



# The Hambleton Valley Group of Churches

"To see our lives and communities transformed by the love of God"



## HAMBLETON VALLEY GROUP OF PARISHES PROFILE

## APPOINTMENT OF A NEW PRIEST-IN- CHARGE

May 2023



# The Hambleton Valley Group of Churches

"To see our lives and communities transformed by the love of God"

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# The Hambleden Valley Group of Churches

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## 1. Foreword



The Archdeacon of Buckingham and all the congregations of the Hambleden Valley Group are enthusiastically seeking a gifted Priest-in-Charge\* to work alongside the existing Clergy Team. The role will help our parish to deliver our mission statement.

**‘To see our lives and communities transformed by the love of God’.**

We are looking for a leader and pastor who will walk with us, encourage, and enable us to grow and serve God in the Valley and beyond. This is an exciting and demanding ministry. It will need energy, drive, and a clear desire to identify, under God, our way forward. Are **you** the person God is calling to help us move forward as we seek to discover His plan and purpose for us as His Church in the Hambleden Valley?

Our prayers are with you as you read this.

Please also pray for us.

**The Archdeacon of Buckingham: Guy Elsmore**

**Church Wardens: Brian Barnes, Jill Dean, Judy Hunt, Angela Magee, David Napier, Caroline Sants, Jill Steward.**

**\*Please note the intention of the Archdeaconry is to lift the suspension of the Benefice in the near future and this will enable the post to be redesignated Rector.**



**DIOCESE of OXFORD**

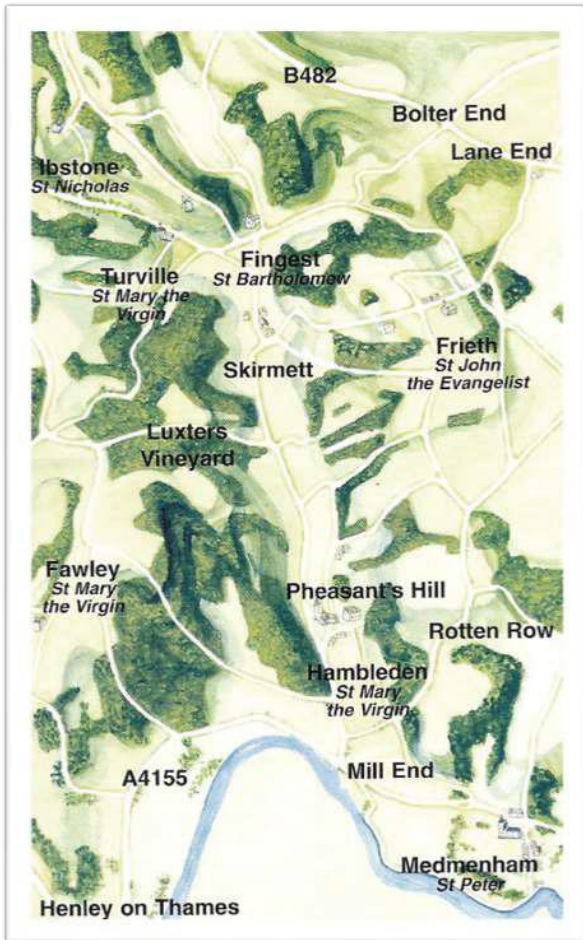
*A Christ-like Church for the sake of God's world*



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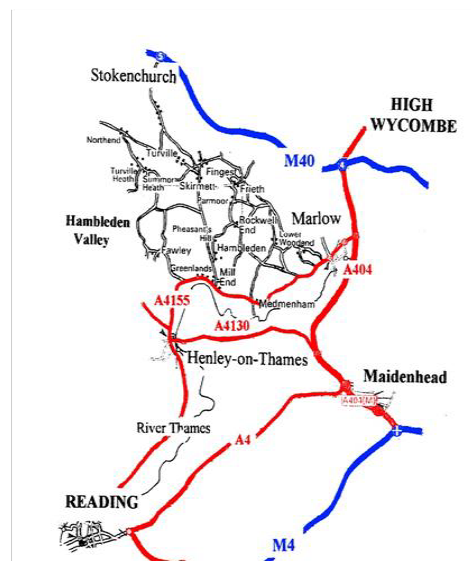
## 2. Hambleden Valley Locations & Maps



The Valley and surrounding hills are in the heart of the Chilterns and has been designated as an 'Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.'

To find out more about the Hambleden Valley Group, its Churches and examples of recent church life, please refer to

<http://www.hambleden-valley-churches.org.uk/>





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### **3. Hambleden Valley Group Mission.**

We are seeking a new Priest-in-Charge to join the local community, who will embrace our mission intent ‘**to see our lives and communities transformed by the love of God**’ across the Hambleden Valley. The role will require a pastor who can balance the needs of the individual churches whilst bringing the group together in Ministry. A natural people-person, who would join our mission to grow the community spirit through the work of the parish outreach.

#### **What we can offer you.**

- A diverse group of parishes with a committed blend of friendly Lay people and Clergy who are keen to be supportive to our new Priest-in-Charge.
- A beautiful setting in the heart of the Hambleden valley amongst the Chiltern countryside but near to Marlow and Henley on Thames.
- A wonderful large family home with views across the Hambleden Valley.
- A role that has ample room to develop a shared vision with the parishes.
- A warm welcome to whoever God sends to be our new priest.

### **4. Nurturing Signs of Life.**

**Weddings and Baptisms.** Drawing on the attractions of these quintessential Chiltern villages, weddings and baptisms offer potential for nurturing faith at significant events in family life. Marriage preparation is one of our enduring successes of which we are very proud.





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**Community Life in Villages.** There is considerable community engagement within the benefice. This can be demonstrated in the spike in church attendance for festivals and seasonal services, such as Harvest Festivals or the Railway Nativity in Fawley, as well as in pastoral initiatives such as the Tea Club for senior citizens and in educational support for our two schools.

**Children and Young Families.** There are two primary schools within the group, Frieth CEC Primary School and Danesfield School. The Priest-in-Charge by virtue of the office will be the ex officio Governor of Frieth School. However, there is more scope to engage with the younger community still further.

*Frieth Church of England combined Primary School works closely with the church: The school Vision, which was chosen by the pupils in 2021, is taken from St Matthew’s Gospel Chapter 5. “Your light must shine before all people so that they see the good things you do”. This vision has been embraced by the school community and they certainly let their light shine in so many ways. The current clergy team have provided fantastic support to the school in leading collective worship, presiding at festival services, providing pastoral care, introducing Wild Church to our Forest school, and just being a presence there. You are welcome to visit any time to see for yourself St Matthew’s Gospel in action ([friethschool.co.uk](http://friethschool.co.uk))*

*(Jill Dean, Chair of Governors)*

**Visitors.** The Hambleden Valley is a popular destination for visitors, and this has increased markedly in recent years. The combination of the proximity to heavily populated areas and extraordinarily unspoiled countryside attracts all sorts – from walkers and cyclists in their droves, to people visiting our excellent pubs, and, of course, our beautiful churches. The valley has featured in many films and TV series and in particular the village of Turville, with St Mary Church at its heart, is where the Vicar of Dibley was filmed. Please find a helpful visitor guide [Hambleden Valley Guide \(google.com\)](http://Hambleden Valley Guide (google.com)). We welcome our visitors and love sharing our churches with them. Our prayer request books are full and in ‘normal’ times we often meet people who have travelled from all over the world as well as from only a few miles away. We long to find better ways to connect with all our visitors and encourage them to feel part of our worshipping community either as passing visitors or long-term friends.

**Our Community.** The Hambleden Valley consists of a series of villages between Marlow and Henley rising from the River Thames into the Chiltern Hills. Thirty miles west of London, the villages retain traditional rural life (reflected in services such as Tractor, Plough, and Animal Sundays) with long-standing residents and families, an increasing number of commuters and short-term tenancies. The church community is very keen to engage with this changing demographic and explore further opportunities for outreach.



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Turville

## Our Church Group.

Fawley



Fingest



Frieth



Hambleden



Medmenham



Turville



Please find the group's website [Hambleden Valley Churches \(hambleden-valley-churches.org.uk\)](http://Hambleden Valley Churches (hambleden-valley-churches.org.uk))



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**Pastoral reach.** Each church within the Benefice is embedded in the distinctive life of its community. Bible study and prayer groups have started to meet in person, once again, at various venues around the valley and are well supported post covid.



**Outdoor Service**

**Wild Church** initiated and led by our associate priest, meets monthly on Sundays, allowing the community to meet outdoors come rain or shine, across the different parishes in the valley. This is an extremely popular service and has a diverse congregation.



**Wild Church**



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A **'Tea club'**, which was formed in 2002 and has recently restarted provides an afternoon of companionship, laughter, and activity e.g., quizzes, whist, bingo, day trips, pantos, parties, but always tea and cake. There is no age limit, although many members are 60+ years. It is also an opportunity for people to talk safely about problems or worries.

**'Church Mice' Sunday School** and a slightly older group called Church Monkeys, was meeting up monthly prior to lockdown. Parents led the sessions, based on a fun Christian themed activity. After this, they joined the congregation in church to share what they had done. We hope there will be support to resurrect these activities.

**Musical activities.** Hambleton and Frieth churches have permanent choirs, led by our Director of Music, and who come together to form the Hambleton Valley Group Choir which sings at Group services and at weddings and funerals. There are bell ringing groups in Turville and Hambleton, and a real enthusiasm to grow the musicality in this area, probably helped by the recent 'Ring for the King' activities. We seek a new Priest-in-Charge who values music, both traditional and informal, and its capacity to enhance worship and prayer.





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**Hambleton Valley Magazine** has a longstanding heritage, this A5 32-page monthly publication began life back in the 1850's (exact date unknown); it has, incredibly, survived this passage of time and indeed continues to thrive bringing in useful annual funds. The real reason it thrives is because of the quality of the written articles which together with local advertising combine to make it a popular read for over 400 subscribers, the majority of whom have their copies hand delivered by local village distributors. There are other areas to explore in terms of communication and we seek a person who would embrace new initiatives and support the development of our website.

Covid curtailed several Group activities such as '**Barneys**', a monthly toddler group for children and their carers. '**Oasis**' a quiet contemplative evening service supported by the Valley Worship Band. These were popular and reached beyond the realms of traditional worshippers. We hope these can be reinstated.

### **5. The Mission Challenges.**

**Pastoral stability.** A prolonged vacancy followed by a relatively short incumbency, prior to an appointment of an Interim Priest, has left a desire for a Priest who will bring wise and sympathetic pastoral care and leadership across the Benefice, both within the churches and in the wider Hambleton Valley community.

**Expectations.** Each parish values its church enormously and works hard to provide as many services as possible. We are looking for a new Priest-in-Charge to continue the growth and commitment across the generations and for the potential to be realised in each parish.

**Reaching across generations.** Currently we have few children attending our churches. The changing demographics within the Valley towards a younger and more mobile population mean that to maintain the relevance of our churches we must engage better with families. We intend to build on the established links between churches and schools through school assemblies, visits, special services, and outreach projects.



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### **6. We pray that our new Priest-in-Charge will be.**

- An assured person of deep faith who will lead us, teach us, encourage us in prayer and study of the scriptures, who is in touch with the realities of contemporary life and able to preach the Gospel creatively in this context.
- A person that loves people and has an authentic desire to bring out the best in them, who can identify and nurture talents in others, and enable them to release these gifts into the community.
- A person who is open to and familiar with different styles of worship, from BCP, Common worship, traditional sung Eucharist as well as more informal liturgies, and who will support Lay-Led initiatives.
- A person who lives out Christ’s example in our communities – who would enjoy getting to know all our villages, and to embrace their individuality; and a person who would want to engage and understand the people who live here, whether they are people of faith or none, who would not feel daunted when this requires travelling along narrow lanes, sometimes in the dark!
- A person who could nurture links with schools and encourage families and young people.
- A person who leads by example and is a good role model for our community. Who would not ask someone to do something they were not ready to do themselves.
- A person with excellent communication skills, in responding to emails, letters and phone calls promptly; and when managing the six churches, is efficient at administration and able to delegate.

Above all we need a truly Christian person who has compassion for all, Christian and non-Christian alike. We are looking forward to welcoming a new Priest-in-Charge to the Hambleton Valley and to working alongside them to achieve and develop our Parish Mission.



## **7. Our Churches and Communities 'in their own words'!**

**St Mary, Fawley.** Fawley is a beautiful village; but it is also long and stringy, spread out along several lanes in a way that makes it hard for people to run into each other. In the absence of a pub, the 250-ish residents tend to rendezvous at the church, which stands at the fixed at the heart of our community. Conventional services are loyally but sparsely attended; festival services draw torrents of people. These occasions attract many who no longer live in the village but remain emotionally attached to the church. Our harvest festival is a joy; our carol service the stuff of legend, persuading people who never otherwise enter the church to recite, play, sing and dance. Above all, we have the Railway Nativity, in which the Divine Infant is delivered to Mary by a real, snorting steam engine. Congregations of over a hundred are gathered and handsomely fleeced for a variety of charities, including the Kasisi orphanage in Zambia, which Fawley church supports. Lockdown brought us a modest but distinct blessing: a small group began gathering in the churchyard on Fridays for poetry and prayers. These short services have continued without interruption ever since, whatever the weather, and regularly attract fifty or more participants. This is a lay service, but it is endorsed and encouraged and- whenever possible- attended by our very open-minded clergy and their guests. In truth, it's a big local success.



**Fawley Prayers**

The other great initiative has been the creation of the Friends of Fawley Church. The Friends' ambition is to reinforce the church's position at the centre of community life in the village. To restore the physical building and reconfigure parts of its interior; to invest it again with the indispensability it enjoyed in years past. Fundraising began during lockdown, with a variety of concerts, lectures, parties, and full-blooded assaults on likely charities. So far £350k of a needed £400k has been raised. Building work starts any moment.



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**St Bartholomew, Fingest.** The Church of St Bartholomew's has stood at the centre of the village for over 900 years. We are both the smallest village and the smallest church in the Group. It is a wonderful place to sit quietly and sense God's presence without distraction. Visitors come from far and wide to admire the unusual architecture of the Church but are quickly captivated by the sense of history, the peace, and the presence of God within its walls. Everyone in the village whether churchgoers or not have great affection for and pride in this wonderful building and the continuity it represents. We punch above our weight when it comes to PCC members, 9 lay members at the last count, and we can always call on others in the community for support where needed. We have no water or other facilities in the Church, but we have had a great relationship with successive landlords of The Chequers, the only other community building in the village who host our harvest supper and post carol service hospitality. With judicious use of urns and kettles we offer hospitality on a regular basis within our services. In late May and at August Bank holidays we have teas in the Churchyard, and in recent years have added walkers cafes, which, due to the efforts of one PCC member, are now a fixture in the diaries of many walking groups.



We are proud that we have maintained a friendship with the congregation of St James' Church in Lower Clapton, East London for over 20 years. We are thrilled that we will see them this summer when they visit Fingest for the first time since Covid. Many people from the valley churches join us to walk, pray and sing (a lot!) Not only are we the smallest but also the poorest church in the group (in money terms that is) but we have always paid our parish share and kept up with maintenance of this Grade 1 listed building thanks to the generosity of the community. We have a vision and simple plans to make an area of the Church a more comfortable and contemplative space; to encourage our many visitors to sit a while, to reflect, to pray and to feel God's presence in this small, simple, and ancient Church. We are looking forward to welcoming a new Priest-in-Charge to the Hambleton Valley and to working alongside them! There are exciting times ahead.



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**St John the Evangelist, Frieth.** Frieth is a quiet, pretty village with the church located at its centre, together with our Church of England school and village hall. Although it has a large base of older people, more families with young children have moved into the village in recent years. Regular church attendance varies, but averages about 20, including 6 choristers. The church building is well cared for by the church warden, volunteers, and the active PCC. Most villagers care about the church and support special services, such as Harvest, Mother's Day, Remembrance Sunday, and Christmas (especially Christingle). The church has a good relationship with the Village Society, and together they organise events such as Lent lunches, carols around the tree and the summer fete. The choir is invited to sing at the start of the 'Frieth Hilly' run and the Tractor Rally. Church members are active in village life and coordinate the collection of food for the food bank 'One Can Trust,' organise a regular lunch club and take part in the Marlow Action Group for older residents.



The church seeks to nurture its link with the village school by occasionally holding services in which the children take an active role and parents attend. A ministry team member holds weekly assemblies in the school hall. Before covid, a mother and toddlers' group were held in the village hall, which proved popular. Another area which the church would like to develop is pastoral care. Currently individuals visit their neighbours to offer support, particularly in times of special need, but would welcome guidance and ideas for perhaps a more structured approach.





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**St Mary the Virgin, Hambleton.** Hambleton Church is the largest in the Hambleton Valley Group. It is a well-cared for and beautiful space, and we offer prayer cards and a book to record prayers for the many people who visit. We have small to moderate, steady, congregations for several kinds of services: BCP Holy Communion, CW Eucharist with our choir, a simpler Eucharist for Baptisms, and a monthly Lay Led Morning Prayer. Hambleton draws big congregations of local people for its festivals of Easter, Harvest, Christmas services and Mothering Sunday. At Christmas 2022, the congregations were larger than pre-pandemic. Hambleton is a very busy church for example in 2022 there were 20 weddings, 11 funerals and thanksgivings, several burials, 9 Baptisms, many with large congregations.



During the pandemic 5 people learned how to be Vergers for weddings, and some for funerals, so this load is now shared. We began the Lay-led Morning Prayer during covid and seek to continue this activity. We have a very involved PCC and have installed Broadband, Contactless Payment, restored a medieval window, as well as the current roof works, all since 2020 as well as many repairs. Members of our congregation run summertime 'Church Teas' in the churchyard. Others run 'Lent lunches' in the Village Hall and the choir does Carol Singing in the Community at Christmas. All these raise money for the church and charities. We support the Local Food Bank. Hambleton hosts many Special services for the HVG: in



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2022, a Civic Service for Buckinghamshire Council, Footprints (for child bereavement), a Good Friday service, a Backpack Service (new school year), a Commemoration Service for the Queen, Remembrance Service, Candlelit Advent Carol Service. We hope to reintroduce the Valentine's Service.

Our main challenge is to encourage local people, young and old, to come to our church regularly to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ. Many in the Hambleton congregation come from outside the parish and are not young. Few live in the village. Hambleton is dependent on a few older volunteers and our organist and choir are mostly elderly. The Church building is a challenge, taking much time with servicing and maintenance: the rest of the roof must be renewed, (1/3 to be completed by April 2023) and a toilet and kitchenette installed. These projects need major fund raising in the community, which we have been successful with in the past. Hambleton church has a lot going for it! There is a strong sense of fellowship to build on.





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**St Peter & St Paul, Medmenham.** Medmenham lies on the road between Marlow and Henley and is on the Southernmost edge of the Hambleden Valley Group. Although the church, village hall and local pub are all close to each other, this busy intersecting link road restricts the parish having a true communal centre, even though we have a population of around 936 residents. A large proportion of this number are the families living in our local RAF base and most of the children attend the nearby Danesfield Primary, a large school of approximately 400 pupils serving both Medmenham and Marlow. St Peter and St Paul’s is a delightful church and has been well maintained and currently in good repair.



In the last five years we have been fortunate to have been able to install both a kitchenette and a toilet. An area of the graveyard has been set aside for a ‘wild churchyard’ where wild orchids are now well established. When full the church will accommodate around 80 people but sadly now only a handful attend regular services although there is considerable village support for services such as the annual Carol service and Christingle which fill the church. Although we do not have a church warden now, a loyal group are working hard to try and establish an active congregation and it is hoped we will be able to engage new people to join our PCC. At a recent meeting attended by over twenty of the local community all committed to promote our upcoming services both within the parish and our local village newsletter, ‘Medmenham Matters.’ All those attending were enthusiastic about their village church and its place in the community. The feeling was that it is important for the future that church services here would be varied and appeal to all sections of the community, especially families. In addition, located within the church estate we have a row of 5 church cottages. These are let and the rent put towards our parish share. The new incumbent will become an ex officio Trustee of this Charity on their appointment.



**St Mary the Virgin Turville.** One of the prettiest villages in the Hambleton Valley, Turville church is still well known as the location for the 'Vicar of Dibley' and thus attracts a steady flow of occasional visitors throughout the year. The village itself has, over recent years, seen a changing demographic, with many younger families moving into both the village centre, and the outlying parish hamlets of Northend, Southend, and Turville Heath. This together with the local village nursery, local pub, and village hall facility in Northend; we recognise we have wonderful yet untapped opportunities for Christian outreach. Currently St Mary's only has one Sunday service a month which is sadly sometimes sparsely attended but slowly growing, and we also have a weekly Wednesday morning communion service which has a small regular congregation. Services at Harvest, All Souls, Christmas, and Easter however we are extremely good at and have organised other very popular events such as animal blessings which have all been well attended and welcomed.



In January 2022 our extremely small, but optimistic, PCC got together and held two mission strategy brainstorming workshops which focussed discussion solely on where our mission opportunities lay and the direction we felt called to travel. An early unanimous desire was to work towards re-positioning Turville church as the centre and hub of community life for the village and surrounding parish. We also recognised we had a unique opportunity to reach out to this community whether church attendees or not, casual visitors to the church and new young families and children. From this starting point we developed our three strands of mission priorities: Small Steps Evangelism, a Team Approach and Building Repair. Instead of attempting one off events, which put pressure on limited resources, we committed to look at everything we already do and how we could perhaps enhance it in realistic small ways. In this way we feel our enthusiasm is not dampened and with growing confidence we can build on these foundations. Here is just a small sample of our many ideas to grow the engagement amongst the parish: Actively identifying young teenagers to help and play a part in the services. Providing refreshments before a service rather than afterwards to help create a more informal welcoming environment.

Organising village help with churchyard clear ups and making this a social event with tea and cake and a craft table to encourage children. An outside baptism welcome board created by local children which is personalised with the baby's name. Providing free prayer cards near our candle station for visitors to take away. Currently there is a huge commitment of church warden time and energy responding to our recent QI report and all its remedial recommendations, and it will be an interesting challenge to maintain engagement with the community whilst the church is closed from September. However, we also look forward to a time next year when the church reopens in early spring, when St Mary's could be available for wider community use and outreach. In the meantime, our focus is our welcome and interaction with all, and to that end we have adopted a guiding principle to use as guidance and as a yardstick for everything we do.

**You are Held, You are Loved, You Matter**



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## 8. Background information to the Benefice.

### Benefice Statistics

Village	Population	Electoral Roll	Average attendance	Average attendance occasional services Harvest, Easter, Christmas	Baptism	Weddings	Funerals (incl committals)	Group Services
Fawley	250	44	14	53	2	1	2	Average attendance 48
Fingest	111	30	12	44	0	0	1 (1)	
Frieth with Hambleton	564	98	17+2 on Zoom	44	2	1	1 (2)	
	1445		29	104	6	20	11 (3)	
Medmenham	876	21	26	37	1	1	1	
Turville	340	11	11	58	4	6	3 (2)	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3586</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>19 (7)</b>	

## 9. Support for the Priest-in-Charge.

**The Clergy Team.** The existing members of the Clergy team comprise an Associate Priest who is House for Duty, living in the Vicarage in Turville. She has promoted many of the innovative initiatives around the parish e.g. Barneys, Wild Church, and the Footprint Service. Further support is currently provided by two retired Clergy who are vested in the community and often step in to deliver services and other pastoral support.



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**Churchwardens**, active in their Churches who meet fortnightly meeting with the Clergy to discuss concerns and activities in their churches. They make many of the practical decisions associated with their individual churches and support each other.

**Finance.** There is a one Group Treasurer with whom PCC Treasurers liaise. The Financial position of the group remains in good hands. The Valley Churches prides themselves on maintaining a positive set of accounts and cash position despite the challenges the recent pandemic threw at us. Balances for the past three years have remained constant allowing the accounts to hold a buffer for potential rainy days. As a result of the prudent strategy of the Group Treasurer. Some of our churches have managed Trust Funds and the Priest-in-Charge would be expected to become one of the Trustees by virtue of their office. (Please see separate document for Annual Accounts).

**Support Administrator.** Our group administrator currently works on a Monday and on an ad-hoc basis approximately 11 hours per week. (See Appendix 2 for description of duties)

**The Rectory.** The accommodation provided for The Priest-in-Charge is “Spring Bank,” recently acquired by the Diocese, is situated on the edge of Hambleden village and is currently undergoing refurbishment. It is a generously sized family home with 4 bedrooms, mature gardens boasting and an Orchard with stunning views of the Hambleden Valley, in the heart of the parish.



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### **10. Wycombe Deanery Statement.**

The Wycombe Deanery is a family of 35 Anglican churches who - together with our ecumenical friends - serve the 150,000 people living in and around High Wycombe. Together the Deanery Churches comprise over 3,000 Christians living, working, and playing our part in the growth of God's Kingdom here.

Our 3 core principles are: **Serving our fellowships**: By which we mean: Always seeking the good of each parish, focusing on people and right relationships, not buildings or structures and acting in a collaborative and mutually supportive way **Shaping our future** By which we mean: Taking responsibility for the future of the Deanery, which is in our own hands under God Proactive long-term planning for growth Bold and realistic plans for short / medium-term sustainability **Spurring on our friends** By which we mean: Exploring new ways to grow in love and in our calling Enabling parishes to work better together learning from each other and identifying partnerships. Working collaboratively with other clergy and laity within the Deanery, such as through the Rural Forum. Supporting, encouraging, unifying, and inspiring:

To enable this, our key groups are the:

**Deanery Synod.** A quarterly gathering of elected leaders from our 35 churches, where we devote at least 50% of our time to focusing on what is inspirational or missional, or both.



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**Deanery Leadership Teams.** Our Mission & Pastoral Committee and Standing Committee provide a lead on strategic, operational, and financial aspects of Deanery life.

We focus on achieving and growing a sustainable pattern of stipendiary ministry, and the wellbeing of our clergy and lay members. In October 2019 we held 'Sharing the Fire', a Deanery-wide worship celebration attended by 475 people who left with a renewed sense that the fire of God's Spirit is spreading across our churches. The Deanery Plan for 2021-25 is now in place. Visit [www.wycombedeanery.com](http://www.wycombedeanery.com) for more information.

### **11. The Diocese of Oxford and the Archdeaconry of Buckingham.**

The Diocese of Oxford serves the mission of the Church in Buckinghamshire, Berkshire, and Oxfordshire. The Diocese comprises more than 600 parishes, with over 800 churches, serving a diverse population of more than 2 million people located in all types of settings. Due to the size and complexity of the Diocese, we have three Area Bishops who exercise considerable strategic and pastoral oversight for their Areas. The Bishop of Buckingham is the Rt Revd. Alan Wilson who has been the Area Bishop since 2003. The Archdeacon of Buckingham is Ven Guy Elsmore who has been in post since 2016. In September 2020, Revd Canon Chris Bull was appointed Associate Archdeacon of Buckingham. Through prayer, listening and discernment a common vision has emerged for the Diocese of Oxford. The vision is based on the qualities described in The Beatitudes and addresses what kind of church we are called to be:

**‘a more Christ-like Church for the sake of God’s world contemplative, compassionate, courageous’.**

Our [Diocesan Common Vision](#), continues to emerge as we identify together areas of our common life where we believe God is calling to focus. [The diocesan focal areas](#) are not a description of everything we do, but these priorities are being supported centrally by resources, training, conferences, workshops, and much more. The diocese is inviting benefices and their clergy to share a vision rather than demanding a response, motivated by hope not driven by anxiety, and thereby [enabling all to flourish in ministry](#). It is hoped that clergy appointed into the Archdeaconry of Buckingham will want to commit to this vision and encourage their benefice to share in becoming a more Christ-like church for the sake of God’s world.



## **12. Appendix 1 Role Description.**

The following provisional role description will apply from the date of licensing. It will be reviewed by the postholder and the Archdeacon of Buckingham approximately six months after the date of licensing. Amendments will be made where necessary, by agreement.

**Role title:** Priest-in-Charge

**Type of Role:** Full time stipendiary

**Name of benefice:** Hambleton Valley Group Benefice

**Episcopal area:** Buckingham

**Deanery:** Wycombe

**Archdeaconry:** Buckingham

**Conditions of Service:** Please refer to Statements of Particulars document issued in conjunction with this role description

**Key Contact for Clergy Terms of Service: Archdeacon of Buckingham:** This role falls within the Clergy Terms of Service formally known as Common Tenure. The Archdeacon of Buckingham is the designated person by the Bishop of Oxford to issue the Statement of Particulars for the post holder.

**Accountability:** Priests share with the Bishop in the oversight of the Church.

Whilst, as an office holder, the individual is expected to lead and prioritise work in line with the purpose of the role, they are encouraged to inform the Archdeacon and Churchwardens about any issues exceptional or otherwise that have the potential to affect ongoing delivery of ministry

**Additional Responsibility:** N/A

### **Wider context**

The Diocese of Oxford serves the mission of the church in Buckinghamshire, Berkshire, and Oxfordshire. The diocese comprises more than 600 parishes, with over 800 churches, serving a population of more than 2 million people located in all types of settings. Our common vision is based on the qualities described in The Beatitudes and addresses what kind of church we are called to be: ‘**a more Christ-like Church for the sake of God’s world contemplative, compassionate, courageous.**’ It is hoped that all clergy appointed into the Archdeaconry of Buckingham will want to commit to this vision and encourage their benefice to share in becoming a more Christ-like church for the sake of God’s world. Our [Diocesan Common Vision](#), continues to emerge as we identify together areas of our common life where we believe God is calling to focus. [The diocesan focal areas](#) are not a description of everything we do, but these priorities are being supported centrally by resources, training, conferences, workshops, and much more. The diocese is inviting benefices and their clergy to share a vision rather than demanding a response, motivated by hope not driven by anxiety, and thereby [enabling all to flourish in ministry](#).

### **Local context**

The Hambleton Valley Group is comprised of six villages 30 miles west of London, between Marlow and Henley rising from the River Thames into the Chiltern Hills. The villages retain



## The Hambleton Valley Group of Churches

"To see our lives and communities transformed by the love of God"

traditional rural life with long-standing residents and families and an increasing number of commuters and short-term tenancies. This is an area of Outstanding Natural Beauty with beautiful conservation areas, attracting a large number of weekend visitors and regular media filming. There are 5 PCCs and a Group Council which oversee ministry and mission in the Valley, alongside the Priest-in-Charge and Associate Vicar. The churches are all central to village life and well supported by their local communities. For more information, see the individual parish profiles listed above in this document.

### **Role Purpose and key responsibilities**

#### **General.**

To exercise the cure of souls shared with the bishop in this benefice in collaboration with colleagues, including the praying of the Daily Office, the administration of the sacraments and preaching

To have regard to the calling and responsibilities of the clergy (as described in the Canons, the Ordinal, the Code of Professional Conduct for the Clergy) and other relevant legislation including bringing the grace and truth of Christ to this generation and making him known to those in your care

Instructing the parishioners in the Christian faith

Preparing candidates for baptism and confirmation

Diligently visiting the parishioners of the benefice, particularly those who are sick and infirm

Providing spiritual counsel and advice

Consulting with the Parochial Church Councils on matters of general concern and importance to the benefice

Bringing the needs of the world before God in intercession

Calling your hearers to repentance and declaring in Christ's name the absolution and forgiveness of their sins

Blessing people in God's name

Preparing people for their death

Discerning and fostering the gifts of all God's people

Being faithful in prayer, expectant and watchful for the signs of God's presence, as he reveals his kingdom amongst us

To share in the wider work of the deanery and diocese as appropriate, for the building up of the whole Body of Christ



## The Hambleton Valley Group of Churches

“To see our lives and communities transformed by the love of God”

### Specific to the Hambleton Valley Group of Churches

- 1 To help the benefice deliver its mission statement; ‘ To see our lives and communities transformed by the love of God’.
- 2 To collaborate with, support and encourage our House for Duty Associate Priest in fulfilling her role and to work with her to agree a Ministerial Working Agreement that identifies honest and realistic expectations for both.
- 3 To act as ex officio Governor of Frieth CEC Primary School, to share in leading collective worship, and to provide pastoral and practical support to the school community.
- 4 To walk with congregations, encourage and enable them to grow and serve God in the valley and beyond.
- 5 To balance the needs of the individual churches whilst bringing the group together.
- 6 To lead and manage the Director of Music, Group Administrator and have regular communication to ensure relevant information is shared.
- 7 To continue the twice monthly zoom meetings with Churchwardens to support them and for them to support you.
- 8 To act as managing editor of Group Magazine by liaising with the editor and signing it off before it goes to press.
- 9 To act as trustee for charities managed by the PCCs and including the Medmenham Church Cottages charity.
- 10 To build on the success of thriving, supportive communities that are committed to nurturing a connection with God in the valley and beyond.

### Other responsibilities

Participate in the Bishop’s Ministerial Development Review scheme and engage in Continuing Ministerial Development

Carry out any other duties and responsibilities as required in line with the Benefice needs

Take care of their personal wellbeing including health and safety and building a good repertoire of spiritual and psychological strategies

### Benefice Summary.

**Benefice:** Hambleton Valley Group Benefice

**Patrons:** Bishop of Oxford; Rt Hon William Herbert-Smith; Margaret Mackenzie

**PCCs:** 5

**Churchwardens:** 6

**Ministers:** 2 (Priest-in-Charge and Associate Priest)

**Benefice paid staff:** Part-time Director of Music - Part-time Group Administrator (11 hours)

**Benefice unpaid staff/volunteers:** Lay leaders in all parishes



# The Hambleton Valley Group of Churches

"To see our lives and communities transformed by the love of God"

**Buildings:** 6

**Churchyards:** 6

**Church Traditions:** Mixture of traditional and informal services

**Pastoral Reorganisation proposals:** None planned

**Key contacts for the Role**

**Groups & committees**

The PCC(s)

Deanery Chapter

Deanery Synod

Deanery Pastoral Committee

**In the benefice**

Churchwardens x 6

Ministerial Colleagues

Head teacher(s) of local school(s)

**Support structures**

Area Dean

Area Bishop

Area Archdeacon

Spiritual Director, work consultant, etc

Staff at The Diocesan Office with key responsibilities for various aspects of support

**Other**

This role description is issued alongside and should be read in conjunction with the following documents:

The Ordinal

The Canons of the Church of England

Guidance for the Professional Conduct of Clergy

Bishop's Licence

Statement of Particulars issued to the officeholder on successful appointment

Diocesan Clergy Handbook

Parish Profile

Ministry Action Plans (MAPs)



## The Hambleton Valley Group of Churches

"To see our lives and communities transformed by the love of God"

Any objectives discussed and agreed between the post holder and the supervising minister

Role description signed off by:

The Venerable Guy Elsmore, Archdeacon of Buckingham

---

Date: tba

To be reviewed next on: tba



## **13. Appendix 2 Duties of Administrator**

### **Weekly**

Meet with ministry team on a regular basis for planning purpose.

Deal with priority correspondence throughout the week.

Deal with telephone and e-mail enquiries as soon as these are received and forward as appropriate - e.g. Funeral, Priest-in-Charges, Churchwardens, Priests, etc.

Maintain online banking service and make timely and approved payments.

Maintain key spreadsheet for Funerals and Memorials to ensure correct church and diocese fees are collected.

Jointly maintain group Wedding Schedule on google-docs in master format ready for banns planning and all wedding communications.

### **Monthly**

Arrange organists to play at services.

Email and post monthly service rotas, as provided by clergy.

Notify any changes to rotas and make alterations as appropriate, when notified by clergy. Advise key contacts by e-mail.

Produce monthly notice sheet for churches and notices for church notice boards as agreed.

Help to maintain group pattern of worship/rota for coming month and of past events in registers.

Reconcile bank statements and maintain fee record system.

Send details of services/registers to Parish Magazine editor

Update and amend Parish contact lists, as necessary. Share data lists and work to manage a uniform system of contacts throughout the churches. Parish contacts are now managed through Mailchimp – which is currently managed by the priest in charge.

### **Quarterly**

Attend Group Executive meeting if requested and take minutes of meeting.

Complete quarterly PCC reconciliations and pay refunds.

Complete quarterly fee returns for ODBF, and refund fees collected. If in vacancy – make claims for visiting clergy and refund to same.

### **Annually**

Order supplies of wine, wafers, candles as required having established needs from Church representatives and arrange distribution. Order Christingle tape and candles from The Children's society. As requested, – supply Gift aid Envelopes

Support advertising Lent and Christmas services, arrange delivery of printed cards.

### **As and when required**

Send out additional personal invitations to special services e.g. - All Souls

Receive wedding date requests and process through to acceptable 'Wedding Welcome Form' and pass on to clergy for interview and legality check.

Arrange Wedding Preparation days in collaboration with ministry team.

## **14. Appendix 3 - Accounts**

# **HAMBLEDEN VALLEY GROUP OF CHURCHES**

**Income and expenditure account  
For the year ended  
31st December 2022**

# HAMBLEDEN VALLEY GROUP OF CHURCHES

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2022

	2022	2021
<b>Receipts</b>		
Parish Share (see note 1 below)	47,773.00	44,070.00
HVG Share	15,245.00	12,602.50
Bank Interest	0.09	-
Concert & Fees	-	1,177.68
	<u>63,018.09</u>	<u>57,850.18</u>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Parish Share to Diocese	47,773.00	44,070.00
Clergy expenses	14,964.80	12,102.63
Adverts for Minister and Admin posts	-	-
Sanctuary	898.27	907.93
Baptism stationery	-	637.17
Print, stationery, post	107.00	308.75
Parmoor room hire	469.00	-
Group Music licence	599.35	562.72
Marriage Preparation	135.82	86.23
Miscellaneous	-	-
Christ Church Oxford	20.00	20.00
	<u>64,967.24</u>	<u>58,695.43</u>
<b>Operating Surplus/(Deficit) for the year</b>	<u><b>£ (1,949.15)</b></u>	<u><b>£ (845.25)</b></u>
<b>Magazine</b>		
Subscriptions	5,161.65	5,202.00
Advertising receipts	9,460.00	8,950.00
Total income	14,621.65	14,152.00
Expenses	13,168.76	12,609.16
Magazine Surplus/(Deficit) for Year	<u><b>£ 1,452.89</b></u>	<u><b>£ 1,542.84</b></u>
<b>Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the year</b>	<u><b>£ (496.26)</b></u>	<u><b>£ 697.59</b></u>
<b>General Fund</b>		
Balance at 31st December 2020	11,652.12	10,954.53
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year	(496.26)	697.59
Balance at 31st December 2021	<u><b>£ 11,155.86</b></u>	<u><b>£ 11,652.12</b></u>
<b>Represented By</b>		
Barclays Current Account	11,061.90	11,558.25
Barclays Premium Account	93.96	93.87
	<u><b>£ 11,155.86</b></u>	<u><b>£ 11,652.12</b></u>

### Notes 1 Parish share

Hambleden and Frieth pay directly to Oxford on a monthly basis for a 1% discount. All other parishes pay quarterly via the Group account.

### 2 Cash balances

The cash held at Bank for year ended 31st December 2022 is held in accordance with the Parish Share contribution levels as follows:

Fawley	11%	1,227.14	12%	1,398.25
Fingest	4%	446.23	5%	582.61
Hambleden with Frieth	55%	6,135.72	51%	5,942.58
Medmenham	16%	1,784.94	17%	1,980.86
Turville	14%	1,561.82	15%	1,747.82
<b>Total</b>	<u>100%</u>	<u><b>£ 11,155.86</b></u>	<u>100%</u>	<u><b>£ 11,652.12</b></u>

I have compared the above accounts with the books and vouchers supplied and I certify that they are in accordance therewith.

  
M.G. Wortley  
Hon. Auditor

9th February 2023

**FAWLEY PCC**  
**Income and Expenditure Account**  
**For the year ended**  
**31<sup>st</sup> December 2022**

**FAWLEY PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
FUNDS AVAILABLE AT 31 DECEMBER 2022**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>GENERAL FUNDS</b>		
Balance at 31 December 2021	5251	3162
Surplus for year	3972	2089
Balance at 31 December 2021	<u>9223</u>	<u>5251</u>
Represented by		
- Natwest Bank general account	9223	5251
	<u>9223</u>	<u>5251</u>
<b>FABRIC FUND</b>		
Balance at 31 December 2021	24841	16295
Donations received	250	6865
VAT reclaimed		1498
Charitable institutions		4500
	25091	29158
Interest received	31	2
	25122	29161
Expenditure see 1 below	11651	4320
	<u>13470</u>	<u>24841</u>
Represented by		
Natwest Bank Fabric account	13470	24841
<b>INVESTMENT FUNDS - CCLA Church of England Funds</b>		
- General Le; 1400.66 Investment fund Income @ 23.38	28918	32756
- MacKenzie 5239.48 Equity Income Fund @ 1.8875	9339	11646
	38257	44402
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>51727</u>	<u>74494</u>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>		
- MacKenzie Legacy      Restricted to Churchyard maintenance	9339	11646
- Fabric Fund          Restricted to Church fabric work	13470	24841
	22809	36487
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	28918	38007
<b>TOTAL FUNDS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022</b>	<u>51727</u>	<u>74494</u>
<b>Note 1</b>		
<b>Expenditure</b>		
AF Jones- church fabric- window	9475	360 Yew Tree maintenance
Proseptic re percolation test	900	420 Mausoleum repairs
Chris Reading - re heating feasibility report	1276	360 Wall repairs
		3180 RGL Survey
	<u>11651</u>	<u>4320</u>

**FAWLEY PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
INCOME and EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

INCOME	Note	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	2021	EXPENDITURE	Note	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	2021
Parish						Parish					
Church services		4628		4628	2381	Parish share		13820		13820	13560
Planned giving		3165		3165	4921	Church inspection					260
Donations		900		900	900	Insurance		13820		13820	13820
Tax refund		8693		8693	7752	Heat, light and water	4	2181		2181	2161
Parish Giving		3671		3671	2460	Maintenance	5	2488		2488	1631
Non Gift Aid donations	1	12364		12364	10212			617	335	952	757
Total giving		2681		2681	3273						
		1430		1430	676						
		16475		16475	14161						
Church fees	2	2643		2643	1827						
Investment income											
Church Investment Funds		19118.31		19118	15988			19106	335	19441	18369
Special Events	3	3491		3491	3642	Charities		400		400	145
TOTAL		23478	334.3	23812	20793	Energy Audit					150
DEFICIT		23477.67	334.33	23812	20793	Listing of organ for sale					40
Notes						TOTAL		19506	335.3	19841	18704
1 Parish Giving		2011		2011	2618	SURPLUS		3972		3972	2090
Gift aid on above		670		670	655			23477.67	335.3	23813	20793
		2681		2681	3273	Notes					
2 Weddings		983		983	91	4 Heat, light, water includes		51		51	31
Burials		1660		1660	1736	- Oil		1173		1173	992
3 Special Events		2643		2643	1827	- Electricity		1264		1264	607
Trad boats		3011		3010.9	2272	5 Maintenance includes		2488		2488	1631
Gay competition		480		480.0	765	- Grass mowing (yard)		305	335.3	640	666
Harvest lunch					405	- Fire extinguisher service		42		42	91
Other		3491	0.0	3490.9	3642	- Boiler service					0
						Elec Maintenance		270		270	0
						6 Charities include		617	335.3	952	757
						- Kasisi Orphanage, Zamb:		250		250	145
						Friends of Fawley		150		150	145
								400		400	145

Nicholas George  
Christine Collas  
Hon Treasurer  
Hon Independent Auditor

**FINGEST PCC**  
**Income and Expenditure Account**  
**For the year ended**  
**31<sup>st</sup> December 2022**

**NATWEST. CHURCH ACCOUNTS**

**Opening balances @ 1/1/2022**

Tax reclaim

Deposits

Withdrawals

Interest

**Closing balance @ 31/12/2022**

**2022**

**£5,714.14**

3992.32

10345.56

14185.38

**£5,866.64**

**Balance on Current A/c @31/12/2022**

**Total**

**6591.64**

Less unpresented cheques

725

**Plus Cash not shown**

**Reconciled balance**

**5866.64**

£0.00

**CENTRAL BOARD OF FINANCE - DEPOSIT ACCOUNT**

**Opening balance @ 1/1/2022**

**£16,911.74**

Interest

222.43

Deposit

Withdrawals

**Balance shown on statement @31/12**

**£17,134.17**

**General Fund balance**

**£23,000.81**

**FINGEST PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

**BANK AND GENERAL FUND RECONCILIATION**

<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>		
£2,071.90	£2,976.53	£2,551.05		
	£1,382.53	£1,603.93		
£15,910.51	£13,157.51	£10,674.17		
£12,268.73	£15,444.67	£11,852.62		
<hr/> <b>£5,713.68</b>	<hr/> <b>£2,071.90</b>	<hr/> <b>£2,976.53</b>		
£5,714.14	£2,796.90	£3,641.53		
	£725.00	£725.00	2020	2019
		£60.00		
£5,714.14	£2,071.90	<hr/> <b>£2,071.90</b>	£2,976.53	<hr/> <b>£2,976.53</b>
£0.46		£0.00	£0.00	
£16,902.93	£18,829.21	£18,688.73		
£8.81	£73.72	£140.48		
	£2,000.00			
£16,911.74	<hr/> <b>£16,902.93</b>	<hr/> <b>£16,902.93</b>	<hr/> <b>£18,829.21</b>	<hr/> <b>£18,829.21</b>
 <b>£22,625.88</b>	 <b>£18,974.83</b>	 <b>£21,805.74</b>		

**ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH  
FINGEST**

**ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022 OF THE  
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

**Group Rector:**  
Vacant.

**Associate Priest:**  
The Reverend Sue Morton  
The Vicarage, Turville

**Interim Priest-in-charge**  
(As from 19<sup>th</sup> Jan 2021)  
The Reverend Sue Lepp  
St Katharine's, Parmoor.

**Background:** Fingest has the smallest church within the Hambleden Valley Group of Churches. There are six churches and five PCCs in the Valley and between them under normal circumstance offer a great variety of church services ranging from 8am BCP to Compline and most types of services in between.

**PCC Membership:** Membership of the PCC in Fingest is either ex-officio or elected at the Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. During the year the following served as members of the PCC: -

**Clergy:** Priest-in-Charge the Reverend Sue Lepp and Associate Priest, the Reverend Sue Morton.

**Churchwardens:** Mr. Brian Barnes and Mrs Jill Dean

**PCC Members:**

Dr. Don Boreham  
Mrs. Sue Brice – Licensed Lay Minister  
Mrs. Veronica Checksfield  
Mrs. Sue Dawkes

Mrs. Helen Jackson – Treasurer  
Mrs Emma Keedwell  
Mrs. Jan O'Brien - Secretary

**PCC meetings:**

PCC meetings have reverted to 4 per year as in pre covid days but now all 5 PCCs from the Hambleden Valley hold their meetings on the same day at the same venue – usually St. Katharines at Parmoor.

The 2022 AGM was held on Monday 16th May.

## REVIEW OF THE YEAR

### Church Services

Services have resumed following the lifting of all covid restrictions with Fingest having Eucharist on the second Sunday and a Compline/Evensong on the fourth Sunday of each month.

- Candlemas evensong was held on Sunday 6th February.
- Fingest hosted the HVG Group services on 3rd April and 7th August, the latter being outdoors.
- The Harvest Festival led by Sue Brice took place on Sunday 2nd October followed by the Harvest Supper in the Chequers by kind permission of Ross Drummond, the new tenant.
- Remembrance Prayers led by Sue Brice took place on Sunday 13th November
- The carol Service led by Sue Brice took place on 18th December, followed by the traditional mulled wine and mince pies in the Chequers.

### Other Services

- A thanksgiving service conducted by Revd Sue Morton for the life of David Loveridge was held 13th September. David and his wife Gillian had been faithful members of the Fingest PCC, for many years, with Gillian serving as secretary, until their move to Yorkshire in 2021.
- Prayers were led by Revd Sue Morton following the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II on 8th September. The Bell was tolled for one hour on the day of the funeral, 19th September, as directed by the national Church leaders and many villagers came into Church to support this. A book of condolence and photograph of the late Queen were on display in accordance with Church guidelines.

**Church Attendance:** The number on the Electoral Roll for 2022 was 33 and the numbers attending church has varied enormously with no regular pattern.

**PCC Membership:** David and Gillian Loveridge resigned following their move to Yorkshire.

We are delighted to welcome Emma Keedwell onto the PCC.

Jan O'Brien kindly agreed to take on the role of Secretary to the PCC.

**Prayer Groups:** The HVG prayer group set up during Covid has continued and a bible study group has met at times during the year in Fingest and Turville.

### Peter Jackson

It is with much sadness that we record the death of Peter on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2022. Peter was 97 years old and recited the Exhortation at our Remembrance service just a few weeks before his death. Peter, alongside his late wife, Annette, worshipped here for over 70 years. Peter's death marks the end of an era at St Bartholomew's. We will miss him.

### Other events

Fingest village community held a Jubilee party on 5th June and as many of the Church community were actively involved in this it was decided not to hold our traditional Church

teas on the usual last Sunday in May.

Church teas were however held as normal on August Bank holiday, 28th August, and included an invitation to walking groups known to Jan O'Brien. A further "walkers café" again organised by Jan, took place on 16th October.

The annual accounts show the valuable contribution from Church teas, walkers cafe and the generous donation from the Village jubilee celebrations.

### **Other items**

**The HVG tea club:** did not meet regularly this year but hopes to restart in 2023.

**Inner City Link:** We had hoped to arrange a visit from our friends from St James Lower Clapton to join us at "Wild Church" in March 2022 but Rosemia, the vicar of St James, was unwell so we are now hoping that the walk will take place in May 2023.

**Charitable giving:** We have continued to support Community Matters, the charity that supports families in need in Lane End. The collections at our Harvest festival and Carol Service, together with the profit made from the harvest supper were donated and many generous villagers continue to make financial contributions and take food and household items to the church for delivery to Lane End. The needs remain great.

### **Maintenance**

Mr Colin Stevens has recommenced his work in the churchyard, with his wife now helping him.

### **Quinquennial Inspection**

This is overdue. The last Quinquennial Inspection was carried out in 2017 by Karen Butti of Thomas Ford and Partners. For a number of reasons this could not be arranged in 2022. Arrangements will be made for this inspection to be carried out as soon as possible in 2023. We have continued to carry out essential repairs and maintenance i.e. to Gutters etc using General funds (see accounts), but this fund is diminishing. We anticipate fund raising efforts will be required following the Quinquennial.

We have funds earmarked for new noticeboards. The Diocese Advisory Committee (DAC) advise these require a List B consent and application to obtain this has begun.

The plans to create a quiet, prayerful space at the back of the Church have been temporarily shelved but it is hoped these will be revived after the quinquennial report.

**Finance:** Whilst the collections over the last two years have been much reduced, we have been fortunate enough to benefit from several generous private donations and so the funds are in reasonable stead at present. We have made all payments of our Parish Share on time and all our insurance premiums.

**Thank you** to everyone who has contributed during these difficult times. Without this support the Parish would be much the poorer in so many ways. There follows a list of just some of you but there are many others: -

- “The Sues”, (Lepp Morton and Brice!) Peter Viney , Mieke Gaynor and Graeme Slocombe (Wycombe District Lay Area Dean) for their spiritual and pastoral support
- The PCC
- Helen Jackson as Treasurer and Jan O’Brien who took over the important role of Secretary.
- Phil Dean for daily opening and closing the Church, ensuring the heating is switched on when required and general security.
- Sue Dawkes for organising the flower rota and her team of volunteers for their wonderful flower arranging throughout the year.
- Jan O’Brien for organising the Walkers Cafe, her band of helpers and cake makers .
- Margaret Barnes, as Sacristan and for regularly doing the cleaning of the church and her willing helpers.
- Ross Drummond and his manager, Tatyana, for the use of The Chequers particularly the parking, and for continuing the friendly link between pub and church.
- For the number of kind people who support the Church by giving generous donations or taking out a Covenant/Gift Aid.
- Organists - Gill Greene, and Christine Wells.
- Peter Newcombe for mowing the verges in Chequers Lane.
- Don Boreham for his encyclopaedic knowledge and wisdom readily shared, about the Church, the parish and those buried in the churchyard.

### **THANK YOU ALL**

Brian Barnes and Jill Dean, Churchwardens.

**St Mary the Virgin, Hambleden**

**With**

**St John the Evangelist, Frieth  
and Skirmett**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**AND**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**of the**

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

**for the year ended**

**31 DECEMBER 2022**

**Priest in Charge:**  
The Revd. Sue Lepp  
St Katharine's, Parmoor  
Frieth

**Associate Priest:**  
The Revd. Sue Morton  
The Vicarage  
Turville

**Churchwarden: Hambleden**  
Mrs Jill Steward  
Kenricks  
Hambleden,

**Churchwarden: Frieth**  
Mrs Judy Hunt  
Claypit House  
Moor Common, Lane End

**Treasurer:**  
Mrs Lynda Marston-Weston  
6 Innings Gate  
Frieth

**Secretary:**  
Mr Paul Marston-Weston  
6 Innings Gate  
Frieth

**Independent Examiner:**  
Mr M.G. Wortley  
Colstrove Lane  
Hambleden  
Henley-on-Thames  
Oxon  
RG9 6SL  
**Registered Charity No. 1134700**

## **HAMBLEDEN WITH FRIETH AND SKIRMETT PCC – ANNUAL REPORT 2022**

### **Background**

Hambleden with Frieth and Skirmett Parochial Church Council is the largest Parish in the Hambleden Valley group of churches (HVG), managing jointly the affairs of St. Mary the Virgin Church, Hambleden and St. John the Evangelist Church, Frieth.

Following the resignation of the Rector in 2020, the benefice was suspended which allowed an Interim Priest in Charge to be recruited for a period of up to 18 months. After a thorough recruitment and selection process, the Revd Sue Lepp was appointed as Interim Priest in charge in December 2020 and to commence her duties in early January 2021 and was assisted by the Associate Priest Revd. Sue Morton and the part time parish administrator Jenny Neagle. During 2022, the Archdeacon agreed to extend the contract of Revd Sue Lepp until December 2023 in order to allow her to continue her work within the HVG group of churches.

The parish continues to be supported by various visiting and retired clergy at times throughout the year. In particular, Revd Peter Vinney regularly takes services and is a very welcome visitor to the benefice, and curate Revd Andy Storch spent some weeks within the HVG as part of his learning about ministry in rural areas. Mrs Jenny North has continued her work as Parish Visitor.

### **The Impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic**

As the whole world is only too aware, the significant impact the Covid 19 pandemic hit the Hambleden valley group of churches throughout 2020 and 2021 but with the easing of covid restrictions in December 2021, 2022 has been largely unaffected with business very much back to normal. In fact, it has been a very busy year especially in Hambleden with 20 (0) weddings taking place, 9 (1) children baptised, 11 (1) funerals and 3 (8) burials of ashes. Figures for Frieth church in brackets.

"Zoom" video church services started in May 2020 and have continued to be very popular with many local people throughout the valley. These services have been taking place most Sunday's and Wednesday's for daily prayer since their introduction.

Frieth Village Hall installed broadband during 2021 for their use and generously agreed to allow Frieth Church to connect and use the broadband service by beaming the connection from the hall to the church. The church paid for the additional technical equipment as a one-off cost but enjoy the use of the broadband at no additional cost. We are very grateful to the Frieth Village Hall management committee for this on-going generous and kind arrangement.

The negative financial impact to the church has continued to affect the church in spite of largely normal services resuming but with numbers still down on pre-covid levels. As a consequence, the donations on the plate have reduced whilst most expenses remain at the same or higher level owing to inflation.

### **Membership**

Membership of the PCC is either ex-officio or members who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. The numbers on the electoral roll for the parish now stands at 90, (91 in 2021).

## HAMBLEDEN WITH FRIETH AND SKIRMETT PCC – ANNUAL REPORT 2022

During the year the following served as members of the PCC.

Clergy	*The Revd. Sue Lepp, Priest in Charge, Chairman *The Revd. Sue Morton, Associate Priest	
Churchwardens	*Mrs Jill Steward, Lay Chairman *Mrs Judy Hunt	Hambleden Frieth
Deputy Churchwardens	Mrs Sharon Smith Vacant	Hambleden Frieth
PCC Members:	*#Mr Paul Marston-Weston *Mrs Lynda Marston-Weston +Mrs Sharon Smith *Mrs Judy Hunt +Mr Gideon Lacey Miss Christine Wells *Mrs Jill Steward Mrs Elizabeth Wilks Ms Mardi Wilkins ~Mrs Gillian Cruse **Mr Gareth Morris **Mrs Shirley Allot	Secretary Treasurer Collector,         ER Officer

Key: Symbol(s) denote additional role(s)

\* Member of the Standing Committee, \*\* Co-opted Member, + Deanery Synod Representative, # Safeguarding Officer, ~ Electoral Roll Officer

### PCC Meetings

The PCC met four times during the year, in person (no meetings were held by Zoom this year) to conduct the business of the PCC, excluding the APCM, each meeting started with a group meeting session of all the PCC's (three at St Katharines, Parmoor and one at Frieth School, Frieth) followed by individual meetings by each PCC. The PCC Standing Committee did not convene to expedite urgent business during the year, however three virtual meetings were held where PCC members were given details and asked to vote to accept or reject proposals.

### Church Services

The pattern of services has been restored as the Covid restrictions have been eased by the government. However, a number of parishioners have continued to shield or been unwilling to return to services due to the fear of being exposed to the virus.

Average attendances at Sunday services in October 2022 was 21 in Hambleden and 20 in Frieth (2021 Hambleden - 33 adults, Frieth 19 adults).

Zoom church services have proved popular with many people and continued on most Wednesdays and also on Sunday services at Frieth throughout the year.

Average Zoom attendances at Sunday services across the group have reduced to a regular few but Wednesday mornings continue with around a dozen people attending each week.

## **HAMBLEDEN WITH FRIETH AND SKIRMETT PCC – ANNUAL REPORT 2022**

A monthly lay-led service in Hambleden has a small but steady congregation.

'Wild Church' services take place every second Sunday and have continued outdoors at a variety of venues throughout the valley during the year. An activity of some sort, a couple of hymns are sung, a Bible passage is read and simple prayer usually followed by some appropriate refreshments. There was also a special remembrance Wild Church service in Turville Heath with a fly past to commemorate a young Spitfire pilot who crashed and died in December 1943.

### **Special Services and Study Courses**

**Prayers for Peace.** These quiet, prayerful services are normally held quarterly (in February, May, August and November), but this year a service was held in February only. Sometimes these events are held in people's homes or in churches, in response to world conflict, and are attended by those of all denominations.

**Wednesday Morning Communion Service** is a weekly said service of Eucharist in St Mary's, Turville with prayers for healing and anointing with oil, on the fourth Wednesday of every month at 10.15am. Again these services were suspended owing to the pandemic and began again in the church in summer 2021.

A new **Bible Study group** was formed meeting regularly in Turville.

**Harvest Festival** services were well attended in both churches. A backpack service was held in September in Hambleden to bless those beginning a new year of tasks.

**The Animal Blessing Service** is held annually in October on the Village Green, Turville.

**All Souls Service** is held annually to remember those who have departed. This year it was held in Turville.

**The Royal British Legion Annual Service of Remembrance** rotates between the four churches across the valley and with individual services at some of the churches. This year it was held in Hambleden church with a large congregation, and ceremony afterwards at the village memorial. Frieth Church held a short service and had a talk by local historian and broadcaster Andrew Green regarding the history of John Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress leading up to its very considerable connections to the Great War - both as a comforting text for soldiers and as a focus for memorial.

### **Special Evensong for Christine Wells, Director of Music BEM –**

A special evensong in May was held for Christine Wells, to mark her 65 years as Hambleden organist. A surprise certificate was presented by the President of the Royal College of Organists and there were refreshments afterwards.

### **Buckinghamshire Council – Annual Civic Church Service**

Buckinghamshire Council Chairman, Councillor Zahir Mohammed held his annual church service at Hambleden church on Sunday 6 March 2022 which was attended by the 'good and the great' of the county together with many local people.

### **Mothering Sunday**

A Mothering Sunday service was held at Hambleden with children assisting Sue Lepp with the distribution of a posy to every lady. Frieth church also held a special Mothering Sunday service with local children saying special prayers and giving thanks for mothers. Posies of

## **HAMBLEDEN WITH FRIETH AND SKIRMETT PCC – ANNUAL REPORT 2022**

daffodils were made by the children at Frieth school and given to all women in the congregation.

**The Queen's Platinum Jubilee 3rd June** - Revd Sue Lepp opened the celebrations on the Dene in Hambleden with prayers, before children's games and races, castles, picnics and the Steel Band began. There was a small tribute table in the church with photographs of the Queen, and a prayer.

Owing to Covid restrictions Hambleden was unable to host the annual **Valentine's service**, a service for everyone, but in particular for couples who have been or are going to be married in the Hambleden Valley.

**Two Wedding Preparation Days** were held (January and February) with the couples that were to be married later in the year. These days are always very popular with couples as useful information and tips and hints help make final preparations for services go smoothly.

On the 7th September, the **Her majesty the Queen** sadly died. Hambleden church marked this sad event with **Prayers** on Friday 8th and a **Commemoration Service for the whole Valley on Sunday 10th**. These services were very well attended (40 and 90 respectively). The Bell ringers did us proud, ringing on all the occasions throughout the mourning period where bells were rung nationally. There was a tribute table in the church with a **Book of Condolence**, as in the other churches, which many people came to sign. This has been put together with the other Church books and sent to Buckingham Palace. A copy was made by Revd Sue Lepp, to be kept for the Hambleden Valley, with foreword by Alan Armstrong.

**Plough Sunday** is a service of prayer, dedication and blessing for all those involved in agriculture and the countryside. It is usually held annually in Turville Church in January on the first Sunday after Epiphany. Unfortunately, it was not possible to hold the service in 2022

Local people from the valley supported the annual **Footprints service** held in March and this year in Hambleden (usually held at Lane End) which was led by Sue Morton. "Footprints" is a service held just before Mother's Day and is for anyone who has lost a child.

**Barney's Toddler Group** was suspended in March 2020 owing to the Coronavirus pandemic. Under normal circumstances the group would meet monthly at Frieth Village Hall with activities for children and babies and a meeting point for parents. Each month there was a Bible story, crafts, songs, toys and homemade cake. It is hoped to re-start Barney's when circumstances and resources allow.

**Women's World Day of Prayer** for the Hambleden Valley Group was unfortunately not held in 2022.

**Advent and Christmas Services** were held at Hambleden and Frieth churches and included Carol service (H), Christingle service (H, F), Midnight Mass (H) and Christmas morning (H, F). As always, these services are very well attended.

### **Charitable Giving**

Charitable giving increased over last year as the PCC felt it was important to support various charities that do such good work and rely on grants. This year a total of £3,632 was given (last year £4,997). Organisations supported include; Christian Aid, One Can Trust, Community Matters, Christ Hospital, Children's Society, Sightsavers, Royal British Legion, Child Bereavement. Please see the accounts for full details of amounts grant aided.

## **HAMBLEDEN WITH FRIETH AND SKIRMETT PCC – ANNUAL REPORT 2022**

### **Other Activities**

The **Tea Club**, for residents of the parish and valley, meeting weekly at St Katharine's Parmoor had to be suspended owing to Covid but it was hoped to restart later in the year.

Hambleden and Frieth churches host services and events through **Lent and Holy Week**. **Friendly Lent lunches** were held at Frieth (1 date) and Hambleden (3 dates) having been cancelled for the past two years because of Covid restrictions. The Frieth lunch proceeds were given to the Ukraine appeal. **Good Friday and Easter Day** services were held in Hambleden.

The **Hambleden and Frieth Choirs**, under the direction of Miss Christine Wells, were able to operate during the year as normal. The popular **Hambleden Concerts** continued in the summer and Christine Wells arranged for **The Queen's Six** to come to Hambleden. This choir based at St George's chapel, sang at the Duke of Edinburgh's funeral. A full church was treated to the most exquisite singing. In addition, A '**Festive Choral Concert**' with the **UCL Chamber Choir**, organised by Northend Concerts took place at Hambleden Church in December.

**Hambleden and Turville Bell-ringers** - There have been bells in the Hambleden valley for at least six hundred years. Out of the seven churches in the parish, only Turville (5 bells) and Hambleden (8) have bells hung for change-ringing, where the ringing order can be changed. The oldest is the "Agincourt Bell" at Hambleden, which dates back to the battle of 1415. There are more than a dozen enthusiastic ringers who give up their evenings to practice at Turville (Mondays) and Hambleden (Fridays), so they can properly call the congregation to service, and to ring after weddings and mark other special dates or events.

**Church Porch Teas** through the summer months offer refreshments to locals and passers-by on Sunday afternoons in Hambleden and make an extremely valuable financial contribution to the running of the churches. Our sincere thanks go to Karen Musgrave who is now the organiser for church teas, with much enthusiasm and ideas for increasing customers.

Frieth church organise a monthly **Lunch Club** held at The Yew Tree, Frieth. This was restarted in 2022 and approximately 25 - 30 people now regularly attend each monthly event.

Hambleden Church has introduced **prayer cards** for use during the year.

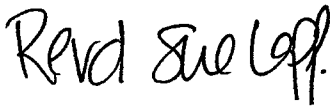
## **HAMBLEDEN WITH FRIETH AND SKIRMETT PCC – ANNUAL REPORT 2022**

### **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

The Treasurer, Mrs Lynda Marston-Weston would like to give her sincere thanks to Mr Rex Alott and Mrs Sharon Smith for their assistance with the banking of donations throughout the year. Sincere thanks are also due to Mr Mike Wortley, for preparing and inspecting the annual accounts.

The church is very grateful for the continued financial support received from the many supporters who give regularly through the Parish Giving Scheme or by standing order. Their continued support is critical for the continued success of the church.

The 2022 Accounts and Financial Statements were approved by the PCC at its Meeting held on the 24 April 2023.



**Revd. Sue Lepp  
Priest in Charge  
24 April 2023**

## **HAMBLEDEN WITH FRIETH AND SKIRMETT PCC – ANNUAL REPORT 2022**

### **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO HAMBLEDEN PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on pages 8 – 20 is in respect of an examination carried out under Regulation 3(3) of the church accounting Regulations 1997 and s.43 of the Charities Act 1993.

#### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

As the members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 3(3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 and section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of Regulation 25 of the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 and Regulation 7 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 1995.

#### **Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43(7)(b) of the Act and to be found in the guidance from the Central Board of Finance. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

#### **Independent examiner's statement**

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

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the requirements of the Act, as also contained in the Church Accounting Regulations 1997
- have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

**M.G.Wortley**  
**Colstrove Lane**  
**Hambleden,**  
**Henley-on-Thames**  
**Oxon**  
**RG9 6SL**



**24 April 2023**

## HAMBLEDEN WITH FRIETH AND SKIRMETT PCC – ANNUAL REPORT 2022

### HAMBLEDEN PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

#### SUMMARY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ending 31st December 2022

Incoming resources	Note	2022	2021
Incoming resources from donors	2a	54,293	37,824
Other voluntary incoming resources	2b	14,487	13,946
Income from charitable and ancillary trading	2c	31,628	17,196
Income from investments	2d	16,259	15,410
Other income, non-recurring	2e	2,468	878
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		<b>119,135</b>	<b>85,254</b>
<b>Resources used</b>			
Grants	3a	3,632	4,997
Activities directly relating to the work of the church	3b	99,754	98,654
<b>Total resources used</b>		<b>103,386</b>	<b>103,651</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for the year</b>		<b>15,749</b>	<b>( 18,397)</b>
<b>General Fund at 1st January 2022</b>		<b>31,180</b>	<b>65,637</b>
<b>Exceptional income</b>			
Grant from Save our Churches		100,000	
Realisation of Mission Housing Association loan		107,613	
<b>Transfers</b>			
To restricted fund - Hambleden Church roof repairs		( 100,000)	
To designated fund - Frieth Church refurbishment		( 37,600)	
To School House Fund			( 16,060)
<b>General Fund at 31st December 2022</b>		<b>£ 116,942</b>	<b>£ 31,180</b>

# HAMBLEDEN WITH FRIETH AND SKIRMETT PCC – ANNUAL REPORT 2022

## HAMBLEDEN PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

### BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2022

	Note	2022	2021
<b>Assets held for investment purposes</b>	4	<u>599,814</u>	<u>787,491</u>
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Debtors	5	2,292	2,897
Central Board of Finance - deposit account			-
Barclays Bank - current account		<u>247,558</u>	<u>50,207</u>
		<u>249,850</u>	<u>53,104</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>		849,664	840,595
less liabilities - creditors	6	2,716	3,925
<b>Total nett assets</b>		<u>£ 846,948</u>	<u>£ 836,670</u>

*Which are represented by:-*

<b>Funds</b>			
Endowments	9	53,133	60,257
Restricted - Youth Project	7	1,981	1,981
Restricted - Hardship Fund	8	3,519	3,519
Restricted - School House Fund	4c.1	546,680	619,620
Unrestricted - Mission Housing Association Ltd	4a & 11	-	107,613
		<u>605,313</u>	<u>792,990</u>
<b>General Funds</b>			
Designated - Frieth Church	4b	45,000	12,500
Restricted - Hambleden Roof	4c.2	76,828	
Restricted - Choir fund	4c.3	2,865	
Unrestricted funds carried forward		<u>116,942</u>	<u>31,180</u>
<b>Total Funds</b>	9	<u>£ 846,948</u>	<u>£ 836,670</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council at their Meeting held on 24th April 2023



Revd. Sue Lepp  
Priest in Charge  
24th April 2023

The Notes on pages 8 to 20 inclusive form part of these accounts.

## HAMBLEDEN WITH FRIETH AND SKIRMETT PCC – ANNUAL REPORT 2022

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 31st December 2022

#### 1. Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 together with applicable accounting standards and the charities SORP.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

#### Funds

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted. Some trusts in the custody of the Oxford Diocesan Board of Finance are restricted, and their capital cannot be used.

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

#### Incoming Resources

##### *Voluntary income and capital sources*

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.

Planned giving receivable under covenant or Gift Aid is recognised only when received.

Income tax recoverable on covenants or gift aided donations is recognised when the related income is recognised.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement and the amount due.

##### *Income from investments*

Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable.

##### *Gains and losses on investments*

Realised gains and losses on the School House fund and the Mission Housing Property are recognised when the investments are sold. Realised gains and losses on the various other funds and bequests are taken into account each year.

## HAMBLEDEN WITH FRIETH AND SKIRMETT PCC – ANNUAL REPORT 2022

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued) For the year ended 31st December 2022

#### **Resources used**

##### *Grants*

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

##### *Activities directly relating to the work of the Church*

The diocesan quota or parish share is accounted for when payable. Any quota unpaid at 31 December is provided for in these accounts as an operational (though not a legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the Balance Sheet.

#### **Fixed Assets**

##### *Consecrated land and buildings and movable church furnishings*

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by section 96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993.

No value is placed on movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers this to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or benefice buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities and separately disclosed.

##### *Investments*

All investments are now included at market value.

##### *Current assets*

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

## HAMBLEDEN WITH FRIETH AND SKIRMETT PCC – ANNUAL REPORT 2022

### HAMBLEDEN PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

For the year ending 31st December 2022

Note	2022	2021
<b>2 Incoming Resources:</b>		
<b>2a From donors:-</b>		
Committed giving (gift aided)	21,377	9,639
Committed giving (not gift aided)	648	775
Collections at all services (gift aided)	11,901	1,523
Collections at all services (not gift aided)	2,799	5,587
Income tax recoverable under gift aid	5,923	7,398
Church boxes	1,495	966
Other donations	10,150	11,936
	<b>£ 54,293</b>	<b>£ 37,824</b>
<b>2b From legacy and other grants:</b>		
Gomm dividends	9,074	8,735
Harris dividends	3,834	3,668
<i>From endowments</i>		
Lord Parmoor	1,189	1,163
Augusta Murray	324	316
Clerks Piece	66	64
	<b>£ 14,487</b>	<b>£ 13,946</b>
<b>2c From charitable, statutory and ancillary trading:-</b>		
Rector's fees - weddings	13,529	9,751
Rector's fees - funerals	7,285	4,506
Porch teas	4,048	2,587
Lent lunches	1,298	-
Special income	5,285	-
Other special events (including car parking)	183	352
	<b>£ 31,628</b>	<b>£ 17,196</b>
<b>2d From investments:-</b>		
School House dividends	16,259	15,404
Central board of finance (deposit account)	-	6
	<b>£ 16,259</b>	<b>£ 15,410</b>
<b>2e Other income (non-recurring)</b>		
Miscellaneous sales	775	878
VAT refund	1,693	-
	<b>£ 2,468</b>	<b>£ 878</b>
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>£ 119,135</b>	<b>£ 85,254</b>

## HAMBLEDEN WITH FRIETH AND SKIRMETT PCC – ANNUAL REPORT 2022

### HAMBLEDEN PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

For the year ending 31st December 2022

Note	Note	2022	2021
<b>3</b>	<b>Resources used</b>		
<b>3a</b>	<b>Grants made:-</b>		
	Missionary societies	3a(i) -	900
	Relief and development agencies	3a(ii) 1,668	1,600
	Home Mission and other Church societies	3a(iii) 193	837
	Secular charities	3a(iv) 1,771	1,660
		<b>£ 3,632</b>	<b>£ 4,997</b>
<b>3b</b>	<b>Expenditure relating to the cost of the Church:-</b>		
	Parish Share	50,317	49,782
	Deanery expenses	520	520
	Hambleden Valley Group expenses	7,681	7,013
	Church running expenses - Hambleden	10,325	3,372
	Church running expenses - Frieth	2,348	84
	Maintenance costs - Hambleden	8,107	12,904
	Maintenance costs - Frieth	2,230	11,750
	Organ maintenance and Director of Music	14 & 15 11,360	6,240
	Church service expenses	1,565	783
	Upkeep of Pheasants Hill churchyard	1,220	1,460
	Upkeep of Frieth churchyard & maintenance of Parmoor graves	1,955	2,355
	Other expenses	2,126	2,391
		<b>£ 99,754</b>	<b>£ 98,654</b>
	<b>Total resources used</b>	<b>£ 103,386</b>	<b>£ 103,651</b>

**Storage of Silver:** The Hambleden heritage silver is now lodged at Christchurch Cathedral for safekeeping. It is occasionally made available for public display. The storage and insurance costs are currently borne by the Diocese.

## HAMBLEDEN WITH FRIETH AND SKIRMETT PCC – ANNUAL REPORT 2022

### HAMBLEDEN PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

For the year ending 31st December 2022

Note	2022	2021
<b>3a Grants to charities</b>		
<b>3a(i) <i>Missionary Societies:-</i></b>		
Church Mission Society	-	300
Barnabas Fund	-	300
Wycliffe Bible Translators	-	300
	<b>£ -</b>	<b>£ 900</b>
<b>3a(ii) <i>Relief and development agencies:-</i></b>		
Christian Aid	1,251	1,000
Marlow Refugee Action	-	300
One Can Trust	131	300
Community Matters	286	-
	<b>£ 1,668</b>	<b>£ 1,600</b>
<b>3a(iii) <i>Home mission and other Church societies:-</i></b>		
Friends of Christchurch Cathedral	-	10
Wycombe Homeless	-	300
Bishop's Outreach Fund	-	300
Christmas boxes	-	146
Christ Hospital	10	-
Childrens Society	183	81
	<b>£ 193</b>	<b>£ 837</b>
<b>3a(iv) <i>Secular charities:-</i></b>		
Sightsavers	623	895
Royal British Legion	1,048	-
Child Beravement	100	-
Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution	-	300
RCSM	-	300
Rennie Grove Hospice	-	165
	<b>£ 1,771</b>	<b>£ 1,660</b>
<b>Total grants to charities</b>	<b>£ 3,632</b>	<b>£ 4,997</b>

Grants made exclude offertory proceeds passed directly to the charity concerned or the occasional third party cheque received made payable to a charity.

# HAMBLEDEN WITH FRIETH AND SKIRMETT PCC – ANNUAL REPORT 2022

## HAMBLEDEN PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) For the year ending 31st December 2022

Note	Note	2022	2021				
4	<b>Assets held for investment purposes</b>						
	<b>Unrestricted:-</b>						
4a	Mission Housing Association Ltd (formerly Victoria Park Homes) - repaid in year	11	£ - £ 107,613				
4b	<b>Designated:-</b>						
	<i>Frieth Church - Funds received and set aside for the following</i>						
	Fund at 1st January 2022	12,500	-				
	Amounts set aside from Unrestricted Funds	37,600	18,000				
	Expended in the year - roof repairs (2021 cupboard and plaster refurbishment)	(5,100)	(5,500)				
	Fund at 31st December 2022	£ 45,000	£ 12,500				
	<b>Restricted:-</b>						
4c.1	<b>School House fund</b>						
	Fund at 1st January 2022	619,620	527,197				
	Dividends and interest received	16,259	15,404				
	From Central Board of Finance deposit account	-	16,060				
		635,879	558,661				
	Cash transferred to HPCC bank account	(16,259)	(15,404)				
	Unrealised gain/(loss) on Market Value	(72,940)	76,363				
	Value of investments at Market Value	£ 546,680	£ 619,620				
	<b>Represented by:-</b>						
	Market value of investments						
	<i>CBF Church of England Investment Fund - 26,459.04 Income shares at 2,064.59 pence per share</i>	£ 546,680	£ 619,620				
4c.2	<b>Hambleden Church - Roof repairs</b>						
	Grant from Save our Churches	100,000					
	Expended in the year - Deposit for files & bat survey	(23,172)					
	Fund at 31st December 2022	£ 76,828					
4c.3	<b>Choir funds</b>	15					
	Funds received in year	2,865					
	Expended in the year	-					
	Fund at 31st December 2022	£ 2,865					
	<b>Analysis of Movement of Investments</b>						
		<i>Mission Housing Assoch</i>	<i>Lord Parmoor</i>	<i>AEA Murray</i>	<i>Clerks Piece</i>	<i>School House</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
	Market value at beginning of year	107,613	45,470	12,299	2,489	619,620	787,491
	Additions at cost					-	-
	Disposals at market value	(107,613)				-	(107,613)
	Net gain/(loss) on revaluation	-	(5,405)	#####	(289)	(72,940)	(80,064)
	Market value at the end of the year	-	40,065	10,869	2,200	546,680	599,814
						2022	2021
	<b>Total assets held for investment purposes</b>					£ 599,814	£ 787,491
5	<b>Debtors</b>						
	Income tax recoverable under gift aid					-	2,500
	Funeral fees					-	397
	Undeposited cash from December collections					2,292	-
						£ 2,292	£ 2,897
6	<b>Creditors</b>						
	Sundry creditors						1,230
	Donations held at the year end transferred in January					2,716	-
	Hambleden maintenance - stained glass						2,695
						£ 2,716	£ 3,925

# HAMBLEDEN WITH FRIETH AND SKIRMETT PCC – ANNUAL REPORT 2022

## HAMBLEDEN PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

For the year ending 31st December 2022

Note		2022	2021				
7	<b>Youth project</b>						
	Balance at 1st January 2022	1,981	1,981				
	Incoming funds	-	-				
	Expenditure	-	-				
	<b>Balance at 31st December 2022</b>	<b>£ 1,981</b>	<b>£ 1,981</b>				
8	<b>Hardship fund</b>						
	Balance at 1st January 2022	3,519	3,519				
	Incoming funds	-	-				
	Deduct disbursements	-	-				
	<b>Balance at 31st December 2022</b>	<b>£ 3,519</b>	<b>£ 3,519</b>				
9	<b>Statement of Funds</b>						
		<i>Balance</i>	<i>Incoming</i>	<i>Outgoing</i>	<i>Transfers</i>	<i>Gain/(Loss) on</i>	<i>Balance</i>
		<i>31/12/2021</i>				<i>revaluation</i>	<i>31/12/2022</i>
	<b>Endowments - Note 13</b>						
	Lord Parmoor <i>Investment Fund</i>	42,270	1,109	(1,109)		(4,976)	37,294
	<i>Fixed Interest</i>	3,200	80	(80)		(429)	2,771
	AEA Murray	12,299	325	(325)		(1,430)	10,869
	Clerks Piece	2,488	66	(66)		(289)	2,199
		<u>60,257</u>	<u>1,580</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,580)</u>	<u>(7,124)</u>	<u>53,133</u>
	<b>Restricted</b>						
	Youth Project	1,981					1,981
	Hardship Fund	3,519					3,519
	School House Fund	619,620	16,259	(16,259)		(72,940)	546,680
		<u>625,120</u>	<u>16,259</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(16,259)</u>	<u>(72,940)</u>	<u>552,180</u>
	<b>Other funds</b>						
	Mission Housing Association Ltd	107,613	(107,613)			-	-
	Designated - Frieth Church	12,500		(5,100)	37,600		45,000
	Restricted - Hambleden roof			(20,400)	100,000		79,600
	Unrestricted - General Fund	31,180	107,613	(103,386)	1,779		37,186
		<u>151,293</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(128,886)</u>	<u>139,379</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>161,786</u>
	<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>£ 836,670</b>	<b>£ 17,839</b>	<b>£ (128,886)</b>	<b>£121,540</b>	<b>£ (80,064)</b>	<b>£ 767,099</b>

10 No remuneration was paid to Mr M.G. Wortley, the independent examiner of these accounts

11 **Mission Housing Association Ltd (Previously Victoria Park Homes)**

The Parish's loan balance to the Median Road project was repaid at its agreed market value of £107,613 during the year.

12 The PCC manages two further funds in addition to School House. The Sidney Arthur Harris Will trust and Dorothy Clara Gomm Will Trust are shown in separate accounts on the following pages. Each year appropriate transfers are made from these funds into the general fund

13 Monies are received annually from various endowments. In each case the principal is held by the Oxford Diocese Board of trustees as custodian

*The Lord Parmoor Bequest* for the upkeep of the Parmoor family graves in Frieth churchyard, and a small bequest for the children of Frieth school.

*Miss Augusta E A Murray*, originally as a stipend for any one curate for the time being appointed to the parish in addition to any curate appointed by the incumbent

*The Clerk's Piece*, originally for the parish clerk - or to the sexton, or other person performing the parish clerk's duties.

14 The PCC had 1 employee during the year (2021 - none)

15 **Restricted Choir Fund:** includes fees from attendance at weddings and funerals and covers members expenses and robes etc. The choirs charity fundraising during the Christmas season is a separate, independent activity and not reflected in these funds.

**HAMBLEDEN WITH FRIETH AND SKIRMETT PCC – ANNUAL REPORT 2022**

**THE DOROTHY CLARA GOMM WILL TRUST**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
Year ended 31st December 2022**

	2022	2021
<b>Income</b>		
Dividends received	9,074	8,735
Interest from Central Board	-	1
Unrealised gain/(loss) on investments	<u>(40,706)</u>	<u>43,128</u>
	(31,632)	51,864
<b>Outgoings</b>		
Grant to PCC	(9,074)	(8,735)
	<u>(9,074)</u>	<u>(8,735)</u>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for the year</b>	<u><u>(£ 40,706)</u></u>	<u><u>£ 43,129</u></u>

**BALANCE SHEET**

**Assets**

Investments at Market Value		
<i>CBF Church of England Investment Fund - 14,766.30</i>		
<i>Income shares at 2,341.81 pence per share</i>	<u>305,092</u>	<u>345,798</u>
	<u><u>£ 305,092</u></u>	<u><u>£ 345,798</u></u>

**Represented by**

General fund - 1st January	345,798	302,669
Surplus/Deficit for the year	<u>(40,706)</u>	<u>43,129</u>
	<u><u>£ 305,092</u></u>	<u><u>£ 345,798</u></u>

**Analysis of Movement of Investments**

Market Value at beginning of year	345,798	300,650
Additions at cost	-	2,020
Disposals at market value	-	-
Net gain/(loss) on revaluation	<u>(40,706)</u>	<u>43,128</u>
Market value at the end of the year	<u><u>£ 305,092</u></u>	<u><u>£ 345,798</u></u>

Dorothy Clara Gomm died on 13 February 1978 and her residuary estate was bequeathed to "the Vicar and Churchwardens of St John's Church, Frieth", after a life interest in the house and investments given to her husband, Daniel Gomm. Mr Gomm died on 26 February 1988. Insofar as the parishes of Frieth and Hambleden are joined together and managed by one Parochial Church Council of Hambleden with Frieth and the will specified that the bequest should be for St Johns Church, Frieth, the PCC operates the trust as a restricted trust so that money may be applied primarily for the benefit of St John's Church, Frieth.

Approved by the Parochial Church Council at their meeting on 24 April 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

  
Mrs Jill Steward  
Churchwarden, Hambleden

  
Mrs Lynda Marston-Weston  
Honorary Treasurer

# HAMBLEDEN WITH FRIETH AND SKIRMETT PCC – ANNUAL REPORT 2022

## THE SIDNEY ARTHUR HARRIS WILL TRUST

Registered charity number: 296482

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES Year ended 31st December 2022

	2022	2021
<b>Income</b>		
Dividends received	3,884	18,138
Interest from Central Board	-	1
Unrealised gain/(loss) on investments	<u>(17,198)</u>	<u>3,668</u>
	(13,314)	21,807
<b>Outgoings</b>		
Grant to PCC	(3,884)	(3,668)
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for the year</b>	<u>(£ 17,198)</u>	<u>£ 18,139</u>

### BALANCE SHEET

#### Assets

Investments at Market Value

*CBF Church of England Investment Fund - 6,238.76*

*Income shares at 2,064.59 pence per share*

128,902	146,100
<u>£ 128,902</u>	<u>£ 146,100</u>

#### Represented by

General fund - 1st January  
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year

146,100	127,961
<u>(17,198)</u>	<u>18,139</u>
<u>£ 128,902</u>	<u>£ 146,100</u>

#### Analysis of Movement of Investments

Market Value at beginning of year	146,100	125,966
Additions at cost	-	1,996
Disposals at market value	-	-
Net gain/(loss) on revaluation	<u>(17,198)</u>	<u>18,138</u>
Market value at the end of the year	<u>£ 128,902</u>	<u>£ 146,100</u>

Sidney Arthur Harris died on 13th May 1983 and his residuary estate was bequeathed to Hambleden Parochial Church Council "upon trust to invest the same and apply the income thereof as to one half part thereof towards the upkeep of Hambleden Parish church itself and as to the remaining one half part of the income of my residuary estate towards the upkeep of the churchyard at Hambleden". On 7th January 1987 the Charity Commissioners approved a scheme whereby "the half-share of the income ..... which is to be applied towards the upkeep of the churchyard of Hambleden church shall be applied for the upkeep of the new churchyard at Hambleden and subject thereto for furthering the religious and other charitable work of the Church of England in the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary, Hambleden with St John the Evangelist, Frieth and All Saints, Skirmett". The will trust is a registered charity, No. 296482 and is a permanent endowment fund.

Approved by the Parochial Church Council at their meeting on 24 April 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

  
Mrs Jill Steward  
Churchwarden, Hambleden

  
Mrs Lynda Marston-Weston  
Honorary Treasurer

**HAMBLEDEN WITH FRIETH AND SKIRMETT PCC – ANNUAL REPORT 2022**

**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER TO THE MEMBERS OF  
HAMBLEDEN PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL AND  
TRUSTEES OF THE SIDNEY ARTHUR HARRIS WILL TRUST**

I have examined the Statement of Financial Activities and Balance Sheet of the Sidney Arthur Harris Will Trust set out on page 19 relating to the year ended 31 December 2022.

My examination did not amount to an audit but was carried out in accordance with the General Directions issued by the Charity Commissioners for the independent examination of the accounts of smaller charities.

Nothing has come to my attention in connection with my examination which gives me cause to believe otherwise than that the Statement accords with the accounting records of the Trust and that such records satisfy the requirements of the Charities Act 1993.

I am not aware of any matter to which attention needs to be drawn in order to obtain a proper understanding of the accounts.



**M.G.Wortley  
Colstrop Lane  
Hambleden  
Henley on Thames  
Oxon, RG9 6SL**

**24 April 2023**

# **Medmenham P.C.C**

**Accounts for the year ended  
31st December 2022**

# Medmenham P.C.C.

## Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2022

	2022	2021
<b>Income and Expenditure account</b>		
<b>Income</b>		
Service collections	1,896.93	1,028.00
Covenants	3,348.00	4,488.00
PGS donations	1,385.85	365.00
Ecclesiastic fees	982.00	519.45
Tax rebate/Gift aid	1,702.16	1,269.75
MPC Cottages	21,692.00	9,000.00
Grant for Churchyard maintenance	2,000.00	277.69
CBF deposit interest	136.41	7.01
	<u>33,143.35</u>	<u>16,954.90</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Parish share	16,573.00	9,500.00
HVG expenses	2,635.00	
Wycombe Deanery	260.00	
Organist	30.00	
Electricity & Oil (net of energy grant)	950.42	860.03
Churchyard	2,570.00	1,852.50
Repairs	8,084.00	301.72
Insurance	1,956.16	1,938.89
Other	324.40	192.84
Church housekeeping	180.00	158.71
Bank charges.	65.03	53.18
	<u>33,628.01</u>	<u>14,857.87</u>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for year</b>	<u>£ (484.66)</u>	<u>£ 2,097.03</u>
<b>Balance Sheet</b>		
<b>Current assets</b>		
CCLA - CBF deposit	10,408.60	13,472.19
NatWest bank	8,355.61	5,776.68
	<u>£ 18,764.21</u>	<u>£ 19,248.87</u>
<b>General fund</b>		
Reserves brought forward	19,248.87	17,151.84
Surplus/(Deficit) for year	(484.66)	2,097.03
Reserves carried forward	<u>£ 18,764.21</u>	<u>£ 19,248.87</u>

I confirm that I have produced the above Income & Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet for the year ended 31st December 2022 from the statements and accounting records provided by the Members of the Medmenham P.C.C.

  
Michael Wortley

22nd February 2023

# **Medmenham Church Cottages**

**Accounts for the year ended  
31st December 2022**

# MEDMENHAM CHURCH COTTAGES

Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2022

	2022	2021
<b>INCOME &amp; EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT</b>		
<b>Receipts</b>		
Rents received	35,286	36,837
Interest	380	8
	<u>35,666</u>	<u>36,845</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Repairs and renewals	309	10,895
Contribution to PCC	21,692	11,000
Insurances	1,997	1,776
Commission	4,277	4,095
Professional fees	1,254	-
	<u>29,529</u>	<u>27,766</u>
<b>Surplus for year</b>	<u>£ 6,137</u>	<u>£ 9,079</u>

## BALANCE SHEET

### *General Cottage fund (Unrestricted)*

Opening balance	34,947	25,868
Surplus for year	6,137	9,079
Closing balance	<u>£ 41,084</u>	<u>£ 34,947</u>

### *Represented by*

Lloyds bank	9,597	18,840
CCLA deposit account	31,487	16,107
	<u>£ 41,084</u>	<u>£ 34,947</u>

## ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT

I confirm that I have produced the above Income & Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet for the year ended 31st December 2022 from the statements and accounting records provided by the Trustees of the Medmenham Church Cottages



Michael Wortley

22nd February 2023

**TURVILLE PCC**  
**Income and Expenditure Account**  
**For the year ended**  
**31<sup>st</sup> December 2022**

**TURVILLE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL 2022****BALANCE SHEET**

	Note	2022 Unrest	2022 Rest	2021 Unrest	2021 Rest	2020 Unrest	2020
<b>Creditors</b>							
Total creditors	8						
<b>Total Creditors</b>							
<b>Current Assets</b>							
Debtors	9						
Central Board of Finance: Deposit Account		£4,018.37	£20,510.56	£3,966.20	£20,244.29	3964.14	
Barclays Bank: Current Account		£20,843.06	£22,564.17	£45,939.47	£12,168.28	45939.47	
Cash in hand							
Total		£24,861.43	£43,074.73	£49,905.67	£32,412.57	£49,903.61	£2
<b>Total Assets</b>							
Represented by:							
Opening balance		£49,905.67	£32,412.57	£53,668.03	£26,002.86	£6,174.75	£6
Income		£13,615.17	£15,283.48	£11,562.04	£14,885.71	£20,725.17	£1
Expenditure		£38,659.41	£4,621.32	£15,324.40	£8,476.00	£16,283.50	£
Creditors						£43,051.61	-£4
Debtors							
<b>General Fund</b>		<b>£24,861.43</b>	<b>£43,074.73</b>	<b>£49,905.67</b>	<b>£32,412.57</b>	<b>£53,668.03</b>	<b>£26</b>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council £67,936.16

and signed on its behalf by :-

Rev Sue Lepp

(Chairman)

Caroline Sants

(Church Warden)

Date:

The notes on pages 7 to 9 form part of these accounts.

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Note	2022 UNREST	2022 REST	2021 UNREST	2021 REST
<b>Incoming Resources</b>					
Incoming Resources from donors	6a	£9,816.00	15017.21	£7,095.98	£14,875.17
Appeals	6b	£0.00		£25.00	
Income from charitable and ancillary trading	6c	£3,747.00		£4,439.00	
Income from investments - (CBF) Transfer	6d	£52.17	£266.27	£2.06	£10.54
Debtors	9				
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>		<b>£13,615.17</b>	<b>£15,283.48</b>	<b>£11,562.04</b>	<b>£14,885.71</b>
<b>Resources used</b>					
Activities directly relating to the work of the church	7a	£12,974.00	£4,238.00	£8,736.00	£8,476.00
Church running expenses Transfer	7b	£25,685.41	£383.32	£6,588.40	
<b>Total resources used</b>		<b>£38,659.41</b>	<b>£4,621.32</b>	<b>£15,324.40</b>	<b>£8,476.00</b>
<b>Net incoming/(outgoing) resources</b>		<b>-£25,044.24</b>	<b>£10,662.16</b>	<b>-£3,762.36</b>	<b>£6,409.71</b>
<b>Balance - General Fund - 1 January 2021</b>		<b>£49,905.67</b>	<b>£32,412.57</b>	<b>£53,668.03</b>	<b>£26,002.86</b>
<b>Balance - General Fund - 1 January 2022</b>		<b>£24,861.43</b>	<b>£43,074.73</b>	<b>£49,905.67</b>	<b>£32,412.57</b>
		<b>£67,936.16</b>		<b>£82,318.24</b>	