

AMERSHAM DEANERY TRUST

Company Limited by Guarantee

Registered Charity

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended

31 DECEMBER 2023

Company registration number 8340139

Registered charity number 1153223

THE DIRECTORS REPORT

The Directors, who are also the Trustees, present their report and independently examined financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP), Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

Governing document

Amersham Deanery Trust (“ADT”) is a charitable company limited by guarantee. It was registered as a company on 21 December 2012 and registered with the Charity Commission on 2 August 2013. It began operations on 1 January 2014 following the transfer of assets from Amersham Deanery Synod.

The governing documents comprise the Memorandum and Articles of Association. In the event of being wound up, members (who are the members of Amersham Deanery Synod) may be required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 each. The charitable company is run by the Directors (who are the members of the Standing Committee of Amersham Deanery Synod).

Recruitment, appointment and election of Directors

The Directors are the members of the Standing Committee of Amersham Deanery Synod, and are ex-officio or are elected or appointed every three years following the election of each Synod, in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

Organisational Structure

The Directors meet together four times each year as the Standing Committee of Amersham Deanery Synod, and as the board of Directors of ADT as necessary during those meetings.

Related Parties

ADT is an independent charitable company but it operates to serve the Church of England and therefore relates to the parishes in Amersham Deanery, Amersham Deanery Synod, the Diocese of Oxford and the wider Church of England and Anglican Communion.

REFERENCE & ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity name:	Amersham Deanery Trust (ADT)
Company registration number:	8340139
Registered charity number:	1153223
Jurisdiction of registration:	England and Wales
Trustees/Directors:	Mr L J Tebboth The Rev'd M Ludlow Canon J P Dziegiel
Registered office:	239 Chartridge Lane Chesham Bucks HP5 2SF
Independent examiner:	Mr M R Hardman Oak House Botley Road Chesham HP5 1XG
Bankers:	Barclays Bank PLC Chesham Branch 102 The Broadway Chesham HP5 1DY
Governing deed:	Memorandum and Articles of Association

OBJECTIVES TO BENEFIT THE PUBLIC

Purpose and aims

The objects of ADT, as set out in the Articles of Association, are

“to benefit the public by furthering the work of the Church of England in the Deanery of Amersham in the Diocese of Oxford.”

ACTIVITIES, ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

During the year, ADT undertook the following activities to benefit the public, having regard to the Charity Commission’s guidance on public benefit:

The key function of the deanery team is to equip, enable, support, and facilitate growth and renewal in the local church throughout the Amersham deanery.

The Deanery Team consists of:

Mr Lawrence Tebboth as Lay Chair

Rev’d Peggy Ludlow as Area Dean

Canon Julie Dziegiel as Treasurer

Mrs Dorothy Potter as Secretary

Additional oversight of issues in the Deanery is provided by the Mission and Pastoral Committee. This committee consists of five members of the clergy including the Area Dean, and five members of the laity including the Lay Chair, and also meets four times a year.

Inspections and Pastoral Support

Inspections of individual parishes are delegated by the Archdeacon of Buckingham to the Area Dean and Lay Chair. The Inspection as a minimum involves completion of a standard proforma based on provision of records by the Churchwardens. Inspections usually take place in the April to July time frame following Annual Parochial Church Meetings. Outstanding issues from the inspections are logged for later follow up. A key conversation item in the inspection is the status of the parish Mission Action Plan (MAP)

Inspections are planned to take place on a three-year cycle so that continuity within parishes is maintained as wardens are generally replaced on a three-year cycle. Parishes not inspected in the year are offered a pastoral visit from the Deanery Team.

There have been new vacancies and appointments in the Deanery in 2023. The Area Dean and others have been involved in many meetings to support churches in the vacancy periods, and in the appointment processes.

Mission Action Planning

Individual churches in the Deanery have MAPs that are typically reviewed on a four-year cycle. An Amersham Deanery Plan is in course of preparation. Work on these has necessarily this year been a lower priority as individual parishes have been focussed on rebuilding from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Speakers at Synod meetings

Amersham Deanery Synod met three times in 2023.

The March Synod included the AGM of Amersham Deanery Trust and was held at St George Little Chalfont. The principal topic was around community engagement. Sue Nash talked about the Family Food Hub at St George's, giving a brief account of how St George's church was set up in the 1930s and how the area has developed since. The church is surrounded by social housing and some residents lead chaotic lives, including some abusive and difficult relationships. There is significant deprivation in the area. Following this, Rev'd Michael Johnson described how St Thomas' Beaconsfield had been remodelled to serve as a community centre café, and how this worked with the congregation.

For the June meeting at Denham, we met with our Deanery Mission Partners Steve and Lindsey Poulson, who work with young adults in Honduras. The second speaker was Archdeaconry safeguarding officer Tsungai Muchegwa, who explained how safeguarding has developed recently and where the church was heading in the future.

At the December Synod the Deanery Treasurer reported on the planned allocation of Parish share for the coming year, and a revised budget for ADT given the known shortfalls in Parish Share payments by parishes. Our Deanery tag to General Synod is Rev'd Jeremy Moodey, who presented on the past year in General Synod, and outlined some of the major issues that occurred in 2023. Amersham Deanery Mission Partners Steve and Lindsey Poulson who work with street children in Honduras provided a video report.

Support of Parishes in the Deanery

During the year support to parishes took place in financial, pastoral and advisory capacities in small or larger ways depending on their need, including pastoral support and advice to clergy and lay people.

During clergy vacancies advice was given in the running of the parish and an active part was played in any recruitment process.

2023 saw significant changes in the Deanery House of Clergy.

- The Rev'd Samuel Thorp was appointed vicar of Penn and Tylers Green
- The Rev'd Lucy Fyfe-Jamieson was appointed Team Vicar of St Mary's Beaconsfield
- The Rev'd Jez Carr was appointed as Vicar of Holy Trinity Seer Green, Chalfont St Giles with Seer Green and Jordans benefice
- The Rev'd Craig Larnar was welcomed as curate at St James Gerrards Cross and Fulmer
- The Rev'd Michelle Fotherby was welcomed as curate at St Mary's Amersham
- The Rev'd John Goodman resigned as Rector of Chalfont St Peter
- The Rev'd Ruth Atkinson resigned as Vicar of Penn St and Holmer Green
- The Rev'd Ian Jennings retired as Associate Minister at Denham
- The Rev'd James Forward, the Rev'd Ben Clarke and the Rev'd Ross Mungavin left curacies at St James Gerrards Cross
- The Rev'd Chris Clare retired from St Leonard's Chesham Bois.

Parish Share allocations and voluntary donations to others

In 2023, two parishes failed to make payments of their allocated Parish Share early in the year resulting in the June deadline for payment of 50% of Deanery Parish Share being unachievable. By the end of the year three parishes did not make full payment of their allocated Parish Share, as a further parish encountered cash flow issues, and it was not appropriate for

the deanery to offer financial assistance given the wider share payment situation. Consequently, ADT received only a limited rebate from Oxford Diocese, 0.5% of the Parish Share paid by the parishes that paid 100% of their allocation, £5,383 (2022: full 3% rebate received, £45,387.)

In the autumn the parish share allocation for 2024 requested by the Oxford Diocese of Amersham Deanery was allocated to parishes within the deanery by agreed formula and presented to treasurers, the clergy Chapter and to the November meeting of Deanery Synod, and was approved.

During the year, £1,000 was donated to the Church Mission Society to support the work of the Poulsons in Honduras.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Results to 31 December 2023

As explained above, not all parishes paid 100% of allocated Parish Share during 2023, and the shortfall from one parish in the first half of the year exceeded the capacity of ADT to rectify the position. Consequently, the rebate received from Oxford Diocese for 2023, £5,383, was much reduced from the rebate received in previous years (2022 £45,387.) Interest of £2,755 (2022 £617) was also received on the balance of ADT's CBF deposit account, more this year due to the continued rise in interest rates counteracting the reduced balance in the account.

£16,000 (2022 £35,702) was rebated to parishes for 2023, to be credited against 2024 Parish Share payments. Parish Share has been allocated to parishes using the Deanery formula (as adapted last year due to changes in the allocation formula and data used by Oxford Diocese to allocate to the deaneries.) Half of the parishes in the Deanery were allocated no increase in share, with the maximum increase 2.11%. We are very grateful for the work in the parishes that enables the Parish Share to be paid, and for the sacrificial giving and fundraising efforts of the congregations.

There was a net deficit of £9,602 (2022 £7,293) for the year in the general fund.

This takes reserves further below reserves policy. It was right use of reserves in the extraordinary situation of the pandemic, and the trustees/directors are carefully monitoring the financial situation given the reduced rebate in 2023.

ADT remains in a viable financial position at the end of the year.

Principal funding sources

The principal funding source for ADT is the rebate paid by Oxford Diocese if 100% of parish share is received by the required deadlines, or otherwise a much reduced amount of rebate relating to the parishes that individually pay 100% of their allocated share (see above). ADT also receives interest on monies held on deposit in a CBF account.

Reserves policy

The income of ADT is entirely dependent on the parishes in the deanery being able to pay their allocated parish share amounts to Oxford Diocese by the necessary deadlines. As this is not easy at any time and particularly difficult for some parishes, the Directors of ADT have decided on a reserves policy of two years rebate. This level of reserves would enable ADT activities to be able to continue even if one or more parishes are unable to pay their parish share by the deadlines, and allows scope for ADT to support struggling parishes to pay parish share if this is appropriate. In the current situation of less than 100% payment of parish share

by all parishes, reserves are being used to ease the impact of reducing rebates to parishes by ADT. A minimal level of reserves will be maintained until reserves can be rebuilt to policy level.

FUTURE PLANS

- To continue to support individual parishes, and minister to the congregations and local communities.
- To support parishes through vacancies and illnesses, including assisting in the appointment processes. It is envisaged that there are five new appointments and one new vacancy in the year.
- To respond to any training need identified from the Deanery MAP by either providing local courses or referring to other appropriate agencies.
- To provide speakers at meetings of Amersham Deanery Synod that are of interest to the churches and visitors and to request ideas for useful topics. It is envisaged that most if not all Synod meetings will be in person.
- To encourage parishes to pay their Parish Share to Oxford Diocese in full and to consider the use of funds within the deanery or to support the wider church.

STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS RESPONSIBILITIES

The Directors are responsible for preparing the Directors report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards.

Company law requires the Directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure of the charitable activities for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Directors are required to:

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

The Directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

L J Tebboth – Lay Chair



J P Dziegiel – Treasurer

March 2024

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Amersham Deanery Trust
(‘the Company’)**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (who are also its directors for the purposes of company law), you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination, I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that:

1. accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with such records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with relevant accounting requirements under section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

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:

March 2023

Michael Hardman, Oak House, Botley Road, Chesham, Bucks HP5 1XG

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

Year ended 31 December 2023

2022

	Note	General funds £	Designated funds £	Total funds £	General funds £	Designated funds £	Total funds £
Income from Donations	1c)						
Rebate from Oxford Diocese		5,383.28	-	5,383.28	45,386.88	-	45,386.88
Investments							
Interest received		2,754.54	-	2,754.54	616.59	-	616.59
Total income		<u>8,137.82</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,137.82</u>	<u>46,003.47</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>46,003.47</u>
Expenditure on Charitable activities	1d)						
Returned to parishes	2	16,000.00	-	16,000.00	35,702.00	-	35,702.00
Parish Share paid for parishes	2	-	-	-	14,298.00	-	14,298.00
Expenses, administration & printing		-	-	-	258.37	-	258.37
Secretarial		500.00	-	500.00	500.00	-	500.00
Sabbatical payments		-	-	-	500.00	-	500.00
Delivery of 'The Door'		88.20	-	88.20	-	-	-
Speakers' expenses		152.05	-	152.05	37.80	-	37.80
Mission support		1,000.00	-	1,000.00	2,000.00	-	2,000.00
Total expenditure		<u>17,740.25</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>17,740.25</u>	<u>53,296.17</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>53,296.17</u>
Net income (expenditure)		(9,602.43)	-	(9,602.43)	(7,292.70)	-	(7,292.70)
Transfers between funds	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		<u>(9,602.43)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(9,602.43)</u>	<u>(7,292.70)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(7,292.70)</u>
Brought forward 1 January 2023		55,933.34	7,900.00	63,833.34	63,226.04	7,900.00	71,126.04
Funds carried forward	6	<u>46,330.91</u>	<u>7,900.00</u>	<u>54,230.91</u>	<u>55,933.34</u>	<u>7,900.00</u>	<u>63,833.34</u>

BALANCE SHEET

As at 31 December 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Current Assets			
Debtors	4	17,419.76	11,340.00
Cash		<u>52,811.15</u>	<u>52,493.34</u>
		70,230.91	63,833.34
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	5	<u>16,000.00</u>	-
		16,000.00	-
Net current assets		<u>54,230.91</u>	<u>63,833.34</u>
Net assets		<u>54,230.91</u>	<u>63,833.34</u>
Funds			
Unrestricted funds			
General funds	7	46,330.91	55,933.34
Designated funds	7	<u>7,900.00</u>	<u>7,900.00</u>
Total funds		<u>54,230.91</u>	<u>63,833.34</u>

For the year ending 31 December 2023 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

No members have required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.


These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Approved by the Board:

J P Dziegiel

Director

L J Tebboth



Director

Date

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	Below i	(1,740.25)	(7,909.29)
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Interest from investments		2,058.06	616.59
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		<u>2,058.06</u>	<u>616.59</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	Below ii	<u>317.81</u>	<u>(7,292.70)</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January		52,493.34	59,786.04
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December	Below iii	52,811.15	52,493.34
Change in cash and cash equivalents	Above ii	<u>317.81</u>	<u>(7,292.70)</u>
Reconciliation of net movements in funds to net cash flow from operating activities			
Net movement in funds for the year ended 31 December		(9,602.43)	(7,292.70)
Adjustments for:			
Interest from investments		(2,058.06)	(616.59)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors		(6,079.76)	-
Increase/(decrease) in creditors		16,000.00	-
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	Above i	<u>(1,740.25)</u>	<u>(7,909.29)</u>
Analysis of cash and cash equivalents			
Cash at bank - current account		877.45	2,617.70
Cash in CBF deposit account		51,933.70	49,875.64
	Above iii	<u>52,811.15</u>	<u>52,493.34</u>

AMERSHAM DEANERY TRUST
 Report and financial statements
 Year ended 31 December 2023

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

1 Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies are summarised below. The accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the year.

a) Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, and in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS 102), and the Charities Act 2011.

b) Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of general objectives of the charity. Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.

c) Income

All income is included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to, and virtually certain to receive, the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

d) Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

e) Debtors

Grants receivable and other debtors are included at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

f) Creditors

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation arising from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are recognised at their settlement amount.

2 Expenditure on charitable activities

	2023	2022
	£	£
Returned to Parishes:		
Parish Share paid on behalf of Penn Street & Holmer Green	-	5,000.00
Parish Share paid on behalf of Great Chesham	-	1,632.00
Parish Share allocated to Deanery	-	7,666.00
	<u>-</u>	<u>14,298.00</u>
Rebated to parishes in proportion to Parish Share paid 2021 (2021: 2020)	<u>16,000.00</u>	<u>35,702.00</u>

3 Trustee remuneration & related party transactions

No Trustees received any remuneration. No expenses were reimbursed to any trustees (2021: No expenses reimbursed to any trustees.)

AMERSHAM DEANERY TRUST
Report and financial statements
Year ended 31 December 2023

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

4 Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Loan to Holmer Green parish re site redevelopment	11,340.00	11,340.00
Rebate due from Oxford Diocese	5,383.28	-
CBF interest due	696.48	
	<u>17,419.76</u>	<u>11,340.00</u>

5 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Rebate due to parishes	16,000.00	-
	<u>16,000.00</u>	<u>-</u>

6 Analysis of net assets between funds

	General funds	Designated funds	Total funds
	£	£	£
Current assets	62,330.91	7,900.00	70,230.91
Current liabilities	(16,000.00)	-	(16,000.00)
	<u>46,330.91</u>	<u>7,900.00</u>	<u>54,230.91</u>

7 Movement in funds

	<u>At 1</u> <u>January</u> <u>2023</u> £	<u>Incoming</u> <u>resources</u> £	<u>Outgoing</u> <u>resources</u> £	<u>Transfers</u> £	<u>At 31</u> <u>December</u> <u>2023</u> £
Unrestricted funds					
Deanery Discretionary Fund	2,900.00	-	-	-	2,900.00
Development Fund	5,000.00	-	-	-	5,000.00
Total designated funds	<u>7,900.00</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,900.00</u>
General fund	55,933.34	8,137.82	(17,740.25)	-	46,330.91
	<u>63,833.34</u>	<u>8,137.82</u>	<u>(17,740.25)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>54,230.91</u>

8 Purpose of designated funds

The Deanery Discretionary Fund is held to enable the deanery to support parishes in unusual circumstances requiring one-off support. The Development Fund enables the deanery to make small grants to parishes to enable or support mission opportunities.