

**The Parochial Church Council of the
Ecclesiastical Parish of Amberley with
North Stoke**

Trustees' report and financial
statements

For the year ended
31 December 2024

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Amberley with North Stoke

31 December 2024

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The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Amberley with North Stoke

31 December 2024

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees	Mr Michael Boxford Mrs Elaine Corbett Mr Michael Davey Mrs Melanie Edge Mr Graham Elliott Mrs Mary Leonard Mrs Glenys Rowe Mrs Rosalind Simpson
Principal Office	The New Vicarage School Road Amberley Arundel West Sussex BN18 9NA
Independent examiner	James Peach FCA Kreston Reeves LLP Chartered Accountants Springfield House Springfield Way Horsham West Sussex RH12 2RG
Churchwardens	Mr Michael Davey Mrs Melanie Edge

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Amberley with North Stoke

31 December 2024

Annual Report of the Trustees

The Trustees of the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Amberley with North Stoke (the “PCC”) present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Administrative information

The Ecclesiastical Parish of Parochial Church Council of Amberley with North Stoke is a charity.

The PCC is registered with the Charities Commission with registration number 1187780.

The address of the principal office of the PCC is The New Vicarage, School Road, Amberley, Arundel, West Sussex BN18 9NA, and its website is www.amberleystmichael.org.uk.

Trustees

During the year, and to the date of this report, the following served as members of the PCC:

<i>Priest In Charge:</i>	The Reverend Gerry Burgess	Retired 14 January 2024
	No successor as Incumbent Priest had been identified at the time of this report.	
<i>Churchwardens:</i>	Mrs Melanie Edge Mr Michael Davey	Chairperson from 24 February 2024
<i>Members:</i>	The Reverend Gerry Burgess	Chairperson until her retirement on 14 January 2024
	Mr Michael Boxford	
	Mr Stephen Burgess	Resigned 17 February 2024
	Mrs Elaine Corbett	Lay Reader
	Mr Michael Davey	Secretary
	Mrs Melanie Edge	Health and Safety Officer and Safeguarding Officer
	Mr Graham Elliott	Treasurer
	Mrs Mary Leonard	Deanery Synod representative and Electoral Roll Officer
	Mrs Glenys Rowe	
	Mrs Rosalind Simpson	.

Interregnum

On 14 January 2024, the Priest in Charge for the parish, the Reverend Gerry Burgess retired. With effect from this date, the parish entered a period of Interregnum with no Incumbent priest.

On 20 May 2024, a joint meeting was held of representatives of the PCCs of Amberley and the other three PCCs for the parishes which together comprising the Wildbrooks Benefice. At this meeting, a joint Parish Profile was adopted, and it was resolved to request that the Bishop of Chichester, as the registered patron, consider advertising the vacancy. This duly occurred in January 2025 and interviews of interested candidates are anticipated to occur soon. However, it remains unclear whether a replacement Incumbent will be appointed to fill the vacancy in the immediately foreseeable future as the Diocese is experiencing a shortage of qualified clergy and there are numerous other vacancies elsewhere across the County.

In the meantime, regular Sunday services continue, however, presided over by retired clergy from across the Storrington Deanery, by Lay Readers or by churchwardens as appropriate.

Structure, Governance and Management

The PCC is an incorporated body governed by the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure (1956) as amended and the Church Representation Rules (contained in Schedule 3 to the Synodical Government Measure 1969 as

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Annual Report of the Trustees *(continued)*

amended). Legally, the council is responsible for the financial affairs of the church parish and the maintenance of its assets, such as churches and church halls, and for promoting the mission of the church.

A PCC is the executive committee of a Church of England parish. The membership requirements for a PCC are prescribed by the Church Representation Rules and include the clergy and churchwardens of the parish, any members of the General Synod, diocesan synod or deanery synod who are on the church electoral roll of the parish, and representatives of the laity elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. Parishioners are warmly encouraged to stand for election to the PCC who try to ensure a balance of skills and experience where possible.

The full PCC met either in person or by Zoom five times (including the Annual Parochial Church Meeting) during the year with a high average level of attendance. In addition, there was one resolution agreed by PCC email consultation during the year. The Annual Meeting of Parishioners was held on 20 April 2024.

At the year-end, there were 56 parishioners on the church electoral roll (2023 – 58).

Aim and Purposes

The primary aim of the PCC is the promotion of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. The PCC has the responsibility of cooperating with the Church of England in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish of Amberley with North Stoke, the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC:

- is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to feel welcome as part of our St Michael's church community.
- seeks to build contacts with families through occasional special services and events and regularly hold services for children who attend Amberley Primary School and their parents.
- seeks to enable church members and others to draw closer to Christ by learning more about Christianity and deepening and sharing their faith.
- through the Parish Engagement Group and informally, aims to engage with the wider community, and particularly with those who may feel isolated in any way.
- supports those in need by pastoral care within the village community and, more widely, is active in supporting several charitable organisations in practical ways and by donations from specific collections.
- is responsible for the operation and maintenance of St Michael's Church, a building which is much loved and visited. We aim to make the Church and its surrounding churchyard an inviting place for quiet and prayer as well as a centre for concerts and other activities. We also provide information for visitors interested in the history of the building, which is of twelfth century origin, and Grade I listed.

The PCC fully recognises its obligations with regards to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults and has complied with its duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016.

The members of the PCC confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

Achievements and Performance

a) Attendance at worship

Following the retirement of the Reverend Gerry Burgess retired on 14 January 2014, which was also the occasion of her last, and very well attended final service in the parish, the pattern of services in place before her retirement has been maintained. This includes at least two Holy Communion services each month, together with a more informal Café Church service and a weekly Morning Praise Service of the Word. This has been possible with the assistance of retired clergy, who have given generous and enthusiastic support, together with our Lay Reader,

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Amberley with North Stoke

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Annual Report of the Trustees *(continued)*

Elaine Corbett, the churchwardens, and on occasions Vicky Smith, Lay Reader at Pulborough. Our Sunday congregation averages about 22, a level very similar to 2023. Many more attend for special services, especially at Easter and Christmas.

We continue to offer a weekly email with notices and a precis of the weekly service which people who are unable to get to church can use at home.

We are fortunate to have a choir and organist who, with the addition of 'regular extras', this year performed Vivaldi's Gloria as well as the regular Christmas Carol Service, both of which were very well received.

Café Church continues to be popular, meeting once a month in the Church Hall for informal worship with coffee, cake, and opportunity for discussion on a wide range of topics.

The midweek service of Morning Prayer has continued with a small number of regular attendees and has been much appreciated. A service of communion with ashing took place on Ash Wednesday, followed by a simple soup and bread lunch in the church hall.

Outdoor services on Palm Sunday (with donkeys) and at Remembrance, kept short and welcoming to all, were attended by large numbers including several children.

By far the greatest attendance was on Christmas Eve, as the village Journey to the Crib once again ended in church with a live tableau, the Village Singers, and refreshments for the 150 or more of all ages who packed into the building and overflowed outside.

It has also been good to continue to hold services each term in the Church for pupils of the local Church of England Primary School, which have been well attended, particularly at Harvest and Christmas. The school children once again came to the War Memorial for Remembrance in November, and for a second year the school led a Christmas Carol Concert for families and the wider community. To round off the year, a very successful Christingle took place on the last day of term.

There have been six funerals or memorial services for people from the village community and four burials of cremated remains. Times of loss have seen the church packed with members of the local community, family and friends.

b) Teaching, baptising, and nurturing new and existing believers

During the year, we welcomed three children and one young person to baptism; of whom three were baptised by the Bishop of Chichester himself and one by the Archdeacon. There were also three weddings during the year.

Since our vicar retired, we have been unable to provide a priest to visit the primary school to take weekly Collective Worship. However, one of the churchwardens became a foundation governor at the Primary School during the year, helping to maintain links between Church and school and attending assemblies.

A Lent group was able to meet on zoom, including members from across the benefice. A small group has been meeting monthly for prayer and in the Autumn an Alpha course was run, which has led to a house group being started, aiming to meet twice a month.

In November the All Souls service was much appreciated and the Remembrance service in the churchyard was very well attended by a wider audience than would be seen more regularly at services.

c) Evangelism and outreach

The Parish Engagement Group (PEG) has continued to seek ways of serving the community and building links with those who may be at a disadvantage in some way.

Of note amongst the events organised by PEG and others were a stall in the Churchyard at the village Open Gardens Day, which was well attended by groups and individuals keen to learn from the success of St Michael's in encouraging biodiversity. There was a guided reptile walk on the day, followed later in the year by a guided bat walk and a talk on swifts.

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Annual Report of the Trustees *(continued)*

Other PEG activities during the year included gifts at Mothering Sunday and Harvest, and another successful Christmas Stall in the Square.

Last year, a committee of local volunteers was formed known as the 'Hallraisers' to raise the income needed to fund refurbishment of the toilet and kitchen facilities as well as the remediation of the decoration of the Church Hall to bring it up to standard and make it more appealing and suitable for hirers. They have been very successful in fundraising and have drawn many people into a range of interesting events. The toilet works were completed in November 2023 and the kitchen works were started in early 2025.

We are most grateful to the small group of energetic and committed people who have masterminded or helped with these events, and to all who give their time to serve in so many ways in the church.

d) Provision of the church building for people to enjoy

St. Michael's Church continues to be a place appreciated for its peace and quiet, where a well-used prayer corner affords the opportunity to leave requests or find words of encouragement.

Our many visitors from around the world also appreciate the history of the ancient building, which they can engage with via an audio guide using the Church Wi-Fi connection as well as written material.

The churchyard with its flourishing wildflower area is attractive and well-tended, providing a peaceful haven for villagers and visitors alike. Surveys of the flora and fauna have been extremely successful in demonstrating the value of this space for the community and for the environment. We are most grateful to all who help maintain this large area, whether regularly or in one-off working parties.

e) Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish

Without a vicar it is more difficult to keep in touch with elderly and vulnerable members of the community and those recently bereaved and to provide practical, spiritual and emotional support. However, individuals from the church community do continue to provide support. The PEG group and CAMEO helpers once again arranged gifts of Mothering Sunday flowers.

f) Provision of tangible support to the poor and needy

Collections of food and other items have been made through the Church for Family Support Work which supports parents and children across Sussex, both at Harvest and periodically throughout the year. The invitation to provide Christmas gifts for families also met with a generous response from the wider village community. Both initiatives were actively and creatively supported by the Amberley Village Stores.

The Church has also continued its Community Larder initiative to provide food and toiletries for immediate needs in the local community and has organised a Community Food Hub distributing surplus food from supermarkets.

We have also developed good links with the Lorica Trust, which supports young people with a range of difficulties. Lorica provides their donkeys for Palm Sunday and the Christmas Eve procession.

Donations were sent from Remembrance Sunday to the Royal British Legion.

Financial Review

Results for the year

The PCC recorded an overall net income of £32,149 for the year as compared to net income of £804 in the prior year 2023. Of this, Unrestricted Fund activity net income was £4,451 (2023 – deficit of £325) and Restricted Fund activity net income was £27,698 (2023- £1,129).

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Annual Report of the Trustees *(continued)*

In summary, the movements for the year were as follows:

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £
Income from donations and legacies	31,291	17,547	33,333	10,141
Income from charitable activities	19,484	600	16,974	200
Income from other trading activities, etc	2,005	12,083	1,896	6,763
Investment income	2,489	618	1,533	403
Total income	55,269	30,848	53,736	17,507
Total expenses	(51,011)	(3,313)	(54,790)	(16,995)
Investment (losses)/gains	193	163	729	617
Net income/(expenditure)	4,451	27,698	(325)	1,129

Unrestricted Fund activity

Unrestricted Fund income for the year rose slightly for the year to £55,269 compared to £53,736 in the prior year:

- Income from Planned Giving by regular periodic bank transfer and collections in aggregate remained fairly consistent year on year at £20,220 as compared to £20,769 in 2023, however associated Gift Aid recoveries fell from £6,129 to £5,281.
- Fee income from services rose to £5,468 as compared to £4,521 in 2023 due to an increased number of services albeit, sadly, that a number of these were funerals.
- Magazine related income, which comprises both subscriptions and advertising, rose from £8,908 to £10,956 reflecting the full year effect of a small 2023 increase in price as well as increased advertising levels.
- Note that United Benefice cost recharge income fell due to the commencement of the Interregnum as common costs of the Vicarage are presently not being incurred by the PCC as the building has been let.
- Investment income which comprises interest on deposits rose to £2,489 in 2024 as compared to £1,533 largely due to higher interest rates.

Unrestricted Fund expenditure for the year was £51,011, down on the prior year total of £54,790. Within this:

- With overall Diocese of Chichester finances remaining tight, the PCC was pleased to be able to continue to meet 100% of its agreed percentage share of the contribution requested by the Diocese from the four churches of the Wildbrooks Benefice, the PCC's share being £16,000 for the year, the same amount as for 2023. This contribution is paid to cover Parish Ministry Costs which include the housing, support, stipend and pension costs of the clergy of the diocese, training of new ordinands, a contribution to national church funds and shared costs of the Christian family throughout the whole Diocese.
- As mentioned above, the Vicarage is presently let during the Interregnum which reduced running costs by £5,327 as compared to 2023 when the total included various redecoration cost as well as regular items such as Council Tax.
- Costs of upkeep of the Churchyard rose from £3,599 in 2023 to £5,800 in 2024 largely due to the cost of replacement of the churchyard gates at North Stoke churchyard.
- Other running costs of the Church, Churchyard and the Hall remained fairly consistent with the previous year.

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Annual Report of the Trustees *(continued)*

Restricted Fund activity

Restricted Fund activity in 2023 and 2024 was dominated by the project to refurbish the Church Hall, an asset of community value. As discussed earlier, a committee of local volunteers was formed in 2023 known as the 'Hallraisers' to raise the income needed to fund refurbishment of the toilet and kitchen facilities as well as the remediation of the decoration of the hall.

By the end of December 2023, the efforts of the Hallraisers had raised income of £16,945 which allowed the first main body of work, the refurbishment of the toilet facilities including the addition of disabled facilities to be undertaken. This was completed in November 2023. Expenditure on the project up to 31 December 2023 amounted to £17,618, of which £673 was charged to Unrestricted Funds.

During 2024, the Hallraisers held various events which raised a net £8,930 including Burns Night and Bastille Day related evenings, sound baths, a scent soiree and a performance of Midsummer Night's Dream. In addition, some £17,050 was received in grants from Action in Communities in Rural England, Horsham District Council, the Garfield Weston Foundation and Benefact Trust. The PCC extends its heartfelt thanks to these bodies for their generosity.

In total, £26,625 had been raised by the end of 2024, allowing the next stage of the Hall refurbishment work relating to the kitchen facilities to proceed in the first half of 2025. The PCC would like to thank the Hallraisers for all of their efforts and wish them well in completing the project in 2025.

Activity in the other Restricted funds was minimal in both 2024 and 2023.

Funding position at year end

As at 31 December 2024, total funds amounted to £363,057 up from £330,908 at the end of 2023 due to the net income for the year discussed above. Of this, Restricted Funds amounted to £59,785 up from £32,087 at the end of the prior year.

Unrestricted Funds at year end were £303,272 slightly up from £298,821. However, these amounts include the book valuation placed on the Church Hall. Excluding this, Unrestricted Funds at year end were £71,975 as compared to £64,188 at the end of the previous year.

The PCC invests monetary balances with either the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund or in deposit accounts with High Street banks. At 31 December 2024, these monetary balances amounted to £138,695 as compared to £101,911 at the end of the prior year. This increase arose largely due to the increase in Restricted funds balances much of which will be utilised by the hall refurbishment project in 2025.

In addition, to the monetary balances, the PCC continued to hold some legacy investments in Chichester Diocesan Board of Finance and Church of England Central Board of Finance funds amounting to £16,006 up from £15,650 following an unrealised gain for the year of £356. (2023 - £1,346).

It is PCC policy to maintain a balance on Unrestricted Funds (excluding property) at a minimum of two months' worth of average unrestricted payments as contingency against unforeseen situations. This balance has always been exceeded.

It should be noted that the most recent Quinquennial Inspection of the fabric of the church was carried out in 2020. As would be expected in maintaining a building of this historic nature, there are always matters of maintenance to be attended to, and the report detailed these. However, the report did not raise any sufficiently serious concerns that would require a significant project or expenditure to remediate.

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Annual Report of the Trustees *(continued)*

Specific thanks

As ever the PCC is indebted and most grateful to many contributors to the ongoing operation and funding of the Church in addition to those mentioned above, including:

1. Those who have supported the Church during the year by way of both regular giving and one-off donations, whether they be parishioners, friends or organisations.
2. Amberley Parish Council for their ongoing support and the grants of £500 against the costs of operating the Church Hall as well as their support of the hall refurbishment project mentioned above.
3. We would also like to thank those parishioners who have been involved in any way with the regular activities of the Church, such as operation of the magazine, Church Hall etc. that make such an important contribution to parish life and to our unrestricted finances.

The PCC would also like to encourage those persons who don't already subscribe to the parish magazine to do so. It is produced in full colour and contains much useful local information and topical articles, as well as providing a forum for local businesses to advertise and raise awareness of their services.

Approved by order of the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Mrs Melanie Edge
Churchwarden

12 April 2025

Mr Graham Elliott
Treasurer

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31 December 2024

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Annual Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and in accordance with UK accounting standards (UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Under charity law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of its incoming resources and application of those resources, including its income and expenditure for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP (FRS102);
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements using the going concern basis of accounting unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of other applicable legislation. They also have general responsibility for safeguarding the assets of the charity and for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by order of the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Mrs Melanie Edge
Churchwarden

Mr Graham Elliott
Treasurer

12 April 2025

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Amberley with North Stoke

31 December 2024

Independent Examiner's report to the Trustees of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Parochial Church Council of Amberley with North Stoke (the "Charity")

I report to the Charity Trustees on my examination of the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the Trustees of the Charity, you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2001 (the "2011 Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's financial statements carried out under Section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charities Commission under Section 145 (5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent Examiner's Report

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the Charity has prepared the financial statements in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has been withdrawn.

I understand that this has been done in order for the financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2019.

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

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the Charity as required by Section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with those accounting records; or
- the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of financial statements set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the financial statements give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of the independent examination.

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

The purpose of my work and to whom I owe responsibility

This report is made solely to the Charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the Charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charity and the Charity's Trustees, as a body, for my work, or for this report.

James Peach, FCA
for and on behalf of Kreston Reeves LLP
Chartered Accountants
Springfield House, Springfield Road, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 2RG

Date: 12.04.2025

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Statement of Financial Activities

for the year ended 31 December 2024

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	2	31,291	17,547	48,838	43,474
Charitable activities	3	19,484	600	20,084	17,174
Other trading activities	4	2,005	12,083	14,088	8,659
Investments	5	2,489	618	3,107	1,936
Total income		55,269	30,848	86,117	71,243
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	6	(271)	(3,153)	(3,424)	(175)
Charitable activities	7	(50,740)	(160)	(50,900)	(71,610)
Total expenditure		(51,011)	(3,313)	(54,324)	(71,785)
Net gains/(losses) on investments		193	163	356	1,346
Net income/(expenditure)		4,451	27,698	32,149	804
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		298,821	32,087	330,908	330,104
Net income/(expenditure)		4,451	27,698	32,149	804
Total funds carried forward		303,272	59,785	363,057	330,908

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised for the year.

The notes on pages 13 to 21 form an integral part of these financial statements.

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Balance Sheet

on 31 December 2024

	Note	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £	2023 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	10		231,297		234,633
Investments	11		16,006		15,650
			<u>247,303</u>		<u>250,283</u>
Current assets					
Debtors	12	4,439		3,054	
Cash at bank and in hand		138,695		101,911	
		<u>123,134</u>		<u>104,965</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(7,380)		(24,340)	
		<u></u>		<u></u>	
Net current assets			<u>115,754</u>		<u>80,625</u>
Net assets			<u>363,057</u>		<u>330,908</u>
Charity funds					
Unrestricted funds	14		303,272		298,821
Restricted funds	14		59,785		32,087
			<u>363,057</u>		<u>330,908</u>
Total funds			<u>363,057</u>		<u>330,908</u>

The notes on pages 13 to 21 form an integral part of these financial statements.

These financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Mrs Melanie Edge
Churchwarden

12 April 2025

Mr Graham Elliott
Treasurer

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Amberley with North Stoke

31 December 2024

Notes

(forming part of the financial statements)

1 Accounting policies

The Parochial Church Council of Amberley with North Stoke ("PCC") is an incorporated body governed by the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure (1956) as amended and the Church Representation Rules (contained in Schedule 3 to the Synodical Government Measure 1969 as amended). Legally the council is responsible for the financial affairs of the church parish and the maintenance of its assets, such as churches and church halls, and for promoting the mission of the church.

1.1 Basis of preparation of these financial statements

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair' view. This departure has involved following the Charities SORP (FRS 102) published on 16 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The PCC meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

No amendments arising from the implementation of this Standard have affected the PCC's previously published financial position.

1.2 Income

All income is recognised once the PCC has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

1.3 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated based on time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Expenditure on charitable activities is that incurred on undertaking the activities which further the PCC's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

All expenditure is shown inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Amberley with North Stoke

31 December 2024

Notes *(continued)*

1 Accounting policies *(continued)*

1.4 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised and recognised when the future economic benefits are probable, and the cost or value of the assets can be measured reliably.

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition are included in the measurement of cost.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of the tangible fixed assets less their residual values over their estimated useful lives, using the straight-line method.

The estimated useful lives are as follows:

- Freehold property - 50 years

1.5 Investments

Fixed asset investments are financial instruments and are initially recognised at their transaction cost, and subsequently measured at fair value, unless the value cannot be measured reliably, in which case they are measured at cost less impairment. Investment gains and losses, whether realised or unrealised, are combined and presented as 'Net Gains/(losses) on investments' in the Statement of Financial Activities.

1.6 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered.

Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

1.7 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with maturities of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

1.8 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised in the balance sheet when there is a present legal or constructive obligation arising as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the PCC anticipates it will pay to settle the obligation or the amount received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must subsequently provide.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities as a finance cost.

1.9 Financial instruments

Other than investments, the PCC only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

1.10 Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the PCC and which have not been designated or otherwise restricted for use for other purposes.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Amberley with North Stoke

31 December 2024

Notes (continued)

1 Accounting policies (continued)

1.10 Fund accounting (continued)

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the PCC for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aims and uses of each restricted fund are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

2 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Planned giving	12,315	-	12,315	13,160
Income tax recoverable	5,281	-	5,281	6,129
Collections at services	7,905	-	7,905	7,609
Legacies	-	-	-	609
Gift days, sundry donations and appeals	5,790	497	6,287	5,611
Grants	-	17,050	17,050	10,356
Total 2024	31,291	17,547	48,838	43,474
Total 2023	33,333	10,141	43,474	

3 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Church fees received	5,468	600	6,068	4,721
Church hall lettings	3,200	-	3,200	2,134
United Benefice cost recharges	(140)	-	(140)	1,411
Parish magazine	10,956	-	10,956	8,908
Total 2024	19,484	600	20,084	17,174
Total 2023	16,974	200	17,174	

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Amberley with North Stoke

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Notes (continued)

4 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Fundraising events	1,967	12,083	14,050	8,398
Other income	38	-	38	261
Total 2024	2,005	12,083	14,088	8,659
Total 2023	1,533	403	1,936	

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Interest receivable	2,489	618	3,107	1,936
Total 2023	1,533	403	1,936	

6 Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Fundraising costs	271	3,153	3,424	175
Total 2023	175	-	175	

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Amberley with North Stoke

31 December 2024

Notes (continued)

7 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Missionary and charitable giving	251	-	251	658
Diocesan parish contribution	16,000	-	16,000	16,000
Other clergy costs	(272)	-	(272)	5,446
Church running expenses	11,974	160	12,134	12,018
Upkeep of churchyard	5,800	-	5,800	3,599
Parish magazine	6,341	-	6,341	7,096
Church hall running costs	5,270	-	5,270	4,499
Church hall refurbishment	-	-	-	17,618
Depreciation	3,336	-	3,336	3,336
Independent examination fees	1,500	-	1,500	1,200
Other expenses	540	-	540	140
Total 2024	50,740	160	50,900	71,610
Total 2023	54,615	16,995	71,610	

Throughout 2023 and 2024 the PCC had two part time employees. Church and church hall running expenses include payments to these two part time employees of £6,174 (2023- £5,460). These payments were not large enough to attract social security costs.

8 Independent examiner's remuneration

The independent examiner's remuneration comprises a fee for the independent examination of £1,500 (2023 - £1,200).

9 Trustees' remuneration

None of the trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2023 - £Nil) nor did they incur expenses (2023 - £Nil).

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Amberley with North Stoke

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Notes *(continued)*

10 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property £	Total £
Cost		
Balance at 1 January 2024 and 31 December 2024	278,000	278,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Accumulated depreciation		
Balance at 1 January 2024	43,367	43,367
Amortisation for the year	3,336	3,336
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance at 31 December 2024	46,703	46,703
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net book value		
At 1 January 2024	234,633	234,633
	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 December 2024	231,297	231,297
	<hr/>	<hr/>

11 Fixed asset investments

	2024 £	2023 £
Other investments at valuation		
At 1 January	15,650	14,304
Revaluations	356	1,346
	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 December	16,006	15,650
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Amberley with North Stoke

31 December 2024

Notes *(continued)*

12 Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Other debtors	1,804	1,804
Prepayments and accrued income	2,595	1,250
	4,439	3,054

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Other creditors	271	63
Accrued expenses	2,048	19,407
Deferred income	5,061	4,870
	7,380	24,340

Deferred income comprises fund raising event and parish magazine subscription and advertising income received in advance.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Amberley with North Stoke

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Notes (continued)

14 Statement of funds

Current year	Balance at 1 January £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains/ (losses) £	Balance at 31 December £
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	298,821	55,269	(51,011)	193	303,272
Restricted funds					
Collard	5,420	27	-	-	5,447
Collard Churchyard	8,994	279	-	163	9,436
Bells	3,617	200	(50)	-	3,767
Choir	3,248	400	(110)	-	3,538
Fabric	10,808	164	-	-	10,972
Church hall	-	29,778	(3,153)	-	26,625
	32,087	30,848	(3,313)	163	59,785
Total funds	330,908	86,117	(54,324)	356	363,057
Prior year	Balance at 1 January £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains £	Balance at 31 December £
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	299,146	53,736	(54,790)	729	298,821
Restricted funds					
Collard	5,420	-	-	-	5,420
Collard Churchyard	8,117	260	-	617	8,994
Bells	3,567	100	(50)	-	3,617
Choir	3,148	100	-	-	3,248
Fabric	10,706	102	-	-	10,808
Church hall	-	16,945	(16,945)	-	-
	30,958	17,507	(16,995)	617	32,087
Total funds	330,104	71,243	(71,785)	1,346	330,908

The Restricted funds are restricted for the following uses:

- Collard – For the benefit of children of parishioners under school age.
- Collard Churchyard - For repairs and maintenance of the Collard family grave in the Churchyard.
- Bells - For repairs and maintenance to the bells or bell chamber, or in relation to bellringing.
- Choir - For expenses incurred specific to the choir.
- Fabric - For repairs and maintenance to the fabric of the Church.
- Church Hall - For repairs, maintenance and refurbishment of the Church Hall.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Amberley with North Stoke

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Notes *(continued)*

15 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Current year			
Tangible fixed assets	231,297	-	231,297
Fixed asset investments	8,722	7,284	16,006
Current assets	70,633	52,501	123,134
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(7,380)	-	(7,380)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total at 31 December 2024	303,272	59,785	363,057
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Prior year			
Tangible fixed assets	234,633	-	234,633
Fixed asset investments	8,529	7,121	15,650
Current assets	63,346	41,619	104,965
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(7,687)	(16,653)	(24,340)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total at 31 December 2023	298,821	32,087	330,908
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

16 Related parties

There were no related party transactions in the year or the prior year that require disclosure under the Charities SORP (FRS102).