

## St Matthew's Annual Report for 2023

During 2023, St Matthew's has enjoyed continuing to listen to God's Word and encouraging one another to keep walking on the path that leads to life (Matthew 7:14). During this past year we renewed our vision statement and have clarified that this is indeed our *raison d'être*: helping people discover, and stay on, this narrow path.

The past year was a particular time of renewal and refreshment for our vicar, with a **sabbatical** during the months of May, June and July. As well as enjoying some overdue time with family, friends and godparents, he was able to set aside a good number of hours to read about the influence of Karl Marx, both past and present. From this he feels like he finally understands the world in which we live: rather than seeing everything through the Christian lens of sin and grace ('we all mess up, but let's be generous and try to work things through together'), the superceding Marxist lens through which life is viewed is one of conflict and struggle ('their opposing view must not be tolerated!'). This seems to make sense of so much of the bitterness and frustration that is evident in our society today.

The movement in our national church away from biblical Christianity (towards a form of Marxism?) is one that the leadership of **Sherford** Community Church (SCC) were particularly dismayed by last year. Ultimately, a lack of confidence in the senior leadership in the Church of England led to Tom Brassil deciding to resign, and the majority of SCC leaving the Church of England with him. St Matthew's has sought to support both those who have left SCC and also those who have decided to stay. We are praying for our good relationship with SCC to continue into the future, as well as for new emerging partnerships to develop and flourish.

On the subject of moving, we have also had some **staffing** changes. Last summer we said goodbye to John Price and his family. John accepted a role at a new church in Norwich as, while he very much enjoyed being part of St Matthew's, he felt like it was time for a change. We wish John and his family well and still keep in touch with them, not least through CYFA Venture Holidays. We are delighted that we were able to source Chris MacKrill as a SWYM youth & children's worker. Chris and his family have been a great blessing to us all already.

Our thanks again go to everyone who has generously contributed to the life of St Matthew's through the giving of time, energy and finances. We are so grateful for such partnership in the gospel, as together we continue to fix our eyes on the things unseen (2 Corinthians 4:18) – our God really is real! – and try to help those around us to do the same.

**ST. MATTHEWS CHURCH, ELBURTON, PLYMOUTH**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**TO**

**31 DECEMBER 2023**

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**ST. MATTHEWS CHURCH, ELBURTON, PLYMOUTH**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

**1**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds General £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2023 £	TOTAL 2022 £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>					
Incoming resources from generated funds:					
Voluntary income		120,342	0	120,342	129,456
Activities that generate funds		21,732	0	21,732	18,008
Investment income		0	0	0	0
		<u>142,074</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>142,074</u>	<u>147,464</u>
Incoming resources from charitable activity:					
Other incoming resources		8,114	0	8,114	0
Collections for other bodies		650	0	650	150
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		<u>150,838</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>150,838</u>	<u>155,337</u>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>					
Costs of generating funds		0	0	0	45
Church activities		139,524	0	139,524	139,422
Charitable activities		7,900	45	7,945	8,620
Governance costs		313	0	313	300
Collections for other bodies		0	0	0	150
<b>Total resources expended</b>		<u>147,737</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>147,782</u>	<u>148,537</u>
<b>Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers</b>		3,101	-45	3,056	6,800
<b>Gross transfers between funds</b>	6 & 7	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		3,101	-45	3,056	6,800
<b>Total funds b/fwd 1 January 2023</b>		35,523	3,991	39,514	32,714
<b>Total funds c/fwd 31 December 2023</b>		<u>£ 38,624</u>	<u>£ 3,946</u>	<u>£ 42,570</u>	<u>£ 39,514</u>

The notes on pages 3 to 4 form part of these financial statements

**ST. MATTHEWS CHURCH, ELBURTON, PLYMOUTH**  
**BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023**

2

	Note	Unrestricted Funds General £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2023 £	TOTAL 2022 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible assets	2	2,653	0	2,653	2,831
		<u>£ 2,653</u>	<u>£ 0</u>	<u>£ 2,653</u>	<u>£ 2,831</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors	3	14,743	0	14,743	8,575
Bank and cash balances		35,216	3,946	39,162	36,003
		<u>£ 49,959</u>	<u>£ 3,946</u>	<u>£ 53,905</u>	<u>£ 44,578</u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>					
Creditors payable within one year	4	13,988	0	13,988	7,895
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>£ 35,971</u>	<u>£ 3,946</u>	<u>£ 39,917</u>	<u>£ 36,683</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>					
Creditors payable after one year	5	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS / (LIABILITIES)</b>		<u>£ 38,624</u>	<u>£ 3,946</u>	<u>£ 42,570</u>	<u>£ 39,514</u>
<b>THE FUNDS OF THE CHURCH</b>					
Unrestricted income funds:					
General				38,624	35,523
Designated	6			0	0
Total				<u>38,624</u>	<u>35,523</u>
Restricted income funds:	7			3,946	3,991
				<u>£ 42,570</u>	<u>£ 39,514</u>

Approved by the Church Meeting held on 22/4/24 (date).

and signed on its behalf by Rev J Croucher (Chairman) [Signature] (signature).

The notes on pages 3 to 4 form part of these financial statements

**1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**1a Basis of Accounting**

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through income or expenditure.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of The accruals basis of accounting has been adopted, and the principal accounting policies set out below are applied consistently.

**1b Fund Accounting**

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the church in furtherance of its charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor, or contained in the terms of a grant.

**1c Tangible Fixed Assets**

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates calculated to write off assets over their estimated useful lives:

Fixtures & Fittings	15% reducing balance
IT Equipment	20% straight line

**1d Incoming Resources**

All voluntary giving is included in the financial statements for the period in which it is received.

Donations under Gift Aid plus the associated tax recovery are recognised as income when the donation is received.

Legacies are accounted for when their receipt is certain and can be properly quantified.  
All other income is generally recognised when it is receivable.

**1e Resources Expended**

Resources expended are recognised in the period to which they are incurred and include attributable VAT which cannot be recovered. They are allocated to the particular activity to which they relate.

Governance costs represent direct expenditure on the governance of the church, including the production and independent scrutiny of these financial statements.

As most of the management and activity of the church is carried out by volunteers, this intangible cost is not included in the financial statements as this voluntary contribution to the life of the church is incalculable.

**1f Taxation**

The church is an excepted charity within the meaning of the Taxes Acts.

Accordingly it is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income and capital gains received to the extent that such income or gains are applied to exclusively charitable purposes. No provision for taxation has been made in these financial statements.

**ST. MATTHEWS CHURCH, ELBURTON, PLYMOUTH**  
**NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - continued**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

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2	TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS	Fixtures & Fittings £	IT Equipment £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
	Brought forward 1 January 2023	2,112	719	2,831	1,250
	Additions in year	0	399	399	2,135
	Depreciation for year	-260	-317	-577	-554
	Carried forward 31 December 2023	<u>£ 1,852</u>	<u>£ 801</u>	<u>£ 2,653</u>	<u>£ 2,831</u>

	Unrestricted Funds General £	Designated £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2023 £	TOTAL 2022 £
3	<b>DEBTORS</b>				
	Gift Aid Tax recoverable	11,219	0	11,219	6,040
	Other Debtors and Prepayments	3,524	0	3,524	2,535
	<u>£ 14,743</u>	<u>£ 0</u>	<u>£ 0</u>	<u>£ 14,743</u>	<u>£ 8,575</u>

4	<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>				
	Creditors payable within one year:				
	Mission Giving	7,900	0	7,900	1,300
	Exterior wall repairs	0	0	0	0
	Sundry Creditors and Accruals	6,088	0	6,088	6,595
	<u>£ 13,988</u>	<u>£ 0</u>	<u>£ 0</u>	<u>£ 13,988</u>	<u>£ 7,895</u>

5	<b>DEFERRED LIABILITIES</b>				
	Creditors payable after more than one year:				
	<u>£ 0</u>	<u>£ 0</u>	<u>£ 0</u>	<u>£ 0</u>	<u>£ 0</u>

6	<b>DESIGNATED FUNDS</b>				
	(All balances in designated funds were transferred to General Fund in 2011)				
				<b>Total 2023 £</b>	<b>Total 2022 £</b>
	Balance b/fwd 1 January 2023			0	0
	Transfer to/(from) General Fund			0	0
				0	0
	Income / (Expenditure) in year			0	0
	Balance c/fwd 31 December 2023			<u>£ 0</u>	<u>£ 0</u>

7	<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>						
	The movements on the restricted funds during the year were:						
		<b>Acts 434 Fund £</b>	<b>Boiler Fund £</b>	<b>Signage £</b>	<b>Children's work £</b>	<b>Total 2023 £</b>	<b>Total 2022 £</b>
	Balance b/fwd 1 January 2023	2430	1561	0	0	3,991	5,259
	Transfer from/(to) General Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2430	1561	0	0	3991	5259
	Income in year	0	0	0	0	0	1,875
	Less: Expenditure in year	-45	0	0	0	-45	-3,143
	Balance c/fwd 31 December 2023	<u>2,385</u>	<u>£ 1,561</u>	<u>£ 0</u>	<u>£ 0</u>	<u>£ 3,946</u>	<u>£ 3,991</u>

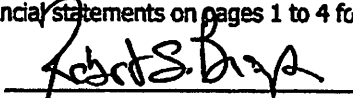
**ST. MATTHEWS CHURCH, ELBURTON, PLYMOUTH**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

5

**TREASURER'S STATEMENT**

I have prepared the financial statements on pages 1 to 4 for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Signed by the Treasurer



Mr R Bishop

Dated

5/4/2024

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT**

I report on the financial statements of St Matthews Church for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 1 to 4.

**Respective responsibilities**

The church is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements, and considers that the audit requirement of Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under Section 145 (5)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of Independent Examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions of the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the church and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements, and seeking explanations concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the financial statements.

**Independent Examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:  
To keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011; and  
To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act,

Have not been met: or

2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed by the Independent Examiner:



Mr L J Hardacre

Dated

3/5/2024

Name and address of the Independent Examiner:

Mr L J Hardacre, Precise Accountants Ltd, Unit 6, Brooklands, Budshead Road, Plymouth, PL6 5XR.

**ST. MATTHEWS CHURCH, ELBURTON, PLYMOUTH**  
**APPENDIX 1 TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

6

	Unrestricted Funds General £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2023 £	TOTAL 2022 £
<b>VOLUNTARY INCOME</b>				
Bank D/D's & S/O's	77,702	0	77,702	72,894
Envelopes	5,408	0	5,408	7,222
Cash and donations	5,210	0	5,210	9,131
Gift Day	5,831	0	5,831	6,715
Legacies	5,000	0	5,000	13,000
Family Minister Fund	0	0	0	0
Income tax refunds under Gift Aid	21,191	0	21,191	20,274
Sunday School collection	0	0	0	220
Boiler Fund	0	0	0	0
Acts 434 Fund	0	0	0	0
Maintenance of Defibrillator	0	0	0	0
	<b>£ 120,342</b>	<b>£ 0</b>	<b>£ 120,342</b>	<b>£ 129,456</b>
<b>ACTIVITIES THAT GENERATE FUNDS</b>				
Coffee Mornings	1,541	0	1,541	1,610
Bookstall	565	0	565	519
Youth Income	520	0	520	531
General Social Events	1,349	0	1,349	460
Toddlers	600	0	600	800
Donation towards cost for heating building	1,316	0	1,316	0
Donation from Sherford Community Church towards cost of printing	0	0	0	0
Use of Building	14,230	0	14,230	12,583
Garden Party	1,611	0	1,611	1,505
	<b>£ 21,732</b>	<b>£ 0</b>	<b>£ 21,732</b>	<b>£ 18,008</b>
<b>INVESTMENT INCOME</b>				
Interest	0	0	0	0
	<b>£ 0</b>	<b>£ 0</b>	<b>£ 0</b>	<b>£ 0</b>
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITY</b>				
Clergy Fees	6,977	0	6,977	6,034
Worship and Outreach	0	0	0	856
House-Party	0	0	0	0
Holiday Club	390	0	390	0
Men's Breakfasts, Time Out, Lower Level, Horizons, Sunday 7	468	0	468	670
Messy Church	0	0	0	0
Youth & Sunday School Subscriptions	0	0	0	19
Mums and Babies	0	0	0	0
Magazine, Printing & Special Promotions	279	0	279	144
	<b>£ 8,114</b>	<b>£ 0</b>	<b>£ 8,114</b>	<b>£ 7,723</b>
<b>OTHER INCOMING RESOURCES</b>				
Grants	0	0	0	0
Leaving gifts	650	0	650	0
Other	0	0	0	0
	<b>£ 650</b>	<b>£ 0</b>	<b>£ 650</b>	<b>£ 0</b>



**ST. MATTHEWS CHURCH, ELBURTON, PLYMOUTH**  
**APPENDIX 2 TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

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	General Fund £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2023 £	TOTAL 2022 £
<b>COSTS OF GENERATING FUNDS</b>				
Cost of fund raising	0	0	0	45
	<u>£ 0</u>	<u>£ 0</u>	<u>£ 0</u>	<u>£ 45</u>
<b>COSTS OF CHURCH ACTIVITIES</b>				
<b>Church costs:</b>				
Insurance	1,869	0	1,869	1,814
Water	887	0	887	824
Gas	4,176	0	4,176	1,838
Electricity	2,488	0	2,488	1,783
Routine Maintenance + Improvements	2,568	0	2,568	9,670
Maintenance of defibrillator	0	0	0	0
Exterior wall repair	0	0	0	0
Boiler Repair	0	0	0	548
Printing, Postage and Stationery	2,342	0	2,342	2,628
Common Fund	87,375	0	87,375	82,973
Cleaning	243	0	243	267
Staff Training	2,815	0	2,815	315
Staff Expenses	65	0	65	0
Church Members Training	0	0	0	67
Church Office Telephone	465	0	465	983
Tea/Coffee Expenses	742	0	742	492
Gifts	56	0	56	0
Leaving gifts	746	0	746	0
Office Administrator stipend & expenses	0	0	0	0
Interregnum expenses	0	0	0	0
Admin Expenses	994	0	994	789
	<u>£ 107,831</u>	<u>£ 0</u>	<u>£ 107,831</u>	<u>£ 104,991</u>
<b>Teaching costs:</b>				
Staff Salaries	22,630	0	22,630	23,757
Employers National Insurance	0	0	0	0
Staff Pensions (including admin costs)	751	0	751	1,000
Youth Allowances	0	0	0	0
Youth Tuckshop	923	0	923	443
Children's Mission Giving	0	0	0	276
Sunday School	162	0	162	134
	<u>£ 24,466</u>	<u>£ 0</u>	<u>£ 24,466</u>	<u>£ 25,610</u>
<b>Clergy:</b>				
Clergy Expenses	76	0	76	350
Vicars Discretionary	0	0	0	83
Clergy Telephone	0	0	0	0
Clergy Fees Expenses	2,741	0	2,741	3,132
Clergy Fees Organist	1,190	0	1,190	910
Clergy Ministry Training	265	0	265	355
	<u>£ 4,272</u>	<u>£ 0</u>	<u>£ 4,272</u>	<u>£ 4,830</u>
<b>Other programmes:</b>				
Holiday Club expenses	432	0	432	11
Social Events	0	0	0	911
House-Party	0	0	0	0
Mums & Babs	0	0	0	0
Worship and Outreach - Special Events	533	0	533	190
Worship and Outreach - Lower Level, Time Out, Men's Breakfasts, etc.	289	0	289	588
Worship and Outreach - Service Expenses	772	0	772	688
Worship and Outreach - Courses	0	0	0	648
Bookstall purchases	352	0	352	401
	<u>£ 2,378</u>	<u>£ 0</u>	<u>£ 2,378</u>	<u>£ 3,437</u>
<b>Fixtures &amp; Fittings and IT equipment</b>				
Depreciation of Fixtures & Fittings and IT equipment	577	0	577	554
	<u>£ 577</u>	<u>£ 0</u>	<u>£ 577</u>	<u>£ 554</u>
<b>TOTAL COSTS OF CHURCH ACTIVITIES</b>	<u>£ 139,524</u>	<u>£ 0</u>	<u>£ 139,524</u>	<u>£ 139,422</u>
<b>CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES</b>				
Mission Giving	7,900	0	7,900	7,900
Support for Sherford Community Church	0	0	0	0
Acts 434 Fund giving	0	45	45	720
	<u>£ 7,900</u>	<u>£ 45</u>	<u>£ 7,945</u>	<u>£ 8,620</u>
<b>GOVERNANCE COSTS</b>				
Independent Examiner	313	0	313	300
	<u>£ 313</u>	<u>£ 0</u>	<u>£ 313</u>	<u>£ 300</u>

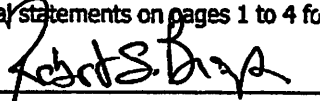
**ST. MATTHEWS CHURCH, ELBURTON, PLYMOUTH**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

5

**TREASURER'S STATEMENT**

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Signed by the Treasurer



Mr R Bishop

Dated

5/4/2024

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT**

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**Independent Examiner's statement**

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To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act,

Have not been met: or

2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed by the Independent Examiner:



Mr L J Hardacre

Dated

3/5/2024

Name and address of the Independent Examiner:

Mr L J Hardacre, Precise Accountants Ltd, Unit 6, Brooklands, Budshead Road, Plymouth, PL6 5XR.