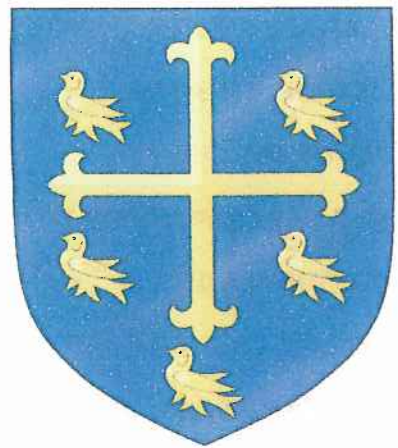
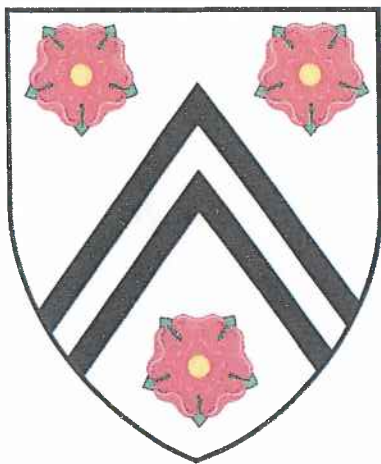




St Edward the Confessor
The Parish Church of **Romford**
www.stedwardsromford.com

Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended **31 December 2024**



The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Romford

(Charity No. 1128998)

Contents

CONTENTS	1
AIMS & PURPOSES	2
REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION	3
PCC MEETINGS AND MEMBERSHIP	4
ASSOCIATE PRIEST REPORT	6
CHURCHWARDENS REPORTS	9
ECO CHURCH	14
MUSIC REPORT	15
DEANERY SYNOD REPORT	16
ELECTORAL ROLL 2024	18
SIDESPEOPLE REPORT	18
MOTHERS' UNION BRANCH REPORT	19
FLOWER ARRANGERS REPORT	19
PHOENIX CLUB	20
SAFEGUARDING REPORT	20
JUNIOR CHURCH	21
DIDDY DISCIPLES	21
PLAYGROUP REPORT	22
CATERPILLARS	23
SOCIAL MEDIA / COMMUNICATIONS REPORT	24
STEWARDSHIP / REGULAR GIVING	25
FINANCIAL REVIEW	26
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT	28
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	29

Appendix 1: Agenda of the Annual Meeting 2025

Appendix 2: Draft Minutes of the Annual Meeting 2024

The Parish Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Edward the Confessor (commonly called the Church of St Edward the Confessor, or St Edward's Church) is the sole place of worship in the Benefice and Parish of Romford. The parish is part of the Deanery of Havering, of the Archdeaconry of Barking, of the Barking episcopal area in the Diocese of Chelmsford, in the Church of England.

Parochial Church Council

Aims & Purposes

The Parochial Church Council (henceforth "PCC") has the responsibility of co-operating with the vicar, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England, operating under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure and structured, governed and managed in accordance with this and (until 1 January 2020) the Church Representation Rules 2017; it is also a charity registered with the Charity Commission, under the formal name "the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Romford", and the registered charity number 1128998. All members of the PCC are trustees of the charity and are corporately responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish, including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent; they have had due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance under the Charities Act 2011 on public benefit when considering the Charity's objectives and activities.

The church's objectives and activities, achievements and performance are examined in the various annual reports following.

The PCC owns the curate's house.

St Edwards Parish Office: Church House
Market Place
Romford
RM1 3AB
office@stedwardsromford.com
01708 744973

Incumbent: Rev David Simpson until 10.03.2024
Vacant from 10.03.2024

Honorary Treasurer: Peter Quinn from 25.05.2024
Simon Bravery until 25.05.2024

Bank: NatWest (Romford Town Centre Branch)
10 South Street
Romford
RM1 1RD

Independent Examiner: K. T. Lee, FCMA
Mawney Accountancy
1 Beech Street
Romford
RM7 7LA

PCC Meetings and Membership

The PCC had six ordinary meetings in the calendar year 2024, at approximately two month intervals but with an extra one squeezed in specifically to formally approve the accounts on 2nd June. The dates of the PCC meetings were 17th January, 20th March, 30th May, 11th September and 6th November. A pre-vacancy meeting with the Archdeacon and Area Dean was held on 24th April with subsequent Section 11 Meeting on 3rd July. All meetings took place in person in Church House.

Mean attendance across all PCC meetings was 74.28% (2023: 69.92%) of members available with a marked drop in attendance in November (55.56%) whereas April to September we had attendance of around 80%. The

The members of the parish House of Clergy during this calendar year were:

Revd David Simpson	Vicar; Chair – <i>did not attend in January 2024 due being on sabbatical</i> Resigned 10th March 2024
Revd David Perry	Associate Priest – ex officio

The lay members of the PCC this year who held their seats 'ex officio' (i.e. by virtue of another office) were:

Alexandra Quinn	Churchwarden (elected 2023)
Johanna Hardy-van den Beld	Churchwarden (elected 2024) Deanery Synod Representative (elected 2023) PCC Secretary Electoral Roll Officer
Sue Arbon	Deanery Synod Representative (elected 2023)
Ann Dalglish	Deanery Synod Representative (elected 2023)

The elected members of the parish House of Laity during this calendar year were:

Damola Aboaba	Assistant Churchwarden (elected 2022)
Jenny Card	Parish Safeguarding Officer (elected 2022)
Peter Quinn	Hon. Treasurer (elected 2023)
Joanne Sheppard	Social Media Lead (elected 2023)
Nicola Sharp	elected 2023
Lynne Trew	elected 2022
Dean Moran	elected 2022
Judy Shofolahan	elected 2022
Linda Rees	elected 2023
Simon Bravery	elected 2023 – resigned at 2024 APCM
Nicola Bates	elected 2023
Paul Gambini	elected 2024
Georgina Olaniyan	elected 2024
Isaac Chung	elected 2024

We started 2024 with one Churchwarden, Alexandra Quinn. Following the resignation of Revd David Simpson, Johanna Hardy agreed to stand for election as Churchwarden to support Alex and the wider parish during the vacancy. This is in addition to her role as PCC Secretary.

Committees of the PCC

The Financial & Standing Committee of the PCC consists of the Associate Priest, the churchwardens, the Hon. Treasurer and the PCC Secretary. The Standing Committee meets once a month.

The Fabric Committee was re-established in 2023 and consisted of several PCC members, a member of our congregation and the Vicar to focus on the fabric of the church building. During the course of 2024 the Fabric Committee was much reduced in number and ceased to exist as a separate committee. Its responsibilities have fallen on the Churchwardens, Treasurer and one other PCC member.

Johanna Hardy – PCC Secretary
January 2025

Associate Priest Report

Vacancy

Fr David Simpson went on sabbatical at the beginning of 2024. He served us on his return, and we were able to give him an appropriately warm farewell service. However, the reality is that we have been without the real benefit of a full time Priest in Charge since January 2024.

I would like to express my sincere and heartfelt thanks to all those who have been so understanding by supporting me in covering what most needs to be covered during the course of this interregnum. I am in no doubt of your appreciation of what I have been able to do and must put on record my profound thanks for all you have done, to enable me to do it. We all share the same love for God in this church community and this place and this is what inspires us. However, I am unable to cover all that needs to be done. Whilst fellow priests have supported our work, we are not the presence we should be in our schools and wider community.

The church is stable and secure, with a good team of dedicated members, who are able to keep our church functioning well for the foreseeable future. However, we need a Priest in Charge with the energy, but especially the vision, to see where and how we need to adapt to meet the challenges of a changing town, society and world; combined with the ability to take us with them into these new ways and places.

Whilst we have a great deal to offer (especially that we are a single church post that pays a full stipend) it is challenging to find suitable priests at this time. We may need to be very patient before we have the right person. The average vacancy is currently two years. We must continue to pray for all those who are supporting the process of finding our new priest and for God to inspire that person to seek us out.

Worship

We have maintained broadly the usual worship style of this church, though perhaps returning in some instances to a style more familiar to longer serving members. The return to season specific service books with a fuller text has been welcomed, but we must recognise that this is both labour and resource intensive.

The Easter services were successful but were a little experimental. We will be looking to see how we can build on the successes of last year. Our Christmas services were very successful and well attended. The contributions of Erik and all those who support our music have been a real boost, with the choir drawing admiration from many.

Attendance is stable and we are seeing real growth in our Sunday 8am service.

The Toddler Group and Caterpillars continue to be popular and successful. Those who are maintaining these services deserve our thanks and appreciation as they take on many of the responsibilities usually met by Jenny Card. These are big shoes to fill, as we pray for Jenny's return to full health.

Diddy Disciples is up and running again, though attendance is very erratic. This is in line with Junior Church, as it suffers by lacking volunteers who are able to make a

regular commitment to run and support these services every week. We are very grateful to all who are supporting these, but regular commitment is what leads to regular attendance.

This is a key area of focus for us this year as it is in the strength of our children's ministry that ultimately the future of our church and faith depends.

Priority Areas for the Coming Year

- Re-establishing children's ministry on Sunday mornings and supporting Caterpillars and Toddler Group to flourish. Even this is a limited ambition as re-establishing our work with teenagers is beyond us at this time.
- Maintaining contact with our church schools as far as is possible.
- Improving our financial situation and/or changing the way that we work, so that we are able to balance the books. Including: increasing the number of those who contribute financially, especially through a regular scheme, to maximise our income; seeking out grants, sponsorships and other sources of income; reducing waste and considering realistic ways of cutting costs.
- Encouraging vocations in all their many forms. Interregnum means that those who 'do' inevitably attract more tasks. Any help that can be offered is helpful and is a real expression of faith, whether that's by attending a fundraiser, going onto a rota or running a stall, everything is of help, and everyone is welcome. We can find a job that will suit you.
- Fixing the most urgent repairs and working towards the major restoration of the west aspect of the church.
- Celebrating our big anniversary.

High Points

- Maintaining our Summer and Christmas Fairs. These are a great deal of work, and the Summer Fair was much hampered by terrible weather. However, through the hard work and dedication of our volunteers, they persist, and Christmas saw an increase in giving.
- Lettings and use of the church building to raise funds. Many thanks to Angela, Paul and our churchwardens especially, in making these possible. Not only do these raise much needed funds but they make us relevant and embed us in the community.
- The support and good will we have received from surrounding churches to support us. Particular thanks to Archdeacon Chris, Area Dean Ken and those priests who have covered all manner of services.
- An apparent uptick in wedding bookings with potentially four in 2025 so far.

- Our Media Team, especially Jo Shepherd, in placing us out there on social media and the internet, attracting a great deal of coverage. Also, to Pete, driving force behind our improved sound and growing online congregation.
- People coming forward to deepen their faith with eleven completing our Preparation for Holy Communion Courses and a Confirmation Course to be running up to Easter.
- Recognising that whilst we 'cannot please all of the people all of the time' my impression is that we seem a happy and successful church, ready to go forward and cope with whatever comes next, as a united family of faith.

May God continue to bless and guide us in our shared ministry.

Fr David Perry
January 2025

Churchwardens' reports

Alex Quinn

The past year has been a rollercoaster ride, physically, mentally and spiritually at St Edward's. The passing of Wendy Pidgeon was a sad loss to the church, however she will be remembered with fond memories and through all the embroidery we see around us in church.

Often Sundays can be a challenge, dealing with difficult souls that enter the church and are troubled and have challenging behavioural problems. We manage the situation as best we can to ensure the services are not disturbed and safety is maintained.

Rev David Simpson resigned from his post at St. Edward's in February and his final service was a Choral Evensong on Mothering Sunday, 10th March. A crowd of around 70 people came to wish him farewell. At the APCM in May a new treasurer was appointed, and that role has been extremely challenging which the new treasurer will discuss in his report.

Rev David Perry and Archdeacon Chris Burke prepared us for a potentially long wait for the right priest to take St Edward's into the future. As I type this report, we have interviews looming.

Both Johanna Hardy and I, together with a huge amount of people's help, have kept the church running as smoothly as possible. A big "thank you" goes to a host of extremely knowledgeable and experienced volunteers, alongside our paid staff who are ensuring everything is running like clockwork. David Perry has held us together working tirelessly to keep the services maintained, this has been interspersed with visiting priests of which most have blended in very well.

Despite being in Interregnum, we have managed to get live streaming back up and running with additional improvements to the sound system. Megan Wood pulled together both the Summer and Christmas fetes - this is a challenging job and takes up a lot of time but these events are crucial to our income and outreach. Our Eco team Lynne Trew and Linda Rees helped the church receive our Bronze award. They have come up against many barriers but have ploughed through and continue to do so hoping to achieve our Silver award in 2025. Our new Director of Music has worked hard with our choir and the reestablishing of our music tradition.

The last year saw lots of improvements with our security and fire alarm systems being upgraded as they were obsolete. The same goes for the telephone system in both the church and the parish office in Church House, removing several redundant lines into the building. A new photocopier was installed with a few teething problems. We were left with an outstanding insurance issue which needed resolving urgently as it may have left us in a vulnerable position. Our website was completely updated as it was looking a little tired and we have continued to improve our online presence. We are now waiting for the installation of the new car parking monitoring which we hope will stop unauthorised cars parking as several people have been verbally abused by

people parking illegally. Whilst talking about the carpark we have cured the rat issue by employing a better pest control company who continue to monitor periodically.

At the Sunday 10 am service, we have reintroduced the taking of the elements up to the altar and this has been welcomed. We also have the children taking up the offering at the same service and now have the children queueing up to help ring the bell during the Eucharist.

We have struggled to find volunteers for junior church since Summer 2024. Sheila Ross-Stocker has stepped up to lead junior church each week and we are truly grateful for that; however, we are still looking to strengthen the team of junior church leaders. We also saw the continuation of Diddy Disciples which is now run by Steph Perry and feedback from this is very positive and very much enjoyed by both guardians and children alike.

Lack of committed leaders and long-term illness led to the suspension of the Evolve youth group until a new incumbent can breathe new life into this project.

We were blessed to host the Ordination service in September 2024, with 6 new priests across the Diocese being ordained. This was a very large service led by the Bishop of Barking and many other senior clergy attending. Once again it took a grand effort from everyone at St Edward's who pulled together for this significant occasion. Feedback was amazing and all involved thoroughly enjoyed this special day.

We are looking forward to celebrating our 175th anniversary of our church in 2025 and plans are in place to make this a memorable occasion.

A small conversation between the Churchwardens and Parish Administrator gradually grew into the fabulous poppy event that was displayed over the Armistice week. This included over 2000 poppies that were hand knitted by the Havering community. People who visited the church for the first time when viewing the display remarked on the warmth and kindness they felt during their time with us.

We also must thank the Parish administrator for her hard efforts to utilise the church as a venue for hire – in particular the Lumos concerts that have been held over the year have helped to boost our revenue and our outreach into our community. In November we were approached by a film company who were recording a TV drama in Romford with the church as a backdrop. For that they asked permission to light up the church for a week which led to some interesting stories in the local media, talking about a mysterious light late at night around the church. This caused great amusement and again raised our profile in the local community.

I personally feel we are a very content and happy church at the moment, and it is a pleasure to serve the church as your churchwarden.

Thank you

Alex Quinn
March 2025

Johanna Hardy

When we found ourselves in vacancy in March 2024, I agreed to take up the reins as churchwarden again, very much to support Alex Quinn who was the only churchwarden at the time. St. Edward's is a big church to run and needs two churchwardens, even more so during a period of Interregnum. I have continued with my roles as PCC Secretary and Lay Chair of Havering Deanery, but this situation is not sustainable in the long run and serious consideration needs to be given to succession planning and for people to come forward willing to serve as churchwarden in future years.

Church Attendance

In the past year we have noticed a marked increase in attendance to the Sunday Said Eucharist 8am service, with a regular congregation of between 30-40 adults. The 10am Sung Eucharist attendance can fluctuate between 60-90 adults and around 10 children. Numbers at the 10am service have never fully recovered since the 2020/21 Covid year but we are certainly doing well, every week attracting newcomers.

Easter 2024: Palm Sunday attendance was good with 140 adults and 20 children attending. Holy Week attendance (combination of Maundy Thursday Eucharist Service and the Good Friday Children's service and One Hour Devotion) had a combined attendance of 129.

On Easter morning the 7am First Eucharist service had 25 attendees whereas at the 10am Easter Service we had a total of 250 (including 50 children) who all enjoyed the drums in the organ loft and singing by the Ukrainian children's choir.

Christmas 2024: Overall attendance during the time between Advent Sunday and Christmas Day (including two primary school services and a service organised by St. Francis Hospice) was 1,395.

Volunteers

We rely very much on the hard work, dedication and goodwill of volunteers to keep this church open, to continue to make it look beautiful and to offer support to those who need it. This past year we have asked for offers of help with church sitting, brass cleaning and we are always looking for more sides people and Junior Church helpers.

Vacancy/Interregnum

Officially the parish went into vacancy on 15th March 2024 with an official letter from the Registrar to the parish which then started the official legal process of filling the vacancy. A month later the PCC had a pre-vacancy meeting with the Archdeacon of Barking, Chris Burke, and the Area Dean. The Archdeacon advised the PCC to have a period of reflection and prayer before starting to prepare our parish profile. We had our Section 11 meeting on 3rd July at which we voted for our two parish representatives to be on the selection panel. The parish profile was completed over the Summer of 2024 and looked very different from the one we had prepared 4 years earlier. A lot of work had gone into it and we are grateful to all those involved in putting it together. We started advertising the post in September 2024.

Fabric, goods and ornaments of the church

A Fabric Group had been established in 2023, and the remit of this group was 1) to manage the Church Roof Repairs and 2) to make preparations for the West End Project including the Choir Vestry Plinth restoration. The Fabric Group reports to the PCC on a regular basis as ultimate decision making is the responsibility of the PCC.

Both projects require funds that we do/did not have and therefore subject to obtaining grants to complete any major works to the church building. Fundraising for building work was also one of the aims of the Fabric Group.

Unfortunately, several members of the Fabric Group were unable to carry on in 2024 due to other commitments and essentially the Fabric Group as a stand-alone committee ceased to exist. A small number of PCC members including myself have carried on with the roof repair project and in August 2024 applied for a grant from the Diocesan Minor Repairs & Improvements Grant Scheme which was a new scheme with money from the National Church. Maximum grant available is £10,000 and we were awarded £9,000. The scheme proved to be very popular with many grant applications from churches, so we were very fortunate. However, at the time of writing this report, we have not yet received the funds. We are hopeful that the roof project can finally start in 2025.

Routine maintenance work has been carried out throughout the year as well as electrical work and PAT testing, organ/piano tuning, boiler servicing and as already mentioned by Alex Quinn, we had upgrade work done to the fire alarm system and the sound system.

The "curate" house in Parkside Avenue which is owned by the PCC had a new rubber roof fitted to the garage and necessary work was carried out in the garden to replace the decking and fence panels.

Back in 2023, Rev David Simpson was looking into developing the car park land behind the Wykeham Hall sometime in the future as a potential new income source. During the research, documentation was unearthed that the ownership of the car park land, including a large L-shape piece of land behind the church choir vestry had been fully transferred to the Chelmsford Diocesan Board of Finance in 1991 with the aim of developing the land and building on it. However, this project never went ahead. The transfer of ownership in 1991 was unknown to any of us until the document from 1991 came to light. A meeting was then called with the Archdeacon and the Diocese in 2023 with the aim of rectifying the situation and at the same time, to legally register the ownership of the land with HM Land Registry (most church land and property remains unregistered).

The Diocese instructed Winckworth solicitors to transfer the land back to the PCC and Wykeham Centre & Church House respectively, agreeing to share the legal costs with the PCC and Wykeham trustees equally. In 2024 we finally got moving on this legal issue and the transfer of title deed was signed by the Diocese and submitted to the Land Registry for registration in the summer of 2024.

Johanna Hardy
March 2025

And finally... as your churchwardens we would like to thank everyone for the help and support given to us throughout the year. St. Edward's is one of the most prominent churches in the Diocese and especially being in an Interregnum, we are closely watched. We are a large and successful church and to remain so, it needs the commitment and goodwill of many people. We are grateful and appreciate the time, efforts and talents given by so many of our church family to the service of St. Edward's.

Alex & Johanna

Eco Church report

In February 2020 the General Synod recognised that “the global climate emergency is a crisis for God's creation and a fundamental injustice” and voted for the whole of the Church of England to achieve net zero carbon by 2030. Individual churches are being urged to find ways to *reduce their energy use and associated carbon emissions* to help attain this target.

In our first year of “Eco Church” at St Edward’s we have looked at how we do things and considered what changes could be made to improve our sustainability.

- We completed the Diocese’ Carbon Footprint Tool which showed a reduction in our overall net CO₂ emissions compared with the previous year.
- We also worked on the A Rocha Eco Church Survey, a document which *provides a framework to support churches and church leaders* to take practical action on caring for God's earth. Some of the actions implemented were:
 - When our gas and electric contracts were due for renewal, we switched to British Gas Green Energy
 - Bird boxes, bug hotels and a butterfly box have been sited in the north churchyard
 - The toilet at the back of church has been twinned with a latrine in Nepal
 - Members of the congregation are asked to bring their own ceramic mug for refreshments, and this has helped reduce the number of paper cups we send to landfill.
 - Information and, we hope, useful tips have been included in the weekly news sheet including the opportunity to complete a personal carbon footprint assessment.
 - A “reduce, reuse, recycle” project was started which includes collecting used postage stamps and foreign coins on behalf of the RNIB. We also have a link into TWAM (Tools with a Mission). This charity collects useable but unwanted tools, knitting machines and wool and dress materials. Items are refurbished where required, and then shipped to third world countries where they are used to help create new livelihoods.

As a result of implementing the above, together with other actions, we achieved our Eco Church Bronze Award at the end of 2024.

Lynne Trew
February 2025

Music report

After a period of some difficulty, occasioned in part by COVID and the departure of Jonathan Venner as Director of Music, music at St. Edward's has to a large extent recovered and reformed.

The new setup is semi-professional in the model of large churches and small cathedrals, comprising a core body of experienced regular singers with occasional deputies as required. Our "front row" of choristers is not as large as in previous decades, but we do have new recruits and while they primarily sing on Sunday mornings, we have been trying to broaden their musical education by giving them more opportunity to sing at Evensong.

In addition to a Director of Music, we have Claire Morrisson regularly leading the Voice for Life programme, Andrew Morrisson and Stephen King as regular organists, two paid choral scholars, Danny our organ scholar in 2024 and now James who will join us as organ/choral scholar in 2025. This is slimline compared to past times at St. Edward's, but it is still impressive for a parish church and means we are able, with some creativity, to be flexible with our resources and efficient with our budget.

I am very pleased with the high standard of music we are able to produce regularly, and those efforts have been increasingly noticed in the Diocese as we have hosted certain events and sang at Chelmsford Cathedral (and been invited back!). Overall, this has been something like the start of a silver age for music at St. Edward's, and I am optimistic for the path forwards.

Erik Eichelberger – Director of Music
January 2025

Deanery Synod

Havering Deanery Synod is a church council which is convened jointly by the Area Dean and the Lay Chair of the Synod. It consists of all clergy licensed to a benefice within the Deanery plus elected lay members. It acts as an intermediary between the parochial church councils of each parish in its Deanery and the Synod of the Diocese. Deanery Synod representatives from St Edward's Church are Johanna Hardy, Sue Arbon and Ann Dalglish.

Synod meets 4 times per year, February, May, September and November. Meetings usually include:

- An opening Act of Worship
- Visiting speakers, sometimes from the Diocese, sometimes from other organisations
- Reports from Diocesan and General Synods
- Sharing of new developments and good practice
- The Deanery's Action Plan
- Financial matters including Parish Share.

The first meeting of the year was held at St Edward's Church Romford on 19th February 2024. The following topics were discussed:

- London Borough of Culture Bid: David Shearing, Interim chair of the board at Queens Theatre Hornchurch, was the speaker of the evening.
- Revd Canon John Dunnett, General Synod Representative, talked about the upcoming session of the General Synod in February. On the Agenda for General Synod were world issues, issues affecting local parish life, a motion for a Code of Conduct for PCC members and the discussion about Prayers of Love and Faith.
- Mission Opportunity Fund, which is extra money allocated to Deaneries for the benefit of the whole Deanery rather than individual parishes.
- Net Zero Action Plan and Carbon emissions.
- Upcoming Elections for Diocesan Synod for Lay and Clergy Representatives.
- Parish Share update for 2023.

The second meeting was held at St George's Church, Harold Hill on 17th June 2024 and the following topics were discussed:

- The Role of Dean of Women's Ministry. The Revd Elise Peterson, team rector of St. Helen's Rainham and Wennington, advised that the previous Dean had stepped down and there is consultation within the diocese about the role and support for women's ministry more widely.
- Archdeacon Chris Burke and Dawn Weddell gave an introduction and explanation of the STRATEGIC MISSION AND MINISTRY INVESTMENT

BOARD (SMMIB) which replaces The Strategic Development Fund (SDF). The Barking Episcopal Area has secured £2.2million in capacity funding which has served to put the infrastructure in place to enable further bids for funds for larger projects which take a whole deanery approach.

- The outcome will be announced in February 2025. Any monies secured are to be used over a nine-year period and split between the five deaneries of the Barking Episcopal Area. Funding is coming from National Church.

The third meeting was held at St Edward's Primary School on 16th September 2024 and the following topics were discussed.

- General Synod Report presented by Revd Canon John Dunnett
- Bishop Guli has reminded parishes that the act of intinction at communion is not permitted for health reasons based on recent new scientific evidence. Consequently, all parishes in the Diocese have been instructed that 'The Common Cup' should be shared.
- SMMIB update: in our Episcopal area four areas of work are being looked at. "Genesis" churches will be resourcing churches. 3 in each deanery, supporting the following areas: - intentional discipleship; children and young people; social justice; sustainable structures.
- The creation of 2 Archdeaconry social justice hubs. Alternative arrangements are considered for those churches who look to the Bishops of Ebbsfleet or Risborough for their extended episcopal oversight.
- Bishop Lynne and Archdeacon Chris are leading on SMMIB and will work towards a presentation in December, with a decision in February 2025.
- Parish Share: A slide presentation by Michaela Southworth - Diocesan Secretary and CEO and our speaker of the evening. It was recognised that the previous scheme had seemed unfair and lacked transparency. The current formula isn't perfect but is intended to promote support between parishes.

The fourth and final meeting of 2024 was held at St Andrew's Church, Hornchurch on 11th November 2024.

The Revd Becca Rogers who is chaplain to Gypsy Roma and Traveller communities was guest speaker. Travelling communities are often marginalized in our society, and yet, for many reasons they are often very spiritual people, and tend to be very welcoming to the church.

Information for online training sessions focusing on pastoral care, and ministry with Gypsy, Roma and travelling communities is available to anyone seeking to serve these communities more faithfully.

Sue Arbon
Deanery Synod Representative
January 2025

Electoral Roll 2024

At the end of 2024, St. Edward's Church Electoral Roll 2024 included a total of 214 names, of which 138 are non-parish and 76 are parish members (64.49%/35.51% split). This compares to a total number of 217 names reported at last year's APCM. We did not add any new names since the APCM of May 2024 and sadly 3 members of our congregation passed away and their names were removed.

2025 is the year in which the whole of the Electoral Roll will be renewed and made ready for the period 2025-2031. The renewal will have been completed by the time of the APCM in 2025 and it will be interesting to see whether the number of names will reduce to under 200 or remain stable.

Johanna Hardy
Electoral Roll Officer
January 2025

Sidespeople Report

Thank you to the small team of Sidespeople for all your support sometimes with short date notice and sometimes at the last minute.

Our Sidespeople stand willingly at the South Door, sometimes the coldest spot in the Church when the congregation forget to shut the swing doors behind them.

They are there half an hour before the Service starts to welcome the congregation and supply them with all the necessary papers to join in the Service. While doing their duties, during the Service they watch that all is well and nobody needs assistance. At the end they check for anything left behind and then they can have coffee.

The highlight of the year was the Ordination in September of 5 Deacons being ordained by the Bishop with 30 Clergy and a full Church of family and friends supporting the ordinands. It went very well and our Church was praised for running a successful Service.

My thanks to Paul Gambini for his help before the Services on Sunday mornings.

David Hawker
Sidespeople Coordinator
February 2025

Mothers' Union Branch Report

Morning meetings, arranged and led by Mary Leach, were held monthly, with corporate communion in Church followed by refreshments and fellowship.

We have enjoyed monthly evening meetings in members' homes with discussions about 'MU projects', quizzes, and a visit from Rose Gorton who provided a really enjoyable 'cocktail evening' in March. Our branch AGM was held in May 2024 and a summer party was hosted by Jane Olley in July.

Christmas lunch and an evening meal at local restaurants were enjoyed in December and very well-attended.

We continue to distribute regular newsletters and programme information. Our WhatsApp group is our main channel of communication for keeping us connected and informed. It is really effective in allowing us to share information of branch activities, projects in the diocese and the work of the Mothers' Union globally.

We were sorry to lose one of our longest serving members, Wendy Pidgeon, in the past year. She was a wonderfully talented embroiderer and a kind and generous person. She is greatly missed by us all.

We had 34 members during 2024.

Jane Olley
February 2025

Flower Arrangers Report

We wish to thank everyone for their generous support with dedications and donations to the flower fund over the last year. It has meant that we have been able provide flowers in church on a weekly basis although, as in the previous year, we are having to scale down the number of arrangements at some of the main church festivals due to lack of help and the increasing cost of flowers.

We will do our best to fulfil requests for dedications on specific dates but it may not always be possible due to lack of help.

If there is anyone willing to help to arrange flowers, please contact Rosemary Clayton or Sylvia Clay. We are happy to give guidance if needed.

Thanks again for your continued support.
Rosemary and Sylvia
January 2025

Phoenix Club

The club is an inclusive club open to all over 55s. A club where a person on their own can feel at ease on joining and not feel like an interloper.

We meet every Thursday at the back of the church from 1-30 to 3-30pm. We enjoy quizzes, bingo, tea, coffee, biscuits and cakes and of course chats.

We have special celebrations during the year. This year we had an Easter Buffet with everyone gifted an Easter Egg, Wimbledon was celebrated = any excuse = with another Buffet, Harvest with a ploughman's lunch and Christmas with another huge Buffet and pass the parcel gifts. Our subs remain at £2-00 a week.

If anyone is interested in joining us just come along or contact the parish office.

Phyllis Dearsley and Pat Harris – January 2025

Safeguarding Report

"The Diocese of Chelmsford is committed, as part of the Christian church living in the spirit of the Gospel, to protect and care for everyone and we aim to be a beacon in best practice in safeguarding. Ensuring that its volunteers, clergy, advisers and lay people achieve the standards laid down in the Safeguarding Policies of the Church of England.

This is the opening paragraph on the Diocese of Chelmsford Safeguarding website.

These aims to protect and care for everyone by following best practice and standards laid down in the safeguarding policies are our guidelines here at St Edward's Church and all other churches in the Church of England.

As a Safeguarding team here we have strict guidelines, procedures and policies that we have to follow and adhere to.

It is essential that we protect and safeguard our children and young people, likewise we also need to protect and safeguard everyone who works with them, whether paid or a volunteer.

Everybody working with our children and young people must hold an Enhanced DBS Certificate (police check).

Everybody also has to complete two online safeguarding training courses, Basic and Foundation.

DBS Certificates and safeguarding training courses must be renewed every three years.

Safeguarding is paramount and must always be at the forefront at St Edward's, for the protection of our children, young people, vulnerable adults and the people who help and assist with our children's work.

Jenny Card
Parish Safeguarding Officer
January 2025

Junior Church Report

Junior Church meets every Sunday during the 10.00 service in term time. Children attending are aged from 5 to 11 years and most sessions welcome approximately 10 children, mainly under 7 years of age. In 2024 we had to move Junior Church sessions from Church House to an area at the back of church for various reasons. This has meant that the Junior Church children and their parents have become more part of the congregation and the 10am service. Opportunities have arisen for the children to engage with our services, i.e. they help with the collection and bringing up the offering. Towards the end of the service the children are asked to tell us about the activity they have engaged in with some being more confident than others to speak in front of the congregation.

Diddy Disciples Report

Diddy Disciples is a new branch of our children's ministry designed for pre-school children (0-5 years). This is not a crèche, but a real opportunity to engage with our faith in ways that are meaningful for young children. This means there are lots of simple songs and actions; lots of moving and doing and not too much listening. It happens on the first and last Sunday of each month outside of school holidays and major feasts where opportunities for ministry for children are already available. There are between four and eight families each week and children are accompanied by an adult. Parents and their children meet in the family area by the St. Edward's window and, after being blessed at the start of the service, move to the Choir Vestry for about 35 minutes and then returning in order to take part in the Eucharist. We are very grateful to Steph Perry for leading these sessions.

Fr David Perry
January 2025

Playgroup Report

During 2024 St Edward's Playgroup has continued to grow in membership, welcoming new members most weeks.

Playgroup offers a very important outreach into the community offering a regular meeting place and care and support for our members, there is a great need for groups like Playgroup.

For the first time last year we took part in World Book Day, we created a book corner in the hall, decorated the walls with book characters and displayed many books.

Most of the children and some of the helpers dressed up in book characters. We also had a table of crafts for the children to do, themed to books and stories.

We also had a few Story Times during the morning.

Each child received a children book as a gift.

It was a great morning and we are planning to do the same next year.

At the end of the Summer Term after the last Playgroup we held a Helpers lunch, these are an important part of Playgroup as it is good to have a recap of what we have done over the term and plan for the following term.

We welcomed Gaynor Griffin who had just retired as a new helper, she is a great asset to our team and we are very grateful to her for her help.

I would like to thank Fr David Perry for his continued support to Playgroup and his visits every week, the children love him.

My thanks to all the Playgroup helpers.

Jenny Card
February 2025

Caterpillars

Caterpillars meet in church weekly on a Tuesday (term time) with lots of fun being had as we come together to encourage pre-school children and their parents/carers to participate and learn about God in a very relaxed and informal atmosphere.

Our weekly sessions last an hour and are packed with songs, bible stories/themes, crafts, sensory activities and prayers as well as time for refreshments, a chat and playtime.

We are a small team who are always on the lookout for willing volunteers to join us as we plan, prepare and enjoy delivering topics and themes for preschoolers. Last year we enjoyed learning about Jesus, friend of sinners in the story of Zacchaeus, people who help us and the Good Samaritan in addition to the events of the Church year with Shrove Tuesday, Easter, Pentecost, the Ascension and Christmas, of course. We enjoyed learning about different ways to pray; some through song with our Two Little Eyes prayer which we sing each week.

Our children choose the songs we sing and we have especially enjoyed "Sleeping Bunnies" and of course "the Wiggle Song", where we sing that wiggling for Jesus is for everyone!

The "What's in the Box" element continues to stimulate interest and is linked to our theme or story and this year has included an umbrella, teaspoons and mirrors.

A big thank you to all the team (comprising Jenny, Jane, Lorna, Theresa, Helen, Kerry and myself) especially for the compassion and friendship shared in times of ill health and bereavement.

Our average attendance is around 8-10 children each week and is a mix of regulars and ad hoc visitors. We are grateful that our children are accompanied by a wonderful group of parents, grandparents and carers who readily join in each week.

Please do come along and join us if you are free.

Sarah Cansell
February 2025

Social Media / Communications Report

Background:

- Our Social Media Team was established in September 2023 – therefore we have been running for a period of just over a year.
- We regularly post on a number of media sites, including Facebook, You Tube, and A Church Near You.
- Seeing some great successes we have broadened our strategic aims this year to include wider communications. Our aims have been threefold, encourage more people to think of St Edward's as their church of choice, reach the community to regularly spread the word of bible and continue to be the most welcoming church in Romford – using our strapline of a “warm welcome awaits”.

Outlined below are our key success areas as well as the analytics in comparison to this time last year to demonstrate progress:

Key Areas of Success:

- The reach of our social media sites has been overwhelming. At the same point this time last year, we had 137 followers. This has now increased to a massive 376 followers (Jan 2025).
- As a team we have made communications posts throughout the year on a daily basis and as a result we are seeing a steady increase in followers week on week. Over the last 28 days we have had over 39.8K views as opposed to 8.9K at the same time last year. Again, a massive increase.
- 2.1K people engaged with our posts in the last 28 days, again an increase from 1.2K at this point last year. Our New Year post encouraging the community to take time out and visit the church in the New Year had 690 views across Facebook.
- We now have followers in the UK, United States, Australia, Belgium, Benin, Czech Republic, Greece, India, Jamaica and New Zealand. This demonstrates our global reach.
- We have shifted our age demographic since this time last year to the 35-54 age group – which was one of the key things we wanted to do due to the changing demographic in our area.
- Our Parish Administrator and our Treasurer have redesigned our website to make this more professional, reaching out to the Diocese Communications Team and taking advice on board. As a result, we regularly have in excess of 790 people accessing the website on a monthly basis.
- We have invested in our Live Streaming – frequently live streaming our services to ensure that we reach those who are perhaps not able to join us in person – being a key link to the church whilst being at home, we regularly receive feedback on how crucial this service is. A committed team is now in

place to support this, constantly making improvements to the experience for the viewer, sharing news and key communications before the service. Last week for example, we had over 160 people view our service online.

- A Church Near You has also been a key success for St Edward's this year. By ensuring that news sheets, service updates, and articles are shared on a regular basis and replicated on the website we have seen 18,715 views on our Church page in the last year as opposed to just over 8,000 at the same point in 2024.
- This year we have been extremely proactive with our communications to ensure that St Edwards Church is well known in the community. The success of our Poppy Displays, saw a front-page article in both the Romford Recorder (with an official photographer) and the Brentwood Recorder. There were also two articles written on the Diocese website. We were also again recently featured after the Recorder saw some of our Facebook posts and we were asked for a quote in relation to some filming at the church – excellent publicity for both Romford, the Community and St Edward's.
- St Edward's has proactively built a good community network, working with the Local Library, Romford Business Improvement District, the local Museum and Havering Council this year – really putting us on the map.
- We look forward to the 175th Celebrations for the Church in 2025, with a meeting planned with the Events Team at Havering Council, as well as the support of our Local MP already secured, and work underway with Havering Libraries for a display on the history of the Church.

Jo Sheppard
February 2025

Stewardship/Regular Giving

Thank you to everyone who donates to the Church at any time or of any sum, it is all appreciated and put to good use.

Over 90% of donations are eligible for a Gift Aid claim and in this past year we have recovered over £13,000

Income has reduced this year as long-standing members pass on and we hope new members will feel able to regularly support the Church by signing up for the Parish Giving Scheme. Brochures about the Parish Giving Scheme can be found at the back of church.

Please give what you can that will not affect necessities and speak to me about the paperwork.

David Hawker
Stewardship Administrator
February 2025

Financial review

Treasurer's Report on Accounts for year 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

Introduction

Dear Members and Friends of St Edward the Confessor (Romford), It is my privilege to present my first Treasurer's Annual Report for the financial year ending 2024. This report outlines the financial activities of our church over the past year, demonstrating our stewardship of the resources entrusted to us by God and by you, our congregation.

Financial Activities

The PCC is responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the church, ensuring they comply with the Charities Act 1993 and related regulations, and safeguarding church assets. This includes taking steps to prevent and detect fraud. The PCC's financial statements are also prepared according to guidance from the Archbishop's Council.

During the year, we were blessed with generous giving and support from our members and supporters. Total income for 2024 was **£202,817**, (£212,293 2023).

Total expenditure was **£244,980**, (£203,086 2023) giving a deficit of **£42,163**. This compares to a surplus of **£9,207** in 2023.

There has been an increase in parish share to the Diocese of Chelmsford from £86,035 to £94,050. This was due to a new method of calculating parish share from parishes in 2023.

Taxation Status

The PCC is an exempt charity for taxation purposes as a church defined as a place of worship under the Places of Worship Act 1855.

Reserves

The PCC policy is to try to retain reserves of a sum equivalent to three months' unrestricted payments (about £55,000). The closing balance in the General fund was **£104,292**, (£123,430 for 2023), and designated funds £177,199 (£179,950 for 2023) due to the PCC designating £100,000 in relation to the Fabric of the church and £75,000 for Music and Youth Outreach.

The financial activities of the PCC are set out in the attached financial statements.

Notable Financial Events and Activities

- We received a generous one-time donation of £1,000, which was allocated towards new head set microphone and repair of existing microphones.
- An unrestricted legacy of £5,000 was gratefully received from Wendy Eavis a long-standing member of our church who died in 2023.
- We benefitted from a production company requesting to film our church spire that led to a further £1,000 donation.
- The money raised from the 'Poppy Display' was a great community effort which was more valuable than any cash raised.
- Major repair / upgrade was completed on Fire alarm system,
- Fundraising for roof repair has started and we should see the benefits in 2025.
- We have updated and streamlined our office management practice as well as removing redundant phone lines and improving reporting and transparency. This will continue into 2025.

Looking Ahead

In the coming year, we anticipate the repairs to the roof to start. We also have the 175th Anniversary to look forward to. Of course, we hope that our vacancy will be filled, and we will continue to exercise wise and faithful stewardship over all resources. A budget has been prepared in consultation with the Parochial Church Council and reflects our vision and ministry priorities.

Acknowledgements

My sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed financially, practically, and prayerfully to the church this year. Special thanks to the Church Wardens, Parish Administrator, Anne Taylor (Diocese bookkeeper), counting teams, and our independent examiner, for their support and diligence.

Mr. Peter Quinn
Hon. Treasurer
May 2025

Approved by the PCC on 27/4 2025 and signed on their behalf by



Revd David Perry
Associate Priest & PCC Chair



Johanna Hardy-van den Beld
Churchwarden & PCC Secretary

**ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR THE PARISH CHURCH OF ROMFORD
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT**

I report to the trustees of the PCC on my examination of the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 29 to 38.

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts.

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an Independent Examination is needed. I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a member of The Chartered Institute of Management Accountants.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the Accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- Follow procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of this Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention in connection with examination

1. giving me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with 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.

Ms K T Lee, FCMA
Mawney Accountancy
1 Beech Street
Romford
Essex
RM7 7LA

Signed:



Date:

27/4/2025

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES


For the Year ended 31 December 2024

	Notes	General Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
INCOME						
Voluntary income	2a	158,702	-	180	158,882	174,802
Activities for generating funds	2b	6,445	-	398	6,843	9,741
Income from investments	2c	30,075	-	-	30,075	25,976
Church activities	2d	5,275	-	425	5,700	1,774
Other incoming resources	2e	1,317	-	-	1,317	-
TOTAL INCOME		201,814	-	1,003	202,817	212,293
EXPENDITURE						
Church activities	3a	212,525	24,637	801	237,963	196,920
Costs of raising funds	3b	4,898	-	-	4,898	6,166
Other Expenditure	3b	2,119	-	-	2,119	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		219,542	24,637	801	244,980	203,086
NET INCOME/EXPENDITURE		- 17,728	- 24,637	202	- 42,163	9,207
TRANSFER BETWEEN FUNDS		- 1,410	1,410	-		-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		- 19,138	- 23,227	202	- 42,163	9,207
Total funds brought forwards	8	123,430	577,602	8,965	709,997	
Total funds carried forward	8	104,292	554,375	9,167	667,834	

BALANCE SHEET as at 31 December 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible fixed assets	5	403,148	425,394
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors and Prepayments	6	3,697	12,231
Short term deposits	6	149,240	226,466
Cash at bank and in hand	6	117,946	56,040
		<u>270,883</u>	<u>294,737</u>
LIABILITIES			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	7	6,197	10,134
NET CURRENT ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)		<u>264,686</u>	<u>284,603</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>667,834</u>	<u>709,997</u>
PARISH FUNDS			
Unrestricted Funds	8	104,292	123,430
Designated Funds	8	177,199	179,590
Designated Fixed Asset Funds	8	377,176	398,012
Restricted Funds	8	9,167	8,965
		<u>667,834</u>	<u>709,997</u>

Approved by the PCC on 27/11 . . . 2025 and signed on their behalf by


.....
The Reverend David Perry
Associate Priest & PCC Chair


.....
Johanna Hardy-van den Beld
Churchwarden & PCC Secretary

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a. Accounting Convention

The PCC is a public entity within the meaning of FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCCs and with the Regulations' "true and fair view" provisions. They have been prepared under FRS102 (2016) as the applicable accounting standards and the 2016 version of the Statement of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP(FRS102)).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for investment assets which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible by law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

b. Fund accounting

Funds held by the PCC are:

Unrestricted funds are income funds which are to be spent on the PCC's general purposes.

Designated funds are general funds set aside by the PCC for use in the future. Project funds are designated for particular projects for administration purposes only. Funds designated as invested in fixed assets for the PCC's own use are abated in line with those assets' annual depreciation charges in the SOFA. Designated funds remain unrestricted and the PCC will move any surplus to other general funds.

Restricted funds comprise (a) income from trusts or endowments which is to be expended only on the restricted purposes intended by the donor and (b) revenue donations or grants for a specific PCC activity intended by the donor. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of the year is carried forward as a balance on that fund.

c. Incoming Resources

Voluntary Income

Collections are recognised when received.

Planned giving receiving is recognised only when received.

Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.

Grants and legacies are recognised when the PCC is legally entitled to the amount due.

Income from Investments

Dividends are accounted for when due and payable. Interest entitlements are accounted for as they accrue.

All Other Income

All other income is recognised when it is receivable.

d. Resources Used

Resources expended are accounted for on an accruals basis and are accounted for gross, apart from independent reviewer's remuneration and accountancy and grants and donations which are accounted for when paid over, or when rewarded where the award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

Support costs are apportioned to activities in proportion to the estimated proportion of time spent on those activities by the Parish Administration.

Church Activities

The diocesan parish contribution is accounted for when paid. Any parish contribution 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.

e. Fixed Assets

Consecrated and benefice property

In so far as consecrated and benefice property of any kind is excluded from the statutory definition of 'charity' by Section 10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011 such assets are not capitalised in the financial statements.

Moveable church furnishing

Moveable church furnishings are not included in the accounts unless sufficient cost information is available, but all items are included in the Church's inventory.

Tangible Fixed Assets used by Charity,

All expenditure on consecrated or benefice buildings and other fixed assets costing under £1,000 are written off in the year they are incurred.

The freehold land and buildings held during the year consists of the Curatage at Parkside Avenue and fixtures and fittings used in the church.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated to write down the cost of tangible fixed assets, excluding freehold properties, over their expected useful lives. The rates generally applicable are:

Fixtures and fittings 20% straight line, 5 years

Computer equipment 33% straight line, 3 years

Following a review of the depreciation rates in 2022, the trustees decided to change the depreciation policy for fixtures and fittings from twenty years to five years.

No depreciation is provided on buildings as the currently estimated residual value of the properties is not less than their carrying value and the remaining useful life of these assets currently exceeds 50 years, so that any depreciation charges would be immaterial. An impairment review is carried out at each year-end and any resultant loss identified included in expenditure for the year.

f. Current Assets

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

Short Term Deposits

These are the cash held on deposit either with the CCLA or at the bank.

2. INCOME

	General Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
a. Voluntary income					
Regular giving - Bank	44,545	-	180	44,725	46,822
Regular giving - Envelopes	9,234	-	-	9,234	9,688
Other giving - Sum Up	1,374	-	-	1,374	1,420
Loose plate collections	13,361	-	-	13,361	16,160
Sum up & Good Box	373	-	-	373	340
Good box collections	2,880	-	-	2,880	2,985
Giving through church boxes	4,878	-	-	4,878	5,364
One off gift aid gifts	5,500	-	-	5,500	2,010
Wykeham Trust contribution to expense	51,000	-	-	51,000	47,800
Special collections	3,139	-	-	3,139	5,541
Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	16,418	-	-	16,418	17,274
Legacies	6,000	-	-	6,000	5,000
Non recurring grants	-	-	-	-	14,398
	158,702	-	180	158,882	174,802
b. Activities for generating funds					
Book shop income	1,079	-	-	1,079	166
General fundraising	5,366	-	398	5,764	9,575
	6,445	-	398	6,843	9,741
c. Income from investments					
Bank and building society interest	9,375	-	-	9,375	6,925
Rent from Curatage	20,700	-	-	20,700	19,051
	30,075	-	-	30,075	25,976
d. Income from charitable activities					
PCC Fees for weddings, funerals	2,145	-	-	2,145	1,014
Phoenix Club	220	-	-	220	-
Youth Choir	-	-	425	425	-
Church Hire	2,910	-	-	2,910	580
Choir	-	-	-	-	180
	5,275	-	425	5,700	1,774
e. Other incoming resources					
Insurance claims	1,317	-	-	1,317	-
	1,317	-	-	1,317	-
	201,814	-	1,003	202,817	212,293

Planned giving, collections and similar donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is entitled to use of the resources, their ultimate receipts is considered reasonably certain and the amounts due are reliably quantifiable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

3. EXPENDITURE

	General Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
a. Church activities					
Mission and Outreach	-	-	-	-	215
Ministry costs: Diocesan Parish Share	94,050	-	-	94,050	86,035
Other ministry costs	8,071	-	-	8,071	2,116
Salaries and pension costs	38,760	-	-	38,760	29,020
Youth work expenses	-	-	-	-	1,067
Parish training and mission	252	-	-	252	-
Church upkeep of services	4,537	-	-	4,537	4,122
Organ, choir and music	13,274	-	801	14,075	12,363
Administration	6,729	-	-	6,729	6,991
Printing and photocopying	2,701	-	-	2,701	2,971
Bank charges	195	-	-	195	52
Card fees	205	-	-	205	142
Parish office telephone and broadband	2,839	-	-	2,839	3,019
Website	790	-	-	790	-
Depreciation	-	22,246	-	22,246	22,245
Equipment expensed	2,183	-	-	2,183	50
Church maintenance	16,194	2,391	-	18,585	4,626
Church insurance	7,941	-	-	7,941	7,787
Church utilities	10,430	-	-	10,430	11,567
Accountancy	1,524	-	-	1,524	1,197
Independent examiners remuneration	1,850	-	-	1,850.00	1,335
	212,525	24,637	801	237,963	196,920
b. Costs of raising funds					
Costs of stewardship campaign	-	-	-	-	288
Costs of fetes & other events	1,747	-	-	1,747	2,178
Parkside Rental Management Costs	3,151	-	-	3,151	3,700
	4,898	-	-	4,898	6,166
c. Other Expenditure					
Solicitor's Fees	2,119	-	-	2,119	-
	2,119	-	-	2,119	-
	219,542	24,637	801	244,980	203,086

4. STAFF COSTS AND RELATED PARTIES

a. Staff costs and numbers

	2024	2023
Wages and salaries	38,159	28,566
Social security and Pension costs	601	454
	<u>38,760</u>	<u>29,020</u>
Average number of employees	3	2

During the year the PCC employed a parish administrator, a caretaker and a music director.

Some employees provide services for both the Church and the Wykeham Centre and Church House, a connected charity. During the year the Wykeham Centre made contributions towards these costs. The wages, salaries, social security and pensions represent the total amount paid and are not shown net of these contributions.

There were no employee benefits paid to personnel in the previous or current years.

No employee was paid more than £60,000

b. Related parties' transactions.

There were no related party transactions during the year.

The stipendiary Clergy were reimbursed for working expenses, it is considered that no material part of this relates to their duties as trustees.

Unconditional donations from those identified as related parties amounted to £10,463 during the year made up of regular giving.

5. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Curates House £	Church P&M £	Church FF&E £	Total £
Actual/deemed cost				
At 1 January 2024	350,000	43,286	80,478	473,764
Disposals	-	-	-	-
Additions	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2024	<u>350,000</u>	<u>43,286</u>	<u>80,478</u>	<u>473,764</u>
Depreciation				
At 1 January 2024	-	8,657	39,713	48,370
Disposals	-	-	-	-
Charge for the year	-	8,657	13,589	22,246
At 31 December 2024	<u>-</u>	<u>17,314</u>	<u>53,302</u>	<u>70,616</u>
Net book amounts				
At 31 December 2024	<u>350,000</u>	<u>25,972</u>	<u>27,176</u>	<u>403,148</u>
At 31 December 2023	<u>350,000</u>	<u>34,629</u>	<u>40,765</u>	<u>425,394</u>

6. CURRENT ASSETS

	2024 £	2023 £
Income tax recoverable	2,997	2,997
Prepayments & accrued income	700	9,234
	<u>3,697</u>	<u>12,231</u>

7. CURRENT LIABILITIES

	2024 £	2023 £
Accruals & deferred income	4,119	7,955
Independent Examination	1,400	1,400
Agency	678	779
	<u>6,197</u>	<u>10,134</u>

8. STATEMENT OF FUNDS

	Bal f/fwd. 01/01/2024	Income	Expenditure	Transfers Other gains & losses	Bal c/fwd. 31/12/2024
	£	£	£	£	£
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS					
PCC General fund	123,430	201,814	- 219,542	- 1,410	104,292
	123,430	201,814	- 219,542	- 1,410	104,292
DESIGNATED FUNDS					
Fabric	99,590	-	- 2,391	-	97,199
Legacies Held	5,000	-	-	-	5,000
Youth/Musical Outreach	75,000	-	-	-	75,000
	179,590	-	- 2,391	-	177,199
DESIGNATED FIXED ASSET FUNDS					
Curatage	350,000	-	-	-	350,000
Church FF&E	40,765	-	- 13,588	-	27,177
Church P&M (Boiler)	7,248	-	- 8,658	1,410	- 0
	398,012	-	- 22,246	1,410	377,176
RESTRICTED FUNDS					
Organ	1,759	-	-	-	1,759
Choir	5,247	-	-	-	5,247
Youth Work Fund	159	1,003	-	-	1,162
Ukraine Choir	1,800	-	- 801	-	999
	8,965	1,003	- 801	-	9,167
	709,997	202,817	- 244,980	-	667,834

9. SUBSIDIARY FUNDS

A number of members of the congregation give freely and generously of their time in promoting activities to raise funds for the church; credit is taken in these financial statements as and when donations are received from promoters of these activities.

There are also a number of organisation associated with the church whose accounts are quite separate form these financial statements.

10. DIOCESAN QUOTA

Payment of £94,050 was achieved in 2024, (2023 - £86,035).

11. ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF INTANGIBLE INCOME

The Parochial Church Council is particularly grateful to the Trustees of The Wykeham Centre and Church House for their waiver of charges in respect of the Centre and Office. Further thanks are due to many members of the Church family for a variety of services provided.

12. CONNECTED CHARITIES

The Wykeham Centre and Church House is a connected charity, registered number 291485, owning and administered from, property adjacent to the Church for the purposes of furthering the religious and other charitable work of the Church of England in the ecclesiastical parish of Romford.

This charity produces its own annual Accounts which are independently examined.

13. INSURANCE VALUATION OF THE BUILDINGS

The properties owned and managed by the PCC are currently valued for insurance purposes as

Building	Description	Insurance Valuation
		£
St Edwards the Confessor	Church	19,280,000
54 Parkside Avenue	Curates House	425,251

The policy includes trustees indemnity insurance for the sum of £250,000