



St Lawrence Church
LECHLADE-ON-THAMES

St Lawrence Church Parochial Church Council Lechlade

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the

Year ended 31 December 2021

Table of Contents

Information.....	3
Strategic Report.....	4
1. Background.....	4
2. PCC Membership.....	4
3. Committees.....	4
4. Church Attendance.....	4
5. Vicar’s Report.....	4
6. Churchwardens’ Report.....	6
7. Safeguarding Report.....	6
8. Response to the Pandemic.....	6
9. Cirencester Deanery Synod.....	7
9.1 Introduction.....	7
9.2 Strategic Planning: ten years to 2030.....	8
9.3 Lay Worship Leaders.....	8
9.4 Parish Share.....	8
10. Church Mission and Ministry.....	8
10.1 Bible Study groups.....	8
10.1.1 Monday evening Bible Study Group.....	8
10.1.2 Men’s Bible Study.....	8
10.1.3 Monday Evening Study and Fellowship Group.....	9
10.1.4 Thursday Evening House group.....	9
10.1.5 Women’s Bible Fellowship.....	9
10.2 St. Lawrence Youth and Children’s Ministry.....	9
10.2.1 Sunday discipleship.....	9
10.2.1 Midweek and community outreach.....	10
10.2.3 Little Lights. Pram service/ baby and toddler play group.....	10
10.3 South Cotswold Team Youth Ministry.....	10
10.3.1 Schools work.....	10
10.3.2 Sunday services.....	11
10.3.3 Other youth work.....	11
10.4 St. Lawrence School.....	11
10.4.1 Open the Book.....	12
10.5 Music.....	12
10.5.1 St Lawrence Church Choir - a year of two halves.....	12
10.5.2 St Lawrence Music Group.....	13

10.6	World Church Committee	13
10.7	Mothers' Union	13
10.8	St. Lawrence Bell Ringing	13
11	Church Support to Ministry	14
11.1	Restoration and Maintenance Appeal Committee	14
11.2	Project Inspire	14
11.3	Fabric	14
11.4	Eco Church Group.....	15
	11.4.1 Climate Sunday	15
	11.4.2 Eco Church Award.....	15
	11.4.3 Churchyard.....	15
12	Financial and other Statutory Information	16
12.1	Statement of Trustees Responsibilities	16
12.2	Risk Management	16
12.3	Investment Policy	16
12.4	Voluntary Help.....	16
12.5	Transactions and Financial Position.....	16
13	Independent Examiners Report to the Parochial Church Council of Lechlade	18
	Statement of Financial Activities	19
	Balance sheet	20
	Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 16/02/2022 and signed on its behalf by:.....	20
	Fund movement by Fund	25
	Analysis of income and expenditure.....	26

Information

Parish Vicar	Revd Dr Andrew Cinnamond
Churchwardens	Richard Bell Susan Holmes
Parochial Church Council	Richard Akroyd Paul Cobb Nigel Jones Denver Keegan Gordon Land
Deanery Synod Representatives	David Corris Vicky Jones David Williams
Bankers	Barclays Bank Plc Lloyds Bank Plc
Independent Examiner	David White

Strategic Report

1. Background

St Lawrence Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the Parish Vicar, the Revd. Andrew Cinnamond, promoting in the parish, the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelical and social. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the church building, Church Cottage, and the investment property.

2 PCC Membership

Members of the PCC who are also trustees of the charity for the purposes of the Charities Act 2011 are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, and in accordance with the Church Representation Rules are elected for a three-year period.

The following served as Members of the PCC during the year:

Parish Vicar Revd Dr Andrew Cinnamond

Churchwardens Richard Bell
Susan Holmes

Representatives of the Deanery Synod and therefore Ex-officio Members

David Corris
Vicky Jones (Secretary)
David Williams

Elected Members Richard Akroyd
Paul Cobb
Nigel Jones
Denver Keegan

Ex-officio Gordon Land
Revd Dr Gareth Griffith (Curate)

3. Committees

The Standing Committee is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings. It comprises the Vicar, Church Wardens, Treasurer and Secretary.

4 Church Attendance

There were 152 parishioners on the Church Electoral roll.

The average Sunday attendance was 98 adults and 10 children. Services have also been streamed live throughout the year from the church, and this will continue; an average of 24 people have viewed the whole service.

During the year, the church held services for 4 baptisms, 4 weddings and 10 funerals, with 4 funerals just at the crematorium.

5 Vicar's Report

The past year has been one of great challenge and uncertainty. None of us have lived through a pandemic and we are, to use a much over-used metaphor, in 'uncharted territory'. We have done this before! We have no examples to follow, or experience to lean on. There has not always been clear guidance from either government or church authorities. As a result, the

church has been trying to steer a sure path between being too hesitant and frightened on the one hand, and too bullish and overconfident on the other. Thank you for your prayers, as together with our wonderful wardens, Richard and Susan, and the Parochial Church Council, we have prayerfully tried to do what is best for the vast majority of the church family and wider community.

Church is not like any other hobby or leisure interest. It is a meeting place of God's People on earth. It is the place where we experience God's grace through Word and sacrament. It is an outpost of God's Kingdom on earth. It is, despite all its frailty and divisions, a foretaste of our heavenly home. It is God's hospital, a place of healing, restoring and new life. It has been my intention to resume 'normal' church life as soon as legally possible after national restrictions and lockdowns. For all the blessing and advantages of meeting online, zoom calls etc., it does not replace the vitality and warmth of real, personal, physical interaction one with another. We have put restrictions and procedures in place (open doors for ventilation, keeping a mask-wearing zone in our church building etc.) to allow as many people to worship together as possible. God has greatly blessed and encouraged us over the past few very difficult years-attendance has been remarkably consistent, with new people joining us; our finances have not been badly hit, so that we have broken even each year, and we can still afford to give 10% of our income to our world mission partners.

The mission of the local church therefore goes on. People still need to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ. People still need all the practical support and love we can give them. I have been so aware over the past year of the toll that Covid has taken on people's lives, with increased anxiety and stress, a huge increase in mental health problems, marriage and family breakdown, and financial hardship. It has never been more important for the local church to be a visible witness to God's love for them in Christ.

To that end we continue our plans for our 'Inspire' re-ordering project, seeking to make our wonderful Grade 1 listed building suitable for a whole new generation of worshippers, with better accessibility, flexibility, heating, lighting, AV provision, all with our environmental responsibilities upper most in our minds. We also continue our planning and training for the 'Seeds of Faith' parish mission in September 2022. This will be a coordinated time of outreach in the church and different venues across Lechlade. Sunday sermons and Lent course resources will help us to make the most of being Christians in whatever circumstances or situation we find ourselves in - we all have our 'frontlines' where we are disciples. As a church we are also planning to have another holiday club during the summer, building on our links with our church school. In all these things, we are not standing still.

We realise that going to church is now a very alien concept to most people around us and in Britain as a whole. We need to be even more imaginative and flexible in our approach if we want to enable local people to consider the claims of Jesus Christ for them. Sitting back and waiting for people to visit our Sunday services is not an option. The Church of England as a whole is facing very significant challenges in the form of declining attendance, reduced income, and a reduction in the number of stipendiary clergy. St. Lawrence, Lechlade is certainly not immune from these wider factors, and it will become ever more important to co-ordinate resources, focus our priorities, and to train lay people to take a much more active role in the local church, including leading services. We are greatly blessed to be a training parish and we welcomed Revd Gareth Griffith as our curate, together with his wife, Sonia and children Vaughan and Myfanwy. It is always encouraging to see how God is still calling people to serve Him, including in the ordained ministry.

It is very easy to become disillusioned and cynical when we see the world around us, and just focus on the problems and the obstacles to be overcome. However, we are Christians. We

are the people of God. We have a hope that transcends all the plotting and machinations of this present world. We are exiles in this present world, and we live by faith until we reach our true home on Heaven. Until then we have job to do. We are to be salt and light in the very different situations the Lord has placed us in. We are to be like yeast working silently and powerfully in a batch of dough, spreading Kingdom values. We are disciples of Jesus, who is the Prince of Peace. As a church family, we strive towards that goal, asking for God to strengthen and encourage us in that task. I am so grateful that God called me to this place and to this ministry. I am so grateful for the many, many people who labour so faithfully to help our mission. I look forward to journeying alongside you in faith.

Yours in Jesus Christ's service,

Andrew Cinnamond

Vicar

6 Churchwardens' Report

During the last year, Covid has continued to play an 'active' part in the workings of St Lawrence. However, we been blessed that the church has remained open over the last year and a team of people has worked hard to ensure it is clean and welcoming for services and visitors.

We are so thankful for everyone who has contributed to the life of the church in what has proved to be another challenging year. Many of our congregation have been unable to attend services and we have tried to make sure they continue to feel part of the church family through regular newsletters and updates. Lesley Uzzell, the Parish Administrator has continued to provide our much-needed office support and during the year she has helped with the organisation of detail that enables the church to function; we are grateful for all that she contributes to the life of our church.

After nine years as churchwarden, Richard has decided to retire at this year's APCM. It has been a very enjoyable time, though sometimes, fraught with unforeseen problems. He wishes his successor well for his or her new position.

Richard Bell – Churchwarden

Susan Holmes - Churchwarden

7 Safeguarding Report

Lesley Uzzell has recently taken over as Parish Safeguarding Officer (please note that this will not be part of her role as Parish Administrator). There will be training undertaken in the next few months as well as hand over with Pat Scott. If anyone has any safeguarding queries, please do contact Lesley.

The PCC reviewed, amended, and reissued the safeguarding policy. It has also undertaken to conduct a further review to enable it to be more meaningful to St Lawrence. There have been no Safeguarding issues this year.

Response to the Pandemic

Again, this year the PCC continued to manage its response to the pandemic as a gradual easing of restrictions enabled services to be held in church and a greater degree of normality to resume. Much effort went into managing the risk predicated upon a robust risk assessment. Measures included provision of hand sanitising, social distancing practices, additional ventilation and altered means of sharing communion. Overall, good practice was followed week by week and included good cooperation at events such as funerals when many people who were unfamiliar with the church used the building. As we enter 2022, some residual practices

will continue to be recommended so that the risk is managed and, importantly, all members of our church community can feel confident to return to services and other events.

9 Cirencester Deanery Synod

9.1 Introduction

Cirencester Deanery Synod is formed of more than 45 parishes situated between Lechlade and Shipton Moyne and from Elkstone or Birdlip to the Wiltshire border. The Synod comprises all stipendiary incumbents and nominated lay representatives proportionate to the size of their respective parish. Thus, small parishes nominate a single representative whilst those with larger Usual Sunday Attendances may have 2, 3 or 4 members normally appointed for a triennium.

Officers of the Cirencester Deanery Synod in 2021:

Post	
Area Dean	Revd Canon Poppy Hughes (resigned as Area Dean 31.12.2021)
Lay Chair	George Collins
Deputy Lay Chair	Revd Dr Andrew Cinnamond
Parish Share Apportionment Officer	Nick Mitchell (resigned January 2021)
Safeguarding Officer	Jackie Colburn
Secretary	Michael Spittle

In 2022, the functions of the Area Dean were apportioned between the Revd. Dr Andrew Cinnamond, Revd. Canon Graham Morris, Revd. Canon John Swanton, and Revd. Val Thorne. The arrangement is subject to review after six months.

Some parishes have not identified lay representatives although, in several of these, local church officers have agreed to receive the Deanery's publications and minutes. In brief, the Deanery Synod is a link between parishes and the Gloucester Diocesan Synod, which also explores the objectives of Diocesan Vision and informs its members of items of interest, as an example, financial affairs, governorship of CofE schools or safeguarding. It also forms the electorate of the Gloucester Diocesan and General Synods of the Church of England.

Three meetings were successfully held during the year through zoom. These continued to focus on the strategic planning of human, physical and electronic resources for the delivery of Mission throughout the ten years to 2030. Key parts of the discussions were proposals to deflect the consequences of a future reduction in the availability of clergy numbers, the potential fall in churches' income and the use of technology, especially during the times when church buildings have been closed for any form of worship. Through its two-way link between Diocese and Parishes, general advisory business on (i) the policies and procedures for Safeguarding arrangements, (ii) Parish Share apportionment, and (iii) on the General Data Protection Regulations 2016 (GDPR) were addressed. Environmental issues and the abuse of our planet remained in the agenda as Eco-Church initiatives were explored by some parishes. Finally, reports on proceedings of the General Synod and of the Gloucester Diocesan Synod were received.

One lay member of the Deanery Synod is also a member of General Synod while nine others are in membership of the Gloucester Diocesan Synod.

9.2 Strategic Planning: ten years to 2030

As reported previously, Deaneries across the Gloucester Diocese have been asked to develop plans that would shape Future Ministry during the ensuing ten years. These were expected to take account of (i) clergy retirements that numerically outstrip recruitment entailing the loss of at least one member of clergy in each deanery; (ii) reductions in parish income and (iii) any lessons learned from the coronavirus lockdowns for alternative forms of Ministry. Against these factors, Deanery Synod determined its principles as: Ministry rooted in our local community; (ii) vibrant lay ministry and leadership; (iii) church families focused outwards on the people and the communities they serve; and (iv) redefining the role of clergy in a new landscape. Synod meetings concentrated on the benefits and potential pitfalls that might be found in the development of the identified opportunities and constraints.

Last autumn, Archdeacons noted that the significant impact of draft plans determined the need of a coordinated approach throughout the nine Deaneries that formed the Diocese. To assist in this method of strategic planning, professional consultants with Church ministry experience were appointed. Their work was in progress while this report was compiled. Costs of the consultancy were financed from Diocesan funds other than through the Parish Share revenue.

9.3 Lay Worship Leaders

Deanery Synod was pleased to learn of the training and commissioning of nine new lay worship leaders in January 2022.

9.4 Parish Share

The Diocese expressed thanks for the prompt payment of Parish Share throughout another troubled year. Deanery Officers similarly compliment, and empathise with, the 47 parishes for this support. Some 98 per cent of Parish Commitments within the Deanery had been paid to the Diocese during 2021; this amounted to £888,487.

Michael Spittle

March 2022

Secretary to Cirencester Deanery Synod

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10 Church Mission and Ministry

10.1 Bible Study groups

10.1.1 Monday evening Bible Study Group

For the first half of the year, we met online to study the book of Titus and then some psalms. In May 12 members enjoyed a tea party in the Bainbridges' garden. We resumed face to face meetings in the autumn studying the book of James

10.1.2 Men's Bible Study

The group has continued to meet fortnightly, in person when Covid rules permitted and online at other times. We meet fortnightly for a time of fellowship, prayer, and bible study. Last year we studied the book of Hebrews and then went back to the beginning and started looking at Genesis, which has continued into this year. We are always open to new members and meet on a Tuesday evening at David Corris's house. Please contact David (01367 253276) if you are interested in joining.

10.1.3 Monday Evening Study and Fellowship Group

Our group has met through the past year with some consistency, comprises of 12 participants and has convened sometimes by Zoom and in person which has been a much-welcomed experience.

We have followed two series of studies. The first 'Wisdom for the whole of life' based on Proverbs. (Produced by the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity). The 6 guided sessions helped us review our perspectives on the book of Proverbs and the writer helped to bring Proverbs alive with working examples of their application in our everyday lives. The second series, not yet quite completed, is 'The Church is born' following Acts 1-12. (Produced by The Good Book Guide). It is a stimulating series that takes us through some of the key landmarks of the young church and explores its opportunities along with its growing pains.

We benefit from a range of leaders who facilitate the sessions, and their different styles provide a variety of learning experiences for us all. For further details, please contact Geoff Holmes.

10.1.4 Thursday Evening House group

Having been part of the online study groups throughout lockdown, we decided to continue to meet as a separate House group – amalgamating two 'break-out' groups into one with a total of 10 members.

We continued to meet online each Thursday evening studying firstly, Titus, using Tim Chester's booklets 'Titus The Good Life', and then looked at Acts with the help of John Stott's book 'Acts – Seeing the Spirit at Work.' When lockdown rules were lifted, we meet together in person! This included starting with coffee and biscuits and praying together at the end of the meeting. We have just finished studying 12 parables of Jesus, using John White's booklets 'The Greatest Stories Ever Told'. It has been a joy to share fellowship together and we have all grown in our understanding of God's word and its application to our daily lives.

10.1.5 Women's Bible Fellowship

Continued on Zoom from January- July, we studied the Holy Spirit in the Old and New Testaments, including looking at the Trinity, After Easter we studied Jeremiah linked to the sermon series. From September, we have managed to meet in person in St. Lawrence Church, where we are able to split into 2 groups with an average of 10 in each group most weeks. We have studied the gospels of Luke and John. We have been especially encouraged by welcoming new members.

10.2 St. Lawrence Youth and Children's Ministry

10.2.1 Sunday discipleship

After all the restrictions on children's activities during Covid, we are so glad to report that during 2021 God has enabled us to make the long, slow transition back to in-person groups. At the beginning of the year, Sunday activities consisted of activity packs for primary age children within 10am church services and some 'zoom' meetings for secondary age.

By June we were able to restart monthly physical groups for 'Stars' (3-6s), 'Planets' (7-10s) and 'The Grid' (10-16s), growing to twice monthly in September, and now back to a full rota of 10 am groups. We are particularly pleased to have welcomed both new adult team members and new children to our groups in this time. Our younger groups have enjoyed a series of stories of 'Meals with Jesus', and our older group are currently exploring 'Faith on the Frontline' in parallel with Sunday services.

- Please give thanks for the young people in our church family and pray for faithful discipling of them and that they may grow in their love for Jesus.

10.2.1 Midweek and community outreach

After a long pause whilst schools needed to restrict mixing to mitigate against Covid, we were delighted to restart the weekly 'Explorers' after-school club at St Lawrence CofE Primary School after autumn half term. 30 children drawn from every year group in the school meet for Bible stories, songs, videos, and activities building upon the excellent work done through 'Open the Book' and school worship. It has been wonderful to see children we have not seen for nearly 2 years returning to the club, as well as getting to know new families.

In the community, we have built upon the lockdown experiences of needing to find new ways to reach out to families in Lechlade. Members of St Lawrence church hosted an 'Experience Easter' interactive churchyard trail exploring the Easter story, and organised Lechlade Pumpkin Trail, in which many church and wider community members decorated pumpkins and welcomed families. The offer of hot chocolate, popcorn and Christian gift bags enabled us to engage with over 80 children in the yard of Church Cottage. We are so thankful for the way the church family has supported these outreach efforts.

- Please pray for God's guidance and equipping as we plan a return to our summer holiday Bible club for children from Lechlade and surrounding villages, and for the resources and vision to faithfully share the Gospel with children and families in our community.

10.2.3 Little Lights. Pram service/ baby and toddler play group

Our pre-school group started back in September after not meeting for 18 months on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays but not in school holidays. We warmly welcome pre-school children with parents/ carers. We have an informal service with music, stories, prayers and follow on with refreshments /toys/craft. Each child has a name card with attendance stickers.

We have a small Mothers' Union team who run it. Gareth has joined our team and is a great asset and such an enthusiastic supporter!

10.3 South Cotswold Team Youth Ministry

10.3.1 Schools work

School opportunities have been varied during the last 12 months ranging from an open door 'as long as the school is open' to a closed door for all outside visitors. After limited contact beyond online support in the early months of 2021, I have forged very positive relations in the latter part of the year so that I serve 4 primary schools on a weekly basis (Lechlade, Kempsford, Ampney Crucis and Meysey Hampton). In each the (voluntary) attendance is very good (75-100% generally) and the pupils engage well on topics such as Happiness, Forgiveness and New Starts. The intention is to build resilience and forge deeper relations in advance of secondary school. In addition, I have taken Collective Worship sessions at most of the primary schools ranging from online (Zoom and pre-recorded) messages initially to in person visits in more recent times.

All the primary schools welcomed a summer class assembly visit to distribute It's Your Move booklets (largely paid for by local parishes) and speak to the y6s about their forthcoming move to secondary school and the pupils engaged well and expressed their hopes and concerns with great honesty. Never has the need to support the pupils and staff of our local schools been more relevant than this last year! One head teacher candidly explained that the many disruptions had left the y6s far less equipped for secondary school life than would be expected.

I was able to follow up the transition assembly with another four visits during the summer term, aiding with the final preparation for this huge upheaval for many pupils.

It is key to continuity to continue a presence at secondary school and for much of the year, I was able to offer mentoring support as well as a weekly club at Farmors. For around half a dozen boys per week, this involved a short check in on their well-being where anxiety levels amongst pupils was higher than ever due to all the disruption. Sadly, Farmors have decided to alter their policy towards a more 'in-house approach', so my weekly involvement has been reduced to an all-aged club, well attended by around 20 pupils. Dialogue continues with heads of year and again we were able to give out Christmas food hampers and gifts to 13 needy families (school-identified) where 'the church' was seen to be visible in a very practical and caring way.

10.3.2 Sunday services

I endeavour to regularly visit churches from across the team, supporting clergy and updating congregations on our youth work through sharing encouragements, prayer needs and vision for the future. In addition, I take the opportunity to preach, lead prayers and chat to interested parties wherever possible. Once a month, I'm also committed to co-lead the Grid group in Lechlade where the youth of our team gather for bible study and discussion.

10.3.3 Other youth work

Our Tuesday evening bible study group, Quench, continues to provide for the spiritual needs of our teenagers with 5 of the group being confirmed during the very special service conducted by Bishop Robert in October. We have 2 residential trips in the diary including one next month where we will seek to include the coming y6s for the first time to have a 'taster' of the venue. We have invited all of St Lawrence y6 and are hopeful that several will make that first step towards engaging with our programme for secondary school age as we evolve the work.

We have also quickly established a children's club in Kempsford run weekly on a Wednesday evening. For older group members we are hopeful of a return to Romania this summer and are currently exploring dates while being mindful of international concerns

I would like to close with a huge thank you to the volunteers who give their time so sacrificially to stand alongside me in body and prayer to support and nurture these young lives in so many contexts. Together we lift them to the Lord who we trust will continue the good work in their hearts and minds.

Future Dates:

- 11-13 March - Macaroni Woods residential
- 18 June - South Cerney Activity Day
- 8-13 August - possible Romania trip
- 7-9 October - Macaroni Woods residential

10.4 St. Lawrence School

The strong link between St. Lawrence church and school has been maintained despite the ongoing challenges and restrictions. We have found new ways of working and supporting the school as they have dealt with the impact of Covid and the resulting constraints. The Local Governing Body, which includes six foundation governors and the vicar, continued to meet remotely as visits to school have been limited.

During the year, the Gloucester based iSing Pop team, who work with primary schools to enable them to connect with the wider church and community through collective worship, spent time in school preparing the pupils for two lively performances in church. We continue to support and pray for Mr. Soutar, the headmaster, the staff team, the pupils, and the governors as they work hard and achieve together.

10.4.1 Open the Book

The team found creative ways to present the Bible stories to the children in St Lawrence School. These included the team dressing up and acting out some stories to be filmed for the school to use. When restrictions lifted, we were able to resume working with the children, first filming some bible stories with Year 6, shared with the whole school in the Summer and then, in the autumn term, presenting Open the Book to the whole school assembly.

10.5 Music

10.5.1 St Lawrence Church Choir - a year of two halves.

The first half of the year was all about our young choristers. From May, there were no restrictions on the number of young singers who could attend rehearsals, but there were still some on the number who were permitted to sing in services. This meant that the presentation of awards was spread over two services.

At the end of May David Bainbridge admitted Hannah and Tom as full choristers (where they received their surplices) and Sophie received her Dark Blue Ribbon, Tia and Isis their Dean's Award and Annabelle her Bishop's Award. The following week Gordon Land presented Barnaby, Hannah and Lily with their Light Blue Ribbons and Isis and Tia with their Red Ribbons. Unfortunately, Ben was unable to attend this service to receive his Bishop's Award. These awards not only reflect their singing ability, but also show not only an understanding of the services and music in the church, but also the features of the church building.

Before their summer break these hardworking choristers whose on-line attendance at on-line chorister training throughout lockdown had been exemplary, were rewarded with a surfing adventure to The Wave in Bristol. In the second half of the year the adult singers were able to return and on 5th September the full choir sang for a very special Evensong. After ten years as a loyal member of the choir it was Isis's final service, with the music chosen by her, before leaving to begin her university course in Falmouth.

The choir was also privileged to lead the singing at the services on Remembrance Sunday, Christmas Day and for a Candlemas evensong in St Andrew's, Eastleach. The Advent and Christmas Carol services were also wonderful services to be part of and it is always a great pleasure to welcome back former choristers on these days. At the end of the Nine Lessons and Carols service, our Curate, Gareth Griffith, asked all the congregation to remain seated to enjoy Anne Crow's final voluntary. Both she and our Evensong organist, Diana Lee-Browne, were retiring and we thanked them for their dedication and loyal service for a combined total of over 25 years. They were presented with gifts and bouquets by the senior choristers.

A few weeks earlier at a Friday practice, Rachel was surprised with another presentation, of flowers and a compilation of recorded video messages from former choristers from all over the country in which they shared their favourite memories of their time in the choir. This was a delightful surprise that acknowledged her huge commitment and leadership of the choir for twenty-one years.

Rachel Bath
Choir Director

10.5.2 St Lawrence Music Group

The music group continues to lead music, with instrumentalists and singers using a wide range of both traditional and more contemporary hymns/songs led by Geoff Holmes and Kate Cinnamond. Others are always welcome to join us.

10.6 World Church Committee

We continue to support, pray for, and learn from Christians around the world. In December 2021, we sent a total of £9,500 from the PCC to our World Church Links.:

- National Mission Commission of Nepal
- Scripture Union Pakistan
- Scripture Union England and Wales
- Dornakal Diocese, South India - supporting the Shriver Memorial School for the Deaf
- iServe Africa, working in Nairobi, under Harrison Mungai.
- Gabriel Parra and his wife Rebecca, CMS local partners in Valparaiso, Chile.

We continue to support in prayer Ram Prasad and Keshari (from Nepal), who are sharing their faith among ethnic minorities in the neighbourhood of Rochdale, UK.

10.7 Mothers' Union

We have a thriving branch with 50 members from Lechlade, Fairford and Faringdon. Most members have returned to monthly afternoon meetings at the hall or quarterly evening meetings at Kathy Newton's after COVID lockdown online gatherings. The 'solid' committee work hard and try to plan interesting speakers, discussions, and trips out. They try to keep members informed about MU worldwide, involve them in local projects helping families through prayer, practical help and fund raising.

We support each other through friendship, fellowship, and prayer. We like to involve ourselves in Church life when possible and in our communities too. We give out Baptism bears, wedding cross in pockets and Bible Story books to children connected to Church when they start school. We were pleased to help a Duke of Edinburgh student with her volunteering work in Summer. The Queen is our patron and we have already sent her a card for her platinum anniversary!

We give heartfelt thanks for over 120 years of MU in Lechlade. We thank God for the vision of Mary Sumner our founder who gathered women to be a wave of prayer to take the love of Christ into their homes and families and those we meet.

10.8 St. Lawrence Bell Ringing

Due to the ongoing disruption caused by the coronavirus pandemic there is still little to report at a time when ringing was allowed, we were further hindered by the disrepair of the Sanctus bell. However, despite these and other setbacks we still have a functioning band of dedicated ringers for St Lawrence and happily our youngest members Alexander and Evelyn Smith are making excellent progress with their ringing skills. Many heartfelt thanks to all for your ongoing support and dedication.

11 Church Support to Ministry

11.1 Restoration and Maintenance Appeal Committee

As in 2020, the activities of the St Lawrence Restoration and Maintenance Appeal were severely curtailed in 2021. It was hoped to hold a Christmas Concert but due to the onset of the Omicron variant of Covid-19, this was cancelled.

We hope to be able to recommence activities in 2022.

Mike Keegan

Chairman of St Lawrence Church Restoration and Maintenance Appeal

11.2 Project Inspire

A delegation from the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) visited St Lawrence church in April. The DAC was impressed with our presentation of the proposals and expressed their content with the principles of the proposed scheme. Elements of the proposals were discussed in detail.

The proposals were presented to parishioners and the church community in September. A video summarised the proposals and was shown to all who attended the presentation in the church. A sample of chairs was provided for all to inspect and comment on preferences. All visitors to the presentation we asked to complete a questionnaire to express their views on the design proposals. We had an excellent response with over 80% of regular churchgoers expressing support of the proposals. A summary of the report is available on the website. Thank you to all who took the time to respond.

The south door has been reopened after several decades of closure. The door is thought to be the original from the 15th Century and is in reasonable condition. We plan to carry out restoration work so the door can be regularly used.

We have agreement with the DAC and Heritage England to relay the cobbled section of Shelley's Walk to provide an even path for all abilities. It is planned to carry out the work in summer 2022 by Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) which is responsible for its maintenance. Funding is mainly from GCC with grants from the Lechlade Heritage and Development Trust and Lechlade Town Council.

The Working Group met 11 times in the year. We informed the church community through Newsletters and plan further issues through 2022.

Nigel Jones

Chairman Project Inspire

11.3 Fabric

The fabric of St Lawrence is handled by Richard Bell as Churchwarden assisted by some members of the congregation. During the last year, we have carried out work in the churchyard, by way of removing some yew trees, and various large bushes – the result has been to open-up the main Centre area along Shelley's Walk. Also, a small group of people have very kindly planted numerous spring flowering bulbs, mainly on the north side of the pathway. Our grass cutting team have performed very well and last summer, the churchyard looked superb.

The internal workings of the church continue to give 'un-planned' problems – these usually being the interruption of lighting or the ingress of rainwater in very heavy storms. One of these areas was repaired with new sub timbers and lead sheeting along the top of the west of the tower.

The Sanctus bell had to be removed, due to its wooden mountings becoming dangerous through age and rotten timbers, it is currently in store.

11.4 Eco Church Group

11.4.1 Climate Sunday

In July, we held a Climate Sunday service, when we invited Dr Martin Hodson to preach on "Climate Change", in preparation for the focus on the UN Climate Conference COP26 in November.

11.4.2 Eco Church Award

We are hoping to reach the required level for a Silver Award in 2022.

11.4.3 Churchyard

In the summer, we had a family friendly nature hunt. We were very lucky to be helped by Stevie, who at that point worked for the Glos Wildlife Trust. She had many helpful ideas for children's activities which included plant identification and bark rubbing, and she brought children's binoculars and lots of interesting artefacts like mouse skulls and birds' nests.

The Eco Patch in the churchyard has been extended slightly.

In November, Barbara McNaught arranged for a band of volunteers to plant bulbs in several areas, bearing in mind the current mowing regime. They planted 1000 purple croci tommasinianus, which should slowly increase and naturalise if they are happy. Though unfortunately squirrels love crocus bulbs and quite a few have been dug up and eaten.

- 100 English bluebells under the beech trees
- 250 Nemcrosa Alba wood anemones
- 250 February Gold narcissi
- 250 Rapture narcissi

The two bare patches where the trees were felled have been cleared, levelled and re-seeded. The grass seed has germinated well. There is plenty of seed left to reseed the areas where some of the other shrubs have been removed.

We look forward to seeing the results of this planting in Spring 2022.

12 Financial and other Statutory Information

12.1 Statement of Trustees Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards.

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to: -

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently.
- Observe the methods and principles of the SORP applicable to charities.
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material disclosures and explain such departure in the financial statements, and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in the future.

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, The Charity (Accounts & Reports) Regulations 2008 and Church Accounting Regulations. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud.

When planning our activities for the year, the PCC considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in particular, the specific guidance to charities concerned with the advancement of religion.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity financial information included on the charity's website in accordance with legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements

12.2 Risk Management

The PCC actively reviews the major risks and challenges generated within the church by means of its regular meetings. Approval is required for all key operational and financial decisions.

12.3 Investment Policy

It is the policy of the PCC to invest fund balances with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund.

12.4 Voluntary Help

The PCC wishes to express their gratitude to the many volunteers who help in so many ways in the various activities of the church and who provide support to the PCC.

12.5 Transactions and Financial Position

The Statement of Financial Activities displays a summary of the Analysis of Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31 December 2021. The key performance indicators are as follows: -

- A net surplus of £1,591 on the General Fund,
- A deficit of £ Nil on the Designated Funds and
- A deficit of £6,320 on the Restricted Funds.

The principal funding sources of the church activities continues to be regular gifts and donations from members of the congregation, supplemented by grants from outside bodies and legacies.

Following a difficult two years, the PCC are pleased to see the increase in regular giving however, the PCC. are aware of the ongoing pressure of cost increases and will strive to ensure sufficient liquidity on the unrestricted funds.

Income was also generated from the letting of fixed asset properties.

The reserves of the charity stand at £798,753 (2020 £802,861). General purpose funds, which include buildings and the designated funds amounts to £569,762 (2020 £568,271), restricted funds, which includes funds for capital projects, restoration, maintenance, and fabric amounts to £222,449 (2020 £228,449) and endowment fund amounts to £6,762 (2020 £6,141).

Approved by the PCC. on 16 / 03 / 2022 and signed on their behalf by:

Revd. Andrew Cinnamond

Date:

13 Independent Examiners Report to the Parochial Church Council of Lechlade

Report to I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 December 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:- D White

Dated:- 31 March 2022

David White

The White House

52 Roman Way

Lechlade

Gloucestershire GL7 3BP

Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Incoming resources						
Voluntary income	115,095	—	6,300	—	121,395	120,379
Activities for generating funds	8,656	—	553	—	9,209	7,649
Investment income	25	—	264	—	289	956
Incoming resources from charitable activities	2,782	—	—	—	2,782	2,445
Total income	126,558	—	7,117	—	133,675	131,429
Resources used						
Costs of generating funds						
Fundraising: cost of goods sold and other costs	—	—	—	—	—	259
Charitable activities	113,200	—	13,307	—	126,507	129,733
Governance costs	11,767	—	130	—	11,897	10,898
Total expenditure	124,967	—	13,437	—	138,404	140,890
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	1,591	—	(6,320)	—	(4,729)	(9,461)
Transfers						
Gross transfers between funds - in	—	1,252	352	—	1,604	254
Gross transfers between funds - out	(1,300)	(52)	(252)	—	(1,604)	(254)
Other recognised gains / losses						
Gains / losses on investment assets	—	—	—	621	621	244
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	—	—	—	—	—	166,000
Net movement in funds	(1300)	1,200	100	621	621	156,783
Total funds brought forward	568,271	—	228,449	6,141	802,861	646,078
Total funds carried forward	568,562	1,200	222,229	6,762	798,753	802,861
REPRESENTED BY:-						
Unrestricted						
General fund	568,562	—	—	—	568,562	568,271
Designated						
Perrinsfield House	—	1,200	—	—	1,200	—
Restricted						
Audio/visual	—	—	5,737	—	5,737	5,737
Bells Appeal Fund	—	—	2,539	—	2,539	2,790
Brownrigg Fund	—	—	18,618	—	18,618	18,618
Choir Fund	—	—	1,781	—	1,781	1,974
Hardship Fund	—	—	1,055	—	1,055	—
Mission Fund	—	—	1,693	—	1,693	—
Fabric Appeal	—	—	122,444	—	122,444	125,640
H Arnold Memorial Fund	—	—	1,718	—	1,718	1,543
Project Inspire	—	—	37,231	—	37,231	36,599
Reordering (West end) Fund	—	—	255	—	255	255
Restoration and Maintenance Fund	—	—	28,708	—	28,708	34,843
Services Fund	—	—	450	—	450	450
Endowment						
H Arnold Memorial Fund	—	—	—	6,762	6,762	6,141
Total funds carried forward	568,562	1,200	222,229	6,762	798,753	802,861

Balance sheet

Class and code	Description	This year	Last year
Fixed assets			
	H Arnold CBF Inv Fund	5,330	4,626
	H Arnold CBF Fixed Int. Sec.	1,432	1,515
	Fixed asset - property	550,000	550,000
	Total Fixed assets	556,762	556,141
Current assets			
	General Lloyds Bank Account	535	1,363
	General Barclays Bank Account	69,524	72,531
	General CBF Deposit Account	42,604	42,582
	Fabric Appeal Lloyds Bank Account	—	—
	Fabric Appeal Barclays Bank Account	—	—
	Fabric Appeal CBF Deposit Account	122,443	125,640
	Cottage Lloyds Bank Account	—	—
	Cottage CBF Deposit Account	—	—
	Bells CBF Deposit Account	2,539	2,790
	H Arnold CBF Deposit Account	1,718	1,543
	Cash in hand	—	—
	Other Assets	—	271
	Accounts Receivable	2,628	—
	Total Current assets	241,991	246,720
Liabilities			
	Creditors due in 1 year	—	—
	Fees due to Gloucester Diocese	—	—
	Total Liabilities	—	—
	Net Asset surplus(deficit)	798,753	802,861
Reserves			
	Excess / (deficit) to date	(4,729)	(9,461)
	Starting balances	802,861	646,078
	Gains/(losses) on investment assets	621	244
	Gains and losses own use	—	166,000
	Total Reserves	798,753	802,861
	Represented by funds		
	Unrestricted	568,562	568,271
	Designated	1,200	—
	Restricted	222,229	228,449
	Endowment	6,762	6,141
	Total	798,753	802,861

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 16/02/2022 and signed on its behalf by:

V Jones
Trustee

D Williams
Trustee

Notes to the Accounts

1 Accounting Policy

Accounting Convention

The Financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with transactions recognized at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the notes to the accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom FRS102 and the Charities Act 2011.

Funds

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be maintained: only income arising from Investment of the endowment may be used for the purpose for which the endowment was established.

Restricted funds may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, or in the case of donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they are given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of the year must be carried forward for each fund.

Unrestricted funds are general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

Incoming Resources

Planned Giving, collections and donations are recognized when they are received. Tax refunds are recognised when the resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due.

All other income is recognised when it is receivable.

Resources Expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due.

All other expenditure is recognised when it is incurred and accounted for gross.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated land and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with S.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 2011.

Moveable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church inventory, which can be inspected at any reasonable time. For anything acquired prior to 2000, there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not

valued in the financial statements. Subsequently no individual item has cost more than £1,000 accordingly all such expenditure has been written off when incurred.

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight line over 4 years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1,000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December 2021. The Statement of Financial Activity includes net gains and losses arising on revaluations at the year end.

Current Assets

Amounts owing to the Charity at 31 December 2021 for tax recovery are shown as debtors.

Bank deposits include cash held on deposit either with CBF Church of England Funds or at a Bank.

2 Staff Costs

	2021	2020
	£	£

Gross wages and Salary	<u>9,230</u>	<u>8,533</u>
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The Charity employs a part time administrator.

The Charity also paid honoraria to the Director of Music and certain choristers.

3 Fixed Assets for use by the Charity

	2021	2020
	£	£

Gross Freehold Land and Buildings at valuation	<u>550,000</u>	<u>550,000</u>
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The freehold land and buildings are held in trust by the Diocese, and for accounting purposes the historical cost is deemed to be the valuation at the date the property was acquired. The PCC considers that depreciation is not considered necessary, since the properties are deemed residential properties and are fully maintained by the PCC.

The properties held are as follows:

a) Church Cottage Lechlade: valuation £325,000.

b) Perrinsfield, Lechlade: valuation £225,000.

4 Investments

	Cost	Value
	£	£
CBF Investment Fund 226.27 shares	<u>3,654</u>	<u>5,331</u>
Unrealised Gain/(Loss) £1,677		
	Cost	Value
	£	£
CBF Fixed Interest Securities 895.53 shares	<u>1,435</u>	<u>1,431</u>
Unrealised Gain/(Loss) (£4)		

5 Debtors

	2020	2019
	£	£
Tax recoverable	<u>2,628</u>	<u>5,882</u>

6 Donations to Missionary Societies

	2020	2019
	£	£
CMS Chile	1,900	1,700
CMS Nepal	2,375	2,325
Scripture Union Pakistan	950	850
Scripture Union U.K.	950	850
iServe Africa	1,425	1,275
Dornakal School for the Deaf	<u>1,900</u>	<u>1,700</u>

7 Amounts Collected on Behalf of Others

The PCC. collect funds on behalf of other charitable institutions as follows:

The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal £441.

The Church of England Children's Society £1424.84

The PCC. also held a special appeal called the Hardship Fund to raise money to support local charities who are helping those in financial difficulties. A total of £3,250 was raised by donations and the PCC. was able to make the following contributions to assist the work of the following organisations: -

C.A.P. (Christians Against Poverty) £1,200
Swindon Food Bank £1,000

8 Financial Commitments

At 31 December 2021 the PCC. had the following financial commitments: -

Fund movement by Fund

	Opening	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Gains/losses	Closing
Audio-vis - Audio/visual Restricted	5,737	—	—	—	—	5,737
Brownrigg - Brownrigg Fund Restricted	18,618	—	—	—	—	18,618
Inspire - Project Inspire Restricted	36,600	1,185	182	—	—	37,233
Perrin - Perrinsfield House Designated	—	1,200	—	—	—	1,200
Rest-Main - Restoration and Maintenance Restricted	34,842	560	6,695	—	—	28,707
General - General fund Unrestricted	568,271	126,558	124,967	1,300	—	568,562
Fabric - Fabric Appeal Restricted	125,640	65	3,262	—	—	122,443
H Arnold - H Arnold Memorial Fu Restricted	1,543	175	—	—	—	1,718
Endowment	6,141	—	—	—	621	6,762
Sub-total for H Arnold	7,684	175	—	—	621	8,480
Reorder-WE - Reordering (West end Restricted	255	—	—	—	—	255
Hardship - Hardship Fund Restricted	—	3,255	2,200	—	—	1,055
Mission – Mission and Outreach Fund Restricted	—	1,875	182	—	—	1,693
Services – Services Fund Restricted	450	—	—	—	450	450
Bells - Bells Appeal Fund Restricted	2,790	1	252	—	—	2,539
Choir - Choir Fund Restricted	1,974	—	293	100	—	1,781
Grand total	802,861	131,429	140,890	—	166,244	798,753

Analysis of income and expenditure

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Designated</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Endowment</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>This Year</u>	<u>Last year</u>
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS							
Incoming resources from generated funds							
Incoming resources from generated funds - Voluntary income							
Standing Orders	11,200	—	—	—	11,200	8,735	
Gift Aid Envelopes	456	—	—	—	456	337	
Parish Giving Scheme	61,241	—	—	—	61,241	58,884	
Gift Aid tax recovery	14,489	—	—	—	14,489	14,134	
Other planned gifts	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Collections	4,061	—	445	—	4,506	3,497	
Goodbox Card Donations	3,137	—	52	—	3,189	428	
Charities Aid Foundation	3,525	—	—	—	3,525	8,600	
Sundry gifts	8,280	—	3,563	—	11,843	12,157	
Southrop and Eastleach	2,880	—	—	—	2,880	2,880	
Tax recovery Sundry gifts	5,076	—	1,025	—	6,101	5,673	
Grants	750	—	—	—	750	2,693	
Non recurring grants	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Legacies	—	—	1,000	—	1,000	2,000	
Church upkeep - Barrel	—	—	215	—	215	361	
Total	115,095	—	6,300	—	121,395	120,379	
Incoming resources from generated funds - Activities for generating funds							
Fund raising events	10	—	553	—	563	1,431	
Cottage rent	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Rent	8,646	—	—	—	8,646	6,218	
Magazine sales	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Total	8,656	—	553	—	9,209	7,649	
Incoming resources from generated funds - Investment income							
Dividends and interest	25	—	264	—	289	955	
Total	25	—	264	—	289	955	
Incoming resources from charitable activities							
Fees (weddings funerals) due to PCC	2,782	—	—	—	2,782	2,445	
Fees to Diocese-OB	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Total	2,782	—	—	—	2,782	2,445	
INCOME TOTAL	126,558	—	7117	—	133,675	131,428	

EXPENDITURE

Costs of generating funds - Fundraising trading: cost of goods sold and other costs

Fund raising (general)	—	—	—	—	47
Fund raising events	—	—	—	—	212
Total	—	—	—	—	259

Charitable activities

World Church donations	9,500	—	—	—	9,500	8,700
Christian relief and development	—	—	—	—	—	—
Home mission	—	—	182	—	182	—
Hardship Donations	—	—	2,200	—	2,200	—
Parish share: Diocese	75,482	—	—	—	75,482	75,482
Parish share: Deanery	7,554	—	—	—	7,554	7,362
Incumbent's expenses	4,164	—	—	—	4,164	3,891
Clergy expenses	533	—	—	—	533	400
Parsonage house	—	—	—	—	—	—
Church heating	1,077	—	—	—	1,077	1,781
Church lighting	851	—	—	—	851	799
Church water charges	52	—	—	—	52	73
Church insurance	3,810	—	—	—	3,810	3,766
Church fabric repairs	826	—	2,710	—	3,536	7,202
Gas/electric/water repairs	15	—	1,122	—	1,137	164
Organ/ Piano maintenance	210	—	—	—	210	—
Maintenance Fixtures and fittings	779	—	1,699	—	2,478	300
Cost of running services	2,459	—	163	—	2,622	1,984
Churchyard maintenance	658	—	3,060	—	3,718	89
Cottage heating	413	—	—	—	413	380
Cottage lighting	100	—	—	—	100	458
Cottage water charges	21	—	—	—	21	79
Cottage cleaning	510	—	—	—	510	582
Cottage insurance	391	—	—	—	391	425
Cottage repairs	700	—	—	—	700	94
Honoraria, salaries/wages	1,300	—	—	—	1,300	1,270
National Insurance	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sunday School	—	—	—	—	—	—
Holiday Club	—	—	—	—	—	—
Education and Training	39	—	—	—	39	7
Architects/other fees for repairs or new	892	—	2,301	—	3,193	9,788
House repairs	864	—	—	—	864	4,657
Total	113,200	—	13,437	—	126,637	129,733

Governance costs

Bank charges	250	—	—	—	250	273
Administrator's wages	9,230	—	—	—	9,230	8,533
Parish Office	2,152	—	—	—	2,152	1,860
Other administration costs	135	—	—	—	135	232
Total	11,767	—	—	—	11,767	10,898
EXPENDITURE TOTAL	124,967	—	13,437	—	138,404	140,890
MOVEMENT IN YEAR	1,591	—	(6,320)	—	(4,729)	(9,461)