

# **The Parochial Church Council of The Ecclesiastical Parish of St. Mary the Virgin, Bearwood**

## **Trustees annual report and financial statements**

**Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024**

Registered address: St Mary's Church, Bearwood Road, Bearwood,  
Smethwick, West Midlands B66 4BX

Registered charity no: 1206076

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## **Vicar's welcome and summary**

2024 has been a year that St Mary's Bearwood should feel proud of! The momentum and growth of the church has continued unabated with new faces attending groups and events, significant new initiatives launched, and new relationships and partnerships being forged with our local community.

St Mary's Bearwood has demonstrated itself to be an active and generous church that embodies the 'others orientation' it aspires to. I often like to quote the former Archbishop of Canterbury, William Temple, who described the church as an organisation that exists for the sake of its non-members. The commitment of the congregation to live out this calling is evident in the report that follows.

This report accounts the continuing impact of our community activities that provide a place of belonging and a refuge of spiritual and practical to so many. It includes the launching of a number of new initiatives that meet community needs including a new baby group, children's holiday club, repair café and food pantry. For us this is all about sharing the love of God with our neighbours in view of the big vision to see the thriving of our local community.

We are thrilled with the sense of community that is deepening within our midst, with new people finding faith, and many more having their lives touched by the work God is doing in and through us. St Mary's Bearwood is an exciting place to be at the moment.

It is a partnership in so many ways. Most importantly in the contribution of volunteers from the congregation who pitch in, work hard, make things happen and give so much of their selves including their finances to the bigger vision of what we're about. We want to see God's kingdom come and His will be done in Bearwood as it is in heaven. It is a team effort that produces the wonderful fruit and impact in the lives of those we share life with and that which you read below.

A massive thanks and credit are due to all who have made it happen, and thank you for reading and for all your support of St Mary's Bearwood too.

Rev Ben Baker

Chair of PCC and Vicar of St Mary's Bearwood

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Mary's, Bearwood is pleased to present its report and financial statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024.

## About St Mary's Bearwood

St Mary's Bearwood exists to be:

"Sharing God's heart for Bearwood in the heart of Bearwood."

Our vision is to see God's kingdom come in Bearwood as it is in heaven. This means seeing our community experience healing, wholeness, restoration, and well-being. We want to see life in all its fullness, mentally, emotionally, physically, economically, relationally, socially and spiritually. We long for this to be lived out in our local area.

In order to see that vision become reality, we need to be a community of people so shaped by the love Jesus has for us, that we demonstrate that love in our words and actions. This is what we mean by sharing God's heart for Bearwood in the heart of Bearwood.

We seek to live this out with these cultural values:

- *We are a community that shares life together.* We want everyone to feel included, that they have a place to belong and are able to play their part in fulfilling our vision;
- *We centre upon Jesus, his teaching and example.* We recognise that all of us are in different places on our own journeys of what it looks like to have our lives shaped by him;
- *We seek to be good news to others, with an 'others orientation'.* This leads us to live out our faith in practice, serving those beyond our community with a posture of generosity and selflessness.

## Our Goal

The PCC in 2023 adopted a five-year plan, which is continually reviewed, to:

- a) be a Jesus centred, worshipping community that reflects its local parish context in age, ethnic and other demographic profiles, and that is growing:
  - in breadth (numbers)
  - depth (living out faith), and
  - reach (service to our community).
- b) situate ourselves relationally as a church that is observably at the heart of the Bearwood community
- c) renew the foundations for a thriving church for many years to come

## **Achievements and performance**

We have seen St Mary's Bearwood grow from strength to strength over the last few years. 2024 has seen this growth and development continue, with a consolidation of the changes and transformation seen in 2022 and 2023, and further new initiatives and activities launched to serve our local community.

## **Worship, outreach and ministry**

Our Sunday services have been thriving this year with new faces at both our 9.30 and 11.30 gatherings. Numbers have continued to grow with an average of 95 over 16s and 25 under 16s each week, but if everyone who attended regularly were to attend one Sunday, we would be nearly 150. We've welcomed guest preachers, interviewed partner organisations and in the summer experimented with a pattern of 'Picnic Church' in the church grounds.

The children's and youth groups are particularly worth celebrating as this part of our community life brings energy to the rest of the church, involves the participation of a whole range of volunteers, and is drawing new families to find belonging amongst us. We recognise that our two Sunday services look very different but when we have held joint services, they have been a great occasion of togetherness and celebration that makes people feel proud to be part of St Mary's Bearwood.

An important value for St Mary's is that it is not a church that's just open on a Sunday but open all through the week for different events, groups and activities that serve a range of needs and share the love of God with our local community.

A highlight was the introduction of a summer holiday club for primary school aged children for two days in August. 50 children, nearly entirely new connections for us from local schools joined us for an Olympic themed programme of drama, games, crafts and a gentle Christian teaching. This was partly enabled by the increase of our children and families worker's hours to full-time but couldn't have been possible without the sacrifice of time and energy that was given by a large team of volunteers.

Regular activities which launched last year such as Storyteller Toddlers and The Watering Can feel established and have developed a strong sense of community. They offer a warm and friendly welcome for a whole range of people from the local area. Our growing relationships with families through storyteller toddlers and our many other events revealed the particular need for supporting parents in the earliest months of parenthood. This life stage can be difficult where there is a danger of isolation and loneliness, particularly where groups/classes can come at a significant cost. In response to this, SMB Baby Group was launched in June and through the year has nurtured a close-knit group of mums who are building friendships and offering support through their joys and struggles.

Our annual programme of community events continue to be well attended offering something for everyone in the local community that we love. In 2024 we had:

- 50 families join our pancake party (an increase on last year)
- over 40 families participate in crafts and games at our Good Friday Fun
- about 400 join us for BBQ, bouncy castles and live music at our summer fun day (despite the rain!)
- 50 children and their families attend our Light Party
- 60 participate in our inaugural Christmas wreath making evening
- And an estimated 250 through the doors for our St Nic's Christmas Fayre.

Two other new initiatives have started this year. Firstly, the hosting of a Repair Café as part of our monthly coffee mornings where a team of skilled volunteer repairers seek to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill by doing their best to fix any household items that aren't working as they should be and are brought to their attention. It is a free service that depends on our most practically skilled volunteers and is part of a worldwide movement of Repair Cafés that bring people together in the name of sustainability.

Secondly, the launch of St Mary's Pantry Bearwood, a collaboration with SmethwickCAN and Your Local Pantry providing top-quality low-cost food to members in our desire to tackle food poverty locally. This subscription model is about providing a more sustainable and dignified offer of support than emergency food parcels as members 'shop' at our pantry taking home an average of £20-30 worth of groceries for a fraction of the price.

We continue to run a range of courses and groups for those looking to explore faith and spirituality further. We ran alpha in the spring, and then again in the autumn but this time online as a way to connect with those who wouldn't find it easy to get out in the evenings for caring responsibilities or otherwise. We have also seen 3 new mid-week connect groups established gathering church members and drawing in newer faces for deeper relationship with one another and discussion about faith in a variety of ways. We were thrilled to see some of those participating in alpha and our connect groups mark their faith commitment through a lively baptism service on Easter Day and a confirmation service with the Bishop at a neighbouring church.

Although we are fortunate to have a couple of paid members of staff, none of what we do would be possible without the generosity of those in the church who volunteer their time, energy and enthusiasm to not only serve but lead many of these activities. We simply would not be able to do all that we do without our volunteers and seek to honour their contribution appropriately.

## **Partnering with like-minded organisations**

We are pleased to partner with other organisations and share our resources where this supports our wider vision for the transformation of society for the greater good. We continue to host weekly a Girls Friendly Society (GFS) group which offers activities for children and young people and our hall continues to be used as a storage and distribution base for Sandwell Clothing bank which gives brand new clothes to those most in need. There are many other users of our buildings who hire a room or where there is a particular need, use our premises for a reduced or waived fee.

New partnerships have grown in 2024, particularly with the development work that has led to the starting of the food pantry mentioned above. Our place of welcome, 'The Watering Can' has also hosted a number of drop-in sessions for outside agencies such as Sandwell Council's Cost of Living support team, Kaleidoscope Plus mental health support, and Christians Against Poverty (CAP). We have also hosted a number of parent well-being and baby massage sessions put on by Barnados and Sandwell Family Hubs. This has nicely complemented our own activities that serve the network of families we are in touch with. Connections with council services are growing and Cranstoun continue to park their mobile unit each week offering support for drug and alcohol addiction and we work closely with them to support the number of rough sleepers we interact with.

We have good relationships with other local churches, partnering with them for seasonal services and other community activities, such as contributing to the 'Open The Book' team that leads assemblies in a local school. A collaborative endeavour of Muddy Church has happened on a few occasions in the local park in which we have taken a lead and there have been a number of exploratory meetings with our recently confirmed 'oversight area' that seeks deeper collaboration with our neighbouring Church of England churches.

We have also partnered with two national award initiatives, A Rocha and Growing Hope. Following some hard work from our eco subgroup of the PCC, we were awarded in 2024 the bronze A Rocha eco award which recognises the way in which we have a concern for the environmental impact of our decision-making and activities. Additionally, a newly formed accessibility team with an accessibility co-ordinator invited Growing Hope to provide training for our volunteers and undertook an audit to evaluate how our services, groups and activities are truly inclusive to the many additional needs that children and adults present. We were thrilled to be awarded a silver award.

The PCC have remained committed to giving 10% of their regular income to support other charities and organisations doing important community work that we cannot undertake ourselves. The subgroup reviewed last year's criteria and invited new nominations as well the re-nomination of causes supported in 2023. In 2024 the 6 chosen causes were:

- Sandwell Christians Against Poverty (CAP) – Debt and money advice
- International Nepal Fellowship – Support of care and food for very poor patients and carers in hospitals in Nepal
- New Beginnings Community – Supporting vulnerable new mums and their babies through the giving of baby bundles
- Smethwick Church Action Network – Employing staff to provide important signposting at foodbank
- Growing Hope – Free therapy and support for families and children with additional needs at locations across the UK
- Birmingham Schools Connection – A brand new charity training church volunteers to serve their local schools through prayer spaces and more

## **Strategic steps**

This year has involved some important strategic planning for St Mary's Bearwood. Early in the year, the PCC gathered for an away day to review and evaluate how we had progressed as a church since the initiating of the revitalisation in 2022. An encouraging day, it demonstrated a clarity of vision and purpose for us as a church and highlighted important areas for us to give our attention. Since then the PCC has given time in its business to reviewing our discipleship and pastoral care structures, recognising that to sustain the wonderful activity that characterises St Mary's we need to have good foundations of support.

An initial feasibility study about the future development of our buildings completed in the spring which outlined our needs and requirements from future development and clarified our sense of purpose. It provided a simple concept design of what a new building adjoining the grade II listed church could look like. However, upon feedback from local planning and conservation and the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) it became apparent that a scheme on this site would need to retain as much of the original hall and historic buildings as possible. A new feasibility study was then commissioned in the autumn appointing conservation architects BHB to provide us with the most pragmatic solution to balancing our functional needs with environmental and conservation concerns. This will conclude in early 2025 with a view to attaining a clear direction of travel.

The maintenance and development of our old buildings are part of our ongoing journey to sustainability. But alongside this is a need to attain financial sustainability. We have been in the fortunate position to increase our part-time children's and families worker to full-time. And an increase in congregational giving is enabling us to continue to increase our contribution to the diocesan common fund. Further comment can be found below on our financial position.

## **Future plans**

One of our ambitions has been to be able to open our doors every day of the week to share the love of God and serve the needs of our local community. On some weeks this is starting to become a reality, but the local need and opportunity is potentially overwhelming. One of things we plan to develop is our partnership with other agencies and organisations where our resources and premises in our prime location can be of benefit to the community. We recognise that St Mary's Bearwood cannot do everything, but we can multiply our impact and benefit to others as we discern the right partners to work with. We have plans to employ a staff member to particularly focus on our community outreach projects, develop new opportunities and nurture these collaborative relationships. This will be a strategic investment of the last of our seed funding given at the launch of our revitalisation.

A new partnership developing here is the collaboration with Groundwork who provide cooking classes for the most vulnerable. Food poverty is an obvious and significant need locally as the cost of living crisis has continued to hit households hard and as our various activities have hospitality as a major focus, we plan to significantly invest in the improvement of our kitchen catering facilities. As we continue to pursue plans



for a wider building development, the idea is that our improvements will be equipment that we can carry over and we expect this improvement will continue to develop the ways we are building community and helping others in the community of Bearwood.

We continue to see our premises and location as a superb opportunity to contribute to the local community, but as we increase our activity we are increasingly aware of our limitations in accessibility, functional space, efficiency in a whole range of ways. As our feasibility studies on our building development conclude in early 2025 we hope we will be able to formulate concrete plans for an improved building that offers community facilities for many more beyond our current reach.

But as we continue to grow our activity, we know that we need to continue to consolidate and find a sustainable pace for volunteers from our congregation. We are a sacrificially generous church in our time, commitment and financial resources. But as well as drawing upon the spiritual sustenance of our faith and worshipping life, we need to continue to be wise in how we support and resource the hands that have enabled all that we celebrate this year. This is even more important as conversations progress with Church of England Birmingham for what it might look like for us to pass on what we are experiencing in planting or revitalising a further parish community in the years ahead.

## Financial activities of the Charity

The financial year ending 31 December 2024 (FY24) saw us move positively forward to meeting our financial sustainability test of being able to meet our regular costs with our planned giving and gift aid income. Some key highlights are as follows:

- The headline position is that we received an operational surplus of £71,808 against a surplus of £137,423 in FY23. The main difference being the significant grant funding received in FY23. We also spent £22,652 on fixed assets comprising the chairs, equipment for the pantry and IT equipment.
- Planned giving comprising regular giving and plate offerings increased in the year from £116,061 in FY23 to £132,551 in FY24, an increase of 14.21%. Overall giving with gift aid increased from £144,814 to £160,585. This was mainly down to the number of people giving regularly through Parish Giving Scheme and also an increase in financial offerings in the plate.
- We received grant funding of £20,039 during the FY24 period. This accounted for a smaller 9.64% (35%) of our income in the period and comprised the final £4,697 instalment from the Birmingham Diocesan Board of Finance plus a £10,899 grant to support the acquisition of equipment for the Food Pantry. We also received grants of £2,000 towards pantry food to get us started and grants to support Watering Can (£500) through the Warm Rooms grants scheme and £1,943 for works to upgrade to LED lighting which is still subject to diocesan approval.
- The overall effect on our cash position was to increase our cash at bank amount from £196,296 to £265,883 at the end of FY24. Of this total, £5,281 is restricted for expenditure incurred under the Warm Rooms and Pantry grants. We also set aside some funds for designated future planned expenditure which is summarised below.

Fund Allocations	1 <sup>st</sup> January 2024	Transfer between funds	31 <sup>st</sup> December 2024	
Chair fund	£17,887	<b>-£17,887</b>	£0	£119,247
Boiler	£15,000	£0	£15,000	
LED lighting	£0	£1,943	£1,943	
Church plant	£0	£30,000	£30,000	
Pantry income	£0	£554	£554	
Staff costs from St Johns money	£0	£35,000	£35,000	
Building project costs	£0	£36,750	£36,750	

- This leaves £182,907 in the General Fund which includes the depreciated value of our fixed assets plus accruals at the year end. The cash balance within that total is £141,354. Our overall reserves policy is to ensure we have unrestricted General Fund cash reserves to cover 3 to 6 months of regular costs. Our regular costs (net of any amounts funded from designated or restricted funds) are forecast to be c. £180,000 in FY25. It is therefore proposed that the reserves level is maintained at £90,000 being the same as last year but representing a higher proportion of our cash reserves at 63%.

- We once again tithed 10% of our regular monthly giving. In FY24 this amounted to £15,000 and went towards funding 6 projects. Our tithing budget of £13,000 pounds was split between the 6 projects awarded funding during the period (see previous section).

In summary, this was another very promising year financially with growth in planned giving through the ongoing generosity of our congregation and visitors and also development of new strands of grant funding from our strategic partners. Big thanks to all those who have contributed.

The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, Church of England regulations and guidance, and the 'Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities' (effective from January 2019).

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND  
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024  
FOR  
ST MARY THE VIRGIN CHURCH BEARWOOD**

Prime  
Chartered Accountants  
Corner Oak  
1 Homer Road  
Solihull  
B91 3QG

**ST MARY THE VIRGIN CHURCH BEARWOOD**

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

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**ST MARY THE VIRGIN CHURCH BEARWOOD**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

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The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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).

**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

**Governing document**

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

**Risk management**

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

**Registered Charity number**

1206076

**Principal address**

Bearwood Road  
Smethwick  
West Midlands  
B66 4BX

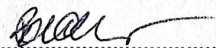
**Trustees**

Rev. B Baker

**Independent Examiner**

Prime  
Chartered Accountants  
Corner Oak  
1 Homer Road  
Solihull  
B91 3QG

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 25/3/25 and signed on its behalf by:

  
.....  
Trustee  
Rev. B Baker (CHAIR OF PCC)

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF  
ST MARY THE VIRGIN CHURCH BEARWOOD**

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**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of St Mary the Virgin Church Bearwood**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of St Mary the Virgin Church Bearwood (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2024.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under Section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent examiner's statement**

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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



Jeremy Kitson FCA

Prime  
Chartered Accountants  
Corner Oak  
1 Homer Road  
Solihull  
B91 3QG

Date: 01/04/2025 .....

**ST MARY THE VIRGIN CHURCH BEARWOOD**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	<b>2024 Total funds £</b>	<b>2023 Total funds £</b>
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>					
Donations and legacies		<b>172,707</b>	<b>13,399</b>	<b>186,106</b>	268,140
<b>Charitable activities</b>					
Charitable activities		<b>13,340</b>	-	<b>13,340</b>	4,145
Investment income	2	<u><b>8,518</b></u>	<u>-</u>	<u><b>8,518</b></u>	<u>2,445</u>
<b>Total</b>		<u><b>194,565</b></u>	<u><b>13,399</b></u>	<u><b>207,964</b></u>	<u>274,730</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>					
<b>Charitable activities</b>					
Charitable activities		<b>123,584</b>	<b>8,118</b>	<b>131,702</b>	135,867
Other		<u><b>4,454</b></u>	<u>-</u>	<u><b>4,454</b></u>	<u>1,440</u>
<b>Total</b>		<u><b>128,038</b></u>	<u><b>8,118</b></u>	<u><b>136,156</b></u>	<u>137,307</u>
<b>NET INCOME</b>					
Transfers between funds	8	<u><b>66,527</b></u> <u><b>288</b></u>	<u><b>5,281</b></u> <u><b>(288)</b></u>	<u><b>71,808</b></u> <u><b>-</b></u>	<u>137,423</u> <u>-</u>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>66,815</b>	<b>4,993</b>	<b>71,808</b>	137,423
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>					
Total funds brought forward		<u><b>235,339</b></u>	<u><b>288</b></u>	<u><b>235,627</b></u>	<u>98,204</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<u><b>302,154</b></u>	<u><b>5,281</b></u>	<u><b>307,435</b></u>	<u><b>235,627</b></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements




**ST MARY THE VIRGIN CHURCH BEARWOOD**

**BALANCE SHEET  
31 DECEMBER 2024**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible assets	5	29,576	-	29,576	11,378
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors	6	16,453	-	16,453	33,454
Cash at bank		<u>260,602</u>	<u>5,281</u>	<u>265,883</u>	<u>196,296</u>
		277,055	5,281	282,336	229,750
<b>CREDITORS</b>					
Amounts falling due within one year	7	(4,477)	-	(4,477)	(5,501)
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>272,578</u>	<u>5,281</u>	<u>277,859</u>	<u>224,249</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u>302,154</u>	<u>5,281</u>	<u>307,435</u>	<u>235,627</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>302,154</u>	<u>5,281</u>	<u>307,435</u>	<u>235,627</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>	8				
Unrestricted funds				302,154	235,339
Restricted funds				<u>5,281</u>	<u>288</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>				<u>307,435</u>	<u>235,627</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 25/3/25 and were signed on its behalf by:

  
Rev. B Baker - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

**Basis of preparing the financial statements**

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, 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)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

**Income**

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

**Expenditure**

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, 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 accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

**Tangible fixed assets**

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Fixtures and fittings                      - 20% on cost

**Taxation**

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

**Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**2. INVESTMENT INCOME**

	<b>2024</b>	2023
	<b>£</b>	£
Deposit account interest	<u><b>8,518</b></u>	<u><b>2,445</b></u>

**3. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS**

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 December 2024 nor for the year ended 31 December 2023.

**Trustees' expenses**

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 December 2024 nor for the year ended 31 December 2023.

**4. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>			
Donations and legacies	268,140	-	268,140
<b>Charitable activities</b>			
Charitable activities	4,145	-	4,145
Investment income	<u>2,445</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,445</u>
<b>Total</b>	<u>274,730</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>274,730</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>			
<b>Charitable activities</b>			
Charitable activities	135,867	-	135,867
Other	<u>1,440</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,440</u>
<b>Total</b>	<u>137,307</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>137,307</u>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	137,423	-	137,423
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>			
Total funds brought forward	97,916	288	98,204
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<u><b>235,339</b></u>	<u><b>288</b></u>	<u><b>235,627</b></u>

**ST MARY THE VIRGIN CHURCH BEARWOOD**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**5. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	Fixtures and fittings £
<b>COST</b>	
At 1 January 2024	<b>12,818</b>
Additions	<b><u>22,652</u></b>
At 31 December 2024	<b><u>35,470</u></b>
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>	
At 1 January 2024	<b>1,440</b>
Charge for year	<b><u>4,454</u></b>
At 31 December 2024	<b><u>5,894</u></b>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>	
At 31 December 2024	<b><u>29,576</u></b>
At 31 December 2023	<b><u>11,378</u></b>

**6. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade debtors	<b>16,453</b>	29,443
Prepayments and accrued income	<b>-</b>	<u>4,011</u>
	<b><u>16,453</u></b>	<b><u>33,454</u></b>

**7. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	2024 £	2023 £
Other creditors	<b><u>4,477</u></b>	<b><u>5,501</u></b>

ST MARY THE VIRGIN CHURCH BEARWOOD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

8. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.1.24 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.12.24 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
General fund	202,452	64,030	(83,575)	182,907
Designated - Chairs fund	17,887	-	(17,887)	-
Designated - Boiler fund	15,000	-	-	15,000
Designated - LED lighting	-	1,943	-	1,943
Designated - Church plant	-	-	30,000	30,000
Designated - Pantry income	-	554	-	554
Designated - Staff costs from St Johns	-	-	35,000	35,000
Designated - Building projects costs	-	-	36,750	36,750
	<u>235,339</u>	<u>66,527</u>	<u>288</u>	<u>302,154</u>
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Choir vestry seating	288	-	(288)	-
Warm rooms grant	-	442	-	442
Pantry grant - food	-	1,276	-	1,276
Pantry grant - other	-	3,563	-	3,563
	<u>288</u>	<u>5,281</u>	<u>(288)</u>	<u>5,281</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>235,627</u>	<u>71,808</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>307,435</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	192,068	(128,038)	64,030
Designated - LED lighting	1,943	-	1,943
Designated - Pantry income	554	-	554
	<u>194,565</u>	<u>(128,038)</u>	<u>66,527</u>
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Warm rooms grant	500	(58)	442
Pantry grant - food	2,000	(724)	1,276
Pantry grant - other	10,899	(7,336)	3,563
	<u>13,399</u>	<u>(8,118)</u>	<u>5,281</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>207,964</u>	<u>(136,156)</u>	<u>71,808</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

## 8. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

## Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.1.23 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.23 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	82,916	119,536	202,452
Designated - Chairs fund	-	17,887	17,887
Designated - Boiler fund	<u>15,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,000</u>
	97,916	137,423	235,339
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Choir vestry seating	<u>288</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>288</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>98,204</u>	<u>137,423</u>	<u>235,627</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	256,843	(137,307)	119,536
Designated - Chairs fund	<u>17,887</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>17,887</u>
	<u>274,730</u>	<u>(137,307)</u>	<u>137,423</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>274,730</u>	<u>(137,307)</u>	<u>137,423</u>

# ST MARY THE VIRGIN CHURCH BEARWOOD

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

### 8. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.1.23 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.12.24 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
General fund	82,916	183,566	(83,575)	182,907
Designated - Chairs fund	-	17,887	(17,887)	-
Designated - Boiler fund	15,000	-	-	15,000
Designated - LED lighting	-	1,943	-	1,943
Designated - Church plant	-	-	30,000	30,000
Designated - Pantry income	-	554	-	554
Designated - Staff costs from St Johns	-	-	35,000	35,000
Designated - Building projects costs	-	-	36,750	36,750
	97,916	203,950	288	302,154
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Choir vestry seating	288	-	(288)	-
Warm rooms grant	-	442	-	442
Pantry grant - food	-	1,276	-	1,276
Pantry grant - other	-	3,563	-	3,563
	288	5,281	(288)	5,281
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>98,204</u>	<u>209,231</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>307,435</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	448,911	(265,345)	183,566
Designated - Chairs fund	17,887	-	17,887
Designated - LED lighting	1,943	-	1,943
Designated - Pantry income	554	-	554
	469,295	(265,345)	203,950
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Warm rooms grant	500	(58)	442
Pantry grant - food	2,000	(724)	1,276
Pantry grant - other	10,899	(7,336)	3,563
	13,399	(8,118)	5,281
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>482,694</u>	<u>(273,463)</u>	<u>209,231</u>

**8. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued**

**Transfers between funds**

During the year £288 was transferred from restricted funds to unrestricted funds. This represented funds that were donated for choir vestry seating and was moved to pay for chairs which have been purchased from the general fund. Similarly, the amount of £17,887 designated for the new chairs was transferred to the general fund.

**9. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES**

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 December 2024.



**ST MARY THE VIRGIN CHURCH BEARWOOD****DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	2024 £	2023 £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS</b>		
<b>Donations and legacies</b>		
Planned giving	134,597	118,294
Fundraising and appeals	1,353	19,633
Gift aid	25,988	26,520
Grants	20,039	95,003
Pantry income	554	-
Other income	3,575	8,690
	<b>186,106</b>	<b>268,140</b>
<b>Investment income</b>		
Deposit account interest	8,518	2,445
<b>Charitable activities</b>		
Hall income	11,165	3,500
Weddings & funerals	2,175	645
	<b>13,340</b>	<b>4,145</b>
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>207,964</b>	<b>274,730</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
<b>Charitable activities</b>		
Common fund	20,000	20,000
Donations	14,699	12,920
Cleaning	4,674	4,756
Expenditure	6,059	5,726
Health & Safety	430	1,039
Insurance	5,097	4,610
IT Running costs	3,095	3,027
Sundry	224	387
Printing & stationary	1,221	568
Telephone & broadband	697	695
Utilities	10,941	8,495
Professional fees	978	7,155
Repairs and renewals	12,051	31,347
Staff costs	35,835	21,637
Communications	625	1,686
Arts and crafts	1,133	914
Event costs	10,282	6,776
Gardening	661	529
	<b>128,702</b>	<b>132,267</b>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

**ST MARY THE VIRGIN CHURCH BEARWOOD**

**DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

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	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Charitable activities</b>		
<b>Other</b>		
Fixtures and fittings	<b>4,454</b>	1,440
<b>Support costs</b>		
<b>Governance costs</b>		
Accountancy and legal fees	<u><b>3,000</b></u>	<u>3,600</u>
Total resources expended	<u><b>136,156</b></u>	<u>137,307</u>
<b>Net income</b>	<u><b>71,808</b></u>	<u><b>137,423</b></u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

# **Structure, Governance and Management**

## **Structure and Purpose**

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a corporate body established by the Church of England. It is governed by the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended and the Church Representation Rules. The PCC was registered with the Charity Commission on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

The purpose of the charity, as stated in the governing documents, is to co-operate with the vicar in promoting the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic and ecumenical, in the parish.

## **Charity details**

The Parochial Church Council of The Ecclesiastical Parish of St. Mary the Virgin, Bearwood (also known as St Mary's, Bearwood, or SMB) is a registered charity, number 1206076. The church's registered office is St Mary's Church, Bearwood Road, Bearwood, Smethwick, West Midlands B66 4BX.

## **Public benefit**

The PCC fulfils the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, 'The advancement of religion for the Public Benefit' and has regard to this in its planning and administration of church activities.

The PCC believes that by promoting the Christian faith it provides a benefit to the public by:

- Providing facilities for and activities of worship, pastoral care and spiritual development, both for existing church members and for anyone who wishes to benefit from what the church offers in the community; and
- Promoting Christian values, and service by members of the church in and to their communities, to the benefit of individuals and society as a whole.

It also provides benefit to the public through the provision grants, use of facilities and partnership with other charities, churches and agencies that also demonstrate public benefit in line with our mission.

The church's activities and the services it offers are available to all within the parish, regardless of race, ethnicity, nationality, religious belief (or none), gender/gender identity, or sexuality. All are welcome.

## **Governance**

The charity is governed by the members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC), who are also its trustees.

The appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The PCC comprises all clergy licensed to the parish, 2 elected churchwardens,

elected members of the electoral roll serving on Deanery, Diocesan or General Synod, and 9 further lay members elected at the APCM. The PCC has the right to co-opt members.

Upon joining the PCC, new members receive an induction pack which includes among other supporting papers, 'The Essential Trustee' published by the Charity Commission, our most recent annual report, our annual budget and PCC minutes for the last 12 months. We also offer an annual training meeting for PCC members.

## **PCC meetings**

The PCC met 11 times in 2024. At its first meeting following the APCM, the PCC elected the Standing Committee comprising the clergy, church wardens, lay-chair, secretary and treasurer. The Standing Committee met a further 3 times during 2024 to continue PCC business between PCC meetings, with the minutes of these meetings circulated to all PCC members.

## **Risk Assessment**

A regular review is undertaken by the PCC of principal risks and uncertainties that the charity faces. The charity has established policies, systems, and procedures to mitigate risks identified in its reviews relating to safeguarding, health & safety, data protection, financial and other issues.

## **Safeguarding**

The PCC are committed to ensuring all activities and groups are organised in accordance with the Church of England House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance. Safeguarding update reports are provided each meeting by our Parish Safeguarding Officer, Alison Carter. Alison, with the parish safeguarding team, meet regularly to review compliance, concerns and safer recruitment. This team includes the incumbent Rev Ben Baker. During 2023 Caroline Fereday step down from the team and Becca Dawkins joined it.

## **Staff and volunteers**

Clergy, lay employed staff and key volunteers are responsible for the various ministries and administration of the church and submit regular reports to the PCC.

As of 31st December, we have 2 employees (1 full-time and 1 part-time, and 1 voluntary staff role, in addition to two licensed clergy, who are paid by Church of England, Birmingham.

The following list records those who served as members of the PCC during the year:

## **The PCC**

Rev. Benjamin Baker	– Chair, clergy (ex-officio)
Rev. Sarah Down	– Clergy licensed (ex-officio),
Benjamin Prentice	– Churchwarden (ex-officio)
Francis Herbert	– Churchwarden (ex-officio)

Alison Carter	- Lay Chair & Parish Safeguarding Officer
Bernard de Waal	- Treasurer
Laura Gilyead	
Benjamin Tucker	- Deanery Synod Rep (ex-officio), Secretary
Ian Thorley	- Deanery Synod Rep (ex-officio)
John Reynolds	- Deanery Synod Rep (ex-officio)
Victoria Fasham	
Helen Snow	- Term finished April 2024
Eric Ngugi	- Elected April 2024
John Bamford	
Chris Midgely	

Electoral roll officer Yasmin Bavington is not part of the PCC.

## Statement of responsibilities of the trustees

The PCC are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Charity law requires the PCC to prepare financial statements for each financial year that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the church of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the PCC is required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2015 (FRS 102);
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate that the charity will continue in operation.

The PCC is responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the PCC of St Mary the Virgin, Bearwood on 25/3/25

and signed on its behalf on 25/3/25

by REV. B. BAKER

