

Parish of Wantage

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

28th April 2024

2023 – our year in review

David Richardson and Alastair Hunter (Churchwardens)
Bridget Procter (Electoral Roll Officer)
Susie Lapwood (Deanery Synod Representative)

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Electoral roll

Previous Roll	184
Additions	6
Deletions	4
Amendments	0
Electoral roll today	186

But this understates our growth!
In particular, the number of worshippers attending the 10.30am Sunday Eucharist at the Parish Church has increased – to an average over 90, including 13 children.



Growing and flourishing in discipleship, prayer and worship

- Our vibrant worshipping life continues
- Creative seasonal liturgies with flowers and displays
- “Careful innovations” such as the quiet Mothering Sunday service
- Personal Discipleship Plan launched in November 2023
- Two new weekly Bible groups

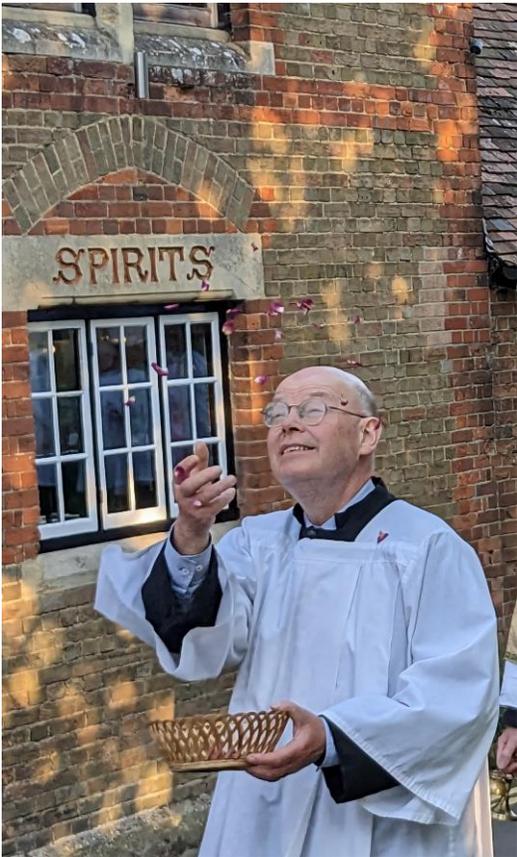


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We have witnessed in worship around our town..



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DIOCESSE of
OXFORD



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

...and innovated in Outreach

Extraordinary success of *Around Table* – 5000 restaurant style meals served by our brilliant volunteer team

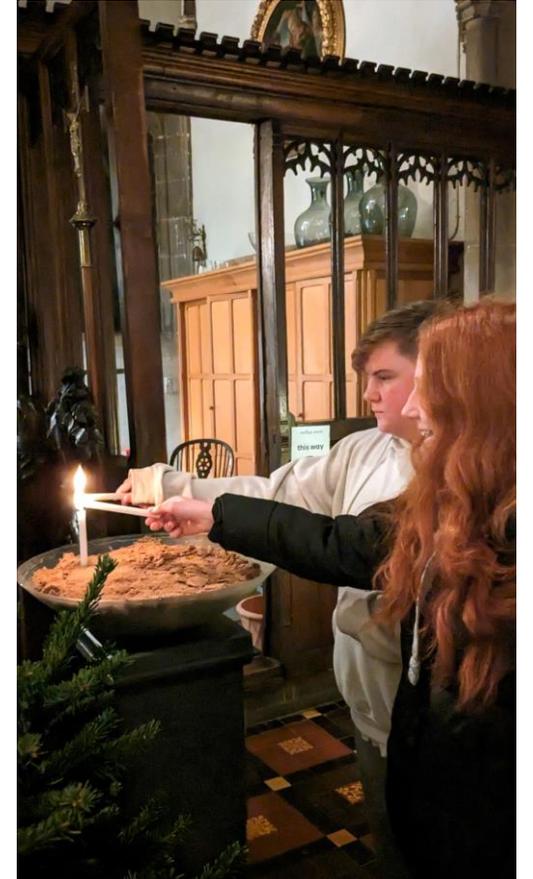


Our Sustainable Church Flowers Festival in June/ July attracted over 500 visitors and engaged over 100 people from the community



Young People

- Trinity Tots
- Open the Book
- Messy Church
- Choir & Servers teams growing
- Prayer Space
- Engaging schools
- And young people's groups around town



Deanery Synod

- Became a Charitable Incorporated Organisation - enabling grant applications, Giftaid, and employment
- New approach to calculating Parish Share
- Advice about legacy leaflets
- Diocesan bid for grant to work with children and young people
- Supporting rollout of the Diocesan Personal Discipleship Plan programme.



In May, Fr Benji presented to the Synod about the Sustainable Church Flowers scheme.

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A key role in the Town's civic life

- A focus for Coronation thanksgiving
- AlfredFest established in the Civic calendar
- 1600 townsfolk in church on Dickensian Evening
- *Chronicle* tells our stories to the community



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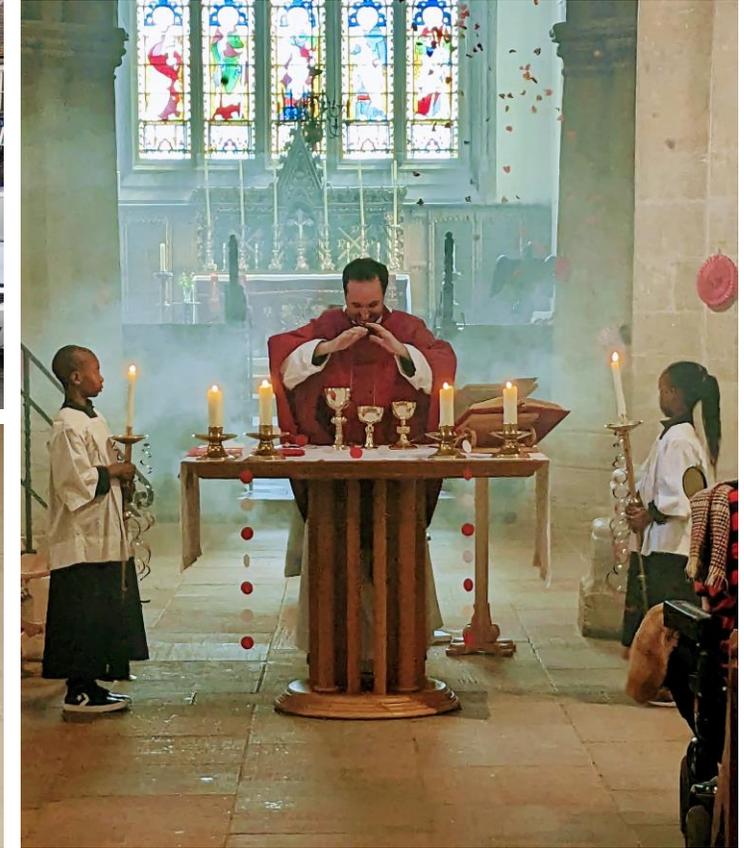
Music

- Junior choir building nicely
- Great choir tour to Seesen
- Focus on offering beauty to worship
- But also giving concerts and hosting performers from around our community.



Servers and Bellringers

- Serving team numbers at an all time high – lots of new recruits.
- Average age has dropped considerably!
- Bellringers rang Coronation call changes prior to the Civic Service, connecting us to the national celebration
- Both teams would welcome new members.



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Social

- T Bar
- Pancakes and fry-ups!
- The Wantage Wassail
- Quizzical fun at HT



Welcomes and farewells in the Parish Team



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- ❖ Administrators
- ❖ Bellringers
- ❖ Breakfast makers
- ❖ Caretaker
- ❖ Choristers
- ❖ Church-watchers
- ❖ Clock-adjusters
- ❖ Coffee makers
- ❖ Concert producers
- ❖ Cooks and caterers
- ❖ Fee manager
- ❖ Fundraisers
- ❖ Flower arrangers
- ❖ Gardeners
- ❖ Intercessors



To the many teams and individuals who contribute to Parish life

- ❖ Livestreamers
- ❖ Magazine contributors
- ❖ Organists
- ❖ Pastoral carers
- ❖ PCC Members
- ❖ PCC Secretary

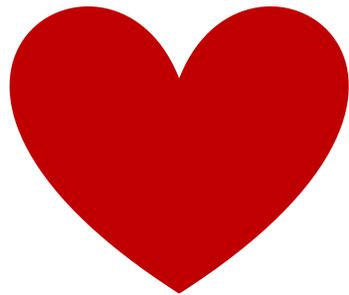
- ❖ Pew-shifters
- ❖ Photographers
- ❖ Quizmasters
- ❖ Readers
- ❖ Roll-administrator
- ❖ Sacristans
- ❖ Safeguarding lead
- ❖ Servers
- ❖ Stallholders
- ❖ Stewards
- ❖ Synod reps
- ❖ Tea party hosts
- ❖ Treasurer
- ❖ Verger
- ❖ Waiters

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And special
thanks to...



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Finance Update 2023

Wantage Parish PCC

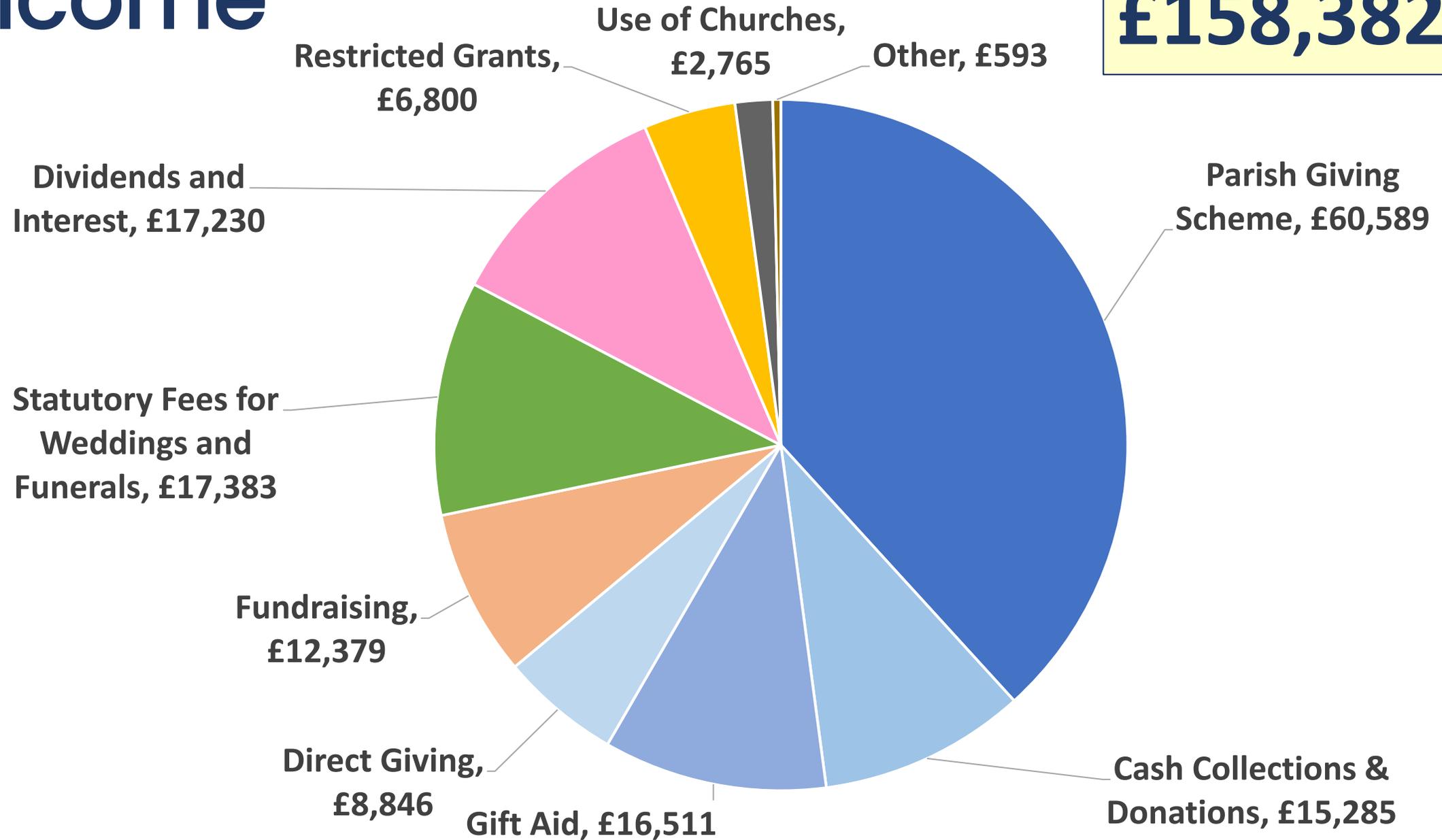
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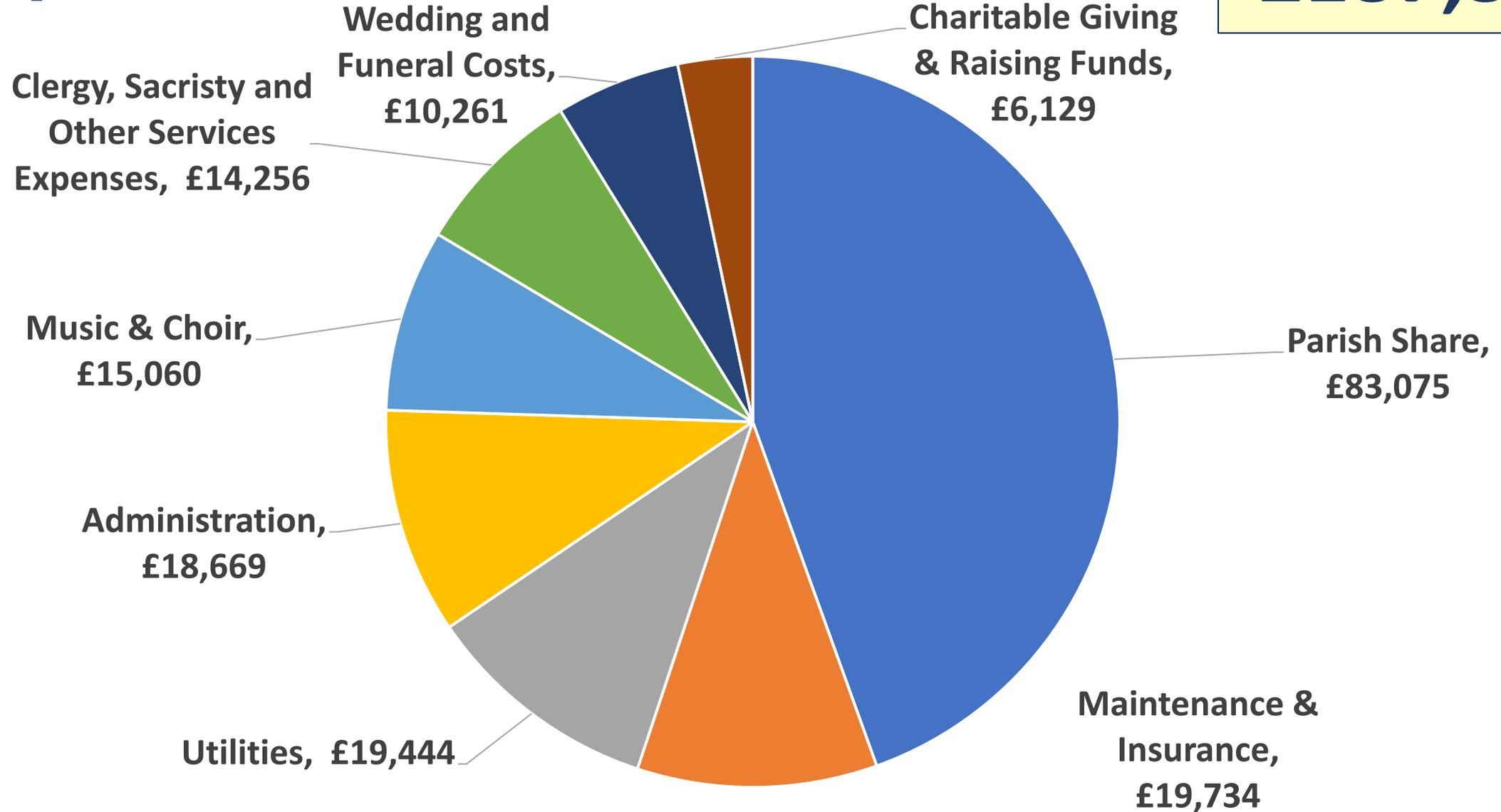
Income

£158,382

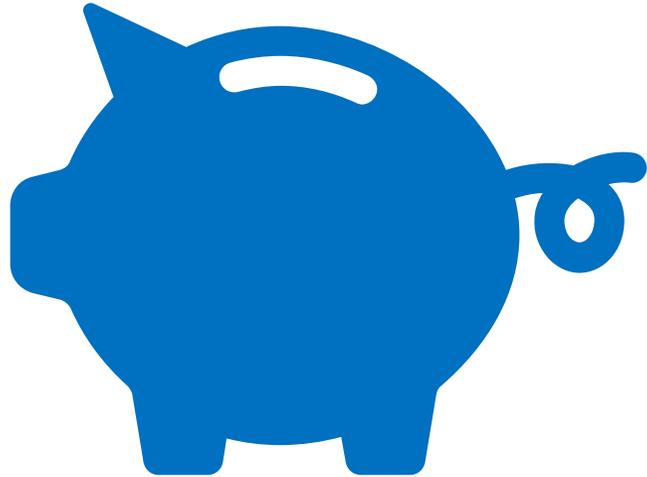


Expenditure

£187,316



Investments



£51,511 ↑

We have investments in the CCLA's Church of England Investment Fund.

Our funds are invested in partnership with the Church of England's ethical investments advisors.

Like all investments they are exposed to the risks and opportunities in the wider Economy – *our funds can 'go down as well as up'.*

In 2023 our investments gained in value by **£50,551**, from £538,016 in 2022 to £588,589 in 2023.

Overall Position



£21,617 increase in our funds, compared to expenditure...

...but still a £28,934 'deficit' if you just compare our annual 'cash' income to our expenditure.

This means that the investment gains of £50,551 helped our funds to increase in value overall in 2023.

Q: If our funds went up in value in 2023, do we still have a deficit?

A: Yes, if you just compare our cash income and to our expenditure.

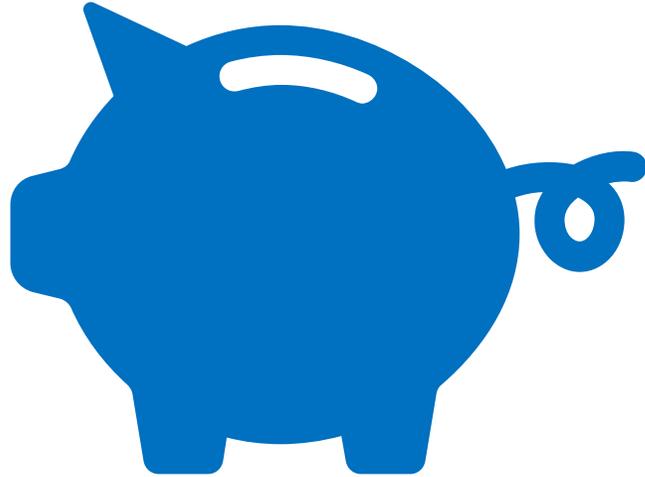
But it is starting to get smaller each year...

- In 2022 it was £49,406
- In 2023 it was £28,934
- In 2024 the PCC have budgeted for a deficit of £34,000, dropping to £31,000 in 2025.

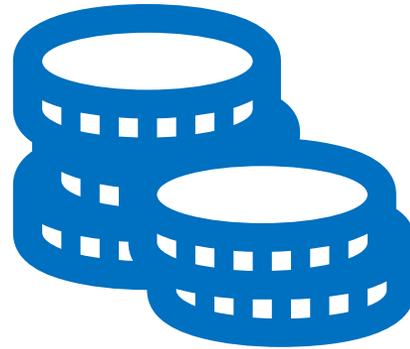
To get beyond this we are looking at ways to reduce buildings costs and generate more income.

Assets

We have 3 main Assets...



Investments
£588,589



Cash in Bank &
Money owed
£123,481



Curate's House
£42,716

Total
£753,915

As a charity, our assets are then split into Unrestricted and Restricted 'Funds'...

Unrestricted Funds



Total
£753,915

Restricted Funds



Designated for work with
Children & Young People



Fabric & furnishing HT Church



Music in the Parish



Children's activities



Charitable Giving



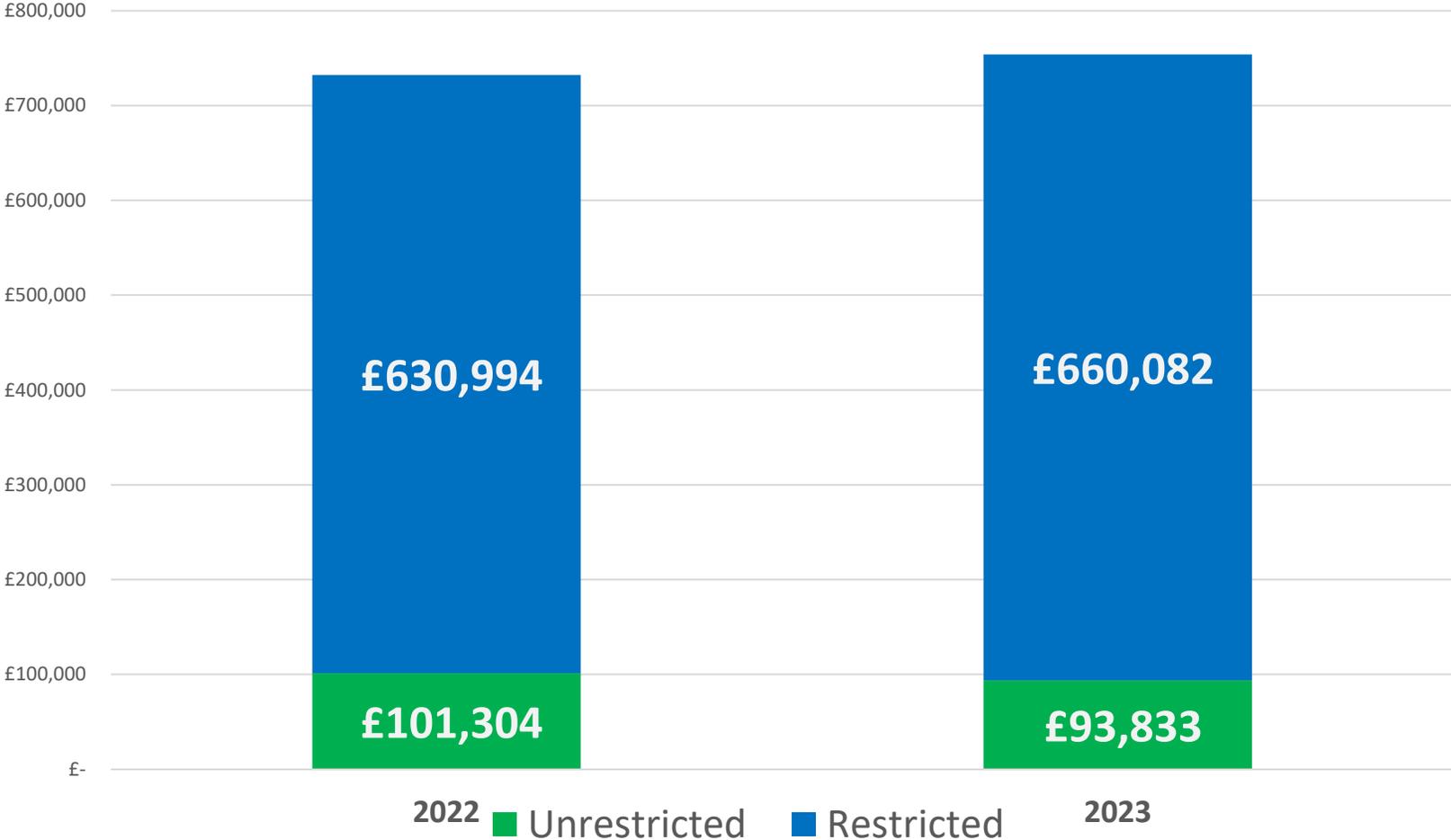
Fabric of Parish Buildings

Funds – change from 2022 to 2023

Increased by £21,617

Unrestricted General Fund reduced by £7,417.

Like 2022, Buildings Costs were charged to Restricted Funds. to keep general unrestricted funds at a healthy level



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Our Parish Church



Take people out of everyday

Historic &
beautiful

Quirky wibbly
medieval bits

Ancient setting for
contemporary events

Holy space

For everyone – not
just congregation

Open & welcoming

Green oasis in
centre of town

Peacefulness -
prayerfulness
celebration - fun
Living building,
continuing to evolve

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Respect heritage
of past

Meet needs
of present

Improve
sustainability
for future

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Understanding
what we have



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STATEMENT OF NEED

Working out
what we need

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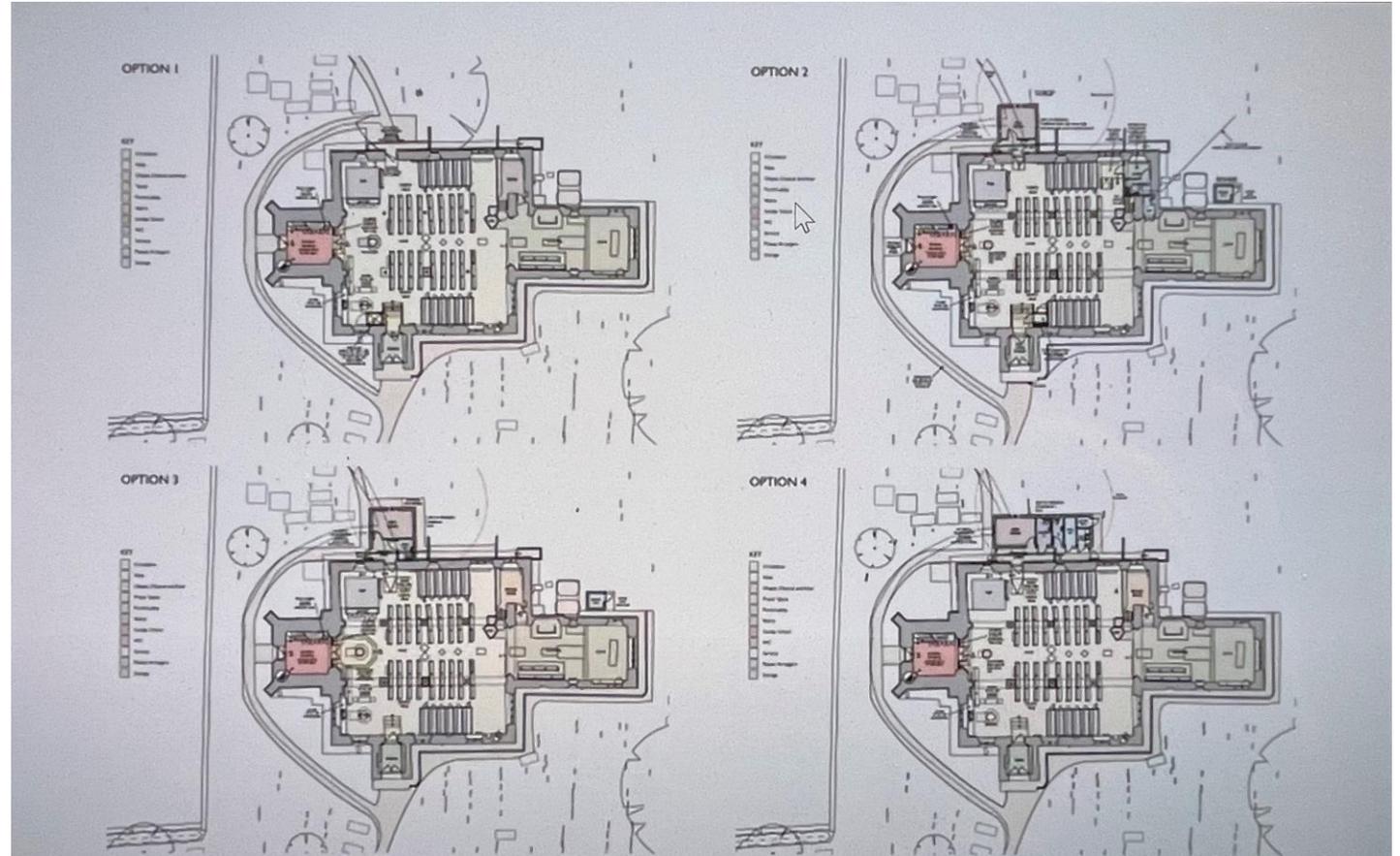
ENERGY AUDIT

Planning to reduce
environmental impacts
and save money



FEASIBILITY STUDY

Exploring
options



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