VERWOOD PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (the PCC)
Registered with the Charities Commission as a Charity under number 1130729
To know Jesus Christ and to make Him known.

St.Michael's, Verwood
& All Saints, Three Legged Cross

ANNUAL REPORT
for the year 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

The PCC is the Charity Trustee body which covers two churches :
St Michael and All Angels, Church Hill, Verwood and
All Saints, Church Road, Three Legged Cross.

Correspondence address for the PCC is The Parish Office, Manor Road, Verwood, BH31 6DZ
Email stmichaelsverwood@gmail.com

Report of the Trustees
The trustees present their annual report and financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Charities Statement of Recommended Practice 2019 (FRS102).

Aim, Purpose and Objectives
The mission Statement of our church is *'to know Jesus Christ and to make Him known'*. We have subscribed to 10 equal Values to achieve our aims : 1) Worship and mission that is rooted in scripture; 2) An open and supportive church community; 3) Christian formation and education; 4) Reaching out; 5) Shared and understood aims and objectives; 6) Working with other Christian churches; 7) Prayer and spirituality; 8) The development of leaders; 9) Christian stewardship and 10) Effective and holistic communication.
The church also supports the aims and objectives of Deanery synod.
The contents of this Report show the steps taken during the year, and the benefits which have accrued to church membership and wider community as a result.

Public Benefit
The Charity's reason for existence, as enshrined in its original objects, is for the benefit of the inhabitants of Verwood and the neighbourhood. In all the Charity's activities, therefore, the Trustees have been able to pay due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit.

Structure, Governance and Management

PCC responsibilities and membership
The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Vicar in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the church buildings, and the Parish Centre.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll, and stand for election to the PCC.
During the year, or part of it, the following served as members of the PCC :

Vicar :	Reverend Deborah Matthews	Chairman
Curate:	Reverend Michael Eaton-Wells	
Licensed Lay Ministers :	Mr Duncan Moss	
	Mr Robin Morgan	
Churchwardens :	Mrs Beryl Greenhalgh	
	Mrs Anthea Stephens	
Representatives on the Deanery Synod :	Mrs Elizabeth Ingram	
	Mrs Beryl Greenhalgh	
	Mr Martyn Hancock co-opted from 23.5.24	

Elected Members	Mrs Julia Palmer	Secretary
	Mr Neil Gibson	Treasurer
	Mr Stephen Walton	
	Mr Stephen Greenhalgh	Vice Chairman
	Mrs Ro Green	
	Mr Robert Turvil	
	Mrs Ann Bale	
	Mr John Weaver	
	Mrs Jenny Baxendale	
	Mr Nigel Beacham	(to 9.5.24)
	Mr Roger Johnson	(to 9.5.24)
	Mrs Barbara Walton	
	Mr Martyn Hancock	(from 23.5.24) co-opted
	Mrs Jean Steele	(from 23.5.24) co-opted
Assistant Churchwardens	Mr John Weaver	
	Mr Stephen Greenhalgh	
	Mr Martyn Hancock for All Saints	(from 23.5.24)

The PCC met seven times throughout the year, four times in church and three times electronically, with an average level of attendance at the face to face meetings of 71%. When necessary, it appoints working groups to perform specific tasks. Between meetings, it operates through its Standing Committee and also by electronic meetings, as indicated. In addition to the Standing Committee, the Housekeeping and Finance Committee meets regularly. The All Saints Committee meets as necessary.

Housekeeping and Finance (with sub-committee Parish Centre Management), monitors church finances and advises the Treasurer, and aids the Churchwardens in the maintenance of the church estate.
All Saints manages the day to day running and maintenance of All Saints.

Objectives, Achievements and Performance during the year
The church has continued to build on the additional communication methods introduced during the Covid restrictions, especially with regard to the broadcasting of the main morning services. The broadcasting of services from the church have improved both in quality and coverage. Ongoing investment improved equipment, and the main Sunday services are now covered, following the GDPR guidelines.

Our shared Curate, Revd Michael Eaton-Wells, who also served the neighbouring parish of West Moors in their time of Vacancy and appointment of new incumbent, continued valuable and enthusiastic regular attendance at church services and activities. He was particularly engaged in researching and offering advice and assistance, working closely with some church members, in respect of the necessary future replacement of the failing oil boiler in the church with an eco-friendly and cost-effective system. The church is now unacceptably cold and damp in the winter, and this is not only adversely affecting members' attendance and enjoyment of the facilities but is also seriously hampering plans for community use of the space.

Reverend Deborah Matthews continued to seek to foster strong relationships with the schools, working with Marina Schettino, the part time Children and Family worker employed to seek to carry on the contacts and relationships built by the Youth Worker whose contract had come to an end. Jenny Baxendale continued to build on her very successful Junior Choir initiative, with the Choirs attending church and performing at services during the year, and the children also taking part in other activities in church.

Together @ Six (the Sunday 6pm service) continued to grow in strength and popularity through the year, offering a more relaxed style of modern worship with interactive Bible teaching led by ordained and lay church members, with discussion groups over a cup of coffee.

The Remembrance Day service was very well attended, and Easter and Christmas services were also popular.

The number of Home Groups available increased during the year. The studies included those pertinent for particular times of year (such as Lent and Advent), and both wider and more detailed Bible studies on topics such as The Holy Spirit, the book of Job, Revelation and others.

A Passover Meal held in the Parish Centre was arranged by Duncan Moss, and was very well attended by both church members and some non-members. A small group of members enjoyed a meaningful Retreat at Hillfield Priory in July, arranged and hosted by Revd Deborah Matthews

Members of the church are kept up to date with weekly newssheets, and a monthly publication (Angels & Saints) with amplified information. These, together with additional material including prayers, talks and thoughts, have been published on the church website, which also continued to advise about all church activities and services. Some members do not have access to the internet, and the undertaking started during Covid to ensure that such members remained in communication, continued throughout the year. This involved hard copies of the Angels & Saints, together with some other items appearing on the website and seasonal encouragements and information, being hand delivered to those members monthly by some of the LPAs.

There are now 9 Lay Pastoral Assistants (LPAs). Throughout the year, the LPAs continued with pastoral support. They undertook home visits where appropriate including taking Home Communion, and also took monthly Communion Services to 3 local Care Homes. They additionally hosted a Lent Lunch and 4 Bereavement Teas during the course of the year, which were appreciated by attendees. They are supported by clergy in this ministry.

PCC members continued to undertake their functions to ensure that the objectives were fulfilled. Reports on Safeguarding are given to PCC members by the Safeguarding Officer at each PCC meeting.

The work of the PCC in appointing School Governors was nominal due to several schools becoming Academy Trusts, and the alteration of the system, which is now primarily administered by the Diocese.

The point of our Hospitality Group is not just to raise much needed funds for our church, but to provide a rich and varied programme for everyone's enjoyment, in a friendly surrounding where anyone in our parish can come and share in the fun and fellowship. Amongst all the fun, we raised £5,627 for our church funds.

We have celebrated a Leap Year baby's '21st' birthday, and held a Passover Meal for over 50 people. In June over 150 people came to our Wedding festival with 32 dresses and 32 Christening gowns, music, refreshment and musical entertainment. In the summer, there was a BBQ, Cream Teas, all complete with stalls, raffles, and a Harvest Supper, which was attended by over 50 people. In November we held a quiz and Bingo night with a fish and chip supper. We also held our annual Christmas Market, with stalls, refreshments, and music provided by different choirs. Many people came and stayed all morning. In December we had a well attended Carol service in the Parish Centre where everyone kept warm with mulled wine and mince pies as they sang. 3 Christmas meals were hosted at home, the Puppets Group held 3 coffee mornings where the puppets performed in front of lots of families, and the children loved it. Throughout the year, once a month Sunday lunches are cooked in the Parish Centre for a nominal fee for around 70 elderly adults who would not otherwise have a meal cooked for them.
This hospitality ministry enabled promotion of the aims and objectives in outreach to the community.

The below reports from the Committees outline specific activities and achievements commensurate with their remit.

Church Attendance
The number on the Electoral Roll is 117.

During the year 6 baptisms; 2 weddings; 10 funerals and 6 burials of ashes were undertaken. Baptism families were positively encouraged to return to church at a subsequent service for the baptism candle.

St Michael's offered a Sunday eucharist services at 10am on Sundays, which was also broadcast and recorded for You Tube viewing. A Family Service was held at a 10am service once a month, with Puppet Ministry or a Junior Choir. Revd Matthews continues to be keen to try and encourage the schools to have a part in these services, and the choirs have been both welcomed and much appreciated on the several occasions they sang. The church opened for Morning Prayer three times during the week, and a eucharist service was offered at 9.15am on the first Tuesday of the month followed by a coffee morning. An Evening Prayer service was offered once a week. An 8.30am Prayer Book eucharist service was held once a month. Special services were also held over the Festival periods. At All Saints, there were eucharist services on second Sundays in the month, and morning praise on the fourth Sundays, subject to availability of officiants.

Reports from the Committees

Housekeeping and Finance (HFC)
The HFC met 3 times during this year, in January, April, and October in the Meeting Room under the Chairmanship of Steve Greenhalgh. The July meeting was cancelled at short notice because of unforeseen circumstances. We have again continued to examine and approve our accounts at each meeting. The financial affairs of the parish continued to be a cause for our ongoing concern. There were concerns that in addition to increased expenditure with our utility charges rising so sharply in 2023, we will have to replace the heating system in the near future. We again lost some of our older members of the congregation and although we welcomed some new members to our church Family, our income continued to stagnate.

In the January meeting, we examined and approved the accounts for the year ended December 2023. These accounts showed an operating loss of £32,000 and the Treasurer reported that we were in breach of our Reserves Policy. The 9 month rental of the rooms at All Saints had come to an end, and the future of All Saints was in doubt. A 3 year reduced contract for our utilities had been negotiated by the end of 2023. We reviewed the Parish Giving Scheme for 2023 which then stood at 48 donors, who were either individuals or couples . Our income was still lower than the previous year, and the Treasurer warned that it was likely that we would be unable to pay all our Parish Share in 2024. Maintenance continued to be reduced to a minimum. We reviewed and agreed rises for the staff wages and for the Honoraria. Fund Raising was a major item on the agenda and it

was agreed that amongst other suggestions, the setting up of a Friends of St Michael's Charity should be investigated.

In Quarter 1, our income was £32,196, mostly from the Parish Giving Scheme but Parish Centre income had increased. We also had gifts totalling £5,000. Expenditure was £13,675 more than income. Energy costs were one third of those in 2023 because of the new contract. It was again agreed that we would continue to pay future Honoraria out of our Restricted Funds. Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) had reduced to 47 donors. The SUMUP machine was being used more at all services. Minimal maintenance at St Michael's and All Saints continued but it was still difficult to find volunteers to help. The Parish Office was re-decorated. The future of All Saints church remained on the agenda for each meeting. The possibility of having a new Golden Cope made by a member of the congregation was considered.

There was no meeting to discuss Quarter 2 . We did however receive a large legacy of £165,000, £160,000 of which was transferred to our CBF General Share Account so that we could use the income from it.

In Quarter 3, our income was £47,072, £12,500 of which was a further legacy from the previous donor . Expenditure was £40,689. Restricted funds continued to be used for Honoraria, Childrens' Worker, and essential maintenance. Parish Share was £23,194 in quarters 1-3, £22,730 in quarter 4, and was paid in full. The Parish Giving Scheme still had 47 regular donors or couples. 26 of our donors continued to allow the PGS to increase their donations annually in line with the Retail Price Index. As noted last year, the advantage of this system is that our income from it is paid monthly as is the tax rebate, which is better for our cash flow. In addition, all the administration is done by the Company, saving time for our Treasurer and the Donations Secretary. The SUMUP machine continued to have increased use, particularly at wedding and Baptism services. The committee continued to be concerned about the stagnation of our income, and much discussion was held on how to improve it. Plans for, and how to fund a new heating system continue, and help with fundraising for this has been sought. The possibility of a new Audiovisual system was also considered.

During the year, routine maintenance of both the buildings and the grounds has continued at All Saints and at St Michael's by a dedicated but small team of volunteers. Our volunteers save the church hundreds of pounds each year with their careful and diligent work and we thank them most sincerely. We always welcome any new helpers, as ever, the more the merrier.

Outreach donation to Charity has remained at 5% of our donated income.

Andrew Green and Cyril Sampson have continued to count and bank any donations that have been handed in over the year and we thank them for their unstinting service and the time they give, especially as it becomes more difficult to find a bank to pay the money into. Steve Greenhalgh continues as our Donations Secretary and we thank him too for the hours he spends in maintaining our records and encouraging more people to join the scheme.

The Parish Centre Management Committee, a sub Committee of the HFC, met in January, April and October in the Parish Office. At each meeting, we reviewed the activities in the Centre and continued to be grateful that the uptake of our facilities continued to increase. This meant that our income increased too. Rental rates were reviewed at each meeting to make sure that utility charges were covered.
Electrical updating of the Centre continued until all necessary work had been completed. Unwanted items in the loft and the sheds have been removed. Outside drains were cleared. All other regular maintenance work was carried out as per schedule .Deep cleaning of the kitchen was carried out in May and December.

Fundraising and Social events in 2024 included a Passover meal and celebration, A Wedding Festival, Puppets Coffee mornings, Parish BBQ, Cream Teas, Harvest Supper, Quingo evening, Christmas Market, Carols in the Car park, Sunday Afternoon Teas, and Christmas meals with Carols. We sincerely thank all those who were involved in these very successful and enjoyable events.

The Parish Office is always a busy place, and this year has again been no exception. In the autumn Ellen, our brilliant Administrator left to move into Pastures New. The Parish Administration and Parish Centre Hire administration is now being covered by an amazing band of Volunteers, headed up by Cyril Sampson until we find a new Administrator. We record our huge and grateful thanks to everyone .

Ro Green Secretary to HFC and PCMC

Outreach Giving Report

The 2024 budget allocated by the PCC for the purposes of outreach giving was the equivalent of £1172 per quarter, which equates to 5% of given income.

The list of charities proposed and agreed included local groups, or those with a local connection, and those where we believed our donations would be well used and make a difference to the work they could carry out.

In order to process donations in the most efficient and cost effective way, payments were made by BACS, instead of sending a cheque.

The donations were distributed to charities as follows:

Q1 Alabare Christian Care & Support £372, Musizi Joy Foundation (for their work in Uganda) £400, Ringwood Foodbank £400.

Q2 CAP £400 (Christians Against Poverty – for local support, money advice, debt counselling in the East Dorset area), St. Luke's Healthcare for Clergy £372, Salisbury Women's Refuge £400.

Q3 Alabare Christian Care & Support £200, Musizi Joy Foundation £200, Ringwood Foodbank £372, Salisbury Trust for the Homeless £400.

Q4 CAP £372, Salisbury Trust for the Homeless £400, Salisbury Women's Refuge £400.

Additionally, members of the congregation give regular donations of cash, food and other items to Ringwood Foodbank.

Christmas items were generously donated and transported to Salisbury Women's Refuge.

There were also fundraising events held during the year which raised money for The Children's Society and the local Dementia group. Also, All Saints held coffee mornings which raised funds for other charities.

The charities are so appreciative of our donations and our ongoing prayers for their work, their staff, their volunteers and all those they support. Please continue to pray for their work.

Anyone wishing to know more about the charities is encouraged to contact Beryl Greenhalgh or another PCC member.

Beryl Greenhalgh (07803 678281)

All Saints

Biweekly Holy Communion and Morning Praise services continued throughout 2024, the first being a Holy Communion Service on 14 January. All services were faithfully supported by the dedicated and welcoming church community, including members from St Michael's congregation.

The Coffee mornings, restarted on 15 November 23 after Covid, significantly blossomed during the year with regular attendances from members of the local community. These All Saints' events were held on the third Wednesday of the month from 17 January. £960 was raised for church funds plus an additional £575 for the following charities: Sturts Farm, Julia's Hose, 'Wear it Pink' in support of Breast Cancer UK, and the Don McMath Foundation. This amounted to a total of £1,535. Whereas this is to be applauded, more important is the regular outreach to the local community. Special thanks to Josie Taylor and Gail Salmen for their massive contribution in, not only arranging these successful events, but also for gifting the coffee and delicious cakes.

A well attended Lent Lunch was held on 5 March and this raised an extra £321 for church funds, adding to the monies raised at coffee mornings. On Mothering Sunday flowers were handed out and, on Fathers' Day, chocolates distributed.

During the year, regular prayer sessions were introduced and led by Duncan Moss. They were held on the fourth Wednesday of the month and provided an opportunity for open prayers with a focus on the needs of the community as well as wider issues. These sessions continue into 2025.

The building and grounds were well maintained and particular thanks are due to Neil Salmen for his consistent labours in (among other things) hedge and grass cutting. Unevenness in parts of the main path to the church doors may need attention, but no practical solution seems available for the *mud-after-rain* issue in the car park. A volunteer cleaner from St Michael's undertook the cleaning of the main church room.

The private sector counselling service that had hired the upper rooms discontinued the arrangement. However, the The Fair Share Food Larder continued its valuable work, the well-stocked van coming every Monday (except bank holidays) to an average of some 20 needy and grateful clients per week, although this number sometimes dropped for no obvious reason. Significant support for the larder came from church members, with a good atmosphere and everyone appreciative of the service. For local clients unable to attend due to hospital-appointments, bereavement, etc., produce was delivered, with some clients collecting for others. Also, some clients arriving without funds were given the produce they needed – very much in line with Christian principles. Supporting the Larder initiative from this year was the regular attendance of a Citizens' Advice Bureau van. After a successful 'mobile pilot' in May, a weekly arrangement was confirmed from June and the service is now greatly valued, not least by larder clients.

For various reasons, the All Saints Committee did not meet in 2024, although any matters of note were reported to and/or discussed by the regular congregation as appropriate.

The congregation looks forward to All Saints Church continuing its long history as a focal point for worship and community involvement in the Three Legged Cross area of Verwood Parish.

Bob Turvil All Saints Committee Secretary

<u>Safeguarding Report</u>

The PCC is aware of the need to comply with the guidance issued by the House of Bishops on matters relating to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, as set out in section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measures 2016. It is confirmed that regard has been had to this Guidance and in particular to paragraph 3 of the Key Roles and Responsibilities of Church office holders and bodies Practice Guidance and I further confirm that this Guidance has been complied with during this year.

The Churchwardens will continue to be kept up to date with safeguarding material and information received from the Diocesan office for onward transmission to the necessary recipients.

All members of our PCC, Clergy, LLMs, LPAs and any other Voluntary helpers in our church have current DBS Certificates and are encouraged to ensure courses required for their positions are up to date.

It has not been necessary to make any reports concerning Safeguarding issues this year, and no disclosures following the Makin Report regarding our churches have been reported to us. Whilst there has been nothing to report we are not complacent, and all concerned have been aware of the need to be particularly vigilant to protect vulnerable persons within our church.

Details of our Safeguarding Policy are still clearly signposted on our website and in church.

Carol Weaver Safeguarding Officer

<u>Financial Review and Report</u>

A most unusual year in Church Finance.

In March the church finances were causing serious concerns. We were in a position where we would almost certainly not be able to pay our bills by the summer. We had been advised that the late Derek Miles had left us a bequest, but we had no information as to the size of this gift.

It turned out that we received a total of £183,188. A staggeringly large contribution, exceeding our anticipated annual income. In addition, a further bequest of £5,000 was received from Christine Gibbons. These incredibly generous bequests have transformed our short and medium term prospects. As an organisation we are now able to consider what we would like to do and achieve, as opposed to what can we do?
Our operating income increased across most categories. Planned Giving and Tax Rebates showed a 10% growth. Collections grew for the first time in many years. Dividend Income increased as the bulk of the legacy had been invested in Church of England Shares.
Parish Centre Hire returned to its pre-Covid level. General bits of finance contributed, but a key earner was our collective Fundraising activities. Thank you to all the many volunteers who made this possible.
Over £6,000 was donated as charitable gifts.
Our Parish Share, which amongst other things pays Clergy Stipends, Clergy pension costs, Vicarage maintenance, Training and support, was £92,313. Our largest cost by far.
Church building running costs were significantly reduced. Principally due to the application of a far more reasonable energy contract. Office costs were marginally down overall. Sadly, we lost our long term Parish Administrator, Ellen Witt, who had helped to operate a very efficient Office.
Our operating income was £333,269, with operating costs of £164,003. Excluding the legacies, we therefore lost £18,922 over the year. Our net worth as an organisation increased by £173,437.
We have entered 2025 in a very fortunate position.
However – there is always a however – we have expensive plans to make necessary repairs to our buildings and to improve their sustainability.
An electrical failure in December has led to a probable cost of £25,000 for electrical rewiring. Our oil boiler is years past its design life: we have a plan for Air Source heating, combined with solar panels. Our sound system is inadequate for our needs. Ground floor window frames are rotten and need replacement.
We could pay for a lot of this work, but we are applying for external grants and assistance.
Generally, we are in a good place. Thanks be to God
In accordance with the PCC Reserves Policy, the following information is made for the Annual Report.

	2023	2024	Increase/decrease
Unrestricted Funds	37,877	199,573	410%
Ratio to operating expenditure	20%	122%	150%
Restricted Funds	97,007	86,933	-10%
Building/repairs/maintenance	45,129	42,809	-5%
Family/Youth Work	45,444	38,355	-16%
Choir/Organ	4,778	3,774	-21%
Barry Martin Hardship Fund	1,655	1,996	21%

As a Charity we have a responsibility to declare what are our intentions with money in 'Reserves'.
The target figure for Unrestricted funds is £35,000, as this represents approximately three months operating expenses.
A proportion of the Unrestricted Funds will be spent on Electrical rewiring, sound system and floor heating projects.
Within the Unrestricted Funds there is £1,000 of delegated money for the replacement sound system.
Following our Youth & Family Workers appointment to Parish Administrator we have no expenditure plans for Youth Funds.
For the avoidance of any doubt: all dividend income and capital gains remain within the relevant Church of England Share Account -General for Unrestricted Funds and Bequest for Restricted Funds.

Neil Gibson Treasurer to Verwood PCC

Deanery Synod

Deanery Synod met three times in 2024, in March, June and November (the November meeting was on Zoom).

In March, there was a presentation given by Archdeacon Antony MacRow-Wood, Director of Finance & Asset Management, on 'The Cost of Being Church Today'. This business case for a new share system, which was approved by Bishop's Council in January 2024, had been circulated previously to all members. A discussion followed regarding parishioners' giving and what will happen if the parish share is not paid in full – there will be redundancies and a loss of clergy. When clergy leave a parish, they may not be replaced if that parish has not been paying their entire share. The need for prayer and to encourage regular and meaningful financial giving was stressed.

At the June meeting, as well as general deanery matters and the treasurer's report, we were given a presentation about the long term impact on individuals who have received support from the South Sudan Medical Link and the need for funds to enable further students to receive sponsorship for their medical officer training.

Also, at this meeting, following a talk by the chair of the Initio Learning Trust, we were asked to consider how we can encourage more people to serve as Foundation Trustees on the board for the schools in our deanery.

In November, a talk was given by Andrew Graham about the work of the Historic Churches Trust. He gave examples of how they can help fund major projects in our churches and we are encouraged to apply to the Trust for specific building repair work which they could help fund. We are also asked to encourage more participants for the 'Ride & Stride' events, which generate funds for the Historic Churches Trust.

Also, in November there were discussions about Eco-Church and Green initiatives, with ideas given and problems experienced – for example, the length of time it can take to get permissions in place before any work can be carried out.

Each deanery has members elected to be representatives at the Diocesan Synod meetings. During this year four clergy and four laity were elected to represent Wimborne Deanery for three years. A report from Diocesan Synod is given at each of our meetings.

These meetings are usually interesting and informative. If any of you would be interested in attending one and would like a lift, please let me know.

Beryl Greenhalgh (07803678281)

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, of the Charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures that must be disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, and the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the Charity and financial information included on the Charity's website in accordance with legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements.

Approved by the PCC on 30th April 2025 and signed on its behalf by

Julia Palmer Secretary

Neil Gibson Treasurer