



John's Parish Church
New Alresford, Hampshire



**2024 Annual Report and
Financial Statements
of the Parochial Church Council for
the
Annual Parochial Church Meeting
to be held in St. John's Church
at 8pm
on Tuesday 29th April 2025
Registered Charity 1127318**

**The Church of St John the Baptist, New Alresford,
serves as a witness to the Glory of God in the
community by:**

Celebrating the life of God the Father, God the Son
and God the Holy Spirit

through worship, prayer and service

Caring about one another in Christ

*through welcoming, fellowship and pastoral visiting,
healing and the recognition of personal gifts*

Cultivating personal growth in Christ

*through prayer, bible study, preaching and the
sacraments*

Communicating Christ to our community and to the
wider world

through example, teaching, support and cooperation

The Annual Meeting

Tuesday April 29th 2025 in the church at 8pm

The report is sent out as early as possible firstly, to invite you to come to the meeting and secondly, to give you're an opportunity to read the articles included before the meeting so that you may have time to consider the questions you may wish to ask.

At this meeting we will be electing or re-electing two Churchwardens to serve for the year to April 2026.

We shall also be electing or re-electing members to the PCC including Deanery Synod representatives. Anyone retiring and wishing to stand again is subject to election on the same terms as anyone else. The PCC meets up to 6 times a year, normally on the second Tuesday of alternate months, and is responsible for wide ranging decisions on church life at St Johns.

Those who are proposed for election *must* be on the Church Electoral Roll, be regular communicants, and be over the age of 16 years. It is also desirable that they share the vision of the Church of England as an organisation that shares Christ's concern for the world and ministers to the whole community. If you nominate someone, please be sure that they are suitable to serve and that they are willing to do so.

The PCC delegates much of it's work to the Standing Committee and to various teams and groups, whose range of recent activity is described in this report. PCC members are encouraged to serve on these teams together with members of the congregation.

Included below are reports from several committees and groups which are broadly connected with the wider work and mission of St John's Church, but whose financial activities are entirely independent of the accounts of the PCC. They are included here for the general information and interest of those on the electoral role and the wider community.

Joanna Whiteman

PCC Secretary

We hope you will be able to attend the meeting

Report of the Parochial Church Council

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is statutorily required by the provisions of the Charities Acts 1993 and 2011, and the Church Accounting Regulations, to produce an Annual Report. The name of the Parish is St John the Baptist in the Benefice of the Arle Valley. It is part of the Diocese of Winchester within the Church of England. The church is situated adjacent to West Street in New Alresford. Correspondence should be addressed to The Churchwardens, c/o The Parish Office, St John the Baptist Church, West Street, Alresford, SO24 9AG.

The PCC is a charity registered with the Charity Commission under No 1127318

Serving PCC members are:

Rector The Rev'd Heather Brearey

Wardens Rosie Waring-Green

Elected Representatives on the Deanery Synod: (all elected in October 2023)

Sue Clarke, Miranda Pinch and Charlotte Ryton

Elected Members:

Pearl Page (re-elected April 2022)

Rex Corfield (re-elected April 2022)

Maureen Skayman (re-elected April 2022)

Susan Roberts (elected April 2023)

Paul Whiffen (elected April 2023)

Lawrence Will (elected April 2023)

Caroline Wheeler (elected 2022)

Jackie Connell (elected 2022)

Jude Cowen (elected 2024)

Diann Adam (elected 2024)

James Lees (elected 2024)

Co-opted Members:

Joanna Whiteman (appointed October 2024), Colin Scott-Morton (appointed April 2024), Jonathan Whale, Treasurer, (re-appointed May 2022), Ian Waring-Green (re-appointed May 2022).

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Role and stand for election to the PCC.

St John's PCC has the responsibility of co-operation with the Rector in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church – Pastoral, Evangelistic, Social and Ecumenical.

The Council appoints a number of groups and committees that meet regularly during the course of the year and to which much of the detailed work is delegated. These have special responsibilities for issues including: Ministry, Worship, World (Outreach), Catering, Fabric and Finance, Representatives are also elected to 'Churches Together in Alresford'.

The number on the electoral roll as reported by the Electoral Roll officer at the Annual Meeting on the 23rd April 2024 was 218. The average number of usual Sunday attendees was 65, plus many attendees online.

In 2024 the PCC met formally six times. During the year the Council covered a wide range of topics in addition to attending to the normal business pertaining to the management of the Parish. Various events, activities and initiatives taken throughout the year are covered in the reports below. The Standing Committee met formally five times and in addition dealt with the many day-to-day tasks necessary to running St John's Church.

The PCC has complied with the duties under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, the UK Data Protection Regulations and the Data Protection Act 2018. Also the regulations regarding photography and filming in Church.

As in previous years PCC gave a significant proportion of its voluntary income to world, national and local charities.

St John's is a fully participating member of 'Churches Together' in Alresford.

The PCC would like to thank the Licenced Lay Ministers for all their work and support during the year.

I would like to thank David Carr, Rosie Waring-Green and everyone else who has supported me in my new role as PCC Secretary.

Joanna Whiteman PCC Secretary

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, NEW ALRESFORD

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

TUESDAY APRIL 23RD, 2024 AT 8PM

Present 50 Parishioners

Prayers and Welcome – The Rector

(A) The Vestry Meeting – all resident parishioners may take part

Election of Church Wardens – Heather Brearey (HB) – We have one person standing as Church Warden, Rosie Waring Green, proposed by Sue Roberts and seconded by Charlotte Ryton (all in favour and agreed). There was someone else who was going to stand for the role of Church Warden but after careful consideration and prayer decided that it is not right for them at this time. Therefore, there is a vacancy for Church Warden.

(B) The Annual Meeting – only electoral role members may take part

1. Minutes of the 2023 APCM – The minutes had been circulated prior to the meeting. The minutes were duly approved and signed with no issues. Proposed by Susan Roberts and seconded by Charlotte Ryton.

2. Matters Arising - No matters arising

3. Election of PCC members – Two people leaving the PCC committee, Janet Pooley and Nolly Nutman. Three ex-officio Deanery Synod members: Sue Clarke, Charlotte Ryton and Miranda Pinch. The existing members are the following: Susan Roberts, Rex Corfield, Pearl Page, Lawrence Will, Caroline Wheeler, Jackie Cornell, Paul Whiffen, Maureen Skayman, Colin Scott-Morton and Jon Whale (Treasurer). Ian Waring Green will be co-opted at the next meeting.

Four new members have been proposed and seconded: Jenifer Miller, James Lees, Diann Adam and Jude Cowen. Proposed by Miranda Pinch, seconded by Lawrence Will – all in favour.

4. Electoral Roll Report – Janet Pooley – the number of entries on the Electoral Roll of 2023-2024 is currently 218, in comparison to the Electoral Roll for 2022-2023 with an overall reduction of 5. 7 people were removed, having passed away or relocated and 2 people were added. Removing people from the Roll as they have passed away is often a sad moment and a time for reflection. Mention of Stan Upton who passed away and who was a pillar of the community and a textbook example of a Hampshire born and bred countryman. Every five years there is

renewal of the Roll, which must be done this coming year. Therefore Janet will be asking everyone to indicate their willingness to be added to the new Roll.

5. **Annual PCC Report** – This is put together by a team of people and is a positive report. The report was circulated prior to the meeting.
6. **Financial Report and Annual Accounts y/e December 31st 2023.** Jon Whale had put together a video which was played to Parishioners in his absence. In terms of our financial situation it is an improving picture and we are moving in the right direction. Last year (2022), we had a high overspend with the shortfall figure being over 37K. At that time we agreed on how we could improve this and the income of the church. The plan this time last year was to get to a better position and the good news is that we are indeed moving in the right direction. In 2023 our expenditure gap was down by 9K, while the income, excluding legacy, is up by 13K. The income went up to 162K. The gap has fallen from 37K in 2022 to 15K in 2023 which is amazing progress.. It is thanks to many people in the congregation and their generosity including gift aid and donations. There were no questions from parishioners.
7. **Terrier and Inventory Report** – Janet Pooley – All church property is recorded in terms of what comes into the church and what goes out of the church so the particularly, for insurance purposes, we have a good record of what we possess. We do this every year and a copy of the report goes to the office. This year's Terrier and inventory has already been signed off by Heather and the Churchwardens.
8. **Deanery Synod Report** – HB – As a Deanery we are now linked to Rwanda. The PCC voted not to have this as we have various links ourselves but the Deanery voted to have this link. We have for a trial period, until after Easter next year, joined the Alton Deanery. The first chapter meeting happened a few weeks ago. A date is yet to be confirmed for the first meeting of the joint Deanery Synod. If it continues to work well, and after the review at Easter 2025, it will be legally signed.
9. **Rector's Update** – HB – we have had a positive year and are in a better position now than when I came including financially. The three things we are looking at as a PCC as future vision for the church: prayer, replacement of the North Door with glass doors and breakfast/café church.

10. AOB – No questions

11. Presentations – Vision Day - Susan Roberts – we looked at what we thought would be good for the church. We started with prayers and we prayed for the church. We reviewed looking at getting new doors at the side of the church and how we would raise money for this. We spoke about café church, possibly second Sunday of the month to engage with more of the town's community. **Lawrence Will** – Rev Kate Seagrave headed the vision day, her job is to help churches develop and grow. We were asked to come up with three questions; what does the church give to the community? What does the church do well and what do we not do well? These questions were discussed in groups. **Charlotte Ryton** – prayer event – covered the follow-up from the vision day and what was the take home message. There were eight stations set up around the church that helped us think about the positives taken from the vision day. **Jackie Connell** – it was an amazing atmosphere in church with everybody praying which was very powerful at times. It was interesting how we all pray very differently. **Rev Heather Brearey** – reiterated the 3 initiatives under discussion: prayer, café/breakfast church and glass doors. She added thanks to Ruth and Chris Kipling who freely offered food, drink and their time as well as Kate who led us in prayer.

A time for thanks – HB – Hanna has been writing notes for PCC meetings and this evening for which we are very grateful. However we do need a PCC secretary. Two people are leaving the PCC, Janet and Nolly, a thank you card was presented. Jane has been our Churchwarden for six years and has been a huge support to me and everyone. She is now standing back and we are grateful for all of her help and support over the years. Jane will continue to help Jon Whale with the finances. Rosie Waring Green presented Jane with a gift, card and flowers from the congregation.

Heather closed the meeting in prayer.

Rector's Report

The APCM is a time to look back and reflect on the year, giving thanks to God for all that has happened and also a time to look to the future and what we would like to see happening in the coming year.

The various reports contained in the APCM report, reveal that it's been a good year in the parish. We have grown. New people have joined and are finding faith.

You the people of the Arle Valley Benefice all deserve a massive well done, and a big thank you. I want to say a particular thank you to all the church wardens and PCC members who give generously of their time as your representatives - to meet with me and help to discern God's will for the parish as we go forward. It's not an easy job and they do it diligently and well and they deserve our thanks. Also due our thanks is Penny our administrator.

As I've reflected on the past year or so ahead of the meeting today, I'm reminded that church is what we make it. We are the people of God, an outpost of his kingdom in our parish. In Christ, we have everything we need, to be the people God is calling us to be and everything we need, to do the things that God is calling us to do.

You might agree that it feels like the Church of England that we thought we knew is passing away, and a new one is being born - but no-one is quite sure what that will look like yet. This is a liminal moment. A time of rapid change. I wonder if the same might be true of our country too. Society seems to be becoming more secular and yet there's a growing interest in Christianity among the young. AI promises much and threatens more. Old certainties are being shaken.

We begin this new year looking forward to what the future holds. Our PCC's and I are spending time looking at our future vision, our ministry for the next 5, 10 or 20yrs, we need everyone to help with this.

Let us know about your good ideas your thoughts for the future. And Pray, pray, pray.

Let's listen for the whispers of God beckoning us out with him into the new. Let's learn together - so if something doesn't work as well as we hope it will then let's try again - never giving up, never giving in to despair

Our priority must be to build up the worshipping community and reach out beyond it to draw new people to Jesus, by building on the good things that are going on now, and the many seeds that have been planted over the years. As Rector here I stand as the latest in a long line of predecessors with the graves of some of my predecessors in our churches and a couple of my predecessors still very much alive, I see often to chat to or have coffee with! That all reminds me that I'm just a steward here passing through. And it reminds me too that it's not about me and it's not all up to me. You are the church of God in Alresford, Old Alresford, Bighton, Ovington and Itchen Stoke. The people around you need you, and they especially need you to point them to Jesus.

St Paul reminds us that with Jesus the worst thing is never the last thing. There's always hope. My prayer for us today and for the year ahead is that we would grab hold of that once again and dare to dream about the bright future that God has for us as we walk hand-in-hand together with him. God Bless you. **Reverend Heather Brearey. Rector.**

Churchwarden's Report 2024

What an amazing year we have had at St John's although tinged with sadness at the APCM in April as we said a heartfelt to Jane Parsons as she retired as churchwarden. Her wonderful dedication to St John's for the last 6 years has been an inspiration and a huge blessing.

Nuts and bolts!!

I am going to start this report with the 'nuts and bolts' of church life – necessary but not always exciting!! Having said that, the journey of looking after the fabric and safety of our church has seen some truly wonderful events particularly with the arrival of the new stackable chairs. This was a finely balanced operation with the selling of the old chairs to give space for a remarkable transformation of reviving the church floor and then the arrival of the fabulous new chairs. We enjoyed 2 Sunday services in the JPH and were grateful for so many offers of help in removing and replacing chairs, furniture etc.

A Quinquennial inspection of the building took place in July and we await the result of this report with fingers crossed that there are no major issues requiring attention!!

As part of a commitment to keeping everyone safe in St John's, there has been extensive fire safety training for PCC members, sidespeople etc as well as Safeguarding training and we are really grateful to the people delivering this essential training.

There has been a team of people looking at the way forward for a new heating system which is a long term but essential project. There are already outside agencies involved giving advice. Let's try and think 'outside the box' as we move into a new more energy efficient and reliable source of heating and lighting.

Watch this space for the refurbishment of the West Room.

Growing Together

We started the year using the 24/7 Lectio Course together with our CTIA friends as a Lent Course. "The Lectio Course" (How to Hear God by Praying the Bible) is a five-session video series with Pete Greig and special guests exploring the ancient practice of Lectio Divina. This was a great way to dig deeper into a beautiful form of prayer and experience it in fresh ways.

Vision Day - At the beginning of March PCC members and group leaders representing many aspects of church life spent the day together at St Paul's Church Winchester discussing:

What is the greatest gift God has given the church?

How have you personally grown in your faith since worshipping here?

What has your congregation been given by God to share with the wider community?

Next steps were listed and prayed about in a meeting in April. This will all be reviewed in April 2025 so watch this space??

Alpha – another hugely successful course was held in the Autumn with all 14 members completely involved and growing in their relationships with each other and in their faith. A Home Group has emerged expressing a longing to learn and grow together.

Social and Outreach

There have been some wonderful opportunities for us all to get to know each other better this year and also for us to invite our friends and neighbours into our church community activities. We have enjoyed the Barn Dance, Watercress Festival, Songs of

Praise, Harvest Supper, Quiz with fish and chips amongst the regular Coffee, Cake and Chat, Table Talk, Solos, Men's Breakfast, Mums' Supper, Widowers' Supper and Looking Forward group.

A Gift from St John's attracted a record number of visitors as did the Christingle Service the following day

Open Day was a new initiative to showcase to the town and also to ourselves all the amazing activities – social and worship related, that happen at St John's. The highlight of course was seeing Heather on the bouncy castle!! It was quite extraordinary to see the diverse and interesting activities that take place within and without of St John's.

Worship and Families

This year has seen a great growth in the number of families and young people becoming engaged with us all. Families@4, Chill Chat and Chomp, Monday Meet and Eat continue to attract new families and young people. The Autumn Light Party, Christingle Service and Crib Service were as lively and meaningful as usual. A Confirmation Service led by Bishop David was a very moving event and quite unique as it took place during the Families@4 service and was a very relaxed event!!

So much of what we offer at St John's is enabled by volunteers, who deserve many thanks.

More thanks also are due to our Ministry Team, who continue to be very busy and a great support to Heather, and also to our Pastoral Care Team. We look forward to 2025 and more opportunities for all at St John's to share their faith with the people of Alresford.

Rosie Waring Green

Alresford Deanery Synod Report

There are currently three members from St John's: **Miranda Pinch, Sue Clarke, and Charlotte Ryton.**

Alresford Deanery and Alton Deanery have unofficially joined forces, with Revd. Canon Andrew Micklefield serving as Area Dean and Revd. David Chattell as Assistant Area Dean. This arrangement is for a trial period and will be reviewed.

Meetings are held partially in plenary sessions, followed by separate discussions for more localized topics.

Main Issues Covered Last Year

Partnership with a Diocese in Rwanda: Our own benefice has voted against this partnership.

Children's Ministry: Discussions focused on the current state of children's ministry within our churches and schools, as well as ideas for future development.

Focal Ministry: The development and progress of Focal Ministry were also key topics of discussion.

Bees Knees

January 2025: A report on the past year One scientist remarked that he thought Climate change and global warming was a scientific problem, but the more he explored the more he realised it was all about human attitudes. It is human greed, competition and selfishness that drives climate change. The result is graphically exposed in the current fires burning up Los Angeles. So the Bees Knees is a small group of local people who want to register the urgency of tackling climate change and to change attitudes, not least the attitude that says we can do nothing about it. Our concerns overlap with the Creation care group and we have had two breakfast meetings with them. We have particularly appreciated some of their articles in the Parish Magazine. Because we are a Christian group we look at climate change and we look at what the Bible has to say to us about the creation. So our year opened with a study of St John's Gospel: the opening words of which "In the beginning was the word" tell us that this is the story of the new creation brought about by the birth, lifting up (passion), death and resurrection of Jesus. We then followed up with a study of Richard Rohr's book "The universal Christ" which challenges us to see God's world in a more complete way so that we engage our feelings as well as our thoughts and think beyond binary terms

We enjoyed our Christmas party for which everything, by and large, was home produce and which included our traditional Christmas crackers made from newspaper. As well as meeting with the Creation care group we have also met with the Diocesan advisor on ecology, the Revd. Sam. He kindly spent a morning with us and helped us to think through some of the issues that we raised – not least, what are the areas where we can make the most impact. Our other meeting was by kind invitation of Roger Harrison to meet at Itchen Stoke Mill where we heard how his traditional water meadows allow the grass for grazing to grow during the winter months – and how human waste is having an effect on local rivers, especially on invertebrate life. As 2025 opens we are planning some kind of musical or review on climate change in an attempt to persuade people to "take on" the issue. We are likely to read Ruth Valerio's book "saying yes to life" which got derailed by Covid, and we shall be choosing a specific topic on which to reflect and take action - water seems to be a major current concern for people the world over. We hope to change attitudes, the way we think and do things, and so the course of climate change. Well, we have to start somewhere and the only place we can change for certain is ourselves. **DET Sue Clarke**

Children's, Youth and Family Work 2024

What a delight to be able to look back over the last 12 months since the last Youth Work report!! There has been much fun and laughter as well different times when we have come together to learn more about faith and the world around us.

Chill, Chat, Chomp – a mid-week weekly group for year 7 upwards - continues to have fun and enjoy some challenging discussions. We are about to start a 10-week Youth Alpha course which will give rise to many questions and hopefully some answers for the young people growing up in today's challenging world. 3 of our young people were confirmed by Bishop David in the summer which was a very joyful occasion. The young people have also done some great volunteering in helping to prepare Light Party boxes and sort Christmas gifts for the children of the Sun Hill schools as well as helping out

with St John's Open day and Gift from St John's. We are all looking forward to the refurbishment of the West Room which will give us more space to 'Chill, Chat and Chomp'!

Autumn Fun Light Party went ahead this year continuing the new outreach of parents coming with their children. We had a great turn out of over 35 children and their parents and also 20 helpers who all had a wonderful time creating 'jam jar lanterns', lighthouses and stained-glass windows along with doughnuts on a string and many more activities. After food – always essential – there was a word treasure hunt trail in the beautifully illuminated church and ending with a fantastic dance version of the song 'Shine' plus a new song My Lighthouse! There was a great buzz of conversation and enjoyment between all ages.

Services –Christingle Service this year was very well attended and in fact we needed to double the space needed for the lighting of the Christingles!! The Crib Service was also incredibly busy this year with about 300 children and adults attending and all being involved in the 'Advent Countdown' in the Follow the Star story. Mothering Sunday and Remembrance services also had many uniformed youngsters joining us. The Second Sunday All Age service has now become Breakfast Church with a relaxed start and more involvement from the families.

Families@4 – has been running for a year by the families themselves and includes an interactive story, craft, a song and of course a drink and a biscuit!! First Sunday of the month. Great to see new families coming along and feeling comfortable in church.

Chatterbox – the Parents / Carers Toddler Group is thriving and although this is run by a team from the families, there are several of us who go along to help; we really enjoy this connection with the youngest members of our community.

Monday Meet and Eat – CTIA volunteers have been very active in providing a place for families with primary school children to come and have time to play somewhere warm, and to share in a hot meal together. We have a group of regular families who join us and in fact have now grown to 10 families altogether who all enjoy the adult conversations while the children are playing!!

Links with Schools – we enjoy regular visits from the children and families of Sun Hill Junior School for their Harvest, Christmas and Easter services. The children present storytelling and songs to the rest of the school and parents.

Perins also hold their annual Christmas concert at St John's for pupils and parents.

We are always happy to have any offers of help and we would really appreciate prayers for the way forward for the children, young people and families of St John's and the local community. Thank you all for your support. **Rosie Waring Green**

Catering Team Report January 2025

We have had another great year as a Catering Team.

As usual the Lent Lunch was a sell out... and delicious homemade soup, fresh bread and cheese was enjoyed by lots.

We managed a successful Harvest Supper in October 2024, and it was so lovely to see the church community together, sitting down and enjoying each other's company and entertainment!!

As a team we continue to serve the Church and its community and are also very grateful to those who are always willing to roll up their sleeves and help in any way they are able and even with the washing up at the end of the event. We are also enormously grateful for those who generously provide raffle prizes and delicious puddings for us all to enjoy. We would not be able to cater in the same way if this generosity was not forthcoming. We would always welcome new faces to our Catering Team so please contact me if you would like to join us.

Our yearly commitments include the Frugal lent lunch, The Harvest Supper and Mulled wine & mince pies at the Carol Service, along with any other ad hoc church catering requirements. We look forward to 2025 and looking after your catering needs.

I cannot thank everyone in the team enough for their support and commitment to the Catering events, especially Hefin Tudor who steps in to take the lead when my other commitments prevail and the honorary member of the team Peter Tudor who is always ready at the door to take your money and sell you raffle tickets! ... we really are a great team! **Pippa Sherry**

Church Cleaning

Once again, it is time to acknowledge our thanks for the commitment, quality of work and the example set by the dozen or so volunteer Church cleaners who, week in, week out, keep the Church spick and span. Our lovely Church would be all the poorer without them.

Each cleaner has his/her allocated area to clean, and they are free to choose their own time of working during the week, fitting in around services and other events being carried out in Church. We are always glad of volunteers, so if you have a spare hour per week, fortnight or monthly, I shall be glad to talk to you. My number is 733666. This year the Annual Spring Clean will be on Saturday April 12th. Diann Adam has kindly had her arm twisted to take charge of this event. If you are willing/able to help in any way, please notify her on 734896. Bring your own mops, dusters and polish. **Hefin Tudor.**

Churches Together in Alresford

We began the year with a meal together during the week of prayer for Christian unity, which was hosted by members of St Gregory's. During Lent there were ecumenical Lent groups studying Ignation prayer and on Good Friday we organised the Walk of Witness followed by Hot Cross buns in the Community centre. In October we held the annual Shoe Box packing party and organised the Community Christmas Carol service at St Gregory's. The CTiA Christmas Carol singing around the homes for the elderly and in town on December 21st raised money for Firefly International, which was our chosen charity for the year.

At the annual meeting, held in July, James Pinniger stepped down as an Anglican representative on the CTiA committee. He has been involved for many years, serving twice as Chairperson and also as secretary. We thank James for his loyalty and commitment. He is very much missed. Our current representatives are **Sarah Wilding, Jackie Connell and Diann Adam**

Coffee Cake & Chat

On the 2nd Tuesday of every month the JPH becomes our cafe for 'Coffee Cake and Chat.' 20 -30 people come and have a very enjoyable morning enjoying tea/coffee and homemade cake. [The early birds get to enjoy Margaret Stewart's delicious cheese scones!]

Over the years strong friendships have been formed, and new members tell me it is the best place to get to know folk in Alresford. [The 'Pause for Thought' often results in me being asked for a copy of whatever I have said.]

We have been supporting Winchester Hospice from the beginning and in 2024 donated £500

The wonderful cakes are provided by Pearl Page and Elizabeth Johnson and Erica Cook makes a wonderful Gluten Free Victoria Sponge. Jean Clark is whiz at making the drinks Everyone is welcome; so please come and join us on the 2nd Tuesday of the month 10-11.30am. **Angela Peel**

Creation Care

'Right, a Creation Care report for the APCM! What do we write about? What have we done to encourage everyone to think more about the damage we do to God's World? What a wonderful and beautiful world it is.'

What have we done to encourage St John's congregation to think twice about driving that short distance; to reduce waste; not to run their car engine to defrost the windscreen...; to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle'

'Here are the highlights...' In April a Climate Service was held entitled 'One World'. A poster was created displaying our Eco Church activities, how we achieved our Bronze Award and how we will achieve the Silver Award.

St John's intercessors have been brilliant in including God's World and Climate change in our prayers each week.

Several articles have been published in the Voice Magazine. A series on 'Keeping the Arle Valley beautiful' and a series of 'Thoughts'.

In October, Sam Scott's (Diocesan Environment Officer) organised a diocesan 'Creation Care and Sustainable Buildings Day'. An interesting day learning what other churches are doing toward the Church of England 2030 Net Zero deadline. Hearing about: - wildflower projects, the Parish Buying Scheme, watching electricity usage in church buildings, solar panel installation and available grants.

Soft plastic, foil and pens have been collected for recycling.

'As always we work closely with Bees Knees.'

'Looking to the future...'

A Climate Sunday Service in 2025

Plants to be introduced in the church. Fed and watered by members of the congregation.

Achieving an Eco Church Silver Award. Arocha have changed the format and questions since we achieved our Bronze Eco Church award so there is some work to be done.

A visit and talk from Sam Scott, Winchester Diocese Environment Officer.

The most economical and environmentally friendly efficient church heating system.

‘Note that you may have already seen some of these changes by the time you read this report.’

‘Now to finish off with a few thoughts. We must continue to encourage everyone to think more about the damage we do to God’s World? To think twice about driving that short distance; to reduce waste; to not run their car engine to defrost the windscreen...?’

‘Remember that even the smallest change is worth more than the grandest intention.’

Creation Care Team

Fabric and maintenance report – 2024

During 2024 James Lees agreed to take on the task of co ordinating all matters fabric and maintenance. Thanks to Paul Wiffen and the churchwardens for their efforts for the first half of the year.

As always fabric and maintenance is a mixture of major events and ongoing matters – both internally in the church buildings and externally in the church yard

Internally the major and most significant works undertaken were the sanding and sealing of the floor (which was last undertaken in 2003), the high level cleaning and the arrival of the wonderful new chairs. As with so much of our church life none of this would have been achieved without the significant efforts of a lot of volunteers and tradesman. It is also true to say that this has all been afforded as a result of a very generous bequest.

Alongside the ‘capital’ works a full range of smaller tasks and regular matters were attended to including PAT testing, lift testing, clock maintenance, and so many other items. There is a full spreadsheet of these annual tasks that are required to keep the buildings safe and secure.

Externally – we have had a full roster of ‘mowing volunteers’ organised by Ben Howlett who undertake the regular maintaining of the Northern half of the churchyard. The southern half of the churchyard is maintained by a contractor – Top Trees. These efforts have been supplemented by the two churchyard clear up days – on clock change weekends. Volunteers efforts were rewarded with a bacon sandwich and coffee....as well as a good chance to meet and chat.

Every 5 years a diocesan inspection takes place – this Quinquennial inspection took place in the summer of 2024. We are still awaiting the report of this inspection, we do however expect that report to highlight some matters that need attending to.

As regards 2025 – at the beginning of the year we will be refurbishing the west room of the hall complex with new storage. We will also continue our church heating discussions – looking at updating/refurbishing our current systems will be a significant capital item.

Fabric and maintenance matters always relies on many volunteers...thanks to them all. It is however everyone’s responsibility to keep their eyes and ears open for matters that need addressing – please feel free to contact James Lees with any items that need attending to. **James Lees**

Flower Arrangers

A big thank you goes out to the Church Flower Arranging Team for all their time and effort during 2024. In particular thanks go to Sue Dix, Pearl Court and Diana Robbins who stood in for me when I was not able to be around to do church flowers at times during the first part of last year.

2024 was a busy year for the Flower Arranging Team with flowers being sponsored every week throughout the year which was really amazing. Thank you to all those people who sponsored flowers. Unfortunately, at the point of writing, there are plenty of slots free for this year so please select your preferred date if you wish to sponsor a pedestal to remember a special birthday, anniversary or a loved one. The list for sponsoring flowers in St John's is available at the back of Church and sponsorship is £30.

The cost of flowers continues to increase and is still a challenge for the arrangers who are always trying to source the best flowers and deals on offer at the time. There are thirteen flower arrangers on the rota at the moment for the Nave and ten for the Lady Chapel. The task of completing a flower arrangement, whilst rewarding, is time consuming. Duties include purchasing the flowers, taking the previous arrangement apart and then constructing a new arrangement.

During the year the Flower Team made up Bunches of daffodils for Mothering Sunday, decorated the church for Easter, Church Festivals, Harvest and Christmas along with the weekly flower arrangements both in the Nave and Lady Chapel.

The Flower Team looks forward to a year of flower arranging and friendship.

Maureen Skayman

Health & Safety Report

Health & Safety (H&S) within St John's continues to develop in order to become more visible, joined up and strategic. Paul Whiffen had no prior experience in leading H&S before beginning (May 2023), but has built on the excellent work done by the previous incumbent and applied some of his own transferable consulting experience. Key Points in the development of H&S in the year to end Jan 2025 follow.

1/. Fire safety, prevention and response.

A focus has continued on this area which needed some aspects to be rejuvenated. Over 30 people have now attended Fire Training in one of the two courses, a/. Fire Awareness and b/. Evacuation. The former is more fire-fighting with an element of evacuation, the latter is more evacuation with an element of fire-fighting. The choice of who to attend which course has been based on the individuals' age, fitness and role. The style of training is participatory so that suggestions made by the attendees are adopted – this helps to increase awareness and support for the topic. The training courses have been designed and delivered by Paul Whiffen to save costs of bringing in the Fire Brigade.

Two evacuation drills were undertaken in the past 12 months, both at the end of the main 0930 Sunday morning service and therefore involving many of the people who attend the church most frequently.

Regular tests of the Alarm System have continued, as have annual inspections of the Alarm System, extinguishers and emergency lighting.

2/. Risk Assessments

Risk Assessments are carried out before all key events and activities, and signed off. In many cases, this is done by reviewing and updating those from previous years. The process is thorough and has helped bring a H&S culture to St John's.

3/. H&S Document Management.

Hardcopy document filing has required some focus and tidying up. Progress has been slower than intended due to Paul Whiffen's illness / injury & recovery during Spring & Summer 2024 but is moving forward.

Electronic documentation is stored on the church Drop Box and also on Paul Whiffen's laptop. Both are backed up regularly as a matter of routine.

4/. H&S Action Tracking.

Actions for H&S come from a variety of sources including near misses, risk assessments, suggestions from training courses and other ad-hoc sources. An active / living "Action list" is managed on spreadsheet to track progress for actions using RAG (Red, Amber, Green) codes. Progress is reported to PCC meetings every second month and typically actions are completed at the rate of 4 per month.

The Action list is regularly uploaded to the Church Drop Box so that whoever replaces Paul Whiffen on H&S can do the same, perhaps looking back years if needs be...ie, we maintain a form of corporate memory.

5/. First Aid

First Aid is the responsibility of Charlotte Ryton. She is planning First Aid courses in the coming months and also a review of the contents of the First Aid boxes within St John's.

6/. Stepladder Training

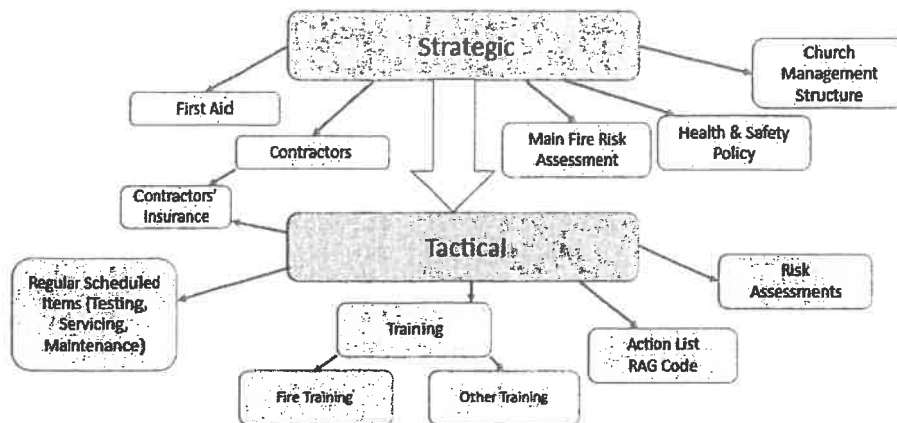
Stepladder training was provided to PCC meeting attendees in January 2025.

7/. Learning from Chris James at All Saints Church

Unlike Paul Whiffen, Chris James has some professional experience in H&S and there has been two meetings between us in a nascent "community of practice" approach to share knowledge.

The main outcome from Paul Whiffen's (ie St Johns) perspective is more awareness of H&S as an overall system, including a distinction between strategic and tactical. Paul Whiffen created the following diagram in Dec 2024 to help show how this comes together – it's not a perfect summary but it provides some structure understanding for H&S that was previously missing.

Strategic Health & Safety



Additionally, Paul Whiffen is benefiting from Chris James' experience in key document creation / management.

8/. Relationship with Fabric

H&S at St Johns depends on good relationships with the Fabric area, currently led by James Lees. In a couple of instances, activities that have been held / led by H&S have been handed over to Fabric:

- Tower Clock servicing
- Hearing aid loop maintenance

Paul Whiffen also spent a lot of time in 2024 in supporting the work on the Heating system during a period of problems in getting it working properly.

9/. Next Steps in H&S

The following areas of focus will continue in 2025 – these are in addition to routine / business as usual H&S activities.

- a/. Development of the relationship with Chris James (All Saints) and enhancing / updating key H&S documents where necessary.
- b/. Continued improvement of hardcopy document storage.
- c/. Review of Fire training courses including the question as to whether Fire Brigade sourced training should be provided (though this costs more).
- d/. First Aid training to be provided by Charlotte Ryton.
- e/. Contractors to be asked to provide copy of professional indemnity and risk assessments for jobs at St Johns. This is a new development for 2025.

Paul Whiffen

Looking Forward

This is a group for widows, a title we all share though not by choice, a social and self help group. Some are newly widowed, others have been alone for some years, all are welcome. We meet mainly to eat, breakfast, lunch and dinner once a month and a new addition, a Sunday lunch also once a month. It's a good way to meet others who 'get it', no two occasions have the same set of people, on average eight to ten of us (from a list of forty plus) get together each time. Some come frequently, others occasionally, whatever works for them. We share laughter, helpful hints, sometimes tears and we look out for one another. Further details from Sue, Beryl or Angela or pick up a card from the prayer table by the candle stand. **SC, BM and AP**

Lay Pastoral Assistants' Report

The Lay Pastoral Assistants (LPA's) continue to support Heather with visiting and pastoral care within the parish. At the beginning of the year we welcomed some newly trained members to the team and Heather commissioned them for their new role as church representatives in March.

Some members of the team specialise in working with the bereaved, supporting through the funeral and afterwards by offering a listening ear where it is needed. This group also arrange the Service of Comfort and Hope and the Prayers Round the Tree of Remembrance. A small group of LPA's visit those from the parish who are in hospital but they are called on less often because these days people are generally hospitalised for a very brief time. They always like to be told of anyone who is in hospital and, if requested, will add the name to the weekly prayer list.

Throughout the year we meet together for prayer, meetings and training sessions. The LPA's are trained to listen but do not counsel. If you know of anyone who would appreciate a visitor please let us know or contact Penny in the parish Office.

Jackie Connell and Sue Clarke

Magazine

Another year has gone by and the magazine is going well thanks to all the people who help - Pelham Allan, Caroline Hawkins, Jackie Connell, Jennifer Miller, Ruth Page, Liz Petheram, Alison Starr, Margaret Stewart, Paul Whiffen - not to mention the troop that march around delivering. We have had to put the price up to cover costs but we think it is still a good buy. Quite a few more people are subscribing rather than buying per issue and we hope more will do so. As usual we did a Christmas special with more colour and more articles which went well. One sadness is that Rose Briar who did the gardening article has retired but we hope to find some other people who might write about gardening. Thanks to those who also contribute articles and thanks to the website Parish Pump that write articles for parish magazines for free! On the subject of articles we are always happy to receive anything our readers would like to contribute - it doesn't have to be religious as this is a church **and** community magazine.

Events - we had several good events last year - table top sale, fish and chip quiz night, harvest supper and of course the Angel Festival among others, but the committee has not yet met for this year. However we are considering slightly reducing what we do so that we can concentrate on a few really good events. **Charlotte Ryton**

St. John's Prayer Team

We have been very encouraged this year by the many times we have been able to thank God for answered prayer and would encourage you to email or phone and share a request or a thank you.

We regularly check the 'Say One For Me' prayer box in church and it has been a huge honour to be able to share these concerns and anxieties in prayer with the Lord. We also have the Prayer Tree in the porch and we would encourage everyone to take time to pray through the many very meaningful thoughts and prayers shared on this Tree. It is a real privilege for us all to engage with these prayers.

Some of the Prayer Team joined with others at the end of November at the top of West Street and outside the church to offer the lighting of a candle and to take a prayer as we thought of all the conflicts in the world. This enabled people to encounter prayer in a safe interactive way that they may not have experienced before.

It was also very special to be part of the Gift from St John's event in December, chatting to the public as they enjoyed the craft activities, the Café, and writing their Hopes and Dreams for 2024. All these activities gave us opportunities to become engaged in many deep and important conversations in the church as people stopped to read the messages and prayers.

We have left these on a board inside the church for everyone to pray through.

The introduction of the Prayer Space in the north corner of the church has been much appreciated by many visitors and members of the congregation as a quiet reflective space to pray and take time to be still. The theme in this area is regularly changed to give us a different focal point for our prayers. The Votive Candle area of the church in the south corner of the church is also much valued as a place to be still and to light a candle, either to remember a loved one or as a prayer offering.

There is a definite sense of St John's being a real 'house of prayer' with so many opportunities and variety of approaches to engage everyone who enters.

We also have a Prayer Team 'prayer chain' and are happy for you to phone – 01962 733237 / 07891120662 – or email Rosie Waring Green – rosie@22rwg.co.uk – for any concerns needing immediate prayer which will only be passed round the Prayer Team. Prayer is at the heart of our relationship with God and the Team always pray for you using the utmost confidentiality offering your requests into the healing arms of God. If you feel called to join this team, please contact Rosie to talk this through.

Rosie Waring Green

Safeguarding Report

I was fortunate to be joined by Alison Mayne as an additional safeguarding officer for the Benefice this year. The workload for safeguarding has increased and it is a huge help to have this shared between the two of us. I am responsible for St John's and Alison will look after the three village churches.

The Church of England decided that anyone who works with children or young people or vulnerable adults needs to have a DBS every 3 years. This is a change from every 5 years that it has been previously. This means that we have a number of people who are out of date and require a new DBS check or a check on their continuous update. This year we have decided to run drop-in sessions in the JPH for anyone who needs a DBS check. This will hopefully focus the application process and allow us to make sure everyone who needs to be is up to date.

Anyone who undertakes a DBS check also must undertake safeguarding training. This year we have decided to run regular sessions in the JPH for those who have difficulty doing this online.

The parish dashboard continues to be updated as required.

Safeguarding remains everyone's responsibility and any concerns relating to safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults should be escalated to myself, Alison or Heather. **Sarah Wilding**

Table Talk

Table talk is a 'discussion/eating' group who meet on the third Friday of every month. We have a bring and share lunch (always too much delicious food) then sit around a table or two and discuss any relevant topic. Sometimes this is chosen in advance, sometimes decided by the group when we meet. For Lent we often base our theme around a film, (in 2024 it was Chocolate,) and we try to meet at least four times during this period. We cover politics, ecology, church matters, health issues, anything that needs discussion. In 2024 this included the Post Office, the resignation of Justin Welby, the USA presidential election, climate change etc. New participants are always welcome, we meet in the JPH at 12.00 for lunch. Please come along!

Sue, Miranda and Jackie.

Tower Report 2024

St John's and St Mary's now have a combined band of ringers going from strength to strength. Ringing for the weekly 9.30 service at St John and at St Mary's for their 11am services on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month. Practice night at St John's is on a Friday 7-9pm and at St Mary's from 7.30-9pm on a Monday. Ringing also takes place at other times for teaching session or Quarter Peals.

There were two groups of visiting ringers, (one for a full peal on Boxing Day), plus two commissioned quarter peals which all raised money for the church from their donations. Three weddings took place this year requesting bells. The Freshers Fair and the Angle Festival were well supported ringing wise.

The Annual tower meal was held at The Flower Pots welcoming guests Revd Heather and Mick Brearey who joined ringers and their families and friends.

Outreach help was given throughout the year to neighbouring churches – Cheriton, Tichborne and the Candover Valley churches, supplying ringers for wedding services, a funeral plus bell and belfry maintenance. Assistance was given to teaching ringers from Ropley in preparation for the return of their bells.

Elizabeth Johnson Tower Secretary

World Team

These are the overseas projects we support:

Ashray UK: the organisation that supports the Mar Elias Educational Institutions, Ibillin, Israel, sends regular newsletters from Abuna Elias Chacour. Sadly the news has been grim since the continuing conflict in the Middle East. The students are now back at

school after several months at home last year. There is hope for a better future by educating the children to be "ambassadors for reconciliation".

Church Mission Society: our partners are Sarah and Simon Cawdell who are in Gulu, Uganda. Sarah is head of a theological college and Simon leading a Rooted in Jesus course. We have frequent updates via their Facebook page and CMS newsletters.

The Michael Project, Zimbabwe: this is a ministry of River of Life Church in Harare Zimbabwe, and has been established as a result of the growing needs of children at risk. David and Helen Hobbs visited St Johns in May 2024 and were able to give us an up to date report on the work that they do, which includes Shalom Residential Home, and the three pre- schools at Greystone Park, Chikurubi Maximum Security Prison, and at Wingate. In November we held a very successful Coffee Morning which raised £1200 to help them in their work.

Pannai Family Farm, Tamil Nadu, India: we receive regular updates from Anita the sponsorship secretary. St John's has continued supporting several children until their higher education for which they are very grateful.

Shanthigramam, Tamil Nadu: the leprosy village at Karigiri in South India. Shanthigramam – literally "village of peace" is a haven for elderly and destitute people who have been damaged by leprosy. In the last year they have constructed new buildings including individual cottages for the residents

Information on all our links can be found on the Arle Valley Benefice website under Community and Outreach/St John's World Team, and there are regular articles in the Arle Valley Voice magazine. **Hilary Carr**

St John the Baptist Church, New Alresford

**Financial Statements of the
Parochial Church Council**

Year Ended 31 December 2024

Treasurer Jon Whale
 12 Buttermere Gardens
 Alresford
 Hampshire SO24 9NN

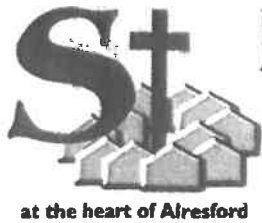
Assistant Treasurer Jane Parsons
 54 Jacklyns Lane
 Alresford
 Hampshire SO24 9LG

Bank- Current Accounts: NatWest Bank
 Winchester, Old Bank (A) Branch
 105 High Street
 Winchester
 Hampshire SO23 9AW

Bank - Deposit Account: CCLA Investment Management Ltd
 The CBF Church of England Funds
 80 Cheapside
 London EC2V 6DZ

Independent Examiner: Behegan Lynes Bank
 Chambers Brook
 Street Bishops
 Waltham
 Hampshire SO32 IAX

Registered Charity Number 1127318



St John's Parish Church

New Alresford, Hampshire



Treasurer: Jon Whale, 12 Buttermere Gardens, Alresford, SO24 9NN

Standing Committee Approval Certificate

We hereby confirm that we have made available to Behegan Lynes, all requested books, records, information and explanations relating to the PCC of New Alresford for the year ending 31 December 2024 and that the financial statements have our approval.

J S Whale

5/2/25

Jonathan Whale, Treasurer

Date

H Breairey

5/2/25

Heather Brearey, Rector

Date

R M Waring Green

5.2.25

Rosie Waring Green, Church Warden

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN ALRESFORD - COVENANTED FOR UNITY

St John the Baptist Church, New Alresford, Hampshire SO24 9AG
website: www.arlevalleychurches.org.uk

Registered Charity Number 1127318



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH NEW ALRESFORD

On accounts for the year ended

31 DECEMBER 2024

Charity no
(if any)

1127318

Set out on pages

1 TO 43

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, 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 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 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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did 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.

Signed:

Date:

17-03-2025.

Name:

HEATHER ELLIS

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

MAAT

Address:

BEHEGAN LYNES, BANK CHAMBERS, BROOK STREET,
BISHOPS WALTHAM, HAMPSHIRE, SO32 1AX

TREASURER'S REPORT 2024

After two difficult years in 2022 and 2023, we saw considerable progress in 2024 towards achieving a balanced budget. We once again felt significant financial pressure due to rising costs, but the generosity of our congregation, and a sharper focus on controlling expenditure, has resulted in this progress.

In summary, our unrestricted expenditure in 2024 was £180k (this is an increase of £2k compared to 2023) and our unrestricted income was £170k (an increase of £8k). As a result our expenditure has once again exceeded our regular income - this year by approximately £10k. However, in 2023, this shortfall was £15k, so although we continue to spend more than we bring in through regular giving and fundraising, the gap has narrowed.

During the year we invested in the purchase of new chairs (for a total of £38k) using funds from the very generous legacy previously given by the Diverall family. In accordance with our accounting policy the cost of this acquisition is written off over four years, with £9.6k included in the unrestricted expenditure of £180k for 2024 referred to above. The remaining net book value of the chairs of £28k will be written off in equal instalments over the period 2025-27.

At our last APCM, we agreed to seek to balance our income v expenditure over the next 3 years, and we are now well on target to achieve this.

There are a number of reasons for our current position:

- Your regular giving this year has been £76k, with a further £22k coming through Gift Aid. Although a reduction of £13k on 2023, these figures are still amazing. We continue to make good use of the Parish Giving Scheme, and a further £4.5k was donated via the new card reader
- In another positive sign, we have also received specific donations of £7k, generated £8k through our social and fundraising activities and increased our income from magazine advertising by £2k. We have also received over £8.2k in interest on our savings deposited with CCLA.
- In terms of reducing our expenditure, our gas costs were down by £2.5k; our magazine printing costs were down by £3k; and our routine maintenance costs remained stable
- The Diocese has also helped in that our CMF contribution in 2024 was £8k lower than in 2023
- This year we have also received a number of generous legacies, totalling £3k
- As a PCC we have consciously taken a stricter approach to expenditure, and wherever possible, found cheaper ways of doing things.

So, at 31 December 2024 our funds were £193k (£95k unrestricted, £63k designated, £35k restricted). Of this we have £30K set aside for repairs and hold an additional £32K in general reserves in accordance with our stated accounting policy. We retain £35k in funds restricted

for specific purposes and the balance is in our main unrestricted general fund, and small funds set aside to support our ministry with children, young people and families.

The table below shows the trend of our unrestricted funds over the past 6 years:

Date	31/12/19	31/12/20	31/12/21	31/12/22	31/12/23	31/12/24
Unrestricted & Designated Funds (£k)	97	187	155	182	168	159

So in effect, we remain in a viable financial position for the foreseeable future, but our operations in 2024 have been underwritten by the continued receipt of generous legacies and donations. It will be our priority over the next 12 months to further reduce this gap between income and expenditure. In 2025 we will also carry out a valuation of the pension scheme.

Despite the financial challenges of the past 3 years we continued, as a demonstration of our Christian witness, to donate a significant amount of our discretionary income in support of various local, national and international charities. We contributed £82k to the Diocese's Common Mission Fund. We also donated £6k to causes including the Winchester Youth Counselling, the Michael Project, CMS, Ashray, Shanthigramam, the Royal British Legion, and the congregation have continued to give generously to the Pannai Orphanage.

Administering a charity with £193k of assets is above all a team effort and I would like to thank all those who contribute so much to the day to day management of our finances: Penny Forbes who looks after all the PCC fee income and disbursements and administers the JPH bookings; David Griffiths and Nolly Nutman who maintain our Gift Aid records and claims the tax back from HMRC; Margaret Stewart and Caroline Hawkins who handle our banking; Colin Scott-Morton who has kindly taken on the work of reclaiming the VAT on our building works; to Charlotte, Liz and the team who produce the magazine, to the large team of people who count and record our collections each week, and to our Independent Examiner, Steven Lynes of Behegan Lynes and his colleague Heather Ellis, for reviewing these financial statements. Finally, a massive thank you goes to Jane Parsons in her invaluable role as Assistant Treasurer.

Jonathan Whale
Hon. Treasurer, PCC of New Alresford

Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	116,502.43	11,208.87	-	127,711.30	137,897.55
Other trading activities	8,728.74	-	-	8,728.74	8,347.01
Church Activities	29,247.63	-	-	29,247.63	27,001.96
Other income	15,895.22	-	-	15,895.22	10,296.83
Total income	170,374.02	11,208.87	-	181,582.89	183,543.35
Expenditure on:					
Costs of Generating Funds	1,726.27	-	-	1,726.27	1,888.06
All Mission Giving & Charitable Donations	3,328.92	1,311.65	-	4,640.57	5,548.82
Church Activities	175,286.61	2,622.44	-	177,909.05	178,337.14
Major Capital Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-
Total expenditure	180,341.80	3,934.09	-	184,275.89	185,774.02
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	(9,967.78)	7,274.78	-	(2,693.00)	(2,230.67)
Transfers					
Gross transfers between funds - in	600.00	1,409.32	-	2,009.32	3,722.00
Gross transfers between funds - out	(1,409.32)	(600.00)	-	(2,009.32)	(3,722.00)
Other recognised gains / losses					
Gains/losses on investment assets	-	-	-	-	-
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	1.00	-	-	1.00	-
Net movement in funds	(10,776.10)	8,084.10	-	(2,692.00)	(2,230.67)
Total funds brought forward	169,527.82	26,745.30	-	196,273.12	198,503.79
Total funds carried forward	158,751.72	34,829.40	-	193,581.12	196,273.12
Represented by					
Unrestricted					
General fund	95,485.85	-	-	95,485.85	106,583.69

Designated

Church Repair Fund	25,000.29	-	-	25,000.29	25,000.29
Growing Younger	426.89	-	-	426.89	150.80
JPH Repair Fund	4,999.85	-	-	4,999.85	4,999.85
Reserve Fund	31,793.19	-	-	31,793.19	31,793.19
Sheridan Fund	-	-	-	-	-
Youth Work	1,045.65	-	-	1,045.65	1,000.00

Restricted

Agency collection	-	-	-	-	-
Bell Fund	-	6,896.48	-	6,896.48	6,998.10
C Brill Fund	-	3,725.79	-	3,725.79	3,725.79
Chalk Fund	-	-	-	-	-
Chatterbox	-	605.00	-	605.00	450.00
Constance Were Trust Legacy	-	-	-	-	-
David Hasted Legacy For Churchyard Upkeep	-	9,600.00	-	9,600.00	10,000.00
Gift From St John's	-	161.28	-	161.28	-
Monday Meet And Eat	-	728.14	-	728.14	-
Pannai Orphanage Donations	-	8,840.00	-	8,840.00	5,491.25
Raise the Roof	-	-	-	-	-
Restricted Donations	-	4,272.71	-	4,272.71	80.16

Total funds	158,751.72	34,829.40	-	193,581.12	196,273.12
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Balance Sheet detailed

Class and code	Description	As at 31/12/2024	As at 31/12/2023
Fixed assets			
2701	Audio System	-	-
2702	New Chairs	28,841.12	-
2703	Old Chairs	-	-
	Total Fixed assets	28,841.12	-

Current assets

3001	NatWest Current Account	19,849.38	29,851.68
3002	NatWest Gift Aid Account	2.43	2.43
3003	NatWest Flower Account	467.58	305.13
3004	Lloyds Fees Account	10.00	10.00
3005	CCLA (CBF) Account	140,125.16	161,876.77
3009	Nationwide Account	-	-
3020	Legacy Investment Portfolio	-	-
Z05	Accounts Receivable	11,403.67	11,108.52
Total Current assets		171,858.22	203,154.53

Liabilities

6699	Agency collections	-	32.00
Z04	Accounts Payable	7,118.22	6,849.41
Total Liabilities		7,118.22	6,881.41
Net Asset surplus (deficit)		193,581.12	196,273.12

Reserves

	Excess/(deficit) to date	(2,693.00)	126,954.56
Z01	Starting balances	168,642.20	41,687.64
Z03	Gains on investment assets	27,631.92	27,630.92
Total Reserves		193,581.12	196,273.12
Represented by Funds			
	General (Unrestricted)	95,485.85	106,583.69
	Designated	63,265.87	62,944.13
	Restricted	34,829.40	26,745.30
Total		193,581.12	196,273.12

Statement of Assets and Liabilities (by code)

Class and nominal code	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	Last year
Fixed Asset - Tangible Assets						
2701: Audio System	(20,508.86)	-	20,508.86	-	-	-
2702: New Chairs	28,841.12	-	-	-	28,841.12	-
Total	8,332.26	-	20,508.86	-	28,841.12	-

Current Asset - Cash At Bank And In Hand

3001: NatWest Current Account	32,996.82	16,894.74	(30,042.18)	-	19,849.38	29,851.68
3002: NatWest Gift Aid Account	(19,656.57)	-	19,659.00	-	2.43	2.43
3003: NatWest Flower Account	367.58	-	100.00	-	467.58	305.13
3004: Lloyds Fees Account	10.00	-	-	-	10.00	10.00
3005: CCLA (CBF) Account	67,461.09	46,371.13	26,292.94	-	140,125.16	161,876.77
Total	81,178.92	63,265.87	16,009.76	-	160,454.55	192,046.01

Current Asset - Debtors

3010: Debtors	101.52	-	(101.52)	-	-	-
Z05: Accounts Receivable	11,213.67	-	190.00	-	11,403.67	11,108.52
Total	11,315.19	-	88.48	-	11,403.67	11,108.52

Liability - Agency Accounts

6699: Agency collections	-	-	-	-	-	32.00
Total	-	-	-	-	-	32.00

Liability - Creditors: Amounts Falling Due In One Year

Z04: Accounts Payable	5,340.52	-	1,777.70	-	7,118.22	6,849.41
Total	5,340.52	-	1,777.70	-	7,118.22	6,849.41

Net total assets	95,485.85	63,265.87	34,829.40	-	193,581.12	196,273.12
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Represented by

General (Unrestricted)	95,485.85	-	-	-	95,485.85	106,583.69
Designated - ChurchRep	-	25,000.29	-	-	25,000.29	25,000.29
Designated - Growing	-	426.89	-	-	426.89	150.80
Designated - JPHRepair	-	4,999.85	-	-	4,999.85	4,999.85
Designated - Reserve	-	31,793.19	-	-	31,793.19	31,793.19
Designated - Youth	-	1,045.65	-	-	1,045.65	1,000.00
Restricted - Bells	-	-	6,896.48	-	6,896.48	6,998.10
Restricted - CBrill	-	-	3,725.79	-	3,725.79	3,725.79
Restricted - Chatterbox	-	-	605.00	-	605.00	450.00
Restricted - Gift from St J	-	-	161.28	-	161.28	-
Restricted - Hasted Churchyard	-	-	9,600.00	-	9,600.00	10,000.00
Restricted - Meet and Eat	-	-	728.14	-	728.14	-
Restricted - Pannai	-	-	8,840.00	-	8,840.00	5,491.25
Restricted - ResDons	-	-	4,272.71	-	4,272.71	80.16
Total	95,485.85	63,265.87	34,829.40	-	193,581.12	196,273.12

Fund movement summary

	Fund	Opening	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Gains/Losses	Journals	Closing
Bells								
Restricted		6,998.10	140.00	241.62	-	-	-	6,896.48
Sub-totals		6,998.10	140.00	241.62	-	-	-	6,896.48
CBrill								
Restricted		3,725.79	-	-	-	-	-	3,725.79
Sub-totals		3,725.79	-	-	-	-	-	3,725.79
Chatterbox								
Restricted		450.00	290.00	135.00	-	-	-	605.00
Sub-totals		450.00	290.00	135.00	-	-	-	605.00
ChurchRep								
Designated		25,000.29	-	-	-	-	-	25,000.29
Sub-totals		25,000.29	-	-	-	-	-	25,000.29
Gift from St J								
Restricted		-	943.07	781.79	-	-	-	161.28
Sub-totals		-	943.07	781.79	-	-	-	161.28
Growing								
Designated		150.80	78.14	102.05	300.00	-	-	426.89
Sub-totals		150.80	78.14	102.05	300.00	-	-	426.89
Hasted Churchyard								
Restricted		10,000.00	-	400.00	-	-	-	9,600.00
Sub-totals		10,000.00	-	400.00	-	-	-	9,600.00
JPHRepair								
Designated		4,999.85	-	-	-	-	-	4,999.85
Sub-totals		4,999.85	-	-	-	-	-	4,999.85

Meet and Eat

Restricted	-	1,258.00	529.86	-	-	-	728.14
Sub-totals	-	1,258.00	529.86	-	-	-	728.14

Pannai

Restricted	5,491.25	3,348.75	-	-	-	-	8,840.00
Sub-totals	5,491.25	3,348.75	-	-	-	-	8,840.00

ResDons

Restricted	80.16	5,229.05	1,845.82	809.32	-	-	4,272.71
Sub-totals	80.16	5,229.05	1,845.82	809.32	-	-	4,272.71

Reserve

Designated	31,793.19	-	-	-	-	-	31,793.19
Sub-totals	31,793.19	-	-	-	-	-	31,793.19

Youth

Designated	1,000.00	-	254.35	300.00	-	-	1,045.65
Sub-totals	1,000.00	-	254.35	300.00	-	-	1,045.65

General

Unrestricted	106,583.69	170,295.88	179,985.40	(1,409.32)	1.00	-	95,485.85
Sub-totals	106,583.69	170,295.88	179,985.40	(1,409.32)	1.00	-	95,485.85

Totals	196,273.12	181,582.89	184,275.89	-	1.00	-	193,581.12
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Analysis of income and expenditure**Total**

Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Last year
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INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:**Donations and legacies**

0101 - Regular Giving SO GA	3,350.00	-	-	-	3,350.00	4,340.00
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0102 - Regular Giving by envelope GA	605.00	-	-	-	605.00	510.00
0104 - CAF Vouchers	1,511.99	-	-	-	1,511.99	1,311.99
0105 - Regular Giving by PGS Direct GA	62,580.40	-	-	-	62,580.40	67,850.53
0201 - Regular Giving Standing Order NGA	1,390.00	-	-	-	1,390.00	1,260.00
0202 - Regular Giving by envelope NGA	143.30	-	-	-	143.30	30.00
0204 - Regular Giving by PGS Direct NGA	3,268.00	-	-	-	3,268.00	3,016.00
0301A - Sunday Collections GASDS	3,703.56	-	-	-	3,703.56	3,039.12
0301B - Sunday Collections non GASDS	5.00	-	-	-	5.00	55.00
0302 - Wedding Collections	-	-	-	-	-	-
0303 - Funeral Collections	65.00	-	-	-	65.00	155.00
0304 - Baptism Collections	47.90	-	-	-	47.90	295.90
0306 - One off Gift Aid envelopes	7,226.00	-	-	-	7,226.00	2,476.76
0307 - Donations by card reader NGA	2,644.46	-	-	-	2,644.46	1,450.70
0307A - Donations by card reader GA	1,943.12	-	197.80	-	2,140.92	1,394.85
0308 - Midweek Collections	-	-	-	-	-	-
0402 - Church Donations Box	1,044.65	-	-	-	1,044.65	1,606.57
0404 - Flower Donations NGA	875.00	-	-	-	875.00	910.00
0500 - Other specific donations	-	-	315.00	-	315.00	7,367.00
0501 - One off donations outside services	1,511.94	-	-	-	1,511.94	2,783.63
0502 - Donations by Ringers and Others	-	-	140.00	-	140.00	219.62
0503 - Lango Donations	-	-	-	-	-	-
0504 - Pannai Donations	-	-	3,210.00	-	3,210.00	2,290.00
0506 - Lent Project	-	-	-	-	-	-
0509 - Bell Fund NGA	-	-	-	-	-	-
0513 - Bell Fund GA	-	-	-	-	-	-
0517 - Churchyard Donations	-	-	2,100.00	-	2,100.00	-
0518 - Monday Meet and Eat donations	-	-	1,258.00	-	1,258.00	-

0519 - Gift from St John's donations	-	-	943.07	-	943.07	575.00
0601 - Gift Aid on unrestricted income	21,132.81	-	-	-	21,132.81	20,501.89
0602 - Gift Aid on restricted income	-	-	500.00	-	500.00	123.75
0700 - Legacies received	3,034.60	-	-	-	3,034.60	10,000.00
0801 - Grants Recurring - Unrestricted	35.00	-	-	-	35.00	35.00
0802 - Grants Non Recurring - Unrestricted	384.70	-	-	-	384.70	2,384.64
0803 - VAT Recovered	-	-	-	-	-	1,114.60
0804 - Grants Non Recurring - Restricted	-	-	2,545.00	-	2,545.00	800.00
0805 - Government Grant - COVID-19	-	-	-	-	-	-
Donations and legacies Totals	116,502.43	-	11,208.87	-	127,711.30	137,897.55
Other trading activities						
0901 - Watercress Festival Fund Raising	3,097.26	-	-	-	3,097.26	3,122.98
0902 - Other Fund raising activities	377.38	-	-	-	377.38	1,544.84
0903 - Social Events	3,288.04	-	-	-	3,288.04	3,311.19
0903A - Youth Group Contributions	-	78.14	-	-	78.14	-
0904 - Magazine Christmas Card	387.00	-	-	-	387.00	368.00
0905 - Concerts	1,500.92	-	-	-	1,500.92	-
Other trading activities Totals	8,650.60	78.14	-	-	8,728.74	8,347.01
Church Activities						
1100 - Fees retained by the PCC	10,759.00	-	-	-	10,759.00	12,667.00
1201 - Sale of Books, Christmas Cards etc.	-	-	-	-	-	-
1202 - Income from use of Church	4,237.00	-	-	-	4,237.00	2,562.00
1203 - Income from use of JPH	3,559.00	-	-	-	3,559.00	2,440.11
1204 - Magazine Sales - Casual	25.40	-	-	-	25.40	37.80
1205 - Magazine Sales - Subscriptions	4,427.23	-	-	-	4,427.23	4,812.05

1206 - Magazine Advertising	6,200.00	-	-	-	6,200.00	4,443.00
1207 - Printing	40.00	-	-	-	40.00	40.00
Church Activities Totals	29,247.63	-	-	-	29,247.63	27,001.96
Other income						
1001 - Interest received	8,248.39	-	-	-	8,248.39	5,563.76
1302 - Insurance Claims	2,303.35	-	-	-	2,303.35	-
1303 - Ovington Payments	983.55	-	-	-	983.55	1,123.84
1304 - Old Alresford Payments	1,977.38	-	-	-	1,977.38	1,789.24
1305 - Bighton Payments	983.55	-	-	-	983.55	1,819.99
1307 - Sale of Fixed Assets	1,399.00	-	-	-	1,399.00	-
Other income Totals	15,895.22	-	-	-	15,895.22	10,296.83
Income and endowments	170,295.88	78.14	11,208.87	-	181,582.89	183,543.35
Grand totals						

EXPENDITURE ON:

Costs of Generating Funds

1701 - Cost of Watercress Festival	17.99	-	-	-	17.99	20.49
1702 - Cost of fundraising, inc LL, HS, CR etc	325.34	-	-	-	325.34	308.10
1703 - Cost of Social Events	1,300.10	-	-	-	1,300.10	1,490.57
1705 - Cost of supporting regular giving	-	-	-	-	-	-
2320 - Credit and debit card charges	82.84	-	-	-	82.84	68.90
Costs of Generating Funds Totals	1,726.27	-	-	-	1,726.27	1,888.06

All Mission Giving & Charitable Donations

1709 - Monday Meet and Eat expenditure	60.52	-	529.86	-	590.38	1,194.53
1710 - Gift from St John's expenditure	-	-	781.79	-	781.79	767.75
1801 - Annual Charitable Giving	2,895.00	-	-	-	2,895.00	2,750.00
1802 - Other Charitable Giving	373.40	-	-	-	373.40	836.54
All Mission Giving & Charitable Donations Totals	3,328.92	-	1,311.65	-	4,640.57	5,548.82

Church Activities

1900 - Parish Share	81,723.59	-	-	-	81,723.59	90,185.26
2001 - Assist staff	19,535.80	-	-	-	19,535.80	17,029.32

salary/pension/honoraria (B

2002 - Organist/choir/salaries/honoraria	3,495.00	-	-	-	3,495.00	3,365.00
2101 - Working expenses of Incumbent (B)	-	-	-	-	-	146.79
2102 - Working Expenses of Assistant Clergy (B)	-	-	-	-	-	-
2103 - Working expenses of assistant staff (B)	133.04	-	-	-	133.04	-
2104 - Rectory/ Staff housing (B)	1,740.17	-	-	-	1,740.17	1,154.77
2105 - Benefice Administration expenses	378.84	-	-	-	378.84	372.21
2200 - Mission & Evangelism costs	1,973.06	-	1,248.02	-	3,221.08	2,845.48
2301 - Church Insurance	3,498.23	-	-	-	3,498.23	3,348.16
2302 - Church Cleaning	288.97	-	-	-	288.97	100.00
2303 - Church minor repairs	980.10	-	241.62	-	1,221.72	3,519.82
2303A - Church Clock Repairs 2021/22	-	-	-	-	-	720.00
2304 - Church Routine Maintenance	8,793.77	-	535.00	-	9,328.77	5,459.31
2305 - Telephone	1,740.19	-	-	-	1,740.19	1,168.25
2306 - Organ / piano tuning	423.81	-	-	-	423.81	673.92
2307 - Provision of Services	1,919.92	-	-	-	1,919.92	1,270.67
2308 - Music/choir/robes	-	-	-	-	-	-
2309 - Church Grounds	2,779.94	-	597.80	-	3,377.74	4,557.46
2310 - Flowers	691.55	-	-	-	691.55	861.20
2311 - Sunday School, 2nd Sunday & Youth Group	89.95	356.40	-	-	446.35	732.35
2312 - Training/Course Fees BRILL	-	-	-	-	-	-
2313 - Subscriptions	575.00	-	-	-	575.00	325.00
2314 - Other support costs	4,728.57	-	-	-	4,728.57	2,854.60
2315 - Administration	1,635.49	-	-	-	1,635.49	2,612.23
2316 - Bank Charges	67.50	-	-	-	67.50	67.50
2401 - Church Gas - L038224	5,681.45	-	-	-	5,681.45	7,690.88
2402 - Church Electricity TGP 56609	1,039.12	-	-	-	1,039.12	1,179.63
2403 - Church Running -	9,613.00	-	-	-	9,613.00	-

Depreciation

2502 - Magazine Printing	9,482.60	-	-	-	9,482.60	12,747.05
2503 - Magazine Other Costs	91.70	-	-	-	91.70	86.95
2504 - JPH - Insurance	1,166.17	-	-	-	1,166.17	1,115.99
2505 - JPH - Electricity	2,078.20	-	-	-	2,078.20	2,359.26
2506 - JPH - Gas - L038225	1,217.57	-	-	-	1,217.57	1,795.83
2507 - JPH - Water	326.94	-	-	-	326.94	213.45
2508 - JPH - Maintenance	3,410.41	-	-	-	3,410.41	4,466.56
2509 - JPH - Cleaning	2,180.02	-	-	-	2,180.02	2,139.64
2510 - JPH - Consumables	618.54	-	-	-	618.54	614.60
2601 - Audit Fees	832.00	-	-	-	832.00	558.00
Church Activities Totals	174,930.21	356.40	2,622.44	-	177,909.05	178,337.14

Major Capital Expenditure

2700 - Major repairs/redecoration to church	-	-	-	-	-	-
2800 - Major repairs to JPH	-	-	-	-	-	-
Major Capital Expenditure Totals	-	-	-	-	-	-
Expenditure Grand totals	179,985.40	356.40	3,934.09	-	184,275.89	185,774.02

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Accounting Policies

a) Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with Financial Reporting Standard FRS102 Section 1A.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the inclusion of investments at market value and the revaluation of fixed assets. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their affiliation to another body, nor those which are informal gatherings of church members.

b) Funds accounting

Funds which may be held by the PCC are:

Unrestricted funds – general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes

Designated funds - monies set aside by the PCC out of restricted or unrestricted funds for specific future purposes or projects. Also monies required to settle contracts that have been let but not yet completed or invoiced.

Restricted funds – a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest; b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of the year is carried forward as a balance on that fund.

Endowment funds – funds the capital of which must be maintained; only income arising from the investment of the endowment may be used, either as restricted or unrestricted funds, depending on the purpose set out in the terms of the original endowment.

c) Incoming resources

All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

d) Voluntary Income

Collections are recognised when received.

Planned giving receivable is recognised only when received.

Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised in the period it relates to.

VAT reclaim grants are recognised when received.

Other Grants and legacies are recognised when received.

Income from investments

Dividends and interest entitlements are accounted for when received.

All other income

All other income is recognised when it is received.

e) Resources used

Resources expended are accounted for on an accruals basis and are accounted for gross.

Grants

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded when the award creates a legal obligation on the PCC.

Church activities

The diocesan Common Mission Fund is accounted for when paid.

f) Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by s. 96(2) of the Charities Act 1993.

Movable church furnishing held by the Priest-in-Charge and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are considered as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's inventory which can be inspected.

All expenditure on consecrated or beneficed buildings and individual items costing under £5,000 are written off in the year incurred.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated to write down the cost of tangible fixed assets, excluding freehold properties, over their expected useful lives. The rates generally applicable are:

Fixtures and fittings	25% straight line
Computer and other equipment	10 - 33% straight line

No depreciation is provided on freehold property as it is the PCC's policy to maintain these assets in a continual state of sound repair. The useful economic life of these assets is so long and residual values so high that any depreciation would not be material. These assets will be subject to annual impairment reviews. Provision will be made if there has been any permanent diminution in value.

The new chairs are being depreciated at 25% per annum starting in 2024. Their current residual value is £28,841.12

Investments

Investments would be stated at market value at the balance sheet date.

g) Current Assets

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectible.

h) Cash and Deposits

Short term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Funds, or at the bank.

2. Disclosures

Employees: The average number of employees during the year 2024 was 1. (Unchanged since 2023)

Pension Provision. The PCC participates in the Pension Builder 2014 Scheme section of the Church Workers Pension Fund (CWPF) for lay staff, administered by the Church of England Pensions Board. This is a Defined Benefits Scheme that provides a cash balance lump sum at retirement, with assets held separately from participating employers. Pension contributions are recorded in an account for each member to which discretionary bonuses may be added by the Board before retirement, dependent on investment experience and other factors. The accrued account balance is payable from members' Normal Pension Age.

There is no sub-division of assets between employers and therefore the scheme is considered to be a multi-employer scheme as described in Section 28 of FRS 102. It is not possible to attribute assets and liabilities to specific employers and this means that contributions are accounted for as if the Scheme were a defined contribution scheme. The pensions costs charged in the year are the employer's contributions payable

A valuation of the Pension Builder Scheme is carried out once every three years. The most recent was carried out as at 31 December 2019. For the Pension Builder 2014 section, the valuation revealed a surplus of £2.5m (notification on 1 March that this figure should be £5.5m) on the ongoing assumptions used. There is no requirement for deficit payments at the current time. The legal structure of the scheme is such that if another employer fails, the PCC could become responsible for paying a share of that employer's pension liabilities.

Independent Examiner's Fee: The amount due to Behegan Lynes for their independent examination of these accounts is approximately £585 +VAT.

3. PCC Funds

The PCC's policy is to hold in designated reserves the equivalent of two months of general running costs and an additional one month's salary costs. In addition the PCC seeks to hold around £30,000 in designated funds for the future repair of the Church and John Pearson Hall.

4. Financial Policies and Protocols

In April 2021 the Standing Committee (SC) reviewed internal financial practices and approved:

a) Payments

Cheques issued are signed by two signatories from a panel consisting of the Churchwardens, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer. Cheques are seldom used now.

Online BACS payments are made by the Treasurer and monitored by the Assistant Treasurer. Payments are scheduled and countersigned by a Churchwarden and the

Treasurer at regular intervals. Direct debit payments are approved when the supply or service starts.

An **Expenditure Approval Register** is maintained in which all non-pay or charitable giving payments over £1000 are recorded and presented to the SC annually for approval. The register gives details of the supplier, amount, purpose and what prior approval has been given.

Expense reimbursement claims should be submitted to the Treasurer or Assistant Treasurer with written receipts, and confirming that any appropriate authorisation has been obtained. Clergy should complete and submit an expense claim form along with receipts and mileage details.

b) Delegated Authority for Spending

Generally - up to £250. Church Officers can spend on routine items within their area of responsibility up to £250, without the need to seek prior approval. The Treasurer will monitor these payments and spending patterns for reasonableness, raising concerns if necessary. If possible more than one quotation should be sought for non-routine expenditure.

From £250 to £500. Items expected to exceed £250, up to £500, should be approved in advance by the Clergy (Mission) or Churchwardens (other matters), with the Treasurer advised when approval given. Unusual items should be approved in consultation with the Treasurer.

Over £500. Items exceeding £500 should always be approved in advance by the SC. In an emergency, SC members should be consulted, if possible, before action taken and expenditure incurred.

Substantial expenditure of an unusual nature, such as extensive repairs or improvements, should be approved in advance by the PCC on recommendation from the SC with estimated costs.

c) Specific Approvals

The **Fees Bank Account** is managed by the Benefice Administrator and monitored by the Treasurer or Assistant Treasurer. The monthly return of statutory fees to the diocese and the corresponding payment is approved before submission by the Treasurer and a Churchwarden.

Flower Fund Bank Account for Church flowers is managed by the Treasurer.

Fabric Maintenance Work is overseen by the Fabric Manager, who is authorised to obtain quotations for projects up to £500 for approval by the SC. Projects over £500 need a report outlining the proposed work for prior approval.

d) Management of Income

Cash received should always be counted by two people together as a matter of best practice in order to protect them from challenge. The Independent Examiner regularly stresses the importance of this in his report on the Annual Accounts. This should apply to Church collections, donations box, fund-raising, social events and all other activities where the money accrues to the Church.

Income received must be accounted for gross (without deduction of any expenses incurred raising the income) and expenses claimed for subsequent reimbursement by the Treasurer.

Investment of Surplus Funds. The SC and PCC should adopt a policy for the investment of funds judged surplus to current requirements. This should have regard to the length of time the money is unlikely to be required and the risk of loss on the chosen investments.

e) Annual Charitable Giving

The amount and allocation of annual charitable giving is considered and approved by the PCC each year, usually in November, following the receipt of appropriate information and recommendations from the Treasurer.

In addition to this, decisions may be made by the clergy and churchwardens throughout the year, consulting with SC where it is considered appropriate, to allocate collections for particular services to specific charities or other appropriate causes.

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