

Buckingham Parish Church

Annual Report & Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council for 2023



Presented to the
Annual Parochial Church Meeting
on Sunday 28th April 2024
at 10.30am

Contents

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Charity Information | 3 |
| Agenda | 4 |
| The Draft Minutes of the APCM Meeting 2023 | 5 |
| The Annual Report – 2023..... | 9 |
| Structure, Governance and Management | 11 |
| Stewardship Update: Brian and Tracy Roskell | 14 |
| Children & Families Update: Lucia Pearson-Gee | 14 |
| Mission & Outreach Update: Keith Croxton | 15 |
| Fabric Update: Nigel Collison | 15 |
| Electoral Roll Update: Heidi Buchan | 16 |
| 2023 Service Attendance | 17 |
| 2023 Church Attendance..... | 18 |
| Rector’s Report for the 2024 APCM Covering 2023 | 22 |
| Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023: Harry Morten | 29 |
| Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2023 | 32 |
| Notes to the Financial Statements | 33 |

St Peter & St Paul Parish Church, Buckingham
Castle Street, Buckingham MK18 1BS
Parish Office 01280 821509

www.bpchurch.uk

Charity Information

Charity No 1128704

Incumbent: The Revd Will Pearson-Gee
The Rectory, 8 Aris Way, Buckingham MK18 1FX

Churchwardens: Mr Gerry Causer
99 Burleigh Piece, Buckingham, MK18 7BT

Mrs Glynnis Eastwood
2 Wren Close, Buckingham, MK18 7HA

Banks: CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill,
West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ

Lloyds TSB Bank
30 Market Square, Brackley NN137BA

Auditor: Upton Wilson Ltd
3 West Street, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 1DA



**The Annual Meeting of Parishioners (AMP) and
Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)**

Sunday 28th April 2024

10.30am

Agenda

Opening Hymn– *Be Thou My Vision*.

Children go to their groups

Prayer & Confession

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners (AMP)

1. Appointment of Secretary for the meeting
2. Apologies for absence
3. Election of Church Wardens (during which any parishioner – as well as those on the Electoral Roll - may vote.)

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 30th April 2023
2. Matters Arising
3. Presentation of the Electoral Roll (ER)
4. Elections and Appointments (only those on the ER may vote)
 - a. Election of Deputy Wardens
 - b. Election of the Parochial Church Council (PCC)
 - c. Election of Sidespersons
 - d. *Prayers for those elected*
5. **Hymn** – *Great is Thy Faithfulness*
6. Church Attendance Reports
7. Stewardship & Finance Reports
8. Presentation of the Annual Report and Accounts
9. Auditor for 2024. (The finance team will seek to appoint a new auditor for 2024 during the course of the next eight months, which will then be approved by the PCC.)
Prayer for our finances and stewardship
10. **Hymn** – *And can it be?*
11. Other reports:
 - a. Children
 - b. Youth
 - c. Mission & Outreach
 - d. *Prayer for these ministries*
12. Reading: Isaiah 61: 1-6,
13. Rector's Report and Look Ahead
14. Any other Business (AOB - any items for discussion should be notified to the Rector at least 24 hours before the meeting or they may not be taken.).
15. Q&A during which children are collected (It is very much hoped that any detailed questions on the accounts can be asked and answered via email before the meeting).
16. **Hymn** - *O Lord my God /How Great Thou Art* (omit v2)
17. Closing Prayer and Thanksgiving for Food

The Draft Minutes of the APCM Meeting 2023

MEETING OF: Annual Parochial Church Meeting of Buckingham Parish Church

DATE AND TIME: Sunday 30th April 2023 at 10.30am

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

1 Appointment of Secretary for the meeting

Sue Fox was proposed by Susan Mileham and seconded by Helen Grimditch. All voted in favour.

2 Apologies for Absence

Approximately 240 people attended the meeting, and 19 apologies were recorded.

3 Election of Church Wardens

There were two nominations for Church Warden. Gerry Causer was proposed by Christine Barrell and seconded by Lynn Legrove. Glynnis Eastwood was proposed by Sally Cooper and seconded by Lara Burt. There being no other nominations, they were duly elected.

WPG noted his grateful thanks for all Mike Evans and Max Hailey had done over the previous year.

4 Prayers for the Church Wardens and Secretary

Prayers were led by Paul Hiron

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1 Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 24th April 2022

Pat Cox proposed and David Squibb seconded that the minutes be approved as a correct record of the APCM held on 24th April 2022. All voted in favour. WPG signed the minutes.

2 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3 Presentation of the Electoral Roll.

In Heidi Buchan's absence, WPG read out the report.

The Electoral Roll for the 2022 APCM had 292 names entered. Since then, 15 have been removed and 25 added. There are currently 302 on roll, as at 10th April 2023, of which 113 are non-resident of the Ecclesiastical Parish. WPG noted his thanks to Heidi for her report and work throughout the year.

The Electoral Roll was proposed by Paul Hiron, seconded by Harry Morten and accepted at the meeting.

4 Elections and Appointments

Election of Deputy Wardens

Glynnis Eastwood proposed and Gerry Causer seconded that the following Deputy Church Wardens continue in their role:

Traditional Service:

- Paddy Collins
- Paul Hiron
- Lynne Legrove

Evening Service:

- Andrew Grimditch
- Steven Tayfield
- Max Hailey
- Mike Evans
- Matt Lambert

Christine Barrell volunteered to become a Deputy Warden at the 11am Family Service.

Election of Members of the Parochial Church Council

- Mike Evans was proposed by Andrew Miscampbell and seconded by Harry Morten
- Vicky Hughes was proposed by Lorna Piper and seconded by Harry Morten
- Andrew Miscampbell was proposed by Brian Roskell and seconded by Pauline Stanton-Saringer
- Simon Morrell was proposed by Mike Evans and seconded by Andrew Walmsley
- Brian Roskell was proposed by Harry Morten and seconded by Lorna Piper
- Mike Roskell was proposed by Nigel Collison and seconded by Gerry Causer
- Tracy Roskell was proposed by Pauline Stanton-Saringer and seconded by Nigel Collison

All voted in favour.

Election of Members of the Deanery Synod

- Andrew Gibson was proposed by Jenny Metcalfe and seconded by Gwilym Mason-Evans
- Gerry Causer was proposed by Jenny Stone and seconded by Cheryl Dawson
- Beth Jeremy was proposed by Jacqui Cooke and seconded by Lucia Pearson-Gee
- Paul Wallace was proposed by Daphne Brown and seconded by Lorna Piper
- Lucia Pearson-Gee was proposed by Margot Lohman and seconded by Pat Cox

Pauline Stanton-Saringer and Ruth Newell stood down.

Paul Wallace prayed and gave thanks for those serving on the PCC.

5 Hymn.**6 Church Attendance Reports****7 Stewardship and Finance Reports**

Harry Morten presented the Finance report.

Brian Roskell presented the Stewardship report. He thanked the congregation for their faithfulness and giving.

8 Presentation of the Annual Report and Accounts

Harry Morten proposed, and Max Hailey seconded that this meeting approve the Accounts. All voted in favour.

9 Appointment of the Auditor for 2023 – Upton Wilson Ltd

Harry Morten proposed, and Gerry Causer seconded that the auditors are appointed for 2023. All voted in favour.

Helen Grimditch prayed for the Finances of the Church.

10 Hymn

11 Other reports

CYFAM (Children, Youth and Families) presented their reports.

Alex Morten prayed for these Ministries.

The Mission and Outreach Report.

WPG thanked Mark Chapman for the work he has done behind the scenes within the Production Team and presented him with a gift.

WPG thanked the LLM's and retired clergy for all their hard work and presented them with a gift after the meeting.

12 Reading: Isaiah 61: 1-6,

Read by David Squibb

13 Rector's report and look ahead.

The Rector reflected on 12 happy and fruitful years in Buckingham. He then thanked the church family for sticking with us through difficult times. He also thanked the amazing team of volunteers, the generous givers and the staff team.

He highlighted a few things that made such a rewarding year:

- The Centre's increasing activities,
- Hot Dog Wednesday growing
- Numbers climbing at services
- The new service timings (he thanked the 9am for their grace)
- Alpha leading people to faith.

He went on to say that we were living in uncertain times with the cost of living increases that will cause real hardship and international uncertainty.

Referring to the passage he described it as the "Jesus Manifesto" which should cause us to:

- proclaim good news – so our preaching needs to remain consistent and biblical.
- proclaim to those who do not yet know Jesus.
- set the captives free and release people who are stumbling around in a spiritual darkness into the light of Christ.
- bind up the broken-hearted, and comfort those who mourn.

It matters not what obstacles there are – these tasks are a given. All that we do must be built to meet those objectives. This is our "Why?".

As we gather people in, grow them in faith and send them out into the world as Christ's ambassadors, in other words as we:

Gather – Grow – Go.

But what of 2022?

- Easter saw nearly 400 in church.
- We look forward to the Jubilee civic service.
- Holiday Club
- The Parish w/e in September
- Recruiting Jayde's replacement

- And welcoming a 2nd curate Ope Ayileye in the summer.

We face challenges:

The spiritual challenges are evangelism and sharing the good news.

The practical challenges flow out of our finances – squeezed by cost of living:

- Boiler – the finance for this has already been met – thank the Lord
- The subsidence which could cost a lot.
- Recruiting a new Families Worker – sadly postponed 'til 2023 unless funds allow.
- Extending the outreach post

And looking further ahead the Rector reiterated the vision to:

1. start a new Christian or church school – possibly in partnership with Prof James Tooley and
2. create the post of Associate minister which will probably require housing and of course a salary.

He concluded by saying that this was an exciting vision and creating a new school will especially be a massive challenge but like Nehemiah – we say:

“Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. Give your servant success today”

Prayer was the key.

13 Any other Business

There was no other business.

14 Questions and Answers

There then followed a time of Questions and Answers.

15 Hymn

16 Closing Prayer and Thanksgiving for Food.

The Annual Report – 2023

Background and Statement of Facts

Buckingham Parish Church is part of the Buckingham Benefice along with the Parish of St John the Evangelist, Radclive cum Chackmore.

The Rector and the Parochial Church Council (PCC) consult together on matters of general concern and importance to the Parish. The PCC co-operates with the Rector in promoting in the Parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical in order to implement its vision *“To Worship God, Make Friends and Change the World”*. The PCC also considers and discusses matters concerning the Church of England or any other matters of religious and public interest (but not the declaration of the doctrine of the Church on any question) and raises such matters as the Council considers appropriate with the Deanery Synod and Diocesan Synod.

The Parochial Church Council

The following served as members of the PCC **during the year 2023**:

| | |
|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Incumbent | The Revd Will Pearson-Gee |
| Curates | The Revd Kate Pellereau The Revd Ope Ayileye |
| Churchwardens | Mr Gerry Causer Mrs Glynnis Eastwood |
| Deputy Churchwardens | Mr Paul Hirons (from ACM 2014) Mr Paddy Collins (non PCC) Mrs Lynn Legrove (non PCC) Mr Andrew Grimditch (non PCC) Mr Steven Tayfield (non PCC) Mr Matt Lambert (non PCC) |
| Diocesan Synod Rep | Mr Paul Hirons until July 2024 (and ex-officio on Deanery Synod) |
| Deanery Synod Reps (Until ACM 2026) | Mr Paul Wallace Mrs Lucia Pearson-Gee Mr Gerry Causer Dr Andrew Gibson Ms Beth Jeremy |
| Elected Members: | There can be up to 15 elected members on the PCC, 4 being elected each year to serve for 3 years.) |
| Until ACM 2025 | Mrs Lorna Piper Mr Simon Morrell Mr Andy Pallett |
| Until ACM 2024 | Mr Harry Morten (Head of Finance) Mr Nigel Collison (Head of Fabric) |
| Until ACM 2023 | Mr Andrew Miscampbell Mrs Vicky Hughes (HR Lead) Mr David Squibb |

Mr J Grinyer

Ms Pam Fox (Treasurer) who was replaced by Mrs Tracy Roskell

Mr Brian Roskell (Head of Stewardship)

Mr Mike Roskell (Head of Production)

The PCC also has the responsibility for the care and maintenance of the Parish Church (SS Peter & Paul), the lavatory block on Church Hill, 5 Chandos Close (the Curate's house) and The Centre in Verney Close.

Structure, Governance and Management

Recruitment and Induction of Trustees

Most Trustees (members of the PCC) are either ex officio or are elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the governing document (Church Representation Rules). Some others are co-opted for particular purposes. The APCM and elections of PCC members took place on 28th April 2024.

New Trustees receive an induction on their role and responsibilities from the Secretary of the PCC and any relevant documents and guidelines, in addition to a general induction from the Chairman during the first meeting of the year following each APCM.

Responsibilities of the Parochial Church Council (The Trustees)

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

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

The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended. 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.

The Trustees oversee and support the Leadership Team, the staff and the members of Buckingham Parish Church in their various areas of ministry and are responsible for ensuring that a representative (usually the Chairman) reports back to the Church members annually at the APCM along with other ministry leaders. This meeting also includes election of new Trustees and is open to all to attend, although only those named on the Electoral Roll may vote in this matter. A detailed report of ministry activities for the previous twelve months is made available at this meeting, along with copies of the Annual Report and Financial Review.

Public benefit

The Trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers and duties. Examples of this public benefit can be found in the other parts of this report.

The Charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

Structure and operating procedures

The Trustees met in person four times during 2023. The Standing Committee met on a further seven separate occasions over the year of which one meeting was in person and six were virtual. During these meetings the Trustees discussed and prayed into a wide variety of matters including vision, governance, policies, buildings and infrastructure as well as receiving regular reports on financial performance and staffing.

Parish / Benefice Staff

- Revd Will Pearson-Gee has now been in post as Rector for 14 years
- Revd Kate Pellereau continued to serve as Curate from 2020
- Revd Ope Ayileye continued to serve as Curate (Self-Supporting) from July 2022.

- Robert Tucker continued to serve as Organist and Choir Master
- Ray Mitchell continued to serve as Assistant Organist
- Ali Burt continued to serve as a Contemporary Worship Team Leader from 2019
- Sam Graham continued to serve as Youth Minister from August 2021
- Abi Graham served as Children's' Minister from June 2022 to December 2023. (on maternity leave from May 2023)
- Lucia Pearson-Gee served as Children's (maternity cover) and Families' Pastor from May 2023.
- Jan Ballantyne continued to serve as the Parish Manager from 2014
- Sue Fox continued to serve as PA to the Rector from 2014
- Jo Wigley continued to serve as Associate Minister for Pastoral Care from 2017
- Lara Burt continued to serve as Office Administrator, Communications Lead, Caretaker from 2021
- Judith Wigley continued to serve as Caretaker of The Centre.
- Paul Wallace, Pauline Stanton-Saringer and Paul Mileham officiated as LLMs.
- Keith Croxton has a preaching licence.
- Revd Keith Hagon served as a licensed preacher from July 2023.
- Revd Maurice Stanton-Saringer, Canon Dr Peter Williams, Revd Ron Bundock, Revd Chris Murray and Canon Max Wigley assisted as retired clergy with PTO.
- Sarah Harrison-Potts served as Families Worker until February 2023
- Andrew Walmsley was on a student placement (as an ordinand) until May 2023

Review of PCC discussions in 2023

During the year the PCC met for 4 scheduled meetings and had an average attendance of 83%

Main items discussed were:

The Alpha Course; issues regarding human sexuality affecting the CofE; problems with car parking at BPC; the employment of a new Families Pastor; building subsidence; the organisation of Holiday Club in August and the Parish Weekend Away were discussed most frequently.

Standing Committee

The Standing Committee (SC) is a statutory requirement. It meets to prepare the agenda for the PCC and has power to transact business of the PCC in emergencies between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the PCC. The PCC has delegated to the SC responsibility for Human Resources (HR) matters concerning non-clergy paid members of staff. The Churchwardens, Head of the Finance and Stewardship Committee, Treasurer, PCC Secretary and up to two other members of the PCC serve on the SC which is chaired by the Rector. It meets in every month that the PCC does not and meets via Zoom.

Safeguarding Policy

Buckingham Parish Church places the highest priority on safeguarding the welfare of the children, young people and vulnerable adults in its care, and as is required by the Church of England and by law, it has effective arrangements in place to protect them. These are set out in the Parish Safeguarding Policy which was reviewed and approved for 2023 by the PCC in December 2022. This document is on display in church and is available on the Safeguarding page of the church website. The Parish safeguarding procedures and volunteer recruitment processes are also available on the website. The church is registered on the Diocesan Safeguarding Dashboard, which enables the PCC and the Safeguarding Officers to monitor the implementation of safeguarding measures. Jane Wardale and Glynnis Eastwood have been appointed by the PCC as the Parish Safeguarding Officers.

OTHER COMMITTEES & WORKING GROUPS

The PCC operates through a number of sub-committees and working groups, which are responsible for areas of activity. They meet between PCC meetings giving reports and, where appropriate, making recommendations to the PCC and implementing decisions by the PCC when asked to do so. These sub-groups are The Mission and Outreach Group (MOG), Discipleship Group, Pastoral Group and the Stewardship & Finance and are listed below.

Finance & Stewardship Committee

This committee oversees the finances of Buckingham Parish Church by monitoring the income and expenditure, preparing an annual budget and coordinating the promotion of the Christian stewardship of money through planned and regular giving. The Finance and Stewardship Committee was chaired by Harry Morten (Head of Finance) and Tracy Roskell took over as Church Treasurer in 2023. Stewardship Coordinators are Brian and Tracy Roskell. (For the accounts see Finance reports on page 29).

Stewardship Update: Brian and Tracy Roskell

Significant Actions

We have successfully pursued grant funding, including on-going support of our youth worker and VAT reclaim for eligible works. We received some one-off donations including support for a ministry trainee. People have been encouraged to review their giving. We have aimed for transparency in our finances with regular reminders on how to give.

Observations

The 2023 year-end figures show average monthly income hit our expected budget level but was lower than the 2022 amount reflecting the high level of one-off donations for specific needs met in 2022.

Average monthly regular giving through standing orders, stayed at almost exactly the same level as for 2022 at £16,890 per month with no increase in line with inflation, so a real terms reduction year on year. Standing orders are now 53% of our income.

Our contactless payment machine ended the year with an average monthly contribution of £815.

Income from use of our church building and church groups has increased to 11% of income.

Taking into account our costs, we did not achieve our break even and ended the year spending £24,000 more than we received across all funds.

In 2023 we gained 8 regular givers and lost 8; 11 people increased giving and 4 reduced theirs.

Thank you to those who currently give financially to our church, we couldn't deliver the great services, facilities and support without you.

For those who haven't yet got round to setting up regular giving, talk to Brian or Tracy Roskell in person, via stewardship@bpchurch.uk or visit the giving section of our website for full information.

Children & Families Update: Lucia Pearson-Gee

We have seen a steady increase of children attending the 11am family service which provides four separate teaching groups:

Bubbles: age 0-3 held in the Tower room and is mainly parent led with an overseer.

There is an average of 5 children each week, peaking in October with 9 attending.

Splash: ages 3-5yrs-the first half of the year saw an average of 6 children which has since increased to 10 coming each week and is very boy heavy.

Streams: school Year group 1,2,3 -has had a steady increase to 10-12 children each week with 60%girls/ 40%boys.

Wave: school Year group. 4,5,6 Average weekly attendance is 12-14 children. Peaking at 17 kids on the back of a Lighthouse promotion.

Oceans: at the 6pm we run a group for School Years 3-6 with an average of 6 girls attending each week. Occasionally we have one or two boys but it is rare.

Energise/Lighthouse Energise continued weekly on Wednesdays at 3.30-5.15pm until September when we had a rethink of how to continue in a more spiritual way so we re-branded and launched "Lighthouse". This adapted weekly ministry provided more structured crafts with a theme/interactive talk and worship followed by a two-course free meal seeing an average of 35 Children and 18-20 parents each week. The challenging behaviour of a small proportion of the children made this a tough ministry to keep going.

Mission & Outreach Update: Keith Croxton

Mission and Outreach is a subgroup of the PCC, mandated to discern and respond to the spiritual and social needs in the community: reaching out to share God's love and compassion with others as well as supporting the wider mission of the church.

It oversees the following:

- The Centre
- Distribution of the Tithes supporting our Mission Partners
- Bradford Link
- Men's Ministry
- Buckingham Food Bank
- Tuesday Lunch
- Saturday Morning Coffee Service
- Mission to the Elderly
- The Alpha Course
- Minibus
- Parish Weekends

The Centre seeks to provide a sacred place in the heart of the town where the love of Jesus can be experienced, and activities take place providing support to the community. The following Church groups have used The Centre during 2023:

- Coffee and Company
- Tea and Chat
- Food Bank
- Alpha Courses
- Project Street Life Cafe
- Sew Lovely
- Greek/Hebrew symposiums
- 9 am congregational lunches
- CAP
- 'Might Men of Valour' monthly meetings

In addition, a variety of community groups who are serving the community use The Centre, the full list is on The Centre website.

Fabric Update: Nigel Collison

The investigation work into the building subsidence in the southwest corner of the Church continued. The structural engineer's work to monitor the movement of the cracks in the walls was completed in July. The movement was found to be seasonal, with the cracks opening and closing by less than 1mm due to the shrinkage and expansion of the soil beneath the foundations. This is likely to be caused by the demand on groundwater from the adjacent trees. Discussions regarding the management of the trees is now underway with Buckingham Town Council.

Internally, the tower room, the main staircase and the first-floor corridor were redecorated in October and new, easy clean, laminate flooring was laid to replace the old carpet.

A heavy downpour of rain in June caused the Church's roof gullies and downpipes to be overwhelmed, resulting water running down the inside walls. Additional maintenance checks are now in place.

The drive shaft to the south-facing clock face was repaired in January.

The successful 3-year fixed electrical circuits inspection was carried out in December.

Electoral Roll Update: Heidi Buchan

The Electoral Roll for the 2023 APCM had 302 names entered.

10 people have been removed from the list since then.

28 people have been added to the list since then.

THERE ARE NOW 320 NAMES ON THE ROLL AS AT 8 APRIL 2024 (of which 125 are non-resident in the Ecclesiastical Parish)

2023 Service Attendance (2022 in brackets)

| Average numbers attending at: | Adults | Children | online average |
|--------------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------------|
| Morning Worship and Parish Communion [9am] | 79 (67) | 5 (3) | 78 (89) |
| Morning Contemporary Family Service [11am] | 62 (54) | 36 (31) | 44 (29) |
| 6pm Contemporary Service | 106 (92) | 17 (18) | 112 (103) |
| Wednesday 10am Holy Communion | 27 (26) | 0 (0) | 35 (32) |

Electoral roll: 302 (292)

Baptisms: 45 + 1 thanksgiving (19)

Weddings: 7 (7)

Funerals:

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Number of deceased for whom a funeral service was held at our church | 13 (10) |
| Number of deceased for whom a full funeral service was conducted by a member of our ministry team at a crematorium, cemetery, or other non-church location, excluding committal only & burial of ashes only | 1 (8) |
| Number of deceased for whom a committal only or a burial of ashes only was conducted by a member of our ministry team | 0 (2) |

2023 Church Attendance

2023 church attendance

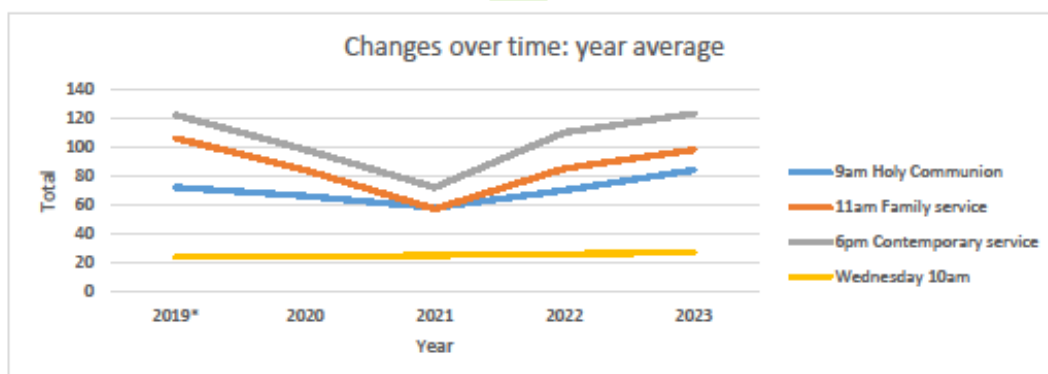
Summary

A really positive year; praise God!

- Sunday attendance increased every month in 2023 compared to 2022; except December where the data does not include special services
- Easter services increased overall by 31% with the Family Service up 50% and nearly 200 attending the 6pm Easter Alive!
- Christmas attendance was up 11%.
- All-age 11am numbers are now in line with other Sundays
- All service averages in 2023 are now above 2019 averages

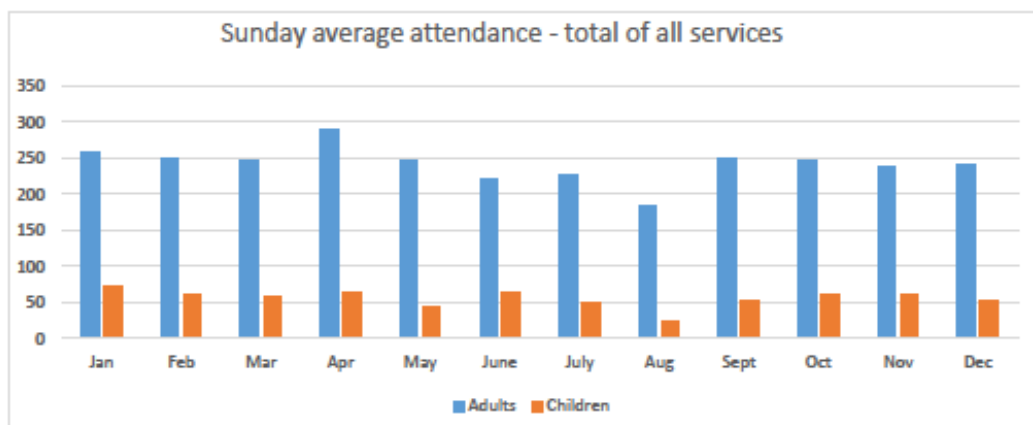
| Year | 9am Holy Communion | | | 11am Family service | | | 6pm Contemporary service | | | Wednesday 10am | | |
|------|--------------------|----------|-------|---------------------|----------|-------|--------------------------|----------|-------|----------------|----------|-------|
| | Adults | Children | Total | Adults | Children | Total | Adults | Children | Total | Adults | Children | Total |
| 2019 | 68 | 4 | 72 | 65 | 41 | 106 | 102 | 20 | 122 | 24 | 0 | 24 |
| 2020 | 63 | 3 | 66 | 50 | 34 | 84 | 81 | 17 | 98 | 24 | 0 | 24 |
| 2021 | 55 | 3 | 58 | 35 | 22 | 57 | 63 | 9 | 72 | 25 | 0 | 25 |
| 2022 | 67 | 3 | 70 | 54 | 31 | 85 | 92 | 18 | 110 | 26 | 0 | 26 |
| 2023 | 79 | 5 | 84 | 62 | 36 | 98 | 106 | 17 | 123 | 27 | 0 | 27 |

since summer **106**



It is encouraging to see new people joining our church family and committing their lives to Christ. Let's pray for more in 2024!

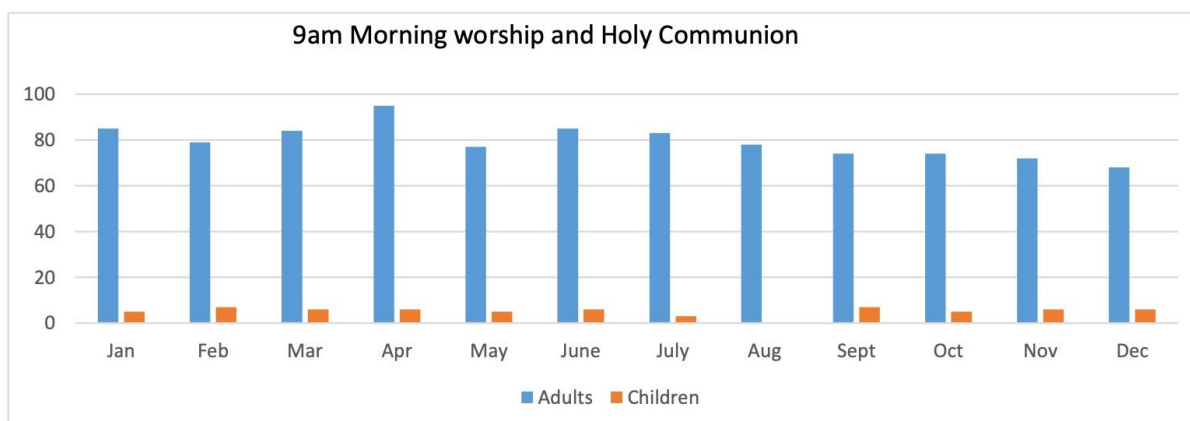
Monthly average of the total Sunday attendances:



- The change in service pattern two weeks in a row (APCM and Civic service) seemed to impact the numbers attending on 14th May.
- Numbers appear to dip in June but are still ahead of 2022; holidays and severe thunderstorms did impact some services more than others. In July there was more bad weather causing the 'Family at the Farm' event to be cancelled and service times changed back at late notice.
- September saw numbers grow back after the summer break with similar numbers overall to 2022. However, the growth from October onwards is encouraging especially as many of our asylum seekers were moved on from Buckingham and no longer worship with us.

The 'overall' picture in the table above hides some differences between services and does not include the Wednesday 10am communion.

Sunday 9am Parish Holy Communion monthly average



- The numbers attending are now ahead of when the service was at a different time which supports the difficult decisions made. Young people are able to go out to a group during the service and a small core of them are regular attendees.
- Numbers were strong in June boosted by a baptism one Sunday and Ope's first Sunday presiding at Holy Communion. The growth in numbers has continued after the summer break; every month has shown growth from 2022.

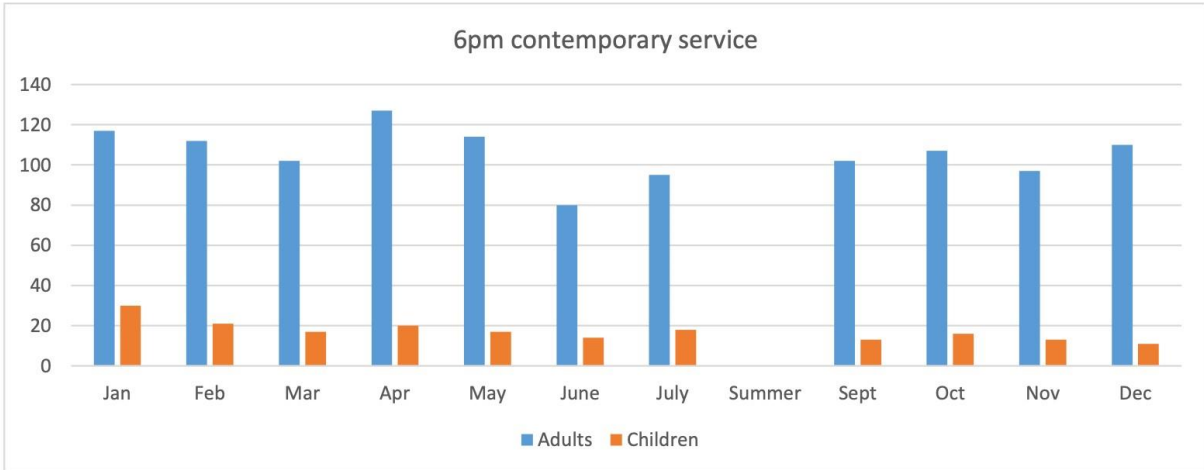
Sunday 11am Family service monthly average



- Easter Sunday attendance was much higher than 2022 [up 50%].

- The last week in June saw a large number of children attending, such that additional helpers were asked for during the service. This is encouraging but highlights that additional team members are needed.
- It is good to see growth in September, October and November with the all-age/all together service matching the attendance in other weeks. This reverses the trend we saw in previous years when, on average, thirty fewer were attending compared to other 11am services.

Sunday 6pm contemporary service monthly average



- In January and February this service increased the most compared to 2022. However, we should remember it was the last to grow back post-covid.
- Easter Alive! had nearly 200 attending.
- In July numbers increased more than any other service compared to 2022.
- October and November numbers increased again compared to 2022. December’s data is only based on the first two weeks.

Wednesday 10am Holy Communion monthly average

This service has increased its attendance from 2021 and has now settled to mid/high 20s. This could be people ‘switching’ from the Sunday 9am and/or more people wanting to worship in a smaller service. There is a real community feel about those who attend this service and it is valued.

Lighthouse

Lighthouse is a new ministry which started on November 1st aimed at Primary age children and their families. It takes place every Wednesday [term-time only] after school (3.30pm to 5.15pm) and is similar to ‘Messy Church’.

| Monthly average | Adults | Children |
|-----------------|--------|----------|
| November | 20 | 28 |

This ministry has made a good start with numbers matching ‘Energise’.

Summer Sundays

| Year | 10am | Adults | Children | Total | 5pm | Adults | Children | Total |
|------|--------------------|--------|----------|-------|--------------------|--------|----------|-------|
| 2023 | Average attendance | 84 | 2 | 86 | Average attendance | 101 | 22 | 123 |
| 2022 | Average attendance | 73 | 2 | 75 | Average attendance | 89 | 31 | 120 |

Averages at both services increased but fewer children were at the 5pm. It’s possible that more families went away on holiday but it might be worth looking into this further.

Online views

| Month | 9am | 11am | 6pm | Wednesday | Total | 2022 total |
|-----------|-----|------|-----|-----------|-------|------------|
| January | 63 | 30 | 158 | 27 | 278 | 267 |
| February | 97 | 14 | 116 | 46 | 273 | 265 |
| March | 105 | 30 | 113 | 36 | 283 | 326 |
| April | 92 | 34 | 136 | 40 | 301 | 325 |
| May | 66 | 48 | 109 | 29 | 251 | 248 |
| June | 65 | 42 | 95 | 33 | 234 | 240 |
| July | 70 | 44 | 77 | 24 | 215 | 220 |
| August | 69 | 79 | | 31 | 179 | 210 |
| September | 74 | 55 | 90 | 36 | 255 | 285 |
| October | 67 | 57 | 108 | 39 | 271 | 182 |
| November | 99 | 69 | 113 | 47 | 327 | 230 |
| December | 77 | 73 | 125 | 36 | 312 | 236 |

Easter Sunday

| Service | 2023 | | | 2022 | | | % increase on 2022 |
|---------|--------|----------|-------|--------|----------|-------|--------------------|
| | Adults | Children | Total | Adults | Children | Total | |
| 9am | 102 | 6 | 108 | 94 | 7 | 101 | 7% more |
| 11am | 124 | 69 | 193 | 91 | 38 | 129 | 50% more |
| 6pm | 170 | 28 | 198 | 131 | 20 | 151 | 31% more |
| Overall | 396 | 103 | 499 | 316 | 65 | 381 | 31% more |

Easter attendance is very encouraging with higher numbers at each service.

APCM 2023 was attended by 240 people (205 adults, 35 children)

Civic Service (7th May) was attended by 234 people (204 adults, 30 children)

Advent and Christmas

| Service | 2023 (2022 in brackets) | | | Comparison with 2022 |
|---------------------|-------------------------|----------|-----------|----------------------|
| | Adults | Children | Total | |
| Contemporary Carols | 133 (150) | 9 (16) | 142 (166) | Down 14% |
| Crib service | 69 (60) | 44 (44) | 113 (104) | Up 9% |
| 9 lessons & carols | 348 (259) | 28 (27) | 376 (286) | Up 31% |

Christmas Eve/Day

| | 2023 (2022 in brackets) | | | Comparison with 2022 | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------|--------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Adults | Children | Total | | |
| 10am Holy Communion | 50 | 1 | 51 | n/a | |
| Christingle 1 | 202 (270) | 97 (111) | 299 (381) | Down 22% | 'No shows' at 3pm; overall down 2% |
| Christingle 2 | 238 (211) | 132 (93) | 370 (304) | Up 22% | |
| Midnight | 157 (121) | 5 (8) | 162 (129) | Up 26% | |
| Family | 144 (149) | 35 (37) | 179 (186) | Down 4% | |
| Holy Communion | 53 | 5 | 58 (55) | Up 5% | |
| Total | 844 (751) | 275 (249) | 1118 (1000) | Up 11% | |

Christmas Eve was a Sunday so families might have gone to a Christingle service instead of the Family service the next day.

Rector's Report for the 2024 APCM Covering 2023

2023 was the year we exceeded our pre-pandemic attendance. Let's pause for a moment on this: The average church attendance at the end of 2023 in this Diocese as a percentage of pre-pandemic attendance was only 80%. But we regrew beyond our 2019 attendance. This is cause for much thanksgiving and so we can see that 2023 was another good year.

If I had to single out the biggest encouragement it would have to be how we found an unexpected opportunity to come close to some asylum seekers, who ended up meaning a great deal to us. As in many towns and cities around the UK, a local hotel was designated accommodation for about 150 asylum seekers. We suddenly saw numbers of men, predominately Iranian, start to come to the fairly formal 9am Communion Service. Our church was wonderful at reaching out in a multitude of ways. For example, by: providing much needed clothing and other items, befriending individuals and running Alpha Courses in Farsi. 30 of the Iranians were baptised and several were confirmed. We had our horizons greatly widened as we got to know a number deeply and were able to share hospitality with them and to get a glimpse of their back stories. These were so painful. Typically, they had become Christians while in Iran, leading to persecution, the threat of imprisonment, even execution, and sometimes cut-off by their wider families. Their faith was humbling.

Personally, I had a busy year with three meetings of General Synod to attend (February, July and November) and I made my maiden speech at the November meeting. I spoke at three parish weekends away (for the Armed Forces Christian Union, St John's Great Houghton and St John's Southend). I was blessed with another two-week stint doing a skiing chaplaincy in Switzerland, something which I hope to repeat. I also attended the Global Anglican Fellowship Conference in Kigali, Rwanda in April, which was a huge encouragement and one local church I visited has since received some much-needed funding from our tithe.

In February Sarah Harrison Potts stepped back from her role as Families Pastor and others stepped up to fill the gap.

On 18th February the PCC met for a study day to look at issues of sexual ethics knowing how much time was being spent discussing these matters at General Synod.

On 27th February we helped to organise another very successful Easter Cracked with Churches Together in Buckingham.

Our curate Kate Pellereau left us for adoption leave in March and would not return but take up a new post in January 2024.

We were blessed with wonderful weather in Holy Week and the Service of Witness outside the Old Gaol was very well attended.



Paul Burgess carries the Cross towards the Old Gaol Good Friday Service of Witness.

Easter was a great success with many new faces attending our services.

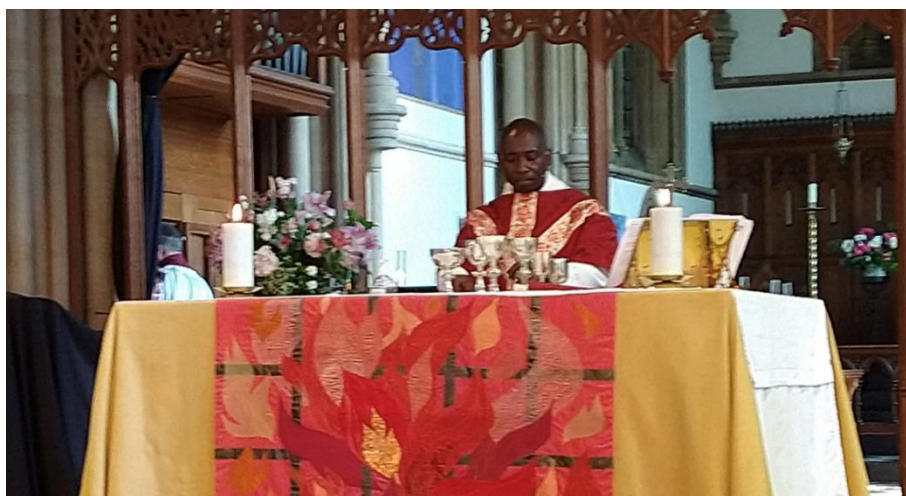
Abi Graham departed on Maternity Leave and Lucia Pearson-Gee was appointed as her Maternity Cover as well as taking on some of the Families Pastor portfolio. Andrew Walmsley left us after a very fruitful 2 years on student placement and was ordained in July to serve his curacy in Princes Risborough.

The APCM took place on 30th April where we thanked Pam Fox for many year's of service as our treasurer.

The King's Coronation took place on 6th May and the day after we held a Civic Service for HM The King on 7th May which Ope led well.

On 20th May we held a very successful Christian Aid lunch at The Centre which was well attended.

Ope was priested the day before our Patronal and presided that Sunday.



30th June Ope was priested and here he is presiding at our Patronal Festival service the following day.

We had hoped to hold another 'Focus at the Farm' Church Camping Weekend 14/15th July but with horrendous weather forecast we cancelled. This proved to be a good decision.

Four families attended HTB Focus 27th – 30th July and it is hoped to build on this in 2024.

Holiday Club took place 21-27th August and followed the new format of being more of a fun festival. It was well attended, and the churches worked well together.

With the summer holidays over, it was an honour to marry our very own Jacob Wigley to Hannah on 2nd September in a profoundly moving service. Our former curate Revd Danny Rogers returned to preach.



Hannah and Jacob making their vows.

I was honoured to be awarded an Honorary Doctorate by our University on 9th September.

On 16th September we held a Harvest Party and for the first time used an MK curry house as our caterers. The food and the quiz were great successes and as an event it wasn't too demanding to run.



The quiz at the Harvest Party

On 9th October we held a dinner for all our Connect Group leaders to thank them, enthuse them and provide a bit of training. It was wonderful to see so many attending and enjoying fellowship.

On 1st November a new ministry that emerged from 'Energise' (called Lighthouse) started. It was a weekly after-school messy church event. It was high-octane but the families loved it.

Remembrance Sunday on 12th November was again very well attended and it is always a welcome surprise that numbers just seem to keep increasing.

A Bereavement Course ran in the Autumn term which was over-subscribed and well received. Two Alpha courses were also run which bore much fruit. Prayer and Praise ran on every first Monday of the month and attracts a steady group of saints who take prayer seriously. We wish more came. Discipleship Mornings were run on 11th March; 1st April, 13th May; 10th June; 24th June. The Saturday morning format has proved popular and we hope to continue them next year.



On 25th November Bishop Tim Wambunya came to confirm our candidates at the 9am service.



Confirmation Candidates with Bishop Tim Wambunya

Our Community Lunches continued to provide much needed socialising throughout the year with our new minibus proving invaluable.



The Community Lunch Christmas Lunch with Tina Mitchell conducting a band.

Our Christmas services ran as usual with good attendance at 6pm Contemporary Carols, the Crib Service, our traditional Nine Lessons and Carols, the two Christingle services, Midnight Communion and the Christmas morning family service followed by Holy Communion.



The colourful 6pm Contemporary Carols team



Our Youth Worker Sam Graham with Divya Jacobs (now our Operations Manager!) with a baby Elijah Djontu as Jesus at our Crib Service.



Part of the cast at the Christingle Service



Finally, Andrew Gibson and Sarah Harrison Potts organised another successful New Year's Eve party that was enjoyed by a large group in church.



New Year's Eve Party

Revd Will Pearson-Gee

Rector

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023: Harry Morten

The accounts have been prepared under the 2011 Charities Act. The Central Board of Finance of the Church of England has produced its own financial regulations and associated Guidance in response to the Act. These have been adopted by the PCC and followed in producing these accounts.

The Guidance recommends the analysis and presentation of information under a standard set of headings, which can also be used for the annual financial return to the Diocese or the Central Board of Finance. These headings have been used in these accounts. Funds are shown as unrestricted, designated or restricted. Designated means that the funds are allocated by the PCC from the General fund; and Restricted means that the funds are normally only available for purposes specified by the donor. The PCC has one General Fund, seven designated funds and six restricted funds. Full details of these are in the Additional Notes on starting from page 35.

The total Incoming Resources from Donors was £388,078 (down 19% from £482,010 in 2022). Other Income from Charitable Resources was £25,338, while Investment Income was £10,582 and Other Income was £805.

Expenditure on Activities directly related to Church Work (£427,871) has decreased from £440,699 in 2022 due to the high costs incurred in 2022 for a replacement boiler.

The Church's charitable giving was £37,621 (2022: £33,662) which is based on 10% of all budgeted income received in 2023. The Mission & Outreach team has been very conscientious in making sure the whole "tithe" is spent within the year.

Our community hub at The Centre has grown from strength to strength, being occupied most of the time. The original 2-year lease on the building was extended by Bucks County Council to 5 years. It is noted that The Centre is totally self-sufficient financially and running at no cost to the church. At the end of 2023 The Centre's bank balance stood at £11,630 (2022: £14,637).

The auditors received £250 + VAT for carrying out the independent examination of the church accounts. This fee is very modest, and I would like to thank Upton Wilson Ltd for their continued support in examining and approving these accounts.

I would especially like to thank Tracy Roskell for taking on the role of Treasurer, in addition to looking after The Centre accounts. This is the first full year completed under Tracy's guidance and we are in extremely capable hands, which this year have included a revamping of the way our accounts are presented (due to our church growth). Thanks also to Lara Burt providing additional treasurer support. I would also like to thank Brian & Tracy Roskell for their work in the Stewardship role, moving the whole process online, via ChurchSuite.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PCC OF ST PETER'S AND ST PAUL'S, BUCKINGHAM

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2023 is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 (the Regulations) and section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act).

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the Accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and section 144(2) of the Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of Regulations.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church Guidance. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the requirements of the Act
- have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Stephen J Wilson
Upton Wilson Ltd

Chartered Certified Accountants

26th February 2024

3 West Street
Leighton Buzzard
Bedfordshire
LU7 1DA

Buckingham Parish Church

Statement of Financial Activities

For the period from 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

| | Note | Unrestricted funds £ | Restricted funds £ | Total funds £ | Prior year total funds £ |
|--------------------------------------|------|----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| Income | | | | | |
| Donations and legacies | 3a | 365,810 | 22,268 | 388,078 | 482,010 |
| Income from charitable activities | 3b | 25,338 | - | 25,338 | 21,655 |
| Income from Investments | 3c | 10,510 | 72 | 10,582 | 8,387 |
| Other income | 3d | 805 | - | 805 | - |
| Total income | | 402,462 | 22,340 | 424,802 | 512,052 |
| Expenditure | | | | | |
| Expenditure on charitable activities | 4a | 391,218 | 36,653 | 427,871 | 440,699 |
| Other expenditure | 4b | 14,681 | 6,520 | 21,201 | 12,143 |
| Total expenditure | | 405,900 | 43,173 | 449,073 | 452,842 |
| Net income / (expenditure) | | -3,438 | -20,833 | -24,271 | 59,210 |
| Transfers: | | | | | |
| Gross transfers between funds - in | | 15,170 | 3,734 | 18,903 | 23,230 |
| Gross transfers between funds - out | | -10,707 | -8,197 | -18,903 | -23,230 |
| Gains/losses on investment assets | | - | 24,816 | 24,816 | -15,272 |
| Net movement in funds | | 1,025 | -480 | 545 | 43,939 |
| Total funds brought forward | | 192,397 | 513,783 | 706,180 | 662,241 |
| Total funds carried forward | | 193,422 | 513,303 | 706,725 | 706,180 |

Balance Sheet as of 31 December 2023

Buckingham Parish Church

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2023

| | Note | 2023 £ | 2022 £ |
|--------------------------------------------|------|----------------|----------------|
| Fixed assets | | | |
| Land and buildings | 5 | 150,000 | 150,000 |
| | | <u>150,000</u> | <u>150,000</u> |
| Current assets | | | |
| Debtors | 6 | 1,155 | 1,211 |
| Investments | | 325,668 | 299,280 |
| Cash At Bank And In Hand | | 234,155 | 263,393 |
| | | <u>560,978</u> | <u>563,884</u> |
| Liabilities | | | |
| Creditors: Amounts Falling Due In One Year | 7 | 4,253 | 7,704 |
| | | <u>4,253</u> | <u>7,704</u> |
| Net current assets | | <u>556,725</u> | <u>556,180</u> |
| Total assets less current liabilities | 8 | <u>706,725</u> | <u>706,180</u> |
| Funds | | | |
| Unrestricted | | | |
| General | 9 | 49,201 | 55,078 |
| Designated | 9 | 144,221 | 137,319 |
| | | <u>193,422</u> | <u>192,397</u> |
| Restricted | 9 | <u>513,303</u> | <u>513,783</u> |
| Fund Totals | | <u>706,725</u> | <u>706,180</u> |

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 12th March 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Mrs Tracy Roskell (Treasurer)



Mr Gerry Causer (Church Warden)



Mrs Glynnis Eastwood (Church Warden)

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year ended 31 December 2023

1. Basis of preparation

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The Charity's functional and presentation currency is pounds sterling, and the accounts are rounded to the nearest whole pound.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The PCC is a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

Going concern

The accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis and the PCC are happy that sufficient funds are held in both Undesignated and Designated Funds to ensure that the charity is able to continue to operate as a going concern.

Change of accounting policy

The accounts present a true and fair view and no changes have been made to the accounting policies adopted in these notes.

2. Accounting Policies

Income

Funds

Unrestricted funds consist of a General Fund which the PCC may use, for the furtherance of the objects of the PCC, at its discretion. Designated funds are unrestricted funds which have been allocated for future expenditure for a specific purpose by the PCC. Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions imposed by the donors or by terms of an appeal, these conditions being legally binding upon the PCC.

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law.

Recognition of Income

Donations are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. There has been no offsetting of assets and liabilities, or income and expenses, unless required or permitted by FRS 102. Grants and Legacies are accounted for when the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement and the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is probable.

Tax reclaims on donations and gifts

Gift Aid receivable is included in income where there is a valid declaration from the donor. Any Gift Aid amount recovered on a donation is considered to be part of that gift and is treated as an addition to the same fund as the initial donation unless the donor or the terms of the appeal have specified otherwise.

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

Volunteer help

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

Other trading activities

Rental income from the hiring of PCC premises is recognised when the rental is due.

Income for events and fees for services is accounted for on an accrual's basis.

Income from interest and dividends

Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable.

Investment gains and losses

This includes any realised or unrealised gains or losses on the sale of investments and any gain or loss resulting from revaluing investments to market value at the end of the year.

Expenditure and Liabilities

Expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for on an accrual's basis. The Diocesan Parish Share contribution is accounted for when paid. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred. The charity measures creditors at settlement amounts.

Provisions for liabilities

A liability is measured on recognition at its historical cost and then subsequently measured at the best estimate of the amount required to settle the obligation at the reporting date.

Pension costs

The charity makes defined contribution pension payments for eligible employees. Once the contributions have been paid, the charity has no further obligations. The contributions are recognised as an expense in the period.

The charity participates in the Pension Builder 2014 Scheme of the Church Workers Pension Fund (CWPF). The CWPF is administered by the Church of England Pensions Board, which holds the assets of the scheme separately from those of the Employer. The scheme is a mix between a defined contribution and a defined benefit pension scheme. Its technical definition is a 'cash balance' pension scheme. There is no sub-division of assets between employers in each section of the Pension Builder Scheme. The scheme is considered to be a multi-employer scheme as described in Section 28 of FRS102. This means it is not possible to attribute the Scheme's assets and liabilities to specific employers and that contributions are accounted for as if the Scheme were a defined contribution scheme. The pension costs are charged to the SoFA in the year contributions are payable.

Irrecoverable VAT

In common with similar organisations, the charity is not able to reclaim most of the VAT it incurs. Irrecoverable VAT is treated as expenditure in the principal activity that incurred the original VAT.

Tangible fixed assets for use by the charity

The PCC owns the house in Chandos Close (known as the Curate's House) which remains in the accounts at a value of £150,000. It has not been re-valued in the accounts, however, the insurance on this house is based on an up-to-date valuation.

Debtors

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors which are measured on initial recognition at settlement amount.

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

Current asset investments

The charity has cash and cash equivalent investments. These include cash on deposit and cash equivalents with a maturity of less than one year held for investment purposes rather than to meet short-term cash commitments as they fall due. These are valued at fair value. Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit with the CCLA CBF Deposit Fund, or at the bank.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees have agreed that the reserves policy should enable the funding of the equivalent of three months' staff costs (approximately £40k).

At the end of 2023, our total reserves were £707k (2022: £706k), of which £193k (2022: £192k) are regarded as free reserves and £513k (2022: £514k) are restricted funds. We therefore have sufficient funds to comply with our reserves policy.

DETAILS OF FUNDS HELD BY THE PCC

General Fund

The General Fund is where our everyday income and expenditure goes through and represents the "current account" for the church. The closing balance on the fund stands at £49,201 (2022: £55,078).

Designated Funds

Curates Fund

This fund is for the maintenance and repair of the Curates House and also provides funds for the curate's expenses. At the end of the year the fund stood at £15,332 (2022: £12,870).

Projects Fund

This fund was set up to provide a specific fund for PCC Projects. No legacy money was added in 2023. During the year £4,061 has been used by projects designated by the PCC. At the end of the year the fund stood at £55,740 (2022: £59,801).

The Centre

This was set up to hold funds for the ongoing missionary work in The Centre, Verney Close. The fund stands at £11,630 (2022: £14,637).

Food Bank

This was set up to hold funds for the ongoing missionary work at the Food Bank, based in the Centre. The fund stands at £41,187 (2022: £37,562).

Anchor Community

This fund was set up to hold funds for the older & lonely in our community. The fund has now been fully utilised and has a closing balance of £nil (2022: £480).

Restoration

This part of the restoration fund is unrestricted. The fund stands at £20,270 (2022: £11,684).

Rector's Discretionary

This fund has received specific donations from members of the congregation which the rector has used to help members of the Parish at his discretion. The fund stands at £61 (2022: £286).

Restricted Funds

Trust Funds

Gains on investments recorded relate to variations in share prices of investments held by the Central Board of Finance (CBF).

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

Philip Box Organist Charity

Is a trust whose Custodian is the Oxford Diocesan Board of Finance. This trust was established to provide income to or for the benefit of the organist of the Parish Church of Buckingham.

The Capital is not available to the PCC and the interest has been reinvested in a CBF Deposit Account. The fund consists of a deposit and an investment fund. The value of the fund is £2,502 (2022: £2,315).

The Harrison Bequest

Is a Trust fund held by the Oxford Diocesan Board of Trustees for the provision of a curate. The income from the trust can be used 'for providing the stipend of a curate in the Parish and subject thereto for any ecclesiastical purpose in the Parish as the PCC shall decide'.

The capital is not expendable by the PCC, but the interest is paid into the Assistant Curate's Fund. The Charity Commissioners and the Diocese agreed in 2001 that the sum of £50,000 could be advanced from the capital of this fund to the Open Door (Redevelopment) Project, subject to the recoupment of £1,500 annually until 2036 from the interest of the residual capital of the fund, to be reinvested as a permanent endowment of the charity (as above).

At the year end the amount to be recouped stood at £19,500 and the investment is valued in the accounts at £318,097 (2022: £292,462). During the year the trust fund made a gain of £24,135 (2022: loss of £14,651).

Restoration Restricted

The Restoration fund stood at £12,837 (2022: £24,378).

Funeral

This fund is used to collect money from funerals where the families have specifically requested donations for charities of their choice. These are held by the PCC and then paid out as requested. The fund had a closing balance of £561 at the end of the year, which was transferred in full to the relevant charities in January 2024.

Special

This fund is used for special collections, like the Christingle, Christian Aid etc where the money is then distributed to the relevant charities. It is also used where money has been donated for specific causes, for example money donated for the kitchen, mini-bus, ministry trainee. The balances amounted to £29,305 (2022: £44,628).

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

3 Income

| | General Fund | Designated Funds | Restricted Funds | Total Funds 2023 | General Fund | Designated Funds | Restricted Funds | Total Funds 2022 |
|----------------------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| 3a Donations and legacies | | | | | | | | |
| Donations | 261,718 | 18,630 | 22,268 | 302,616 | 273,849 | 39,120 | 70,701 | 383,670 |
| Income Tax recoverable | 52,905 | | | 52,905 | 76,700 | | | 76,700 |
| Grants | 23,199 | 9,358 | | 32,557 | 21,160 | 480 | | 21,640 |
| Legacies | - | | | | | | | - |
| | 337,822 | 27,988 | 22,268 | 388,078 | 371,709 | 39,600 | 70,701 | 482,010 |

3b Income from charitable activities

| | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------|--------------|----------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------|---------------|
| Fees for weddings & funerals | 3,830 | | | 3,830 | 2,491 | | | 2,491 |
| Hiring fees | 11,818 | 9,584 | | 21,402 | 7,873 | 10,746 | | 18,619 |
| Other income | 106 | | | 106 | 545 | | | 545 |
| | 15,754 | 9,584 | - | 25,338 | 10,909 | 10,746 | - | 21,655 |

3c Income from Investments

| | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|-------|-------|----|--------|-----|-------|----|-------|
| Dividends and Interest | 2,015 | 8,495 | 72 | 10,582 | 269 | 8,068 | 50 | 8,387 |
|------------------------|-------|-------|----|--------|-----|-------|----|-------|

3d Other Income

| | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|-----|---|---|-----|---|---|---|---|
| Church Social events | 805 | - | - | 805 | - | - | - | - |
|----------------------|-----|---|---|-----|---|---|---|---|

Total Income

| | | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| | 356,396 | 46,067 | 22,340 | 424,802 | 382,887 | 58,414 | 70,751 | 512,052 |
|--|----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (Continued)

4 Expenditure

| | General Fund £ | Designated Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | Total Funds 2023 £ | Total Funds 2022 £ |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 4a Expenditure on charitable activities | | | | | |
| Building running costs | 120,048 | 7,016 | 2,193 | 129,257 | 111,983 |
| Rector expenses | 5,846 | | | 5,846 | 5,898 |
| Staff costs* | 132,146 | 6,338 | 15,500 | 153,984 | 147,231 |
| UK & Overseas mission | 37,621 | | | 37,621 | 33,700 |
| Outreach expenses | 7,633 | 18,966 | 16,639 | 43,238 | 47,240 |
| Children and Families work | 3,746 | | 2,321 | 6,067 | 5,672 |
| Youth work | 7,712 | | | 7,712 | 5,849 |
| Worship costs | 14,101 | | | 14,101 | 14,973 |
| Fabric and Building maintenance | 12,471 | 2,471 | | 14,942 | 52,892 |
| Office and administration costs | 14,871 | 232 | | 15,103 | 15,261 |
| | 356,195 | 35,023 | 36,653 | 427,871 | 440,699 |
| 4b Other expenditure | | | | | |
| Bank charges | 416 | | | 416 | 223 |
| Furniture and equipment | 50 | 3,736 | 4,020 | 7,806 | 518 |
| General repairs | 3,722 | 1,571 | 2,500 | 7,793 | 1,915 |
| Other expenses | 796 | 4,390 | | 5,186 | 9,487 |
| | 4,984 | 9,697 | 6,520 | 21,201 | 12,143 |
| Total Expenditure | 361,179 | 44,720 | 43,173 | 449,072 | 452,842 |

Staff costs*

| | 2023 £ | 2022 £ |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Salaries | 133,287 | 118,867 |
| National Insurance | 12,751 | 15,895 |
| Pension contributions | 6,348 | 7,555 |
| Staff expenses | 1,598 | 4,914 |
| | 153,984 | 147,231 |

During the year the PCC employed: a Contemporary Worship Leader; an Organist & Assistant Organist; Associate Minister for Pastoral Care; Children's Worker; Families Worker; Youth Worker; Parish Manager; Office Administrator; the Rector's PA; Cleaner and a Caretaker for The Centre.

No employees received employee benefits for the reporting period of more than £60,000. Neither the Vicar nor any Curate (when applicable) is included in the total salaries. This is because these stipends are met under Church of England arrangements and not by the PCC.

No payments (remuneration or expenses) were made to PCC members in their capacity as trustees.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (Continued)

5 Fixed Assets

| | General Designated | | Restricted | Total Funds | Total Funds |
|---------------|--------------------|-------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| | Fund | Funds | Funds | 2023 | 2022 |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Curates House | - | - | 150,000 | 150,000 | 150,000 |

6 Debtors

| | | | | | |
|----------------|---|-------|---|-------|-------|
| Accrued Income | - | 1,155 | - | 1,155 | 1,211 |
|----------------|---|-------|---|-------|-------|

7 Creditors

| | | | | | |
|------------------------|-------|---|-----|-------|-------|
| Christingle collection | | | 813 | 813 | - |
| Kents Hill deposits | 3,440 | | | 3,440 | |
| Accruals | | | | | 7,704 |
| | 3,440 | - | 813 | 4,253 | 7,704 |

8 Analysis of net assets by fund

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Fixed Assets | | | 150,000 | 150,000 | 150,000 |
| Current Assets | 52,641 | 144,221 | 364,116 | 560,978 | 563,884 |
| Current Liabilities | -3,440 | | -813 | (4,253) | -7,704 |
| | 49,201 | 144,221 | 513,303 | 706,725 | 706,180 |

9 Fund statement of change

| Fund | Brought forward | | | Movement | | | Carried forward | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | Unrestricted | Designated | Restricted | Unrestricted | Designated | Restricted | Unrestricted | Designated | Restricted |
| Anchor Community Grant | - | 480 | - | - | -480 | - | - | - | - |
| Assistant Curate's Fund | - | 12,870 | - | - | 2,462 | - | - | 15,332 | - |
| Box - Philip Box Charity | - | - | 2,315 | - | - | 187 | - | - | 2,502 |
| The Centre Buckingham | - | 14,637 | - | - | -3,007 | - | - | 11,630 | - |
| Curates House | - | - | 150,000 | - | - | - | - | - | 150,000 |
| Food Bank | - | 37,562 | - | - | 3,625 | - | - | 41,187 | - |
| Funeral - Funeral Collections | - | - | 1 | - | - | 561 | - | - | 561 |
| Harrison Bequest | - | - | 292,462 | - | - | 25,635 | - | - | 318,097 |
| Projects | - | 59,801 | - | - | -4,061 | - | - | 55,740 | - |
| Rector's Discretionary Fund | - | 286 | - | - | -225 | - | - | 61 | - |
| Restoration Restricted | - | - | 24,378 | - | - | -11,541 | - | - | 12,837 |
| Restoration Fund | - | 11,684 | - | - | 8,586 | - | - | 20,270 | - |
| Special | - | - | 44,627 | - | - | -15,322 | - | - | 29,305 |
| General fund | 55,078 | - | - | -5,876 | - | - | 49,201 | - | - |
| Totals | 55,078 | 137,319 | 513,783 | -5,876 | 6,901 | -480 | 49,201 | 144,221 | 513,303 |

£1,500 has been transferred from the Curates Fund to the Harrison Bequest to repay the capital borrowed from this Fund for the Open Door Project