

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST JOHN COLCHESTER

England & Wales · Charity number 1127854

Details

Other names ST JOHN'S AND ST LUKES PCC COLCHESTER

Status Registered

Legal form Previously excepted

Registered 2009-02-03

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

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St John's Close
Colchester
CO4 0HP

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Website www.stjohnscolchester.org.uk

Activities

Objects: Promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church.

Activities: Religious activities

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL.
- Essex

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£329,553	£355,658	-	-
2023-12-31	£395,755	£437,290	-	-
2022-12-31	£357,765	£367,596	-	-
2021-12-31	£306,420	£311,399	-	-
2020-12-31	£408,630	£368,922	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
ANTHONY BERRY		2024-04-28
Andrew Tiffin		2024-04-28
Anna Sallis		2024-04-28
Chris Oldham		2024-04-28
Christine Rose		2024-04-28
Clare Luxton		2021-04-28
Dave Gentry		2025-06-29
JONATHAN MULVEY		2019-05-20
Lucy Lovell		2024-04-28
NICHOLAS JAMES READ		2023-05-22
Nicola Sirett		2023-05-22
Peter Hassard		2025-05-18
Rev Paul Dever		2024-09-09
Richard William Moore		2018-06-01

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST JOHN COLCHESTER

England & Wales - Charity number 1127854

Accounts



**Annual Report & Financial Statements
Of the Parochial Church Council of
St John's Church,
St John's Close,
Colchester
CO4 0HP**

For the year ended 31 December 2024

Incumbent:

Rev'd Paul Dever

Bank:

Barclays Bank, High Street, Colchester

Independent Examiners:

Larking Gowen

Unit 1 Claydon Business Park

Great Blakenham

Ipswich, Suffolk

IP6 0NL

Registered Charity Number: 1127854

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Reports for year 2024

St. John's Church – Annual Report for 2024

Introduction

St John's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Incumbent in promoting within the Parish the whole mission of the Church – pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It oversees and directs the mission and work of the Parish Church of St John's within the parish boundaries. Rev. Paul Dever was licensed in September 2024 as Priest in Charge of the Parish of St John's.

These reports, along with the Organisational Reports of the various ministry streams of the church, illustrate how the PCC fulfils its obligations to benefit the public – mainly to the worshipping congregations and to the local communities, as well as nationally and internationally.

PCC Membership

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year 2024 the following were member of the PCC:

Rev Paul Dever	Chair	Started Sept 24	Ex-officio
Rick Moore	Treasurer	Started 22	Ex-officio
Jane Shelley	PCC Secretary	Started Sept 22	Ex-officio
Graham Hadfield	Co-opted (clergy)	Started April 24 (resigned Sept 24)	Ex-officio
Alex Quayle	Church Warden	Elected 24	
Paul Morgan	Church Warden	Elected 24	
Mary Antony	Deanery Synod	Elected 23	
Nicky Sirett	Deanery Synod	Elected 23	
Jane Cornell	Deanery Synod	Elected 23	
Michael Roberts	Deanery Synod	Resigned Oct 24	
Anna Sallis	PCC	Elected 24	
Andrew Tiffin	PCC	Elected 24	
Joanna Marshall	PCC	Elected 22	
Clare Luxton	PCC	Elected 22	
Ewan Derby	PCC	Elected 22 (resigned July 24)	

Nik Read	PCC	Elected April 23	
Carol Cockrill	PCC	Elected April 23	
Peter Theodosius	PCC	Elected April 23	
Tina Rose	PCC	Elected 24	
Tony Berry	PCC	Elected 24	
Chris Oldham	PCC	Elected 24	
Lucie Lovell	PCC	Elected 24	
Jonathan Mulvey	PCC	Co-opted 24	
Luke Tiffin	PCC	Elected 23 (resigned Aug 24)	

The PCC Operates through several committees/ groups which meet between the full meetings of the PCC –

Standing Committee

This is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings.

Mission Partnerships Group

The group was formed to serve this area on behalf of the PCC with the aim of overseeing and supporting our Mission Partnerships, both individually and with organisations.

Below is a list of the Mission Partners and organisations that SJC gave to in 2024:

Organisation	Amount
Nortons	£8,039
Toths	£5,026
Graft for Growth	£1,253

Safeguarding Compliance Group

The safeguarding compliance group, chaired by our Parish Safeguarding Office, keeps SJC both fully compliant with the Safeguarding Policy of the Church of England and to enable SJC to continue to develop a safeguarding culture around every area of church life.

Electoral Roll

2024 Roll Revision – 263 total for 2024

Being listed on the Electoral Roll of St. John's gives you a say in how your Church is run. To vote at the APCM or to stand for election onto our PCC you must be on the Electoral Roll of the Church.

Attendance

The average Sunday attendance at St John's, counted during October 2024 was 176 adults and 41 children. Compared with in 2023, there were 138 adults and 28 children.

We conducted the following: 5 Baptisms, 4 Banns, 1 Marriage, 8 Funerals in the Church or conducted elsewhere, e.g.: Crematorium.

Average Sunday attendance		
	Adults	Children
2023	138	28
2024	176	41

Vicars Report – St John’s Church in 2024

Aim and Purpose

St John’s Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Reverend Paul Dever, in promoting the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Church Buildings and the community centre

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at St John’s. This year Paul highlighted the 5 main purposes of PCC:

1. To enable the church to play its part in God’s mission in his world
2. To co-operate with the vicar in sharing leadership
3. To ensure legal compliance with charity law and ecclesiastical law
4. To be a channel of consultation within the wider church
5. To enable the church to play its part in God’s mission in his world.

When planning our activities, the PCC always has in its mind the Charity Commission’s guidance on public benefit, and in particular the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. Our services and worship put faith into practice through worship, prayer, teaching, scripture, music and sacrament. In order to connect to as many different demographics as possible, our 9:00 am service is more traditional including liturgy and hymns, our 10:30 service with a particular focus on young families, our afternoon congregations which connect with many who do not normally come to church, including Kaleidoscope for those who special educational needs, Messy Church and families at 4. At our evening services connect especially with young adults, teenagers (for whom we provide specific teaching) and their parents.

Key highlights.

It has been wonderful to join you as Vicar of SJC. It has been such a privilege to get begin to get to know the community. Thank you so much for your welcome and for all the work you carried out to the vicarage. Jackie and I have loved having many of you around for lunch on Saturday and look forward to welcoming more of you in the weeks and months to come. It has been very encouraging to see signs of fruit with the October count revealing around a 30% increase in attendance for adults and children on Sunday’s that is so wonderful. As a PCC, we have spent time reflecting on the ‘Truscott report’, and particularly the changes that we need make to transition St John’s from ‘being a good church into a great church’.

In January we had a vision day with the PCC and staff team it is was wonderful to hear the encouragements that included:

- The power of the Holy Spirit at work at SJC
- The partnership with Atilla and Adele in Romania
- The Thursday Generation working with those primarily over 75
- The Community Choir
- Teaching, Worship and focus on Children and Youth

- A church full of families, single people and couples and a whole range of ages
- Our diversity and devotion to Jesus
- The room for the prophetic

We have been exploring our values as a church:

1. **Everybody is Welcome:** We recognise that welcome is far more than just good intentions, it is a heart attitude that impacts every aspect of Sunday, from the taste of the coffee, to the state of our loos, to who we chat to, and in ensuring that we prioritise our guests.
2. **Make Friends:** At St John's we want to be a church, not just that you come to, but you are part of it, where you long to come to, because it is a place where we make lifelong friends.
3. **Build Great teams:** Rather than serving out of a sense of guilt we want to make our teams to be life giving and fun, where we can grow, step out in faith and know that we are making a difference.
4. **Develop Positive Partnerships.** I hope that St John's acts as a catalyst for partnerships across the city where we can be a springboard for mission and ministry to impact our community partnering with churches and organisations that we may see the Kingdom of God grow.
5. **Live Generously:** Not only is generosity at the heart of the Gospel but it should be at the heart of our church. We long not only be hospitable but generous, and that will mean that we will also have to consider how own personal giving enables us to grow and flourish as a church.
6. **Have faith with deep roots:** Faith without action is meaningless. Discipleship, community and mission go hand in hand. Being in accountable small groups to work out how we grow as followers of Jesus is essential.
7. **Encounters with Jesus:** We will intentionally build in spaces to our programs and services so that we can be empowered by the Holy Spirit to become like Jesus. This includes, Encounter Evenings and Kingdom Come.
8. **Everyone Matters:** I would love everyone not only to feel valued, but to know that everyone has a role at St John's, we all have a part to play. You will be missed if you can't make it in a Sunday! To quote John Maxwell, the author speaker and pastor: 'Every person has a longing to be part of something noble and purposeful'. This is your opportunity.

Whilst there is much to give thanks for there are also a number of key challenges going forward, that if left unaddressed will hinder the future growth and life of SJC.

1. **Income:** In 2024 unfortunately, there was a significant drop (around 13%) of income mainly due to a reduction in regular giving. We have invited everyone to consider their regular giving. We are seeking an extra £50,000 of income.
2. **Planned maintenance and investment.** The Church building is an amazing resource. However, we will need to not only bring it up to meet the current legislative requirements (such as adequate fire protection measures) but also to invest in planned maintenance and renewals.
3. **Teams:** As we many churches we over reliant on a few angels who carry so much. The invitation that I have given is that everyone gets to play- everyone is vital in the kingdom of God.

I want to say thank- you to the fantastic staff team, the paid members of staff, Clare, Ruth, Andi and Derrek, and to the unpaid members of staff, Celia, Mary, Viv and Nicky. We are so blessed to have such a great team. We have also said good bye to Ewan, Jo and Sarah, they are all greatly missed and thank them for all they have done over the last year.

Yet of course, I also want to thank every one of you who plays a part in each and every team, whether that be serving coffee, being on a kids team, serving our older generations on a Thursday, helping at Refresh, serving our community at Messy Church, Families at 4 and Kaleidoscope and on every other team, together we are the body of Christ bringing good news and hope to the city of Colchester.

Paul Dever – Vicar

Financial review

The annual accounts for 2024 record a total income of £329,553 (2023: £395,755). There was a decrease in voluntary income to £277,357 (2023: £340,171). 2023 included £20,327 grants received and Vat recovered on the church roof repairs in that year. Rentals from the community centre & church family centre reduced to £48,373 (2023: £52,315).

Tax recovered from Gift Aid and the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS) was £40,107, (£43,117 in 2023). Tax recovery remains a substantial contribution to the total income.

The previous year 2023 included exceptional expenditure on roof repairs of £56,189, resulting in total expenditure for the year of £437,864. Expenditure for 2024 is significantly lower at £355,658. This includes our parish share to the diocese of £109,890. On 31 December 2024, the principal balances were £35,885 in the general fund and £1,016,413 in the restricted fund. Overall, the accounts show a deficit of £ (25,953) compared with a deficit of £ (41,535) in 2023.



Rev'd Paul Dever (Vicar)

6 May 2025

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of The Parochial Church Council of St John's Church, Colchester

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of St John's Church ('the Charity') for the year ended 31 December 2024 which are set out on pages 9 to 15.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act'). You are satisfied that the accounts of the Charity are not required by charity law to be audited and have chosen instead to have an independent examination.

I report in respect of my examination of the accounts. I have carried out my examination under section 145 of 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 matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records, with respect to the Charity, were not kept as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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.

This report is made solely to the Charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the Charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent examiners report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charity and the Charity's Trustees as a body, for my work or this report.

.....
Name: Giles Kerkham FCA DChA

**Larking Gowen LLP
Chartered Accountants
1 Claydon Business Park
Ipswich
IP6 0NL**

Date: 14 May 2025

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JOHN'S, COLCHESTER

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
For the period ended 31st December 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL FUNDS	
		£	£	2024	2023
INCOME & ENDOWMENTS FROM:					
Voluntary income (direct giving)	2(a)	235,642	0	235,642	248,614
Other voluntary income	2(b)	0	41,715	41,715	91,557
		<u>235,642</u>	<u>41,715</u>	<u>277,357</u>	<u>340,171</u>
Charitable activities	2(c)	51,325	0	51,325	54,852
Investments	2(d)	686	185	871	732
TOTAL INCOME & ENDOWMENTS		<u>287,653</u>	<u>41,900</u>	<u>329,553</u>	<u>395,755</u>
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Charitable activities:					
Missionary and Charitable Giving	3(a)	18,985	35,989	54,974	68,509
Directly relating to the work of the church	3(b)	274,378	26,306	300,684	369,355
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		<u>293,363</u>	<u>62,295</u>	<u>355,658</u>	<u>437,864</u>
NET GAINS/LOSSES ON INVESTMENTS					
Exceptional items		0	152	152	574
		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
		<u>0</u>	<u>152</u>	<u>152</u>	<u>574</u>
NET INCOME/EXPENDITURE		(5,710)	(20,243)	(25,953)	(41,535)
Transfers between funds:					
Loans repaid	10	(13,949)	13,949	0	0
Other		4,520	(4,520)	0	0
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		<u>(15,139)</u>	<u>(10,814)</u>	<u>(25,953)</u>	<u>(41,535)</u>
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:					
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1 JANUARY 2024 (2023)		51,024	1,027,227	1,078,251	1,119,786
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD At 31st December 2024		<u>35,885</u>	<u>1,016,413</u>	<u>1,052,298</u>	<u>1,078,251</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JOHN'S, COLCHESTER

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	5(a)	996,205	1,022,281
Investments	5(b)	6,821	6,669
Total Fixed Assets		<u>1,003,026</u>	<u>1,028,950</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	7	11,149	3,190
Short term deposits		39,083	48,397
Cash at bank and in hand		3,322	26,783
		<u>53,554</u>	<u>78,370</u>
CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR			
	8	<u>(4,282)</u>	<u>(29,069)</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS			
		49,272	49,301
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			
		<u>1,052,298</u>	<u>1,078,251</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year			
	9	0	0
NET ASSETS			
		<u>1,052,298</u>	<u>1,078,251</u>
FUNDS			
Unrestricted		35,885	51,024
Restricted	10	1,016,413	1,027,227
		<u>1,052,298</u>	<u>1,078,251</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 6 May 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Rev. Paul Dever (Chairman)



Paul Morgan (Churchwarden)

The accompanying notes form part of these accounts.

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
ST JOHN'S, COLCHESTER**
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

1. Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared under the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the current Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities and applicable accounting standard FRS 102.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value.

The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102.

Funds

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.

Restricted funds are those funds that must be spent on restricted purposes, and details of the funds held and restrictions are provided in note 9.

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law, they do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Incoming Resources

Voluntary Income and Capital Sources

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.

Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised only when received.

Income tax recoverable on gift aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is reasonably certain.

Funds raised by fetes, garden parties and similar events are accounted for gross.

Sales of books and magazines from the Church Bookstall are accounted for gross.

Other Ordinary Income

Rental income from the letting of Church premises is recognised when the rental is due.

Income from investments

Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable.

Tax recoverable on such income is recognised in the same accounting year.

Gains and Losses on Investments

Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold.

Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31 December.

Resources Used

Grants

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

Activities directly relating to the work of the Church

The diocesan quota or parish share is accounted for when payable. Any quota unpaid at 31 December is provided for in these accounts as an operational (though not a legal) liability, and is shown as a creditor in the Balance Sheet.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated Land and Buildings and Movable Church Furnishings

Consecrated and benefited property is excluded from the accounts by section 10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the Church's Inventory which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For inalienable property acquired prior to (2000) there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the accounts. Items acquired since 1 January (2000) have been capitalized and depreciated in the accounts over their currently anticipated useful economic life (initially over 10 years) on a straight-line basis.

Other Fixtures, Fittings and Office Equipment

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a reducing balance basis over 4 years, and buildings at 2% on a straight line basis per annum. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £2,500 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

Investment in subsidiary companies is stated at cost less provision for permanent diminution in value. Dividends are brought to income resources when received

Current Assets

Amounts owing to the PCC on 31 December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.

Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit, either with the CBF Church of England Funds, or at the bank.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JOHN'S, COLCHESTER

**Notes to the Financial Statements
For the period ended 31st December 2024**

2 INCOMING RESOURCES

		TOTAL FUNDS	
		2024	2023
		£	£
2(a)	Voluntary income (direct giving)		
	Planned giving:		
	Gift Aid	150,740	156,337
	Income tax recoverable on gift aid	38,475	41,052
	Other giving	-	630
	Collections	5,069	5,529
	Sundry donations	41,358	45,066
		235,642	248,614
	[2023: Restricted £630, Unrestricted £247,984, Total £248,614]		
2(b)	Other voluntary income		
	Donations, appeals, etc.	40,083	79,375
	Income tax recoverable	1,632	2,065
	Government grants	-	9,917
	Legacies	-	200
		41,715	91,557
	[2023: Restricted £91,357, Unrestricted £200, Total £91,557]		
2(c)	Charitable activities		
	Church community centre income etc.	48,373	52,315
	Events	1,173	1,775
	Fees - other	1,779	762
		51,325	54,852
	[2023: Restricted £0, Unrestricted £54,852, Total £54,852]		
2(d)	Investments		
	Dividends and interest including any reclaimed tax	871	732
		871	732
	[2023: Restricted £183, Unrestricted £549, Total £732]		
TOTAL INCOME & ENDOWMENTS		329,553	395,755
	[2023: Restricted £92,170, Unrestricted £303,585, Total £395,755]		

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JOHN'S, COLCHESTER

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For the period ended 31st December 2024

3 Resources used

		TOTAL FUNDS	
		2024	2023
		£	£
3(a)	Grants		
	Missionary and charitable giving:		
	Church overseas:		
	- Missionary societies and charitable giving	0	0
	Home missions and other Church Societies:		
	Parish mission	4,364	4,310
	Mission partnership	14,318	12,677
	C7	8,324	11,630
	Romania mission trip expenses	24,415	32,385
	Other	3,553	7,507
		54,974	68,509

[2023: Restricted £51,317, Unrestricted £17,192, Total £68,509]

3(b)	Activities directly relating to the work of the Church		
	Ministry: diocesan quota	109,890	109,890
	clergy expenses	2,127	2,033
	Church - running expenses	21,318	25,441
	Independent Examination fees	1,950	1,625
	Church maintenance	50,237	51,862
	Church roof repairs	0	56,189
	Training	2,567	1,062
	Church community centre running costs	17,151	19,309
	Mortgage Interest	229	1,100
	Salaries	95,215	100,844
		300,884	369,355

[2023: Restricted £56,043, Unrestricted £313,312, Total £369,355]

Total Resources Used

355,658 437,864

[2023: Restricted £107,360, Unrestricted £330,504, Total £437,864]

4 Total Staff Costs

	2024	2023
Wages and salaries	88,112	94,001
Social security costs	5,825	5,490
Pension costs	1,278	1,353
	95,215	100,844
Average number of paid staff	5	6

During 2024 the PCC employed no staff earning over £60,000
 No employee benefits were received by key management personnel.

	2024	2023
Salaries paid to members of staff having connections with the PCC:		
Mrs M Read (wife of PCC member)	£ 264	£ 9,093
Ms C Luxton (PCC member)	£ 28,568	£ 28,288
Mrs J Roberts (wife of PCC member)	£ 11,840	£ 12,046
E Darby (PCC member)	£ 14,284	£ 14,144

No further payments or expenses were paid to any other PCC member, person connected with them or related party.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JOHN'S, COLCHESTER

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For the period ended 31st December 2024

5	Fixed Assets for use by the PCC	Land and Buildings £	Computers & Equipment £	Total £
5(a)	Tangible fixed assets			
	Gross Book Value at 1 January 2024	1,394,947	24,908	1,419,855
	Additions	0	0	0
	Disposals	0	0	0
	at 31 December 2024	<u>1,394,947</u>	<u>24,908</u>	<u>1,419,855</u>
	Depreciation at 1 January 2024	373,995	23,579	397,574
	Charge for year	25,744	332	26,076
	Disposals	0	0	0
	at 31 December 2024	<u>399,739</u>	<u>23,911</u>	<u>423,650</u>
	Net Book Value at 31 December 2024	<u>995,208</u>	<u>997</u>	<u>996,205</u>
	at 31 December 2023	<u>1,020,952</u>	<u>1,329</u>	<u>1,022,281</u>

The freehold land and buildings comprises the church community centre and associated land. Freehold land costing £120,000 (2023: £120,000) is not depreciated.

Our mortgage was repaid during the year (Balance 2023: £24,461).

5	Investments for use by the PCC	Listed Investments	Total
5(b)	Investments		
	Cost		
	At 1 January 2024	6,669	6,669
	Additions	0	0
	Revaluation	152	152
	Disposals	0	0
	At 31 December 2024	<u>6,821</u>	<u>6,821</u>

Listed investments are 295 shares in the CBF's Investment Fund in trust - Dividends for the benefit of the CMF.

6	Analysis of net assets by fund	2024	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Total
			Funds	Funds	Funds	
			£	£	£	£
	Fixed assets		0	996,205	0	996,205
	Investments		0	6,821	0	6,821
	Current Assets		11,149	0	0	11,149
	Current Liabilities		(4,282)	0	0	(4,282)
	Liabilities greater than 1 Year		0	0	0	0
	Cash at bank		29,018	13,387	0	42,405
	Fund Balance at 31 December 2024		35,885	1,016,413	0	1,052,298
		2023	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Total
			Funds	Funds	Funds	
			£	£	£	£
	Fixed assets		0	1,022,281	0	1,022,281
	Investments		0	6,669	0	6,669
	Current Assets		6,061	0	0	6,061
	Current Liabilities		(4,608)	(24,461)	0	(29,069)
	Liabilities greater than 1 Year		0	0	0	0
	Cash at bank		49,571	22,738	0	72,309
	Fund Balance at 31 December 2023		51,024	1,027,227	0	1,078,251
7	Debtors			2024	2023	
				£	£	
	Income tax recoverable			9,847	3,190	
	Other debtors			0	0	
	Prepayments & accrued income			1,302	0	
				11,149	3,190	
8	Liabilities: Amounts falling due within one year					
	Loans			0	(24,461)	
	Trade creditors			0	0	
	Accruals and deferred income			(1,950)	(1,650)	
	Other creditors			(2,332)	(2,958)	
				(4,282)	(29,069)	
9	Liabilities: Amounts falling due more than one year					
	Loans			0	0	
				0	0	
10	Restricted Fund Details	2023	Income	Expenses	Transfers	2024
		£	£	£	£	£
	Land and Buildings Church community centre	1,020,952	0	(25,744)	0	995,208
	Computers and Equipment	1,329	0	(332)	0	997
	Investments	6,669	152	0	0	6,821
	Finish what we started	2,875	0	0	(2,875)	-
	Other	2,892	923	(1,597)	(1,389)	829
	C7	3,574	9148	(8,324)	0	4,398
	Men in sheds	1,864	0	(1,654)	0	210
	Romania Mission & foodbank	11,533	21088	(24,415)	(256)	7,950
	Loans	(24,461)	10741	(229)	13,949	0
		1,027,227	42,052	(62,295)	9,429	1,016,413
		2022	Income	Expenses	Transfers	2023
		£	£	£	£	£
	Land and Buildings Church community centre	1,046,696	0	(25,744)	0	1,020,952
	Computers and Equipment	793	0	(443)	979	1,329
	Investments	6,095	574	0	0	6,669
	Antioch Fund	0	630	(630)	0	0
	Other	876	9,029	(2,536)	(1,602)	5,767
	C7	3,663	11,541	(11,630)	0	3,574
	Church roof repairs	8,300	20,456	(28,756)	0	0
	Men In sheds	6,000	0	(4,136)	0	1,864
	Romania Mission & foodbank	11,500	32,418	(32,385)	0	11,533
	Loans	(60,510)	18,096	(1,100)	19053	(24,461)
		1,023,413	92,744	(107,360)	18,430	1,027,227

Transfers represent adjustments for subsidies from general funds, and timing between receipt and payment.

11 Contingent Liabilities

There is a potential contingent liability in respect of a grant given by Surestart of £272,996 for the Church community centre building project. The liability extends for 25 years from the initial receipt of the grant in 2011, during which period there is a requirement that the usage of the facilities is for the provision of registered childcare for 25 years. At 28 February 2024, the 12th anniversary of the building opening, the potential claw back stood at £141,956 calculated on a straight line basis.

12 Reserves policy

A target reserve of £90,000 is set to finance both day to day cash flow fluctuations, and to provide a contingency available for unexpected costs. In particular building repairs. Unrestricted funds at the year end £35,885 (2023: £51,024) are below this figure.

An appeal, backed by specific teaching on giving, has been set in place in 2025, with the aim of increasing income for the year by £50,000.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST JOHN COLCHESTER

England & Wales - Charity number 1127854

Accounts



**Annual Report & Financial Statements
Of the Parochial Church Council of
St John's Church,
St John's Close,
Colchester
CO4 0HP**

For the year ended 31st December 2023

Incumbent:

Vacant – Church in Inter Regnum

Bank:

Barclays Bank, High Street, Colchester

Independent Examiners:

Larking Gowen
Unit 1 Claydon Business Park
Great Blakenham
Ipswich, Suffolk
IP6 0NL

Registered Charity Number: 1127854

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JOHN'S. COLCHESTER

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Reports for year 2023
St. John's Church – Annual Report for 2023

Introduction

St John's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Incumbent in promoting within the Parish the whole mission of the Church – pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It oversees and directs the mission and work of the Parish Church of St John's within the parish boundaries. Rev Andy Sachs resigned as Priest in Charge of the Parish of St John's in July 2023. The Church started the recruitment process from July till the end of 2023. Rev Chris Willis assisted in leading the Church through the vacancy in 2023. A transition team was setup in order to assist the PCC and staff in the day to day running of the church.

These reports, along with the Organisation Reports of the various ministry streams of the church, illustrate how the PCC fulfils its obligations to benefit the public – mainly to the worshipping congregations and to the local communities, but also beyond.

PCC Membership

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year 2023 the following were member of the PCC:

Rev Andy Sachs	Chair	Resigned July 23	Ex-officio
Rev Chris Willis	Chair		Ex-officio
Rick Moore	Treasurer		Ex-officio
Jane Shelley	PCC Secretary	Started Sept 22	Ex-officio
Nik Read	Church Warden	Resigned April 23	
Alex Quayle	Church Warden		
Jeremaine Johnson	Church Warden	Elected April 23	1 Year
Mary Antony	Deanery Synod		
Alex Quayle	Deanery Synod		
Jeremaine Johnson	Deanery Synod		
Micky Roberts	Deanery Synod	Resigned April 23	
Tanaka Manika	Co-opted to Deanery Synod	Resigned April 23	
Dave Sollis	PCC	Resigned June 23	
Peter Birdseye	PCC		
Geoff Gilbert	PCC		
Joanna Marshall	PCC		
Tony Berry	PCC		

Ewan Darby	PCC		
Jane Cornell	PCC		
Nicky Sirett	PCC		
Jonathan Mulvey	PCC		
Clare Luxton	PCC		
Carol Cockrill	PCC		
Peter Theodosius	PCC		
Paul Morgan	PCC		
Nik Read	PCC	Elected April 23	
Helen Robinson	PCC	Elected April 23	

The PCC Operates through several committees/ groups which meet between the full meetings of the PCC

Standing Committee

This is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between it's meetings.

Mission Partnerships Group

The group was formed to serve this area on behalf of the PCC with he aim of overseeing and supporting our Mission Partnerships, both individually and with organisations.

Below is a list of the Mission Partners and organisations that SJC gave to in 2023:

Organisation	Amount
Nortons	£6698
Toths	£5710

Vicar's Discretionary Fund - £1000

Safeguarding Compliance Group

The safeguarding compliance group, chaired by our Parish Safeguarding Office meets 3-4 times per year to keep SJC both fully compliant with the Safeguarding Policy of the Church of England and to enable SJC to continue to develop a safeguarding culture around every area of church life.

Electoral Roll

2023 Roll Revision – 17 new Electoral Roll forms were filled in, of which 6 are residents of the Parish and 11 are non-residents. There were 14 who come off the list due to various reasons making the totals 98 resident, 165 non- resident, 263 total for 2023.

Being listed on the Electoral Roll of St. John's gives you a say in how your Church is run. To vote at the AVM or to stand for election onto our PCC you must be on the Electoral Roll of the Church.

Electoral Roll Officer – Tony Berry

Attendance

The average weekly attendance at St John's, counted during October 2023 was 174. There were an average of 80 views of the services put out each Sunday during October.

We conducted the following: 10 Baptisms, 0 Marriages, 12 Funerals in the Church of conducted elsewhere, eg: Crematorium.

	St. John's – Resident	Non-Resident	Total
2021	99	175	274
2022	96	164	260
2023	98	165	263

Church Wardens Report – The Aims of St John's Church in 2023

St John's PCC is responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the Parish Church building, a Church Community Centre and the mission and ministry of St John's Church Family, located in and in relation to the estate of St John's in north Colchester. As a resourcing church SJC has the aim of impacting the lives of those beyond the parish too with the vision of '*Following Jesus, loving people and transforming the world*'.

On behalf of the PCC, I am grateful to all those who gave their time this year to enable the mission and ministry of St John's Church to flourish. I am grateful to all who have quietly served in so many ways throughout the year – I really appreciate it. I want to thank all those who gave their money so generously to the work of St John's Church in 2023 – thank you for your incredible generosity.

Jeremaine Johnson – Church Warden

Financial review

The annual accounts for 2023 record a total income increased to £395,795 (2022: £357,765). There was an increase in voluntary income to £340,171 (2022: £314,205), which included £20,327 grants received and Vat recovered on the church roof repairs. Rentals from the community centre & church family centre increased to £52,315 (2022: £41,826).

Tax recovered from Gift Aid and the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS) was £43,117, (£42,573 in 2022). Tax recovery remains a substantial contribution to the total income.

The year included exceptional expenditure on roof repairs of £56,189, resulting in total expenditure for the year of £437,864, compared to £366,783 in 2022. This included our parish share to the diocese of £109,890. On 31 December 2023, the principal balances were £51,024 in the general fund and £1,027,227 in the restricted fund. Overall, the accounts show a deficit of £ (41,535) compared with a deficit of £ (9,831) in 2022.



Jeremaine Johnson
Church Warden

25 March 2024



Alex Quayle
Church Warden

25 March 2024

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of The Parochial Church Council of St John's Church, Colchester

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of St John's Church ('the Charity') for the year ended 31 December 2023 which are set out on pages 9 to 15.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act'). You are satisfied that the accounts of the Charity are not required by charity law to be audited and have chosen instead to have an independent examination.

I report in respect of my examination of the accounts. I have carried out my examination under section 145 of 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 matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records, with respect to the Charity, were not kept as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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.

This report is made solely to the Charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the Charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent examiners report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charity and the Charity's Trustees as a body, for my work or this report.



.....

Name: Giles Kerkham FCA DChA

**Larking Gowen LLP
Chartered Accountants
1 Claydon Business Park
Ipswich
IP6 0NL**

Date: 26 April 2024

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JOHN'S. COLCHESTER

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES For the period ended 31st December 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL FUNDS	
		£	£	2023	2022
INCOME & ENDOWMENTS FROM:					
Voluntary income (direct giving)	2(a)	247,984	630	248,614	250,829
Other voluntary income	2(b)	200	91,357	91,557	63,376
		<u>248,184</u>	<u>91,987</u>	<u>340,171</u>	<u>314,205</u>
Charitable activities	2(c)	54,852	0	54,852	43,304
Other trading activities	2(d)	0	0	0	0
Investments	2(e)	549	183	732	256
TOTAL INCOME & ENDOWMENTS		<u>303,585</u>	<u>92,170</u>	<u>395,755</u>	<u>357,765</u>
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Charitable activities:					
Missionary and Charitable Giving	3(a)	17,192	51,317	68,509	48,377
Directly relating to the work of the church	3(b)	313,312	56,043	369,355	318,406
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		<u>330,504</u>	<u>107,360</u>	<u>437,864</u>	<u>366,783</u>
NET GAINS/LOSSES ON INVESTMENTS					
Exceptional items		0	574	574	(813)
		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
		<u>0</u>	<u>574</u>	<u>574</u>	<u>(813)</u>
NET INCOME/EXPENDITURE		(26,919)	(14,616)	(41,535)	(9,831)
Transfers between funds:					
Loans repaid	10	(19,053)	19,053	0	0
Other		622	(622)	0	0
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		<u>(45,350)</u>	<u>3,815</u>	<u>(41,535)</u>	<u>(9,831)</u>
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:					
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1 JANUARY 2023 (2022)		96,374	1,023,412	1,119,786	1,129,617
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD At 31st December 2023		<u>51,024</u>	<u>1,027,227</u>	<u>1,078,251</u>	<u>1,119,786</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JOHN'S, COLCHESTER

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	5(a)	1,022,281	1,047,489
Investments	5(b)	6,669	6,095
Total Fixed Assets		<u>1,028,950</u>	<u>1,053,584</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	7	3,190	6,061
Short term deposits		48,397	77,848
Cash at bank and in hand		26,783	46,238
		<u>78,370</u>	<u>130,147</u>
CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR			
	8	<u>(29,069)</u>	<u>(39,460)</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS			
		49,301	90,687
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			
		<u>1,078,251</u>	<u>1,144,271</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year			
	9	0	(24,485)
NET ASSETS			
		<u>1,078,251</u>	<u>1,119,786</u>
FUNDS			
Unrestricted		51,024	96,374
Restricted	10	1,027,227	1,023,412
		<u>1,078,251</u>	<u>1,119,786</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on Monday 25th March 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Jeremaine Johnson
Church Warden



Alex Quayle
Church Warden

The accompanying notes form part of these accounts.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
ST JOHN'S, COLCHESTER
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

1. Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared under the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the current Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities and applicable accounting standard FRS 102.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair' view. This departure has involved following SORP 2015 (FRS 102) rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value.

The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102.

Funds

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.

Restricted funds are those funds that must be spent on restricted purposes, and details of the funds held and restrictions are provided in note 9.

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law, they do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Incoming Resources

Voluntary Income and Capital Sources

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.

Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised only when received.

Income tax recoverable on gift aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is reasonably certain.

Funds raised by fetes, garden parties and similar events are accounted for gross.

Sales of books and magazines from the Church Bookstall are accounted for gross.

Other Ordinary Income

Rental income from the letting of Church premises is recognised when the rental is due.

Income from investments

Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable. Tax recoverable on such income is recognised in the same accounting year.

Gains and Losses on Investments

Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold.

Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31 December.

Resources Used

Grants

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

Activities directly relating to the work of the Church

The diocesan quota or parish share is accounted for when payable. Any quota unpaid at 31 December is provided for in these accounts as an operational (though not a legal) liability, and is shown as a creditor in the Balance Sheet.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated Land and Buildings and Movable Church Furnishings

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by section 10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011. Movable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the Church's Inventory which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For inalienable property acquired prior to (2000) there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the accounts. Items acquired since 1 January (2000) have been capitalized and depreciated in the accounts over their currently anticipated useful economic life (initially over 10 years) on a straight-line basis.

Other Fixtures, Fittings and Office Equipment

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a reducing balance basis over 4 years, and buildings at 2% on a straight line basis per annum. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £2,500 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

Investment in subsidiary companies is stated at cost less provision for permanent diminution in value. Dividends are brought to income resources when received

Current Assets

Amounts owing to the PCC on 31 December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.

Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit, either with the CBF Church of England Funds, or at the bank.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JOHN'S, COLCHESTER

Notes to the Financial Statements For the period ended 31st December 2023

2 INCOMING RESOURCES

		TOTAL FUNDS	
		2023	2022
		£	£
2(a)	Voluntary income (direct giving)		
	Planned giving:		
	Gift Aid	156,337	147,798
	Income tax recoverable on gift aid	41,052	40,449
	Other giving	630	-
	Collections	5,529	5,716
	Sundry donations	45,066	56,866
		248,614	250,829
	[2022: Restricted £115, Unrestricted £250,714, Total £250,829]		
2(b)	Other voluntary income		
	Donations, appeals, etc.	79,375	53,252
	Income tax recoverable	2,065	2,124
	Government grants	9,917	6,000
	Legacies	200	2,000
		91,557	63,376
	[2022: Restricted £61,376, Unrestricted £2,000, Total £63,376]		
2(c)	Charitable activities		
	Church community centre income etc.	52,315	41,826
	Events	1,775	1,430
	Fees - other	762	48
		54,852	43,304
	[2022: Restricted £0, Unrestricted £43,304, Total £43,304]		
2(d)	Other trading activities		
		-	-
2(e)	Investments		
	Dividends and interest including any reclaimed tax	732	256
		732	256
	[2022: Restricted £181, Unrestricted £75 Total £256]		
TOTAL INCOME & ENDOWMENTS		395,755	357,765
	[2022: Restricted £61,672, Unrestricted £296,093, Total £357,765]		

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JOHN'S, COLCHESTER

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For the period ended 31st December 2023

3 Resources used

		TOTAL FUNDS	
		2023	2022
		£	£
3(a)	Grants		
	Missionary and charitable giving:		
	Church overseas:		
	- Missionary societies and charitable giving	0	0
	Home missions and other Church Societies:		
	Parish mission	4,310	5,009
	Mission partnership	12,677	10,190
	C7	11,630	13,310
	Romania mission trip expenses	32,385	12,602
	Other	7,507	7,266
		68,509	48,377

[2022: Restricted £32,718, Unrestricted £15,659, Total £48,377]

3(b)	Activities directly relating to the work of the Church		
	Ministry: diocesan quota	109,890	121,311
	clergy expenses	2,033	2,128
	Church - running expenses	25,441	24,555
	Independent Examination fees	1,625	1,600
	Church maintenance	51,862	44,284
	Church roof repairs	56,189	0
	Training	1,062	2,472
	Church community centre running costs	19,309	23,876
	Mortgage Interest	1,100	1,989
	Salaries	100,844	96,191
		369,355	318,406

[2022: Restricted £27,997, Unrestricted £290,409, Total £318,406]

Total Resources Used

437,864 366,783

[2022: Restricted £60,715, Unrestricted £306,068, Total £366,783]

4 Total Staff Costs	2023	2022
Wages and salaries	94,001	90,072
Social security costs	5,490	4,765
Pension costs	1,353	1,354
	100,844	96,191
Average number of paid staff	6	6

During 2023 the PCC employed no staff earning over £60,000
 No employee benefits were received by key management personnel.

	2023		2022
Salaries paid to members of staff having connections with the PCC:			
Mrs M Read (wife of PCC member)	£ 9,093	£	10,856
Ms C Luxton (PCC member)	£ 28,288	£	27,140
Mrs J Roberts (wife of PCC member)	£ 12,046	£	12,622
E Darby (PCC member)	£ 14,144	£	13,922
W Darby	£ -	£	4,466

No further payments or expenses were paid to any other PCC member, person connected with them or related party.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JOHN'S, COLCHESTER

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For the period ended 31st December 2023

5	Fixed Assets for use by the PCC	Land and Buildings £	Computers & Equipment £	Total £
5(a)	Tangible fixed assets			
	Gross Book Value at 1 January 2023	1,394,947	23,929	1,418,876
	Additions	0	979	979
	Disposals	0	0	0
	at 31 December 2023	<u>1,394,947</u>	<u>24,908</u>	<u>1,419,855</u>
	Depreciation at 1 January 2023	348,251	23,136	371,387
	Charge for year	25,744	443	26,187
	Disposals	0	0	0
	at 31 December 2023	<u>373,995</u>	<u>23,579</u>	<u>397,574</u>
	Net Book Value at 31 December 2023	<u>1,020,952</u>	<u>1,329</u>	<u>1,022,281</u>
	at 31 December 2022	<u>1,046,696</u>	<u>793</u>	<u>1,047,489</u>

The freehold land and buildings comprises the church community centre and associated land.
 Freehold land costing £120,000 (2022: £120,000) is not depreciated.

Our current mortgage stands at £24,461 (2022: £60,510).

5	Investments for use by the PCC	Listed Investments	Total
5(b)	Investments		
	Cost		
	At 1 January 2023	6,095	6,095
	Additions	0	0
	Revaluation	574	574
	Disposals	0	0
	At 31 December 2023	<u>6,669</u>	<u>6,669</u>

Listed investments are 295 shares in the CBF's Investment Fund in trust - Dividends for the benefit of the CM

6	Analysis of net assets by fund	2023	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Total
			Funds	Funds	Funds	
			£	£	£	£
	Fixed assets		0	1,022,281	0	1,022,281
	Investments		0	6,669	0	6,669
	Current Assets		6,061	0	0	6,061
	Current Liabilities		(4,608)	(24,461)	0	(29,069)
	Liabilities greater than 1 Year		0	0	0	0
	Cash at bank		49,571	22,738	0	72,309
	Fund Balance at 31 December 2023		51,024	1,027,227	0	1,078,251

6	Analysis of net assets by fund	2022	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Total
			Funds	Funds	Funds	
			£	£	£	£
	Fixed assets		0	1,047,489	0	1,047,489
	Investments		0	6,095	0	6,095
	Current Assets		6,061	0	0	6,061
	Current Liabilities		(3,435)	(36,025)	0	(39,460)
	Liabilities greater than 1 Year		0	(24,485)	0	(24,485)
	Cash at bank		93,747	30,339	0	124,086
	Fund Balance at 31 December 2022		96,373	1,023,413	0	1,119,786

7	Debtors		2023	2022
			£	£
	Income tax recoverable		3,190	2,778
	Other debtors		0	3,283
	Prepayments & accrued income		0	0
			3,190	6,061

8	Liabilities: Amounts falling due within one year		2023	2022
			£	£
	Loans		(24,461)	(36,025)
	Trade creditors		0	0
	Accruals and deferred income		(1,650)	(1,625)
	Other creditors		(2,958)	(1,810)
			(29,069)	(39,460)

9	Liabilities: Amounts falling due more than one year		2023	2022
			£	£
	Loans		0	(24,485)
			0	(24,485)

10	Restricted Fund Details	2022	Income	Expenses	Transfers	2023
		£	£	£	£	£
	Land and Buildings Church community centre	1,046,696	0	(25,744)	0	1,020,952
	Computers and Equipment	793	0	(443)	979	1,329
	Investments	6,095	574	0	0	6,669
	Antioch Fund	0	630	(630)	0	0
	Other	876	9,029	(2,536)	(1,602)	5,767
	C7	3,663	11,541	(11,630)	0	3,574
	Church roof repairs	8,300	20,456	(28,756)	0	0
	Men in sheds	6,000	0	(4,136)	0	1,864
	Romania Mission & foodbank	11,500	32,418	(32,385)	0	11,533
	Loans	(60,510)	18,096	(1,100)	19,053	(24,461)
		1,023,413	92,744	(107,360)	18,430	1,027,227

10	Restricted Fund Details	2021	Income	Expenses	Transfers	2022
		£	£	£	£	£
	Land and Buildings Church community centre	1,072,440	0	(25,744)	0	1,046,696
	Computers and Equipment	957	0	(264)	100	793
	Investments	6,908	632	0	-181	6,095
	Antioch Fund	0	115	(115)	0	0
	Other	876	1,180	(2,030)	850	876
	C7	5,369	11,604	(13,310)	0	3,663
	Church roof repairs	6,500	1,800	0	0	8,300
	Men in sheds	0	6,000	0	0	6,000
	Romania Mission & foodbank	6,255	22,927	(17,263)	(419)	11,500
	Loans	(95,670)	17,865	(1,989)	19,284	(60,510)
		1,003,635	60,859	(60,715)	19,634	1,023,413

Transfers represent adjustments for subsidies from general funds, and timing between receipt and payment.

11	Contingent Liabilities
	There is a potential contingent liability in respect of a grant given by Surestart of £272,996 for the Church community centre building project. The liability extends for 25 years from the initial receipt of the grant in 2011, during which period there is a requirement that the usage of the facilities is for the provision of registered childcare for 25 years.

12	Reserves policy
	A target reserve of £90,000 is set to finance both day to day cash flow fluctuations, and to provide a contingency available for unexpected costs, in particular building repairs. Unrestricted funds at the year end £51,024 (2022: £96,374) are below this figure, due to exceptional roof repair costs £56,189 incurred during the year.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST JOHN COLCHESTER

England & Wales - Charity number 1127854

Accounts



**Annual Report
&
Financial Statements
of the Parochial Church Council of
St. John's Close
Colchester
CO4 0HP**

For the year ended 31 December 2022

Incumbent:

Rev'd Andy Sachs

Bank:

Barclays Bank

High Street

Colchester

Independent Examiners:

Larking Gowen

Unit 1 Claydon Business Park

Great Blakenham

Ipswich Suffolk

IP6 0NL

Registered Charity Number: 1127854

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AVM – April 2023

Reports for year 2022

St. John's Church - Annual Report for 2022

Introduction

St John's PCC has the responsibility of co - operating with the Incumbent in promoting within the Parish the whole mission of the Church - pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical. It oversees and directs the mission and work of the Parish Church of St John's within the parish boundaries. Rev. Andy Sachs was appointed in September 2012 as Priest in Charge of the Parish of St John's. These reports, along with the Organisation Reports of the various ministry streams of the church, illustrate how the PCC fulfils its obligations to benefit the public - mainly to the worshipping congregations and to the local communities, but also beyond.

PCC Membership

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year 2022 the following were members of the PCC:

Andy Sachs	Chair		Ex-officio
Rick Moore	Treasurer		Ex-officio
Celia Wells	PCC Secretary	Resigned Sept 22	Ex-officio
Jane Shelley	PCC Secretary	Started Sept 22	Ex-officio
Nik Read	Church Warden	Elected April 22	1 Year
Alex Quayle	Church Warden	Elected Jan – Apr 22 Following resignation of Denise Johnson in Jan 22.Re-elected Apr 22	1 Year
Dave Gentry	Deanery/Diocesan Synod	Resigned April 22	
Mary Antony	Deanery Synod		
Hope Osayande	Deanery Synod	Resigned Jan 22	
Alex Quayle	Deanery Synod		
Martin Roscoe	Deanery Synod		
Micky Roberts	Deanery Synod	Elected 27th April 22	
Tanaka Manika	Co-opted to Deanery Synod	July 22	
Dave Sollis	PCC		
Peter Birdseye	PCC		
Geoff Gilbert	PCC	Elected 27th April 22	

Joanna Marshall	PCC	Elected 27th April 22	
Tony Berry	PCC	Elected 27th April 22	
Ewan Darby	PCC	Elected 27th April 22	
Jane Cornell	PCC		
Nicky Sirett	PCC		
Jonathan Mulvey	PCC		
Clare Luxton	PCC	Elected 27th April 22	
Carol Cockrill	PCC		
Peter Theodosius	PCC		
Claire Eley	PCC	Resigned Nov 22	
Paul Morgan	PCC		

The PCC operates through several committees/groups which meet between the full meetings of the PCC -

Standing Committee

This is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings.

Mission Partnerships Group

This group was formed to serve this area on behalf of the PCC with the aim of overseeing and supporting our Mission Partnerships, both individually and with organisations.

Below is a list of the Mission Partners and organisations that SJC gave to in 2022:

Nortons - £5940

Toths - £3860

Maria Read - £8445.77

The Mission Partners group also paid for a pergola for St Anne's (£385) and covered the cost of the van hire (£120), which transported to the Ukraine donations to Maidstone.

Vicar's Discretionary Fund - £850

Safeguarding Compliance Group

The safeguarding compliance group, chaired by our Parish Safeguarding Officer meets 3-4 times per year to keep SJC both fully compliant with the Safeguarding Policy of the Church of England and to enable SJC to continue to develop a safeguarding culture around every area of church life.

Community Centre Management Committee (CCMC)

This PCC sub-committee ensures that the Community Centre is run with a missional business ethos, with the vision for: 'blessing the local community by providing a facility that encourages a healthy lifestyle, promotes family life and provides educational opportunities', utilizing the facility as an instrument for seeing God's Kingdom come and generating income to support the church's missional work. From Lockdown in March 2020, much of the hiring was curtailed. During the pandemic lockdowns CCMC's decision-making reverted to the Standing Committee. From autumn 2021 the hiring of the Community Centre has increased, and has done so throughout 2022, and with that in mind the CCMC has not yet had cause to be reconvened.

Electoral Roll

April 2022 Roll Revision – 6 new Electoral Roll forms were filled in, of which 1 are resident of the Parish and 5 are non-resident. Being listed on the Electoral Roll of St. John's gives you a say in how your Church is run. To vote at the AVM, or to stand for election onto our PCC you must be on the Electoral Roll of the Church. If you missed out this year, or if you are unsure whether you are already included, then please speak to our Electoral Roll Officer – Tony Berry, who will be able to ensure that you are entered on in time for next year's roll.

April 2023 – 17 new Electoral Roll forms were filled in, of which 6 are resident of the Parish and 11 are non-resident. There were 14 who came off the list due to various reasons making the totals 98 resident, 165 non-resident, 263 total for 2023.

Attendance

The average weekly attendance at St John's counted during October 2022 was 154. There were an average of 64 views of the services put out each Sunday during October.

We conducted the following: - 19 Baptisms, 1 Marriage, 7 Funerals in the Church or conducted elsewhere, e.g crematorium.

	St. John's Resident	Non - Resident	
2021	99	175	274
2022	96	164	260
2023	98	165	263

Vicars Report - The Aims of St John's Church in 2022

St John's PCC is responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the Parish Church building, a Church Community Centre and the mission and ministry of St John's Church Family, located in and in relation to the estate of St John's in north Colchester. As a resourcing church SJC has the aim of impacting the lives of those beyond the parish too with the vision of 'Following Jesus, loving people and transforming the world'.

2022 has been a year of coming out of the Covid related 'liminal season' and beginning to rebuild after the effects of Covid.

Activities have continued to restart in the Church buildings and a monthly new Messy Church for families of SEND children named 'Kaleidoscope' started in July 22.

At the April AVM I suggested that whilst still in a liminal season we were rebuilding and might be:

servant-hearted- with an encouragement to serve in different areas of church life
outward focused- the Sunday service pattern having been reworked and now including 2 Impact Weekends in the Autumn of 2022

acknowledging our anxieties- we have numbers in services increase as the year has progressed and Christmas service were well attended by members of the wider community

Prayerful and grace-filled- with a prayer gathering once a month on Sunday evenings

On behalf of the PCC, I am grateful to all those who gave their time this year to enable the mission and ministry of St John's Church to flourish. I am grateful to all who have quietly served in so many ways throughout the year- I really appreciate it. I want to thank all those who gave of their money so generously to the work of St John's Church in 2022- thank you for your incredible generosity.

Rev. Andy Sachs

Financial review

Following two years significantly affected by Covid-19 and the resultant lockdowns, income has increased in 2022. Income from collections increased to £5,716 (2021: £4,163), and rentals from the community centre & church family centre increased to £42,073 (2021: £33,252).

The annual accounts for 2022 record a total income of £357,765, compared to £306,420 in 2021. Tax recovered from Gift Aid and the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS) was £42,573, (£35,253 in 2021). Tax recovery remains a substantial contribution to the total income. Total expenditure for the year was £366,783, compared to £321,263 in 2021. This included our parish share to the diocese of £121,311. On 31 December 2022, the principal balances were £96,374 in the general fund and £1,023,412 in the restricted fund. Overall, the accounts show a deficit of £ (9,831) compared with a deficit of £ (4,979) in 2021.



Rev. Andy Sachs (29 Mar 2023)



Mr Nik Read (29 Mar 2023)

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of The Parochial Church Council of St John's Church, Colchester

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of St John's Church ('the Charity') for the year ended 31 December 2022 which are set out on pages 9 to 15.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act'). You are satisfied that the accounts of the Charity are not required by charity law to be audited and have chosen instead to have an independent examination.

I report in respect of my examination of the accounts. I have carried out my examination under section 145 of 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

Since the Charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

1. accounting records, with respect to the Charity, were not kept as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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.

This report is made solely to the Charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the Charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent examiners report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charity and the Charity's Trustees as a body, for my work or this report.



Name: Giles Kerkham FCA DChA

**Larking Gowen LLP
Chartered Accountants
1 Claydon Business Park
Ipswich
IP6 0NL**

Date: 27 April 2023

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JOHN'S, COLCHESTER

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
For the period ended 31st December 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL FUNDS	
		£	£	2022	2021
INCOME & ENDOWMENTS FROM:					
Voluntary income (direct giving)	2(a)	250,714	115	250,829	218,435
Other voluntary income	2(b)	2,000	61,376	63,376	55,408
		<u>252,714</u>	<u>61,491</u>	<u>314,205</u>	<u>273,843</u>
Charitable activities	2(c)	43,304	0	43,304	32,394
Other trading activities	2(d)	0	0	0	0
Investments	2(e)	75	181	256	183
TOTAL INCOME & ENDOWMENTS		<u>296,093</u>	<u>61,672</u>	<u>357,765</u>	<u>306,420</u>
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Charitable activities:					
Missionary and Charitable Giving	3(a)	15,659	32,718	48,377	17,401
Directly relating to the work of the church	3(b)	290,409	27,997	318,406	294,862
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		<u>306,068</u>	<u>60,715</u>	<u>366,783</u>	<u>312,263</u>
NET GAINS/LOSSES ON INVESTMENTS					
Exceptional items		0	(813)	(813)	864
		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
		<u>0</u>	<u>(813)</u>	<u>(813)</u>	<u>864</u>
NET INCOME/EXPENDITURE		<u>(9,975)</u>	<u>144</u>	<u>(9,831)</u>	<u>(4,979)</u>
Transfers between funds:					
Loans repaid	10	(19,284)	19,284	0	0
Other		(350)	350	0	0
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		<u>(29,609)</u>	<u>19,778</u>	<u>(9,831)</u>	<u>(4,979)</u>
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:					
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1 JANUARY 2022 (2021)					
		125,983	1,003,634	1,129,617	1,134,596
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD					
At 31st December 2022					
		<u>96,374</u>	<u>1,023,412</u>	<u>1,119,786</u>	<u>1,129,617</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JOHN'S, COLCHESTER

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	5(a)	1,047,489	1,073,397
Investments	5(b)	<u>6,095</u>	<u>6,908</u>
Total Fixed Assets		<u>1,053,584</u>	<u>1,080,305</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	7	6,061	6,062
Short term deposits		77,848	77,773
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>46,238</u>	<u>69,071</u>
		<u>130,147</u>	<u>152,906</u>
CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING			
DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR			
	8	<u>(39,460)</u>	<u>(43,043)</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS			
		90,687	109,863
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			
		<u>1,144,271</u>	<u>1,190,168</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	9	(24,485)	(60,551)
NET ASSETS			
		<u>1,119,786</u>	<u>1,129,617</u>
FUNDS			
Unrestricted		96,374	125,983
Restricted	10	<u>1,023,412</u>	<u>1,003,634</u>
		<u>1,119,786</u>	<u>1,129,617</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 29 March 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Mr Andy Sachs (Chairman)



Mr Nik Read (Lay Vice-Chair)

The accompanying notes form part of these accounts.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
ST JOHN'S, COLCHESTER
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

1. Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared under the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the current Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities and applicable accounting standard FRS 102.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair' view. This departure has involved following SORP 2015 (FRS 102) rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value.

The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102.

Funds

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.

Restricted funds are those funds that must be spent on restricted purposes, and details of the funds held and restrictions are provided in note 9.

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law, they do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Incoming Resources

Voluntary Income and Capital Sources

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.

Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised only when received.

Income tax recoverable on gift aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is reasonably certain.

Funds raised by fetes, garden parties and similar events are accounted for gross.

Sales of books and magazines from the Church Bookstall are accounted for gross.

Other Ordinary Income

Rental income from the letting of Church premises is recognised when the rental is due.

Income from investments

Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable. Tax recoverable on such income is recognised in the same accounting year.

Gains and Losses on Investments

Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold.

Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31 December.

Resources Used

Grants

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

Activities directly relating to the work of the Church

The diocesan quota or parish share is accounted for when payable. Any quota unpaid at 31 December is provided for in these accounts as an operational (though not a legal) liability, and is shown as a creditor in the Balance Sheet.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated Land and Buildings and Movable Church Furnishings

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by section 10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011. Movable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the Church's Inventory which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For inalienable property acquired prior to (2000) there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the accounts. Items acquired since 1 January (2000) have been capitalized and depreciated in the accounts over their currently anticipated useful economic life (initially over 10 years) on a straight-line basis.

Other Fixtures, Fittings and Office Equipment

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a reducing balance basis over 4 years, and buildings at 2% on a straight line basis per annum. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £2,500 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

Investment in subsidiary companies is stated at cost less provision for permanent diminution in value. Dividends are brought to income resources when received

Current Assets

Amounts owing to the PCC on 31 December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.

Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit, either with the CBF Church of England Funds, or at the bank.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JOHN'S, COLCHESTER

Notes to the Financial Statements For the period ended 31st December 2022

2 INCOMING RESOURCES

		TOTAL FUNDS	
		2022	2021
		£	£
2(a)	Voluntary income (direct giving)		
	Planned giving:		
	Gift Aid	147,798	132,201
	Income tax recoverable on gift aid	40,449	32,516
	Other giving	-	-
	Collections	5,716	4,163
	Sundry donations	56,866	49,555
		250,829	218,435
	[2021: Restricted £150, Unrestricted £218,285, Total £218,435]		
2(b)	Other voluntary income		
	Donations, appeals, etc.	53,252	29,123
	Income tax recoverable	2,124	2,737
	Government grants	6,000	23,548
	Legacies	2,000	-
		63,376	55,408
	[2021: Restricted £31,860, Unrestricted £23,548, Total £55,408]		
2(c)	Charitable activities		
	Church community centre income etc.	41,826	31,870
	Events	1,430	1,472
	Fees - other	48	948
		43,304	32,394
	[2021: Restricted £0, Unrestricted £32,394, Total £32,394]		
2(d)	Other trading activities		
		-	-
2(e)	Investments		
	Dividends and interest including any reclaimed tax	256	183
		256	183
	[2021: Restricted £175, Unrestricted £8 Total £183]		
TOTAL INCOME & ENDOWMENTS		357,765	306,420
	[2021: Restricted £32,185, Unrestricted £274,235, Total £306,420]		

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JOHN'S, COLCHESTER

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the period ended 31st December 2022

3 Resources used		TOTAL FUNDS	
		2022	2021
		£	£
3(a)	Grants		
	Missionary and charitable giving:		
	Church overseas:		
	- Missionary societies and charitable giving	0	0
	Home missions and other Church Societies	48,377	17,401
		<u>48,377</u>	<u>17,401</u>
	[2021: Restricted £3,235, Unrestricted £14,166, Total £17,401]		
3(b)	Activities directly relating to the work of the Church		
	Ministry: diocesan quota	121,311	115,001
	clergy expenses	2,128	1,418
	Church - running expenses	24,555	17,203
	Independent Examination fees	1,600	1,575
	Church maintenance	44,284	45,608
	Training	2,472	2,705
	Expenditure on parish magazine and bookstall	0	85
	Building repairs & renewals	0	0
	Church community centre running costs	23,876	16,326
	Mortgage Interest	1,989	2,576
	Salaries	96,191	92,365
		<u>318,406</u>	<u>294,862</u>
	[2021: Restricted £33,639, Unrestricted £261,223, Total £294,862]		
	Total Resources Used	<u>366,783</u>	<u>312,263</u>
	[2021: Restricted £36,874, Unrestricted £275,389, Total £312,263]		
4	Total Staff Costs	2022	2021
	Wages and salaries	90,072	86,337
	Social security costs	4,765	4,620
	Pension costs	1,354	1,408
		<u>96,191</u>	<u>92,365</u>
	Average number of paid staff	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
	During 2022 the PCC employed no staff earning over £60,000		
	No employee benefits were received by key management personnel.		
	2022		
	Salaries paid to members of staff having connections with the PCC:		
	Mrs M Read (wife of PCC member)	£ 10,856	
	Ms C Luxton (PCC member)	£ 27,140	
	Mrs J Roberts (wife of PCC member)	£ 12,622	
	E Darby (PCC member)	£ 13,922	
	W Darby	£ 4,466	
	No further payments or expenses were paid to any other PCC member, person connected with them or related party.		

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JOHN'S, COLCHESTER

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For the period ended 31st December 2022

5	Fixed Assets for use by the PCC	Land and Buildings £	Computers & Equipment £	Total £
5(a)	Tangible fixed assets			
	Gross Book Value at 1 January 2022	1,394,947	23,829	1,418,776
	Additions	0	100	100
	Disposals	0	0	0
	at 31 December 2022	1,394,947	23,929	1,418,876
	Depreciation at 1 January 2022	322,507	22,872	345,379
	Charge for year	25,744	264	26,008
	Disposals	0	0	0
	at 31 December 2022	348,251	23,136	371,387
	Net Book Value at 31 December 2022	1,046,696	793	1,047,489
	at 31 December 2021	1,072,440	957	1,073,397

The freehold land and buildings comprises the church community centre and associated land. Freehold land costing £120,000 (2021: £120,000) is not depreciated.

Our current mortgage stands at £60,510 (2021: £95670).

5	Investments for use by the PCC	Listed Investments	Total
5(b)	Investments		
	Cost		
	At 1 January 2022	6,908	6,908
	Additions	0	0
	Revaluation	(813)	(813)
	Disposals	0	0
	At 31 December 2022	6,095	6,095

Listed investments are 295 shares in the CBF's Investment Fund in trust - Dividends for the benefit of the CMF.

6	Analysis of net assets by fund	2022	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total £
	Fixed assets		0	1,047,489	0	1,047,489
	Investments		0	6,095	0	6,095
	Current Assets		6,061	0	0	6,061
	Current Liabilities		(3,435)	(36,025)	0	(39,460)
	Liabilities greater than 1 Year		0	(24,485)	0	(24,485)
	Cash at bank		93,747	30,339	0	124,086
	Fund Balance at 31 December 2022		96,373	1,023,413	0	1,119,786
		2021	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total £
	Fixed assets		0	1,073,397	0	1,073,397
	Investments		0	6,908	0	6,908
	Current Assets		6,061	0	0	6,061
	Current Liabilities		(4,174)	(38,869)	0	(43,043)
	Liabilities greater than 1 Year		0	(60,551)	0	(60,551)
	Cash at bank		124,096	22,749	0	146,845
	Fund Balance at 31 December 2021		125,983	1,003,634	0	1,129,617

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JOHN'S, COLCHESTER

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For the period ended 31st December 2022

7	Debtors	2022	2021
		£	£
	Income tax recoverable	2,778	2,966
	Other debtors	3,283	3,096
	Prepayments & accrued income	0	0
		6,061	6,062
8	Liabilities: Amounts falling due within one year		
	Loans	(36,025)	(35,119)
	Trade creditors	0	(795)
	Accruals and deferred income	(1,625)	(1,600)
	Other creditors	(1,810)	(5,529)
		(39,460)	(43,043)
9	Liabilities: Amounts falling due more than one year		
	Loans	(24,485)	(60,551)
		(24,485)	(60,551)

10	Restricted Fund Details	2021	Income	Expenses	Transfers	2022
		£	£	£	£	£
	Land and Buildings Church community centre	1,072,440	0	(25,744)	0	1,046,696
	Computers and Equipment	957	0	(264)	100	793
	Investments	6,908	(632)	0	-181	6,095
	Antioch Fund	0	115	(115)	0	0
	Other	876	1180	(2,030)	850	876
	C7	5,369	11604	(13,310)	0	3,663
	Church roof repairs	6,500	1800	0	0	8,300
	Men in sheds	-	6000	0	0	6,000
	Romania Mission & foodbank	6,255	22927	(17,263)	(419)	11,500
	Loans	(95,670)	17865	(1,989)	19,284	(60,510)
		1,003,635	60,859	(60,715)	19,634	1,023,413

		2020	Income	Expenses	Transfers	2021
		£	£	£	£	£
	Land and Buildings Church community centre	1,098,184	0	(25,744)	0	1,072,440
	Computers and Equipment	1,276	0	(319)	0	957
	Investments	6,044	864	0	0	6,908
	Antioch Fund	0	151	(151)	0	0
	Other	6,867	3255	(6,104)	(3,142)	876
	C7	4,369	1000	0	0	5,369
	Church roof repairs	-	6500	0	0	6,500
	Romania Mission & foodbank	5347	3246	(1,980)	-358	6,255
	Loans	(108,301)	18034	(2,576)	-2827	(95,670)
		1,013,786	33,050	(36,874)	(6,327)	1,003,635

Transfers represent adjustments for subsidies from general funds, and timing between receipt and payment.

11 **Contingent Liabilities**
 There is a potential contingent liability in respect of a grant given by Surestart of £272,996 for the Church community centre building project. The liability extends for 25 years from the initial receipt of the grant in 2011, during which period there is a requirement that the usage of the facilities is for the provision of registered childcare for 25 years.

12 **Reserves policy**
 A target reserve of £90,000 is set to finance both day to day cash flow fluctuations, and to provide a contingency available for unexpected costs, in particular building repairs. Unrestricted funds at the year end £96,374 (2021: £125,983) exceed this figure.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST JOHN COLCHESTER

England & Wales - Charity number 1127854

Accounts



**Annual Report
&
Financial Statements
of the Parochial Church Council of
St. John's Close
Colchester
CO4 0HP**

For the year ended 31 December 2021

Incumbent:

Rev'd Andy Sachs

Bank:

Barclays Bank

High Street

Colchester

Independent Examiners:

Larking Gowen

Unit 1 Claydon Business Park

Great Blakenham

Ipswich Suffolk

IP6 0NL

Registered Charity Number: 1127854

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St. John's Church
Colchester Annual Vision Meeting
27th April 2022, 7.30pm

Dear Church Member,

We give you a very warm invitation to share our Annual Vision Meeting and look forward to seeing you.

AGENDA – 2022

Opening Worship
Bible Reading & Prayer

MEETING OF THE PARISHIONERS

1. Welcome
2. Appointment of Scrutineers
3. Choosing of Churchwardens

ANNUAL VISION MEETING

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes from 2021 AVM
3. Matters Arising from last AVM Report
4. Elections / Appointments
 - Parochial Church Council
 - Deanery Synod
 - Appoint Independent Examiner
5. Administrative Reports
 - St John's Church Annual Report
 - Vicar's Report
 - Independent Examiners Report
 - Annual Deanery Synod Report
6. Other Reports
 - Hirers Report
 - Buildings Report
 - Communities Reports
 - Ministries Reports
7. Any Other Business
8. Closing Remarks & Prayer

AGENDA for 2021 AVM to review 2020 Held 28 April

2021, via Zoom

Introduction – Andy opened the evening by welcoming everyone, outlining Zoom etiquette and explaining that although once again the AVM needs to be held via Zoom, we would be aiming to make a quick but meaningful experience.

He then went on to explain that:

1. The Meeting is split into two sections, firstly the meeting of the parishioners when we elect church wardens, and secondly the AVM itself, when we elect new PCC members.
2. In the closing remarks he would be talking about the coming months. He then asked Nik Read to open the meeting in prayer.

Business parts:

MEETING OF THE PARISHONERS which is open to everyone in the parish.

1. **Appointment of Scrutineers**- Rev. Viv Whitfield & Rev. Graham Hadfield were appointed as scrutineers.
2. **Choosing of Churchwardens**- Andy thanked Denise and Nik for their assistance in this short PCC Season. They were both happy to stand again and had submitted the relevant forms.

Nik Read was proposed by Nicky Sirett and seconded by Andrew Tiffin. Denise Johnson was proposed by Helen Morgan and seconded by Jo Roberts.

Andy advised that as there were two vacancies and two people standing, there was no need for voting and declared them both to be elected. He asked both of them to say a few words.

Nik Read asked everyone to thank the staff team for their hard work over the last year. He is proud that we never missed a single service during the last year. He also extended thanks to Dave Gentry for his work in editing the services. He gave a challenge/call to action reminding us that we are a body of people not a building. If you are on a rota, please re-join it, or if you weren't, please join one! Let's get back to it, both in church life and community, God's hands and feet in the next months and years.

Denise Johnson agreed with Nik that it's been quite a year and quite a year to start church wardening. She thanked Nicky Sirett for her service and her help and support. Denise feels that it's been a good opportunity to look over the administrative functions and how the office run, to get things streamlined and running well. Aiming to release Andy from the worry of managing buildings, so that we can make vision a reality. She is looking forward to getting back into the building and talking to people. She thanked everyone for making her welcome and said that she looks forward to serving together.

Andy thanked them both again for their support.

Andy then explained that this concluded the Meeting of the Parishioners and that if there are any parishioners who are not on electoral role they were welcome to stay but could not vote in the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1 **Apologies for absence** – none received.

2. **Minutes of 2020 APCM** - Andy asked for any questions about the minutes of the last meeting.

Approval of minutes Pages 4-7- All who approve (subject to corrections), against, abstain.

Andy proposed that the minutes be accepted, all in agreement, no abstentions.

3. **No matters arising regarding last year's AVM minutes.**

Andy advised that there would be time for questions at the end of the meeting if any came up.

4. **Elections and appointments:** Andy thanked those who have come to the end of their term of office this year: Helen Wilson, Barbara Lamb, Peter Birdseye and David Sollis. In terms of vacancies, the Parochial Church Council needs 5 members for 3 years & 2 members for 2 years and 2 members for 1 year. We carry any vacancies until they are filled.

The following people had given us their forms, which have suitable proposers and seconders (as per Church Rep. Rules).

PCC Members			
Name	Proposer	Secunder	Length of service drawn
Peter Birdseye	Celia Simcox	Martin Roscoe	3 years
Carol Cockrill	Tony Berry	Naomi Cockrill	2 years
Claire Eley	Clare Luxton	Helen Morgan	3 years

Clare Luxton	Mary Anthony	Helen Morgan	1 year
Paul Morgan	Jonathan Mulvey	Mary Anthony	3 years
David Sollis	Nik Read	Nicky Sirett	3 years
Peter Theodosius	Barbara Lamb	Hugh Ward	2 years

As there were nine vacancies and seven candidates, there was no need for voting and all candidates were declared elected. Terms of office were drawn from a prepared pot and noted in the table above.

Andy thanked PCC members old and new for their support as trustees to the SJC charity but also in assisting us in enabling the vision to become a reality here at SJC.

Appointments

- a) **Senior Sides-person and Electoral role officer** - A new electoral roll officer was appointed in Denise Johnson by the PCC. When more normal services resume we will look to appoint a new senior sides-person and sides-people on mass.
- b) **Independent Examiner for 2020-** Andy proposed that **Larking Gowan** of Ipswich be appointed as our External Auditors for the coming year.

Andy proposed that these appointments be made. All in favour, no objections, no abstentions.

REPORTS

5. Administrative and Organisational Reports – Andy advised that questions could be added to the Zoom chat, which Rick Moore was monitoring. He advised that the reports would be received en masse at the end, and that all questions would be answered either in the meeting, or at PCC.

a) Annual accounts and independent auditors report - Andy invited Rick Moore to speak.

Rick shared a powerpoint showing that furlough protected the church income effectively in 2020. Giving is up slightly, which is something to be really grateful for. The big hit was hiring income which we need to watch in 2021. Costs were also slightly down as a result of the church being closed for large periods. In summary:

- Furlough scheme contributed £39k in 2020
- Loan holiday from the diocese (for Community Centre) reduced our cash outflow by £24k
- Hire income down £24k in 2020 vs 2019
- Regular DD giving slightly improved in 2020 vs 2019 (in spite of COVID!) but other giving (collections etc.) down £31k
- £29k raised for “finish what we started”
- Opening bank balance £97k / Closing bank balance £121k

It's been a challenging year, but God has been really good to us. Rick invited people to ask him questions in the chat, or to contact him afterwards. Andy invited

everyone to pause and give thanks.

Andy invited everyone to consider the written reports, which are:

- b)** from the St John's Annual report (including the PCC report, Electoral Role report) (page 8-10), and the vicar's report (p10-11), through to the buildings and facilities management report and the Deanery Synod report (ending in p21)
- c)** organisational reports (pages 22-31). Andy offered his thanks to Wendy for compiling these and to everyone who had contributed, as it has really helped us to understand all that has gone on

“under the surface” in this strange year.

Andy asked if there were any questions or comments, none were received.

Andy proposed we receive all these reports and Viv seconded. All those in favour of receiving these reports, no objections, no abstentions.

7. Any Other Business

I. Safeguarding Report-

Key actions since previous AVM

- Nicky Sirett is the Parish Safeguarding Officer. The role includes advising on safeguarding matters reporting and taking advice on allegations made against any church officers and reviewing parish safeguarding arrangements.
- Clare Luxton has taken on the role of lead recruiter, which includes oversight of the safe recruitment of all those working with children and adults who are vulnerable. Celia Wells provides (greatly appreciated!) administrative support.
- The PCC has adopted an updated Safeguarding Policy
- The PCC has adopted a safeguarding statement, which commits St John’s to implementing the House of Bishops’ safeguarding policies and good practise guidance.
- The safeguarding compliance group has met twice
- Andy and Viv have renewed their clergy safeguarding training

Next steps for 2021

Ensure that, as face to face activities resume:

- Activity plans are in place for regular activities involving children and adults who are vulnerable
- All those working with children and adults who are vulnerable are appropriately trained (currently online training, and then face to face as this becomes available) and know what to do if they have a concern
- New volunteers are safely recruited, with all procedures followed and appropriate checks completed

Priorities for 2021

- Simplify volunteer paperwork to make it more accessible and meaningful
- Develop the safeguarding culture at St John's, so it informs everything that we do to ensure that everyone is safe

Nicky invited people to complete online training which is currently available.

Andy thanked her for her work on safeguarding and urged people to speak to Nicky if they have any concerns at all.

2. Andy proposed that we bring down the number of those being elected each year to PCC from 5 to 4 for three reasons. Firstly, our electoral role has dipped below 300 so we only need have 4 elected each year; secondly, because we've struggled to fill five places each year, and thirdly, because having a slightly smaller PCC actually enables better discussion etc. Andy proposed, Martin Roscoe seconded, all in favour, one objection on principle, no abstentions.

3. Wendy responded to a question in the chat about Deanery Synod, listing those who serve in this way. They are Martin Roscoe, Mary Anthony, Hope Osayande, Alex Quayle and Dave Gentry. The meeting thanked them for representing St John's on Deanery Synod. Andy offered many thanks to all those who serve for all their hours.

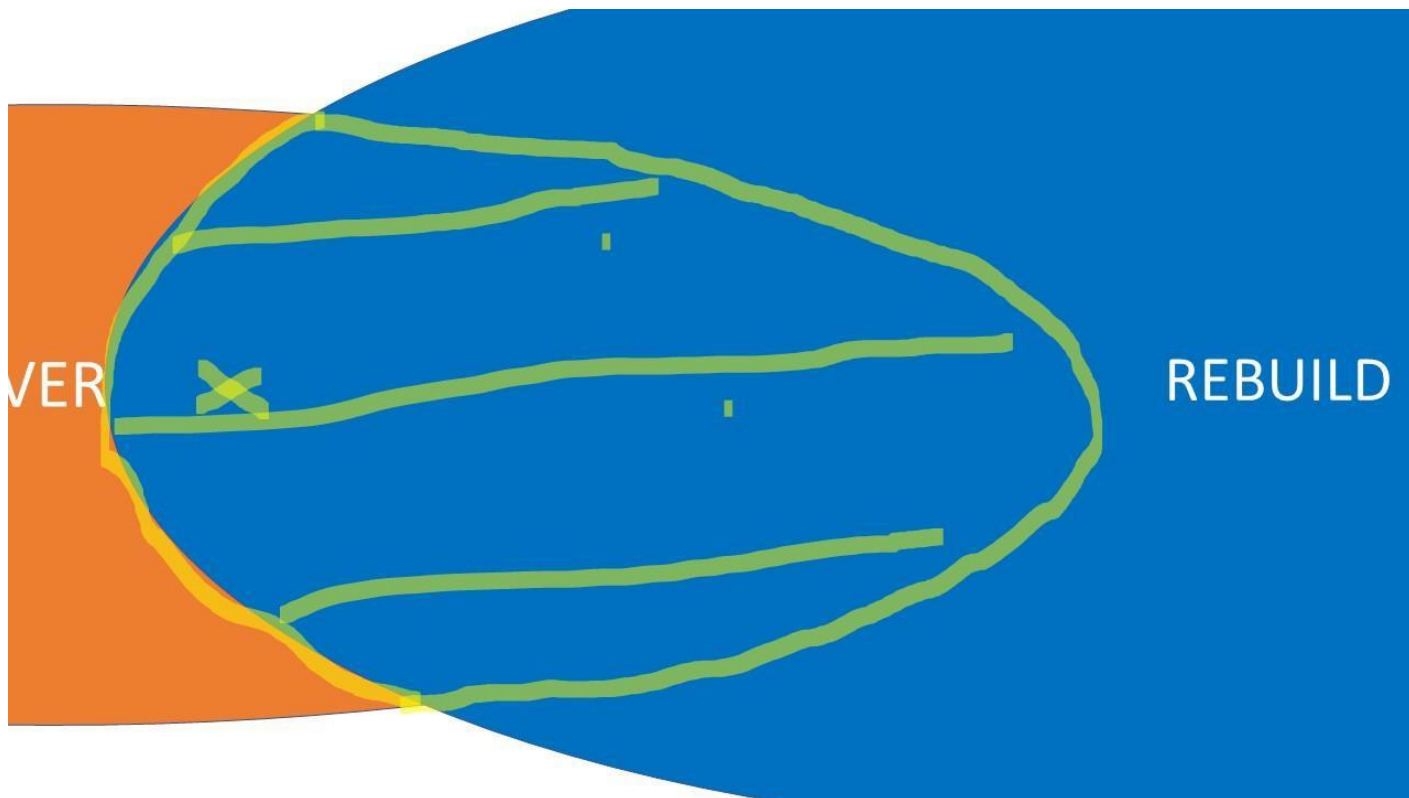
8. Closing remarks from Andy.

Firstly, I want to say thank you to the Wendy and the staff team for what you have done during this season. To the standing committee for your efforts in guiding SJC through these last six months. To every member of SJC who has served and prayed, in your communities, with services, in any way. Thank you for your servant-heartedness.

Secondly, well done communities- there is such beauty in Christian community, for care for support for prayer and worship and for serving one another and the world... Let's keep upon building these communities. If you're in a community, please think about how you might thank your leader.

Thirdly, I want to tell us where we are...

We are 'living in the liminal at present'... 'liminal' means a moment of transition. Andy shared a picture of two coloured ovals, which overlap. See below.



I'm not going to put dates on in this picture, other than to say... this liminal season will take months... covid hasn't gone yet and we will need to live alongside this evil for a good period to come... And rebuilding will take time... on June 21st we can't simply return to how it was, and nor will we necessarily be able to.

In these liminal moments we can feel anxious, we can admit this together and turn our anxieties into prayers and petitions... *do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. (Phil 4:8)*

Two pictures I want us to meditate on with a reminder of who we are...

Firstly, the disciples in the boat in the storm... and the call on those disciples to trust in Jesus to guide and direct us into this new season which will be different.

The main item on the new PCC's agenda in May will be to discuss what we want to leave behind that we were doing before Covid hit in terms of our gatherings and church life, and what do we want to carry into the new season?

What is essential is that we continue to grow as disciples who make disciples and as instruments of God's kingdom on earth. We are about seeing God's kingdom come in families, homes, offices, schools, streets, villages, our town and beyond. Following Jesus, loving people, transforming the world where ever we are.

The second picture I want to draw us to is from the Song of Songs, of the Bride and her longing to be with her bridegroom. The Song of Songs may be understood on three levels.

Most obviously, on a literal level, it's a beautiful love poem between a bride and her bridegroom. On a spiritual level it is a picture of God's people and their love and longing for the Messiah-Christ. On what's called a Christian mystic level, it's a picture of one's own soul yearning for union with God himself!

So, as we live in the liminal, I want us to pray that the three relationships we know so well as SJC flourish...

Our relationship with God... (the UP). Listen to S of S 3v1-4...- in fact read it at home over these days...

The Bride's Dream

3 On my bed by night

I sought him whom my soul loves; I
sought him, but found him not.

² I will rise now and go about the city, in the
streets and in the squares;

I will seek him whom my soul loves. I
sought him, but found him not.

³ The watchmen found me
as they went about in the city.

"Have you seen him whom my soul loves?"

⁴ Scarcely had I passed them
when I found him whom my soul loves.

I held him, and would not let him go
until I had brought him into my mother's house, and into the
chamber of her who conceived me.

Please join me in praying for your own hunger for God to increase! What might you do to grow in your longing for God in May and beyond? Why not use the Thy Kingdom Come global prayer initiative between 13-23 May as a means of going deeper with God. As well as the opportunity to collect your own beautifully presented, and written free prayer journal from church, in due course, you'll have the opportunity to come to our 12 hour - prayer room on Saturday 15 May, between 8am and 8pm, your need to book, with only six slots at a time, put it your diary. There is more information in the Weekly News email. Two hours of those hours will be on zoom for those who can't come in person.

Secondly, our relationship with each other - please now begin the process of reconnecting in person with your brothers and sisters in Christ, not just by phone or zoom. In your community, or in smaller groups. What steps will you take to begin to reconnect? (I heard that one community decided to have coffee in the gardens

of various homes after their Sunday gathering - brilliant! Covid-safe reconnecting!)

Come and join us on Saturday for our Church Grounds maintenance morning on 1 May at 9:30am-1pm. Please bring a thermos, a white recycling bag and your gloves and gear - let the office know you're coming so we can get the donuts in. Begin to reconnect as you garden!

Thirdly, our relationships with the world around us. Let us ask God for opportunities to serve the needs of the world around us with practical shows of love and care in these coming months- What might you consider doing?

9. Prayer of blessing – Viv closed the meeting in prayer.

Meeting ended at 8.38pm

AVM – April 27th 2022

Reports for year 2021

St. John's Church - Annual Report for 2021

Introduction

St John's PCC has the responsibility of co - operating with the Incumbent in promoting within the Parish the whole mission of the Church - pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical. It oversees and directs the mission and work of the Parish Church of St John's within the parish boundaries. Rev. Andy Sachs was appointed in September 2012 as Priest in Charge of the Parish of St John's. These reports, along with the Organisation Reports of the various ministry streams of the church, illustrate how the PCC fulfils its obligations to benefit the public - mainly to the worshipping congregations and to the local communities, but also beyond.

PCC Membership

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year 2021 the following were members of the PCC:

Ex-Officio Members:

Andy Sachs	Chair
Rick Moore	Treasurer
Viv Whitfield	Clergy (Left PCC Sept 21)
Wendy Tiffin	PCC Secretary (Resigned Dec 21)

Elected Church Wardens for 1 Year:

Nik Read	Church Warden (April 21)
Denise Johnson	Church Warden (April 21)

Elected for 3 Years

Dave Gentry	Deanery/ Diocesan Synod
Mary Anthony	Deanery Synod

Hope Osayande	Deanery Synod
Alex Quayle	Deanery Synod
Martin Roscoe	Deanery Synod
Dave Sollis	PCC (re-elected 28 April 2021)
Barbara Lamb	PCC (end of term 28 April 2021)
Helen Wilson	PCC (end of term 28 April 2021)
Peter Birdseye	PCC (re-elected 28 April 2021)
Geoff Gilbert	PCC
Joanna Marshall	PCC
Tony Berry	PCC
Jane Cornell	PCC
Nicky Sirett	PCC
Jonathan Mulvey	PCC
Clare Luxton	PCC (elected 28 April 2021)
Carol Cockrill	PCC (elected 28 April 2021)
Peter Theodosius	PCC (elected 28 April 2021)
Claire Eley	PCC (elected 28 April 2021)
Paul Morgan	PCC (elected 28 April 2021)

The PCC operates through several committees/groups which meet between the full meetings of the PCC -

Standing Committee

This is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings. Since March 2020, on account of the Covid pandemic, the Standing Committee has conducted the majority of the church business on behalf of the PCC.

Mission Partnerships Group

This group was formed to serve this area on behalf of the PCC with the aim of overseeing and supporting our Mission Partnerships, both individually and with organisations.

Below is a list of the Mission Partners and organisations that SJC gave to in 2021:

Nortons	£5,400	
Toths	£3,000	
Hugh B.	£1,300	
Laura Simcox	£400	
Maria Read	£10,500	
Oli George	£1,400	One-off payment to support Oli with meeting the costs of the New Wine Leadership Year

Vicar's Discretionary Fund - £1000

Community Centre Management Committee (CCMC)

This PCC sub-committee ensures that the Community Centre is run with a missional business ethos, with the vision for: 'blessing the local community by providing a facility that encourages a healthy lifestyle, promotes family life and provides educational opportunities', utilizing the facility as an instrument for seeing God's Kingdom come and generating income to support the church's missional work. From Lockdown in March 2020, much of the hiring was curtailed. During the pandemic lockdowns CCMC's decision-making reverted to the Standing Committee. However, from autumn 2021 the hiring of the Community Centre has increased anew.

Electoral Roll

2021 Roll Revision – 2 new Electoral Roll forms were filled in, of which 0 are resident of the Parish and 2 are non-resident. Being listed on the Electoral Roll of St. John's gives you a say in how your Church is run. In order to vote at the AVM, or to stand for election onto our PCC you must be on the Electoral Roll of the Church. If you missed out this year, or if you are unsure whether you are already included, then please speak to our Electoral Roll Officer – Tony Berry, who will be able to ensure that you are entered on in time for next year's roll.

Attendance

The average weekly attendance at St John's counted during October 2021 was 165. There were an average of 82 views of the services put out each Sunday during October.

We conducted the following: - 6 Baptisms & Thanksgiving, 1 Marriage, 8 Funerals in the Church or conducted elsewhere, e.g crematorium.

	<i>St. John's Resident</i>	<i>Non - Resident</i>	
2020	103	200	303*
2021	99	175	274

*Numbers accurate to time church building closed due to Covid-19 crisis.

Vicars Report - The Aims of St John's Church in 2021

St John's PCC is responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the Parish Church building, a Church Community Centre and the mission and ministry of St John's Church Family, located in and in relation to the estate of St John's in north Colchester. As a resourcing church SJC has the aim of impacting the lives of those beyond the parish too with the vision of 'Following Jesus, loving people and transforming the world'.

2021 has been a 'liminal year' of beginning to adapt to life within the restrictions that Covid wrought. Many of activities previously held in the Church's buildings stopped or went online. However, from autumn 2021 many of our previously regular activities returned, such as Refresh, Messy Church and SJC's Community Choir, serving those with children, through every age and stage, to the activities run by our Thursday Generation team. Additionally, the new monthly community 'Families@4' was planted.

At the April AVM I explained that living in the liminal meant beginning to rebuild, and whilst doing so, to turn our anxieties into prayers and petitions (Phil 4:8) as we trusted in Jesus to guide and direct us into this new and different season. I called the church to continue to grow as disciples making disciples, following Jesus, loving people, transforming the world, and to pray for a deepening of our relationships with God, with each other, and with the world around us.

On behalf of the PCC, I am grateful to all those who gave their time in this uncertain and liminal year to enable the mission and ministry of St John's Church to flourish. I am grateful to the church wardens, the Standing Committee, the PCC, the staff team, the community leaders, and those who have quietly served in so many ways throughout the year- I really appreciate all you've done. I want to thank all those who gave of their money so generously to the work of St John's Church in 2021- thank you for your incredible generosity.

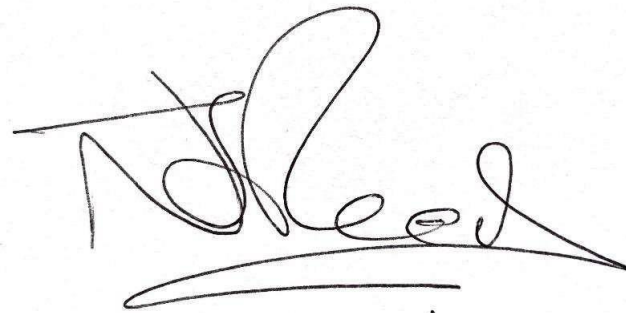
Financial review

Covid-19 and the resultant lockdowns and restricted opening continued to have a significant financial impact on the year 2021. Income from collections fell to £4,163 (2020: £4,875, 2019: £19,613), and rentals from the community centre were reduced to £29,185 (2020: £34,118, 2019: £52,342). Running cost reductions partly compensated, boosted by income from the government job retention scheme £23,548 (2020: £39,040).

The annual accounts for 2021 record a total income of £306,420, compared to £408,630 in 2020. Tax recovered from Gift Aid and the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS) was £35,253, (£42,922 in 2020). Tax recovery remains a substantial contribution to the total income. Total expenditure for the year was £312,263, compared to £369,311 in 2020. This included our parish share to the diocese of £115,001. On 31 December 2021, the principal balances were £125,983 in the general fund and £1,003,634 in the restricted fund. Overall, the accounts show a deficit of £(4,979) compared with a surplus of £39,708 in 2020.



Rev. Andy Sachs (Mar 2022)



Mr Nik Read (Mar 2022)

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of The Parochial Church Council of St John's Church, Colchester

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of St John's Church ('the Charity') for the year ended 31 December 2021 which are set out on pages 9 to 15.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act'). You are satisfied that the accounts of the Charity are not required by charity law to be audited and have chosen instead to have an independent examination.

I report in respect of my examination of the accounts. I have carried out my examination under section 145 of 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

Since the Charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

1. accounting records, with respect to the Charity, were not kept as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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.



.....
Name: Giles Kerkham FCA DChA

**Larking Gowen LLP
Chartered Accountants
1 Claydon Business Park
Ipswich
IP6 0NL**

Date:

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JOHN'S, COLCHESTER

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	5(a)	1,073,397	1,099,460
Investments	5(b)	6,908	6,044
Total Fixed Assets		<u>1,080,305</u>	<u>1,105,504</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	7	6,061	6,936
Short term deposits		77,773	77,765
Cash at bank and in hand		69,071	59,448
		<u>152,905</u>	<u>144,149</u>
CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR			
	8	<u>(43,043)</u>	<u>(15,929)</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS			
		109,862	128,220
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			
		<u>1,190,167</u>	<u>1,233,724</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year			
	9	<u>(60,551)</u>	<u>(99,128)</u>
NET ASSETS			
		<u>1,129,616</u>	<u>1,134,596</u>
FUNDS			
Unrestricted		125,983	120,810
Restricted	10	1,003,634	1,013,786
		<u>1,129,617</u>	<u>1,134,596</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 28 March 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

Mr Andy Sachs (Chairman)



Mr Nik Read (Church Warden)



The accompanying notes form part of these accounts.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JOHN'S, COLCHESTER

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
For the period ended 31st December 2021

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL FUNDS	
		£	£	2021	2020
		£	£	£	£
INCOME & ENDOWMENTS FROM:					
Voluntary income (direct giving)	2(a)	218,285	150	218,435	245,302
Other voluntary income	2(b)	23,548	31,860	55,408	124,294
		<u>241,833</u>	<u>32,010</u>	<u>273,843</u>	<u>369,596</u>
Charitable activities	2(c)	32,394	0	32,394	38,797
Other trading activities	2(d)	0	0	0	0
Investments	2(e)	8	175	183	237
TOTAL INCOME & ENDOWMENTS		<u>274,235</u>	<u>32,185</u>	<u>306,420</u>	<u>408,630</u>
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Charitable activities:					
Missionary and Charitable Giving	3(a)	14,166	3,235	17,401	34,810
Directly relating to the work of the church	3(b)	261,223	33,639	294,862	334,501
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		<u>275,389</u>	<u>36,874</u>	<u>312,263</u>	<u>369,311</u>
NET GAINS/LOSSES ON INVESTMENTS					
Exceptional items		0	864	864	389
		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
		<u>0</u>	<u>864</u>	<u>864</u>	<u>389</u>
NET INCOME/EXPENDITURE		(1,154)	(3,825)	(4,979)	39,708
Transfers between funds:					
Loans repaid	10	2,827	(2,827)	0	0
Other		3,500	(3,500)	0	0
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		<u>5,173</u>	<u>(10,152)</u>	<u>(4,979)</u>	<u>39,708</u>
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:					
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1 JANUARY 2021 (2020)		120,810	1,013,786	1,134,596	1,094,888
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD At 31st December 2021		<u>125,983</u>	<u>1,003,634</u>	<u>1,129,617</u>	<u>1,134,596</u>

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
ST JOHN'S, COLCHESTER**

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

1. Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared under the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the current Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities and applicable accounting standard FRS 102.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair' view. This departure has involved following SORP 2015 (FRS 102) rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value.

The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102.

Funds

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.

Restricted funds are those funds that must be spent on restricted purposes, and details of the funds held and restrictions are provided in note 9.

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law, they do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Incoming Resources

Voluntary Income and Capital Sources

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.

Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised only when received.

Income tax recoverable on gift aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is reasonably certain.

Funds raised by fetes, garden parties and similar events are accounted for gross.

Sales of books and magazines from the Church Bookstall are accounted for gross.

Other Ordinary Income

Rental income from the letting of Church premises is recognised when the rental is due.

Income from investments

Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable. Tax recoverable on such income is recognised in the same accounting year.

Gains and Losses on Investments

Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold.

Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31 December.

Resources Used

Grants

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

Activities directly relating to the work of the Church

The diocesan quota or parish share is accounted for when payable. Any quota unpaid at 31 December is provided for in these accounts as an operational (though not a legal) liability, and is shown as a creditor in the Balance Sheet.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated Land and Buildings and Movable Church Furnishings

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by section 10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011. Movable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the Church's Inventory which can be inspected (at any reasonable time).

For inalienable property acquired prior to (2000) there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the accounts. Items acquired since 1 January (2000) have been capitalized and depreciated in the accounts over their currently anticipated useful economic life (initially over 10 years) on a straight-line basis.

Other Fixtures, Fittings and Office Equipment

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a reducing balance basis over 4 years, and buildings at 2% on a straight line basis per annum. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £2,500 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

Investment in subsidiary companies is stated at cost less provision for permanent diminution in value. Dividends are brought to income resources when received

Current Assets

Amounts owing to the PCC on 31 December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.

Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit, either with the CBF Church of England Funds, or at the bank

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JOHN'S, COLCHESTER

Notes to the Financial Statements For the period ended 31st December 2021

2 INCOMING RESOURCES

TOTAL FUNDS 2021 2020 £ £

2(a)	Voluntary income (direct giving)		
	Planned giving:		
	Gift Aid	132,201	145,864
	Income tax recoverable on gift aid	32,516	35,210
	Other giving	-	-
	Collections	4,163	4,875
	Sundry donations	49,555	59,353
		<u>218,435</u>	<u>245,302</u>

[2020: Restricted £151, Unrestricted £245,151, Total £245,302]

2(b)	Other voluntary income		
	Donations, appeals, etc.	29,123	72,542
	Income tax recoverable	2,737	7,712
	Government grants	23,548	44,040
	Legacies	-	-
		<u>55,408</u>	<u>124,294</u>

Government grants relate to covid support through the job retention scheme.

[2020: Restricted £80,254, Unrestricted £44,040, Total £124,294]

2(c)	Charitable activities		
	Church community centre income etc.	33,342	36,621
	Events	-	-
	Fees - other	948	2,176
		<u>32,394</u>	<u>38,797</u>

[2020: Restricted £0, Unrestricted £38,797, Total £38,797]

2(d)	Other trading activities	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
------	---------------------------------	----------	----------

2(e)	Investments		
	Dividends and interest including any reclaimed tax	183	237
		<u>183</u>	<u>237</u>

[2020: Restricted £169, Unrestricted £68 Total £237]

TOTAL INCOME & ENDOWMENTS	<u><u>306,420</u></u>	<u><u>408,630</u></u>
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[2020: Restricted £80,574, Unrestricted £328,056, Total £408,630]

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JOHN'S, COLCHESTER

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For the period ended 31st December 2021

3 Resources used

		TOTAL FUNDS	
		2021	2020
		£	£
3(a)	Grants		
	Missionary and charitable giving:		
	Church overseas:		
	- Missionary societies and charitable giving	0	0
	- Gift for Romania land purchase	0	0
	Home missions and other Church Societies	17,401	34,810
		17,401	34,810

[2020: Restricted £19,905, Unrestricted £14,905, Total £34,810]

3(b)	Activities directly relating to the work of the Church		
	Ministry: diocesan quota	115,001	114,903
	clergy expenses	1,418	3,232
	Church - running expenses	17,203	23,405
	Independent Examination fees	1,575	1,550
	Church maintenance	45,608	44,132
	Training	2,705	4,323
	Expenditure on parish magazine and bookstall	85	246
	Building repairs & renewals	0	0
	Church community centre running costs	16,326	18,104
	Mortgage Interest	2,576	2,774
	Salaries	92,365	121,832
		294,862	334,501

[2020: Restricted £39,944, Unrestricted £294,557, Total £334,501]

Total Resources Used

312,263 369,311

[2020: Restricted £59,849, Unrestricted £309,462, Total £369,311]

4	Total Staff Costs	2021	2020
	Wages and salaries	86,337	116,845
	Social security costs	4,620	3,079
	Pension costs	1,408	1,908
		92,365	121,832
	Average number of paid staff	7	9

During 2021 the PCC employed no staff earning over £60,000
 Employee benefits were received by one key management personnel member.

2021

Salaries paid to members of staff having connections with the PCC:	
Mrs M Read (wife of PCC member)	£ 10,250
Ms C Luxton (PCC member)	£ 25,627

No further payments or expenses were paid to any other PCC member, person connected with them or related party.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JOHN'S, COLCHESTER

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For the period ended 31st December 2021

5	Fixed Assets for use by the PCC	Land and Buildings £	Computers & Equipment £	Total £
5(a)	Tangible fixed assets			
	Gross Book Value at 1 January 2021	1,394,947	23,829	1,418,776
	Additions	0	0	0
	Disposals	0	0	0
	at 31 December 2021	1,394,947	23,829	1,418,776
	Depreciation at 1 January 2021	296,763	22,553	319,316
	Charge for year	25,744	319	26,063
	Disposals	0	0	0
	at 31 December 2021	322,507	22,872	345,379
	Net Book Value at 31 December 2021	1,072,440	957	1,073,397
	at 31 December 2020	1,098,184	1,276	1,099,460

The freehold land and buildings comprises the church community centre and associated land. Freehold land costing £120,000 (2020: £120,000) is not depreciated.

Our current mortgage stands at £95,670 (2020: £108,301).

5 Investments for use by the PCC

5(b)	Investments	Listed Investments	Total
	Cost		
	At 1 January 2021	6,044	6,044
	Additions	0	0
	Revaluation	864	864
	Disposals	0	0
	At 31 December 2021	6,908	6,908

Listed investments are 295 shares in the CBF's Investment Fund in trust - Dividends for the benefit of the CMF.

6	Analysis of net assets by fund	2021	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total £
	Fixed assets		0	1,073,397	0	1,073,397
	Investments		0	6,908	0	6,908
	Current Assets		6,061	0	0	6,061
	Current Liabilities		(4,174)	(38,869)	0	(43,043)
	Liabilities greater than 1 Year		0	(60,551)	0	(60,551)
	Cash at bank		124,096	22,749	0	146,845
	Fund Balance at 31 December 2021		125,983	1,003,634	0	1,129,617
		2020	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total £
	Fixed assets		0	1,099,460	0	1,099,460
	Investments		0	6,044	0	6,044
	Current Assets		6,936	0	0	6,936
	Current Liabilities		(2,706)	(13,223)	0	(15,929)
	Liabilities greater than 1 Year		0	(99,128)	0	(99,128)
	Cash at bank		116,580	20,633	0	137,213
	Fund Balance at 31 December 2020		120,810	1,013,786	0	1,134,596

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JOHN'S, COLCHESTER

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For the period ended 31st December 2021

7	Debtors	2021	2020
		£	£
	Income tax recoverable	2,966	2,986
	Other debtors	3,095	3,950
	Prepayments & accrued income	0	0
		6,061	6,936
8	Liabilities: Amounts falling due within one year		
	Loans	(35,119)	(9,173)
	Trade creditors	(795)	(348)
	Accruals and deferred income	(1,600)	(1,575)
	Other creditors	(5,529)	(4,833)
		(43,043)	(15,929)
9	Liabilities: Amounts falling due more than one year		
	Loans	(60,551)	(99,128)
		(60,551)	(99,128)

10	Restricted Fund Details	2020	Income	Expenses	Transfers	2021
		£	£	£	£	£
	Land and Buildings Church community centre	1,098,184	0	(25,744)	0	1,072,440
	Computers and Equipment	1,276	0	(319)	0	957
	Investments	6,044	864	0	0	6,908
	Antioch Fund	0	151	(151)	0	0
	Other	11,236	4255	(6,104)	(3,142)	6,245
	Church roof repairs	-	6500	0	0	6,500
	Romania Mission & foodbank	5,347	3246	(1,980)	(358)	6,255
	Loans	(108,301)	18034	(2,576)	(2,827)	(95,670)
		1,013,786	33,050	(36,874)	(6,327)	1,003,635
		2019	Income	Expenses	Transfers	2020
		£	£	£	£	£
	Land and Buildings Church community centre	1,123,928	0	(25,744)	0	1,098,184
	Computers and Equipment	1,702	0	(426)	0	1,276
	Investments	5,655	389	0	0	6,044
	Antioch Fund	0	151	(151)	0	0
	Other	8,242	24020	(16,594)	-4432	11,236
	Romania Mission	3192	16675	(14,160)	-292	5,415
	Loans	(145,255)	39728	(2,774)	0	(108,301)
		997,464	80,963	(59,849)	(4,724)	1,013,854

Transfers represent adjustments for subsidies from general funds, and timing between receipt and payment.

11 **Contingent Liabilities**
 There is a potential contingent liability in respect of a grant given by Surestart of £272,996 for the Church community centre building project. The liability extends for 25 years from the initial receipt of the grant in 2011, during which period there is a requirement that the usage of the facilities is for the provision of registered childcare for 25 years.

12 **Reserves policy**
 A target reserve of £90,000 is set to finance both day to day cash flow fluctuations, and to provide a contingency available for unexpected costs, in particular building repairs. Unrestricted funds at the year end £125,983 (2020: £120,810) exceed this figure.

Annual Deanery Synod Report for 2021

Lay representatives plus clergy from all the Colchester Anglican churches meet three times a year, to hear what's going on in the Diocese and nationally, and to discuss and share ideas about how we can work together more effectively across Colchester.

3rd March 2021 – Online (via Zoom)

Due to the restrictions in place because of the coronavirus pandemic the Synod meeting was conducted online via Zoom

- Emma Buchan, the project Director from Thy kingdom Come, gave an excellent talk. She started off by telling us all about her childhood in Copford and about growing up as a member of Marks Tey Church. In particular she told us about the children's ministry work. She then continued to tell us about her working career, firstly as an oil trader and then working at 'Thy Kingdom Come'. This was followed by a Q&A session.
- Mary Durlacher gave a report regarding General Synod which took place in February 2021. She explained that three presentations had been made on General Strategy, Safeguarding, and Housing all followed by Q&A sessions.

23rd June 2021 – Online (via Zoom)

- Revd Beverley Vincent, the Area Advocate for Living In Love and Faith gave a talk. Beverley began by giving a bit of background information about Living in Love and Faith (LLF). In February 2017 general synod debated the report 'Marriage and Same Sex Relationships'. General Synod did not take note of that report but a few weeks later both the Archbishops of Canterbury and York called for the Church of England to have some serious discussion on this topic. Beverley then went on to give an excellent talk and presentation (please see the copy of her slides from the evening, sent out with these minutes). Beverley's talk was followed by discussions using the breakout rooms function of Zoom and then a Q&A session.
- Adrian Jones (Highwoods and St. Luke's) was elected to serve on the Deanery Standing and Pastoral Committee.
- The Area Dean, Revd Canon Paul Norrington gave an update on deployment news and also an update on our Deanery Vision Plan.

13th October 2021 – in-person meeting at Christ Church, Ireton Road, Colchester

- Revd. James Gilder, Diocesan Environment Officer gave a talk He explained that . General Synod is committed for the Church of England to become carbon neutral by 2030. He explained that this aim has been endorsed by the Diocese of Chelmsford.
- Testimonies from churches were shared: St John's (bronze eco award), St Leonard's Lexden (Doctor Bike, sewing repair course, sessions in eco issues for Junior church), Christ church (gardening, bird boxes, plants exchange), St Stephen's (Green Christian day conference, local Green Christian group and link with Brazil), St Andrew's Marks Tey (insulation, new boilers, LED).
- Congratulations were extended to all who were elected to general Synod:
 - Mary Durlacher
 - Revd Andy Sachs
 - Revd Sara Batts-Neale

○ Revd Mark Wallace
Martin Roscoe Deanery Synod Secretary

Hirer's Report

With ongoing restrictions and lockdowns at the start of 2021, we only had the on-site nursery hiring for the first few months.

Thankfully from April we started to see many of our regular hirers returning. Then shortly after we were able to also start welcoming back many of the Church groups too, including lunch and friendship club, refresh, knitting & natter and community choir. It has been wonderful to have busy buildings again!

Below is a list of the paying hirers at the end of 2021:

Oaklea Montessori (Mon-Fri)
Fit Steps (weekly)
Slimming World (weekly)
Robot Reg (weekly)
Colchester Salsa (weekly)
i-sign (twice weekly)
Foster Parent support group (monthly)
Rainbows, Brownies and Guides (weekly)
Magdalen Wood WI (monthly)
St John's & Highwoods Ladies Group (monthly)
Colchester Woodturners (monthly)
Tiny Talk (weekly)
Baby Ballet (weekly)
Happy Healthy Hub (weekly)
Colchester Slings (monthly)
Course in Christian studies (weekly)
Flower arranging (monthly)

Buildings report 2021

The lack of a Caretaker has resulted in both buildings requiring remedial work to be carried out and regular volunteer days have helped to achieve a number of the larger tasks.

In The Community Centre, lines were marked out on the floor with masking tape which has taken a great deal of effort to remove. Many light bulbs have been replaced and contractors have been contacted to fix the entrance doors from both car parks as they are badly damaged and do not work as intended. The children's toilets (Oaklea) have suffered blocked drains and sinks and the cubicles are damaged with a door and retaining panel removed. Both halls need decoration and wall protection to be put in place for corners and walls. The ladies toilets had a badly leaking cistern that has caused damage to three walls

and the men's urinals was leaking also. In the kitchen the dishwasher was blocked, the extractor and air intake weren't working and the bug zapper had bulbs out. All these have been remedied with the help of SJ and Jonathan. The office has been largely cleared with some more to be done. We have spoken with Oaklea and our relationship with them is very positive. The scaffold tower was erected in the large hall when cleaning was conducted to around 40% of the ceiling, lights and shelves. The remainder of the large hall and the small hall still require cleaning. Externally, the gutters are leaking and some downpipes were blocked. This will require ongoing maintenance work once a solution to the caretaker issues have been resolved. The paving to the front (Ipswich Rd) has been cleaned, borders cut back and beds tended. The laurel between the centre and the neighbour has been thinned but remains high (mutually agreed). The collapsing fence at the front has been taken down and will be disposed of. One of the bollards was struck by a vehicle whose driver lost control and needed to be dismantled. A new one is in place, but is a different colour and emits very different light, so a contractor has been asked to quote for replacing the other three so they match (the area leading to the Community Centre from the main car park).

In the church, we are preparing for the quinquennial works and contractors have been contacted and providing quotes. The flooring under the radiator in the Link Room has been replaced by Gary and the vinyl now needs replacing or repairing. The boilers in the church have been serviced and swapped over (we have two). The timing for heating and water have been amended, reducing boiler time by around 60%.

Our BT contract is now up and we are intending to install much faster broadband. The present provision is woefully insufficient, even for a small office meaning we need a second, 4G router for Sunday morning broadcasts. Improving our broadband in church and the Community Centre means we are the right tech infrastructure for the coming years.

The council provided an excellent hedge cutting team between Christmas and New Year who thinned and cut down the graveyard hedge. One of the signs in the churchyard has collapsed (corner of St John's Close and Ipswich Rd entrance) and will be removed. The fence between us and the NHS building has collapsed – we are asking for them to pay for the repairs, as we have replaced the fence on all other sides.

The volunteers that come once a month do an amazing job, however we need younger and stronger people to tackle some of the larger jobs. If we can mobilise a larger, younger workforce, we can save thousands on expensive contractors.

Ewan Darby – Church Manager

Communities

International Community

Our saddest news is that Caroline White, who led this Cluster with her husband, Michael, went to glory in July 2020. Michael has since stepped down as Cluster leader to focus on his work with Friends International based at the University of Essex. Several of our Cluster members are involved with Friends International, so we tend to count our involvement as part of our outreach. Sally Anderson-Wai and Martin Roscoe are now the Cluster leaders. Before the first lockdown, both groups within the Cluster were meeting in members' homes. As lockdown started, the Tuesday morning group started having meetings online on Zoom. This has worked well and usually now involves a prayer to open, prayer requests written into a book, worship from St John's Church's services recorded on YouTube, a bible study and a testimonial, and closes with a prayer. Each member is encouraged to take a turn at leading the study and giving their testimonial to encourage them to grow.

Number have grown as four people from other groups have joined us on Zoom. Also one of our student friends, who became a Christian while at Essex University, now joins our Zoom meetings, which is very encouraging to all concerned.

In the summer we had a social gathering at a social distance in one of our members gardens and we've also held a couple of online quiz nights. Members of both groups attended the church services when we were able to do so. Also, a friend of Sally's, who had attended a couple of quizzes, has made a commitment to the Lord and is watching the live streamed church services.

Michael's Tuesday evening group met regularly in gardens last year but has not met since December since several members did not like zoom. Michael joins in Sally and Martin's Tuesday morning group when he can, as he has several Friends International zoom meetings every week. He intends to suggest to members of his group that can manage Zoom that they join another group, until the lockdowns have ended.

Martin Roscoe

Thursday Generation

2021 was another strange year but the Thursday Generation stayed bright and positive!

When we could we had Sunday services in church with restricted numbers allowed, and every service was well attended, with a waiting list. People came along with masks, using hand sanitiser, socially distanced and were delighted to be there. For many members services online were not an option, so they came to church whenever possible. In August we had a Thanksgiving Service, which was full, followed by refreshments which everyone enjoyed. Being in church has always been part of their lives.

Some of our Discipleship Groups met over Zoom but they were very pleased to meet in person again in September. Each week during the year a 'blog' entitled "My Sunday Ramble" went out to those with computers, a light hearted letter, keeping in touch with people so they didn't feel forgotten, and a Newsletter went out every three months, paper copies to

those without computers, and a paper copy of the weekly Church Newsletter was delivered. There was a regular 'puzzle swap' which kept everyone occupied, the phone lines were constantly busy as people kept in touch with each other – pastoral care over the telephone! In all that time there was hardly a moan or a groan.

Needless to say, all were delighted when 'normal service' was resumed in September and there was something in the church each Thursday. We started each month with a new style First Thursday Service which is now open to anyone who might be free that morning, followed in subsequent weeks by Evergreen Lunch Club, Discipleship Group (which has grown) and Thursday Friendship Club. We are pleased to say numbers are back at least to normal for all of these. All are now appreciating what they'd been missing - community and church fellowship.

Graham Hadfield and Diane Foster

Open House Hospitality

The 'Open House Hospitality' community, currently consists of one group: GULP. The group meets for a simple relaxed sharing meal, once a month, in different homes and we engage in a discussion at the table around a pre-determined question/topic. We finish the evening with Compline.

In the last 12 months, we have seen the transition of members both out of and into the OHH community as people have taken time, during the Covid-19 pandemic, to reflect upon where they feel God is calling them to be. Some who lived outside of the parish have chosen to worship at their local churches. We see this as natural and healthy, understanding that people are in different seasons, life stages within their own spiritual journey.

Since Autumn 2021, we have begun to resume our shared meals around the table, when we can, and to reconnect with one another face-to-face. We have used Community Sunday to do a prayer walk and to deliver SJC Christmas newsletters. Our planned Christmas 'invite a friend/neighbour for mulled wine and mince pie event' was cancelled due to Covid-19. There is always next year!

We are looking forward to seeing what opportunities 2022 brings in connecting us with God, supporting one another in friendship & fellowship and reaching out to those around us.

Peter & Catherine Theodosius

Lighthouse

Group members: Rachael and Steve Hurst, Ali Carter, Cat Carter, Carly West, Kim Sharman, Sally Pearce, Mel Phipps, Laura Phipps and Helen Robinson.

During the last twelve months, Lighthouse DG has continued to meet weekly on Thursday evenings using Zoom. This has worked well for the members of the group, especially those who have very busy workloads. We also meet about once every six weeks usually on a Saturday morning for breakfast and praying together.

Over the last twelve months we have studied: The book of Ezekiel, Singing in Babylon, The Book of Ruth and Revelation. Towards the end of the year we started reading and studying 'Unleashed' by Gavin and Anne Calver based on the book of Acts.

A number of members have been happy to lead our weekly studies, which is a great blessing and gives opportunities for those who are gifted in leadership to grow in confidence.

We have organised three evening socials, Fish n Chip supper in June, Pizzas on the Beach in July and a Christmas Meal at a local restaurant.

Lighthouse has found organising events for Community Sundays quite difficult. We did have a picnic in Highwoods Country Park, but only three people attended. We felt it was better to leave Community Sundays until the weather improves and restrictions are less binding. Our hope is to begin organising events in the Spring 2022.

Unfortunately, Church at the Boot (organised by the Dedham and Ardleigh churches) is no longer running, due to too few volunteers. There were a couple of Lighthouse members who were involved and felt very sad that it had ceased. We can only pray that the Lord will call others to serve and the Church at the Boot will be part of the Sunday boot scene again.

2021 was not quite as strange as the previous year; we were all getting better at living with Covid and the seemingly ever changing rules and restrictions. We are very thankful that our wonderful saviour has continued to protect us. He has answered many of our prayers and we look to him to fill us afresh with his life giving Holy Spirit as Lighthouse DG journeys through 2022.

Nehemiah 8:10 'The joy of the Lord is your strength.'

Helen Robinson

Eco Church

St John's having registered as an Eco Church with A Rocha in 2020, in September 2021 we were very pleased to achieve our bronze award. We are now working towards our silver award and, that being significantly more challenging, it is starting to impact more areas of our life together. The areas of church life that are involved are Worship & Teaching, Buildings, Land, Community & Global Engagement and Lifestyle.

There have been a number of opportunities this year to reflect on our responsibility as Christians to both care for creation in general, but also to stand against the injustice that is climate change. In October 2021, in the lead up to COP26, we held a Climate Sunday with a special interactive prayer space in the chapel. Children from St John's Primary also visited the prayer space during the week. During Lent the Eco Hub ran a Care for Creation Lent Course and the materials are now available for other communities to borrow.

Progress with the buildings is currently under discussion. With regards to the land, in spring 2021, the children scattered wildflower seeds around the Community Centre car park, and they learnt about the importance of thinking about wildlife and insects in how we manage our gardens. We now have a draft management plan looking at how we can make the St John's land more environmentally friendly.

Community engagement has been limited because of covid but we have activities planned for 2022. We have adopted the Faith & Farming project in Nigeria as our Overseas project and Katharine Norton and her colleague, Malgwi Yunana, spoke to us via zoom to tell us more about the project.

With regards to lifestyle, alongside encouragement in services to address our lifestyles, information sheets have been made available to help us all make decisions about changes we can make.

The Eco Hub, as a community, is slowly growing and continues to meet monthly to plan and pray and in between meets either for Bible Study or an Eco Awareness evening. Anyone is welcome to join in with our activities as little or as much as they wish. We also have a FB group St John's Colchester Eco Group and a FB page St John's Colchester, Eco Church that, again, anyone is welcome to join/follow.

Pauline Scott

Families

The Families community continued to struggle with the after effects of Covid. The community now has 2 small groups, one which meets weekly on zoom (but is hoping to meet back in person soon) and one which meets fortnightly (and since September 2021 has met in person). Each group has between 5-10 members. Since September 2021, we have got together monthly, as a community, on Community Sundays. We have done various activities, including litter picking walks, sports mornings and lunches. Each time we meet for community Sunday we have a little time of prayer and discussion with the children, focusing on a relevant verse.

Rick and Becky Moore

Connect

Over the last 6 months Connect group has grown significantly so that we now have about 15 members who attend regularly - some of them are new Christians - and so it's been a very exciting season! We meet weekly and are currently running through the Prayer Course which has been going down really well. Since much of the group is fairly new to each other and St John's, our community Sundays have focused primarily on social time, including a trip to Putt in the Park.

Chris and Emma Mortemore

Uplifted

Uplifted (formerly known as Generation X) meets fortnightly back in person on a Tuesday evening, after meeting on zoom during COVID restrictions. The group is for working women and has taken a new direction as a creative outlet and time to unwind and be uplifted. We are currently using some audio resources from the mind and soul foundation

and listen to a podcast together while knitting, crocheting, stitching or doodling! We chat about any issues arising and pray for one another. The group lost a few members during and since COVID for a variety of reasons but we are building again and have welcomed and invited some new women to join us. Community Sunday's have been very outward focused - we have served in the school grounds, had a bake off session, created Christmas rag wreaths and helped out in the community centre clean! We encourage each other to invite our friends to these events and see them as missions opportunities.

Vanessa Sachs

Oasis

Throughout the year we tried to keep in touch with everyone but, as with others, this was challenging due to lockdowns and self-isolating. However, Zoom or Google Meet were used by many although not everybody was able to access these meetings within their groups due to some technical issues.

During the year Rev. Viv Whitfield led two Oasis Holy Communion services over Zoom. These were attended by several people in Oasis who also contributed with readings and prayers.

What's App has also been very helpful for many people to maintain a link and connection with each other along with telephone calls. In addition, when the weather started to improve some people in Oasis ventured outside to meet people in their gardens.

We have one small group which has continued to meet regularly throughout the year, via Zoom or in person, and even sat well wrapped up in a cold garden on one occasion! When warmer, they met in the back gardens and homes of their members when restrictions allowed. They have followed different Bible study guides each term and currently look forward to having regular face to face meetings in 2022.

There were also opportunities for the whole community to meet together at Nicky's house in August at a garden gathering with refreshments, which became indoors, due to the inclement weather but was still an enjoyable occasion.

In September on "Community Sunday" we enjoyed a short walk in Highwoods Country Park which ended with coffee. In October the peak of the petrol shortage prevented another Community walk at Frinton. We hope to have other opportunities in the new year when the whole community can meet together.

At the end of 2021 Viv Whitfield stepped down as Co leader and Mary Anthony took her place with Nicky Sirett.

Mary Anthony and Nicky Sirett

Spectrum

At the moment there is only one group in our community which meets weekly on a Wednesday (apart from school holidays) and our attendance varies from 4 to 11. We are looking to “multiply” when things stabilise. 2021 has, as for everyone, been a strange year but we kept in touch with What’s App on an almost daily basis as well as weekly, either face-to-face or by zoom (sometimes both). Our meetings comprise catch-up, worship, Bible study and prayer. We started the year with Jonah and discovered a new depth to it. Pretty much the same is happening with James (which we will finish before Lent). Exciting times!! After Easter we used a booklet of 6 studies entitled “Beholding God’s Majesty”. In the Autumn, as a group, we attended, physically or remotely, the “Living in Love and Faith Course” at the Church. In addition we have had a Communion service led by Rev Graham and Zoom meetings with our Mission Partners, Russell and Katharine (and Lowenna) Norton and Hugh Battye and we had the privilege of having Shirley Sinclair joining us on zoom for about 6 months whilst her local church was not meeting on Sundays or on line. She’s a member of our What’s App group too. We ensure we have a termly social event, covid permitting, as we do enjoy each others company.

As well as covid many of us have had troubles and difficulties over the past year but we have been very encouraged by our prayer times together because God has amazingly transformed situations as well as using us individually as we reach out with Jesus’ love to our families, friends and neighbours. The testimonies we share ensure that we want to “keep on keeping on”!! Regular outreach as a group doesn’t really work for us for a variety of reasons, one being that we all have different responsibilities serving in the Church. We also took on the Prayer Hub during the lockdowns (to pray for those needing prayer but not in Disciple groups etc.) and that’s still continuing. We have a good response from our members to serving between the morning services on the refreshment rota.

In the Autumn we were pleased to welcome to 2 new members who fit in well and say they feel comfortable with us.

Tony and Liz Berry

Blokes

Over the past 12 months, the Blokes community has continued to meet regularly. We have been meeting at local pubs in the area and have seen growth with several new people joining. As part of the community Sundays we have been involved in the community centre repair works and have had curry nights and meals out. The community has been a great opportunity to support one another during the busyness of family and work life, and a place where friends can be invited to be part of the community. This coming year, we are planning canoe trips, windsurfing, and going to a couple of Christian men's conferences.

Jonathan Mulvey

Ministries

Romania

So after over two years of being unable to travel to Reghin, we are hoping that two trips in September and October 2022 will see a substantial group from SJC return to continue the much needed work. It's amazing to be able to report that the New Life Children's Home is (as I write this) about to open, the farm project is going from strength to strength and the education programme is continuing unabated, all of which is a tremendous testimony to Attila, Adel and their team on the ground.

The needs of the Romany gypsy community continue to be extreme however, as COVID hit them hard, with fairly high death rates having occurred amongst the people. Coupling this with a vaccination rate of almost zero has meant that there is a high level of vulnerability in these communities.

The "Honey for Hope" project has been very successful this past year and the recently launched "£1 a week" scheme is starting to achieve some traction amongst the SJC congregation. We do ask for your support in this scheme, as it's a very tangible (and incredibly cheap) way of very practically helping a group of people who remain marginalised and largely excluded from normal life where they live. Eileen Read is our amazing "Queen Bee" and will happily speak to you, should you like more details.

The "500 Smiles" Christmas Shoeboxes project was another success in 2021, with 618 boxes being sent to Attila for distribution. We fully intend to continue this project in 2022 and hopefully this year we will be able to assist in the distribution of the boxes themselves.

However, our main focus remains the building trips, as this is where we can have the biggest impact in the shortest amount of time. If this is something that you would be interested in learning more about, then please speak to me and I will happily give you more details. The trips are open to anyone, young or small, male or female, DIY expert or DIY novice! If you have a heart for this project, then we can use you, as there is much to do. If you feel you wouldn't be of any use then please remember that "God doesn't call the equipped, He equips the called"...

Thank you for your continued support of this project.

Nik Read

Messy Church

As with so many things 2021 was a quiet year for Messy Church. By nature, it is not very COVID secure! However - we managed to stay in touch with some of our families in the first part of the year through Messy Church Zoom in February and at Easter. It was lovely to be able to be back in person with a few adaptations in October and December and we were thrilled to welcome back lots of familiar faces and some new ones. Our numbers are almost back to pre-covid levels, and it is so exciting that 90% of those that come do not attend church regularly. It is such a privilege to have the opportunity to share Jesus with

them. Not all our helpers have been able to return to messy church which can present a challenge at times but we are very grateful for a small core team and a faithful catering team.

Moving into 2022 we are looking to try and build a sense of community amongst our families, to take them on steps towards a relationship with Jesus and to rebuild the team of helpers.

Helen Morgan

Soup Run

Due to the covid pandemic the Soup Run was stopped in March 2020 and it continued to be out of action for the whole of 2021. During this time, other support services such as Beacon House and Open Door were still able to help the homeless community.

As of February 2022 a Saturday evening Soup Run will begin from the Salvation Army car park in Colchester town. This is because Saturday evenings have been highlighted as the one time in the week when there is currently no provision for the homeless community and they have requested the Soup Run service be provided for them. Various churches in the local area will be on a new rota to provide this.

A team from St Johns are on this rota and will be doing the Soup Run once every two months beginning in March.

Peter & Julia Hassard

New Wine Discipleship Year / Greenstead with St. Anne's - Parish Outreach Worker

The last two terms of the New Wine Discipleship Year saw the students learning via Zoom and in-person which, required much flexibility and resilience on their part, at what was a challenging time for us all. They adapted well and during lockdowns, managed to take part in their church placements remotely which, at times required quite some creativity! They all completed the year having learnt a lot about themselves and deepening their relationship with God. All the students have gone onto either full-time education at university, continued to develop their volunteering role at their placement church or gone on to the Leadership Year, which is a continuation of the Discipleship Year, held at the Belfrey church in York, where the students continue their theology teaching, whilst practically serving on placement.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to all the church family for their prayers, warm welcome, encouragements, amazing hospitality and coming alongside the students whilst they were with us. May God bless them as they continue their journey with Him.

The first term, in my role as a Mission Partner, serving in Greenstead with St. Anne's, has been one of much learning and being open to hear where God is leading. After listening to the needs of the parents at the Breakfast Club, St. Andrew's Stay & Play started and is a

thriving group at the heart of Greenstead, running from Unity Primary School in term time. Making links and connections within the community has been an important part of the role, and working in partnership with the organisations and groups which already exist, further supports the people of the area and demonstrates the church being hands on.

Working as part of our MMP is a fantastic opportunity to work collaboratively in supporting and serving our neighbour, where the needs of the community differ to those of St. John's.

I am thankful for all the doors that God is opening which, enable us to work in this way and feel excited to see this ministry develop and grow in the future.

Maria Read

Pastoral Care

It was another challenging year for everyone as a consequence of the Pandemic and in addition to the restrictions and social isolation. This has impacted in many ways with anxiety, loneliness, illness, bereavement and other difficult circumstances.

There are many people in our Church family who have shown pastoral care by coming alongside those who have needed a listening ear, friendship and comfort or practical help. So, thank you to those who have provided prayers and friendship through telephone calls, pastoral cards or WhatsApp messages etc with hope and encouragement. These gestures of kindness and prayers have been appreciated. However, we must not forget those who we have not seen for a while or have chosen to stand back from meeting others again.

When appropriate, we have also offered resources to people that provide specific information and support for different circumstances. This has included material for children and young people struggling with worry and anxiety, support with illness, Living with Dementia and coping with bereavement, to name just a few. A large selection of additional resources is available for reference or to keep. They cover many life stages and situations.

There have also been many personal responses to circumstances which of course remain confidential.

Please pray that we all make connections with people and listen to God's promptings for those around us who may need some pastoral care. If you would like information about Pastoral Training then please speak to me about it.

Mary Anthony. Pastoral Assistant and Pastoral Care Coordinator

Residential Care Homes in the Parish

Maintaining contact with staff and residents has been very difficult due to the Covid restrictions in place at all Care homes. However, despite some staff changes and communication issues we have tried to keep in touch and send messages of encouragement with our prayers via email and with messages through other ways.

During 2021 we sent personally addressed Easter cards and Christmas cards to each resident at St. Fillans, Milton Lodge and Welshwood Manor. They also had CD's with hymns and words made available for staff to use with them.

In addition, at Easter, October and December we produced and recorded a special service for them at St. John's Church with hymns, Bible readings, prayers and a short talk to maintain a visual connection with residents. This was copied on to a memory stick for using on a television or small lap top for those confined to their rooms. I am very grateful for the support of Ruth, and representatives of those who previously visited each month, who took part in these recordings.

During the year I had positive response from some staff and relatives of residents which was encouraging. The most recent Christmas recording was also given to another Care home in the area which requested a copy and to other people in Care homes who have links to St. John's Church.

Please pray that during the next year we can build on our relationships with staff and residents at our Care homes and resume regular visits so we can share the love of Jesus with them again in person.

Mary Anthony. Pastoral Care Coordinator

SJC Community Choir

We spent the first half of the year with just a small group continuing to meet on Zoom, doing a bit of singing together but also a lot of chatting and generally staying in touch together! There was a glimmer of hope in the summer when a few of us met to sing in real life outside in the Church car park – there were only a few drops of rain!

Then in the autumn – we were able to meet in person, inside the church again! It was amazing on the first evening as I stood at the door welcoming back choir members that I hadn't heard from for the last 18 months – but had been reading our choir emails and waiting for the moment to return!

It has been joyous to be back together again and singing – nearly every week we welcome back people who are returning for the first time, and we have had some completely new members too. We have struggled with singing with masks on and off – but every week it feels a little more as though we are returning to normal, with the buzz of real life!

In December the choir was able to go and support carol singing at Greenstead, and also carol singing on a muddy roundabout at Avellana Place! We finished the year with singing in the two carol services – once again it was fantastic to be able to perform together again, and we particularly loved singing 'The Face of God'. Thank you choir!! We look forward to hopefully performing again in the summer to raise funds for Romania – look out for the date!

Ruth Ellam

Tuesday 8am Prayer Group

We meet at 8am for 40 minutes over Zoom. We consider Zoom a blessing as those of us unable to come to church can join in. The meeting has become a time of fellowship as well as a time of shared prayer. We are so aware of the leading of the Holy Spirit in our time together which overflows into our individual prayer times during the week.

We take turns to suggest a prayerfully chosen Bible reading with which we begin. Often this speaks to us in new ways and directs our prayers. We do not come with a prepared intercession list but we are led to pray for ourselves, sometimes with a prophetic word for one another, for SJC, for our community and for particular places and events in the world. There have also been times of spontaneous praise for our wonderful God.

We had no breaks in summer or at Christmas as we are so blessed by praying together!
Do join us!

Helen Charsley and Barbara Lamb

Refresh

It has been a particularly challenging time for those with new babies and young children and so it is great to be able to offer Refresh again, which restarted in the beginning of November. Lots of the parents and carers who previously attended have returned to work or the children are now too old, so we are gradually rebuilding. However, there are some of the same families returning with their next child and grandchild and it has been fantastic to reconnect with them. We are also meeting new families and they are inviting their friends and so it has been great to get to know them. The aims of Refresh are to provide a moment during the week where parents and carers can be looked after and supported by our team, meet other parents and grandparents in similar situations and for their children to enjoy all our toys. Each Tuesday morning there is a great atmosphere in the building, and we are enjoying the smaller numbers as they allow for more conversation. I continue to be incredibly grateful for the small team of volunteers that make this important ministry possible.

Families at 4

This is a new monthly Sunday afternoon event that started in October 2021 and is particularly aimed at families we have met at Refresh but also other families with pre-school children. Each event is a combination of free play, sensory activities, making craft to take home, a Bible story, singing and then a sandwich tea to finish. It is noisy, chaotic, and messy but lots of fun! We have been encouraged by the families we have met at Refresh (many before the pandemic) who have come to Families at 4 and I am grateful to the team involved that we have been able to offer this 'next-step' to those families and to build on the relationships we have made at Refresh. Our hope is that Families at 4 will also be a bridge to Messy Church, our families community and the wider St John's community.

Sunday Children's and Youth Ministry

During the pandemic children and young people met in a variety of groups to complement the service patterns we followed and to allow us to be COVID safe. Since September the Sunday children's and younger youth (Year 6-9) groups have restarted alongside the 11/10.30am service on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays of the month. Numbers are lower than pre-pandemic but we have welcomed new families as well as those returning when they feel it is safe to do so. This is an area of ministry that needs new team members as that would allow us to keep the groups small so that team can really get to know the children attending and support them in their faith formation and general development. It is inspirational to spend time with the children and youth as they explore the Bible, faith and who God is for themselves.

The older youth (Year 9 plus) are now being encouraged to attend the evening service, with many of them serving in the church at other times, and we meet for an additional hour of games, food and chat afterwards. Two of the young people are currently participating in the Diocese-led 'Growing Young Leaders' programme.

Clare Luxton

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST JOHN COLCHESTER

England & Wales - Charity number 1127854

Accounts



ST JOHN'S
COLCHESTER

**Annual Report &
Financial Statements
of the Parochial Church Council**

For the year ended 31 December 2020

Incumbent:

Rev'd Andy Sachs

Bank:

Barclays Bank
High Street
Colchester

Independent Examiners:

Larking Gowen Unit 1
Claydon Business Park Great Blakenham Ipswich
Suffolk IP6 0NL

**St John's Church
St John's Close
Colchester
Essex CO4 0HP**

Registered Charity Number: 1127854

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St. John's Church - Annual Report for 2020

Introduction

St John's PCC has the responsibility of co - operating with the Incumbent in promoting within the Parish the whole mission of the Church - pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It oversees and directs the mission and work of the Parish Church of St John's within the parish boundaries. Rev. Andy Sachs was appointed in September 2012 as Priest in Charge of the Parish of St John's. These reports, along with the Organisation Reports of the various ministry streams of the church, illustrate how the PCC fulfils its obligations to benefit the public - mainly to the worshipping congregations and to the local communities, but also beyond.

PCC Membership

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year the following were members of the PCC.

Andy Sachs	Chair
Rick Moore	Treasurer
Viv Whitfield	Clergy
Tim Solosy	Clergy (Left 19 December 2020)
Wendy Tiffin	PCC Secretary
Nik Read	Church Warden
Denise Johnson	Church Warden (Appointed 6 Oct 2020)
Dave Gentry	Deanery/ Diocesan Synod
Mary Anthony	Deanery Synod
Hope Osayande	Deanery Synod (Appointed 6 October 2020)
Alex Quayle	Deanery Synod
Martin Roscoe	Deanery Synod
Dave Sollis	PCC
Barbara Lamb	PCC (Stepping down 28 April 2021, end of term)
Helen Wilson	PCC (Stepping down 28 April 2021, end of term)
Peter Birdseye	PCC (Stepping down 28 April 2021, end of term)
Geoff Gilbert	PCC
Joanna Marshall	PCC
Tony Berry	PCC (Appointed 6 October 2020)
Jane Cornell	PCC (Appointed 6 October 2020)
Nicky Sirett	PCC (Appointed 6 October 2020)
Jonathan Mulvey	PCC (Appointed 6 October 2020)

The PCC operates through several committees/groups which meet between the full meetings of the PCC -

Standing Committee

This is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings. Since March 2020, on account of the Covid pandemic, the Standing Committee has conducted the majority of the church business on behalf of the PCC.

Resources Group

This group oversees firstly, the general financial dimension of the work of St John's is accomplished by monitoring income and expenditure, setting budgets, maintaining financial controls, the allocation of finance and co-ordinating the annual accounts. Secondly, this group oversees the management of the people employed by the Church, the management of people in voluntary roles and to support those involved in line management. Thirdly this group proposes budgets and refurbishment plans to maintain the fabric of the community centre and church building. It supports and gives guidelines to administrative staff on policy and letting arrangements for the hire of church buildings. Since March 2020, on account of the Covid pandemic, the Standing Committee has conducted the majority of Resources Group business.

Mission Partnerships Group

This group was formed to serve this area on behalf of the PCC with the aim of oversee and support our Mission Partnerships, both individually and with organisations.

Below is a list of the Mission Partners and organisations that SJC gave to in 2020:

Sinclairs	£0	(SJC stopped supporting them in October 2019)
Nortons	£5,400	
Toths	£3,000	
Hugh B.	£2,600	
Laura Simcox	£2,400	

St Anne's Community Garden Project £500

Vicar's Discretionary Fund - £744

Community Centre Management Committee (CCMC)

This PCC sub-committee ensures that the Community Centre is run with a missional business ethos, with the vision for: 'blessing the local community by providing a facility that encourages a healthy lifestyle, promotes family life and provides educational opportunities', utilising the facility as an instrument for seeing God's Kingdom come and generating income to support the church's missional work. From Lockdown in March 2020, much of the hiring has been curtailed.

Electoral Roll

2021 Roll Revision – 2 new Electoral Roll forms were filled in, of which 0 are resident of the Parish and 2 are non-resident. Being listed on the Electoral Roll of St. John's gives you a say in how your Church is run. In order to vote at the AVM, or to stand for election onto our PCC you must be on the Electoral Roll of the Church. If you missed out this year, or if you are unsure whether you are already included, then please speak to our Electoral Roll Officer – Denise Johnson, and she will be able to ensure that you are entered on in time for next year's roll.

There was no average weekly attendance at St John's counted during October 2020 because of the pandemic. There were an average of 341 views of the services put out each Sunday during October.

We conducted the following: - no Baptisms & Thanksgiving, 3 Marriages, 12 Funerals in the Church or conducted elsewhere, e.g crematorium.

	<i>St. John's Resident</i>	<i>Non - Resident</i>	
2020	103	200	303*
2021			296

*Numbers accurate to time church building closed due to Covid-19 crisis.

Vicars Report - The Aims of St John's Church in 2020

St John's PCC is responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the Parish Church building, a Church Community Centre and the mission and ministry of St John's Church Family, located in and in relation to the estate of St John's in north Colchester, but with a vision to impact the lives of those beyond the parish too as with the umbrella aim of 'Following Jesus, loving people and transforming the world'. Until the Covid pandemic took hold in March 2020 the church buildings were well used, not only for church activities and community events, but also for conferences and hirers from the wider community.

From January until March 2020 many regular missional activities of the church such as Refresh, Messy Church and SJC Community Choir, serving those with children, through every age and stage, to the activities run by our Thursday Generation team, continued to flourish.

In January 2020 Andy, the vicar preached on Noah's Ark and asked the church to pray into three areas for SJC to develop in 2020:

1. SJC Members being called to join and build Christian communities that rescue those in our communities who don't yet know Christ, the last, the least and the lost from despair and death... life without God. These SJC communities are the primary place of belonging, pastoral care, discipleship and missional activity at SJC

as each disciple grows in their:

UP relationship with God through prayer and worship

IN relationships with one another

OUT relationships with the world around them

2. SJC is being called to assist in building communities across our MMP through seeing churches revitalised, new works of the kingdom pioneered and planted....

3. SJC is being called to exercise faith, make sacrifices and to walk righteous and blameless lives with God, lives of obedience in every area of life.

Following the Prime Minister's announcement of 23rd March 2020, the Archbishops wrote to clergy in support of the measures and again on 27 March, requiring that churches must close both for private worship and public services. Our church buildings therefore closed for public worship, private prayer and all other meetings and activities. The community centre was also closed to hirers for much of the rest of 2020, apart from Oaklea nursery who returned to the centre in once pre-school education was permitted.

During the Lockdowns of 2020 most of the SJC community have adapted by taking their gatherings on-line.

Since March 2020 St John's Church has provided on-line weekly services on the St John's Church Colchester YouTube channel, and from 11th October services in the building re-started for SJC communities and the public, following all current Govt. and C of E guidelines.

In March 2020 the New Wine Discipleship Year hub went online. In September 2020 the New Wine Discipleship Year hub started with its third cohort of 4 students, with two SJC discipleship students, one involved with our worship team and the other, involved with our children and youth.

At the end of 2020 Rev'd Tim Solosy's curacy moved from SJC to the Tenpenny Villages so that he might gain experience of leading and ministering in a more rural multi-parish benefice.

On behalf of the PCC I am grateful to all those who volunteered of their time in such this difficult pandemic year 2020 in order to see the continued mission and ministry of St John's Church flourish. I am grateful to the Standing Committee, PCC and staff team for their hard work throughout the year. I want to thank all those who gave so generously to the work of St John's Church in 2020, as well as those who gave towards our 'Finishing What We Started' Community Centre Giving Campaign, raising approximately £29K- thank you for your incredible generosity.

Financial review

Covid-19 and the resultant lockdowns and restricted opening had a significant financial impact on the year 2020. Income from collections fell to £4,875 (2019: £19,613), and rentals from the community centre were reduced to £34,118 (2019: £52,342). Running cost reductions partly compensated, boosted by income from the government job retention scheme £39,040 and a £5,000 grant.

The annual accounts for 2020 record a total income of £408,630, compared to £379,224 in 2019. Tax recovered from Gift Aid and the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS) was £42,922, (£42,058 in 2019). Tax recovery remains a substantial contribution to the total income. Total expenditure for the year was £369,311, compared to £405,335 in 2019. This included our parish share to the diocese of £114,903. On 31 December 2020, the principal balances were £120,810 in the general fund and £1,013,786 in the restricted fund. Overall, the accounts show a surplus of £39,708 compared with a deficit of £25,220 in 2019.

Rev. Andy Sachs (29 March 2021)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'ASachs', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mr Nik Read (29 March 2021)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nik Read', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of The Parochial Church Council of St John's Church, Colchester

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of St John's Church ('the Charity') for the year ended 31 December 2020 which are set out on pages 9 to 15.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act'). You are satisfied that the accounts of the Charity are not required by charity law to be audited and have chosen instead to have an independent examination.

I report in respect of my examination of the accounts. I have carried out my examination under section 145 of 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

Since the Charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

1. accounting records, with respect to the Charity, were not kept as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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.



.....
Name: Giles Kerkham FCA DChA

**Larking Gowen LLP
Chartered Accountants
1 Claydon Business Park
Ipswich
IP6 0NL**

Date: 27 April 2021

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JOHN'S, COLCHESTER

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

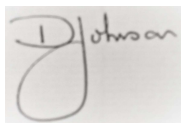
	Note	2020 £	2019 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	5(a)	1,099,460	1,125,630
Investments	5(b)	6,044	5,655
Total Fixed Assets		<u>1,105,504</u>	<u>1,131,285</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	7	6,936	8,658
Short term deposits		77,765	77,697
Cash at bank and in hand		59,448	28,014
		<u>144,149</u>	<u>114,369</u>
CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR			
	8	<u>(15,929)</u>	<u>(14,189)</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS			
		128,220	100,180
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			
		<u>1,233,724</u>	<u>1,231,465</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year			
	9	<u>(99,128)</u>	<u>(136,577)</u>
NET ASSETS			
		<u>1,134,596</u>	<u>1,094,888</u>
FUNDS			
Unrestricted		120,810	97,424
Restricted	10	1,013,786	997,464
		<u>1,134,596</u>	<u>1,094,888</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 29 March 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

Mr Andy Sachs (Chairman)



Ms Denise Johnson (Lay Vice-Chair)



The accompanying notes form part of these accounts.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JOHN'S, COLCHESTER

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES For the period ended 31st December 2020

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL FUNDS	
		£	£	2020	2019
INCOME & ENDOWMENTS FROM:					
Voluntary income (direct giving)	2(a)	245,151	151	245,302	258,954
Other voluntary income	2(b)	44,040	80,254	124,294	58,974
		289,191	80,405	369,596	317,928
Charitable activities	2(c)	38,797	0	38,797	60,968
Other trading activities	2(d)	0	0	0	0
Investments	2(e)	68	169	237	328
TOTAL INCOME & ENDOWMENTS		328,056	80,574	408,630	379,224
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Charitable activities:					
Missionary and Charitable Giving	3(a)	14,905	19,905	34,810	64,183
Directly relating to the work of the church	3(b)	294,557	39,944	334,501	341,152
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		309,462	59,849	369,311	405,335
NET GAINS/LOSSES ON INVESTMENTS					
Exceptional items		0	389	389	891
		0	0	0	0
		0	389	389	891
NET INCOME/EXPENDITURE		18,594	21,114	39,708	(25,220)
Transfers between funds:					
Loans repaid	10	7,607	(7,607)	0	0
Other		(2,815)	2,815	0	0
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		23,386	16,322	39,708	(25,220)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:					
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1 JANUARY 2020 (2019)		97,424	997,464	1,094,888	1,120,108
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD At 31st December 2020		120,810	1,013,786	1,134,596	1,094,888

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
ST JOHN'S, COLCHESTER**

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

1. Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared under the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the current Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities and applicable accounting standard FRS 102.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair' view. This departure has involved following SORP 2015 (FRS 102) rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value.

The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102.

Funds

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.

Restricted funds are those funds that must be spent on restricted purposes, and details of the funds held and restrictions are provided in note 9.

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law, they do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Incoming Resources

Voluntary Income and Capital Sources

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.

Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised only when received.

Income tax recoverable on gift aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is reasonably certain.

Funds raised by fetes, garden parties and similar events are accounted for gross.

Sales of books and magazines from the Church Bookstall are accounted for gross.

Other Ordinary Income

Rental income from the letting of Church premises is recognised when the rental is due.

Income from investments

Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable. Tax recoverable on such income is recognised in the same accounting year.

Gains and Losses on Investments

Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold.

Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31 December.

Resources Used

Grants

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

Activities directly relating to the work of the Church

The diocesan quota or parish share is accounted for when payable. Any quota unpaid at 31 December is provided for in these accounts as an operational (though not a legal) liability, and is shown as a creditor in the Balance Sheet.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated Land and Buildings and Movable Church Furnishings

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by section 10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the Church's Inventory which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For inalienable property acquired prior to (2000) there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the accounts. Items acquired since 1 January (2000) have been capitalized and depreciated in the accounts over their currently anticipated useful economic life (initially over 10 years) on a straight-line basis.

Other Fixtures, Fittings and Office Equipment

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a reducing balance basis over 4 years, and buildings at 2% on a straight line basis per annum. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £2,500 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

Investment in subsidiary companies is stated at cost less provision for permanent diminution in value. Dividends are brought to income resources when received

Current Assets

Amounts owing to the PCC on 31 December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.

Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit, either with the CBF Church of England Funds, or at the bank.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JOHN'S, COLCHESTER

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the period ended 31st December 2020

2 INCOMING RESOURCES

		TOTAL FUNDS	
		2020	2019
		£	£
2(a)	Voluntary income (direct giving)		
	Planned giving:		
	Gift Aid	145,864	154,199
	Income tax recoverable on gift aid	35,210	38,011
	Other giving	-	-
	Collections	4,875	19,613
	Sundry donations	59,353	47,131
		245,302	258,954
	[2019: Restricted £151, Unrestricted £258,803, Total £258,954]		
2(b)	Other voluntary income		
	Donations, appeals, etc.	72,542	54,927
	Income tax recoverable	7,712	4,047
	Government grants	44,040	-
	Legacies	-	-
		124,294	58,974
	[2019: Restricted £58,974, Unrestricted £0, Total £58,974]		
2(c)	Charitable activities		
	Church community centre income etc.	36,621	60,244
	Events	-	-
	Fees - other	2,176	724
		38,797	60,968
	[2019: Restricted £0, Unrestricted £60,968, Total £60,968]		
2(d)	Other trading activities	-	-
2(e)	Investments		
	Dividends and interest including any reclaimed tax	237	328
		237	328
	[2019: Restricted £164, Unrestricted £164 Total £328]		
TOTAL INCOME & ENDOWMENTS		408,630	379,224
	[2019: Restricted £59,289, Unrestricted £319,935, Total £379,224]		

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JOHN'S, COLCHESTER

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
For the period ended 31st December 2020

3 Resources used

		TOTAL FUNDS	
		2020	2019
		£	£
3(a)	Grants		
	Missionary and charitable giving:		
	Church overseas:		
	- Missionary societies and charitable giving	0	0
	- Gift for Romania land purchase	0	0
	Home missions and other Church Societies	<u>34,810</u>	<u>64,183</u>
		<u>34,810</u>	<u>64,183</u>

[2019: Restricted £34,635, Unrestricted £29,548, Total £64,183]

3(b)	Activities directly relating to the work of the Church		
	Ministry: diocesan quota	114,903	114,810
	clergy expenses	3,232	2,757
	Church - running expenses	23,405	33,627
	Independent Examination fees	1,550	1,550
	Church maintenance	44,132	46,856
	Training	4,323	5,054
	Expenditure on parish magazine and bookstall	246	218
	Building repairs & renewals	0	0
	Church community centre running costs	18,104	12,948
	Mortgage Interest	2,774	3,885
	Salaries	<u>121,832</u>	<u>119,447</u>
		<u>334,501</u>	<u>341,152</u>

[2019: Restricted £46,196, Unrestricted £294,956, Total £341,152]

Total Resources Used

369,311 405,335

[2019: Restricted £80,831, Unrestricted £324,504, Total £405,335]

4 Total Staff Costs		2020	2019
	Wages and salaries	116,845	113,825
	Social security costs	3,079	4,188
	Pension costs	<u>1,908</u>	<u>1,934</u>
		<u>121,832</u>	<u>119,947</u>
	Average number of paid staff	<u>9</u>	<u>8</u>

During 2020 the PCC employed no staff earning over £60,000
 No employee benefits were received by key management personnel.

2020 2019

Payroll processing fees paid to Walter Wright: (Connected to treasurer)	£	497	£	486
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No further payments or expenses were paid to any other PCC member, person connected with them or related party.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JOHN'S, COLCHESTER

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the period ended 31st December 2020

5	Fixed Assets for use by the PCC	Land and Buildings £	Computers & Equipment £	Total £
5(a)	Tangible fixed assets			
	Gross Book Value at 1 January 2020	1,394,947	23,829	1,418,776
	Additions	0	0	0
	Disposals	0	0	0
	at 31 December 2020	<u>1,394,947</u>	<u>23,829</u>	<u>1,418,776</u>
	Depreciation at 1 January 2020	271,019	22,127	293,146
	Charge for year	25,744	426	26,170
	Disposals	0	0	0
	at 31 December 2020	<u>296,763</u>	<u>22,553</u>	<u>319,316</u>
	Net Book Value at 31 December 2020	<u>1,098,184</u>	<u>1,276</u>	<u>1,099,460</u>
	at 31 December 2019	<u>1,123,928</u>	<u>1,702</u>	<u>1,125,630</u>

The freehold land and buildings comprises the church community centre and associated land. Freehold land costing £120,000 (2019: £120,000) is not depreciated.

Our current mortgage stands at £108,301 (2019: £145,255).

5	Investments for use by the PCC	Listed Investments	Total
5(b)	Investments		
	Cost		
	At 1 January 2020	5,655	5,655
	Additions	0	0
	Revaluation	389	389
	Disposals	0	0
	At 31 December 2020	<u>6,044</u>	<u>6,044</u>

Listed investments are 295 shares in the CBF's Investment Fund in trust - Dividends for the benefit of the CMF.

6	Analysis of net assets by fund	2020	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Total
			Funds	Funds	Funds	
			£	£	£	£
	Fixed assets		0	1,099,460	0	1,099,460
	Investments		0	6,044	0	6,044
	Current Assets		6,936	0	0	6,936
	Current Liabilities		(2,706)	(13,223)	0	(15,929)
	Liabilities greater than 1 Year		0	(99,128)	0	(99,128)
	Cash at bank		116,580	20,633	0	137,213
	Fund Balance at 31 December 2020		120,810	1,013,786	0	1,134,596

7	Debtors	2020	2019
	Income tax recoverable	2,986	7,658
	Other debtors	3,950	1,000
	Prepayments & accrued income	0	0
		6,936	8,658

8	Liabilities: Amounts falling due within one year	2020	2019
	Loans	(9,173)	(8,678)
	Trade creditors	(348)	(1,080)
	Accruals and deferred income	(1,575)	(1,550)
	Other creditors	(4,833)	(2,881)
		(15,929)	(14,189)

9	Liabilities: Amounts falling due more than one year	2020	2019
	Loans	(99,128)	(136,577)
		(99,128)	(136,577)

10	Restricted Fund Details	2019	Income	Expenses	Transfers	2020
		£	£	£	£	£
	Land and Buildings Church community centre	1,123,928	0	(25,744)	0	1,098,184
	Computers and Equipment	1,702	0	(426)	0	1,276
	Investments	5,655	389	0	0	6,044
	Antioch Fund	0	151	(151)	0	0
	Other	8,242	24020	(16,594)	(4,432)	11,236
	Romania Mission & foodbank	3,192	16675	(14,160)	(360)	5,347
	Loans	(145,255)	39728	(2,774)	0	(108,301)
		997,464	80,963	(59,849)	(4,792)	1,013,786

11	Contingent Liabilities	2018	Income	Expenses	Transfers	2019
		£	£	£	£	£
	Land and Buildings Church community centre	1,149,672	0	(25,744)	0	1,123,928
	Computers and Equipment	2,269	0	(567)	0	1,702
	Investments	4,764	891	0	0	5,655
	Antioch Fund	0	151	(151)	0	0
	Other	11,750	17605	(28,806)	7693	8,242
	Romania Mission	0	24870	(21,678)	0	3,192
	Loans	(166,136)	16663	(3,885)	8103	(145,255)
		1,002,319	60,180	(80,831)	15,796	997,464

Transfers represent adjustments for subsidies from general funds, and timing between receipt and payment.

11 **Contingent Liabilities**
There is a potential contingent liability in respect of a grant given by Surestart of £272,996 for the Church community centre building project. The liability extends for 25 years from the initial receipt of the grant in 2011, during which period there is a requirement that the usage of the facilities is for the provision of registered childcare for 25 years.

12 **Reserves policy**
A target reserve of £90,000 is set to finance both day to day cash flow fluctuations, and to provide a contingency available for unexpected costs, in particular building repairs. Unrestricted funds at the year end £120,810 (2019: £97,424) exceed this figure.

The following pages do not form part of the Annual Report and Financial Statements

The Buildings & Facilities Management Report

Initial plans for 2020 were to press ahead with the recommendations of the 2019 Quinquennial report, as well as keeping on top of regular maintenance. Volunteers gathered on 8 Feb 2020 to undertake a number of jobs in the buildings and grounds.

Routine maintenance was undertaken on the church where it was safe to do so. Later in the year, the hole in the floor of the family room was fixed and made good (our thanks to Gary and Peter Willmott) and the vinyl flooring re-laid by the original contractor. Some other recommendations from the Quinquennial Report have also been implemented.

The Buildings Committee is now looking at the rest of the recommendations, as well as considering options for the roof over the link room, which is leaking again. This is likely to be a large project with significant costs, so please keep the team in your prayers as they undertake this work, and also for funding and grants to be available to help cover the costs.

2020 has been very quiet in terms of hiring, for obvious reasons. We were glad to be able to continue to accommodate Oaklea pre-school in the Community Centre for most of the year and some of other regular hirers have been in during those times when it was safe. Jo Roberts has done a great job of keeping in touch with all our hirers and we are pleased that many of them hope to return as soon as it is safe. We are thankful as well for new enquiries, even now, from prospective regular hirers and we hope to be able to welcome them soon.

Andrew Tiffin

Deanery Synod Report

Lay representatives plus clergy from all the Colchester Anglican churches meet three times a year, to hear what's going on in the Diocese and nationally, and to discuss and share ideas about how we can work together more effectively across Colchester.

11th February 2020 at St. Margaret's, Berechurch

- The Good News Story this month came from St. Stephens' Church and John Clifton gave an excellent presentation regarding the Eco Church Scheme which St. Stephens' had recently signed up to, and invited sister churches in the Deanery to do the same.
- Our area Dean, Reverend Canon Paul Norrington gave a presentation updating Synod members on the Deanery Vision Plan (DVP) which had been approved by the Deanery Standing and Pastoral Committee (DSPC) on 27th January 2020.
- Synod was informed that the DSPC had appointed John Chandler as Deanery Finance Officer.

25th June 2020 – Online via 'Zoom'

- The Archdeacon of Colchester, Venerable Ruth Patten and Area Mission and Ministry Advisor, Reverend Phil Ritchie gave a presentation entitled '*Towards Financial Resilience*', discussing the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our parishes. This was followed by a question and answer session.

1st December 2020 – Online via Zoom

- At this meeting the election of Deanery Standing and Pastoral Committee officers took place and the following were elected:
 - **Clergy** – Reverend Andy Sachs
 - **Clergy** – Reverend Lorraine Badger-Watts
 - **Clergy** – Reverend Tony Bushell
 - **Clergy** – Reverend Erwin Lammens
 - **Clergy** – Reverend Hannah Cooper
 - **Laity** – Mel Bateman
 - **Laity** – Mary Durlacher
 - **Laity** - Jane Scott-Thompson
 - **Laity** - Vacancy
 - **Laity** – Vacancy

- There was then an address by the Bishop of Colchester, Bishop Roger Morris. The Bishop updated Synod of where we are as a diocese with the current financial situation. A full report of the Bishop's address and the following Q&A session can be found in the minutes of the Synod meeting.

ORGANISATIONAL REPORTS

These reports are not part of the financial statement.

Alpha Course Report 2020

In January 2020 a decision was made to run the Alpha Course, in conjunction with other churches within our Mission and Ministry Partnership (MMP), to start during May 2020. The course was to run at St. Anne's Church Premises. The course would be jointly facilitated by Martin Roscoe along with Peter Birdseye plus Reverend Sue Howlett and Sam Lees (ordinand) from Greenstead with St. Anne's Parish.

The global coronavirus pandemic outbreak and subsequent lockdown has meant that our original plans had to be reconsidered. The decision taken was that we would still offer the Alpha Course, but that we would facilitate it online via the Zoom platform.

Our original plan was to run the entire Alpha course broken into 4 week modules with a break of a few weeks between modules. By the time we had reached the third week of the first four-week module, it became really apparent to us that our guests were forming good relationships with each other and because they were engaging so well with each other, and with the discussions being held within the small groups, we did not want to prevent progress or the impetus with which the course was moving forward. Our guests were asked if they would like to stop for the proposed break, or whether they would like to carry on each week and complete the course in its entirety. Unanimously our guests expressed a preference for continuing the course without taking a break and so that is how we proceeded.

Weekly Videos

On this course we used the weekly videos produce by Alpha for the course, streamed from the meeting host's computer. We then used the 'breakout rooms' function of Zoom and broke the course into two discussion groups, one which was hosted by Martin Roscoe and Peter Birdseye and the other by Reverend Sue Howlett and Sam Lees.

Summary

This online course was very successful. The team involved in the facilitation were absolutely amazed by the way in which our guests engaged with the course and with each other in what was a totally new way of doing things. It has certainly given us food for thought for considering to run courses online in this way in the future.

Prayers are requested for continued success here at St. John's Church for our Alpha courses.

Young Families Community

For the past few years Young Families have met every other month for lunch together (kids included!), which has been a great opportunity for new families to get to know each other and get involved in church life. With the problems of 2020 this hasn't been possible, which has been a real shame, but we have managed to engage with a few new families through the Young Families Sunday services which ran towards the end of the year. Small groups have met together in person when restrictions have allowed (meeting in gardens etc.) but Zoom has been the go-to for the majority of the year. The children have enjoyed engaging in church in a different way, through the St John's kids services and more recently Messy Church Online.

Rick & Becky Moore

International Community

Our saddest news is that Caroline White, who led this Community with her husband, Michael, went to glory in July 2020. Michael has since stepped down as Community leader to focus on his work with Friends International based at the University of Essex. Several of our Community members are involved with Friends International, so we tend to count our involvement as part of our outreach. Sally Anderson-Wai and Martin Roscoe are now the Community leaders.

Before the first lockdown, both groups within the Community were meeting in members' homes. As lockdown started, the Tuesday morning group started having meetings online on Zoom. This has worked well and usually now involves a prayer to open, prayer requests written into a book, worship from St John's Church's services recorded on YouTube, a bible study and a testimonial, and closes with a prayer. Each member is encouraged to take a turn at leading the study and giving their testimonial to encourage them to grow.

Number have grown as four people from other groups have joined us on Zoom. Also one of our student friends, who became a Christian while at Essex University, now joins our Zoom meetings, which is very encouraging to all concerned.

In the summer we had a social gathering at a social distance in one of our members gardens and we've also held a couple of online quiz nights. Members of both groups attended the church services when we were able to do so. Also, a friend of Sally's, who had attended a couple of quizzes, has made a commitment to the Lord and is watching the live streamed church services.

Michael's Tuesday evening group met regularly in gardens last year but has not met since December since several members did not like zoom. Michael joins in Sally and Martin's Tuesday morning group when he can, as he has several Friends International zoom meetings every week. He intends to suggest to members of his group that can manage Zoom that they join another group, until the lockdowns have ended.

Sally Anderson-Wai

Oasis Community

During this year of Coronavirus we have obviously not been able to meet normally. The three main discipleship groups have met regularly online for a catch-up, discussion, study and prayer. And often the prayer has continued on an individual front, especially when serious need has arisen. The groups also keep in touch with each other informally, via WhatsApp, email, etc. As a community (all groups together) we have held occasional online Holy Communion services led by Viv, with reps from each group taking part. We look forward to some kind of return to normality as soon as it is safe!

Viv Whitfield and Nicky Sirett

Generation X Community

Gen X started 2020 as we meant to go on – meeting fortnightly, eating together occasionally and always on the lookout for people to join us. As lockdown began, we moved to weekly meetings, to support one another and give the week some shape. We have been happy to welcome some new members, this being made easier in some cases by not needing to travel. Through the autumn, we enjoyed being able to worship together in the church on Sundays, although we continued to hold our meetings by Zoom. We used the Discovery Bible Study material and also the LICC Life on the Frontline course. If you're interested in joining a women's group, then please do contact Wendy in the church office.

Wendy Tiffin & Vanessa Sachs

Romania

So it's no surprise to you I'm sure that we weren't able to undertake any of the 3 planned trips to Romania in the past year, for very obvious reasons! We are constantly monitoring the situation and I am in almost daily contact with Attila with regards to both the projects themselves but also about various general and prayer matters. Although none of the building trips could take place, we were absolutely delighted that for the third year in a row we managed to successfully run the Christmas Shoebox project, with yet again over 700 boxes being sent! Various local schools, as well as church family members and friends all came together to send a Christmas box to the children of the gypsy communities with whom Attila works so closely. Thank you so very much to everyone who came together and made a shoebox, each and everyone of them really did make a child smile.

We were delighted to be able to start our "Honey for Hope" project, with our amazing "Queen Bee" Eileen

Read heading up this wonderful, very practical ministry. By importing and selling the finest Transylvanian honey, it's a very practical way in which we as a church community can support the projects in a small financial way - and get an amazing product in return!

With regards to 2021, we have already taken the view that we won't even try to undertake a trip until September this year, by which time hopefully things will be a little clearer. We are tentatively planning a second trip maybe in October or November, and we will once again endeavour to make the Christmas shoebox project happen. There is so much to do that we need to get out there as soon as we possibly can, but only once things are of course safe for everyone.

On behalf of everyone in Romania with whom we partner, we would like to thank you for your continued support of the project and we would ask you to continue praying for Attila, Adele and their team.

Nik Read

Pastoral Prayer Ministry

What does The Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” (Micah 6:8)

It has certainly been a year of walking humbly with our Lord. With the Coronavirus and the various lockdowns implemented there has not been a lot of activity on the Pastoral Prayer Ministry side as this is a ministry where we meet on a ratio of 2:1 with people who require deeper prayer ministry for their particular situations. God is concerned about the needs that impact our very identity and our potential as human beings. With the lockdowns it has not been possible to meet. It has been a day to day asking The Lord “Who do You want us to speak to today?” (As we are sure that many others within the Church family have been doing).

Almost every day there has been a neighbour, friend or family member to come alongside via e-mail, text, telephone or zoom or to chat to at a safe distance when out walking. To just listen, encourage, give hope to, or generally keep in touch. Once we get back to some sort of “normality” there may be more people who will need to take advantage of this ministry. Until then we will continue asking the Lord daily what He is doing and walk alongside Him.

Neil & Corinne Millard

Lighthouse Community

At the beginning of 2020, Lighthouse Community was meeting weekly on Tuesday evenings, although attendance was spasmodic, partly due to member's workloads and the only venues available to host were located in Wivenhoe and Manningtree.

During Lockdown, we decided to use Zoom and changed the day to Thursday. Members now found it easier to commit the time. This has been a great blessing and has worked extremely well. We intend to continue with Zoom when restrictions have eased.

Over the last year, we have studied Philippians, Discovery Bible Study- John's miracles and Psalms. We all feel we have grown in our understanding of God's word. More members of the group have stepped up and taken a turn to lead our weekly studies.

During the summer, we managed to meet up a couple of times (group of 6) for prayers on a Saturday morning. This is something we want to continue to do when restrictions are lifted, as we recognise the importance of prayer and meeting together in person.

Three members managed to attend 'Church at the Boot' one Sunday morning in September. The Lord blessed them with beautiful weather. Everything was very well organised and the church are a recognised 'presence' with car boot regulars.

Planning social events has been very difficult, but an online quiz was organised just before Christmas. We were all very excited that one of our members became Church Warden! Another member is involved with the group PACE Manningtree and will be helping the church to gain 'Eco Church' status.

2020 has been a strange year in so many ways, but as a Community, we have seen God's provision, God's protection and God's overwhelming love for us.

Psalm 91: I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust."

Helen Robinson

New Wine Discipleship Year – 2020

The 2019/2020 cohort saw our New Wine Discipleship Year students embark on the final term of their year, where the focus was on 'Leading a fruitful life – Calling and Leadership'. With the lock down restrictions in place from March we continued all our teaching days via Zoom, which the students embraced well. Serving at their placement churches, took on a new shape and many were involved with a range of activities, from setting up streaming and delivering online services to running children and youth groups remotely. We met as a group and volunteered at Colchester Food Bank where the students were able to serve the community, gain practical experience and show faith in action. After completing the year, and seeking God for their next steps, the students went on to either university or higher education, Leadership Year (church ministry) or continued to stay serving in their placement churches.

This year we have four students, two based at St. John's and two on placement at Kingsland. Due to further lock down restrictions the group has met partly in person and now meets via Zoom weekly for teaching, with New Wine organising national online gatherings. These have been fantastic days of worship, teaching, fellowship and fun! The group have bonded well and each week pray, worship together and are accountable to each other. I feel so encouraged by the students, that they continue to be creative in their approach to the course and their willingness to keep God as the focus of their lives.

At the heart of the New Wine Discipleship Year programme is deepening their knowledge and experience of God in a way which is relevant and meaningful for them. Our hope for these young people is that they go on to become disciple making-disciples, wherever God leads them and we look forward to the rest of the year! Please continue to pray for the NWDY students that they become closer to God through these changeable times, learning to lean on Him daily and live out their faith.

Maria Read

St John's Soup Run Team

St John's is part of the Colchester soup run organisation which for 30 years has provided sandwiches, soup and drinks every night throughout the year to those who need it. The teams are from Colchester churches and the surrounding areas.

Two teams from St John's cover the 4th Tuesday of every month. We prepare sandwiches, drinks and soups and meet at the back of Primark in town at 8.00 pm and those in need know where to come and are often waiting for us when we arrive.

Since the pandemic and lock-down we no longer do this and understand the council are providing accommodation for those who are homeless, so they no longer sleep rough through the pandemic.

We have now been asked to take two/three loaves of sandwiches to Beacon House and they are distributed throughout the day to those who want them, and I understand Open Door offer food too.

This has raised the question as to whether offering food every evening is the way forward, as they now have somewhere to sleep. Is it right to encourage them to come out every night to get the food and drink we offer or is it time for change? No decision has been made and we will keep you updated as this is a cause close to our hearts.

Jane Shelley & Peter Hassard

Thursday Generation

There are about 70 members of The Thursday Generation, 40 of whom do not attend SJC. Obviously their age group has been hit very hard in 2020 and some of them have not been out of their homes since last March. We have kept in touch with them either by email or phone, but many of them live alone and don't have the internet. They have generally been very stoical and upbeat and now, though struggling with this third lock-down, they are very positive about the vaccinations which will hopefully allow us to get together in some form in the months ahead.

Back in the spring we didn't know how long this would go on for. One of the Discipleship Groups started to meet weekly on Zoom, and recently a second group has started. Technology is of course challenging for a lot of the TG but they have been amazing. In September, with the aid of techno savvy people, we did the Journeys course on zoom and everyone enjoyed that. Weekly emails have been going out to make people feel that they're not alone and they have enjoyed them.

For those without the internet it has been more difficult. We have called them, swapped puzzles for them, and offered shopping help but what they have really missed has been going into church. We have just recently started a 'paper' newsletter and Prayer Focus that will be delivered to them every week so that they are kept up to date with church life. On the three occasions when we had services in church we had maximum numbers. Please pray that the newsletter will be a blessing to them and that before too long we will be back in church.

Diane Foster

Eco Community

Eco-Hub, is a new community that was set up in August 2020 and has six members. We meet fortnightly to catch up, plan and have a short bible study. As the name suggests, the group has an outward focus, looking to encourage the church and wider community into action to address the Climate and Environmental emergencies. With this in mind, St John's has been registered for the Eco church award with La Rocha and we have been working towards the bronze award. We hope to achieve this during 2021. As part of this we had a working party in the church grounds in October 2020 and tidied up and planted the border between the church and community centre in order to attract more insect life and set up a bug hotel beside the church. We are planning further work during the spring. In September we held an outdoor service with a theme of Care for Creation. The first service of 2021 in St John's had a theme of Care for Creation and the congregation were encouraged to take steps to assess and reduce their carbon footprint. This was accompanied by an information sheet about next steps to take and we have followed up with Eco Awareness evenings on 'Eating for the Planet' and 'Renewable Energies'. We are also planning to run the Lent course 'Care for Creation' from York Courses. To help with information sharing, a St John's Colchester Eco Group Facebook page was set up in November 2020 and has 20 members. It shares information, ideas and tries to open up some discussion. We are a small community but are very enthusiastic about opportunities going forward, particularly once Covid restrictions are lifted.

Pauline Scott

Primary School Families Community

We started the year with a social at Highwoods country park. It was chilly but the kids loved all being out together and we were able to get a much needed hot drink too! Some of the guys went to the cinema in February and then we had another social planned for March... but lockdown arrived. We decided as a community to keep meeting every Tuesday evening as normal, but over Zoom. With many of us dealing with home learning, and for some juggling work too, it was really great to be able to encourage each other and share the highs and lows. We kept to our usual pattern of catch up, bible study and then praying for each

other. We also had a few games evenings and even a bake off! Although being able to meet over Zoom was a blessing, we are looking forward to when we can meet in homes again.

Micky & Jo Roberts

SPECTRUM Community.

We have had an unusual year this year, as I am sure all the groups can testify! We have learnt how to use Zoom, set up a WhatsApp support group, found new ways to study and worship together, and continue to support each other without meeting in person. We still meet weekly to chat and share, pray and study the bible together.

The group has continued in being very supportive of each other, and we have had the encouragement of many answers to prayer, with group members often communicating throughout the week. In some ways we have had more communication and support than before which is a blessing. We have been able to pray for and support individual outreach and witness opportunities for members within the group.

One of the highlights has that Zoom has allowed us to connect more with our mission partners, and so they can join in regularly even at a distance. We praise God that lock down has deepened relationships.

And the termly party and quizzes have meant we can still relax, and have fun in each other's company, in socially distant safety.

Sandra Huff

Prayer Ministry Team Report

As for many others this has been a challenging year for us with cancelled meetings and plans on hold. Since the team met in January 2020 we had to cancel the next 3 dates (March, May and June) due to covid.

Our main ministry is "after service prayer". Very often when people are challenged by a particular talk or touched deeply by the Lord, they need to respond there and then. But, of course, it doesn't stop there. Most of the team are also involved in Discipleship Groups and that gives us opportunities to pray for others.

We have encouraged the team to look for openings to minister the love of Jesus into those who are hurting, have lost hope or lonely through this past year.

We continue to put into practice all that we've been trained to do and we trust that, with more time available, we will be able to minister to those who find themselves in difficult situations.

LIZ BERRY and JANE CORNELL

SJC Community Choir

It seems so long ago now but... 2020 started well for Community Choir! Bouyed up by our many community performances over Christmas, we had around 50-60 people attending each week to sing together. And then...well, Covid.

We took choir online straight away – with no real knowledge of what an online choir might be!

'Zoom Choir' has been a very different experience – and I am very aware that for many choir members it has either not been accessible or has not been useful – and we have missed them! For others, the routine of still meeting on Monday evening has been useful throughout the ups and downs of the past year.

These days, a core group of around 15-18 of us meet on Zoom every Monday evening – sometimes a few more! It's been a joy to have children of choir members join us at times too! Although the needed use of the 'mute all' button means we cannot all hear each other, we have learnt other ways of connecting – whether it is through doing actions to the songs so we can see a 'visual harmony' of everyone joining in, to still being able to chat together in breakout rooms – and of course having a few Zoom Quiz's!!

During the Autumn, it was great to have something to work towards – recording for the SJC Carols of Comfort and Joy recorded service. Each person had to record their vocals separately, either over Zoom or directly – which is quite daunting, when we are used to singing in a big group! It felt great though to still be in the Carol Service, even though in such a different way. It was fab too to see (and hear!) some of choir ‘in person’ at Carols in the Car Park.

Of course, we all long to be back together, singing with gusto with other friends we haven’t seen for a year. But I am so grateful for the determination and hope from those choir members who have kept us going online – both from SJC and from the community. And so, we keep singing, each in our own homes, over Zoom... until we sing together again.

Ruth Ellam

Prayer Centre

Tuesday 8am Prayer Group

At the beginning of 2020, we met in the church at 7am for prayer and then we shared breakfast. During lockdown, we began to meet at 8am for 40 minutes over Zoom. Getting used to using Zoom was a challenge at first, especially with sung worship, but a good lesson in being gracious to others. We do miss the time of fellowship which we enjoyed when having breakfast together.

We begin with a prayerfully chosen Bible reading and listen for the Holy Spirit’s leading. We are so aware of the Father’s love for the world and have been led to pray for the extension of His kingdom, for the suffering, the persecuted, the bereaved and for those working for the good of others during the pandemic. There have also been many times of spontaneous praise for our wonderful God.

We had no breaks in summer or at Christmas as we are so blessed by praying together!

Do join us!

Helen Wain and Barbara Lamb

Thursday Prayer

Thursday Evening Prayer emerged as a lasting part of the 24/7 prayer week at the end of May 2020. It takes place on zoom for 20 minutes, 7-7.20PM. We have found this to be a good length because it enables a focussed period for unified prayer without things growing laboured over the airwaves of zoom!

In recent months, some members of SJC community have kindly agreed to ‘visit’ and share a bit about their area of work or something similar prior to our time praying. This has really helped us capture prayer needs in a ‘real world’ sense.

We enjoy this group. It has a lovely feel whilst in a small way, we hope, offering some obedience in prayer.

If you can join us, please do!

Heather Haddow

Open House Hospitality’ Community

The ‘Open House Hospitality’ community, formerly known as the ‘Outrageous Hospitality’ community currently consists of two groups: Gulp & Dollop. The groups in the community meet for a simple relaxed sharing meal, once a month, in different homes and engage in a discussion at the table around a pre-determined question/topic. We finish the evening with Compline.

In the last 12 months we have undergone a name change as we feel this better reflects who we are as a group. We want to be known for ‘welcoming all’, with the only limitation being the size of the of dining room table!

As our usual format is a shared meal around a table and a discussion, along with the rest of the world during the Covid-19 pandemic, our groups have adapted to online video meetings. These meetings have been fortnightly with Dollop and Gulp combined. The main purpose has been to catchup with one another, ensure the well-being of everyone and to pray for people's needs. We all long for the day when we can meet together again and share food!

Within the groups there has been stability of members this year, combined with some small growth.
Peter & Catherine Theodosius

Messy Church

As for everyone, 2020 was a very strange year for Messy Church. We were grateful to be able to meet in Jan, Feb and March but as everything we then had to stop. By nature - once you follow COVID regulations there isn't much of Messy Church left. So it was time to get creative. In October we held a Light Trail around the area close to the church with stations in the gardens of various houses of church members. We were thrilled that about 15 families, mostly familiar community Messy church families came along. We were encouraged that they continued to want to be engaged and it was great to make real life (distanced) contact. We were also grateful that we were able to hold a Christmas Messy church event, face to face in church. It was the 'unmessiest' Messy church ever, controlled, cleaned and spaced out - but it was so lovely to actually see some of our community families.

Looking to 2021 - we are working on having Messy church online, with an active Zoom celebration and sheets of activities for families to do at home, an outdoor Easter trail and an Easter Messy Church online. Our tentative hope is that we might be able to meet outside over the summer months if government restrictions allow.

Please thank God for some key community families that have reappeared at the events we have been able to hold, after such a long break.

Please pray that God will hold our messy church families close during the break and that we can easily reconnect with them when we are able to

Please pray for creativity and vision as we have to do things very differently.

Blokes Community

We have continued to meet fortnightly through most of the past year, mainly online via Zoom. During the lesser lockdown period, we managed a couple of outdoor meetings in the garden, most notably with a take-away curry, and hoping we will be able to do the same in summer 2021. Numbers have slowly increased during the year with approximately 11 current members.

Andrew Tiffin & Jonathan Mulvey

Pastoral Care.

This has been a challenging year for everyone because of the Covid 19 pandemic with the restrictions and lockdowns. Inevitably this has prevented people meeting together both formally and informally for sharing, listening to each other and supporting in ways that we had previously taken for granted. Consequently, some people have become more isolated from their loved ones, friends and church family through changing circumstances.

Therefore, we have all had to adapt and try to maintain contact in more creative ways. Many of us have developed new technological skills to use such as Zoom or other social media not previously considered. Some have sustained links through their Discipleship groups but many people have also made huge efforts to make regular phone calls to others who don't have access to this technology. However, we know this is an ongoing task.

Additional pastoral support has continued to be available and offered where appropriate. This has included

links to various organisations that provide information and support for those coping with illness, bereavement, living with Dementia, needing extra care at home and dealing with anxiety in children and promoting mental health awareness.

The Pastoral mobile and Pastoral email has continued to be available for people to contact if needed for help or support that may be offered in some way.

Please pray that we can all play our part in connecting, listening and supporting each other through kind gestures or linking to other special people when needed. May we all be prompted and guided with this each day, by God's Holy Spirit.

Mary Anthony. Pastoral Care Coordinator.

Residential Care homes in our Parish.

The year started positively with our monthly visits to lead a service at St. Fillans, Milton Lodge and Welshwood Manor. But, since March 2020 when the lockdown started, we haven't been able to visit any of the Care homes due to the Government restrictions as a result of the Covid 19 Pandemic.

However, we have managed to maintain some contact via their Social Activity coordinators. This has been via emails with regular messages of support, cards and prayers for them at Easter and throughout the year. In the Spring each Care home was sent a CD of hymns to play with hymn sheets for their favourites so that they could either listen or sing along together. Welshwood Manor continued to do this each month and it has been much appreciated. The staff member said this lifted their spirits.

All three homes were pleased to receive a short, printed service for them to use for Remembrance Day with appropriate words, Bible readings and prayers chosen specially for them.

At Christmas each resident received a Christmas card from "Friends at St. John's Church" with encouraging and personal words of support for them and to let them know they were not forgotten. They also received a short Christmas service which was recorded specially for them at St. John's Church and passed on, via a Memory stick, to use through a lap top or television. In addition, they were all given a CD with Christmas carols to accompany the Bethlehem Carol sheets so they could sing together. It was encouraging to see evidence of this on the St. Fillans Facebook site. I have also received positive feedback from Welshwood Manor via their staff member who has said that they appreciated our input and messages. Our link member at Milton Lodge also values our prayers and support.

However, much prayer is still needed for all the homes and to support their staff who have worked so hard to provide the care needed to try and keep everyone safe during very difficult times. Please pray for the residents who cannot receive visitors to know God's presence, and for their relatives who cannot see their loved ones to be comforted. Meanwhile, we continue to try and maintain contact, as much as we can, and offer our prayers of love and support for all involved.

Mary Anthony. Pastoral Care Coordinator

CONNECT COMMUNITY

As the young adults community, we shift and change in membership and circumstances often and this has not changed over the last year or so. We have been lucky to have had a couple of new members though sadly saying goodbye (in location at least) to some others. So we are a transient bunch! This can make cohesion and shared mission difficult for us but nonetheless, we want to grow in both.

Many of this community work in public services and/or on shifts. One of the strange times for us recently was the short period where the rule of 6 allowed for more in person meeting. Often because of work, people have seen different sides to this crisis and so there were mixed feelings. Additional to the rightness or wrongness side of things, zoom, although a pain (my words...), does cut out travel time! So on one occasion, I led a study with both remote and in person participants. This might work in government halls but not in living rooms so a prayer point for us please would be getting a solution that works for all as we think about going forward with more, dare I say it, normality.

Connect community would love to welcome more students. However, one of the consequences of the transience I mentioned is the moving on of those who have given attention to this. I think this is an area we could look at developing in future.

Heather Haddow

Children and Youth

The fact that during the majority of this last year some form of children's and youth work has been able to take place is a testament to the fantastic volunteers we have within the church. I want to use this opportunity to say thank you to each of you that helped by telling a story online, taking part in youth Zoom or leading a session of Kid's Church. We are blessed to have so many gifted and willing people within our church and I'm grateful for your help and support. I'm also grateful for the patience and understanding of all of the parents, children and young people as we have navigated this year.

During the first lockdown Rain and Bow, with help from Andy, Vanessa and Joseph, moved Kids' Church online and I know that lots of children enjoyed watching their fun alongside the Bible stories. At the same time the youth team organised regular Zoom gatherings for the young people.

During September to December the youth were able to meet twice a month whilst the children mainly stayed with their parents in all-age services. We have continued to produce a weekly Families Online which is aimed at those with under 11s to encourage families to use the video together to support a short time of chatting and activity focussed on God. Whilst Zoom is not the best medium for youthwork we have continued to meet alternate weeks in two groups as we now have a large age range of young people.

Let's praise God that we still have so many families, children and young people within our church community and pray for God to be at the centre of our plans as we come back together that he will provide the people, the pattern, the places and the inspiration.

Clare Luxton

Refresh

Sadly, we have not been able to meet since the first lockdown as the rules at various times have either meant it has not been allowed or at other times so restrictive that we decided it wouldn't be feasible. We have intermittently kept in touch with the families via email but as an activity focussed so much on being together in person it has been difficult. It is hard to accept that many of the children connected to Refresh will have moved onto the next stage by the time we are able to restart. Whilst we haven't been able to meet I know that the team continue to have enthusiasm, compassion and love for the families that came and I am thankful for each of them and their commitment to this activity which helps us as a church to support our community.

Clare Luxton