

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

**ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

Administrative Information

The Parish of Marcham with Garford 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 30<sup>th</sup> April 2023 until the date of this report and the financial statements were approved are:

<b>Vicar:</b>	Rev Nick Weldon (licensed 20 October 2021)
<b>Permission to officiate:</b>	Rev. Kevin Mentzel, Rev. Mark Newman, Rev Rosemary Siebert
<b>Authorised to lead and preach:</b>	Professor James Allan, Mrs Debbie Flint, Mr. James Gilbert, Dr Tim Jack, Mr Martin Poon, Mrs Jill Rowe
<b>Children and Families Minister:</b>	Jill Rowe
<b>Youth Worker:</b>	Rob Finch
<b>Parish Administrator:</b>	Tamsin Gilbert
<b>Safeguarding Officer:</b>	Ruth Atkins
<b>Electoral Roll Officer:</b>	Chris Nutman
<b>Churchwardens (2):</b>	Neil Rowe (from April 2018) Chrystal Poon (From May 2022)
<b>Deanery Synod Reps (up to 3):</b>	Tim Jack Caroline Manders James Gilbert
<b>Elected PCC Members (up to 12):</b>	Danni Grady (PCC Secretary) Chris Nutman Ruth Atkins Barney Stevens Alison Lyndon David Lunn Jonathan Boardman Carolyn Whiting Sue Lawton Tony Carter (from April 2023) Catherine Mentzel (from April 2023) John Scoble (from April 2023)
<b>Co-opted Members:</b>	Tamsin Gilbert (as administrator) Bryan Eccles (for finance)

**PCC Officers:**

Chairman	Rev Nick Weldon
Vice Chairman	Neil Rowe
Secretary	Danni Grady
Treasurer	John Scoble

**Independent Examiner:**

Mike Greig (2020-)

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 2024, the Electoral Roll stood at 149 members (2023:144).

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 2023 to 31 December 2023)

#### Services:

During the year we ran morning and evening services most Sundays in All Saints' with numbers of people attending between 70-100 most Sundays. We also ran some all-age services at the Marcham community centre. Over Christmas we were able to provide a whole programme of activities that catered to lots of different groups, from the youngest to the oldest. Most of our normal Sunday morning services were live-streamed for anyone unable to make church.

St Lukes Church, Garford: During 2023 the members of St. Lukes in Garford have continued to engage with their community with great effect. On Easter Day there was another sunrise service in the churchyard which was well attended. On Remembrance Sunday an Act of Remembrance was attended by many of the village at the War Memorial. An Advent Carol Service was attended by Archdeacon David Tyler and at Christmas there were Carol

services in the church and Carols on the green. There have been monthly services from September 2023 including a Harvest festival. The church is open weekly on Sunday mornings to provide a quiet space for parishioners to reflect and pray. The choir continued to support worship services at St Lukes.

Other regular activities: The church supported and promoted activities which included:

*Children & Youth Work:* Marcham School (governors, classroom, R.E., 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);

*Older Persons support:* Care for the older people within our parish has continued through volunteers. The fortnightly Games morning remains popular amongst older generations. The vicar also makes a point of visiting some of our older congregation.

*Spiritual study and prayer:* Home groups; Weekly prayer meetings; the Prayer Chain; Prayer for the persecuted church. The Midweek Holy Communion meets in the lounge at Duffield Place. A women's Bible Study has met monthly.

*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](http://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, in particular for the Marcham Moldova Lifeline, and Ripple Effect (formerly Send a Cow).

Church Maintenance: The PCC has undertaken routine maintenance and improvement works to the church buildings during the year. By their nature, the costs of these does vary from year to year. The significant increase in spending on All Saints Churchyard (£14,258 in 2023 – £1 in 2022) was mainly as a result of the resurfacing of the path to the main door, and the replacement of the marquee.

#### Financial Review of 2023

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.

Total income for 2023	£164,862	(2022 £161,521)
General Funds	£151,798	(2022 £144,732)
Restricted Funds	£13,064	(2022 £16,789) Ripple Effect, MML, Pastoral Funds
Total expenditure for 2023	£182,193	(2022 £156,240)
General Funds	£165,934	(2022 £145,231)
Restricted Funds	£16,259	(2022 £11,009)
Deficit 2023	£17,331	(2022 £5,281)
Unrestricted	£14,136	(2022 £(499))
Restricted	£3,195	(2022 £5,780) Ripple Effect, Send a Cow

Cash at the bank at 31st December 2023 was £160,473 (2022 £180,161)

This is split between the general fund: £151,462 (2022 £172,265 and the restricted funds £11,007 (2022 £7396) (Ripple Effect, Marcham Moldova Lifeline, Building Fund, Genesis Grant (Churchyard), Covid/Pastoral Fund) £86,288 (2022 £83,608 of the general fund is held in a deposit account

Overall planned giving eligible for gift aid increased by a modest £3,300 during 2023 (2022 £2,244 decrease). 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.

Total Gift Aid was virtually static at approx. £24,000.

No legacies were received during 2023 or 2022.

The following grants were received:

- £1,000 from Anson Trust for the Covid/Pastoral Fund
- £483 from Anson Trust for Tiddlypeeps books
- £320 from Anson Trust for the Pantomime visit
- £250 from Marcham Parish Council for the Pantomime Visit

(In 2022, grants totalling £5818 were received, including £5,000 from Marcham Parish Council for ecological work in the churchyard, of which £2,000 remained to be spent at the end of 2023.)

40% of the expenditure in 2023 related to the Parish Share £66180 (2022 44% £68,799). The vicar was appointed as Assistant Area Dean part-way through the year, with a corresponding small reduction in Parish Share being allocated by the Deanery.

23% of the Unrestricted General expenditure in 2023 related to staff wages £39,437 (2022 23% £35,949)

This increase was partly caused by the payment of a modest salary to the Parish Administrator for a full year, (2022 a part year), together with an annual rise for all staff.

#### 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      and signed on their behalf by:

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