

## **The Ecclesiastical Parish of St. John the Baptist, Owlerton, Sheffield**

**Charity Number 1127215**

### **Chairman's commentary and Annual report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024**

The trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with requirements of the Charities Act 2011, and comply with the charity's constitution.

#### **Charity Objectives**

The charity's objectives are:

'To proclaim and demonstrate the love of God, and to lead and support people in becoming wholehearted followers of Christ'.

The trustees have the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent (currently in vacancy) and the staff team of the church, in promoting the mission of the church, which is pastoral, evangelistic and social. The PCC has maintenance responsibilities for the church building. New Trustees are briefed on their roles and their responsibilities, their legal obligations under charity law, the content of the constitution, the decision-making process and the recent financial performance of the charity.

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in [the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit](#) when reviewing the Charity's aims and objectives and in planning future activities. The Trustees are also aware of the [Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit](#) and have had regard to it in their administration of the Charity. The Charity provides the following activities for the benefit of the general public:

- The celebration of public worship
- The teaching of the Christian faith
- Mission and evangelism
- Pastoral work, including with the sick and bereaved.
- The provision of facilities with a Christian ethos, but open to all, for the local community, (including but not restricted to) the elderly, the young and other groups with additional needs; and
- The support of other charities in the UK and overseas

Part of the budget is allocated to supporting mission and activities beyond St. John's church. Disbursals are organised by the Mission Matters group and agreed with the Trustees. All church activities rely heavily on the contribution of volunteers, whose time, effort, prayer and dedication is greatly appreciated.

### **Our Trustees and Office holders**

Rev. Toby Hole – Interim Chair

Mrs. Katie Kerr – Vice Chair

Mr. Martin Lymn – Churchwarden (stepping down July 2025)

Mr. Brian Wilson – Churchwarden

Rev. Kirsty Massey – Curate (until June 2025)

Mr. Paul Massey – Parish Safeguarding Officer (until June 2025)

Mrs. Caryl Skene (stepping down May 2025)

Mrs. Joanne Tapper (stepping down May 2025)

Mrs. Alison Crofton

Mr. Keith Barber

Mr. Nick Cooper

Mr. Brian Hopkins

Mr. Andy Wood

Mr Phillip Tapper

### **Our staff team**

IN VACANCY – Oversight Minister

Claire Keppas – Administrator

Rev. Kirsty Massey – Curate (until June 2025)

Joel Hamer – Winn Gardens Community Pioneer

Adam Woodhouse – Youth & Children's Team Leader

Mark Depledge – Digital Lead

Mike Taylor – Buildings Manager

### **Electoral Roll**

The St John' Owlerton electoral roll in May 2025 records 111 members. This includes 20 new enrolments. In 2024, the figure stood at 109 members.

We currently have 162 adult contacts and 86 children registered on ChurchSuite.

### **Sunday Attendance**

Church attendance over this last year has remained at a similar level to 2024, and we regularly gather around 82 adults and 21 children and young people each week.

We continue to offer hybrid worship each week, with our services streamed to YouTube. There are regularly around 50 engagements with each YouTube service. We are pleased to be able to offer a hybrid service, which means that people who are unable to attend in person are still able to connect with church life.

### **Report on the Proceedings of the PCC**

The past year has been one of change for St John's with Rev'd Joy French leaving to pursue a new avenue in her calling as National Director of the charity Perfect Peace and the appointment process well underway for a new Oversight Minister who, God willing, will be in post later in the autumn.

Canon Toby Hole, Director of Mission and Ministry for the Diocese of Sheffield, joined St John's in September 2024 to act as interim minister during the vacancy and Kirsty Massey remained as assistant curate of St John's, although in March it was announced that she would be taking up a new role as Oversight Minister of Anston with Firbeck, Letwell and Woodsetts in July.

Following the APCM in May, the new PCC was formed and the first meeting held. New members welcomed in and a reminder of expectations in the form of the code of conduct was re circulated.

Main topics included discussing the role of the treasurer and how to achieve the fulfilment of this role, requests for church tithe allocation, and the decorating of the rear rooms in the church. The role of the new Children & Youth Team Leader post was advertised and PCC gave permission for the Pioneer role for Winn Gardens to be progressed.

Further information was shared by Joy and Mike Gilbert regarding the vacancy for an Oversight Minister when Joy leaves. Agreed support from the diocese included support from Toby Hole (Director of Mission & Ministry) as interim minister to work alongside the PCC and Mike Gilbert (Associate Archdeacon, Transition Enabler).

Further business included the appointments of the PSO (Parish Safeguarding Officer) Paul Massey and PCC Vice Chair – Katie Kerr. Claire Keppas gave notice for her role as PCC Secretary in May, and remained in post until July 2024.

June's PCC meeting was mainly used to explore with the PCC the underpinning Vision & Values, and to prepare for the vacancy/interregnum period. Other business included the appointment of the Standing Committee and its members. Updates on the ministry roles and advertisements were reported upon, and approval sought for upcoming youth social activities outside of the church building to ensure compliance with insurance requirements and expectations. Finally the PCC was given an update on Alpha and discussion around

'what next'. Thought was given to 1 Corinthians 12 – One body many parts and the work of the church family within this. PCC thanked the Alpha team.

The meeting in July was the final one for the summer as no meeting takes place in August unless an emergency meeting is called.

Approval was given for a follow on course to Alpha to be initiated called 'A Life Worth Living', led by Nick & Jude Cooper and team/Home Group. Three policies were ratified by the PCC, which were Safeguarding, Maternity and Health & Safety, with a further six agreed once some amendments were made. Further discussion about the oversight minister vacancy once Joy leaves was had, and Mike Gilbert highlighted that the interregnum/vacancy was an opportunity for churches to explore 'who they are' and explore the vision which can be carried forwards by an appropriate leader/incumbent once appointed.

In September 2024 Toby Hole took up the chair of the PCC, working alongside Katie Kerr as vice-chair. The main items for September's PCC were agreement to the terms of a St John's standing committee which would allow small unbudgeted expenditure of up to £300 to be agreed outside of PCC meetings and would allow some of the routine business of the PCC to be conducted by a smaller group, matters of policy and governance to be retained by the PCC. Toby's role at St John's was also clarified. Toby will chair the PCC, attend standing committee meetings and act as Kirsty Massey's Training Incumbent. His role is primarily one of giving advice to the PCC and wardens.

The main item on October's agenda was the arrangements for worship outside of the building during the installation of the new boilers. It was agreed that Sunday worship would be a combination of in-person worship at Christchurch Central's premises in Walkley and on-line Zoom services. Plans were made for a shared lunch during which vacancy priorities would be agreed and volunteers for working groups established.

November's meeting was held in the Garrison pub due to the building works in church. Brian Wilson was readmitted as licensed Reader at St John's. Toby introduced the six Pastoral Principles devised by the Church of England to help churches work well with difference. Each one of the Principles was to be briefly explored at subsequent PCC meetings. Connected with this was a discussion led by Toby and Kirsty about how St John's could reflect on the recent turbulence in the congregation's life. Kirsty was to lead a time of reflection and lament on Advent Sunday (in the presence of Bishop Pete) and Toby and Mike Gilbert (Associate Archdeacon) were to make themselves available for confidential conversations. Toby was to produce a short report for the Bishop and Archdeacons, a summary of which would go to the PCC.

There was no PCC meeting in December.

In January Mike Gilbert explained to the PCC the appointment process for the new Oversight Minister. There was a discussion about online safety, arising out of the unfortunate takeover of the one of the St John's online services. Terms of reference were agreed for the Building's committee so that routine maintenance work can be conducted outside of PCC meetings.

February's PCC meeting saw the appointment process get under way with the appointment of two parish representatives, Jo Tapper and Brian Wilson and the formation of a small committee to work on the parish profile. Phil Tapper led a discussion on church security and how people with roles in the church could be clearly identified.

March's meeting had more of a mission focus with Caryl Skene and Jo Hopkins giving a presentation on the Mission Matters Group and Nick Cooper leading the PCC in a discussion on the place of evangelism in St John's.

The only item on the agenda at April's meeting was the agreement of the parish profile and the advert for the new Oversight Minister, which is being advertised in May.

The PCC have had three away mornings this year. Two of them looked at how St John's can thrive in the vacancy and one looked at the particular qualities the church was looking for in an Oversight Minister.

**Canon Toby Hole**  
**Interim Minister and chair of PCC**

### **Finance**

The Trustees have given due consideration to the health, safety and financial risks they face in managing the operations of the church. Trustees believe they have in place adequate systems to monitor and control church operations at this time.

The PCC are most grateful to the finance committee for all their hard work and commitment during 2024. The Finance Committee are: Brian Wilson, Philippa Martin, Keith Barber, Claire Keppas and Martin Lymn.

We encourage all taxpayers to Gift Aid their giving. Gift-Aid enables us to reclaim the tax at 25p for every pound given; for January to December 2024 the money received back from the Inland Revenue will be approximately £25,662.

Each year we pay into the Diocese Common Fund. This amounted to £75,000 in 2024. This supports our clergy stipendiary costs and also helps to support other smaller parishes.

The Trustees have reviewed the reserves of the church. This review encompassed the nature of our current income and expenditure, the need to match variable income with fixed commitments and the nature of our reserves. In 2023, the trustees made the decision to designate £135,000 in our accounts for church building project works, to ensure that we have resource available and separate from general church income. Some of this money has been used to upgrade the church heating system in November 2024.

The accounts were approved by the Board of Trustees on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2025. Please see the full accounts attached at the end of this report.



## Churchwardens' Report to May 2025 APCM

*Martin Lymn, Brian Wilson*

### Priorities for the period of vacancy

When we began this period of vacancy the PCC concluded that we didn't want to drift into vacancy and so we agreed a number of priority areas where we were seeking to make progress.

These were:

- Developing the church's **prayer** life - all together, in groups and individually
- Enriching our **worship** and Bible-based **teaching**
- Strengthening **fruitful connections** across the church family
- Resourcing and revitalising the **small group** network
- Building our **youth, children's and families** ministries
- Engaging missionally with the **wider community** (including the Winn Gardens community)
- **Attracting, welcoming and integrating** those who are new to St Johns

You will recall that church members met after a shared lunch last autumn and, as a result, the PCC formed a number of priority working groups that will continue to seek to progress these areas for the remainder of the vacancy. These groups have been making progress and reporting back to the PCC. The aim of all of this is that we would maintain momentum as a church ready for a new Oversight Minister arriving later this year.

### A massive thank you to Kirsty and Paul

As a church we all enormously grateful to Kirsty for working so hard and so generously over this last year on behalf of God's mission through St John's church. Kirsty has played such a significant role over this time. We are, of course, also so very, very thankful to Paul for all the work he has done in supporting St. John's over an extended period. We will have the opportunity to say 'thank you' on June 15<sup>th</sup> and to wish them both every blessing as they take this next, exciting step in following God's call.

### And a big thank you to the church

As churchwardens, we would also like to say a very big thank you to the whole church for pulling together over what has been a challenging time in the 151-year life of St John's. What has also been clear is that people have sought to support and encourage one another and to keep looking to Jesus for strength, encouragement and purpose over these months.

We are still confidently expecting the Lord to be at work amongst us and through us as individuals and as a church over these remaining months of vacancy. Please do keep praying for the right person/people that God is calling to see and positively respond to the advert for a new Oversight Minister.

## **Building Committee Report to May 2025 APCM**

*Martin Lymn  
Buildings Committee Chair*

During 2024 substantial works were carried out on the heating system at the Church costing a significant amount of money, some of this money has been recovered from Grants and VAT recovery scheme, but still leaving a balance of £25,000 which was borrowed from the Church Buildings Reserves and will be paid back over the lifetime of the boiler taking into account the efficiency savings.

The committee are currently gathering together a proposal to go to the PCC for the repair of the pulpit, we are aiming to get this proposal together for the PCC in June, and if agreed a faculty will be raised to get the work approved.

Rob Allen has undertaken a full review of the Church electrical system, and there is some minor remedial work required following receipt of the report.

The building committee has been reformed this year with Martin Lymn (Warden) as the chair, members of the building committee are Mike Taylor, Andy Wood, Phil Tapper, Malcom Drew and Melvyn Dalley. We would welcome anyone who feels they can contribute to the discussions to join us, if you feel that is something you can do, please get in touch with Martin Lymn to discuss.

The building committee have several tasks to look through in 2025

- Remedial work from the Electrical Inspection
- Review and prioritise the recommendations arising from the quinquennial report
- Follow up requirements from the heating system faculty
- Provide PCC with proposal and quotes for repairing the pulpit
- Review of Church garden maintenance
- Work with the Welcome team to review the signage inside and outside Church
- Investigate the possibility of re-roofing the centre section of Church, utilising available grants for insulation and energy saving.

## Safeguarding report to May 2025 APCM

*Paul Massey*  
*Parish Safeguarding Officer*

St. John's Owlerton is committed to high standards in the safeguarding and care of children, young people and vulnerable adults.

Throughout the year we have ensured that

- All staff and volunteers have been recruited appropriately and safely, taking up references and ensuring that DBS checks are undertaken and maintained.
- All staff and volunteers working with children, young people and vulnerable adults have undertaken safeguarding training appropriate to their role.
- All PCC Trustees and Licenced Lay Readers have completed safeguarding training, and we have undertaken the relevant DBS checks.
  
- A Parish Safeguarding Policy is in place and was approved by PCC at their meeting on 10/07/2024.
- The Parish Safeguarding Dashboard is now in use to record key data and as it's use grows the level of data that can be recorded will grow, allowing reporting and analysis to PCC or for other purposes upon request.
  
- Paul Massey has been the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) since the last APCM but will be standing down at this year's meeting as he is moving from the parish.
- Safeguarding training and DBS administration is undertaken by Claire Keppas who monitors and follows up with individuals as necessary to ensure that training records and DBS compliance are in date. Claire fulfils these roles in liaison with the PSO.
- Confidential information is held by the PSO and recorded in such a way as to maintain that confidentiality.
  
- Where there has been a cause for concern this has been raised with the Parish Safeguarding Officer and a Cause for Concern form completed.
- There has been regular liaison between Paul Massey, as PSO, and the Diocesan Safeguarding Team following the receipt of any cause for concern. The Diocesan Safeguarding Advisors have been supportive of our actions and proposed actions on every occasion.
- The number of causes for concerns have not been as many as I would expect, nor reflective of the level of concern that I sadly feel sure exists, certainly on Winn Gardens. I suspect that we have not been aware of some situations because of not having staff in place for part of the year.



## Hallam Deanery Synod Report to May 2025 APCM

Kirsty Massey  
Curate

Hallam and Ecclesfield twinned deaneries have met 3 times over the course of the year. There follows a summary of the main focus of each meeting. A full copy of the minutes can be found on the St John's Google drive.

### *22<sup>nd</sup> May 2024 – Issues Relating to Church Buildings*

**Simon Chesters-Thompson** (Diocesan Advisory Committee Secretary) outlined the faculty process, with a particular but not exclusive focus on listed buildings. Sheffield Diocese uses an online faculty system. Registration is via the Diocesan website.

**David Castle** (Diocesan Net Zero Carbon Programme Manager) spoke about aspects of the Roadmap to Net Zero by 2030 at both national and diocesan level. Information about developments in Sheffield Diocese can be found on the Diocesan website by following the path Church Support → For Churches → Social Transformation & Net Zero → Net Zero. Actions needed at parish level include completion of the energy footprint tool (which will support grant applications), maintenance of buildings and existing systems, and ongoing assessment of existing heating and lighting systems against possible alternatives (for which advice is available on the Church of England website).

**Jo Edwards** (Diocesan Church Buildings Officer) explained the work which the Church Buildings Support Team does, the advice and support which it can offer and its links with other teams, both diocesan and external.

### *12<sup>th</sup> September 2024 – Update on the Diocesan Refreshed Strategy*

Archdeacon Malcolm Chamberlain and Alex Shilkoff, Strategic Programme Director

For the new strategy, each heading will have its own suffix:

- Renewed to receive the Light of Christ
- Released to walk in the Light of Christ
- Rejuvenated to reflect the Light of Christ.

It was emphasised how the new strategy will align with the Church of England's Six Bold Outcomes:

- Doubling the number of children and young active disciples in the CofE by 2023
- A CofE which fully represents the communities we serve in age and diversity

- A parish system revitalised for mission so churches can reach and serve everyone in their community
- Creating 10,000 new Christian communities across the four areas of home, work/education, social and digital.
- All Christians in the CofE envisioned, resourced and released to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in the whole of life, bringing transformation to the church and world
- All local churches, supported by their diocese, becoming communities and hubs for initial and ongoing formation

The diocese will be submitting a bid for funding, which should be received by March 2025. This funding will be used for: lay ministry equipping; clergy well-being & coaching; Mission Area support phase 2; central support; Centenary project phase 2; grafting teams and hub churches; Rotherham & Goole phase 2; Cathedral resourcing church through music & social action; Parish Nursing; interim ministry teams.

#### *25<sup>th</sup> February 2025 – Focal Ministry*

Beth Burras, Director of Focal Ministry, delivered a presentation which covered the following issues:

- Forms of lay ministry in Sheffield Diocese (licensed/nationally-recognised, authorised/recognised at Diocesan level and commissioned/recognised locally).
- The leadership responsibilities of Focal Ministers.
- Identification of potential Focal Ministers and steps on the initial journey towards authorisation.
- Her own priorities for the development of Focal Ministry.
- Focal Ministry in single-parish Mission Areas or benefices.
- The three-yearly reauthorisation process.

She emphasised the importance of Focal Ministers having significant leadership responsibilities within their parish or parishes.

## APCM ministry report -Youth

Brief description of what your ministry role is:
Ministry Lead for Youth Children and Families
Ministry Highlights and encouragements through this year:
Dunkin sessions on a Sunday Morning continue to be well received for both Youth and guests. Sunday evenings have continued well with three young people/adults learning to be young leaders. Various outings have happened including Lazer Tag and Bowling.  Summer camps around the country seem to be encouraging our young people in their faith journey supported by evening and Sunday morning youth Bible Studies. Two young people also attended Alpha Course.  Youth are excited when they are able to lead worship and want to do this more.
Areas for growth over the next year:
Look at possibilities of residentials and mission trips as a church group. We would love a few more volunteers on Sunday Mornings to give the young people different voices and faith journeys to learn from. Looking at possible high school engagement and college. Set up a support network/keep in touch with those going to university or starting a Gap Year. More engagement with youth on planning activities and Bible Study subjects. Look at possible mentoring especially young leaders. Look at discipleship of young people inc. links with more advanced Bible Study or Alpha for example.
Please pray for:
Young people who are doing exams and those moving on to University and gap years. Various summer residentials due to take place this year and for young people to grow in faith. For new ideas and fresh vision for the team.
Who would you like to thank? (team, volunteers)
Christina, Emma, Nick and Tim who have been leading and co-ordinating all the youth work while we had no worker and who still all do an amazing job when possible to keep things going. Mark for his support of AV and worship with Young people. Dan, Jonah and Arti as they start to lead activities and become young leaders Jude who helped at Encounter. Claire/Paul for the behind the scenes safeguarding work. And a network of volunteers who stand in often at short notice! Last but not least, all those who have survived a grilling at Dunkin on a Sunday – Well done!

## APCM ministry report - Children

Brief description of what your ministry role is:
Ministry Lead for Youth Children and Families
Ministry Highlights and encouragements through this year:
<p>Both 2by2 and Toddlers groups have continued to grow this year, while it is also sad to see some parents and children moving on, we wish them all the best at school/homes. Sunday School has again established two groups an under 5s and over 5s, we pray for continued growth in this area.</p> <p>The Good Friday family morning was well received as was various Christmas events. We have started a good partnership with Riverlin School with weekly visits to school and occasional visits to church by children and their teachers. Adam is also learning how to lead Open the Book Assemblies.</p> <p>Children moving up to Key stage 2 and 3 have also received prayer and gifts in church at the start of the academic year.</p>
Areas for growth over the next year:
<p>New volunteers are always welcome and we are ensuring new team members are supported through safer recruitment and induction into their roles.</p> <p>We will be looking at doing some children's activities through the summer holidays and also investigating midweek activities.</p> <p>We are also looking at ways to be inclusive to our children who have additional needs.</p>
Please pray for:
<p>All the Children, parents and volunteers who are part of the St John's Church.</p> <p>Pray for staff and Children of Rivelin Primary School and for the partnership with the church.</p>
Who would you like to thank? (team, volunteers)
<p>All the amazing helpers who encourage, equip and give up their time and energy to work with our Baby, 2by2 and Sunday School Groups.</p> <p>I would also like to Thank Kirsty who has co-ordinated a lot of the Children's work over the last 12 months and for Paul for moving 100s of chairs / toys and a vast amount of equipment!</p>

## APCM ministry report – Winn Gardens

Brief description of what your ministry role is:
Winn Gardens Community Pioneer
Ministry Highlights and encouragements through this year:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Joel Hamer joined us as Community Pioneer in September.</li><li>● Foodbank has continued to meet people's need for food but also highlighted their wider needs, giving us opportunities to share Jesus and pray with them.</li><li>● The development of a kids club that is well attended each week and where the children attending are hearing the truth of the bible.</li><li>● The conversion of one of our storage rooms to a community café that opens each week for people on the estate.</li><li>● Regular prayer and worship times on the estate.</li><li>● The growth of the volunteer team working with residents and committed to this work.</li></ul>
Areas for growth over the next year:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Planting a church on Winn Gardens with a team from St John's and the wider church.</li><li>● Growing leaders from the estate and establishing a committed worshipping community.</li><li>● Starting a Community Garden to develop a fresh food provision for the estate.</li><li>● Youth provision starting with basketball sessions and developing into work with the young people that aims to encourage change in cyclical family patterns.</li></ul>
Please pray for:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Residents to give their lives to Jesus, to start engaging with prayer and bible studies, and to form the congregation of the new church.</li><li>● Team who are committed to the church at Winn Gardens as their church, and to serving the Winn Gardens community.</li><li>● Volunteers to support with activities during the week.</li><li>● Provision of funds to start developing some of the bigger developmental projects that we are looking to undertake (such as micro loans for start-up businesses from the estate, development of a food pantry, etc.)</li></ul>
Who would you like to thank? (team, volunteers)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Special thanks to Paul Massey who has given above and beyond to the running of the Winn Gardens foodbank. Paul's contributions over the last years have been immense and he has served the WG community with humility and enthusiasm, thank you!</li><li>● Thank you to Caryl Skene for her committed prayer for the estate and her commitment to serving the residents of Winn Gardens despite family circumstances over the last year.</li><li>● Thank you to all of the volunteers who give their time each week to the running of activities – we couldn't do what we do without them!</li><li>● Thank you to all of the people who regularly give money to the Winn Gardens ministry, the work that is done would not happen without your hugely generous donations.</li></ul>

## APCM ministry report – Music Worship

Brief description of what your ministry role is:
Sung Worship
Ministry Highlights and encouragements through this year:
Sustained a consistent sung worship time, in terms of full band and quality of musical provision and leading, with the soundtrack for 2025 being introduced through the year so far and been widely appreciated. While a number of musicians have left or been unable to contribute, we seem to have had an equal number of new musicians to replace, including 2 new leaders who are being slowly released into ministry in St John's Sunday services.
Areas for growth over the next year:
To continue to give opportunity for Sheila to lead occasional organ hymns, planned for current summer term. To phase in 3 new worship leaders, again started to implement in the new summer rota. To look at cost effective solutions to 'stage noise' and therefore giving more control to sound (PA) operator, enabling volume levels to be managed more effectively. (Disclaimer: there may be no cost effective solutions)
Please pray for:
Team to work well together More musicians More of the presence of God and sense of freedom in our sung worship times
Who would you like to thank? (team, volunteers)
All the team members and musicians who give up their time and energy to practise, choose and learn songs and turn up at 8:30am on a Sunday morning to prepare.



## APCM ministry report – AV and Digital Media

Brief description of what your ministry role is:
AV Lead
Ministry Highlights and encouragements through this year:
<p>Streamed the vast majority of services to YouTube, with around 7-12 concurrent views on most Sundays, with team able to cover all 4 jobs in each service. After service views, during the week have declined this year with a minimum of 20 views but not usually more than 60 after a month.</p> <p>The website continues to be viewed by around 250-300 visitors per month with over 75% new visitors, suggesting that our website continues to mainly serve the purpose as a shop window for interest in churches/researchers and probably new people. Data is skewed easily when making changes to sites or church people check for needed updates.</p> <p>Social media has grown steadily but reached something of a high around Christmas 2023 and has not significantly grown since. We use Facebook and Instagram and post weekly, mainly with adverts for services, events or news, occasionally people post on the St John's Facebook group too.</p> <p>The Vlog was originally a monthly feature but has waned towards the end of 2024 due to less staff and clergy being available to contribute, this is an area that could pick up again if it is felt that a Vlog is a good communication tool but this will be decided by people willing to be involved.</p>

# Parish of St John The Baptist, Owlerton 2024 Financial Report

## Summary of Income and Expenditure Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024

Area of activity	INCOME				EXPENDITURE	SURPLUS/DEFICIT
	"Restricted Income" <i>Donations and grants restricted by the donor and so must be used for specific areas of expenditure</i>		"Unrestricted Income" <i>Donations with no restrictions as to their use</i>	Total Income	Total Expenditure	Difference between Income and Expenditure
	External Grants + Other Income	Donations from Individuals * + Other Income	Donations from Individuals * + Other Income			
<b>General</b> <i>(incl. Children's, Under 5s, Digital, Admin, Buildings)</i>	£0	£420	£153,948	£154,368	£157,309	£-2,941
<b>Youth &amp; Young Adults</b>	£0	£9,031		£9,031	£9,031	£0
<b>Winn Gardens</b> <i>(incl. Foodbank)</i>	£38,237	£8,654		£46,891	£49,228	£-2,338
<b>The Family Works</b>	£4,415	£970		£5,385	£5,385	£0
<b>Totals</b>	£42,652	£19,075	£153,948	<b>£215,675</b>	<b>£220,953</b>	<b>£-5,278</b>

(\* income figures above include Gift Aid)

## Summary of Balances Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024

Designated Reserves	<i>Church Building Development Fund (remainder of funds from the £300,000 sale of Memorial Hall)</i>	£110,000
Restricted Reserves	<i>Outstanding amounts from restricted grants and donations</i>	£39,595
Boiler Project 2024	<i>Monies borrowed from Church Building Development Fund. Total cost of £62,100 less SCC grant (£25,000) and VAT reclaim (approx £12,100) leaves approx £25,000 to be repaid annually over the next 20 years</i>	£-25,000
Operating Reserve	<i>Reserves policy: Equal to 3-months of 2025 expenditure</i>	£65,000
Unrestricted / General Reserves	<i>Free Reserves</i>	£-1,441
		<b>£188,154</b>

Income Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024

## PARISH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, OWLERTON

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024

	2024			2023
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<b>2 INCOMING RESOURCES</b>				
<b>2 a) Voluntary income</b>				
Gift aid giving	92,158	10,329	102,487	131,884
Non gift aid giving	28,842	2,270	31,112	23,114
Tax recovery from Gift aid	25,622	-	25,622	32,397
Collection Plate	1,000	-	1,000	1,106
	<b>147,623</b>	<b>12,599</b>	<b>160,222</b>	<b>188,500</b>
<b>2 b) Other Voluntary Income</b>				
Grants		42,652	42,652	137,074
Other Charitable giving			-	1,154
Food Bank		4,782	4,782	6,506
Social Fund		420	420	200
Miscellaneous	-	700	700	3,116
Building Project		-	-	-
	<b>-</b>	<b>48,554</b>	<b>48,554</b>	<b>148,050</b>
<b>2 c) Income from Charitable &amp; Ancillary Trading</b>				
Church Lettings	2,075		2,075	2,255
Fees - Weddings & Funerals	3,374		3,374	3,328
Events payments		1,428	1,428	697
Commissioned Work (TFW)			-	3492
	<b>5,449</b>	<b>1,428</b>	<b>6,877</b>	<b>9,772</b>
<b>2 d) Income from Deposits</b>				
Interest - Church	22		22	25
	<b>22</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>2 e) Other income</b>				
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>	<b>153,094</b>	<b>62,581</b>	<b>215,675</b>	<b>346,348</b>

# Expenditure Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024

## PARISH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, OWLERTON

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2024

	2024			2023
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 Total £	Total £
<b>3 RESOURCES USED</b>				
<b>3a) Grants</b>				
Missionary & charitable giving:- development agencies, Home Missions, Busarries, Relief	9,075		9,075	7,000
	9,075	-	9,075	7,000
<b>3 b) Activities directly relating to the work of the church</b>				
Administration	8,087		8,087	6,479
Capital Expenditure	-		-	-
Childrens Work	910		910	1,153
Church Running Costs	14,492		14,492	9,619
Routine Maintenance - Church	4,426		4,426	2,593
Ministries	1,091		1,091	1,045
Common Fund (paid to Diocese)	75,000		75,000	75,000
Employment Costs (Staff)	35,761	28,296	64,057	171,408
Staff Expenses	2,497	1,999	4,496	14,434
Sunday services	4,822		4,822	4,748
Weddings / Funerals	1,919		1,919	2,317
Youth Ministry		283	283	742
Social Fund		-	-	-
Music/ Misc	-		-	-
Winn Gardens Outreach		9,527	9,527	14,319
Food Bank		17,545	17,545	6,995
Family Works Outreach		5,223	5,223	15,498
Church Exension Project			-	-
	149,006	62,872	211,878	326,350
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES USED</b>	<b>158,081</b>	<b>62,872</b>	<b>220,953</b>	<b>333,350</b>



# PARISH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, OWLERTON

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024

	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<b>4) Staff Costs</b>		
Salaries	64,057	171,409
<b>5) Debtors</b>		
Prepayments (Boiler Project 2024)	37,100	-
<b>6) Liabilities</b>		
Other Accruals	3,375	12,492
Current Liabilities (Boiler Project 2024)	25,000	
	<b>28,375</b>	<b>12,492</b>
<b>7) Total Funds Available</b>		
<b>Analysis by type of asset</b>		
Current Assets (bank balances)	179,429	265,752
Current Assets (prepayments - Boiler Project 2024)	37,100	
Current Liabilities (accruals)	- 28,375	- 12,492
= Total funds available	<b>188,154</b>	<b>253,260</b>
<b>Analysis of Total Funds by fund</b>		
Church Building Development Fund	110,000	135,000
Restricted Grants and Donations	39,595	44,628
- not available for general church activities		
Unrestricted Funds / General Reserves (incl. Operating Reserves)	38,559	- 179,628
	<b>188,154</b>	<b>253,260</b>

# PARISH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, OWLERTON

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024

## BALANCE SHEET

### CURRENT ASSETS

#### Fixed Assets

Debtors / Prepayments

Cash at Bank (bank balances)

### Less LIABILITIES

Amounts falling due within one year

### NET ASSETS

### FUNDS

Designated Reserves - Church Buildings

Restricted Grants and Donations

- not available for general church activities

Unrestricted / General Reserves

Notes (see above)	2024 £	2023 £
5	37,100	-
7	179,429	265,752
	216,529	265,752
6	28,375	12,492
	188,154	253,260
7	110,000	135,000
7	39,595	44,628
7	38,559	73,632
	188,154	253,260

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 06 May 2024

Chairman: Revd Toby Hole

These Accounts have been independently examined and signed off as required by the Charity Commission for England and Wales by Jonathon Buckley on 18/04/2025