



Annual Parish Meeting Papers 2024

ST MARY MAGDALENE, GREAT HAMPDEN
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Great Hampden PCC is responsible for promoting within the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It is responsible for maintaining the fabric and security of St Mary Magdalene Church, Great Hampden, and its contents.

Members of the PCC during the year were

Clergy	Rev. Deiniol Heywood	
	Rev. Nigel Spoor	(ex officio)
	Rev. Kayleigh Lucas	(ex officio)
Churchwarden	Val Gristwood	
Members	Tony Blackburn	
	Dorothy Charles	(appointed 2024)
	Alan Costin	Treasurer
	Roger Craft	
	Jonathan Knight	(appointed 2024)
	Libby Rodda	Secretary
	Jim Rodda	

The PCC met on five occasions during the year. In addition, the Annual Parochial Meeting was held on-line on Tuesday 16 April 2024. The agendas for the PCC meetings dealt with ongoing and recurring responsibilities e.g. finance, maintaining the fabric of the church, arrangements for special services, managing the programme of weddings, the format and mix of regular Sunday services, matters arising at Deanery Synod, maintaining the

parish electoral roll, consideration of charitable donations, safeguarding, and health and safety matters.

The PCC also monitored progress with the extensive refurbishment works within the church building and raising the necessary finance. The main body of work took place in the period January - April 2024, with redecoration, plasterwork repairs and resolution of the void discovered under the sanctuary floor undertaken in October - December. The church was closed for these periods and services were held in Hill House by kind permission of the Oliver family.

Total attendance at all Sunday services, Good Friday and Christmas Day was 1353 (1392 in 2023). The average number of people attending normal Sunday services (i.e. excluding special services and those incorporating a baptism) was 18 (18 in 2023).

During the course of the year there were 9 weddings at the church (3 in 2023); there were 8 baptisms (5); there were no funerals (3).

The Electoral Roll of the parish numbered 45 at the end of the year.

The Financial Statements for the year showed an excess of Receipts over Payments in the General Fund amounting to £1,228 (£452 in 2023). The balance carried forward on the General Fund at 31 December 2024 was £20,968 (£19,740 at 31/12/23).

The PCC has agreed a policy to seek to maintain a balance on the General Fund, an unrestricted fund, equal to at least six months' expenditure - normally approximately £18,000 – and that whilst the payment of our proportion of the Cost of Ministry for the benefice will be the top financial priority, any further payment of Parish Share will be subject to maintaining such balance. A Mutual Support contribution to Parish Share of £1,200 was accrued in 2024 for payment in 2025. The Cost of Ministry element, which benefited from an £800 reduction by the Diocese in recognition of the

Rector's commissary duties, amounted to £13,972, a decrease of £206, and was paid in full.

In the Fabric Fund, Payments exceeded Receipts in the year by £7,761 (excess Receipts £23 in 2023). We received grants of £9,032 towards the £17,539 cost of hatchment repairs. The balance on the Fabric Fund at 31 December 2024 was £2,871 (£10,632 at 31/12/23).

The PCC seeks to maintain a balance on the Fabric Fund, a restricted fund, of at least £30,000, which has typically been the approximate cost of repairs identified as urgent in past Quinquennial Reports; the PCC recognises that the cost of maintaining the fabric of an ancient building will always place a significant and somewhat unpredictable burden on the resources of a small parish church.

During the course of the year a further £162,668 income was received towards the cost of the refurbishment works, bringing the total raised since the project was launched in 2019 to £375,802. This included £204,574 in personal donations, a wonderful demonstration of generosity for which the PCC is truly grateful. Expenditure on the project during the year amounted to £289,384, bringing the total to date to £371,951.

The net balance of income less expenditure on the 2023 and Beyond project was £3,851 at the 31 December 2024.

The balance on the Hill Fund (a permanent endowment to maintain the Hill family grave) was £4,615 at the 31 December 2024 (£4,549 at 31/12/23).

The annual Harvest Lunch and produce auction raised £497. Though the numbers attending were slightly down on the previous year, the event was greatly enjoyed by everyone who came along.

Two concerts were held during the year, with the net proceeds of £1,829 going to the 2023 and Beyond project, as did the £3,355 raised from a raffle

in the Spring.

Donations received during the year amounted to £4,642 for the General Fund (£3,424 in 2023).

Donations out of church funds in the year comprised £180 to Action Aid and our regular donations of the Remembrance Sunday collection to The Poppy Appeal £60, the Christingle collection to The Children's Society £30 and the Harvest auction proceeds of £193 to Farm Africa.

The thanks and appreciation of the PCC go to Sam Laughton, our Director of Music, and to Adrian Felaar; we are very fortunate to be able to enjoy their excellent playing at our Sunday services. We are also most grateful to all the musicians who played or sung at our Holy Week services, at our carol service and at the concert for 2023 and Beyond in September.

As always, many people gave generously of their time to enable the church to function; they included the flower arrangers, those who help maintain the church, those who tidy the churchyard, the vergers at weddings, baptisms and funerals, the sides persons, the readers, and the editor and contributors to the parish magazine. The PCC is grateful to all who helped with these tasks, and to Mrs Marie-Helene Oliver who made us so welcome at Hill House when the church was closed for the refurbishment works.

The PCC is also particularly indebted to Mr Tony Blackburn for all the time and expertise he has committed over more than five years to the 2023 and Beyond project, which was finally completed in December, and to Mr Glyn Hassall who raised over £100,000 in grants to help finance the project. Most important of all is the dedicated leadership and work of the clergy team in caring for our church, the congregation and the parish. The PCC's thanks and appreciation go to Rev. Deiniol Heywood, Rev. Nigel Spoor, Rev. Kayleigh Lucas, and Lorna Crook in the church office.

Signed on behalf of the Parochial Church Council

GREAT HAMPDEN PCC

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS for the year ended 31 December 2024

1. The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.

2. Monetary assets:

A current account was maintained with NatWest Bank.

Funds held with the Central Board of Finance of the Church of England consisted of a deposit account for the General and Fabric Funds, and a shareholding in a fixed interest fund (a market fund) for the Hill Fund. All dividends for the Hill Fund were reinvested in the fixed interest fund at the time of payment. At the end of the year the holding was 3529 shares at a purchase cost of £5,577, compared with the holding at the end of the previous year which was 3441 shares at a purchase cost of £5,447.

3. Non- monetary assets:

An inventory of moveable church furnishings is held by the Church Wardens. In addition, various items of equipment have been purchased over the years at a total cost of £17,866. These are recognised as assets but not valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities. Disposals have taken place of certain stand alone items of furniture of no value.

In 2014 a store/toilet facility was constructed and a new access path laid at a total cost of £69,025. In the period 2017/18 redevelopment of the vestry was carried out at a cost of £27,307.

In 2024 major works were undertaken inside the church. These comprised opening up the chancel and North aisle space, stabilising the floor tiles, new and improved lighting and heating, a new sound system and AV equipment, extensive plasterwork repairs, replacing and cleaning stonework, and redecoration of the interior walls. The works cost a total of £371,951. Details of the expenditure and income to finance the work is set out on page 3 of

the financial statements.

4. Liabilities:

Deposits taken for weddings scheduled for dates after the year end have been carried forward.

Accruals have been made for recurring expenditure incurred before the year end but for which no invoice has been received.

GREAT HAMPDEN PCC
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PCC
OF ST MARY MAGDALENE CHURCH, GREAT HAMPDEN

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2024 together with the notes thereon, which are set out on pages 1-5, is in respect of an examination carried out under the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 (the Regulations) and the Charities Act 2011 (the Act).

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the Independent Examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements: you consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Act and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the financial statements under section 145 of the Act;
- follow any procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. That examination includes review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and comparison of the financial statements with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the financial statements.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters came to my attention:

(1) which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
- to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Signed:

W. Groves FCA date

GREAT HAMPDEN PCC
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 31st DECEMBER 2024
COMMENTARY

General Fund

1. Receipts exceeded Payments in the year by £1,228.
2. Compared with the previous year total receipts of £34,970 were up by £3,836.
3. Collections and Gift Aid envelopes combined were almost unchanged from 2023, but there was a £664 increase in the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS).
4. Covenanted income/standing orders were also almost unchanged at £11,020.
5. Total Gift Aid tax recovered was £3,508 (last year £3,307), including £896 on the PGS.
6. Donations totalled £4,642, up 36% on 2023. The nine weddings contributed £2,505 and baptisms £1,484. Other donations amounted to £653. The average donation of £278 per wedding was disappointing – we ask for £300 from the wedding couple plus there are donations in the plate on the day.
7. Net fees of £4,847 were up £1,730 on 2023. There were nine weddings (three last year). There were no funerals (three last year) but two interments of ashes.
8. The Harvest Lunch and auction raised £497.
9. Total payments of £33,742 were £3,060 more than last year, despite the savings arising from the closure of the church in the winter/spring and again in the autumn, and a temporary vacancy in the position of Rector's Secretary.

10. The Parish Share was £194 more than last year at £15,172 including a Mutual Support contribution of £1,200. We benefited from a one off reduction of £800 in recognition of Deiniol's commissary duties.

11. Secretarial/admin support costs of £1,735 were £580 less than last year as a result of the temporary vacancy.

12. Organists and musicians costs of £4,089 were £291 more than last year, reflecting an increase of £5 per service and £3 per hour for admin and musical development from August.

13. Electricity costs of £861 were down £1,165 on 2023, after recharging £2,034 (£900 last year) to the 2023 and Beyond project. The reduction reflects the periods when the church was closed and the exceptionally high consumption in the late winter/early spring 2023.

14. Maintenance and repair costs of £1,909 were £1,601 more than last year. Clearing and repairing gutters and downpipes and rectifying the resultant damp patches cost £1,703.

15. Sundry costs of £1,302 included £151 website upgrade, £108 small linen, £98 Gift Aid envelopes and £908 recharges from HTP

16. The balance carried forward on the General Fund at the end of 2024 was £20,968.

17. The General Fund assets at the end of the year comprised £19,420 in the CBF deposit account, and £3,782 in the NatWest current account. Liabilities amounted to £2,234, principally £1,475 expenses due to Holy Trinity Prestwood and £1,200 Mutual Support to the Diocese less £1,071 overpaid to EDF for electricity.

Fabric Fund

18. Payments exceeded Receipts in the year by £13,761.

19. Covenanted income was unchanged at £300.

20. We received grants of £9,032 in the year, towards the cost of hatchment repairs.

21. Payments in the year comprised £17,539 for repairs to three hatchments plus storage and reinstatement.

22. The balance carried forward on the Fabric Fund at the end of 2024 was £2,871.23. The Fabric Fund assets at the end of the year comprised £2,784 in the CBF deposit account and £87 in the NatWest current account.

Project 2023 and Beyond

24. Total receipts from the project since launch amounted to £375,802 excluding the £20,000 loan received from the General and Fabric Funds. Details are set out on page 3 of the financial statements.

25. Total payments totalled £371,951, excluding £14,000 repayment of the loan from the General Fund. Details are set out on page 3 of the financial statements.

26. The net balance of cash income over cash expenditure at 31 December 2024 was £3,851, comprising £2,643 in the CBF deposit fund and £1,208 in the NatWest current account.

Hill Fund

27. Receipts exceeded Payments in the year by £66.

28. The balance on the Hill Fund at the end of the year was £4,615, comprising £5,263 (at market value) invested in the CBF Fixed Interest Fund and £648 overdrawn in the NatWest current account.

Alan Costin (Treasurer) 10/02/25

GREAT HAMPDEN PCC					
FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024					
GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT					
				2024	2023
RECEIPTS					
Recurring Income					
Incoming resources from donors					
	Collections			3,796	3,182
	Tax recovered GASDS			438	357
	Gift Aid envelopes			1,882	2,505
	Tax recovered on envelopes			641	587
	Covenants			11,020	11,000
	Tax recovered on covenants/"one offs"			1,533	1,550
	Parish Giving Scheme			3,915	3,251
	Tax recovered on PGS			896	813
	Donations			<u>4,642</u>	<u>3,424</u>
				28,763	26,669
Income from investments					
	Bank and deposit interest		822		814
	HMRC interest		<u>35</u>	857	<u>57</u>
					871
Activities for generating funds					
	Fees		4,847		3,117
	Harvest lunch and auction		497		451
	Sale of notelets, booklets and furniture		<u>6</u>	<u>5,350</u>	<u>26</u>
					<u>3,594</u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS				<u>34,970</u>	<u>31,134</u>
PAYMENTS					
Grants Donations				463	588
Activities directly related to the work of the Church					
	Parish Share - cost of ministry		13,972		14,178
	- mutual support		<u>1,200</u>		<u>800</u>
			15,172		14,978
	Share of clergy expenses		722		443
	Share of secretarial costs/admin support		1,735		2,315
	House for Duty costs		645		378
	Organists/musicians/licenses		4,089		3,798
	Insurance		3,146		3,060
	Quinquennial inspection fee		150		108
	Electricity		861		2,026
	Mowing and churchyard maintenance		714		726
	Cleaning and window cleaning		312		612
	Septic tank emptying		150		140
	Church maintenance/sundry repairs		1,909		308
	Roof alarm monitoring and maintenance		608		480
	Printing, books, stationery, service sheets		859		487
	Defibrillator		750		0
	Tea urn		155		0
	Sundry		<u>1,302</u>	<u>33,279</u>	<u>235</u>
					<u>30,094</u>
TOTAL PAYMENTS				<u>33,742</u>	<u>30,682</u>
Excess of receipts over (payments)				1,228	452
Fund at 1 January 2024				<u>19,740</u>	<u>19,288</u>
Fund at 31 December 2024				<u>£20,968</u>	<u>£19,740</u>

Great Hampden PCC			31-Dec-24				
2023 and Beyond Project							
				2019/22	2,023	2,024	Total
				£	£	£	£
Receipts							
	Appeal donations			61,128	118,480	24,966	204,574
	Gift Aid tax recovered			2,463	0	4,387	6,849
	Interest			877	2,420	1,000	4,297
	Grants			3,750	17,500	59,764	81,014
	Grant A/V video			0	0	30,654	30,654
	VAT grant			0	0	35,583	35,583
	Legacy			5,000	0	0	5,000
	Concerts			0	1,517	1,829	3,346
	Raffle			0	0	3,355	3,355
	Sales of staging, pews, lightfittings			0	0	1,130	1,130
	Loan from General/Fabric Funds			0	0	20,000	20,000
				73,217	139,917	182,668	395,802
Payments							
	Architect			12,900	1,350	900	15,150
	Hatchment report			648	0	0	648
	Oxford Heritage Partnership			2,517	0	0	2,517
	Archaeological investigation			1,030	0	0	1,030
	Archaeological report			1,968	0	0	1,968
	Medieval figure report			396	0	0	396
	Disposal costs of share sale			440	0	0	440
	Chancel works			0	6,379	0	6,379
	Stonework materials			0	3,634	0	3,634
	North aisle works/preliminaries			0	24,213	0	24,213
	Flooring, trunking/ducting, ramp, plaster			0	0	59,690	59,690
	Lighting, heating, wiring for A/V			0	0	103,518	103,518
	Redecoration, plaster repairs			0	0	72,569	72,569
	A/V design			4,975	0	0	4,975
	A/V audio			0	19,750	19,013	38,763
	A/V visual			0	0	30,654	30,654
	Electricity			0	900	2,034	2,934
	Insurance			0	331	0	331
	Organ relocation			0	252	135	387
	Sundry			79	806	870	1,755
	Loan repayment to General Fund			0	0	14,000	14,000
				24,952	57,615	303,384	385,951
Balance at 31 December 2024							9,851
Loan from Fabric Fund							-6,000
							£3,851

				GREAT HAMPDEN PCC			
				FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024			
				FABRIC FUND RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT (Restricted Fund)			
				2024			2023
				RECEIPTS			
				Recurring Income			
				Incoming resources from donors			
				Covenants	300		300
				Tax recovered	75		75
				Donation	0	375	0
							375
				Income from investments			
				Interest	371		368
				Non-recurring Income			
				Grants re hatchment repairs	9,032		3,311
				TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>9,778</u>		<u>4,054</u>
				PAYMENTS			
				Hatchments repairs, storage and reinstatement	17,539		4,031
				Loan to 2023 and Beyond project	6,000		0
				TOTAL PAYMENTS	<u>23,539</u>		<u>4,031</u>
				Excess of (Payments) over Receipts	-13,761		23
				Loan due from 2023 and Beyond project	6,000		0
				Fund at 1 January 2024	<u>10,632</u>		<u>10,609</u>
				Fund at 31 December 2024	<u>£2,871</u>		<u>£10,632</u>

HILL FUND RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT (Permanent Endowment Fund)

STATEMENT OF MONETARY ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

FUNDS HELD

MONETARY LIABILITIES

Parish Share	-1,200	0	0	0	-1,200	-800
Wedding deposits	-50	0	0	0	-50	-500
Clergy expenses	-161	0	0	0	-161	-124
House for Duty costs	-230	0	0	0	-230	-303
Secretarial/admin support costs	-606	0	0	0	-606	-599
Recruitment/relocation costs	-430	0	0	0	-430	-430
Electricity	1,071	0	0	0	1,071	-731
Printing and stationery	-218	0	0	0	-218	-122
Quinquennial inspection	-150	0	0	0	-150	0
Roof alarm	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sundry costs	-260	0	0	0	-260	-48
Prepayments	0	0	0	0	0	197
Net Monetary Assets	£20,968	£2,871	£4,615	£3,851	£32,305	£165,488