

**THE PARISH OF THE WOODFORD VALLEY  
WITH ARCHERS GATE**

comprising

All Saints' Woodford      St Andrew's Durnford      St Michael's Wilsford

and Archers Gate and Kings Gate in Amesbury civil parish

in the Diocese of Salisbury

**ANNUAL REPORT  
and  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
of the  
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
For the year ended 31 December 2024**

**Vicar:**

The Reverend Dr Michael Perry  
The Vicarage  
Middle Woodford  
Salisbury SP4 6NR

**Professional Advisers**

Bankers:                      HSBC, 19 Minster Street, Salisbury SP1 1TE  
                                     Lloyds Bank, 38 Blue Boar Row, Salisbury SP1 1DA

Investment Manager:      CCLA, 80 Cheapside, London EC2V 6DZ

Independent Examiner:   AJ Radice FCA, Guelder Cottage, Hanging  
                                     Langford, Salisbury SP3 4NW.

Registered Charity No. 1195656

# The Parish of the Woodford Valley with Archers Gate Annual Report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024

## Parochial Church Council (PCC)

<u>Ex-officio:</u>		<u>Note</u>
Incumbent:	The Reverend Dr Michael Perry (Chairman)	1,3
Licensed Lay Minister:	Sylvia Parrett (Vice Chairman)	1
Churchwardens:		
All Saints' Woodford:	Giles Fletcher	1
	Helen Coombe	1
St Andrew's Durnford:	Julia Gallop	1
	Peter Curtis	1
St Michael's Wilsford:	Vacant	
Representatives to Deanery Synod:	Margaret Knight	2,4
<u>Elected</u>	Jeremy Coombe (dep. Ch'warden)	
	Anthony Edwards	
	Vanessa Hawkings	
	Helen Hosier	
	James Iles	
	Elizabeth Le Sueur	
	Luke March	1
	Suzanne Waters	
	Antony Wells (Treasurer)	1

Note: 1. Member of the PCC Standing Committee; 2. PCC Safeguarding Officer;  
3. Member of Diocesan Synod; 4. Electoral Roll Officer

## Other Office Holders

Rev'd Patricia Powell	Honorary Associate Priest
Lay Ministers	Sylvia Parrett Hugh Keatinge
Lay Pastoral Assistants:	Suzanne Waters
Lay Worship Leaders:	Suzanne Waters
Sidesmen	
St Andrew's:	Luke March, Ian Stevens, Suzanne Waters, Antony Wells
St Michael's:	Jennie Chapman, Sarah Coate, Simon Folkes, Angie Langley, Peter Moss, Ian Reid, Liz Le Seur
All Saints':	Jean Coates, James Iles, Rae Owen, Mary Wilson

## Parishioners and Other Supporters of the Churches in the Woodford Valley

At 31 December 2024 there were 116 (2024: 118) parishioners on the Electoral Roll.

The Church has a worshipping community of 83 (2023: 87). The total number of people who worshipped with us at Easter was 188 (2023: 238) whilst at Christmas it was 325 (2023: 363).

Regular donors to the parish total 56 (2023: 53) persons which includes those donations received at the church services and donations through Parish Giving or by other means to the parish.

## Objectives

The Woodford Valley with Archers Gate PCC is responsible for co-operating with the incumbent in promoting the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical in this ecclesiastical parish. It also has responsibility for the maintenance of the churches within the parish. As part of the Diocese of Salisbury, the Church of England and the worldwide Anglican Communion, the PCC also has a responsibility to promote the mission of the Church locally, nationally and internationally.

Within this context the PCC aims to be a resource allowing all people who live in the parish to develop faith in Jesus, and to promote and increase Christ-centred community within the Woodford Valley and the new housing estates within our parish.

## Events and Actions During the Year

Throughout 2024, our parish continued to be active in worship, mission, and practical matters. While we faced challenges, including illness and administrative delays, we also saw growth and development in our spiritual life, community engagement, and church governance.

### Deanery and Missional Pathway

Early in the year, the deanery explored involvement in a "missional pathway" initiative, and training was undertaken and thought put in by the Vicar and his clergy colleagues as to how this would function. However, later in the year, we learned that our deanery was not selected to participate. While this was disappointing, as a parish we remain committed to engaging in mission both locally and across the diocese.

### Clergy Sabbatical and Health Challenges

A sabbatical was planned for Mike, our Vicar, but unfortunately, he was unwell for five weeks in May and June with Covid. Despite this setback, he was able to use some of his remaining sabbatical time to contribute to A Rocha UK.

### Building Work

Significant effort was invested in building maintenance and repair, particularly by our Churchwardens:

- The north churchyard cob wall at All Saints was finally repaired, thanks to Helen Coombe's dedicated oversight, despite delays in diocesan planning approvals.
- Plans for repairing the lower gate wall moved forward slowly due to delays within the DAC system. This work is expected to take place in 2025, ensuring a structurally sound yet visually consistent wall.
- At St Andrew's, essential repairs were carried out on the stonework, preserving the integrity of the church.



## Spiritual Courses

*Lent:* We followed the Bible Society's "Bible Series," which explored key biblical themes and their relevance to contemporary life.

*Advent:* We studied Brian McLaren's book *The Great Spiritual Migration*, prompting valuable discussions about our engagement with modern society. This has led to a reassessment of some of the language used in our services.

## Worship Services

*Choral Evensong* was a highlight of our worship in 2024, drawing both singers and congregants. Thanks go to Peter Barrie, our organist for this service in 2024, and all those involved in making these services a success.

*Holy Week and Easter:* Our Palm Sunday donkey procession, featuring Biscuit the donkey, was once again a memorable event. Holy Week services were well attended, and this year we introduced a reflective Taizé service.

*New Worship Initiatives:* We continued to experiment with a reflective third-Sunday afternoon service, eventually settling on a format using Iona Community liturgy and diverse musical traditions.

*Christmas Services:* Attendance at our Christingle Service was lower than expected, leading us to consider new approaches for 2025, possibly in collaboration with the school. We did however have large numbers of people at our Carol Service, the Christmas Eve crib service at All Saints, our new 9.00pm Christmas Eve service at Wilsford and our two Christmas Day services at Great Durnford and Middle Woodford.

## Events and Fundraising

Fundraising remained an important part of parish life, with successful events including:

*A Burns Night dinner, Open Gardens event, Tennis Tournament, Bridge Lunch and Peter Bailey Memorial Concert* as well as talks in the Village Hall

These events not only raised funds but also strengthened community bonds.

## Church School

The Vicar and Foundation Governors remained actively involved in governance, ensuring the continued promotion of the school's Christian ethos.

- *Baptism and Confirmation:* In June, we held an open-air Baptism and Confirmation Service, where: Two children were baptised, four children were admitted to communion, and three pupils were confirmed
- *Leadership Transition:* We bid farewell to Mrs Rachel Carson, our longstanding Head Teacher, and welcomed Mrs Donna Young, previously the Deputy Head, as her successor after a thorough selection process.
- *Joining a Multi Academy Trust (MAT):* The school decided to join the Pickwick MAT, a network of primary schools in Dorset and Wiltshire. While being a Stand-Alone Academy was beneficial in the past, current educational challenges made this transition necessary. The school's Christian ethos will be preserved and enriched through this collaboration.

## Looking Ahead

As we move into 2025, we aim to continue strengthening our spiritual life, community engagement, and church infrastructure. We are especially looking forward to further developments in our worship, mission, and work with the school.

We give thanks for all who have contributed their time, energy, and faith to our parish over the past year. May we continue to grow together in faith and service in the year ahead.

## Financial Report

### ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2024

A full detail of the Financial Activities and Balance Sheet can be found on pages 7-11.

For the first time since I took over the Treasurer responsibility, the Parish has registered a deficit – in FY 2024 in the amount of £9,469. While in general terms this is the product of the continuing escalation of our costs, some comments on specific items making up this result are relevant.

The net proceeds of the various fund raising bought in an impressive £6,370. Once again, the Valley was able to put on a wide range of events for the community from which the parish benefitted, including a concert, bridge lunch, gardens opening, tennis competition and Village Hall talk. A vote of congratulations and enormous thanks for those who organised and delivered such a range of high quality and entertaining events.

Although modest in amount, we were able to generate a small amount of income (£397) from placing a part of our cash reserves on deposit.

Our largest single expense, the 'Share' and other levies paid to the diocese, increased by 4.5% in 2024. Such continuing increases are considered no longer affordable by the parish.

Repairs and Maintenance increased to £12,084 for the year. In addition to the day-to-day maintenance of our historic churches, this reflects the expenditure on a programme of essential repairs to the church buildings and churchyards. A part of these costs has been applied to those Designated Funds available for such expenditure.

Under its new management the *Bridge* church magazine once again generated a substantial revenue from donations and advertising which more than covered the increased cost of its publication. The editors of the *Bridge* have generously agreed to allow the surplus of £1,199 to be transferred to General Fund.

The net result for the year was a total deficit across the General, Designated and Endowment Funds of £9,469. Following transfers between General Fund and Designated Funds this has brought an overall decline in the level of General Fund and Designated Funds of £5,998 and £4,026 respectively with a £554 increase to the Endowment Funds.

The finances of the parish are under pressure. Given the increase in our costs and limited opportunity to increase revenues, the overall outlook is for continuing deficit, or at best breakeven, before applying the costs of the major projects of maintenance of our churches and churchyards. In this light the PCC has resolved to limit the payment of the diocesan share to £60,000/year. The parish is preparing an appeal to cover the cost of major maintenance as well as some priority upgrades to our churches and churchyards.

Antony Wells  
*Treasurer*

## **Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of Woodford Valley with Archers Gate.**

I report on the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 7-10.

### **Respective Responsibilities of Trustee and Examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the financial statements under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

This report, including my statement, has been prepared for and only for the charity's trustee as a body. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustee 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 trustee as a body for my examination work, for this report, or for the statements I have made.

### **Basis of Independent Examiner's Report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as 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 financial statements 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 the requirements:
  - o to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
  - o to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Acthave not been met; or
- to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

A J Radice, FCA.

2025

**WOODFORD VALLEY WITH ARCHERS GATE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

**YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024**

			<u>General</u> <u>Fund</u>	<u>Designated</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Endowment</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>2023</u>
			£	£	£	£	£
<b>REVENUES</b>							
Donations							
	Planned Giving		37,624			37,624	39,831
	Collections and Boxes		7,981			7,981	6,955
	Bequests and Other Gifts		15,656			15,656	28,439
Gift Aid Reclaim			14,642			14,642	13,411
Fund-raising Events			6,370			6,370	6,750
Fees			8,684			8,684	7,330
Investment Income			1,530			1,530	1,454
Grants etc			1,750			1,750	750
Deposit Interest			397			397	-
Bridge Church Magazine			-	5,722		5,722	4,865
Total Incoming Resources			94,633	5,722		100,355	109,784
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>							
Diocese Parish Share and Fees			62,893			62,893	60,204
Parish Administrator Salary			4,160			4,160	3520
Parish Office & Travel exps			2,245			2,245	3,178
Church Supplies & Others			1,150			1,150	1,274
Organist fee			2,976			2,976	2,460
Utilities			3,825			3,825	2,747
Repairs & Maintenance			12,084			12,084	4,654
Churchyard Maintenance			6,264			6,264	12,559
Legal & Professional Fees			1,937			1,937	702
Insurance			6,814			6,814	6,659
Bridge Church Magazine				4,523		4,523	2,724
Charity Donations			2,170			2,170	732
Total Resources Expended			106,518	4,523	-	111,041	101,414
Net Resource Turnover - gain/(loss)			- 11,885	1,199	-	- 10,686	8,370
Profit/(Loss) on Investments			663	-	554	1,217	4,607
Net Movement of funds			- 11,222	1,199	554	- 9,469	12,977
Total funds brought forward			63,192	33,463	24,482	121,137	108,160
Total Funds carried forward			51,970	34,662	25,036	111,668	£121,137



**WOODFORD VALLEY WITH ARCHERS GATE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

**BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2024**

				2023	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
	Investments at Market Value		54,397		53,181
Current Assets					
	Cash at Banks				
	General Account	26,881		66,486	
	Planned Giving Account	- 6		1,472	
	Deposit Account	30,397		-	
			57,271		67,958
<b>Total Assets</b>			<b>£111,668</b>		<b>£121,138</b>
Represented by					
	General Fund				
	At 1 January 2024	63,192		49,416	
	Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	- 11,223		1,345	
	Transferred				
	From Designated Funds	1,199		12,431	
	To Designated Funds	4,026		-	
			57,194		63,192
	Designated Funds (see below)				
	At 1 January 2024	33,463		36,359	
	Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	1,199		9,535	
	Transferred				
	From General Fund	- 4,026		-	
	To General Fund	- 1,199		- 12,431	
			29,437		33,463
	Endowment Funds				
	At 1 January 2024	• 24,483		22,385	
	Profit on Investments	554		2,098	
			25,037		24,483
<b>Total Funds</b>			<b>£111,668</b>		<b>£121,138</b>
Designated Funds					
	Bells	686		686	
	Bridge Magazine	3,000		3,000	
	All Saints Re-ordering	2,189		2,189	
	St Andrew's Maintenance	9,819		9,819	
	Repairs (Thody Legacy)	9,373		10,373	
	Fabric Repairs	4,338		7,364	
	Sudan Collection	32		32	
	<b>Total</b>		<b>£29,437</b>		<b>£33,463</b>

# WOODFORD VALLEY WITH ARCHERS GATE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

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

### 1. Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Charities Act 2011. They have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for investments which are shown at market value at 31 December 2024. The PCC considers that the charity has the ability to continue as a going concern.

#### Funds

The General Fund represents the fund of the Parochial Church Council which is not subject to any restriction regarding its use. Designated Funds are either from or for specific projects. The capital of Endowment Funds is not available for revenue expenses.

#### Incoming Resources

All income is recognized when received. Income Tax and Value Added Tax recoverable are not accrued.

#### Resources Used

All expenditure is accounted for when incurred.

### 2. Incoming Resources and Resources Used

Full information appears in the detailed accounts, available from the Honorary Treasurer.

### 3. Staff Costs

Members of the Parochial Church Council

The Chairman's reimbursed working expenses	£2,245
Others	
Organists' Fees	£2,976
Administrator's salary	£4,160

### 4. Investments

The historical cost of investments was £11,668 and the market value at 31 December 2024 was £54,397 (2023 £53,181).

### 5. Related Trusts

The Vicar and Churchwardens of Woodford as trustees are the owners of the original site of Woodford Valley Church of England Primary Academy and the curtilage of Woodford Village Cross. They hold a long lease of the school car park.

## 6. Risk Management

The Parochial Church Council is responsible for risk management, which is kept under review, and also for safeguarding, health & safety, disabled access and protection of children & vulnerable adults.

## 7. Contingent Liabilities

There is a contingent liability of £10,000 in respect of architects fees and contractor costs for the rebuilding of the boundary wall at All Saints, Woodford.

## 8. Funds Analysis

### Investments

Endowment Funds	£25,037	
General Fund	<u>£29,360</u>	
Total		£54,397

### Cash at Bank and Deposits

General Fund	£27,834	
Designated Funds	<u>£29,437</u>	
Total		<u>£57,271</u>

Total Funds at 31 December 2024	<u>£111,668</u>	(2023 £121,138)
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## 9. Designated Funds

At 31 December 2024, the Designated Funds were subject to the following adjustments:

1. The surplus for the year on the Bridge Magazine Designated Fund of £1,200 was released to General Fund.
2. A part of repair costs incurred in the year were charged to Designated Funds
  - £1,000 of St Michael's church roof repairs charged to Thody Legacy Designated Fund
  - £3,250 of All Saints boundary wall repair costs charged to Fabric Repairs Designated Fund.