

CHRIST CHURCH LEYTON

Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council

for the year ended 31st December 2024

Incumbent:

Rev P Brentford
Vicarage at 52 Elm Road
Leytonstone
London
E11 4DW

Bankers:

Santander
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L30 4GB

Independent Examiner:

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CHRIST CHURCH LEYTON

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024

Administrative Information

Christ Church is situated in Francis Road, Leyton, London, E10 6PL. It is part of the Diocese of Chelmsford within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Vicarage, 52 Elm Road, Leyton, London, E11 4DW.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Christ Church Leyton has been registered with the Charity Commission. The charity registration no is 1127622.

PCC members who have served from 1st January 2024 until the date this report was approved are:-

Incumbent & Chair:	Rev P Brentford*	
Clergy:	Rev D Webb	Minister with Permission to Officiate & Deputy Warden
Wardens:	Mr Rob Pilling* Mr Josh Field *	to 22/09/2024
Deanery Synod Reps:	Mrs Sylvia Clovey Ms Caz Rawlinson	
Elected members:	Miss Ann Anosike Mrs Joan Ede* Miss Carol Harrison Mrs Marion Knowles Mrs Janice Mancktelow Mrs Clare Parker Mr Rob Plutte Mr Daniele Scaramuzza Mrs Barbara Sweeting*	Secretary Treasurer to 18/03/2024 to 18/03/2024 Women's Ministry Coordinator
Co-opted members:	Gregory Pye	Assistant Pastor from 14/10/2024
Electoral Roll Officer:	Mr R Ede	

*Standing Committee Members (J Field until 22/09/24)

Structure, government and management

The method of appointment of Parochial Church Council 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.

Objectives and activities

Christ Church's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church building of Christ Church Leyton, London E10 6PL.

Our Vision is to be a church that is true to our name, as Christ Church Leyton. We are Christ's Church with Jesus Christ and his words at the centre and heart of our church, we are passionate about Church and so we are a church family who seek to love each other like Jesus loved us, and we are passionate about Leyton (and Leytonstone) as we seek to reach out with the life-giving gospel of Jesus. We therefore want to *know Christ and make him known* wherever the Lord has placed us and our mission partners. This Vision underlies all our activities.

Achievements and performance

Church Attendance

At the heart of what we do lies our Morning Service each Sunday at 10.30am and our Evening Service at 6.30pm on the 2nd Sunday of each month, where we gather expectantly to hear God's voice through the Bible.

The AGM was held on 17/03/2024 following the morning service. All the reports had been circulated to the congregation before the meeting giving the opportunity to raise any questions either in person or beforehand via e-mail, etc. The regular congregation has remained fairly stable over the last year, with some newcomers joining and a few coming off our Electoral Roll following the covid pandemic. Of the current 102 people on the roll, most of the church family live locally or in the surrounding area. The average weekly attendance (in person), counted during October 2024 was 73 adults and 10 children for the morning service and 5 adults for the monthly evening service who had not also attended in the morning. We have continued to stream our Weekly Services on YouTube for those unable to get to the Church building.

The many ministries of the Church have also continued and developed during 2023. We thank all those who have worked so hard to provide these ministries – Spotlight (under 11s); Youth on Sundays for the 11-16s; Growth Groups; Women's & Men's Breakfasts; Toddlers (midweek); English Conversation Club; pastoral care; and in so many other different ways.

Review of the Year - *Reaching Out & Building Up*

Our particular focus for the year has been on our Outreach with the gospel. With this in mind, particular encouragements to give thanks for are:

- An increase in guests and visitors coming on Sundays, at Christmas and Easter, and for our January guest series
- Our free Toddlers and English Conversation Club continue to serve our local community and are widely appreciated;
- Our schools work with visits from different year groups from Newport and Dawlish primary schools and speaking at their Christmas/Easter assemblies has been appreciated by the schools and as a result one or two families have visited or come more regularly on Sundays;
- Women's breakfast had its second annual special Christmas event which was full and our Men's curry evenings were re-established with a short talk about the Christian faith;
- Most of all we are thankful for a servant-hearted, loving, welcoming, diverse and united church family.

Engagement with the congregation and local community has been maintained throughout the year with door-to-door visiting, invitations delivered to homes for Christmas and Easter, publicity and carols outside the building, weekly news updates, live-streaming of services, our website and social media. We are grateful to members of our congregation who serve in all these different areas.

We have also continued to build one another up as church family through our Sunday services, youth and children's activities, men's and women's breakfasts, one-to-one and other areas of ministry. Growth groups continue to be central to our church life, as we have sought to be strengthened for the obedience of faith for the sake of the Lord's name among the nations and stand firm in the true grace of God (Romans 1:5; 1 Peter 5:12). Our Away Day on God's sovereignty linked in with our growth groups studies in Romans.

Our music, welcome and coffee teams have also been a key part of our outreach as we welcome visitors and our building up as we sing and speak the truth in love to one another. Training has remained an ongoing priority, including a training day and sessions for growth group leaders, a training session in using puppets to teach younger children, a session for Spotlight families on how to read the Bible with children, a new training plan for our Spotlight team, and music training/practice sessions.

We were delighted to be able to appoint an Assistant Pastor and part-time Women's Ministry Coordinator this year. As ever, we feel stretched as a church family, and so there is an ongoing need to pray for workers for the harvest field alongside identifying and training one another to serve in different ways (Matthew 9:38).

PCC

The full PCC met in person on 6 occasions during 2024 with an average attendance of 86%. This includes a meeting following the AGM on 17/03/2024, at which all the necessary PCC officer elections were made. The names of our PCC members was made public at our AGM and is available on request. Following one of the Church Wardens moving away from the area in September 2024, the Standing Committee has gone down to 4 members and is currently made up of our Incumbent, 1 warden, Treasurer and Women's Ministry Co-ordinator. The appointment of a new Warden is due to take place at the 2025 AGM. Alongside discussing our weekly ministries, major issues discussed by the PCC include our Outreach, Cultural Review, Staff recruitment and our response to the Prayers of Love & Faith. Practical issues discussed in more depth include our finances, fabric and a safeguarding review, all of which make our ministry possible.

Mission Partner Support

During 2024 a Mission Partner Support Group was re-established, made up of one link person for each of our main Mission Partners. PCC members have been encouraged to bring to the PCC meetings any causes that they feel are in need of support from the discretionary Mission Partner Support fund and it is open to any member of the congregation to suggest causes as well. The mission giving for one year is based on 10% of the giving to CCL from the previous year. On top of this, the Josiah Trust independently made a grant of 10% of the previous year's giving to the Trust for CCL to use to support mission. The list of mission partners recommended for support is approved by PCC. The Josiah Trust are advised of the causes that CCL support. The areas our Mission Partners for 2024 focus on are Southern Europe (through AWM), Eastern Europe (through Crosslinks), and the UK (in London through Shepherds Purse and in Oxford at St Ebbe's Headington). There was no Gift Day held in 2024.

A breakdown of all the 2024 Mission Partner Support payments can be found in the financial breakdown at Item 8 on page 12 of this report.

Fabric

There has been considerable work done to the Church building and outside areas during 2024. We are very grateful to our PCC member who has volunteered and worked diligently to oversee this area.

Due to anti-social behaviour, security fencing at the South end of the Church, was erected during 2024 to prevent access to the side alley. It was also discovered that the flooring in the Elm Room kitchen had sustained damage (probably due to a water leak over many years) and needed to be replaced.

On inspection it was discovered that there was asbestos in the glue used to fix the tiles which were among the many layers of flooring which needed to be removed. The flooring was removed by qualified contractors. All necessary precautions were taken to ensure that the area was not used until the work had been completed. The leaking pipe was removed and sealed off before the new flooring laid.

Following the Quinquennial Inspection in October 2022, concern was raised as the boundary 'garden' wall at the rear of the building appeared to be moving forward from its footings. It was recommended by a structural surveyor that the wall should be monitored for 12 months to see the extent of any movement. The wall has therefore been monitoring during 2024 and we await the Structural Surveyor's report.

Regular annual maintenance carried out in 2024 are as follows:-

- Portable Appliance Testing (PAT);
- Tier 5 gutter clear;
- Fire extinguishers annual maintenance;
- Rear gutter/downpipe unblocked;
- Vestry door locksmith visit;
- Heaters/gas appliance servicing.

Financial Review

A copy of the accounts for year end 31/12/2024 are at the end of this report. We continue to be grateful for the on-going support for the ministry at Christ Church from the Josiah Trust, an independent charity that supports Christian ministry in Leyton and partners with us in supporting a range of Christian biblical mission causes both in the UK and overseas. The financial situation is regularly reviewed with giving and expenditure figures being monitored monthly.

During 2024 we have seen a full year of members of the congregation changing the way they give to ministry at Christ Church Leyton. Many have switched their giving to the work to the Josiah Trust which is an independent charity who supports ministry in Leyton and supports Christ Church. The 2024 direct giving to Christ Church has changed as follows:-

- Envelopes & Cheques – up 9%;
- Open Cash – down 21%;
- Standing Orders – down 42%.

Overall this change represents a 37% drop in giving to Christ Church. This of course has a knock on effect and the amount of gift aid claimed in 2024 is 36% down on 2023.

The FTG has monitored the financial situation throughout the year and the PCC receive copies of the monthly giving/expenditure report. Notes from FTG meetings are circulated prior to PCC meetings with details of any proposals which need approval.

We thank the Lord for the faithfulness of our congregation in continuing to support the Ministry at Christ Church in their service, prayers and giving. Prior to the AGM held on 17/03/24, the simplified 2023 Church accounts were circulated. The congregation was advised that the full 2024 AR&FS were available on request.

Following the PCC decision to pause paying the voluntary Parish Share from March 2023, the PCC agreed on 22/04/2024 to use £30,000 of this money to support a lay Assistant Minister at St George's Dagenham.

This former member of the CCL congregation, completed his training at Oak Hill and started at St George's in September. The support will be paid on a monthly basis to the Dagenham Gospel Trust over 3 years. This money is being held in a designated fund to make it clear that it is being used to support biblical ministry and not just put into general funds to cover the costs at Christ Church.

The PCC also requested that the paused 2023 Parish Share money held within the EELGST (Essex & East London Good Stewards Trust) be re-designated to support ministry at Christ Church Leyton. The EELGST were in agreement. The EELGST are therefore supporting the Assistant Pastor post filled at Christ Church Leyton from July 2024.

The PCC discussed the paused Parish Share 2024 payments on 11/11/2024. It was agreed that contributions should remain paused until such time as it is known what arrangements for alternative oversight will be provided.

The PCC has committed to putting the following amounts into the Fabric Funds of the Church each year:-

- Fabric Fund £5500
- Vicarage Fund £ 500
- Fabric Maintenance Fund £2000.

It was not possible this year to meet the commitment for the Vicarage fund due to the amount of spending in the Fabric and Fabric Maintenance Funds.

The 2024 Fabric Fund spend totalled £12165.16 which includes:-

- Security fencing - £5662;
- Elm Room kitchen flooring - £2728 (removal/replacement);
- Boundary Wall monitoring - £3600.

The 2024 Fabric Maintenance works totalled £2152.

The Vicarage Fund did not receive any part of the PCC commitment.

The Mission Partner Support giving for 2024 of £16322 was based on 10% of the 2023 giving income to both Christ Church Leyton and a grant from the Josiah Trust. This amount was fully paid out in 2024 and details of the payments made are shown on Page 13 at Item 8.

The General Fund at 31/12/2024 is showing a deficit of £21255.56. This increase reflects a complete year of the changes made from May 2023 in the way people give to the ministry at CCL. This deficit is being covered by monies held within the designated Staff Salary fund. However this is not an ideal situation and the PCC will be discussing this matter early in 2025 to consider requesting grants from the Josiah Trust to support the ministry at CCL.

We shall continue to praise God for His provision in 2024 and for the continued financial support we have received from the Josiah Trust and the congregation to enable the ministry at Christ Church to continue and we pray keep growing. We continue to update and encourage the congregation to regularly consider and review their giving, whilst being mindful of the cost of living crisis.

Overall the percentages for 2024 expenditure are as follows:-

- 48% of expenditure went on ministry costs at Christ Church;
- 23 % on ministry costs elsewhere;
- 29% on bills, overheads and fabric upkeep of the Church.

A breakdown of the 2024 expenditure is shown on Pages 12 &13 of this report.

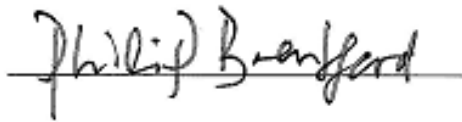
Reserves Policy and Funds

The PCC's primary source of income is from donations made by the Church congregation and its aim is to use all of those funds furthering the objectives and activities of the Church. Therefore the aim is not to hold reserves. Where the cost of ministry and running the Church are more than the income from giving, the PCC is eligible to apply for grants to support their work from The Josiah Trust, providing it continues to provide orthodox gospel ministry in Leyton, as defined in the objects of the Trust. The Josiah Trust has its own reserves Policy. The Christ Church Reserves Policy was agreed by the PCC on 14/10/2024.

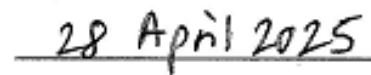
Where money is donated to the Church for specific items, these amounts are accounted for separately in Restricted Funds. Any money unspent is carried forward into the next year's accounts. Details of all the funds active in 2024 are shown on Page 10 of this Annual Report & Financial Report 2024.

Approved by the PCC on 28th April 2025 and signed on their behalf by Rev P Brentford (PCC Chairman & Incumbent).

Signed:



Date:



**Independent Examiner's report to the Parochial Church Council
of Christ Church, Leyton**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the PCC as required by section 130 of the Act;
or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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.



Jason Foxwell FCCA FCIE
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Date: 30 April 2025

Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December 2024

Receipts and Payments Account

	Note	General Fund £	Other Funds £	Total 2024 £	2023 £
RECEIPTS					
Regular Giving					
Envs & Cheques		5484	0	5484	5115
Open Cash		2221	0	2221	2815
Planned Giving (SOs)		32264	0	32264	55789
Gift Aid recovered		9187	0	9187	14502
Total		49156	0	49156	78221
Staff Salaries & Costs	1	750	28113	28863	12000
Ministry Costs	2	30	0	30	221
Goods & Services	3	1340	0	1340	1495
Church Activities	4	6951	7300	14251	3676
Other receipts	5	2468	4081	6549	4768
Total Receipts		60695	39494	100189	100381
PAYMENTS					
Parish Share		0	0	0	-37938
Staff Salaries & Costs	6	-7949	-30855	-38804	-1689
Ministry Costs	7	-2252		-2252	-3403
Mission Giving	8	-9022	-7300	-16322	-14725
Total		-19223	-38155	-57378	-57755
Church Utilities	9	-9374		-9374	-12915
Goods & Services	10	-19674		-19674	-23336
Church Activities	11	-13470	-49	-13519	-5891
Governance Costs	12	-415		-415	-400
Other payments	13		-7325	-7325	-3206
		-62156	-45529	-107685	-103503
Excess of receipts over payments					4579
Deficit of payments over receipts		-1461	-6035	-7496	-7701
Transfer between funds		0	0	0	0
		-1461	-6035	-7496	-3122
Cash at bank and in hand at 1 st Jan		-19824	45915	26091	29213
End or previous year adjustment re unreconciled amounts					
Cash at bank and in hand at 31 st Dec		-21255.86	39849.96	18594.10	26091

Funds held

	Balance 1 st Jan 2024 £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers between funds £	Balance 31 st Dec 2024 £
General Fund	-19793.89	60684.72	-62156.69	0	-21255.86
Staff Salary Fund	15000.00	113.36	-5894.36	0	9219.00
Hardship Loan Fund	1589.75	50.00	0	0	1639.75
Help Fund (Prev Needy)	2583.07	130.00	-30.00	0	2683.07
R & B Plutte Support	-10.00	1695.00	-1695.00	0	-10.00
EELGST Grant Salaries	0	28000.00	-24960.36	0	3039.64
Parish Share 2023	26622.50	0	-3344.00	0	23278.50
Following funds closed at 31/12/2024					
Donations Shoeboxes 23	-5.00	5.00	0	0	0
Donations Shoeboxes 24	0	475.50	-475.50	0	0
Donations – CB	0	375.00	-375.00	0	0
Donations - Ch family	0	125.00	-125.00	0	0
Donations – Oxford Min	55.00	225.00	-280.00	0	0
Gift Collection (WW)	0	1000.00	-1000.00	0	0
Josiah Trust MPS Grant	0	7300.00	-7300.00	0	0
Ladies Book Group	49.15	0	-49.15	0	0

Fund balances at 31/12/2024	Total
General Fund	-21255.86
Designated Funds	
Parish Share 2023	23278.50
Staff Salary Fund	9219.00
Restricted Funds	
Hardship Loan Fund	1639.75
Help (previously Needy) Fund	2683.07
R & B Plutte Support	-10.00
EELGST Staffing Grant	3039.64
TOTAL MONIES HELD AT 31/12/2024	18594.10

Notes on receipts in accounts

Note	General Fund £	Other Funds £	Total 2024 £	2023 £
1 Staff salary & costs income				
EELGST		28000	28000	0
NEST Pension Refund		113	113	0
Josiah Trust	0	0	0	12000
Rent Contribution	750	0	750	0
	750	28113	28863	65350
2 Ministry Costs Income				
Adult Ministry	0	0	0	49
Mother & Toddlers	20	0	20	127
Youth Ministry	10	0	10	145
	30	0	30	221
3 Goods & Services				
LoB Grant – new heaters 2022			0	1470
Fabric Fund	1340	0	1340	0
Telephone rebate (change of provider)	0	0	0	25
	1340	0	1340	1495
4 Church Activities				
Away Day 2023	0	0	0	90
Away Weekend 2025	5270	0	5270	0
Bible Notes	80	0	80	61
Church Funds	176	0	176	0
Church Meals	1319	0	1319	773
Consumables	7	0	7	0
Evangelicals Now	99	0	99	209
Gift Day 2023	0	0	0	2542
Mission Partner Support	0	7300	7300	0
	6951	7300	14251	3675
5 Other income				
Donations – New Bibles	1855	125	1980	1274
Donations – AWM	0	375	375	0
Donations – Shepherds Staff	0	1695	1695	1220
Donations – Oxford Ministry	0	225	225	-95
Donations – Shoeboxes	0	481	481	542
Energy Grant 2023	0	0	0	950
Fees	108	0	108	495
G&S donations	497	0	497	0
Gift Collection	0	1000	1000	0
Hardship Loan Fund	0	50	50	225
Interest	8	0	8	7
Help Fund (prev Needy Fund)	0	130	130	478

		2468	4081	6549	4799
Notes on expenditure in accounts					
Note		General Fund	Other Funds	Total 2024	2023
		£	£	£	£
6	Staff salaries & costs exp				
	Staff Expenses	-7610	-12000	-19610	-1689
	Staff Salaries		-18855	-18855	
	Payroll costs	-339		-339	
		-7949	-30855	-38804	-1689
7	Ministry costs				
	Adult Ministry	-638		-638	-795
	Mothers & Toddlers	-510		-510	-397
	Services	-116		-116	-538
	Spotlight	-944		-944	-647
	Youth Ministry	-44		-44	-1026
		-2252		-2252	-3403
8	Mission Giving				
	AWM	-4500		-4500	-3500
	Mission Partner in Europe				-2225
	Barnabas Fund				-1000
	CEF Britain		-250	-250	-250
	Crosslinks (GI)	-22	-4600	-4622	-3500
	LGP		-250	-250	-250
	Oakhill Student (BM)		-1100	-1100	
	Open Doors	-1000		-1000	
	ReNew		-500	-500	-500
	Shepherds Staff (RP)	-3500		-3500	-3500
	UCCF (BP)		-600	-600	
		-9022	-7300	-16322	-14752
9	Church Utilities				
	Electricity	-1513		-1513	-1945
	Gas	-4853		-4853	-7648
	Insurance	-2498		-2498	-2420
	Telephones	-485		-485	-352
	Water	-25		-25	-550
		-9374		-9374	-12915
		£	£	£	£
10	Goods & Services				
	Fabric Fund	-12165		-12165	-14633
	Fabric Fund – Maintenance	-2152		-2152	-2719
	G&S	-2843		-2843	-3327
	Management Software	-574		-574	-574
	Photocopier rental	-498		-498	-839
	Print	-1442		-1442	-1244
		-19674	0	-19674	-23336

Note	General Fund £	Other Funds £	Total 2024 £	2023 £
11 Church Activities				
Away Day 2023				-263
Away Day 2024	-520		-520	
Away Weekend 2025	-8075		-8075	0
Bibles – new NIV	-1855		-1855	0
Bible Notes	-60		-60	
Church Meals	-1376		-1376	-848
Consumables	-1415		-1415	-2058
Evangelicals Now	-169		-169	-180
Gift Day 2023				-2542
Ladies Books Club		-49	-49	
	-13470	-49	-13519	-5891
12 Governance Costs				
Examiner's Fee	-415		-415	-400
13 Other payments				
Donation – AWM		-375	-375	
Donations - CCL family member		-125	-125	
Donations – Dagenham Gospel Trust		-3344	-3344	
Donations – Oxford Ministry		-280	-280	
Donations – Samaritans Purse		-476	-476	-542
Donations – Shepherds Staff		-1695	-1695	
Fees				-459
Gift Collection (WW)		-1000	-1000	
Hardship Loan Fund				-200
Help Fund (prev Needy Fund)		-30	-30	-50
	0	-7325	-7325	1194

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31st December 2024

	General Fund £	Other Funds £	Total 2024 £	2023 £
Santander Current Account	-21255.86	39769.51	18513.65	25760
Cash	0	80.45	80.45	331
	-21255.86	39849.96	18594.10	26091