



Ashbourne, St Oswald with Mappleton, St Mary

Annual Report and Unaudited Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2024

Registered Charity No. 1185390

Ashbourne, St Oswald with Mappleton, St Mary
Meeting of Parishioners – Election of Churchwardens
12noon on Sunday 6th April 2025 in St Oswald's Church Hall

AGENDA

Opening Prayer

1. Appointment of Clerk (to both meetings)
 2. Apologies for absence
 3. Minutes of last meeting (28th April 2024) Page 3
 4. Election of Churchwardens (nominations must be received before the start of the meeting)
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Ashbourne, St Oswald with Mappleton, St Mary
Annual Parochial Church Meeting
12.15 pm on Sunday 6th April 2025 in St Oswald's Church Hall

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of APCM 2024 and any Matters Arising Page 3-4
3. Report on Changes to Electoral Roll Page 8
4. Annual Report on Proceedings of PCC
To include: Safeguarding Page 9
Ministry Team Report Page 9-11
Annual Report from the PCC Page 11-13
Reports from Groups and Organisations Page 37
5. Treasurers Report Page 16-18
To include: Financial Statements Page 19-36
6. Report on Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church Page 20
Report on Church Hall Page 16
7. Report on proceedings of the Deanery Synod Page 47-48
8. Election of representatives of the laity to the PCC
9. Appointment of Independent Examiner
10. Any Other Business

**Ashbourne, St Oswald with
Mappleton, St Mary**

**Minutes of Annual Meeting of Parishioners – Election of Churchwardens
12h15, Sunday 28 April 2024**

Present: 50 people – see Record Book

The meeting was chaired by the Revd Phil Michell, Assistant Area Dean, Carsington Deanery who opened the meeting with a prayer and welcomed those present.

- 1) It was agreed that Susan Damesin, Minutes Secretary, would act as clerk for both the meetings.
- 2) Apologies for absence: Mike Warner, Carol Frost, Gary Wells (Mappleton), Deidre Wilmore, Tony Wilmore, Elizabeth Bridges.
- 3) The Minutes of the last meeting held on 26 March 2023 were approved.
- 4) Proposal: 'The limitation to six years of service for churchwardens shall not apply in this parish'. Two nominations for churchwardens have been received. One is for Paul Elliott who will complete six years of service. This will mean that at the annual meeting next year he will not be able to stand. We choose this year to say we will not follow that limitation of six years of service, which will leave it open for the following year (not committing Paul!) Proposed by JW and seconded by G. Humphries. Proposal carried with one abstention.
- 5) Election of the churchwardens: Two nominations had been received for churchwardens – one for Paul Elliott and one for Anne Ford. Before the vote JW wished to thank both PE and AF for their work as churchwardens and to say what a great team they make. With two positions and two nominations both were appointed as churchwarden.

This then closed the Annual Meeting of Parishioners.

**Ashbourne, St Oswald with
Mappleton, St Mary**

**Minutes of Annual Parochial Church Meeting
12h20, Sunday 28 April 2024**

Present: 50 persons – See Record Book

Apologies:

Carol Frost

Deidre Wilmore

Tony Wilmore

Mike Warner

Elizabeth Bridges

Gary Wells (Mappleton)

1. Apologies for absence were noted – there were six apologies. Those present numbered 50.
2. The Minutes of the APCM 2023 were approved and signed. There were no matters arising from those Minutes.
3. The changes to the Electoral Roll were noted on page 17 of the Annual Report. As of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 28 April 2024, the numbers recorded for St Oswald's Church, Ashbourne are 119 and for St Mary's Church, Mappleton 20.
4. The Annual Report on the proceedings of the PCC by Janet Wright had been approved by the PCC and had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Safeguarding Report by Celia Dickinson was circulated prior to the meeting and thanks were given to Celia for her work on the very important subject of safeguarding. PE spoke to the Ministry Team

Report and felt that an update was required on the vacancy for Incumbent following the departure of Revd Duncan Ballard. There had been consultations with the Diocese and three options had been put forward. All the PCCs in the benefice had been consulted and the position advertised would be for 1 full time priest for the Ashbourne Group of 6 churches. PE pointed out that the process is long, and it could be at least twelve months before someone is appointed. M Halls wished to thank Maggie and Nigel Rode for all their work and those present applauded. Annual Report from the PCC – no questions arose. Reports from St Oswald's groups and organisations: no questions arose. A. Wright wished to thank all those who contributed to Breakfast Church and wished to add the name of Roger Harrison to the list published

5. The Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements of the PCC for year ending 31 December 2023 – also circulated before the meeting. MHyde the treasurer being absent from the meeting, PE gave a brief explanation of the accounts, discussed our contribution to the Common Fund. PE gave thanks to A. Wright for his help with the budget. There being no queries on the accounts a vote of thanks was made to Michael Hyde. To a question as to how the church and hall were insured with regard to the serious flooding in October 2023, PE talked about the extent of the flood damage, how much had been received for the refurbishment of the church hall, the work which has been carried out in the church hall, and the investment to revamp the toilet area in the hall. PE wished to thank all those who had worked so hard with the clean-up immediately after the flood. It was pointed out by PE that simply building a wall at the end of the carpark to stop future flooding would not be acceptable. A public meeting will take place with the Environment Agency in the Church Hall on 14 May 2024.
Michael Hyde, the current treasurer, is to retire after more than forty years in the position, following his father who also held the position. Thanks to Michael for all the years he had held the position and his devotion to the church. A volunteer has come forward to fill the position of treasurer. If elected, Andrew Burns will take over the position following this meeting.
6. Report on Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the church: Circulated prior to the meeting. No questions arose.
7. Report on the proceedings of the Carsington Deanery Synod to be found in the Annual Report on page 33. Deanery representatives, Peter Walker, John Elwell and Roger Harrison.
9. Election of representatives of the laity to the PCC. Nomination forms had been received by JW for five representatives: Andrew Burns, Michael Halls, Elizabeth Bridges, Rachel Clews and Susan Damesin. Five vacancies and five nominations. All those present in favour.
10. Appointment of Independent Examiner of accounts: the firm of PKF Smith Cooper, Ashbourne was appointed as the independent examiner of accounts for another year. Address to be changed in Annual Report Information
11. Any other business. PE wanted to thank several people for their dedication and considerable help in the running of St Oswald's. Specifically, he mentioned Celia Yates (who retired from the PCC), Andy Wright, Anne Ford, Michael Hyde, and to all those who do so much for the church. Anne Ford wanted to thank Paul Elliott, her husband, Mick, Andrew and Janet Wright and all those present for their contribution to the life of St Oswald's. Thanks to Revd Phil Michell for his presence and for taking the Chair.

The Meeting closed with the Grace at 12h53.

**Ashbourne, St. Oswald
with Mappleton, St. Mary
Annual Report and Unaudited Financial
Statements
for the year ended 31st December 2024**

Correspondence Address:

St Oswald's Parish Office
School Lane
Ashbourne
DE6 1AN

Incumbent:

(Vacant)

Bank:

Lloyds Bank Plc
Compton
Ashbourne
DE6 1DY

Independent Examiner:

Mrs Heather Self MA, FCA, CTA (fellow)

**The Parish of St. Oswald, Ashbourne with St. Mary Mappleton
Report of the Parochial Church Council
For the year ended 31 December 2024**

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. Oswald Ashbourne (the “PCC”, or “Trustees”) presents its annual report and unaudited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Aim and Purposes

The PCC exists to promote Christian worship and outreach in the ecclesiastical parish of St. Oswald Ashbourne with St. Mary Mappleton, within the framework of the Church of England. It is responsible for the maintenance and conservation of the Grade I listed Parish Church of St. Oswald and its church hall, and the Grade II* listed church of St Mary. Regular religious services are held in both churches, with additional activities focused on the provision of pastoral and social care within the local area, including the fortnightly ‘Ossie’s Kitchen’ community café which addresses loneliness, social isolation and food poverty by providing freshly cooked meals, to be eaten in the company of others, without charge but for which donations are invited.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is responsible, along with the ministry team, for promoting the mission of the Church of England; pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical, within the parish of St. Oswald Ashbourne with St. Mary Mappleton. It is committed to enabling as many people as possible to benefit from the work of the parish community through regular religious services as well as a programme of other activities. The worship and services within the parish put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning activities for the year the PCC has considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, the PCC tries to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the Scriptures, and developing their knowledge in trust in Jesus
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish
- Missionary and outreach work

**The Parish of St. Oswald, Ashbourne with St. Mary Mappleton
Report of the Parochial Church Council
For the year ended 31 December 2024**

Trustees

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006). Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

Members of the PCC who served during the year and up to the date of approval of this report were:

Ex Officio members

Incumbent: Vacant

Retired Clergy: The Revd Maggie Rode
The Revd Nigel Rode
The Revd Pip Short

Readers: Mr Mike Warner Until 15 May 2024
Mrs Lynda Herbert

Churchwardens: Mr Paul Elliott
Mrs Anne Ford

Representatives on the Deanery Synod: Mr Roger Harrison From 1 July 2023
Mr Peter Walker From 1 July 2023
Mr John Elwell From 1 July 2023

Elected Representatives

Mrs Linda Barbour* From APCM 2022
Mrs Janet Wright** From APCM 2022

Mrs Celia Dickinson***** From APCM 2023
Mrs Rachel Gardner From APCM 2023
Mrs Lindsay Walker From APCM 2023
Mr Gary Wells Until June 2024
Mrs Barbara Williams From APCM 2023

Mrs Elizabeth Bridges Until 10 August 2024
Mr Andrew Burns**** From APCM 2024
Miss Rachel Clews From APCM 2024
Mrs Susan Damesin*** From APCM 2024
Mr Michael Halls From APCM 2024

* Electoral Roll Officer ** Secretary *** Minute Secretary **** Treasurer ***** Safeguarding Officer

**The Parish of St. Oswald, Ashbourne with St. Mary Mappleton
Report of the Parochial Church Council
For the year ended 31 December 2024**

Committees

During 2024 the PCC operated with committees as follows:

Standing Committee:

The Standing Committee is empowered by law to conduct PCC business between meetings of the full Church Council. It also acts, when required, as the financial planning group. Membership consisted of 2 retired priests with PTO, Churchwardens, PCC Secretary and PCC Treasurer and another PCC member invited from a rota.

Resourcing Forum

To provide support and guidance to the PCC on the appropriate maintenance and management of the church premises (church and church hall) and grounds, and on the best use of our financial resources.

Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll Officer (ERO) records those members of the churches of St. Oswald's, Ashbourne and St. Mary's, Mappleton who are eligible to vote in church elections.

The ERO reports at every Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting and provides a regular update of its current total of numbers from both churches.

The Church Representation Rules (CRR) of the Church of England (CofE) states that a completely **new** role be compiled every six years; in 2025 this is mandatory.

Everyone within the congregation(s) is invited to apply if they wish to be included on this roll, by stating their compliance with the rules as stated by CofE.

Sadly, this year the Electoral Roll numbers have reduced noticeably due to a number of deaths of our stalwarts and long-standing members of our congregations, namely Mr Peter Gayler, Mrs Rachel Chipchase, Mrs Doreen Wheatcroft, Mr Ronald Torr, Mr Gerald Humphries and Mrs Stella Young. All were between the ages of 85 – 102 years. They will be sadly missed. The others were due to relocation or otherwise.

Following the compilation of the new role in preparation for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) the numbers recorded for St. Oswald's Church were 105 (119 at APCM 2024 meeting) and for St. Mary's Church, Mappleton were 9 (20 at APCM 2024).

This is a combined total of 114 Electoral Roll members for both churches.

Linda Barbour (ERO)

**The Parish of St. Oswald, Ashbourne with St. Mary Mappleton
Report of the Parochial Church Council
For the year ended 31 December 2024**

Annual Report on Proceedings of the PCC and Activities of the Parish

Safeguarding

The Safeguarding training and checks for St. Oswald Ashbourne & St. Mary Mappleton churches aims to prevent abuse from happening and respond well and appropriately if it has occurred. This work is led nationally by the Church of England, locally via the Derby Diocese team and within parishes by the clergy and Parish Safeguarding Officer. The current Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) is Celia Dickinson.

Safeguarding is a standing item at PCC meetings. Monthly PSO zoom meetings are provided by the team at Church House, Derby to update and support the PSOs within Derby Diocese.

The new head of safeguarding in Derby is Lisa Marriott who visited our church for the Safeguarding service in November and again shortly afterwards.

In the past year many members of the PCC and those leading groups and assisting within our parish activities have had the DBS checks reviewed and undertaken the appropriate training. These are both renewed every 3 years.

Training for Safeguarding continues as per the requirement of the Church of England. A lot of these courses are now online but in-person training is still available. The Awareness of Domestic Abuse course has been updated.

Celia Dickinson
Parish Safeguarding Officer (27.1.2025)

Ministry Team Report

2024 was another very busy year in the life of St Oswald's which, again, was only possible thanks to the support and efforts of so many.

Circumstances are such at St Mary's Mappleton that Services are confined mainly to a monthly Holy Communion but, thanks to a dedicated few, the Church is always beautifully kept and welcoming. It is such a shame that the local community who are so keen to have the church grounds kept immaculate but do not attend church or are not active in considering the deterioration of the internal fabric of the beautiful building and where responsibility is increasingly falling upon the St Oswald's Church Wardens.

Much of the Ministry activity through the year is recorded elsewhere in the Annual Report, so this Ministry Report will focus on some of the good, happy and sad highlights through the last year.

January 2024 began with the news that the St Oswald's Church Centre had to be closed, initially for two months, for major remedial and refurbishment work following the flood the previous October. Enormous credit goes to Andy Wright who masterminded the temporary re-locating of the Centre's activities as well Project Managing, together with Paul Elliott and Anne Ford, the contractors and works. It says much, and was a tribute to the congregation, as to how everyone graciously accepted the interruption and enjoyed the post Sunday Service coffee in church, right through until the re-opening of the Centre in April.

**The Parish of St. Oswald, Ashbourne with St. Mary Mappleton
Report of the Parochial Church Council
For the year ended 31 December 2024**

Annual Report on Proceedings of the PCC and activities of the parish (continued)

Ministry team report (continued)

The Week of Christian Unity brought its usual Pulpit Swaps with, this year, Rev'd Nicola Briggs, Methodist, preaching at St Oswald's with Rev'd Maggie preaching at Elim, with the week concluding with an 'Ashbourne Churches Together' united evening Service.

The big event in February was another successful Wedding Prep Day hosted in conjunction with Tissington and Brailsford and on 11th February Archdeacon Nicky Fenton covered the Sunday morning Services at Mappleton and St Oswald's.

Rev'd Pip Short, after previous retirements and subsequent much appreciated returns to duty, finally decided it was time not to seek renewal of her 'Licence to Officiate' and her last Service on 17th March was a moving occasion marking the end of a very rich, active Ministry. Although, Pip has since fully embraced the regular creating and organising our 'Walk of Words' – a valued outreach. The following Sunday, Palm Sunday, led us into Holy Week and Easter with all the usual Services well attended.

On Friday 5th April our Pilgrimage to Iona departed from Ashbourne with a scheduled arrival on Iona the following day but, due to the storms, did not arrive until the following Monday. The intervening days brought many challenges, not least that of emergency accommodation, but all was well on eventual arrival and the trials and tribulations of the travel added to the sense of pilgrimage.

Middle of May brought the shock news that Michael Warner had died suddenly and unexpectedly. Mike had served our Group of Parishes as a Lay Reader for over forty years and been a Foundation Governor at Clifton School. His support and contribution to the Ministry Team, especially over the previous four challenging years, was highly valued and now much missed. Whilst we took a fortnight's leave, we were grateful to Rev'd Peter Robinson, Dean of Derby, and visiting local clergy who covered Services during May.

The happy highlight in June was the very successful 'Teddy Parachuting' followed through July with the enjoyable and well attended summer season of Wednesday recitals.

August was a relatively quiet month but, with little input from Rev'd Nigel due to an accident, it became a very busy month for Rev'd Maggie which led to our Church Wardens arranging for Bishop Libby and Archdeacon Nicky Fenton to cover Services on two Sundays in September and then Bishop Libby returned again at the end of the month to preside and preach at the St Oswald's Harvest Festival. The Queen Elizabeth Grammar School (QEGS) Founders Day and the Mayor's Civic Service completed the highlights for the month.

The Ashbourne Young Farmers' Harvest Festival in October, usually held at St Oswald's, was successfully transferred this year to the more intimate environ of St Mary's, Mappleton for a well-attended Service with Rev'd Alan Griggs, Agricultural Chaplain, preaching.

November began with our customary 'All Souls' evening Service that was so much appreciated by many from our community who do not usually attend Church but were grateful to come and spend that evening remembering loved ones whom they see no longer, which preceded the annual Remembrance Sunday service with the church as full as ever.

**The Parish of St. Oswald, Ashbourne with St. Mary Mappleton
Report of the Parochial Church Council
For the year ended 31 December 2024**

Annual Report on Proceedings of the PCC and activities of the parish (continued)

Ministry team report (continued)

It was then not long before we were into the whirlwind of special Services, beginning with the Pet Service, again well organised by Rev'd Pip Short, that led up to and including Christmas. It was a month of rewarding engagement with so many of the community of Ashbourne as well as with our own congregations.

Our work with St Oswald's School continued through the year, with two all-school services in church per term, two education sessions for each academic year led by Janet Wright, Jane Almond and Jane Edwards, monthly rota school assemblies, not to mention similar work with the three other Primary Schools within our area. We also welcomed other schools into church for education sessions and, for the first time, welcomed into church, some 240 Year 10 QEGS students, over five days, for education sessions to help them with their preparation for their GCSE exams. It is hoped that this will be the start of an ongoing co-operation with QEGS.

Alongside all of these highlights the year have been the regularity of monthly Services in our three local Care Homes, monthly Services of Holy Communion at St Mary's Mappleton, weekly recording of either Morning Prayer or Holy Communion with a usual on-line congregation of thirty hits, on-line daily Morning and Evening Prayer with Lynda Herbert, monthly Breakfast Church led by Andy and Janet Wright, not to mention every Sunday morning and evening Services, Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals and, when passing through St Oswald's, the engagement with the casual visitors.... and this does not include our constant involvement and delivery of monthly Services to the other four churches in our Group of Parishes.

As we said in the Report introduction, none of this would have been possible without the support and efforts of so many, in so many ways, who keep our churches so alive, welcoming, prayerful and worshipping. You are all too many to mention by name, but you know who you are, may God bless you all.

It is a privilege for us to be part of keeping St Oswald's at the heart of Ashbourne.

Nigel and Maggie
Rev'd Nigel Rode & Rev'd Maggie Rode

Annual Report from the PCC

The PCC met 6 times during the year with Standing Committee meeting between. The average attendance was 15. On 3 additional occasions the PCC were consulted about a single issue by email (as all had access to e-mail) when a rapid decision was needed.

At the beginning of the year the Resourcing Forum proposed a budget which was unanimously accepted. At subsequent meetings the Treasurer could report with reference to that budget. At the APCM Michael Hyde stood down as Treasurer. He had performed the role diligently for over 40 years and amassed a deep knowledge of the church and its members. Sincere thanks were expressed. The PCC was delighted to welcome Andrew Burns as the new Treasurer and you can read his report elsewhere.

**The Parish of St. Oswald, Ashbourne with St. Mary Mappleton
Report of the Parochial Church Council
For the year ended 31 December 2024**

Annual Report on Proceedings of the PCC and activities of the parish (continued)

Annual Report from the PCC (continued)

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy discipline Measure 2016 (to have regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on Safeguarding). It continued to receive Safeguarding Reports from its Parish Safeguarding Officer (Celia Dickinson) at each meeting and the Officer ensured that safeguarding training and DBS clearance, for those who needed it, was up to date. We clearly identified both Church and non-church activities taking place on our premises which needed to be on our data dashboard.

The Resourcing Forum planned and monitored several projects to improve the fabric of St Oswald's church, Church Centre and grounds. (See report on 'Fabric, Goods and Ornaments' and Hall report). A ground survey of the Church and Churchyard was completed to facilitate any future work. In the Church Centre the Hall was refurbished and completely repainted, the toilets re-ordered and rebuilt, and the 'Old Kitchen' storage turned into a small meeting room. All this was made possible with a combination of money from the Insurance claim (after last year's flood), part of the legacy left to the Church by Miss Jaggar and a grant from Foundation Derbyshire.

Ossie's Potters continued and developed their work in the churchyard and around the buildings. They also initiated the process of St Oswald's becoming an Eco Church.

At St Mary's, Mappleton the lights over the altar were replaced and the gutters were examined, exposing a split in the lead on the Tower. Grass and hedge-cutting costs were managed and a tree surgeon consulted about removing /pruning some of the trees.

The pattern of regular services included Sunday 10.30am Holy Communion (with a robed choir) & 6.30pm Choral Evensong, a weekly online service of Morning prayer (with thanks to Tony and Deirdre Wilmore), daily online Morning and Evening prayer (with thanks to Lynda Herbert), a monthly 9am Breakfast Church in the Hall, and a monthly service of Holy Communion at St Mary's Church. St Oswald's Sunday morning and evening services were preceded by bellringing. After the 10.30am service the congregation were offered refreshments in the Church Centre Hall. Festivals and special occasions were accompanied by a 'Walk of Words' along the churchyard paths (with thanks to Revd Pip and her team)

There were social activities throughout the year. Teddy Bear Parachuting (from the church roof) marked the start of Ashbourne Festival and drew the usual large crowds. The church also hosted one of the Festival concerts. Summer lunchtime concerts in church were very popular. A MacMillan coffee morning was held in the Hall. Towards the end of the year the ever-popular Christmas Tree festival included trees from even more of the local schools and community groups, and that brought in many visitors. St Oswald's also hosted the start of the Ashbourne Arts Lantern Parade and hundreds of children and adults gathered to carry a lantern.

St Oswald's and St Mary's are members of Ashbourne Churches Together. As such we played a full part in events planned together during the year. A cross was carried to the top of Thorpe Cloud on Maundy Thursday and carried through town heading the walk of Witness on Good Friday.

**The Parish of St. Oswald, Ashbourne with St. Mary Mappleton
Report of the Parochial Church Council
For the year ended 31 December 2024**

Annual Report on Proceedings of the PCC and activities of the parish (continued)

Annual Report from the PCC (continued)

Later in the year a free Summer Fun event on the Park (with a large number of inflatables!) and the Big Night of Fun (alternative to Halloween) proved very popular with children and parents alike.

Focussing on the needs of our local community, Ossie's Kitchen served meals twice a month, with Ossie's Potters meeting on alternate weeks. Carers Count met once a month and Citizens Advice Bureau used the Church Centre to meet clients. Flowers and food which Marks and Spencer would throw away, were collected, and made available after the Sunday morning service.

Links with local schools were maintained and strengthened. St Oswald's Primary School continued to come into the church almost every month in termtime for a service they planned. In addition, every school year group made 2 morning visits to church as part of their RE curriculum. Revd Nigel, Jane Almond, Jane Edwards and Janet Wright, helped them tackle topics which varied from a church Treasure Hunt to creating the sounds of Holy Week or answering questions such as 'What is it like for someone to follow God?', 'Why does Christmas/Easter matter to Christians?' There was a first visit from Hilltop Primary School and Revd Nigel and Andy Wright hosted the whole of Y10 from Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, visiting in class groups over a period of 5 days.

Peter Walker was appointed as a Foundation Governor for St Oswald's School, joining Janet Wright.

Separate reports about each of our regular activities follow – this report is not complete without them.

News and information was shared on our website and in a weekly newsletter. For this and many other tasks we are grateful to Claire Critchlow, our then administrator. Communication was improved by proper management of the noticeboards inside and outside our buildings (Thank you Revd. Pip)

We are so grateful to Revds. Nigel and Maggie for continuing to take responsibility for the Parish. The post of Priest in Charge was finally advertised in the late Autumn but there were no suitable candidates. It will be readvertised, but we are very aware that so much is being asked of a couple who came to Ashbourne to retire!

We were all stunned when we learned of the sudden death of Mike Warner (our long-serving Reader) in May. He is sorely missed at St Oswald's but also Clifton church and school.

In addition, Revd. Pip had to retire from the Ministry Team due to ill health. We are delighted that her work continues with the 'Walk of Words' and that she has taken on management of the noticeboards.

Janet Wright
Approved at PCC meeting on 10/03/25

**The Parish of St. Oswald, Ashbourne with St. Mary Mapleton
Report of the Parochial Church Council
For the year ended 31 December 2024**

Report on Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of St Oswald's Church 2024

The Fabric, Goods and Ornaments for St Oswald's Ashbourne and St Mary Mapleton
Report for the APCM April 2025 Covering January 2024 to December 2024

St Oswald's Ashbourne

- Introduction

There has been little change of significance since the last APCM.

- Fabric

During 2024 there was little progression of the priority items raised by the Quinquennial Inspection conducted by Mark Parsons our Church Architect in September 2020 as the majority of the actions had been completed.

The major focus at the beginning of 2024 was on the restoration of the Church Hall following the October 2023 flood, with the Church Hall returned to being fully operational in May 2024.

Progress has been made on the items identified as follows:

- Priority Items

1. Installation of Roof Alarm protection for the lead sheeting on the church roof was **completed in 2021.**

2. The interior of the spire is suffering from "wind scour" which needs to be attended to. The stone is being eroded by wind entering via the lucarnes (unglazed openings) which can be addressed by fitting windbreaks. These will replace the existing bird netting, many of which are already in need of repair. **Identification of a project manager and contractor is still outstanding.**

3. The lead sheeting on the Chancel roof is wearing thin and is slipping giving rise to occasional leaks, most notably over the organ console. In addition, the overlaps between the sheets were considered to be inadequate for the pitch of the roof. The Church Commissioners accepted Chancel Repair Liability and they appointed our architect to manage the project to relay the lead on the Chancel roof. **The contract commenced in September 2022 and was completed in July 2023.**

- Less Urgent Items

In no particular order, other items to address were:

- Trip hazards and uneven patches in places on the footpaths, from the gates and around the SW corner of the building. **DDDC accepted responsibility and undertook repairs to the tarmac to the southwest corner of the church.**

- The wooden block flooring in the Nave and S Transept requires relaying or replacing. This has been included as part of reordering the church.

- Some drainpipes and gullies required attention to refix and/or unblock and these have been addressed. During 2023, all drainpipes and gullies were unblocked and all lead downpipes were replaced with cast steel. **In 2024 cleaning of the drainpipes and gullies was repeated.**

- Pointing work is required in numerous places. **Repointing of the Chancel was undertaken as part of the Chancel reroofing project.**

- Some floor tiles in the Chancel by the choir stalls, require repair or replacement. No action to date.

- All the doors require treatment with linseed oil and repainting the ironwork.

Alternative advice received indicates that the doors should not be treated.

- The South Transept door requires attention to improve its attachment to the doorway. **During 2022 the South door was rehung with new hinges.**

**The Parish of St. Oswald, Ashbourne with St. Mary Mappleton
Report of the Parochial Church Council
For the year ended 31 December 2024**

Report on Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of St Oswald's Church 2024 (continued)

- The main gates require redecorating (DDDC responsibility). No action to date.
- Access to the Boiler House is hazardous and requires upgrading. **Boiler house steps have been cleaned.** Further attention is now required.

Additional Fabric Items

In addition to the Quinquennial items the following issues were addressed during 2024:

- **Preparation of plans for the replacement of the lead roof over the South Aisle and South Transept which are both subject to leaks.**
- **Preparation of a plan to install an internal porch at the West Door to improve heat retention and reduce draughts.**

- Goods and Ornaments

There was no change to the church inventory in 2024.

- Church Hall

On 21st October 2023 the Church Hall was flooded when the Henmore Brook overtopped the wall at the South end of the car park and the flood water was retained by the Environment Agency embankment. As a result there was extensive damage to the contents and the fabric of the hall. During the first half of 2024 the hall was completely refurbished, alterations were made to the toilets to improve access and a new meeting room created in the old kitchen.

Report on Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of St Mary's Church 2024

Introduction

There has been little change of significance since the last APCM.

- Fabric

During 2024 there was little progression of the items raised by the Quinquennial Inspection conducted by Mark Parsons our Church Architect in December 2022.

Progress has been made on the items identified as follows:

- Priority Items

1. Arrange for the electrical system to be inspected and certified for a new 5 year period by a registered inspection electrical contractor. The testing of the electrical system was completed in October 2023 with some rectification required. **New lights were fitted over the altar**

- Less Urgent Items

In no particular order, other items to address are:

1. Rake out and repoint joints/cracks in NHL mortar to southwest short return wall at the side of the tower and at high level at the northeast corner of the nave's east end at cornice level.
2. Redecorate church notice board and treat oak church yard gates.
3. Relay stone paving slabs to the front of the tower entrance.
4. Carefully restore the Medieval glass panel in the centre north nave wall. Removing the 1960's 'recorded' reeded glass 'quarry'.
5. Redecorate the nave west wall and upper tower entrance to the balcony.

- Goods and Ornaments

No changes to the Inventory have been recorded.

Paul Elliott and Anne Ford – Church Wardens

(Approved at PCC meeting on 10-03-25)

**The Parish of St. Oswald, Ashbourne with St. Mary Mappleton
Report of the Parochial Church Council
For the year ended 31 December 2024**

Report on St Oswald's Church Centre

The Hall was closed for use until May 3rd 2024. During that time our regular users were relocated to other venues, including Ashbourne Methodist Church halls, Ashbourne Elim Church rooms, the Empire Hall and 'Stepping Stones' restaurant (Marston Brewery). We are grateful to those institutions who 'housed' our core regular users. In the meantime, we agreed with the insurers a cash settlement to enable us to modify and upgrade certain areas, redecorate the entire building, install new heating and lighting, as well as replacing all doors and woodwork, create a new meeting room in place of what was the 'Old Kitchen', and remodel the toilets. It also enabled us to add extra carpeting and replace the curtains with blinds.

In total, with the cash settlement from our insurers, a contribution of £23,000 from a legacy, and a grant from Foundation Derbyshire, all the above was completed.

Since then, the Hall and Meeting Room have seen regular and extensive use by a whole range of groups from our local community. It's a long list! (We are pleased to be able to offer some accommodation to the Methodist Church whilst their buildings are subject to a major development project.)

As a result, by the end of 2024 the income generated by such Hall and Meeting Room use met the full cost of running the Church Centre, which meant that the Office use and our own 'Church use' now have no net drain on our general fund.

Andy Wright

Financial Review – St. Oswald's

Total income for unrestricted funds in 2024 showed an increase of £3,274, comprising an increase in planned giving and other receipts (£2,883), increases in funeral and wedding fees (£1,859), additional gift aid recoveries (£1,417), offset by a reduction in income from church activities (-£2,885) due primarily to the closure of the church hall during the first four months of the year whilst refurbishment works were carried out following the flood in October 2023. We are grateful to the support shown by other organisations in the parish to accommodate the regular users of the hall during its closure, and were delighted to welcome the groups back when the hall reopened in April 2024.

During 2024, the PCC resolved that all income from fundraising activities be held within the Special Purpose fund, to be allocated to projects to support the work of the church within the local area. Consequently, income for designated funds shows a significant increase of £6,267 in 2024, reflective of the range and breadth of activities undertaken in the parish. A breakdown of fundraising activities held during 2024 and 2023 is included in note 5 to the financial statements. Also included in income for the Special Purpose fund are two legacies totalling £3,471; one in memory of the late Canon David Sansum, a former vicar of the parish, and a further receipt in respect of the late Phyllis Jaggar, a legacy of £100,000 having been received in 2023 and recognised in the Fabric fund.

The Parish of St. Oswald, Ashbourne with St. Mary Mappleton
Report of the Parochial Church Council
For the year ended 31 December 2024

Financial Review (St. Oswald's) (continued)

Income for restricted funds in 2024 was £8,664. Of this amount, £5,133 represented returns on investments held, the year-on-year increase being largely attributable to the large legacy of £100,000 received in 2023 and referred to above. The remainder of the income relates primarily to receipts into the various other restricted funds operated by groups within the church community, including bellringers, choir, organ, flower arrangers and Carers Count.

Total expenses for unrestricted funds in 2024 were £133,553; a year-on-year increase of £26,315. Of this increase, the majority (£18,314) related to the refurbishment of the church hall following flooding caused by Storm Babet in October 2023. Costs incurred on the restoration and refurbishment of £126,009 (of which £7,564 were incurred in 2023) were offset by an insurance settlement of £98,824. Further details are included in note 6 to the financial statements. Church running expenses in 2024 were £32,963; a year-on-year increase of £7,682. Of this increase, £5,793 relates to the transfer of insurance costs which were formerly recognised as an expense within the Fabric fund. Overall expenditure remains well controlled and comparatively low for a parish of the size and complexity of St. Oswald's.

Expenditure for restricted funds of £12,557 was incurred in 2024, of which £6,038 were incurred in association with the proposed project to repair the roof of the South aisle and transept, along with a proposal to reorder the area around the West door to improve access and improve energy efficiency through reducing heat loss, thereby reducing the carbon footprint of the building. Costs for this significant project, along with other works identified as high priority in the most recent quinquennial inspection (see Fabric report above) are anticipated to be in excess of the current reserves, and a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund is being sought. A breakdown of expenditure in 2024 and 2023 is included in note 6 to the financial statements.

The PCC continues to manage the balance in unrestricted funds through limiting the amounts paid to the Derby Diocese through the Common Fund payment. During 2024 a total of £50,127 was paid - an increase of £3,339 on 2023. This brings the total paid up to 65.2% of the amount requested (2023: 56.6%).

In recognition of the future financial challenges facing the parish, during Advent 2024 a stewardship campaign entitled '25 for 25' was held, with the aim of increasing income by £25,000 in 2025. Initial indications are that the campaign has been highly successful, and the increase in income will allow for further investment in the local ministry within the parish, and an increase in the parish contribution to the Diocesan Common Fund.

During 2024 a rationalisation and restructuring of the restricted funds was undertaken. The balance on the Children's fund of £300 was donated to Ashbourne Churches Together to support the two youth events in the town during 2024, namely the Summer Fun Day and the Bright Night of Fun. The balance in the Church Centre fund was utilised in the refurbishment of the hall following a flood in October 2023 (see note 6). These funds were subsequently closed. Two new funds were created, being the Churchyard fund, with funds held for the maintenance and improvement of the Churchyard and furniture therein, and the Carers Count fund, a group which meets monthly to address the needs of carers in the local area.

**The Parish of St. Oswald, Ashbourne with St. Mary Mappleton
Report of the Parochial Church Council
For the year ended 31 December 2024**

Financial review – St. Mary’s

Total income for unrestricted funds was £6,047, a year-on-year increase of £923. This increase was primarily within planned giving, with an additional £815 being collected through the Parish Giving Scheme. Additional increases of £453 in funeral fees and £381 for the erection of memorials was offset by a reduction of £600 in one-off donations and gift aid recoveries.

Total expenditure was £5,018; a significant reduction of £4,360 from 2023. Of this reduction, £2,176 relates to energy usage, where a large credit balance has been built up with the electricity provider, and £1,576 to a reduction in churchyard maintenance costs, following transition to a new provider. In addition, £1,725 was incurred in 2023 on an electrical inspection and the quinquennial inspection.

Investment income of £836 in the fabric fund was transferred to the general fund to contribute to the maintenance of the church and churchyard.

Whilst the accounts for 2024 show a surplus of £1,865, it is noted that the current balance on unrestricted funds is limited, and current levels of income are unlikely to be sufficient to cover basic operating expenses in future years.

Andrew Burns
Honorary Treasurer

Reserves policy

It is PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds not committed (if possible) equivalent to the cost of maintaining for one year the activities directly relating to the work of the church, together with the normal annual expenditure on outward giving and church administration.

The Parish of St. Oswald, Ashbourne with St. Mary, Mappleton
Year ended 31 December 2024
Statement of Financial Activity

	St. Oswald (Notes 5 & 6)			St. Mary (Note 7)		Ossie's Kitchen (Note 8)		Total funds	Prior year totals
	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds		
Income									
Planned giving	50,927	-	-	1,544	-	-	-	52,471	50,855
Collections and other giving	8,665	-	-	1,115	-	-	-	9,780	9,832
Other voluntary receipts	10,722	10,933	3,334	1,758	-	-	2,934	29,681	121,069
Gift Aid recovered	15,464	529	197	480	-	-	-	16,670	17,215
Grants received	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,150	6,150	2,624
Other receipts	2,100	-	-	-	-	-	5,355	7,455	7,981
Activities for generating funds	14,915	725	-	80	-	-	-	15,720	18,610
Investment income	-	-	5,133	-	836	-	15	5,983	1,660
Receipts from church activities	7,436	-	-	1,071	-	-	-	8,507	5,814
Total income	110,229	12,187	8,664	6,047	836	-	14,454	152,417	235,660
Expenditure									
Cost of generating funds	(1,352)	(615)	-	-	-	-	(12,114)	(14,081)	(10,273)
Missionary and charitable giving	(3,000)	(300)	-	-	-	-	-	(3,300)	(3,740)
Common fund	(50,127)	-	-	(1,000)	-	-	-	(51,127)	(47,788)
Clergy and staffing costs	(8,246)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(8,246)	(9,459)
Church running expenses	(32,963)	-	(6,519)	(1,986)	-	-	-	(41,469)	(34,338)
Hall running costs	(14,714)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(14,714)	(16,151)
Church repairs & maintenance	-	-	(6,038)	(2,032)	-	-	-	(8,070)	(49,433)
Hall repairs & maintenance	(23,151)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(23,151)	(15,202)
Total expenditure	(133,553)	(915)	(12,557)	(5,018)	-	-	(12,114)	(164,158)	(186,384)
Net income/(expenditure) before transfer	(23,324)	11,272	(3,894)	1,029	836	-	2,340	(11,741)	49,275

The Parish of St. Oswald, Ashbourne with St. Mary, Mappleton
Year ended 31 December 2024
Statement of Financial Activity (continued)

	St. Oswald			St. Mary		Ossie's Kitchen		Total funds	Prior year totals
	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds		
Transfers									
Gross transfers between funds	22,515	-	(22,515)	836	(836)	-	-	-	-
Other recognised gains and losses									
Gains/(losses) on investment assets	-	-	10,950	-	474	-	-	11,424	25,767
Net movement in funds	(810)	11,272	(15,458)	1,865	474	-	2,340	(317)	75,042
Represented by:									
Unrestricted									
General	(810)	-	-	1,865	-	-	-	1,055	16,221
Designated									
Special purposes	-	11,572	-	-	-	-	-	11,572	(19,432)
Childrens	-	(300)	-	-	-	-	-	(300)	300
Equipment reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,000
Restricted									
Bellringers	-	-	259	-	-	-	-	259	143
Carers Count	-	-	432	-	-	-	-	432	-
Choir	-	-	437	-	-	-	-	437	54
Church Centre	-	-	(20)	-	-	-	-	(20)	-
Churchyard	-	-	618	-	-	-	-	618	-
Fabric	-	-	(16,323)	-	474	-	-	(15,849)	73,031
Flower	-	-	131	-	-	-	-	131	1,000
Organ	-	-	(993)	-	-	-	-	(993)	642
Ossies Kitchen	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,340	2,340	(5,916)
Total all funds	(810)	11,272	(15,458)	1,865	474	-	2,340	(317)	75,042

Approved at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 6 April 2025 and signed on behalf of the PCC by Mr Paul Elliott (PCC Chairman) and Mr Andrew Burns (PCC Treasurer)

The Parish of St. Oswald, Ashbourne with St. Mary, Mappleton
Year ended 31 December 2024
Statement of Assets & Liabilities

	St. Oswald			St. Mary		Ossie's Kitchen		Total funds	Prior year totals
	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds		
Fixed asset investments									
CCLA investment fund - shares	-	-	201,864	-	21,199	-	-	223,063	212,784
CCLA fixed interest fund	-	-	39,080	-	-	-	-	39,080	37,935
Total fixed asset investments	-	-	240,944	-	21,199	-	-	262,143	250,719
Cash at bank and in hand									
Current account	18,626	-	1,838	9,278	(3,757)	985	3,742	30,712	30,557
Churchyard account	-	-	618	-	-	-	-	618	-
Deposit account	15,844	13,103	31,389	-	5,000	8,015	-	73,351	105,204
Petty cash	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	20	41
Total cash at bank and in hand	34,470	13,103	33,845	9,278	1,243	9,000	3,762	104,700	135,802
Liabilities									
Agency collections	-	-	(1,838)	-	-	-	-	(1,838)	(20,400)
Donation carried forward	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(500)
Grants received in advance	-	-	-	-	-	-	(98)	(98)	(397)
Total liabilities	-	-	(1,838)	-	-	-	(98)	(1,936)	(21,297)
Net total assets	34,470	13,103	272,951	9,278	22,442	9,000	3,664	364,907	365,224

Approved at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 6 April 2025 and signed on behalf of the PCC by Mr Paul Elliott (PCC Chairman) and Mr Andrew Burns (PCC Treasurer)

The Parish of St. Oswald, Ashbourne with St. Mary, Mappleton

Year ended 31 December 2024

Notes to the financial statements

1 Accounting Policies

Charitable status

The parish of St Oswald, Ashbourne with St Mary, Mappleton ("the Charity") is a parish within the Derby Diocese of the Church of England. It is registered with the Charity Commission, with charity number 1185390. The correspondence address is The Parish Office, School Lane, Ashbourne, Derbyshire, DE6 1AN.

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.

The financial statements have been prepared in Pounds Sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements have been rounded to the nearest pound.

Funds

Unrestricted general funds represent the funds of the Charity that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for use, at the discretion of the Parochial Church Council, for the general purposes of the church to which they relate.

Designated funds are unrestricted but are amounts which have been put aside at the discretion of the Parochial Church Council.

As of 31 December 2024 the Charity had two active designated funds. The 'Special Purposes' fund, primarily comprises of proceeds from fundraising activities and other income (including legacies) which are held for use on minor capital and other projects directly associated with the day-to-day operation of the Church and buildings, and for the furtherance of the mission of the Church in the Parish. The Ossie's Kitchen 'Equipment Reserve' is designated for the repair and replacement of equipment (primarily kitchen appliances) essential for the continuance of the work of that organisation.

Restricted funds are either subject to specific conditions imposed by donors, or have been raised by Groups directly associated with the Charity for specific purposes. The accounts include all known transactions, assets and liabilities for which the Parochial Church Council is responsible. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

As of 31 December 2024 the Charity had eight restricted funds. The large majority of the assets held by the Charity are within the 'Fabric Fund' (2024: £259,569) comprising primarily of legacies received for the specified purpose of the maintenance and conservation of the fabric of the Church. Other assets relate to Groups directly associated with the Church, as set out in detail in note 4 to the accounts.

The Ossies Kitchen restricted and designated funds relate to the fundraising activities undertaken by that Group which operates independently of the main Church activities but falls within the auspices of the Charity.

Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, The Parochial Church Council have a reasonable expectation that the Parish has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

Reserves

It is PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds not committed (if possible) equivalent to the cost of maintaining for one year the activities directly relating to the work of the church, together with the normal annual expenditure on outward giving and church administration.

Funds not immediately required for the day-to-day operation of the Charity (primarily restricted fabric funds) are invested in Church of England Deposit and Investment Funds in order to maximise returns on investment.

The Parish of St. Oswald, Ashbourne with St. Mary, Mappleton

Year ended 31 December 2024

Notes to the financial statements

2 Comparative Statement of Financial Activity

	St. Oswald			St. Mary		Ossie's Kitchen		Total funds 2023
	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	
Income								
Planned giving	50,126	-	-	729	-	-	-	50,855
Collections and other giving	8,627	-	-	1,206	-	-	-	9,832
Other voluntary receipts	9,028	2,649	103,574	2,295	-	-	3,522	121,069
Gift Aid recovered	14,047	2,500	50	617	-	-	-	17,215
Grants received	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,624	2,624
Other receipts	1,750	-	-	-	-	-	6,231	7,981
Activities for generating funds	17,800	770	-	40	-	-	-	18,610
Investment income	-	-	902	-	758	-	-	1,660
Receipts from church activities	5,577	-	-	237	-	-	-	5,814
Total income	106,955	5,920	104,526	5,124	758	-	12,377	235,660
Expenditure								
Cost of generating funds	(980)	-	-	-	-	-	(9,293)	(10,273)
Missionary and charitable giving	(3,740)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(3,740)
Common fund	(46,788)	-	-	(1,000)	-	-	-	(47,788)
Clergy and staffing costs	(9,459)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(9,459)
Church running expenses	(25,282)	-	(3,423)	(5,634)	-	-	-	(34,338)
Hall running costs	(16,151)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(16,151)
Church repairs & maintenance	-	(14,688)	(32,000)	(2,744)	-	-	-	(49,433)
Hall repairs & maintenance	(4,838)	(10,364)	-	-	-	-	-	(15,202)
Total expenditure	(107,238)	(25,052)	(35,423)	(9,378)	-	-	(9,293)	(186,384)
Net income/(expenditure) before transfer	(283)	(19,132)	69,103	(4,254)	758	-	3,084	49,275

The Parish of St. Oswald, Ashbourne with St. Mary, Mappleton

Year ended 31 December 2024

Notes to the financial statements

2 Comparative Statement of Financial Activity (continued)

	St. Oswald			St. Mary		Ossie's Kitchen		Total funds 2023
	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	
Transfers								
Gross transfers between funds	20,000	-	(20,000)	758	(758)	9,000	(9,000)	-
Other recognised gains and losses								
Gains/(losses) on investment assets	-	-	23,985	-	1,782	-	-	25,767
Net movement in funds	19,717	(19,132)	73,088	(3,496)	1,782	9,000	(5,916)	75,042
Represented by:								
Unrestricted								
General	19,717	-	-	(3,496)	-	-	-	16,221
Designated								
Special purposes	-	(19,432)	-	-	-	-	-	(19,432)
Childrens	-	300	-	-	-	-	-	300
Equipment reserve	-	-	-	-	-	9,000	-	9,000
Restricted								
Bellringers	-	-	143	-	-	-	-	143
Carers Count	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Choir	-	-	54	-	-	-	-	54
Church Centre	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Churchyard	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fabric	-	-	71,249	-	1,782	-	-	73,031
Flower	-	-	1,000	-	-	-	-	1,000
Organ	-	-	642	-	-	-	-	642
Ossies Kitchen	-	-	-	-	-	-	(5,916)	(5,916)
Total all funds	19,717	(19,132)	73,088	(3,496)	1,782	9,000	(5,916)	75,042

The Parish of St. Oswald, Ashbourne with St. Mary, Mappleton

Year ended 31 December 2024

Notes to the financial statements

3 Comparative Statement of Assets & Liabilities

	St. Oswald			St. Mary		Ossie's Kitchen		Total funds
	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	
Fixed asset investments								
CCLA investment fund - shares	-	-	192,059	-	20,725	-	-	212,784
CCLA fixed interest fund	-	-	37,935	-	-	-	-	37,935
Total fixed asset investments	-	-	229,994	-	20,725	-	-	250,719
Cash at bank and in hand								
Current account	57,886	(5,170)	(36,995)	7,413	(3,757)	9000	2,180	30,557
Churchyard account	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Deposit account	(22,606)	7,000	115,810	-	5,000	-	-	105,204
Petty cash							41	41
Total cash at bank and in hand	35,280	1,830	78,815	7,413	1,243	9,000	2,221	135,802
Liabilities								
Agency collections	-	-	(20,400)	-	-	-	-	(20,400)
Donation carried forward	-	-	-	-	-	-	(500)	(500)
Grants received in advance	-	-	-	-	-	-	(397)	(397)
Total liabilities	-	-	(20,400)	-	-	-	(897)	(21,297)
Net total assets	35,280	1,830	288,409	7,413	21,967	9,000	1,324	365,224

The Parish of St. Oswald, Ashbourne with St. Mary, Mappleton
Year ended 31 December 2024
Notes to the financial statements

4 Summary of Movements in Funds

	Opening	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Gains/ (losses)	Closing
St Oswald						
Unrestricted funds						
General	35,280	110,229	(133,553)	22,515	-	34,470
Total Unrestricted funds	35,280	110,229	(133,553)	22,515	-	34,470
Designated funds						
Special purposes	1,530	12,187	(615)	-	-	13,103
Childrens	300	-	(300)	-	-	-
Total Designated funds	1,830	12,187	(915)	-	-	13,103
Restricted funds						
Bellringers	3,507	259	-	-	-	3,766
Carers Count	-	432	-	-	-	432
Choir	3,042	1,080	(643)	-	-	3,479
Church Centre	20	-	(637)	617	-	-
Churchyard	-	618	-	-	-	618
Fabric	275,892	5,496	(9,638)	(23,131)	10,950	259,569
Flower	1,681	331	(200)	-	-	1,812
Organ	4,267	447	(1,440)	-	-	3,274
Ossies Kitchen	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Restricted funds	288,409	8,664	(12,557)	(22,515)	10,950	272,951
Total St. Oswald	325,519	131,080	(147,026)	-	10,950	320,524
St Mary						
Unrestricted funds						
General	7,413	6,047	(5,018)	836	-	9,278
Total Unrestricted funds	7,413	6,047	(5,018)	836	-	9,278
Restricted funds						
Fabric	21,967	836	-	(836)	474	22,442
Total Unrestricted funds	21,967	836	-	(836)	474	22,442
Total St. Mary	29,381	6,883	(5,018)	-	474	31,720
Ossie's Kitchen						
Designated funds						
Equipment reserve	9,000	-	-	-	-	9,000
Total Designated funds	9,000	-	-	-	-	9,000
Restricted funds						
Ossies Kitchen	1,324	14,454	(12,114)	-	-	3,664
Total Restricted funds	1,324	14,454	(12,114)	-	-	3,664
Total Ossie's Kitchen	10,324	14,454	(12,114)	-	-	12,664
Total funds	365,224	152,417	(164,158)	-	11,424	364,907

The Parish of St. Oswald, Ashbourne with St. Mary, Mappleton

Year ended 31 December 2024

Notes to the financial statements

5 Analysis of income - St. Oswald

	2024				2023			
	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
Planned giving								
Parish giving scheme	43,418	-	-	43,418	42,472	-	-	42,472
Other planned giving	7,509	-	-	7,509	7,654	-	-	7,654
Collections and other giving								
Collections at services	7,042	-	-	7,042	7,061	-	-	7,061
Funeral, wedding & baptism collections	1,624	-	-	1,624	1,566	-	-	1,566
Other voluntary receipts								
Contactless donations	4,445	-	-	4,445	3,710	-	-	3,710
Giving through church boxes	2,339	-	-	2,339	2,487	-	-	2,487
Mission giving	257	-	-	257	-	-	-	-
Legacies	-	3,471	-	3,471	-	2,009	100,000	102,009
One-off donations	2,670	-	303	2,972	1,686	640	3,562	5,888
Refreshments	1,011	-	-	1,011	1,144	-	-	1,144
Gift aid recovered	15,464	529	197	16,190	14,047	2,500	50	16,597
Other receipts								
Admin contributions from Parishes	2,100	-	-	2,100	1,750	-	-	1,750
Activities for generating funds								
Hall lettings	11,894	-	-	11,894	13,038	-	-	13,038
Fundraising activities	-	8,187	3,032	11,219	2,552	770	12	3,334
Bookstall sales	3,021	-	-	3,021	2,210	-	-	2,210
Receipts from church activities								
Funeral & wedding fees	7,436	-	-	7,436	5,577	-	-	5,577
Investment income								
Deposit fund interest	-	-	5,133	5,133	-	-	902	902
	110,229	12,187	8,664	131,080	106,955	5,920	104,526	217,400

The Parish of St. Oswald, Ashbourne with St. Mary, Mappleton

Year ended 31 December 2024

Notes to the financial statements

5 Analysis of income - St. Oswald (continued)

Breakdown of legacies received

A breakdown of legacies received during 2024 and 2023 is given below. Donations received in memory are recognised within 'Other voluntary receipts' in the accounts.

	2024				2023			
	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
Canon David Henry Sansum	-	2,093	-	2,093	-	-	-	-
Miss Phyllis Margaret Jaggard	-	1,378	-	1,378	-	-	100,000	100,000
Mr Geoffrey Halls	-	-	-	-	-	2,000	-	2,000
Other	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	9
Total legacies	-	3,471	-	3,471	-	2,009	100,000	102,009

Breakdown of income from fundraising activities

Effective 2024, the PCC resolved that all income from fundraising activities be held in designated funds to be used for the furtherance of work within the Parish and as determined by the PCC. Where relevant, income from activities undertaken by groups forming the restricted funds is held in the respective funds of those groups.

	2024				2023			
	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
Summer recitals	-	2,603	-	2,603	1,337	-	-	1,337
Teddy bear parachuting	-	1,620	-	1,620	-	770	-	770
Concert - Southern Spirit Singers	-	725	-	725	-	-	-	-
Christmas tree festival	-	518	-	518	-	-	-	-
Craft fair	-	401	-	401	-	-	-	-
Open gardens	-	236	-	236	320	-	-	320
Harvest lunch	-	233	-	233	216	-	-	216
Line dancing	-	-	-	-	210	-	-	210
Art exhibition	-	-	-	-	304	-	-	304
Activities for restricted funds	-	-	3,032	3,032	-	-	12	12
Other	-	1,852	-	1,852	165	-	-	165
Total fundraising income	-	8,187	3,032	11,218	2,552	770	12	3,334

The Parish of St. Oswald, Ashbourne with St. Mary, Mappleton

Year ended 31 December 2024

Notes to the financial statements

6 Analysis of expenditure - St. Oswald

	2024				2023			
	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
Cost of generating funds								
Bookstall costs	(1,352)	-	-	(1,352)	(980)	-	-	(980)
Cost of social events	-	(615)	-	(615)	-	-	-	-
Missionary and charitable giving								
Missionary and charitable giving	(3,000)	(300)	-	(3,300)	(3,740)	-	-	(3,740)
Common fund contributions	(50,127)	-	-	(50,127)	(46,788)	-	-	(46,788)
Clergy and staffing costs	(8,246)	-	-	(8,246)	(9,459)	-	-	(9,459)
Church running expenses								
Church maintenance costs	(4,634)	-	(5,040)	(9,674)	(4,050)	-	-	(4,050)
Music department	(4,384)	-	(643)	(5,026)	(4,407)	-	(432)	(4,839)
Church utility costs	(11,638)	-	-	(11,638)	(10,414)	-	-	(10,414)
Church insurance	(5,793)	-	-	(5,793)	-	-	(2,451)	(2,451)
Consumables	(1,194)	-	(200)	(1,394)	(1,255)	-	-	(1,255)
Administration costs	(5,171)	-	(637)	(5,808)	(5,119)	-	(540)	(5,659)
Governance costs	(150)	-	-	(150)	(36)	-	-	(36)
Hall running costs								
Hall utilities	(5,177)	-	-	(5,177)	(6,636)	-	-	(6,636)
Hall insurance	(1,448)	-	-	(1,448)	(1,120)	-	-	(1,120)
Hall cleaning	(5,455)	-	-	(5,455)	(5,346)	-	-	(5,346)
Hall maintenance	(2,633)	-	-	(2,633)	(3,050)	-	-	(3,050)
Hall repairs & maintenance								
Hall repairs & maintenance	-	-	-	-	(804)	(10,364)	-	(11,168)
Hall refurbishment	(23,151)	-	-	(23,151)	(4,034)	-	-	(4,034)
Church repairs & maintenance	-	-	(6,038)	(6,038)	-	(14,688)	(32,000)	(46,688)
Total expenditure	(133,553)	(915)	(12,557)	(147,026)	(107,238)	(25,052)	(35,423)	(167,713)

The Parish of St. Oswald, Ashbourne with St. Mary, Mappleton

Year ended 31 December 2024

Notes to the financial statements

6 Analysis of expenditure - St. Oswald (continued)

Mission and charitable giving

It is PCC policy to allocate a portion of income each year to international, national and local charities, as funds permit. Giving during 2024 and 2023 was as follows: -

	2024	2023
Partners in Mission - Church of North India Project	1,000	1,000
The Salvation Army (National)	1,000	1,000
ACE Youth Trust (Local)	1,000	1,000
Ashbourne Churches Together (local)	300	-
Ossie's Kitchen (local)	-	500
Ashbourne and District Animal Welfare Trust (local)	-	240
Total	3,300	3,740

Church repairs and maintenance costs

Routine maintenance expenditure is recognised in the general (unrestricted) fund. Other expenditure associated with the maintenance and conservation of the fabric of the building and its contents is recognised in the fabric (restricted) fund. Costs incurred during 2024 and 2023 were as follows: -

	2024				2023			
	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
Architects fees	-	-	5,084	5,084	-	-	-	-
Topographical survey	-	-	954	954	-	-	-	-
Organ repairs	-	-	1,440	1,440	-	-	612	612
Lightning conductor repairs	-	-	3,600	3,600	-	-	2,400	2,400
Repairs to stonework of West door	-	-	-	-	-	-	744	744
Electrical testing & repairs	1,994	-	-	1,994	918	-	769	1,687
Replacement of guttering	-	-	-	-	-	-	16,475	16,475
Replacement of audio systems	-	-	-	-	-	14,688	-	14,688
Purchase of Feurich baby grand piano	-	-	-	-	-	-	11,000	11,000
Other routine expenditure	2,640	-	-	2,640	3,132	-	-	3,132
	4,634	-	11,078	15,712	4,050	14,688	32,000	50,738

The Parish of St. Oswald, Ashbourne with St. Mary, Mappleton

Year ended 31 December 2024

Notes to the financial statements

6 Analysis of expenditure - St. Oswald (continued)

Church maintenance costs (continued)

During 2024 costs totalling £6,038 were incurred in association with the proposed project to repair the roof of the South aisle and transept, along with a proposal to reorder the area around the West door to improve access and reduce drafts. Costs for this significant project are anticipated to be in excess of the current reserves, and a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund is being sought.

Hall refurbishment

During Storm Babet in October 2023 the church hall was flooded, causing extensive damage. Following negotiations with the insurer a cash settlement amount of £98,824 was agreed. The PCC approved additional expenditure to address other maintenance needs and to enhance the overall facilities. This additional expenditure was funded through transfers from restricted funds. A breakdown of the total project cost is given below: -

	2024	2023	Total
Expenditure incurred	118,446	7,564	126,009
Insurance proceeds	(95,294)	(3,530)	(98,824)
	23,151	4,034	27,185

Church insurance

During 2024 the PCC resolved that the insurance premium charges for the church should be expensed in the general (unrestricted) fund. They had previously been recognised as an expense in the fabric fund.

Clergy and staffing costs

None of the Parochial Church Council (nor any person connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits for their services as trustees of the Church during the year. Mr Michael Halls (a member of the PCC) received an honorarium of £2,400 for his services as Director of Music (2023: £2,400)

The Parish of St. Oswald, Ashbourne with St. Mary, Mappleton

Year ended 31 December 2024

Notes to the financial statements

7 Income & expenditure - St. Mary

	2024			2023		
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
Income						
Collections at services	1,115	-	1,115	1,206	-	1,206
Parish Giving Scheme	1,544	-	1,544	729	-	729
Other donations	1,223	-	1,223	1,686	-	1,686
Gift Aid recovered	480	-	480	617	-	617
Wedding & funeral fees	607	-	607	154	-	154
Giving through church boxes	175	-	175	249	-	249
CBF Interest	-	260	260	-	191	191
CBF Dividend	-	575	575	-	567	567
Memorials	464	-	464	83	-	83
Contribution to cleaning costs	360	-	360	360	-	360
Hire of church	80	-	80	40	-	40
Total income	6,047	836	6,883	5,124	758	5,882
Expenditure						
Common fund	(1,000)	-	(1,000)	(1,000)	-	(1,000)
Insurance	(1,396)	-	(1,396)	(1,343)	-	(1,343)
Electricity	(75)	-	(75)	(2,251)	-	(2,251)
Water	(84)	-	(84)	(65)	-	(65)
Electrical repairs	(298)	-	(298)	-	-	-
Repairs	(934)	-	(934)	(368)	-	(368)
Churchyard maintenance	(800)	-	(800)	(2,376)	-	(2,376)
Miscellaneous expenditure	(181)	-	(181)	-	-	-
Admin contributions	(250)	-	(250)	(250)	-	(250)
Electrical report	-	-	-	(1,344)	-	(1,344)
Quinquennial inspection	-	-	-	(381)	-	(381)
Total expenditure	(5,018)	-	(5,018)	(9,378)	-	(9,378)
Net income/(expenditure)	1,029	836	1,865	(4,254)	758	(3,496)

Ossie's Kitchen
Accounts
1 January 2024 - 31 December 2024

(note 8)

SUMMARY of GRANTS & DONATIONS RECEIVED : FINANCIAL YEAR ALLOCATION

Note :

			£	£	£
					2024
A	Derbyshire CC less c/fwd	Potters	b/fwd	398	300
				98	
B	PCC of Ashbourne less / c/fwd	Transport	b/fwd	500	500
				-	
C	Foundation Derbyshire less c/fwd	Storage & Sink		3,000	3,000
				-	
D	Foundation Derbyshire less c/fwd	Stepping Stones		1,850	1,850
				-	
E	Foundation Derbyshire less c/fwd	Cleaning Project		500	500
				-	
Allocated to 2024					6,150

Notes:

- A** DCC - Ossie's Potters Project
- B** PCC of Ashbourne reserved for transport 2024
- C** Foundation Derbyshire - Refurbished storage & Sink
- D** Foundation Derbyshire - Subsidise Meals at Stepping Stones
- E** Foundation Derbyshire - Cleaning Product Project

OSSIE'S KITCHEN		INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT		1st Jan to 31st December 2024	
Notes:		£	£	£	£
Operational				2024	2023
Grants					
D	Foundation Derbyshire		1,850		900
	DDCVS				500
Donations					
	General meals & groceries		5,355		6,231
Expenditure					
	Stepping Stones	2,016			-
	FareShare	1,464			(1,939)
	Additional Meal supplies	760			(1,142)
	Consummables	866			(1,209)
	Hall	1,749			(3,050)
	Equipment	381			(293)
		<u>7,236</u>	<u>7,205</u>	(31)	<u>(2)</u>
Transport					
Donation & Grant					
	Monday Lunch & DDCVS				1,072
B	PCC of Ashbourne b/fwd		500		
Expenditure					
	Community Transport	1,060			(1,170)
		<u>1,060</u>	<u>500</u>	(560)	<u>(98)</u>
General					
Donations					
	Various		827		1,603
	In Memoriam		1,107		1,919
	Freemasons Award		1,000		
Expenditure					
	Volunteer recognition	-			(338)
		<u>-</u>	<u>2,934</u>	2,934	<u>3,184</u>
Ossie's Potters					
Grant					
A	Derbyshire CC b/wd		300		152
Expenditure					
	Plants & Gardening Supplies	304			(152)
		<u>304</u>	<u>300</u>	(4)	<u>-</u>
Cleaning Products Project					
Grant					
E	Foundation Derbyshire		500		
	Expenditure	514			
		<u>514</u>	<u>500</u>	(14)	<u>-</u>
Bank Interest			15	15	-
Operating Surplus				<u>2,340</u>	<u>3,084</u>
Capital Expenditure					
C	Foundation Derbyshire		3,000		
	Storage Refurb	3,000			
		<u>3,000</u>	<u>-</u>		<u>-</u>
Surplus for period				<u>2,340</u>	<u>3,084</u>

OSSIE'S KITCHEN**BALANCE SHEET**

as at 31st December 2024

		£	£	£
Notes:		2024	2024	2023
Cash at Bank	Deposit A/c	8,015		
	Current A/c	4,727		11,180
Cash in Hand		20		42
Debtor		-		-
Creditors :	Grant received in advance		98	(398)
	Donation c/fwd		-	(500)
	Expense		-	-
Reserves :	General Reserve b/fwd		1,324	(7,240)
	Surplus on Activity 2024		2,340	(3,084)
F	Credit Equipment Reserve		9,000	
		£	12,762	12,762
				-

Note :

F Designated Reserve for major equipment replacement.

Prepared :

NR 250308

Signed :

N Rode

P Elliott

Date :

**The Parish of St. Oswald, Ashbourne with St. Mary Mappleton
Report of the Parochial Church Council
For the year ended 31 December 2024**

Reports from St Oswald's Groups and organisations

Bellringers

The bells of St Oswald's continue to ring out across the town regularly for morning and evening services, for special services including Remembrance Sunday, practice night, weddings and funerals.

We have a regular band of ringers and have a good turnout for practice night. We always welcome visiting ringers to join our band for service and practice ringing.

The ringers outing this year was arranged by Roy giving a variety of different rings through the day, towers visited were Bakewell, Ashford in the Water, Baslow, Monyash, Tideswell and Eyam.

Andrew – ringing master, supported by Roy and Peter lead the ringing practices, aiming to improve the striking of all ringers and to introduce more complex methods to the band's repertoire. The band regularly ring called changes and methods including Plain bob doubles, minor and triples, Grandsire doubles and, when the right ringers are available, Stedman.

We are pleased to welcome James and Mel to our ringing team this year and look forward to them joining us for Sunday ringing. Learning to ring on the bells at St Oswald's is a difficult task as the bells are tricky to learn to handle, many experienced ringers will not ring our bells!

Congratulations to Peter Dickinson who was part of the winning team competing in a 10 bell striking competition for the Worthington cup, we were proud to have the cup in St Oswald's display cabinet for a few weeks.

The bells and framing continue to be managed and maintained by David, our Steeple keeper and remains in good order.

The ropes, however, are now beginning to show signs of wear and have recently had some splicing to strengthen weakened parts.

Here's to another year of ringing, an increase in the methods rung, an improvement in the striking and all mixed with chatter and fun.

Gillian Elliott
Tower Captain

St Oswald's Bookstall

It has been positive year with a significant increase in sales and profit compared to 2023. Many thanks to all those in the congregation who continue to support its work.

The bookstall is currently run by myself, Sarah Morris. I am supported in this by our treasurer Andrew Burns, ever helpful with my frequent invoices, and Irene Wilson who kindly displays second-hand books for donation at Sunday morning coffee. We have also sold prints of cards painted or handmade by members of the congregation (some generously donated) together with a recent donation of stock from Marks & Spencer.

**The Parish of St. Oswald, Ashbourne with St. Mary Mappleton
Report of the Parochial Church Council
For the year ended 31 December 2024**

Reports from St Oswald’s Groups and organisations (continued)

St. Oswald’s Bookstall (continued)

Aims, Objectives & Outcomes

Aims & objectives remain as per 2023:

1. to provide a **source of Christian literature and cards** to the church congregation and visitors – [continued trade account with Ben & Hannah Dunnett, supplier of Christian cards/bookmarks \(approx. 14% of expenditure this year\)](#), plus some Christian cards and books from our trade account with the Leprosy Mission; sales of Christian literature remain very low
2. to **raise money for the work of the church** through sales of general and local interest books and cards – [Outstanding Maps trade account remains a good source of these items and the St Oswald’s guidebook is ever popular](#)
3. to source stock where possible such that we **additionally support other charities** – [supporting both The Leprosy Mission and Cards for Good Causes \(approx. 42% of expenditure this year\)](#)

Main sales

2024 Figures

	2024	<i>2023</i>	<i>2022</i>
Expenditure (£)	1352.00	<i>980.43</i>	<i>807.00</i>
Sales (£)	3021.00	<i>2210.00</i>	<i>2810.00</i>
Profit (£)	1668.00	<i>1229.57</i>	<i>2003.00</i>

We continue to sell significant quantities of old stock, particularly guidebooks.

Activities during 2024

- second-hand books at Sunday coffee
- advertised presence of stall through posters, parish magazine, notices in church, table at Teddy Bear parachuting event and Christmas tree
- Advent - sales of books to church study group, candles, advent calendars and gifts from Leprosy Mission catalogue
- Christmas - sales of a variety of charity Christmas cards supplied from Cards for Good Causes and the Leprosy Mission

**The Parish of St. Oswald, Ashbourne with St. Mary Mappleton
Report of the Parochial Church Council
For the year ended 31 December 2024**

Reports from St Oswald's Groups and organisations (continued)

St. Oswald's Bookstall (continued)

Plan for 2025

- Spring stock take with review of when a new guidebook/print run might be advisable and review of best items to stock going forward
- once this has been undertaken further advertising push, particularly taking into account relevant market from regular users of hall/school/tourists
- use Lent/Easter and Advent/Christmas as opportunities to promote Christian literature and sell a wider range of goods
- ongoing reflection on best orientation/siting of displays.

Sarah Morris

Breakfast Church

Breakfast church met throughout the year, except in August, on the second Sunday of the month, in the Church Hall. Families were welcomed with breakfast (cereal, toast, bacon or sausage baps, pancakes, coffee, tea, juice) and had the opportunity to chat and catch up. We celebrate birthdays, and light a candle as we move into a period of worship with songs, an activity/talk and prayers. Our themes were chosen from 'Messy Church' ideas or parts of Jesus' teaching. The worship followed a recognisable pattern which we are led through 'on screen'.

Numbers attending remained in the high twenties to low thirties (with children representing half that number) and many of the families are 'confirmed regulars'.

Ashdon Toombs remained a leader until the summer when he began a placement in the Hulland Ward group of churches, hopefully leading to ordination training in 2025. We are so grateful to Ash, who provided a lot of inspiration and encouragement during his time as part of the leadership team. Gill remains our caterer and Roger our musician!

The Breakfast Church team
comprising Gill Elliott, Roger Harrison, Janet and Andy Wright

Carers Count

The Carers Count group meets on the first Wednesday of the month, usually in the Church Hall between 10am and 12 noon with the numbers attending varying between 6 and 12 attendees at any one session.

The aim of the group remains to support and enhance the quality of life for carers within our local community recognising the important role that they do for the cared-for and giving the Carer a safe and confidential place to relax and chat to those who are experiencing or have experienced the challenges that face someone in the caring role. The meeting also remains a forum where speakers attend to give advice on topics as considered appropriate.

**The Parish of St. Oswald, Ashbourne with St. Mary Mappleton
Report of the Parochial Church Council
For the year ended 31 December 2024**

Reports from St Oswald's Groups and organisations (continued)

Carers Count (continued)

Early on in the year meetings took place at Fairways due to the Hall restoration taking place. By May we were excited to be reinstated back into the Hall. Most of our meetings we simply enjoyed just meeting up and having refreshments. However, in our highlights speaker Helen Rhodes attended to talk to us about Fifth Sense, a charity for people who are affected by smell and taste disorders, how this situation can arise in the first instance ie through illness, disease, surgery or medication and methods of overcoming problems to maximise the enjoyment of meals for the cared-for.

Another speaker, Simon Mahoney, a local gentleman, gave us an inspired talk about the challenges of being totally blind and the challenges he encountered following admission to a large hospital. As a result, he now works in an advisory capacity with the hospital and also with the trainee doctors and nurses to inform and guide their communication and delivery of health care to those with impaired sight conditions within the hospital setting.

November saw Christmas drawing closer and our Craft Session for Carers Count, led by Carol Thorpe and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone! Christmas cards for loved ones were made accompanied by refreshments including mince pies, and a selection of tarts. The year was nicely concluded by our annual Christmas meal early December at the Shoulder of Mutton at Osmaston. A good turnout ensured that the Christmas spirit was well in evidence with lots of chatter and in the background Christmas music accompanied the occasion perfectly.

Anne Ford

Choir

Thank you to each member of the choir for such enthusiasm, loyalty and commitment. The impact on our worship and in the community is huge.

The average attendance at choir practice on Friday evenings is 20, Sunday morning 15 and Sunday evening 17, figures are very similar to 2023. About 9 choristers will be at both services on Sundays. We have been pleased to welcome some new choristers in recent months but we are very sorry to have said goodbye to Gordon and Ros Taylor as they have moved to Skipton and also to Emma Silvey who is now working in Leeds: we do miss them in so many ways.

Congratulations go to Esther for achieving her RSCM Gold Award in the summer with 136 marks out of 150, a brilliant result. She is a great asset to our team. Our Wednesday 5 Star Singing group was set up in September led by Dan Evans, Ellie May Astbury, the Rev Nicola McNally and me. The children involved sang with us at the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols in December, a very successful occasion. In time, we want to grow the numbers and develop links with the church choir. Roger continues to support the music in Clifton School.

I want to place on record my thanks to Roger and Hugh for personal support at all times, especially with playing the organ. Latterly, one of them has moved to the organ from the Offertory to enable me to conduct the choir more. We believe this is having a positive impact on congregational singing. It will come as no surprise to you that our team of organists help to ensure there is real music in many of the churches in the locality. Roger also very kindly ensures that the recorded services have musical input throughout the year.

**The Parish of St. Oswald, Ashbourne with St. Mary Mappleton
Report of the Parochial Church Council
For the year ended 31 December 2024**

Reports from St Oswald's Groups and organisations (continued)

Choir (continued)

The Summer Recitals were a huge success with an amazing range of skills and expertise shown in so many ways. The Abbotsholme Arts Society used our church for their opening recital of their season in September. The Southern Spirit Singers were here in May adding breadth church. Leaving the building with such positivity is a part of our mission for everyone.

Our dedicated team of choristers managed to sing 168 anthems (123 different anthems) covering 99 Sunday services including 13 full Choral Evensongs plus midweek special services and the celebration of C V Stanford's music with a Come and Sing Choral Evensong. We were again able to sing at Callow Hall at Christmas. We have also developed a link with Tissington with choral input for many of their weddings.

Pastoral care underpins all we can do and achieve with a very healthy dose of expectation and challenge. We are so fortunate to have such a great choir leading our worship. The skill set is amazing. I greatly appreciate what each chorister brings to the life of St. Oswald's church and its outreach into the wider community. Ashbourne should be proud of its musical beating heart. It is an investment rather than a cost that music here continues to be so important.

Support and encouragement for the choir by our ministry team and congregation is vitally important so thank you all. Thank you everyone.

Michael Halls

Connect Group

The 'Connect Group' encourages us to connect with one another, discussing agreed material we may have read during the days before, learning from one another and growing our faith, whilst sharing highs and lows – and cake and drinks!

We met weekly (with breaks when most of us are away/busy), in one of 2 homes. A typical session would begin with 'check in' where we each had the opportunity to share the highs and lows of the previous week. We would then spend time discussing, or reflecting on, something we'd agreed to study that week, breaking for refreshments at a convenient point. We finish with prayer for each other.

At the end of key terms like Christmas and summer we shared a meal together.

We have regularly been a group of 7 or 8 but our homes might take more if anyone would like to join us.

Janet & Andy Wright

**The Parish of St. Oswald, Ashbourne with St. Mary Mappleton
Report of the Parochial Church Council
For the year ended 31 December 2024**

Reports from St Oswald's Groups and organisations (continued)

Mothers Union

In 2024 Ashbourne Mothers Union had 25 members. We met monthly either in the Church Hall on Tuesday afternoons, starting with prayer and worship, or for evening excursions. We have held quizzes, heard about garden experiences, held a cream tea to raise money for MU projects in Africa, been led on a saunter supper, visited Norbury Church, attended the Deanery festival service at Hlland, made posies for Mothering Sunday - and enjoyed each other's company.

Nancy Bell

Ossie's Kitchen

'Ossie's Kitchen' is a 'stand-alone' outreach activity of St Oswald's Church and is a community café under the leadership of the St Oswald's clergy and Church Wardens, run by volunteers from across the community, for the community.

Our purpose is to address loneliness, social isolation and food poverty by providing, fortnightly, fresh cooked three course meals to be eaten in the company of others. Community Transport is available and meals are delivered to the housebound. We make no charge but suggested minimum donations are welcomed.

The produce we use comes mainly from the charity FareShare, using food that would otherwise go to land-fill, for which we pay an annual subscription which basically contributes to the cost of delivery. Any produce not used in the meals is offered to the Guests in the form of grocery bags.

At the end of 2023, ACE Youth Trust nominated us for a 2024 Kings Award for Voluntary Services. The nomination was supported by Derbyshire County Council (Health & Wellbeing) and the Ashbourne Rotary Club. The Nomination was processed and endorsed by The Derbyshire Lieutenancy. We are most grateful for the immense amount of effort and encouragement we received, particularly from Deputy Lieutenant Paula Holt. However, it was disappointing to us, and to the Lieutenancy, to learn in November that the Awarding Committee in London decided that we just missed out on the top three nominations from Derbyshire, but we take great pride in the honour of having been Nominated for such a prestigious Award.

Owing to flood damage in October 2023 the Church Hall was out of action from 1st January until mid-April but in our determination to find a way to continue to support our Guests, the local restaurant, 'Stepping Stones' (Marston Brewery) graciously agreed, on our behalf, to host up to fifty Guests, once a fortnight, and provide them with a three-course meal for a generously subsidised price. The cost was further subsidised by a much-appreciated grant from Foundation Derbyshire. In addition, Foundation Derbyshire awarded us a grant of £3,000 towards the cost of replacing our dry goods storage facilities following the flood and the provision of a Cleaners' sink.

**The Parish of St. Oswald, Ashbourne with St. Mary Mappleton
Report of the Parochial Church Council
For the year ended 31 December 2024**

Reports from St Oswald's Groups and organisations (continued)

Ossie's Kitchen (continued)

Whilst our Guests were very appreciative of 'Stepping Stones' hospitality, they were very pleased to be 'back home' in the refurbished Church Hall with our 'own cooks' delicious meals and being served by our highly valued Volunteers, who had been 'redundant' for almost four months, they too were very pleased to be able to resume duties.

In May we had the sad news of the sudden death of Mike Warner. Mike had been 'in at the beginning' when, five years earlier, we planned and started 'Ossie's Kitchen'. Mike was an excellent cook and had the skills of a surgeon when carving. Mike's family very generously nominated us beneficiary of donations in memory of Mike. These amounted to just over £1,000 of which a sum has been used to purchase a new, commercial grade, microwave oven that is fondly referred to as Mic (Mike).

In June, Guests marked our fifth birthday in a low-key way with a special cake but, for various reasons, the annual Volunteers' social get together was overlooked, but we hope to make up for that in 2025.

In August and September, we collaborated with Foundation Derbyshire and Derbyshire County Council and used a grant of £500 for making various household cleaning products available to our Guests.

Our year was completed with our traditional 'Christmas Special' meal and we are very grateful to an anonymous donor for excellent turkey, a donation by Ashbourne Rotary Club of £200 towards those 'Christmas Extras' and an Award of £1,000 by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Derbyshire Freemasons in recognition 'of our outstanding service in support of the Community'.

During the year we provided 1,409 meals including 227 for children, none of which would have been possible without our wonderful team of forty-five Volunteers whose rota duties range from reservations, planning, preparing and cooking the meals, pot washing, serving at table, home deliveries, refuse disposal not to mention the mutual pastoral support and care of Guests and Volunteers.

Despite the challenging beginning to the year, it proved to be another successful, enjoyable and rewarding year for all involved as evidenced in our end of year Guest Survey who responded:

Variety and Quality of Meals: Excellent 45%, Very Good 50%, Average 5%

Service and friendliness of staff: Excellent 75%, Very Good 25%

"It's a place of love and friendship"

Maggie & Nigel Rode

**The Parish of St. Oswald, Ashbourne with St. Mary Mappleton
Report of the Parochial Church Council
For the year ended 31 December 2024**

Reports from St Oswald's Groups and organisations (continued)

Ossie's Potters

The focus of the Ossie's Potters group remained the same as last year in that: -

- A) For some - overcoming isolation and loneliness
- B) Taking part and feel comfortable in group work
- C) Undertaking physical activities (within own limitations)
- D) Enhancing skills and knowledge around gardening, plants and nature
- E) Being in the fresh air and having a closeness with that nature
- F) Enhancing personal well-being.

Members continued to meet every other Tuesday, alternating with the Ossie's Kitchen facility. The number of those attending ranged from between 5 to 12 in any one session. The sessions being from 1pm to 3pm and having the usual format of a good hours gardening and finishing with relaxing with one another and lots of chatter exchanged over refreshments.

In January, at the beginning of the year, we all sat down and made a plan of what we, as a group, wanted to achieve throughout the year.

As the year unfolded, and as you walked around the grounds of St Oswald's Church and the Church Hall you will no doubt have seen those achievements and noticed the work undertaken by the Potters - from the simple tasks such as clearing and tidying areas to the more complex of planting and the care of plants.

Projects for the Year Included: -

- The pots of red geraniums by the Church and Hall
- Maintaining, planting and caring for plants in the West Door, Priest's Door, Boiler House and Hall Wall Borders.
- Creating the compost bin
- North Door and West Door tubs
- Car Park squares
- Siting of the bird boxes and hedgehog house
- Clearing of gravestones (including unearthing the Bamford tomb, and research into the family history)
- Setting of bulbs around the Hall and in borders
- Setting of snowdrops adjacent to the Priest's Door pathway in memory of Mike Warner.
- Taking part in the Christmas Tree Festival Creating in the crafting workshop the Elves that were both on The Potters Christmas Tree and also formed the popular Elf Trail within St Oswald's Church during the Christmas Tree Festival.

**The Parish of St. Oswald, Ashbourne with St. Mary Mappleton
Report of the Parochial Church Council
For the year ended 31 December 2024**

Reports from St Oswald's Groups and organisations (continued)

Ossie's Potters (continued)

The Ossie's Potters group is only a small group, but in the last year it has made a tremendous difference to St Oswald's Church in its presentation and the message it gives to all those who both attend regularly and visit, whether local or from further afar. It shows that it is indeed well loved and cared for.

Anne Ford

St Oswald's Ramblers

The Ramblers group meets on the second Monday of the month and aims to walk about 5 miles.

There have been good numbers throughout the year on the walks and we regularly have Henry, Jet and Zeb to enthusiastically accompany us.

The group has had a variety of walks and starts this year including, close to home, Clifton and Osmaston, and further afield starts in Alstonfield and Friden. We have encountered mud, cold and wind as well as sunshine and fantastic views, together with great company.

The December walk starting from Denstone finished with everyone having lunch together at the end at Denstone farm shop.

If you are interested in joining us for a social walk there is no better way to pass a dull Monday than to come out with the Ramblers group.

Here's to 2025 and many more interesting paths and routes.

Gill Elliott

Walking Group

We had a promising start to 2024 with our annual New Year walk and lunch, this time at the Sycamore in Parwich. Our January and February walks in the Chatsworth and Alstonefield areas respectively were reasonably well attended as was our April walk round Bakewell. However, since then enthusiasm seems to have waned, and walks were cancelled for various reasons, including poor weather and insufficient numbers.

Having said that, we all very much enjoyed our annual long distance walk in May, the North Cotswold Diamond Way, a roughly diamond shaped route of about 65 miles, devised by the local Ramblers Society. We had fine weather and went through pretty Cotswold villages with their typical yellow Cotswold stone cottages, and picturesque towns including Chipping Campden, Northleach and Bourton on the Water. The guidebook included a selection of short walks incorporating part of the main route, and some of us opted for those instead, giving us the opportunity of exploring the local shops and attractions such as Batsford Arboretum and Chedworth Roman Villa.

**The Parish of St. Oswald, Ashbourne with St. Mary Mappleton
Report of the Parochial Church Council
For the year ended 31 December 2024**

Reports from St Oswald's Groups and organisations (continued)

Walking Group (continued)

Our long walk this year will be Friends Way 2, approximately 49 miles from Sedbergh to Ulverston, a continuation of Friends Way 1 which we completed in 2023. We shall be based in or near Kendal.

We should very much like to recruit new members to our group. New ideas for our monthly walks would be welcome, and transport could easily be arranged where necessary. Details of forthcoming walks and of the monthly Monday Ramblers' shorter walks are published in the weekly church newsletter.

Jackie Burns

Flower Arrangers

We arrange flowers in church throughout the year apart from Lent and Advent.

There are 3 teams who work on a rota basis, and we all get together for major festivals and special events.

Sanctuary flowers are often donated in memory of family and friends.

We also receive flowers on a regular basis from a local supermarket.

Elizabeth Bridges
Secretary

**The Parish of St. Oswald, Ashbourne with St. Mary Mappleton
Report of the Parochial Church Council
For the year ended 31 December 2024**

Carsington Deanery Synod 2024

Good News

At each meeting there is the opportunity to share good news from around the deanery. The news included:

- The licensing of Rev Katrina Jenkins at St Giles and Reverend Bex at Brailsford
- Wirksworth Messy Church and coffee mornings.
- Summer Recitals at St Oswald's, Ashbourne.
- Festival Evensong celebrating Stamford's.
- The Annual Teddy Bears Parachute Jump.
- St Oswald's Hall renovated and reopened following storm Babet.
- Brailsford Church - 6,000 knitted poppies displayed for Remembrance Day.
- Yeaveley Church held a Pimms and Hymns event.
- St James', Bonsall now have a toilet fitted.
- The Wirksworth team held events based on 'What a Wonderful World'.
- A Parish Weekend was held at Masson Mills for Matlock and Darley Dale.
- A Festival of Remembrance was held at the Pavilion, Matlock Bath

Guest Speakers

Throughout the year there were a number of guest speakers:

Bob Goody from Rural Missions spoke about 'Enabling rural churches in God's mission' and wanting to help churches to connect with their community to be more missional in their approach.

Martyn Marples from Church House gave a presentation on "Finance, Myth Busting, Transparency & Support".

Sarah Lacey from Hartington Parish talked about Anna Chaplaincy, which started in 2010. Her role as an Anna Chaplain involves visiting elderly people, going into care homes, and looking for people who are isolated. She is also able to give communion to people in their homes and spend time with the terminally ill.

Reporting back

Nicola McNally reported back from Diocesan Synod, including a presentation from Sam Frith and a financial report. Another Diocesan Synod talked about benefices in vacancy, the 2025 budget, the common fund and Eco Church.

Peter Kelsey reported back from each General Synod, one of which was about Trust and Living in Love & Faith

Other Business

A 'Deanery Directory' was discussed in which parishes could share details of events and good ideas to provide inspiration and encouragement.

Claire Critchlow spoke about the Parish Finance & Energy Returns and the Statistics for Mission.

**The Parish of St. Oswald, Ashbourne with St. Mary Mappleton
Report of the Parochial Church Council
For the year ended 31 December 2024**

Carsington Deanery Synod 2024 (continued)

A conversation was had around Communion.

The new structure for the Deanery Secretaries and PA's was discussed.

Samuel Ojok introduced himself as the new Environmental Engagement Officer, telling us how he can help us become greener.

Finally...

Thanks go to all those who have attended and contributed to the Carsington Deanery Synod throughout 2024. We make every effort to make synods as relevant and interesting as we can and would encourage members to make suggestions for future synods. It is an important cog in the machinery that is the Church of England as it helps us to both hear from and speak to the church at parish, diocesan and national levels.

Thanks also to those who have hosted our meetings throughout 2024.

Finally, thanks to Emily Woodhouse (Archdeacon's PA) for putting this report together for distribution to our APCMs.

Rev Phil Michell
Assistant Area Dean