

**The Parochial Church Council
St. Mary's, Great Barrington**

Report and Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2024

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St Mary's Parochial Church Council, Great Barrington

**Legal and administrative information
for the year ended 31 December 2024**

Reference and Administrative Details of the Charity

St Mary's Parochial Church Council, Great Barrington (registered Charity number 1207400) is responsible for the day-to-day administration of the assets and the church of St. Mary's, Great Barrington.

The Charity's address is:

Manor Farm
Great Barrington
Burford
OX18 4US

Custodian Trustees

Richard Crosbie Dawson
Olivia Wingfield

Independent examiners

Gravita Audit Oxford LLP
First Floor, Park Central,
40-41 Park End Street,
Oxford, OX1 1JD

Bankers

Virgin Money
7 Gold Street
Northampton
NN1 1EN

Report of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31 December 2024

Structure, governance and management

The PCC of St Mary's, Great Barrington is a registered Charity under the name of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary's Great Barrington, registered number 1207400 and the Charity is a public benefit entity. The Charity was registered by the Charity Commission for England and Wales on 12th March 2024. The Charity is run by two trustees. The registered Administrator is R Crosbie Dawson. The Charity produces annual accounts. The accounts for 2024 have been subject to an independent examination by Gravita Audit Oxford LLP as income for the year at £285,301 exceeds the threshold of £250,000 at which an independent examination is required. Income is not expected to exceed £250,000 in any year thereafter, so further independent examinations are not anticipated.

Aim and Purpose

The Charity's objectives are to maintain and administer the church of St Mary's, Great Barrington and advancement of religion in the parish and in the Windrush Benefice. All worship is public and open to all free of charge. The church is also available for baptisms, weddings and funerals as required.

Objectives and Activities

The major activity in the year was the continuation and near finalisation of the major programme of restoration employing the services of a specialist architect, Falconer Gilbert Scott, and of a specialist contractor Centreline Architectural Sculpture. During this period the church was closed to visitors for safety reasons.

Achievements and Performance

A major achievement has been managing the project to be delivered largely within budget and to expectations. There were numerous site meetings with the architect and contractor to assist in the process. The result is that a fully renovated church should be available for public access and worship again early in 2025.

Financial Review

The Charity has been fortunate in that expenditure on restoration work of £318,705 to date has been financed by generous donations of £285,000 from individuals and the Little Barrington Charity. Other recurring annual costs of £8,094 remain much in line with the previous year (£9,656). The Charity plans to continue to fund the completion of the restoration contract and the Church's annual running costs through further donations. A firm commitment has been secured to fund the 2024 deficit of £21,911 and ongoing expenditure as it arises. The deficit of £21,911 arose due to the timing of donations against expenditure incurred. Donations promised are not accounted for until they are actually received in the Charity's bank account.

Trustees' Responsibilities

Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the surplus or deficit of the Trust for that period. In preparing those accounts, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the accounts on the going-concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in operational existence.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and to enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Charities Act 2011. 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.

This report was approved by the PCC on 3rd October 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



R. Crosbie Dawson
(Trustee)

**St Mary's Parochial Church Council, Great
Barrington**
Independent Examiners' Report to St Mary's Parochial Church Council, Great Barrington

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of St Mary's Parochial Church Council, Great Barrington (the Charity) for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 5 to 13.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the Charity, 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 Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the Charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

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 Charity 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.



Date: 09/10/2025

Peter Foley, ACA
Gravita Audit Oxford LLP, Park Central, 40-41 Park End Bridge Street, Oxford, OX1 1JD

**St Mary's Parochial Church Council, Great
Barrington Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 December 2024**

		Unrestricted	2024	2023
	Note	Funds	Total	Total
		£	Funds	Funds
			£	£
Income from:				
Donations and Legacies	2	284,518	284,518	77,786
Charitable activities	3	783	783	1,039
Total		<u>285,301</u>	<u>285,301</u>	<u>78,825</u>
Expenditure on:				
Church Activities	4	<u>328,299</u>	<u>328,299</u>	<u>58,715</u>
Total		<u>328,299</u>	<u>328,299</u>	<u>58,715</u>
Net income before gains and losses on investments		<u>(42,998)</u>	<u>(42,998)</u>	<u>20,110</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		(42,998)	(42,988)	20,110
Transfers between funds		—	—	—
Net movement in funds		(42,998)	(42,998)	20,110
Balance brought forward at 1 January 2024		<u>21,087</u>	<u>21,087</u>	<u>977</u>
Balance carried forward at 31 December 2024		<u>(21,911)</u>	<u>(21,911)</u>	<u>21,087</u>

**St Mary's Parochial Church Council, Great
Barrington. Balance Sheet
for the year ended 31 December 2024**

	Notes	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
Current assets					
Debtors	8	785		-	
Cash at bank and in hand	9	<u>3,286</u>		<u>21,087</u>	
		4,071		21,087	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	<u>(25,982)</u>		<u>-</u>	
Net current assets/(liabilities)			<u>(21,911)</u>		<u>21,087</u>
Net assets			<u>(21,911)</u>		<u>21,087</u>
Funds					
Unrestricted funds	12		<u>(21,911)</u>		<u>21,087</u>
Total funds			<u>(21,911)</u>		<u>21,087</u>

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the PCC on 3rd October 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



Richard Crosbie Dawson

The notes on pages 7 to 13 form an integral part of these financial statements

**St Mary's Parochial Church Council, Great
Barrington. Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2024**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1. Accounting convention

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at market value. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' revised 2015 and applicable accounting standards.

1.2. Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Parochial Church Council in furtherance of its general objectives and which have not been designated for any other purposes.

1.3. Income

All income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the Charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Donations are recognised when received, unless there is evidence of entitlement to the donation at an earlier date. Donations with conditions attached are recognised as income when those conditions are met. Where conditions are outstanding at the reporting date, the donation is treated as deferred income. Amounts received in respect of weddings, funerals and related services are recognised as income in the period in which the service takes place. Fees received in advance of the service are deferred and recognised as a liability until the service is delivered.

1.4. Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

1.5. Going concern

These financial statements are prepared on the going concern basis. The Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future, and are not aware of any material uncertainties which may cause doubt on the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

1.6. Level of rounding

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts.

1.10 Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

1.11 Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

1.12. Judgements and estimations

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods. The trustees consider the depreciation policy to be the most significant estimate. This is based on the useful life of the assets (note 1.5)

**St Mary's Parochial Church Council, Great
Barrington. Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2024 (continued)**

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2024
	Unrestricted Total All Funds
	£ £
Donations	<u>284,518</u>
	<u>284,518</u>

	2023
	Unrestricted Total All Funds
	£ £
Donations	<u>77,786</u>
	<u>77,786</u>

3. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2024	2023
	Unrestricted Total All Funds	Unrestricted Total All Funds
	£ £	£ £
Funerals & Weddings	<u>783</u>	<u>1,039</u>
	<u>783</u>	<u>1,039</u>

4. CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Current year	2024	2023
	Unrestricted Total All Funds	Total All Funds
	£ £	£
Direct Costs		
Parish share	3,500	7,100
Ministry Team expenses	730	577
Church running expenses	3,864	1,979
Church maintenance	318,705	49,059
Support and Governance Costs (Note 5)	<u>1,500</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>328,299</u>	<u>58,715</u>

**St Mary's Parochial Church Council, Great
Barrington. Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2024 (continued)**

Prior Year	Unrestricted	2023 Total All Funds
	£	£
Direct Costs		
Parish share	7,100	7,100
Ministry Team expenses	577	577
Church running expenses	1,979	1,979
Church maintenance	49,059	49,059
Support and Governance Costs (Note 5)	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>58,715</u>	<u>58,715</u>

**St Mary's Parochial Church Council, Great
Barrington. Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2024 (continued)**

5. SUPPORT AND GOVERNANCE COSTS

			2024	2023
	Support	Governance	Unrestricted	Unrestricted
	£	£	£	£
Independent examination fee	<u>-</u>	<u>1,500</u>	<u>1,500</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>1,500</u>	<u>1,500</u>	<u>-</u>

6. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

No members of the Parochial Church Council received or waived any emoluments during the year (previous year: £Nil).

No Out-of-Pocket expenses have been paid in the year.

Ordained members of the clergy receive their stipends directly from the Church of England.

Related party transactions are as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Donations made by trustees	-	-
Donations made by connected persons	269,000	58,000
Out of pocket expenses reimbursed to trustees	-	-
Out of pocket expenses reimbursed to connected persons	-	-
	Number	Number
Number of trustees making donations	-	-
Number of connected persons making donations	1	1
Number of trustees with expenses reimbursed	-	-
Number of connected persons with expenses reimbursed	-	-

**St Mary's Parochial Church Council, Great
Barrington. Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2024 (continued)**

7. STAFF COSTS

The average number of employees, analysed by function was:

	2024	2023
	Number	Number
Total	<u> = </u>	<u> = </u>

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000

8. DEBTORS

	2024	2023
	Total All	Total All
	Funds	Funds
	£	£
Other debtors	785	-
	<u>785</u>	<u>-</u>

9. CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

	2024	2023
	£	£
Virgin Money	3,286	21,087
	<u>3,286</u>	<u>21,087</u>

**St Mary's Parochial Church Council, Great
Barrington. Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2024 (continued)**

10. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024	2023
	Total All Funds £	Total All Funds £
Accruals	<u>25,982</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u><u>25,982</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>

11. ANALYSIS AND RECONCILIATION OF MOVEMENTS OF FUNDS

	Unrestricted £	2024 Total All Funds £	2023 Total All Funds £
Income	285,301	285,301	78,825
Expenditure	<u>(328,299)</u>	<u>(328,299)</u>	<u>(58,715)</u>
Surplus/(deficit) before transfers	<u>(42,998)</u>	<u>(42,998)</u>	<u>20,110</u>
Transfers	-	-	-
Balance b/f at 1 January 2024	<u>21,087</u>	<u>21,087</u>	<u>977</u>
Balance c/f at 31 December 2024	<u><u>(21,911)</u></u>	<u><u>(21,911)</u></u>	<u><u>21,087</u></u>
Represented by:			
Net Current Assets/(Liabilities)	<u>(21,911)</u>	<u>(21,911)</u>	<u>21,087</u>
	<u><u>(21,911)</u></u>	<u><u>(21,911)</u></u>	<u><u>21,087</u></u>

12. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted £	2024 Total All Funds £	2023 Total All Funds £
Current Assets	4,071	4,071	21,087
Creditors Falling due within One Year	<u>(25,982)</u>	<u>(25,982)</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u><u>(21,911)</u></u>	<u><u>(21,911)</u></u>	<u><u>21,087</u></u>

PRIEST-IN-CHARGE

By the end of 2022, I had been a licensed minister in this benefice for a little over two years and had celebrated my 40th anniversary since being ordained as a deacon. My present ministry is one that I am privileged to share with you – the growing number of people from our five parishes and beyond who are willing to help 'make Church make sense' – in our differing *communities*, in our *commitment* to service, and in our *communion* with Jesus Christ, and one another.

Worship The 'new normal', post-covid, for our benefice is to have one morning service a week, with a service of Holy Communion each month and additional services for festivals (Christmas, Holy Week and Easter, Ascension, Harvest) or civic occasions (Platinum Jubilee, death of HM The Queen, and Remembrance). For the first time in several years we were able to hold traditional Christmas services, and there was a 'full house' in two of our churches. There were baptisms in two of our churches, weddings in four of our churches and funerals or memorial services in all five of our churches in the past year. Regular weekly attendance has doubled since 2019, being 26 or more each week. The re-establishing of a Benefice Choir, being led by Luc Bailey, has been a particular joy.

Mission There has been a practical response to the needs of others by members of our churches; whether it be warm clothes and blankets for people of Ukraine, support for the regional Churches and Chapels Trust through the 'Ride and Stride' initiative, or by establishing a monthly Food Bank collection when we worship in Little Barrington. There has also been a growth, somewhat against a national trend, in the numbers of those willing to offer some form of committed service; whether that be by bell-ringing churchyard maintenance or church cleaning. A handful of people took part in our first on-line Bible study in August.

Pastoral and Social The pandemic led to an increased use of social media groups, such as WhatsApp, and each of our communities use these to make others aware of the needs, challenges and concerns of others. We have a monthly (during the pandemic, weekly) 'Pew News' e-mail that goes to over 120 people and keeps those who have asked to be on the circulation informed about our services, resourced with prayers, and challenged to reflect upon different aspects of journey of faith together. We have had a Benefice Lunch at the *Inn for All Seasons*, attended by some 40 people, and we have seen the re-introduction of other community social events, such as the 'Big Breakfast', monthly cinema evenings and coffee mornings.

Finance For the second year in succession our benefice has met its Parish Share commitment in full and come within a narrow margin of paying all that was asked of us by the deanery and diocese. The sacrificial generosity of our church members and wider communities comes after the disruption to regular public worship caused by the pandemic and in the context of the cost-of-living challenges that most are having to bear; after more than a decade of our benefice falling substantially short in our Parish Share contributions this is the more remarkable and impressive.

Fabric Beyond essential maintenance, there has not been a particular focus on improving our church buildings, with the recent exception of Sherborne, where a significant improvement scheme is being prayerfully developed in the coming year. The churchyards of both Little Barrington and Windrush have seen several historic monuments restored, with help from generous support by grant-making trusts and residents. The electric system in Aldsworth church has been improved; and there has been the replacement of faulty lamps in all the churches, not always a straightforward or easy task. With support from several residents, Great Barrington church, home to some bats, received a thorough clean-up twice last year and is consequently in a far better condition than it has been for a while.

Personal Recent health concerns mean that I am being more careful in observing a good balance between my public and personal responsibilities, so that I may continue to enjoy both.

With regards

Gerard

The Revd Dr Gerard G. Moate

NORTH COTSWOLD DEANERY SYNOD REPORT FOR 2022

Joint Chairs: Area Dean, the Revd Canon Katrina Scott, and Lay Chair, Michael Storey
The three 2022 Synods were in St James's Church, Chipping Campden (February), Honeybourne Village Hall (June) & St Lawrence's Church, Bourton-on-the-Water (October).

In February, Robert McNeill-Wilson (Willersey) gave his early impressions of joining General Synod, Yvette Grundy (Welford) submitted a note on 'Living in Love & Faith', and Barrie Voyce, Diocesan Senior Youth Connector, and Amy Todd, Vale & Cotswold Edge Team Children and Youth Leader, spoke about youth ministry around the Deanery.

In June, Synod heard more about the new Deanery Strategic Plan processes [Gerard, has been a member of the working group]. Speaking from Salisbury by Zoom, the Revd Canon Professor James Woodward, Principal of Sarum College, contributed as a facilitator of the plan.

In October, the theme was 'Flourishing Finances', which several PCC Treasurers [including Andrew McKerlie and Jacky King from our own benefice] attended.

During the year Synod lost, through their move to other ministry or to retirement, the Revds Stephen Goudrey-Smith, Ros Greenhalgh, Scott Watts and Jim Edie. The Revd Martin Short [formerly of Stow-on-the-Wold] has yet to be replaced.

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

In 2020 all five of our parishes adopted the model Church of England Safeguarding policy.

Each church is therefore committed to:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture.
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church.
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons.
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.

Our parishes will:

- Create a safe and caring place for all.
- Have a named Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) to work with the incumbent and the PCC to implement policy and procedures. Since 2020, benefice has been **Jackie Mustoe**.
- Safely recruit, train and support all those with any responsibility for children, young people and adults to have the confidence and skills to recognise and respond to abuse.
- Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and adults undertaken in the name of the parish.
- Display in church premises and on the benefice website the details of who to contact if there are safeguarding concerns or support needs.
- Listen to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse.
- Take steps to protect children and adults when a safeguarding concern of any kind arises, following House of Bishops guidance, including notifying the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) and statutory agencies immediately.
- Offer support to victims/survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred.
- Care for and monitor any member of the church community who may pose a risk to children and adults whilst maintaining appropriate confidentiality and the safety of all parties.
- Ensure that health and safety policy, procedures and risk assessments are in place and that *these are reviewed annually*.
- Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices at least annually.
- Each person who works within this church community will agree to abide by this policy and the guidelines established by this church.

CHURCHWARDENS and TREASURERS' MEETINGS

The 'Standing Committee', or 'Benefice Team meeting' comprises the Churchwardens of our churches and the Priest-in-Charge. In support of that meeting our part-time Benefice Administrator, Carolyn Lee, also attends. There were meetings in **January, May** and **November**, to discuss matters of common interest to our churches and to form, update and implement a development plan for our benefice, '*The Way Ahead*'. One meeting was also attended by the Benefice and PCC Treasurers, so that the finances of our churches might be considered together. A full attendance of these meetings has been the pattern.

ELECTORAL ROLLS

Aldsworth

There are **21** people on the Roll, **3** of whom are non-resident. **2** have been added and none have been removed from the Roll in the past year.

Great Barrington

There are **3** people on the Roll, **1** of whom is non-resident. None have been added or removed from the Roll in the past year.

Little Barrington

There are **23** people on the Roll, all of whom are resident. None have been added or removed from the Roll in the past year.

Sherborne

There are **24** people on the Roll, **23** of whom are resident. None have been added or removed from the Roll in the past year.

Windrush

There are **15** people on the Roll, all of whom are resident. None have been added and **2** who have moved away have been removed from the Roll in the past year.

Benefice

There are **86** people on the Electoral Rolls of our five churches. This is a similar total to that in 2022.