

The Parish of Saint Giles-in-Reading

Report of the Churchwardens to the Annual Parochial Meeting 19th May 2024 On the year ending 31st December 2023

The current churchwardens would like to thank all who give so freely of their time to ensure the smooth running of the church.

Repairs to and care of the Church. The usual round of routine maintenance has been completed. The heating system has worked well through the winter. Annual testing and servicing required on the lightning conductor, Clock, Fire Extinguishers, Emergency Lighting and Heating System have all be completed. The five yearly inspection of the electrics in church will take place in 2024. Following the Quinquennial Inspection of 2022 all items marked as requiring urgent attention have been completed. Regular cleaning sessions attended by any who can join in are run once more and it is a good way to meet others who we might not normally have a chance to chat with, it also helps with learning a bit more about the building and what is needed to keep it in good order.

Sidesmen. The office of sidesman is an ancient one, yet is still very important today. Every person who comes into church on Sunday morning needs to be greeted and made to feel welcome. A new cohort of sidesmen were elected by the PCC but we still need more people to help with this vital function. Please do consider offering to become a sidesman; training in the role will be given.

Mission. We continue to broadcast our main services live, on-line, and this enables some our regular worshipers to keep together as a congregation either by participating via video or joining in by phone. Daily Compline, on-line, allows others who do not come to our church to join with the parish family in prayer. The return of study groups to the church has been a welcome event. The year saw the coronation of King Charles III and the congregation were able to mark the event with a small gathering to celebrate. The ringing of the church bells has allowed to mark the coronation and act as a call to worship on Sunday. We are grateful for the efforts of the ringers year-round. Work in supporting CIRDIC has continued as normal.

It was a particular joy to welcome the Bishop of Oswestry and many other friends and visitors to the church for the Ordination in June of Fr Sebastian and to share the celebration as he offered his First Mass. Bishop Paul returned to S Giles to confirm our candidates as we celebrated our Feast of Title in September. In May we were finally able to unveil and consecrate the memorial to Fr Michael Melrose which is situated in the Lady Chapel, many friends from past and present were able to join us that day.

Finances. THE ST GILES CHURCH LANDS CHARITY, registered charity number 1086383. A copy of audited accounts is presented. Considerable time has been expended with regard to ensuring that leases on some of the properties are being adhered to.

S. E. Mott
Churchwarden

S. G. Gooding
Churchwarden

Receipts and Payments Account for the Year ended 31st December 2023

2022 £		2023 £		2022 £	2023 £
-----	<u>Receipts</u>	-----		-----	-----
40,638	Rental Income	41,166.20		679	Church Heating
21,449	Dividends and Interest	21,532.51		0	Church Electrics
500	Miscellaneous	0.00		10,187	Church Fabric, other
				10,381	Insurance
				2,910	Property Expenses
				1,101	Rates
-	Excess of Payments over Receipts	-		198	Miscellaneous Expenditure
				37,130	Excess of Receipts over Payments
£ 62,587		£ 62,698.71		£ 62,587	
=====		=====		=====	=====

Notes :

- 1 Rental incomes are shown gross as received, with expenditure relating to those properties, entered as expenses.
- 2 The Charity comprises the historical estate (set out in the 1599 inquisition), and the Walmsley, Griffin and Melrose Bequests.
- 3 The Churchwardens as trustees of the St Giles Church Lands Charity own : 54-58 (even), 80 and 104 London Street all subject to building leases with more than 100 years unexpired : and 70 Southampton Street, the frontage let to a car dealer, and the rear car park let to the County Dancing School.

Examiner's Certificate

I have examined the Books of Account of the St Giles Church Lands Charity together with the Receipts and Vouchers for the year ended 31 December 2023. In my opinion the attached Receipts and Payments Account, showing a surplus for the year of £30,618.86 and the Statement of Assets and Liabilities give a true and fair representation of the financial state of the Charity's funds as at 31 December 2023.

Donovan Tax and Accounts
Independent Examiners

28th April 2024


GRAEME SHAW (ATT)