,272.

Receipts

Combined receipts amounted to £84,356 (2019 - £114,276). Both 2019 and 2020 were distorted by significant grants received from the National Heritage Lottery Fund (a better comparison is 2018 (£58,228) which predated Project Newton). Receipts in 2020 included a grant of £34,108 received for Project Newton. Planned giving showed a slight increase, but unsurprisingly in the light of the COVID pandemic church collections and other donations were down considerably. In 2019 the figure for Gift Aid recovered reflected an additional claim during the year relating to extra one off donations received, so this figure is unsurprisingly lower in 2020. Due to the COVID pandemic Fund raising was down considerably.

Payments

Combined payments amounted to £80,758 (2019 - £124,716), with £22,514K of this relating to Project Newton fees paid. Equipment purchases were down significantly as 2019 was an exceptional year with the acquisition of 3 new pianos. The COVID pandemic, and a vacancy starting in September 2020 also affected costs.

Reserves, and looking forward to 2021

Despite the modest surplus, investment gains led to an increase in overall reserves to £228,343 from £212,827 in 2019. Cash deposits make up over £89K of this figure, so around 39% of net assets will be unaffected by volatility in stock markets. It is also worth noting that the reserves of the PCC itself have been supported by the loans of £15k from the individual churches which has meant that the PCC has not had to sell any of the investments held by it. No decision has been taken yet to repay those loans and that will depend on how regular giving holds up and on the overall cash flow position of the PCC.

As I write this review, our lives continue to be turned upside down by the COVID 19 virus, and it is difficult to make any sort of firm predictions about the impact of this worldwide crisis. All I can say for certainty is that there will be a huge financial impact, not only on our own church income, but probably on the Church of England overall. Many challenges lie in store for us all, particularly as we are again in a vacancy, and we will need to work together in our communities to support and pray for one another and for those in positions of authority. As your treasurer, once more I express my gratitude on behalf of the PCC to all those who continue to support the church with regular standing orders. Thank you to you all.

Guy Stobart

March 2021

THE UNITED PARISH OF EAST HARPTREE WITH WEST HARPTREE AND HINTON BLEWETT-ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR 2020

Aims and Purpose

The PCC and the Vicar have the responsibility of promoting the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical, in the United Ecclesiastical Parish of East Harptree, with West Harptree and Hinton Blewett and the promotion of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England.

The PCC is a charity and was registered with the Charity Commission in 2019. The main activities undertaken by the PCC are those reflected in this report which the PCC consider furthered the PCC's aims for the public benefit. The PCC has had regard to the Charity Commission public benefit guidance, where relevant.

Structure, Governance and Management

The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure and the Church Representation Rules. It is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC membership consists of the Vicar, the Churchwardens of the three churches and other members (who are on the Parish Electoral Roll) elected by the PCC and proposed by the Friends of East Harptree, and the VCCs of West Harptree and Hinton Blewett. There are 53 people on the Parish Electoral Roll at the date of this report (last year it was also 53).

Specific responsibilities of members of the PCC during 2020 are set out in the section below entitled "Administrative Information". That section also sets out the responsibilities of others, not on the PCC, for particular areas. There is only one other (apart from the VCCs and Friends referred to above and below) subcommittee of the PCC - the Worship Committee. All business of the PCC is conducted at its meetings referred to below. There is no separate standing committee.

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our churches and to become part of our Parish community. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the Parish and considers how our services can involve the different groups that live within our Parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament. We try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our Parish community through Worship and prayer; learning about the gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus and by the provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.

To facilitate this work it is also important that the PCC maintain the fabric of the three churches in our Parish. The PCC has the legal responsibility for the maintenance and upkeep of the three churches in the Parish although for all practical purposes the activities involved have been delegated to the Friends of St Laurence and to the VCCs of West Harptree and Hinton Blewett. They report to the PCC, who deal with Faculty and Grant applications and all formal matters, and the PCC generally oversee and ensure that the PCC's obligations are satisfactorily discharged by the Friends and VCCs.

The PCC meets 5 times a year with an extraordinary meeting after the APCM to elect officers. There is an agreed and set list of issues which are dealt with at particular PCCs throughout the year to ensure that the key issues for the PCC are not overlooked and this is managed by the PCC secretary. In addition there are reports at each PCC meeting from the Friends and VCCs.

Administrative Information

The correspondence address for the Parish is West Harptree Memorial Hall, Compton Martin Road, West Harptree, Bristol BS40 6EG.

Membership of the PCC in 2020

Chairman	Mary Cookson
Vicar	None – We are in a vacancy since October 2020 when Rev Karen Spray retired
Secretary	Elaine Avery (Elected representative from West Harptree)
Deanery Synod Representatives	None
Electoral Roll Officer	Judith Hutchins (Churchwarden Hinton Blewett),
Finance officer	Guy Stobart (Churchwarden East Harptree)
Worship Advisory Group	Mary Cookson (Churchwarden East Harptree), Hazel Rider (Elected Representative from East Harptree), Cassie Thomas (co-opted member).
Other Members	Graham Sage (Point of contact at Hinton Blewett), Margaret Brain (Elected Representative from West Harptree).

Others Supporting the PCC

Treasurer	Claire Pearson until October 2020 then Guy Stobart
Safeguarding Officer	Gill Stobart
Parish News Editor	Gill Stobart

Parish Administrator	Joanna Brown
House Group	Richard Martin
Open the Book	Murray Bennett

Overview from Mary Cookson and Guy Stobart

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand". **Isaiah 41:10**

This verse has been so appropriate during 2020 which has been particularly tumultuous.

We could not have imagined at the beginning of the year that our churches would be closed for much of the year and none of us had at that point heard of a Coronavirus.

Added to which Rev Karen Spray retired in October, which was not entirely unexpected but sad and meant we have started yet another vacancy. There have been so many vacancies since we last had a full time incumbent in 1998. We do however want to formally express our thanks for Karen Spray's ministry with us since 2017.

Like the Curate's egg there were some wonderful aspects to 2020 but also issues of concern and sadness.

Highlights of 2020 include the launching and continuation of wonderful recorded broadcasts of Sunday and other services. These attracted much larger attendance than our pre COVID services including an overseas audience. Many thanks to Adrian Moore and Tricia Rees Jones for making this happen and for Trevor Stubbs who "took" the majority of these online services.

We are also very grateful to Tony Wilds who with Trevor Stubbs has shouldered the burden of most of our "live" services during our vacancy. It has been both a pleasure and blessing to have them minister to us. We have also been very grateful to our former Priest Catherine Llewellyn Evans who has stepped in on several occasions to take services.
2020 also saw Chris Billinghurst and Graham and others from the East Harptree Environment Group start to reimagine the churchyard at St Laurence and we are grateful for the work they have all put into this.

Project Newton will be reported on elsewhere but was particularly busy during 2020.

We are very grateful for the continued involvement of Elaine Avery and Maggie Brain at West Harptree who are keeping St Mary's Church alive there, and to Graham Sage and Judith Hutchins who are doing the same in Hinton Blewitt. We are conscious however of the dwindling numbers actively involved in the church in the Parish which is why shaping the future of our Parish referred to below is so important.

In the summer of 2020 when we knew of Karen Spray's impending departure we started discussions with Archdeacon Adrian about the future of the Parish. We are aware of the strains on the resources of the Diocese both monetary and people and the shortage of

Priests and the concept of working collaboratively is not new to us. Indeed we had previously been supportive of the possible concept of a Mendip Group of Churches. We had some tentative discussions with the neighbouring Parish of Litton, Chewton Mendip and Ston Easton but they have decided they will take their chances with remaining if they can with St Thomas in Wells. Potentially more fruitful have been some early discussions with another neighbouring parish of Blagdon, Compton Martin and Ubley. It is too early to say how this might develop and it will be essential that we engage with our own congregation before things develop but we do believe it could be a viable way of giving us the stability we have sought for so many years and enable us to start rebuilding the church in our Parish and to grow a strong Christian presence in all the villages concerned, adopting the Focal Ministry model favoured by the Diocese.

Activities

Worship Advisory Group

Mary Cookson has during 2020 shouldered the burden of organizing services and arranging for Trevor, Tony and Catherine to take services both real and online working with Jo Brown our Parish Administrator, Adrian Moore and Tricia Rees Jones.

Where possible and from March 2021 live services have been available at St Laurence on Sunday mornings, led by Reverend Tony Wilds and occasionally members of the congregation.

More recently services have recommenced at St Margaret's West Harptree and we are now looking forward to some services in Hinton Blewett.

Online worship is continuing as we recognize the value of this initiative and how it has reached a wider audience.

During Lent we were able to join a Zoom course arranged by Reverend Simon Lewis from the neighbouring Benefice of Blagdon, Ubley and Compton Martin , which has been very helpful. Further opportunities for shared worship may also be possible.

House Group Report

Although we managed to meet out of doors during the end of Summer 2020 and later in St Laurence Church, there were no meetings during the winter lockdown. One of our members has been circulating their thoughts on Luke's Gospel which we have found helpful and it has kept us in touch.

Richard Martin

Open the Book

Open the Book sessions have been paused since the start of the Covid pandemic but it is hoped to start again in September with the agreement of the new Head Teacher.

Murray Bennett

Adventurers

Like most other activities Adventurers was affected by COVID restrictions. The Autumn term had to stop in mid-October and did not restart until May2021.

We had a dozen or so enthusiastic members and hope the new term will bring more.

Hazel Rider

St Laurence, East Harptree

Lockdowns and COVID notwithstanding the most significant activity in 2020 in relation to St Laurence has been Project Newton. The highlights of the year have been obtaining our faculties and planning permission for the project and the commencement of our fund raising campaign for the £750k cost. The other activities during the year are detailed at the project website at https://eharptreechurch.co.uk. The project is another manifestation of the growth of our links with EH School. But it also pleasing that the project is helping us strengthen our links with the Harptrees History Society and the East Harptree Environment Group.

St Laurence remained open for private prayer throughout lockdown.
A successful Exhibition representing Christmas Carols was hosted at the Pavilion just before Christmas.
The annual risk assessment and associated checking of all safety certifications took place in March.
There have been 2 funerals in 2020: Mike and Carolyn Walker.

A footnote – we continue to operate The School House Trust, whose trustees are all the churchwardens and the incumbent and which continues to support EH School financially.

Guy Stobart and Mary Cookson

St Mary's West Harptree

Church life has been seriously disrupted by the Covid pandemic.
There have been a limited number of services held at St Mary's. Before her departure Rev. Karen Spray celebrated Holy Communion on her own and the service was recorded for the parish. There were several Thursday Holy Communion and Morning Prayer services during the latter part of the year which were attended by a small number. On Christmas Eve there was a well attended, within the allowed regulations, Holy Communion Service. There has been one wedding and two funerals.

The church has been open for private prayer by appointment and for the recording of hymns and readings for the online services. As we couldn't hold the much-loved Crib & Candle Service on Christmas Eve this year the church was open on 21 December, following Covid 19 safety guidelines, to allow visitors to spend a few minutes of quiet in the run-up to Christmas and to see the cribs and Christmas decorations.

The boiler has been serviced and 5 yearly electrical testing carried out, along with PAT testing. The Quinqennial Inspection took place in November and the report is expected

shortly. Repairs to the guttering are in hand.

Our usual pattern of fundraising has not been possible. However some monies have been raised through the continued sale of plants, donations and a Christmas Hamper Raffle.

During the year Sara and John Hall moved to Devon. The VCC would like to thank them for the major contribution they made to St Mary's over the years. Sara was not replaced as churchwarden and so the day to day running of the church is shared between members of the VCC.

We would like to thank all who have supported us this year.

Maggie Brain & Elaine Avery on behalf of St Mary's VCC.

St Margaret's Hinton Blewett

Church Building and Churchyard matters: The remainder of the maintenance tasks highlighted by our church architect, Alan Thomas, in his quinquennial inspection have now been completed. The corroded ironwork has been painted and the minor repairs to the roof have also been carried out. At the same time the roof had a fresh application of Smartwater.

Funerals and baptism: There were two outdoor funerals and one wedding in the church, all in accordance with Covid guidelines.

Health and Safety: Following the inspection by Firemark in March 2020, which alerted us to our non-compliance as a result of not having two fire extinguishers on the mezzanine (this had never been mentioned before) two new extinguishers have been purchased, so we are now compliant.

Fundraising: No fundraising took place during the pandemic.
Worship: An outdoor Harvest Festival service in September 2020 led by Rev Karen Spray was very well attended. It was the last service to be held at St Margaret's owing to the Covid 19 restrictions. Graham and Caroline Sage recorded a Crib and Candle Christmas service which was available to view on YouTube and much appreciated by the village.
St Margaret's is currently without a churchwarden. Graham Sage is the named contact.

Judith Hutchins
Former Churchwarden

Music

To say that 2020 was challenging for music in the parish is an understatement. In January 2020 regular visitors Davd Heyes and Sarah Poole gave a concert of 'Bach and Beyond' and our lunchtime concert series included the talented Alex Heather (double bass) and Bruce Fang (piano) giving our new piano at St Mary's a serious workout in February. Young violinists took to the stage in March at St Margaret's but there our programme of concerts came to a sudden end. The annual Harptree Festival was cancelled and there have been no live music performances from 14 March 2020 to the time of writing in August 2021.

At the start of the year the choir continued to support weekly worship with hymns and anthems both for Sunday morning services and at Choral Evensong in February and March but on 15 March 2020 we sang live at our last service. The final hymn, chosen long before the prospect of lockdown, was 'God be with us till we meet again'; a more appropriate choice it is difficult to imagine. We then plunged into the unfamiliar world of Zoom choir rehearsals and remote recording and I should like to record my enormous gratitude to the members of the Parish Choir for their willingness to embrace new technology to ensure that we have not only continued to sing during 2020 but have come out on the other side intact and singing as well, if not better, than ever. We produced anthems for Easter Sunday, Pentecost, Harvest, All Saints, Advent Sunday, a farewell to Sara and John Hall plus préces and responses for evensong and the Lamb of God from the Chew Valley Service. The biggest challenge saw the production of an online Six Lessons and Carols for Christmas which involved the choir, members of the congregation and friends of the parish plus a fantastic carol from the children of East Harptree Primary School among others.

We all look forward to the day when we can sing again as a choir in a service but if nothing else, 2020 has shown all of us the importance of music and the sense of community which a choir creates.

Psalm 150

Praise ye the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power.

Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness.

Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp.

Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs.

Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high sounding cymbals.

Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD.

Tricia Rees-Jones

Safeguarding

There is now a safeguarding report to the PCC each year and the parish safeguarding policy is reviewed once a year in July. Safeguarding materials (the parish policy, contact details etc) are displayed on our all our church noticeboards, on the relevant village website and on the website of "A Church Near You".

DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checks are up to date.

Most of those in the Parish who are asked to do some safeguarding basic awareness training have done so. I was on the cusp of arranging some more in-depth training for those who work with our children and young people when the pandemic struck. The National Church has now issued a revised Learning and Development Framework, to be implemented from January 2022. The PCC has agreed that further training will be stayed until then, when we

will have more information as to how the new framework is going to be implemented and what the Diocesan training offer looks like.

Gill Stobart

Parish News

I took over as editor early in 2020 just as the pandemic hit – filling the job which Barry and Hazel had done for well over over 30 years (a BIG thank you to them). Although one of the mainstays of the magazine had disappeared (the advertising of community and other events) Parish News has continued in a very similar format and remains one of the Church's main means of outreach with the wider community, especially so during the last year or so when public worship and other more public ramifications of church life were put on hold. Thanks go to our many community contributors who keep some excellent articles coming. I have also signed up for "Parish Pump" an online resource for parish mag editors.
I took the opportunity of the time which lockdowns have afforded to get together and record details of all the households to whom we deliver Parish News, together with details of payments. The magazine is now only being delivered to those who wish to pay for it (nearly 20% of mags were not being paid for). This has led to a reduction in the print run, and a reduction in our costs. We still have advertising revenue, which is good, considering the economic situation in which many businesses find themselves. I do now need to bend my mind as to how we can increase our circulation. Any ideas welcome!

Thanks go to all those who distribute the magazine in our three villages, to Jenny Cruse and others in the Parish who do a brilliant job in welcoming new residents into our community, ensuring that everyone gets their first magazine delivery and to Jo Brown who does a splendid job in proofreading the magazine each month – usually with a very short turnaround!

Gill Stobart

Health and Safety

Despite the Covid pandemic and changes in personnel in two of our churches it is pleasing to report that all inspections, safety checks and Health & Safety Risk Assessment reviews have been carried out or there is a planned date for this to happen in each of the three churches. Covid Risk Assessments were carried out for St Mary's and St Laurence as live services have taken place.
Still outstanding is the Health & Safety Review for the Parish Office.

Maggie Brain

Financial Review

This is covered in the separate financial statements