

THE PARISH OF ALL SAINTS' MARCHAM WITH ST. LUKE'S GARFORD
(registered charity no. 1140057)

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Administrative Information

The Parish of Marcham with Garford (**The Parish**) is part of the Diocese of Oxford within the Church of England. The correspondence address is:

Parochial Church Council (PCC) Secretary
c/o All Saints' Church, Church Street, Marcham, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX13 6NP

Church members who have served from 21st April 2024 until the date of this report and the financial statements were approved are:

Vicar:	Rev Nick Weldon (licensed 20 October 2021)
Permission to officiate:	Rev. Kevin Mentzel, Rev. Mark Newman, Rev Rosemary Siebert
Authorised to lead and preach:	Professor James Allan, Mrs Debbie Flint, Mr. James Gilbert, Dr Tim Jack, Mr Martin Poon, Mrs Jill Rowe
Children and Families Minister:	Jill Rowe
Youth Worker:	Rob Finch
Parish Administrator:	Tamsin Gilbert
Safeguarding Officer:	Ruth Atkins
Electoral Roll Officer:	Chris Nutman
Churchwardens (2):	Neil Rowe (from April 2018) Chrystal Poon (From May 2022)
Deanery Synod Reps (up to 3):	Tim Jack Caroline Manders James Gilbert
Elected PCC Members (up to 12):	Danni Grady (PCC Secretary) David Lunn Jonathan Boardman Sue Lawton Catherine Mentzel (from April 2023) John Scoble (from April 2023) Tamsin Gilbert (from April 2024) Bryan Eccles (From April 2024) James Allan (From April 2024) Mike Worthing (From April 2024) Vicki Tinkler (From April 2024) Hugh Lawton (From April 2024)

PCC Officers:		Independent Examiner:
Chairman	Rev Nick Weldon	Mike Greig (2020-)
Vice Chairman	Neil Rowe	
Secretary	Danni Grady	
Treasurer	Hugh Lawton	

Structure, Governance & Management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC was formally registered with the Charity Commission on 26 January 2011. Lay members of the PCC are appointed in accordance with the provisions of the Church of England.

All eligible church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. In April 2025, the Electoral Roll stood at 127 members (2024:149).

The PCC met monthly during the year and the churchwardens and staff team met with the Vicar regularly.

Health and Safety, Child Protection and other pertinent legislation is adhered to. The PCC also encourages its members to attend training events and money is set aside in the budget to facilitate this.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults is a vital part of the PCC role. The PCC ensures that safeguarding training and DBS checks are in place for all necessary activities and personnel. They comply fully with the diocesan safeguarding requirements and report any issues or concerns to the Diocesan Safeguarding team. The PCC uses 31:8 as their umbrella body for doing DBS checks.

Objectives

The PCC has the primary responsibility of promoting with the Vicar the whole mission of the church in the parish of Marcham and Garford. This includes pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical ministries to all in the Parish by 'Serving Christ Together.'

The PCC seeks to be renewed and empowered by God's Spirit. Whilst recognising the responsibility to be prudent stewards of our resources, seeking and responding to God's will as revealed in the Bible and in line with the traditions of the Church of England is a key component in how the PCC manages its affairs.

Reserves

The PCC aims to operate within a budget determined by its annual income and reserves and approved by the PCC. The agreed reserves policy is to hold three months basic operating costs in the general fund. This is to allow the church to continue to meet its financial obligations in the event of a disruption to its income stream. The church family are invited annually to review their regular giving and special appeals are launched for special projects as appropriate.

Public Benefit

The PCC is aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit and have regard to it in their administration of the Parish. The PCC believes that, by fulfilling its responsibility to work together with the incumbent in the Parish and cooperate in all matters of concern and importance for the promotion of the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical, it provides a benefit to the public by:

- providing resources and facilities for public worship, pastoral care and spiritual, moral and intellectual development, both for its members and for anyone who wishes to benefit from what the Church offers;
- promoting Christian values, and service by members of the Churches in the Parish to their communities, to the benefit of individuals and society as a whole.

Review of the Year – Activities and Achievements (1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024)

Services:

All Saints', Marcham: This year we have held a range of services every Sunday morning, including All-Age, Family Communion, Holy Communion and Morning Praise; regular Sunday evening services of Holy Communion or Service of the Word; and a regular mid-week Holy Communion at Duffield Place. Attendance on a Sunday morning is usually between 70-100, with up to 25 primary aged children in addition to older youth. In December we also held special services including our Carols by Candlelight. Most of our normal Sunday morning services were live-streamed for anyone unable to make church.

St Luke's Church, Garford: A sub-committee from St. Luke's in Garford work together to run a programme of regular services throughout the year. Among these were the sunrise service in the churchyard on Easter Day, Harvest festival and a special service to dedicate the bell. There were also a number of services in December, including both Advent and Christmas Carols. The church is open weekly on Sunday mornings to provide a quiet space for parishioners to

reflect and pray. The choir at St Luke's continue to support services and performed at a beautiful 'Songs of Praise' service this year too.

Other regular activities:

Children & Youth Work: Involvement in Marcham School (governors, classroom, R.E., prayer spaces, assemblies and services); Friday Club for 5s-11s and termly Family Friday events; Monday night Youth activity session on the MUGA at Marcham Community Centre; Children's and Young people's groups on Sundays (during services and in the afternoon/evening); Holiday Club during the summer for Primary-aged children, with a team of Secondary-aged Young Leaders. This summer some of our young people also went out on a Mission trip to Moldova, supported by our Youth team.

Older Persons support: Care for the older people within our Parish has continued through volunteers. The Games morning has now moved to meeting weekly. The Vicar also makes a point of visiting some of our older congregation.

Spiritual study and prayer: Home groups which meet weekly or fortnightly; Monthly whole-church prayer meetings; the Prayer Chain; Prayer for the persecuted church; A monthly women's Bible Study.

Community activities: The Parish has continued to run a variety of activities open to the whole community including Men's Beers & Breakfasts, Women's Evenings, Tiddlypeeps (baby and toddler group) and Remembrance and Christmas Events and Services.

Other Church activities: a website (www.marcham-with-garford.org.uk); a Facebook page managed by Ruth Atkins. Funerals, weddings and baptisms were conducted as needed.

Charitable Fundraising: The church has continued to be involved in charitable fundraising, namely Ripple Effect (formerly Send a Cow). This year we celebrated the end of our partnership with the Marcham Moldova Lifeline.

Church Maintenance: The PCC has undertaken routine maintenance and improvement works to the church buildings during the year as needed. We have also undertaken a major building project at the West End of the church, to improve our kitchen and toilet facilities.

Financial Review of 2024

The PCC seeks to be good stewards of the financial resources placed in its care through the generous giving of church members and other income it receives in the form of grants and fees. Unless separately detailed below, Unrestricted Funds include Designated Funds.

	2024	2023	
Surplus / (Deficit)	(£1,065)	(£17,330)	
Unrestricted Funds	(£1,218)	(£14,135)	
Restricted Funds	£153	(£3,195)	Building, Ripple Effect, MML, Pastoral Funds
Total income	£289,639	£164,862	
Unrestricted Funds	£180,235	£151,798	
Restricted Funds	£109,404	£13,064	Mainly Building
Total Expenditure	£290,704	£182,192	
Unrestricted Funds	£181,452	£165,933	
Restricted Funds	£109,252	£16,259	Mainly Building

Unrestricted Expenditure Comments - % shown is of total expenditure in each year.

Parish Share 34% £62,201 40% £66,180 % of Unrestricted (General) Expenditure

The Vicar was appointed as Vicar of Fyfield and Tubney during 2024, and as Assistant Area Dean during 2023, with corresponding small reductions in the Parish Share allocated by the Deanery

23% of the Unrestricted General expenditure in 2024 related to staff wages - £41,298 (2023 24% £39,437)

The small year-on-year increase was due to an annual rise for all staff.

Building For Community Finances

In 2024 the Building for Community (BFC) Phase 1 plans, refurbishing kitchen and toilets at All Saints Church to meet the needs of the community, were implemented. Seeking to raise roughly 1/3 from each of the PCC funds, the congregation and from fund-raising for the forecast cost of £150,000 (plus VAT), we started by designating £50,000 of PCC funds to the Building Fund.

We further raised £60,325 in grants, some at the prompting of a villager reading of BFC in MAD News. The congregation prayed and made very generous one-off and ongoing commitments totalling £48,098. Most had been received by 31 December 2024. This value includes Gift Aid.

Classic Builders, whose work the PCC had seen at a nearby church, quoted well below the forecast £150,000+VAT and we were able to reclaim the VAT on all their work and some of the cupboards etc fitting the kitchen out. The new toilets, including a fully accessible unit, are a modern delight – once the timer on the motion-sensitive light switches had been suitably adjusted.

The resulting facilities are excellent, and the congregation can be very proud that the fund-raising went so smoothly. As the funds from congregational giving and grants were all Restricted to use for the BFC, effectively the £50,000 of PCC funds designated remains available for future works.

Cash Balances

The small decrease in cash over the year of £6,553 is largely driven by the increase in debtors representing reclaims etc not received at year end, offset by creditors (in 2023 – these were included in Cash).

Commented [AT1]: Covered in Building Works

Overall planned unrestricted giving eligible for gift aid was £90,300 during 2024 (2023 £85,300). Generally, changes are as a result of donors moving out of the Parish and some passing away, replaced by new donors moving in, and changes in donations amounts from existing donors.

One-off unrestricted giving increased was £5,200 (2023 £1,700). By its very nature, this varies from year to year.

Gift Aid received on unrestricted gifts was £30,600 (2023 £24,300).

No legacies were received during 2024 or 2023.

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We are extremely grateful for all donations and grants (see financial statements for grant details) received.

Risks and Uncertainties

The main financial risks to the church are perceived to be where:

- a) Giving to the church reduces or stops
- b) One or more significant donors stop giving
- c) unexpected damage to the church buildings occurs

The PCC takes a prayerful approach to managing these risks and holds reserves and appropriate insurance policies. The PCC also budgets for the year ahead and further ahead for some items of expenditure.

Approved by the Trustees on 23/04/2025 and signed on their behalf by:

N Weldon

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