

# **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**

<b>Chair</b>	Mary Cookson (churchwarden East Harptree)
<b>Vicar</b>	Rev Katrina Dykes from February 2024
<b>Secretary</b>	Elaine Avery (elected representative from West Harptree)
<b>Deanery Synod Representatives</b>	Mary Cookson
<b>Electoral Roll Officer</b>	Elaine Avery
<b>Treasurer</b>	Guy Stobart (churchwarden East Harptree)
<b>Other Members</b>	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**

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

<b>Messy Church</b>	Mary Cookson, Tilly Joskey, Hazel Rider, Guy and Gill Stobart, Jenny Cruse, Diana Martin
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**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 prayer

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.

### Growing our connections with children, young people and their families – 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 it 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.......... Dated.....30/04/25.....

Name: EMMA MILBOURN - @ EM ACCOUNTING SERVICES LTD

Qualification: CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

Address: LITTLE GARDENS, BATTLE LANE, CHURCH MAGNA, B540 8PX.

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES

	PCC £	East Harptree £	West Harptree	Hinton Blewett	TOTAL 2024 £	TOTAL 2023 £
<b>Investment Assets</b>						
CBF Investment Fund - shares at market value					-	
Accumulation units	100,108	-	-	-	100,108	95,246
Income units	-	-	-	36,584	36,584	32,353
	<b>100,108</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>36,584</b>	<b>136,692</b>	<b>127,599</b>
<b>Cash Funds</b>						
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
	<b>28,158</b>	<b>57,147</b>	<b>27,142</b>	<b>20,909</b>	<b>133,356</b>	<b>142,100</b>
<b>Current Assets/(Liabilities)</b>						
Loan from Diocese		(8,333)			(8,334)	(16,667)
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>128,266</b>	<b>48,813</b>	<b>27,142</b>	<b>57,492</b>	<b>261,714</b>	<b>253,032</b>
<b>Reserves - see notes 2 &amp; 3 to the Financial Statements</b>						
<u>Opening balances</u>						
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
	<b>128,266</b>	<b>48,813</b>	<b>27,142</b>	<b>57,492</b>	<b>261,713</b>	<b>253,032</b>
<u>Closing balances</u>						
Restricted	479	-	-	-	479	817
Designated	1,405	48,813	27,142	57,492	134,852	109,834
Unrestricted	126,382	-	-	-	126,382	96,920
	<b>128,266</b>	<b>48,813</b>	<b>27,142</b>	<b>57,492</b>	<b>261,713</b>	<b>253,032</b>
<b>Movements in Investments</b>						
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	<b>100,108</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>36,583</b>	<b>136,691</b>	<b>127,599</b>

**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 £
<u>Voluntary Receipts - Unrestricted</u>						
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
	<u>35,125</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,080</u>	<u>36,205</u>	<u>31,536</u>
<u>Voluntary Receipts - Restricted / designated</u>						
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
	<u>1,718</u>	<u>37,478</u>	<u>4,604</u>	<u>1,197</u>	<u>44,997</u>	<u>282,451</u>
<u>Activities for Generating Funds - Unrestricted</u>						
Magazine advertising	1,526	-	-	-	1,526	1,240
<u>Activities for Generating Funds - Restricted / Designated</u>						
Fund raising	-	5,974	5,619	2,109	13,702	11,135
<u>Receipts from Church Activities - Unrestricted</u>						
Fees	5,154	249	55	189	5,647	4,869
Magazine sales	2,352	-	-	-	2,352	2,267
	<u>7,506</u>	<u>249</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>189</u>	<u>7,999</u>	<u>7,136</u>
<u>Investment income - Unrestricted</u>						
Realised gains on disposal	-	-	-	-	-	-
Interest & dividends	751	0	1,098	2,087	3,936	2,913
	<u>751</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,098</u>	<u>2,087</u>	<u>3,936</u>	<u>2,913</u>
<u>Other income - Restricted / Designated</u>						
Hall rental	-	-	-		-	1,120
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b><u>46,626</u></b>	<b><u>43,701</u></b>	<b><u>11,377</u></b>	<b><u>6,661</u></b>	<b><u>108,365</u></b>	<b><u>337,531</u></b>

**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 £
<u>Church Activities - Unrestricted</u>						
Diocesan parish share	21,200	-	-	-	21,200	15,200
<u>Clergy, organists &amp; administration</u>						
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
<u>Church Running Expenses - Unrestricted</u>						
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
<u>Church Running Expenses - Restricted / Designated</u>						
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
<u>Outward giving - Unrestricted</u>						
Charitable donations	170	-	-	-	170	50
<u>Outward giving - Restricted / Designated</u>						
Charitable donations	934	80	-	-	1,014	691
<u>Costs of Generating Funds - Unrestricted</u>						
Fund raising expenses		1,748	171	-	1,919	-
<u>Costs of Generating Funds - Restricted / Designated</u>						
Fund raising expenses		-	-	-	-	3065
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>39,903</b>	<b>59,540</b>	<b>6,038</b>	<b>3,296</b>	<b>108,778</b>	<b>302,420</b>
<b>Receipts from page 4</b>	<b>46,626</b>	<b>43,701</b>	<b>11,377</b>	<b>6,661</b>	<b>108,365</b>	<b>337,531</b>
<b>Net Result for the year</b>	<b>6,723</b>	<b>(15,839)</b>	<b>5,339</b>	<b>3,365</b>	<b>(413)</b>	<b>35,111</b>

**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 31<sup>st</sup> 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