THE JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

England & Wales · Charity number 1129017

Details

Other names	THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST JOHN BAPTIST,WESTWOOD,COVENTRY
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2009-04-06
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

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Activities

Objects: PROMOTING IN THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH THE WHOLE MISSION OF THE CHURCH.

Activities: PROMOTING IN THE PARISH THE WHOLE MISSION OF THE CHURCH.

Classification

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

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Geography

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

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£331,515	£315,476	-	-
2023-12-31	£271,307	£275,962	-	-
2022-12-31	£243,845	£267,251	-	-
2021-12-31	£280,824	£243,038	-	-
2020-12-31	£207,887	£228,806	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Abigail Julie Baxter		2024-04-28
Erin Victoria Gilmour		2022-09-30
Jeff Smailes		2018-11-01
Lydia Sampson		2024-07-18
Matt Jermyn		2020-11-17
Michael Lane		2024-04-28
Michelle Charlotte Robinson		2021-10-01
Stephen Elton		2024-09-29
Susannah Ruth Elton		2026-05-31
THOMAS KENNARD HICKINBOTTOM		2020-11-17

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THE JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

England & Wales - Charity number 1129017

Accounts

ANNUAL REPORT

The Bridge Coventry &
St James Fletchamstead

2024

This is the annual report of both The Joint Council of The Bridge Benefice, Coventry and The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St James Fletchamstead Coventry. Although this is a shared report, where required there are two reports for, one for each of the benefices.

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VICAR'S LETTER

The night that summer became autumn in 2023, the season changed.
It seemed that was what the Father was saying, to me and to others.

During that night the wall came down between our vicarage and St John's graveyard.
The tree that had been growing there for many years finally moved the wall out of its way.

The season changed as it does every three months, but the spiritual season changed in a big way.

Sharing the good news to my generation has always been hard, Gen X is still a vastly atheist generation. Gen Y isn't far behind, but the young adults (Gen Z) and children (Gen Alpha) now coming up are open to Jesus like we haven't seen in a while.

Old folks and young ones are open. One in three young adults will say yes to an invite to church. Young white men are walking into churches up and down the nation.

The church in the nation is growing. Something has shifted in the atmosphere.
The Lord is calling His church to collaborate, get close to Him and experience new life and many coming to faith.

Locally the season has changed for us as a church.
As I write in the warm spring of 2025, I remember 2024.
Lots of change, lots of growth, lots of things coming together.

A year where we started to live in financial strength, if not abundance, where we saw people come to faith, new initiatives start and a huge uptick in the numbers of people outside church engaging with us.

In memory 2024 will be the year when Hope Springs and St James came in, it will also be the last full year I live, work and love here.

We didn't know that was even a likelihood until mid December.
The role we were given in 2015 was to build a foundation for something that could multiply.
To take the fabulous church that we were called into and make it ready to multiply and grow fast.
Ready for a move of God.
To grasp the nettles and brambles, move the rocks and dig down.

In 2019 I felt like that foundation was almost done.

Then we had to dig in and overcome a once in a lifetime situation.

Many are starting to say the move of God is coming,
maybe it's already here.
We've restructured, rebuilt and reorganised.

God has brought a new team alongside those who've been here for the whole journey.
It may not be the Hammond family privilege to get to build on the foundations with you.
But 2024 felt like the last year of building those foundations together; Getting the right people on board, clearing the decks, counting the cost, overcoming.

I have faith in everyone here, even more so in our Glorious God and I'm full of Hope for the future of The Bridge.

David Hammond (Vicar of The Bridge Benefice and Priest-in-Charge of St James, Fletchamstead)

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORTS

St Stephen's Church

As Churchwardens, we give thanks to God for a year of growth, encouragement, and fresh vision at St Stephen's.

2024 marked a new chapter for our church family with the arrival of Rev. Erin Gilmour. Erin's leadership has brought renewed energy and a deep sense of hope to our community. We are particularly grateful for the way Erin has helped us focus on building an inclusive and vibrant church life, where every age and stage is welcomed and valued.

This year has seen exciting developments in our ministry among children and families. We are thrilled to see more children than adults joining us most Sundays, and we wholeheartedly support the work that has gone into making our worship truly intergenerational and accessible to all. The progress made in securing grant funding for building improvements is a significant achievement, and we look forward with anticipation to a transformed, welcoming space in 2025.

Our outreach to the wider Canley community has grown stronger, through deepened partnerships, particularly with Leigh CE Academy. The success of the Easter Trail and the recognition of St Stephen's as a Growing Faith Learning Hub are real signs of God's favour and of the strong foundations being laid for future ministry, especially among families of children with additional needs.

Initiatives such as "BREATHE Canley" and our involvement in community events like the Canley Parade and Big Lunch reflect our ongoing commitment to sharing God's love in practical and creative ways. Likewise, our collaboration with St James Fletchamstead for the Light Party was a wonderful example of churches working together in mission.

We want to express heartfelt thanks to every member of the St Stephen's family. Whether through hospitality, worship, children's activities, practical support, or prayer, each contribution has been vital to our shared life and witness.

Looking ahead, while challenges remain, we are filled with hope. We believe that 2025 will be a year of continued growth in faith, confidence, and outreach, as we seek to welcome more families and see God's Kingdom grow in Canley.

Tom and Katie

St John's Church

It's been a momentous year for St John's (in a good way!). Hope Springs church joined us informally to begin with, then more formally with everyone's agreement in September. We at St John's have benefited enormously from this merger, and I believe Hope Springs has too.

It brought us Steve and Susie Elton as the new St John's church leaders, and we are indebted to them for their supportive and encouraging Barnabas-style leadership. Events this year have included a Fireworks Party in the Garden of Hope (over 500 came and we nearly ran out of hot dogs), multiple Christmas events including a very popular Quiz Night, and more recently the Hot Cross Bun parties and the wonderful Easter Garden Adventure. Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make these events happen and be so successful.

We are grateful to the staff team, and to those who lead ministries, for their faithful and inspiring work this year: thank you, David, Caroline, Kathryn, Sarah, Jenni, Liz, Emily, Rachel, Anna, Beth, Stuart, Amy, Mark, and Trevor.

More people have signed up this year for ministries which serve our church on Sundays – hospitality, children's work, youth work, students, stewarding, welcoming, sound and vision desk, worship groups, Dwell. Thank you – the church couldn't run without you. And many more are serving now on our Outreach ministries like Garden of Hope, Westwood Lunch, Dandelions, Art and Craft group, Memory Café, the Football team, Refresh, and Alpha courses. Bless you, as you work hard to bless our friends and neighbours.

Future challenges include the renovation of the St John's building – re-tiling and insulating the roof, and re-ordering inside to make our church more user-friendly to our local community - but plans are being laid, and it feels like we are moving in a good direction.

Ben and Carolyn

St James Church

This year we had the pleasure of appointing Reverend Mohammad Eghtedarian as Associate Minister of our congregation and in September welcoming him and his family, wife Mariam and children Immanuel and Elise, to our fellowship.

Sadly, we also mourned the loss of our former Vicar Steve and his wife Kathy, who tragically were killed in an RTC while on holiday in Wales. Steve had been our Vicar for 19 years during which time we were greatly blessed by their ministry with us and had seen their children David, Jonathan and Sarah grow up and become strong believers with their own ministries. We grieve and pray for them and rejoice also that their parents and grandparents are now at home together with the Lord.

This year has been a very busy year again as we interviewed for an Associate Minister and carried the responsibilities of an interregnum and are grateful to our Priest in Charge, Reverend David Hammond and Archdeacon Barry for their help and support in appointing our Associate Minister Reverend Mohammad.

We also wish to thank all who helped during the interregnum with services including Reverend Kathryn Hammond who regularly conducted our Wednesday Communion Services, and Revd Don Alcock, Revd Clive Hicks and also Pastor Wicklife who was with us from Kenya and who preached at several services. There were many other interim speakers we had – including Rev Annie McCormick who helped us during both our Easter and Pentecost services (and helped me to experiment with the liturgy and service styles); and of course we were also very grateful to Bishop Ruth for Palm Sunday.

We also want to thank all the many leaders and helpers who have faithfully carried out many tasks and ministries and without which our church would not function.

From Tim: - On a personal note, this marks the end of my 6th year as Church Warden. It is customary to step down after 6 years, and so I plan to take a break. Serving as Church Warden has been a privilege, first with Steve, then during the interregnum, and now with Mohammad. I am grateful to my co-wardens, Marlene and then Des, and everyone who has served on PCC and in ministry.

Finally, I am reminded:
“Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?”.
I have found that passage from Isaiah 43 has been coming back to me again and again over these past months. I believe they are both for me and for St James wider. I do not yet ‘perceive’ what it means exactly – but I am starting to see.

I am excited to see where God will be leading us. May the next 6 years be full of his spirit in a new and deeper way. As someone said – may we go Deeper In and Further Out.

Tim and Des

THE BRIDGE JOINT COUNCIL REPORT

The Joint Council of The Bridge Benefice, Coventry

The Joint Council of the Bridge Benefice has met seven times throughout the year to oversee the governance, mission, and operations of the Benefice, comprising St John's, St Stephen's, and associated ministries.

Our meetings were consistently conducted in a spirit of collaboration and prayerful discernment. Standing Committee decisions were noted and ratified as appropriate. It is a registered charity, and its members are the charity's trustees. They are:

Clergy (ex-officio members)

- David Hammond, Vicar
- Erin Gilmour, Associate Minister
- Caroline Hammond, Curate

Lay Leaders (ex-officio member)

- Stephen Elton, St John's Lay Church Leader*

*awaiting charity commission to update to add details.

Elected members (Base, year of the APCM when their term ends)

- Michael Lane (Canley, 2026)
- Tom Hickinbottom (St Stephen's Churchwarden, 2027)
- Matt Jermyn (Canley, 2025)
- Abigail Baxter (Canley, 2027)
- Carolyn Howarth (St John's Churchwarden, 2026)
- Michelle Robinson (St John's, 2027)
- Jan Sayer (Burton Green, 2025)
- Jeff Smailes (St John's, 2026)
- Graham Thomas (St John's, 2025)
- Lydia Sampson (St John's, 2025 - Co-Opted from Hope Springs community)

Staffing and Ministry

This year there were significant staffing updates, including maternity and adoption cover, the appointment of new roles such as the SEND Outreach Worker and Young People's Discipleship Enabler, and developments in safeguarding leadership. Discussions took place on future staffing structures to support the growing demands across the three churches.

Finance
Throughout the year, finances were closely monitored. While income generally tracked close to budget expectations, concerns over deficits were a recurring theme. We felt called to trust God and he has been faithful in his provision this year. Providing us with the resources to extend our staff team as well as undertake new mission and ministries.

Safeguarding
Safeguarding remained a key focus, with regular updates, DBS compliance tracking, and policy reviews. Work on improving systems and communication around safeguarding procedures was prioritised.

Buildings and Fabric
Significant projects included preparations for major renovations at St John's, and improvements to accessibility such as handrail installations. Grant funding was sought for building projects which we hope to undertake at Stephen's in 2025.

Mission and Outreach
New initiatives included the Catalyst Student Ministry Project, a proposed new worshipping community in the Garden of Hope, and strengthened school partnerships through the Growing Faith initiative. Work with external organisations such as Hope into Action continued.

Challenges and Priorities
Key challenges included financial sustainability, succession planning for key volunteer roles (e.g., Treasurer, Secretary), and fostering a greater sense of belonging and engagement across congregations. The leadership emphasised prayerful dependence on God's provision and guidance for future growth and unity.

Future

With David's recent appointment to the position of Warden of Leigh Abbey we have begun the process of putting together a parish profile that will help us recruit a new leader for the Bridge, please continue to lift the whole church in your prayers as we move forward.

We thank God for the leadership and vision that David and Caroline have brought us through their time with us and we are excited for their next steps as a family at Leigh Abbey.

Tom Hickinbottom (Lay Chair of the Joint Council)

FLETCHAMSTEAD PCC REPORT

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST JAMES FLETCHAMSTEAD COVENTRY

Clergy: David Hammond (Priest in Charge since 2024);
Mohammad Eghtedarian (Associate Minister since September 2024)

Officers:
Tim Pollard (Warden since 2019)
Des French (Warden since 2022)
Des French (Secretary since 2020)
Dave Cuttler (Treasurer since 2022)

Members:
Until 2027: Marlene Pearson, Trecia Davidson, Sally Noon (since March 2025)
Until 2026: Helen Kearney; Arthur Street (left September 2024) vacancy.
Until 2025: Emmanuel Davidson; Sue Clayden (left March 2025); vacancy.

Other Roles:
Parish Safeguarding Officer: Sue Clayden (September 2023 to March 2025) Sally Noon (From March 2025)
Electoral Roll Officer: Sue Clayden (2022 - March 2025)
Deanery Synod Reps: Tim Pollard; Sue Clayden (Till March 2025).

The PCC is constituted in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. Its business is to “work in cooperation with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church; pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical,” by working with the Vicar and the Associate Minister to ensure the smooth running of the church.

The PCC met 9 times since the 2024 AGM. Buildings, Finances and Safeguarding are set items. The main additional items on the agenda were the appointment of an Associate Minister, linking with the Bridge group of churches, Hall refurbishment, AV upgrade and church boiler replacement.

Our charitable giving in 2024 included: Core Charities: Coventry City Mission £500; Coventry Youth for Christ, £500; Gilead Health Development, £900; British and Foreign Bible Society, £500; HOPE Coventry. £500; Thrive, £500; Coventry Resource Centre for the Blind, £500; Lighthouse Trust, £500; Coventry Food Bank, £500; Christ Care Kuria Rescue Shelter (Kenya), £500.

Des French (PCC Secretary)

SAFEGUARDING REPORTS

The Bridge Coventry

Safeguarding continues to be a high priority for the Bridge keeping all parishioners, church members or anyone within our care safe. In light of the current contextual climate within the Church we are endeavouring to be beyond reproach in our transparency and conduct with safeguarding including safer recruitment.

During 2024 our team has evolved to include Susie Elton, our Bridge Safeguarding Officer, and Lydia Sampson , Assistant Safeguarding Officer. The team also continues to include Emily Newbury who is Safeguarding Champion for St Stephen's. We also give thanks to Rebecca Torpey for her time as Safeguarding Champion at St John's.

Safeguarding continues to be a key agenda item at the Joint Council and the leadership team have ensured that we are compliant with the Church of England's Promoting a Safer Church Policy.

We have recently purchased I know safeguarding- a website allowing us to keep better detailed safeguarding concerns and safety plans confidential and centralised. This allows us to connect with our website , use QR codes so as anyone at any point can refer to a safeguarding concern. This also allows us to produce detailed reports for JC, joint church meetings and also for the Diocese. This also shows us the trends and predominant issues arising and allows the team to attend bespoke training around such things.

Susie Lydia and David continue to have meetings with the Diocese to ensure we are continuing to be outstanding in our approach.

We are currently preparing training within the church for anyone who would Like to have a wider understanding of safeguarding and for volunteers to feel more confident in their role.

Susie Elton (Benefice Safeguarding Officer)

St James Fletchamstead

Safeguarding along with promoting a safe environment and culture has continued to be a priority at St James Fletchamstead where we have a team of volunteers and employed staff who work tirelessly to deliver the church's programmes and events.

The previous Parish Safeguarding Officer had worked very hard to ensure accurate records were maintained and safe recruitment guidelines were applied.

There was a change of Parish Safeguarding Officer in February 2025 with the position being ratified at PCC in March 2025 as the appropriate training was completed. There have been no reports of safeguarding incidents in recent months.

Although it is a requirement in line with Safe Recruitment that all church volunteers and/or employees are DBS checked and complete Safeguarding training before they take up their positions, there have been some incidents of new people joining teams without safe recruitment being followed. They are subsequently being chased up for DBS checks and Safeguarding training which they have been very cooperative with.

Job descriptions for church volunteer roles are being reviewed and updated.

As plans are progressed for St James to join the Bridge the role of Parish Safeguarding Officer will change.

Sally Noon (Parish Safeguarding Officer)

STAFFING REPORT

Staffing in 2024 remained relatively stable in terms of personnel, but it was still a stretching and formative year. We learnt a lot about one another and began shaping a new culture for the season ahead.

Several members of our Bridge staff team were on leave for wonderful reasons: David was on sabbatical, Anna on adoption leave, and Sarah on maternity leave. During David's sabbatical, Erin stepped in as *Acting Vicar*. We were really grateful to welcome Amy Cole and Beth Ferguson, who joined the team in the interim as *Children's Discipleship Enabler* and *Operations Manager*. They were a real gift and brought a huge amount to the team.

Emily joined us at the start of the year as our *Cleaner* and cared beautifully for the St Stephen's and St John's buildings. We said goodbye to her in the summer as she returned to Germany, and Rachel has taken on the role with great energy and care.

Liz and Trevor also joined the team in voluntary capacities as *Administrator* and *Youth Leader* respectively. Liz supported St John's brilliantly in the interim and we are so thankful for her time and commitment. Trevor has brought real energy and passion to youth discipleship, working alongside Amy to help lead our youth work.

As St John's explored a partnership with Hope Springs, and with Erin's calling to St Stephen's, the Joint Council created the part-time role of *St John's Lay Church Leader*. Steve Elton, was appointed through the usual recruitment process and it has been a joy to have him on the team and to see what God's doing through Erin's leadership in Canley.

Mark began as a volunteer *Student Worker* at St John's and is now employed in the role through grant funding as *Student and Social Media Discipleship Enabler*. You can read more about his work with students below, and the exciting growth we have seen.

Mohammad joined the team as *Associate Minister*, with responsibility for leading St James Fletchamstead after a period of interregnum. He stepped with gentleness into the role during a particularly difficult season, as the congregation continued to grieve the loss of their former incumbent and his wife, Steve and Kathy Burch. Steve was well known to the Bridge staff, having joined us for prayers during the latter part of his time at St James.

In September 2024, Ben Packwood and Katherine Martin began training as *Ordinands* at St John's and St James respectively. It is a real privilege to have people serving and learning within our churches, and we remain committed to championing leadership development across the benefice, both in ordained and lay, paid and unpaid positions.

At the start of 2025, we were delighted to welcome Amy Cole back onto the team as *SEND Outreach Worker* and *Young People's Discipleship Enabler*, supporting the Growing Faith Hub project based at Leigh CofE Academy and working in Canley too.

We also said farewell to Sue Clayden in January, following her faithful service at St James as both *Children's and Families Discipleship Enabler* and, later, as *Administrator*. She served diligently throughout the pandemic, through interregnum and saw their new Church Leader arrive and settle.

This year we rejoiced. Our capacity was stretched, as it often is. We grieved as individuals, with one another, and as a team. We had honest conversations. We reconciled. We moved towards new structures. Through it all, we've been learning how to work well together, building stronger relationships and deepening a shared sense of calling.

I (Sarah) am hopeful as we head into 2025. We are continuing to grow into an organisation where multiplication is central to who we are, with strong, resilient structures that support our staff and facilitate the spiritual and numerical growth of our churches, led by our Church Leaders.

Sarah Packwood (Operations Minister)

Staff Team May 2025
Back row: Mark, Stuart, Mohammad, Ben, Andrew
Middle row: David, Sarah, Steve, Trevor, Erin
Front row: Anna, Rachel, Jenni, Caroline, Amy

ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH, CANLEY

Overview

New Year's Day 2024 marked an exciting new chapter for St. Stephen's as Erin joined us from St. John's to lead our community.
This past year has been a journey of deepening and strengthening our faith together. We've focused on nurturing our church family and actively seeking ways to bring blessings to our local community.

One of our particular joys is that we regularly welcome more children than adults each week, inspiring us to actively explore truly intergenerational worship experiences every Sunday. This has involved exploring different biblical themes and stories through engaging games and creative activities that involve everyone.

Recognising that a significant number of our children have additional needs, we prioritized making 'church' accessible to all ages and stages early in the year. We began addressing barriers within our building and were successful in securing grant funding, with the hope that 2025 will see the completion of much-needed work to transform our space into a warm, attractive, and accessible environment.

Outreach and Community

Throughout the year, we have diligently fostered strong relationships with key stakeholders in Canley, leading to increased opportunities for community involvement. Our connection with Leigh Academy has strengthened, and as a result of this we were able to have the Easter Trail held at the school for the first time, this was a wonderful day attended by over 100 people, including a surprise visit from Bishop Ruth. Furthermore, our commitment to the school has deepened with Erin joining Anna Hickinbottom as foundation governors, alongside our continued leadership of weekly collective worship.

A significant highlight of 2024 was St. Stephen's being selected by the Church of England as one of just 13 Growing Faith Learning Hubs nationwide. This exciting partnership with Leigh CE Academy will focus on supporting families with children who have Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

June saw the sun shining on the vibrant Canley Parade and Big Lunch, where our church creatively represented St. Stephen's with fantastic costumes, joining the wider community in celebrating God's wonderful creation (complete with rather snazzy t-shirts!).

New Wine, always a summer highlight, provided a valuable time of refreshing and re-envisioning for our church, inspiring many to consider new ways of serving our local community. This inspiration directly led to the November 2024 launch of “BREATHE Canley,” a monthly sanctuary for those caring for individuals with additional needs, offering a literal space to breathe. This vital ministry is led and supported by a dedicated team of women from St. Stephen's, and we eagerly anticipate God's work through it.

In October, we partnered with St. James Fletchamstead to host a fantastic Light Party for our local communities, a joyful evening celebrating Jesus as the light of the world.

The year concluded in true St. Stephen's style with our engaging Christmas Events. The Nativity Trail warmly welcomed families from both our church and the wider community to explore the wonder of Christmas. Our Carol'oke event once again brought delightful surprises with enthusiastic participation and even a music video or two!

The Christian life is sometimes described as a journey of blessings and battles, and the life of a church can often feel similar. However, throughout this past year, for every challenge St. Stephen's has faced, we have also experienced abundant blessings.

As a close-knit community, it feels inappropriate to single out individuals for thanks, St. Stephen's is truly a family where each person has played a special role in supporting one another and reaching out to our community throughout the year.

My hope for 2025 is that it will be a year of significant growth in missional confidence, where we welcome more families into our community and see God's Kingdom come in Canley.

Erin Gilmour (Associate Minister)

Growing Faith Hub

In 2024, St Stephen's was honoured to be selected by the Church of England as one of 13 Growing Faith Learning Hubs nationwide. The successful application was to partner with Leigh CE Academy to support families with children who have Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).
Growing Faith aims to shift the culture and practice of churches to place children, young people and families at the centre of their ministry and mission. Its goal is to unite churches, schools, and homes to help families experience life to the full. The Church of England's ambition is to double the number of active young disciples by 2030.
Our hub will aim to:

- Empower children and young people as decision-makers, particularly those with SEND whose voices are not often heard.
- Work with the school to put on events that invite families to start their faith journey
- Be an innovation centre that inspires and supports church leaders and contributes to the Diocese by sharing transferable learning

"He called a little child to him and placed the child among them. And he said, 'Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven.'" - Matthew 18:3
Amy Cole (SEND Outreach Worker and Young People's Discipleship Enabler)

ST JOHN'S CHURCH, WESTWOOD

It’s with both joy and astonishment that I am writing this report just over a year since we planted Hope Springs Church as a seed within St John’s. How has it only been a year? Reflecting back to our first shared service in February 2024, it’s clear how much God’s faithfulness, the Spirit’s leading, and the openness of hearts at both St John’s and Hope Springs have shaped this beautiful journey.

The first half of 2024 was marked by a strong sense of unity—two communities with a shared calling not just to gather or do good, but to resource, support, and empower others in mission. A rare calling, with a vision that has grown and deepened.

Our commitment to “practising the practices”—prayer, worship, fasting, generosity—has laid a vital foundation, for both now and what's ahead. These rhythms have helped us remain rooted in Jesus as we deepen our relationship with God and one another, preparing for what God has for us. The teams who serve on Sunday mornings - welcome, audio, visuals, worship, preaching / leading, intercessions, hospitality - have done an amazing job of creating a culture and environment where people can meet with God and one another, being transformed in the process! The fact people don’t want to leave on a Sunday is testament to the work everyone does to create such a wonderful space

In July, we hosted our first St John’s Learning Community. Leaders and teams gathered to pray, encourage one another, and sharpen our collective sense of mission. It was a key moment as we discerned priorities for the next 6–12 months and reflected on how to keep a missional edge at the heart of all we do, and something I think has played a key role in seeing lots of new people coming the Sunday meetings and other groups and events, with many getting involved in the life of the church.

A major milestone came in September when the integration of Hope Springs and St John’s was formalised, and Steve was appointed Lay Leader. Since then, we’ve intentionally continued to look for even more opportunities to create accessible, welcoming spaces for the wider community—through our existing groups, targeted outreach events, and clear pathways like Alpha for those exploring faith. The Alpha course, led by Jan and a gifted team (including some amazing cooks!), provided a space for deep conversations, strengthened relationships, and meaningful encounters with Jesus. We are excited to run it again in Spring 2025. September also saw the launch of the Garden of Hope worshipping community, which builds on the fantastic work that Caroline and the team have done to cultivate a peaceful and welcoming environment where people can meet with God!

Outreach and Community

October saw the return of students, and it’s been a blessing to welcome both familiar and new faces. Mark and the student team have cultivated an inviting, vibrant,

outward-focused environment where students are encouraged to grow in discipleship and live out their faith. Similarly the work that Anna (and previously Amy), Trevor and their teams have done over the last number of months with kids and youth has been great to see! There is the beginnings of a movement stirring in this generation!

October also saw the launch of our new volunteering model, and the response has been incredible. Over 75 Christmas cards were written to individuals, couples, and families (which probably represented nearly 100 people) who serve across our church community. This is a powerful testament to the heart of everyone at St Johns—to love others, extend God's Kingdom, and lift high the name of Jesus through faithful service. This heart was evident in the significant uplift in giving that happened as we transitioned from 2024 into 2025! Thank you, your generosity is inspiring!

In November, over 500 people attended our Fireworks Extravaganza, with several connecting into church life afterward. Christmas followed with 11 unique events that reached a wide demographic—over 1,000 people attended the events across the Autumn season. Each event created space for people to engage, connect, and hear the unchanging good news of Jesus in ways that were accessible and relevant to them and where they were at!

The Football Group, which began casually in June, has grown to over 15 regulars, around 50% of which are not yet connected into a church. We're now exploring a larger training venue, the possibilities of setting up a Connect group linked to it and even considering joining the church league in September 2025—an exciting step in relational mission.

Refresh continues to flourish, with there continuation of the monthly morning gathering and the addition of an evening gathering, leading to the fostering deeper relationships and new connections. Westwood Lunch and the Memory Café remain significant places of welcome and support, providing consistent, outward-focused care for those in need. They are such a beautiful ministry!

Dwell, which originally met at St James, has expanded with a second monthly gathering now taking place at St John's. We're encouraged by its growth and the spiritual nourishment it offers. Likewise, Dandelions and the Art & Craft group are seeing growth and increasing numbers, to the point where the space is being filled even more—a good challenge to face!

Thank you for all you do. As we look to 2025, we believe God is calling us to go deeper in discipleship, bolder in mission, and wider in outreach. Every contribution matters. Let's continue to bring what we have, trusting that God will use it for His glory.

2024 has been a great year, I have loved journeying it with you all! Bring on 2025!

Students

In September, we were joined by a wonderful group of first-year students who have been a real joy to work with. We spent the first term getting to know one another, and during that time we began hosting weekly student lunches after the Sunday service.

Since Christmas, we've been running the Alpha course. It's been amazing to see people encountering the Holy Spirit throughout the year—He moved with particular power during the Alpha Holy Spirit Day.

Over the past year, we've also increased our use of social media, sharing short videos from our services on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube. Please check out our videos and give them a like!

Several students have shared with me how their excitement for the Bible and their faith has grown over the course of the year. I was especially encouraged by a recent story of a student who shared their faith with a parent, leading to that parent responding positively and starting to attend church.

In the coming term, we'll be launching Kintsugi Hope, a Christian course designed to support mental health and build resilience.

Mark Ahmad (Student & Social Media Discipleship Enabler)

The Garden of Hope

This year the Garden of Hope has gone from strength to strength. The wonderful team of volunteer gardeners and mowers continue to transform the space. This year we have erected a 3 side shelter (thanks to some generous personal donations), this has made the garden even more popular to visitors.
In September we launched a new worshipping community that gathers 4pm-5pm every Sunday in the garden. Although it is only attended by a small number of people it has a lovely atmosphere and we are hoping that it continues to grow through the warmer months. The service has a strong focus on connecting to God through nature and we have a lovely mixture of ages who gather. From June we will be meeting on the first Sunday of the month rather than weekly.
Over the last year The Bridge and St John's have hosted some events in the garden which have provided opportunities to make connections with people in the local community. These events have been fruitful, well attended and joyful.
As well as hosting large scale events, we have run various retreats/events for smaller groups too. It was wonderful over the summer to build relationships with regular visitors

to the garden who had been impacted by the peace of God there. One lady said she experienced peace as she was lying in a hammock for the first time in 18 months!
The garden is a sacred space for many unchurched people and we are excited by how God is meeting with people in the garden. We have finally spent all the money that was awarded through the Offa House Spirituality Capital Fund and this has helped us to set up the garden well. Over the next year we have lots of ideas for how to improve the garden as well as maintain it well. If you'd like to give financially to the project to help it be sustainable, either regularly or through a one off donation you can do so with this link: https://thebridgecoventry.churchsuite.com/donate/fund/ojcmchjg
You may be aware that I (Caroline Hammond) will be leaving Coventry in July and although it's sad to leave behind a labour of love, I am happy to announce that Ben Packwood will be taking on oversight of the Garden of Hope for the next year.

Caroline Hammond

ST JAMES FLETCHAMSTEAD

Overview

We give thanks for the arrival of our new minister, Rev Mohammad, who joined us recently. Although a health issue at the beginning of his ministry caused some delays to planned activities, we are pleased to report that he has now returned to full-time ministry with renewed energy.

Under his leadership, we have seen thoughtful changes to our worship services, including the introduction of new liturgical and practical elements. These have helped make our services more engaging and increasingly intercultural. A new rota has also been established, with more volunteers now involved in preaching, readings, intercessions, and various ministry teams.

Regular meetings with the Standing Committee and PCC have resumed, with intentional steps taken to diversify its membership. In addition, new discipleship resources and teaching materials are being developed.

Our Sunday worship continues to thrive, with rising attendance at both the 9:00 am and 10:30 am services, alongside special services such as Remembrance, Christmas, Ash Wednesday, and Easter Dawn.

We are addressing practical challenges, including the Quinquennial Report, a faulty boiler, ceiling leaks, and PCC House management. A new visual system is now in place.

Please continue to pray for building repairs and that all who use our church may encounter Jesus.

Discipleship

Over recent months, we have made several key changes to enhance our worship and community life at St James. A revised order of service has been introduced, bringing renewed structure and flow to our gatherings. Additionally, new members have joined the rota for preaching, reading, intercessions, and teaching, enriching our services with fresh voices and perspectives.

A major development has been the installation of a large TV and visual system, significantly improving the overall quality of worship through clearer displays and multimedia integration.

We launched a new fasting course, which was well received and encouraged deeper spiritual reflection. Furthermore, the Diocese-led "Stage of Life" course was hosted at St

James and attended by a strong number of congregation members, offering insight and support across various life stages.

Key liturgical events such as Remembrance Sunday, Christmas, Ash Wednesday, and Easter Sunday were delivered with updated formats, bringing renewed meaning and engagement for attendees.

Life Groups have also benefited from a structured Bible study guide, fostering more consistent and meaningful discussions.

We give thanks for these positive developments and look forward to continued growth in faith and fellowship across all areas of church life.

Life Groups

Life Groups are a valuable support network for our journey through life as a Christian. They are safe places where members can ask questions, pray for each other, study the Word, have fun together, challenge each other and learn from each other. They meet in people's homes or in Church and consist of about 6-8 people, meeting on weekday afternoons or evenings weekly or fortnightly. We encourage everyone in church to belong to a Life Group. Please speak to myself or Mohammad if you are not yet a member of a group.

Emergency Prayer Chain

Jeremiah 29 verse 12 Our heavenly Father says, ' When you call on me, when you come and pray to me, I'll listen.' The Emergency Prayer chain is part of our care for one another as the body of Christ at St James. There are 20 folk who can respond promptly to prayer requests. Anyone who needs urgent prayer please contact: Chris Maud 07702841804

Outreach and Community

St James continues to be a place of welcome, hospitality, and mission within our neighbourhood. Our buildings are regularly used by a wide range of community groups, reflecting the openness of our church. Notably, a local Muslim group recently used our hall to celebrate Ramadan. This was a significant moment in our witness, reminding us that our mission is to show the love of Christ in action. We continue to pray for opportunities to share the Gospel of Christ with all who enter our space.

We are also blessed by the growing diversity within our congregation. People from Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and South Asia have joined our services, enriching our worship and fellowship. This multicultural presence reflects the universal nature of the Body of Christ and reminds us of our calling to be inclusive and welcoming.

New relationships have also begun to form with local schools and community organisations, opening further doors for engagement and service. We are excited about the potential for future collaboration.

Our partnership with a Christian orphanage and school in Kenya remains a strong and valued part of our mission work. Alongside this, we continue to support a variety of local and international charities through regular giving and special appeals.

We ask for continued prayer: for more opportunities to share the Good News of Jesus Christ, for deeper connections with those using our facilities, and for stronger partnerships with local businesses and community leaders.

May we continue to be a faithful presence in our area, offering compassion, hope, and the light of Christ to all who cross our path.

Mohammad Eghtedarian (Associate Minister)

Jigsaw

Before having to close Jigsaw in early February due to the failure of the church heating system and later by the loss of four team members due to moving house or changing job. We were celebrating God's continued blessing as we sought to provide a safe place where parents/grandparents and toddlers (average attendance 44) could experience something of the Kingdom of God. Our prayer time before each session enabled us to continue drawing on God's amazing resources to love as He has loved us and to be open to people sharing their problems and praying with them. Parents and grandparents were encouraged to help their children/grandchildren learn to play safely, share toys, develop language and manual skills and enjoy craft sessions celebrating God's wonderful creation. Their continuing willingness to be involved in whatever their child was doing and provide the necessary encouragement and monitoring, especially during the tidy-up time, continued. Song time, signalled by the lighting of the Jigsaw candle, ended the session. This is a special time for the Jigsaw family to come together to share information and prayers, celebrate birthdays and remind ourselves that our God is a great big God who holds us in His hands. As families start to leave, there is always a queue of children waiting to practise blowing out the candle so they can do it successfully when it's their birthday.

Rosemary Line

Pastoral Care Ministry

The Pastoral Care Team has had one meeting so far this year and continues to function with five members. Throughout the interregnum we managed to oversee the people of St James to ensure their needs were met.

Life Group Leaders have been responsible for members of their groups but anyone who is not in a Life Group has been overseen by the Pastoral Care Team. We have been visiting

and phoning as the need requires both Church members if they are unable to attend Church and had referrals to visit and phone others if they require spiritual support and care. One Bible has been given out to a non-Church member and spiritual support offered and received on a regular basis.

Anne Richards has agreed to join our team and help with the running of the Pastoral Care Team. We will therefore be updating our current team members and looking for new Team members in the near future. We thank God for his Pastoral gifting of our team members and pray that the needs of St James congregation and the surrounding areas are met with his loving care.

Helen Kearney & Chris Maud

Open Doors

Open Doors is for people over the age of 50 years, and we meet on Monday afternoons during school term times 2.00 - 3.30pm. We have regular attendance of around 25 – 31 members who are both Church members and non-church members.

We are a friendly group who welcome new members to come in and have a chat over a cuppa, cake and engage in various activities. These include quizzes, guest speakers, live entertainment, skittles, crafting, bingo, occasional outings and seasonal meditations.

We have introduced prayer during the session and encourage prayer for family and friends who are going through difficult circumstances or ill health. Members have been good at asking for prayer since this was introduced and we ask for feedback when prayers have been answered to encourage people on their faith journey as we feel this is an important part of the group's ministry.

We have had several people leave the group due to being fragile or incapacitated and some have moved into care/nursing homes. We try to stay in touch with their relatives to update the group and continue to pray for them. If anyone would like to join us either as a member or as a volunteer, they would be made very welcome.

Helen Kearney, Des French, Diana Bartlett.

Knitting Group

The Knitting Group meets fortnightly on Thursdays afternoons from 1.45- 3.30pm at church, we have about 6 regular members. We knit shawls and scarves for the Shawl Ministry, and we knit for shoeboxes, we also knit for ourselves. We give a donation to the church, and shoeboxes. We have tea, coffee and biscuits and chat while we knit. New members are always welcome.

Marlene

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Children

Firstly, I want to say a huge thank you to Amy Cole, for taking on the Children's Discipleship Enabler role whilst I was on adoption leave. Amy did a fab job keeping everything going and implementing helpful changes from November 2023 until August 2024. Amy has expanded and strengthened children's and youth ministries across the two church bases, launching new groups, writing bespoke curriculums, and organising well-attended outreach events. Despite challenges to do with workload and having enough team, strong progress has been made in inclusion, team building, and transitions to youth work. It is a joy to get to work alongside her now, in her new Growing Faith job at St Stephen's!

Before going on adoption leave, I was only actually in my new CDE role across the Bridge for one week! Since my return in August 2024, it has been great getting to know St John's families better, as well as continuing relationships with St Stephen's families, and a pleasure to work alongside an amazing team of volunteers - at both bases. A big shout out to you guys - thank you so much for all you do to serve our kids - you are literally AMAZING!

Thanks also to Rebecca Torpey and the Dandelions team, who serve young families in our church and local community so committedly, week in week out. Toddler groups are often called the hidden treasure of church life - they're not seen on a Sunday, but the way they serve God in the week is outstanding. (Joey and I have very much benefited from the team's care and fun activities on adoption leave!)

During the Autumn term, the Kids Connect Group restarted after the Summer break, and we had great fun getting children to ask 'big questions' they have about God, faith... anything! We explored their questions over the term - which led to some very interesting discussions.

This term, a lot of my time was spent trying to gather more kids team volunteers at St John's. This is an ongoing challenge, which means we currently aren't at the point where we can split back into 5-7s and 8-11s. But despite this, God has blessed the ministry with some amazing volunteers who work their socks off! I also spent time thinking strategically about the shape of our Kids team, and felt God give me the vision to set up a Bridge Kids Leadership Team, with leaders from across bases. The purpose being to support and resource them as they lead their groups, pray together, plan together, and get excited together. Watch this space!

In November we had a fun month - a Movie Social for families across The Bridge (including hot chocolate mountains!) as well as a 4-week online training course for

parents of young children in our church. It was run by Parenting for Faith, about nurturing the spiritual lives of babies and toddlers. Nine parents attended, and it provided a great space to stop and think, chat/pray with each other and share ideas/resources.

December was full of festive fun! From the Nativity Trail to the Pop Up Nativity - we saw many non-church families come through our doors. (A huge thanks to Jenni Dunne, Rebecca Torpey, Kathryn Hammond for leading these events and all who volunteered!) And for the first time, we invited the local community and St John's families to 'Family Carols in the Community', in partnership with Crest Nicholson on the new estate further up Westwood Heath Road,. It was such a special and fun event, singing around a big Christmas tree, with lots of instruments, backing tracks and mince pies! A great opportunity to work with Crest Nicholson - a relationship we are continuing to build upon.

Another new opportunity has developed with Cannon Park Primary School, where one class came to St John's for a tour of the church and the Garden of Hope. It was a fun time - and as they left, one teacher said she had learnt so much! As a result, the door has opened to go into Cannon Park to do assemblies.
Sunday services continued to include groups for 0-5s (at St John's) and 5-11s (monthly at St Stephen's, 3 times a month at St John's). The main challenge this term has been balancing my hours between the two bases, but despite this, I have loved working with our children, watching how enthusiastic they are, with a special mention to our wonderful young children (we adults have a lot to learn from them)! So I finish with a big thanks to all you children, for being awesome and such a joy to serve!

Anna Martin (Children's Discipleship Enabler)

At St James, we are blessed with a wonderful, diverse group of children aged 4 to 15 attending our Sunday sessions. Numbers vary weekly, with up to 15 children at times. Some are new to the Christian faith, eager to explore and learn. We continue using the YFC 'Go' curriculum, supplemented by Mustard Seeds resources to cater to the wide age range. This term, we've focused on themes like 'Living Wisely' and 'Connecting with God', exploring topics such as teamwork, worship, and the Easter story. Children have also been learning Bible navigation and memory verses, and some now share what they've learned with the wider church family. A highlight has been our outreach, including, Christmas Eve family service, a school assembly at Templars and Leigh Primary schools and a well-attended Good Friday Family event.

Marit & Fiona

It's encouraging to see children building friendships, growing in faith, and feeling truly accepted and valued in our church communities.

Youth

November 23:

- 15 rising youth linked to St Stephens (10-11 year olds).
- Anna, Jonathan, Amy, Emily, Michael and Mo gathered and pastored these children via two Kids Connect groups from 8 years old.
- Dec 2023: Observerved no longer “kids” and now “youth” needing something new to meet their developmental/spiritual needs.

January 24:

- Strategically gathered St John’s young people (YP) into St Stephen’s Kids Connect groups
- Trevor worked hard to gather team and set the vision of the Bridge Youth.

Summer 24:

- April: Launched Bridge Youth with 21 YP
- Ran Youth Alpha
- Took YP on several trips/events: Snowdonia, Youth City Prayer and Praise, Thrive, Night Hike, Bowling
- YP exploring faith, prayer and asking big questions.

Winter 24:

- Growth to 30 YP on Bridge Youth register
- 18 YP are linked to St Stephens
- Bridge YP bonding as group with a good community feel
- Weekly Thursday attendance at Bridge Youth between 18 and 22.
- Sunday attendance of youth at St Stephens between 6 and 10.
- St Stephens’ YP being trained up and put on team rotas for tech and hospitality on Sundays.
- Seen influx of “unaccompanied” YP linked to Bridge Youth on Sunday mornings
- Several St Stephens youth also attending and inviting friends to youth group at St James.

Trevor Chappel & Amy Cole

FABRIC REPORT

St Stephen’s, Canley

This report outlines the condition and status of the fabric of St Stephen's Canley for the current year, noting that no material changes or alterations have been made to the property. It serves to document the upkeep and preservation efforts in maintaining the church in accordance with the guidelines and requirements of the Church of England. The church has been awarded a number of grants specifically for improvements to the building which we hope to undertake in 2025.

The roof tiles and gutters have been inspected and cleaned. The walls and stained-glass windows remain in good condition. The window in the nave has a small hole. The toilet windows are in need of replacement. The main entrance and side doors are in reasonable condition.

Both the nave and sanctuary are in reasonable condition, though could warrant redecoration. The floor in the sanctuary is in need of replacement as elements of the laminate flooring are lifting up causing a trip hazard. This has been mitigated with tape for the time being. The chairs are in good condition. The electrical systems, including lighting and heating, have been regularly tested and are fully operational. The kitchen circuit is limited in its capacity and would warrant an upgrade when possible. There are no known issues with the plumbing.

Landscaping: The churchyard is well-kept, with regular maintenance of the grounds. The pathways and lawns are in good condition, with no significant changes.

Boundary Walls and Gates: The boundary walls and gates have been inspected and are in stable condition, requiring no immediate attention.

Routine maintenance tasks have been carried out consistently throughout the year to ensure the preservation of the church's fabric. This includes cleaning, inspections, and minor repairs as necessary.

Tom Hickinbottom (Churchwarden)

St John's, Westwood

The major work on the building in 2024 was the recovering of the flat roof and associated works. The overall cost of the project was nearly £100,000 and was funded by a grant for FCC Communities Foundation and a claim to recover the VAT on the project. The work was completed in Q1. This work has eliminated the leaks, improved the drainage from the roof and around the porch as well reducing the heat loss through the roof.

A handrail has been added on the path from the car park to the main entrance to the church extension. This has significantly improved access for people who found the change in levels and camber difficult to manage. Additionally, there were two working parties in 2024, these helped to keep on top of the maintenance of the grounds. The list of jobs at these events is always more than can be achieved in half a day. It was fantastic to see support from new people as well as the 'regulars'.

Work has continued into how best to manage recovering the roof in the main church buildings. There has been a site visit to a church with solar panels. Further visits are planned to churches to understand heating solutions as our gas boiler is nearing the end of its life. Consultations have taken place with a number of experts including people from the diocese. The next step is to finalise a brief to architects to develop a scheme for the new roof and associated works. The scheme will be shared with everybody, hopefully, later this year.

A Quinquennial Inspection took place in March 2025 and apart from the need to recover the roof in the church, there are a number of actions needing to be addressed over the next few months so more support for the working parties will be much appreciated.

Jeff, Phil & Dave (Fabric Team)

St James, Fletchamstead

Church Hall: A Phase 2 upgrade was completed with Coundon Care and included complete refurbishment of the kitchen, replacement of radiators with double units and construction of a ramp at the front door. Phase 3 is currently underway with the help of a paid part time fundraiser and project manager which will include replacement of all windows with double glazed units.

Church: Failure of the gas boiler in February 2025 has entailed investigating electric replacements to comply with the CofE commitment to net zero by 2030. A temporary electric heater has been purchased and long term options are being investigated.
The 5 yearly electrical inspection was completed and resulting work is to be carried out. The Quinquennial report was also completed and actions are to be carried out including electrical work and roof rain water leaks..The AV system was upgraded. A building fund for donations and grants has been started to enable the necessary church building works to be completed.

Rental House: A letting agent has been employed to manage the house.

Des French (PCC Secretary)

FINANCIAL REPORTS

The Bridge Coventry

Finance Report – full details in the year end accounts

The Joint Council of the Bridge Benefice, Coventry has now been in operation for 4 years. The Charity Commission has sanctioned that the existing charity registration of St John's can be re-named The Bridge Benefice Coventry' whilst keeping the existing charity number.

The accounts of the two Parishes of St John's Westwood and St Stephen's Canley were transferred to the Joint Council on 1st January 2021 and this is the report of the combined accounts for 2024. The Bridge is two bases namely St John's Westwood, St Stephen's Canley.

The Bridge Benefice Increased by £16,038 (all funds) for 2024. The performance for unrestricted funds only is as follows: -

In comparison to 2023 income was: -

- Planned giving was £235,462 including Gift aid. In 2023 giving was £214,016.
- Gift Aid was £35,912 of the planned giving. In 2023 Gift Aid was £39,575.
- The trading activities of Occasional Offices, room hire and Car park rental, totalled £19,997. In 2023 was £16,571.
- There was Other Income of £393.
- In addition, there was grant income of £6,053 used to replace the flat roof, a further gift of £25,000 towards the main church roof.
- Overall Income was £286,905
-

In comparison to 2023 expenditure was as follows: -

- The total cost of staff was €94,106. In 2023 it was £75,561.
- Groups and meetings expenditure was £11,663. In 2023 it was £12,075.
- Spend on buildings, equipment etc was £76,909. In 2023 it was £58,097.
- Parish Share was £80,000. In 2023 it was £80,000
- Gifts to supported organisations was on budget at £23,270. In 2023 £32,400 was given to these organisations. The support percentage of forecast income was reduced from 12% to 10% from 2023 to 2024 hence the drop in amount given away
- Overall expenditure was £285,948,In 2023 it was £258,303

Overall, this resulted in a surplus of £957 in 2024 on unrestricted funds. In 2023 the deficit was £27,619. This leaves cash in the bank at year end of £35,590 in the general account plus £29,792 in a designated building fund for St John's, so a total of £65,382 in unrestricted funds.

Thus, the finances of The Bridge Benefice are in a stronger position at the end of 2024 with unrestricted and designated funds representing 22.7% of the turnover in 2024 which is above the target range of 10% to 15%.

The strong year end financial position is thanks to donations totalling £45,000 in the last few months of 2024.

The fiat roof at St John's was replaced in the spring of 2024. The overall cost of the project was £86,646. This was funded by:

- A grant paid directly to the contractor by the grant funding body of £60,974 ex VAT
- recovering the VAT on the project of £15,894
- The Church using its designated building fund to cover the balance of £16,494

To grow the continuing work of the church, as we hope to do, we need to encourage some further increases in regular income

The buildings at both St Stephen's and St John's require investment

- At St John's a new roof for the main church building plus associated add-ons. This is yet to be costed but likely to be over £1,000,000.
- At St Stephen's is continuing consultation with the Canley Community Centre to build a new building which is both a church and a community centre. Further preparatory work will continue in 2025.

God's generosity and blessings are again recognised by the Joint Council as He continues to grow His work, and we continue to seek His will to further develop and grow His kingdom through His churches St John's Westwood, St Stephen's Canley.

It is expected that St James Fletchamstead will join the Bridge during the second half of 2025.

Jeff Smailes (Treasurer)

St James Fletchamstead

At first glance, it could appear that 2024 was a year in which we managed to balance the books in that all our charitable enterprises made a net operating profit of £4k taking our total funds to

£214k (See statement of financial affairs). This however masks a significant challenge in that a considerable amount of our unspent income came from restricted grants for upgrades to the Hall. We knew at the outset that 2024 would pose a number of challenges as we navigated ourway through an interregnum, hence we had agreed to set a deficit operating budget of £12k, but the financial reality was tougher in that our net deficit in general funds was over £22k. This was due principally to a reduction in both regular and one off donations of £14k. We managed to offset this with a reduction in expenditure of £4k.

The net result is that going into 2025, we no longer have any cash reserves to draw down on, so expenditure cannot be allowed to exceed income. A neutral budget has been set and agreed by the PCC on this understanding. It has also been assumed that giving from donors will increase by £1 Ok. We are expecting a number of cost increases, but have reduced the proposed

expenditure by £14k. To balance the books, we have reduced the Parish Share by £20k to £37k. This is not sustainable in the long term if we expect to continue to have a full time minister leading our congregation.

Whilst we need to exercise prudence, there is much to give thanks for and celebrate. Our charity shop continues to be an effective source of help and support to our local communities, whilst adequately balancing the books. We have also embarked on major upgrades to the Hall.

During 2024 we raised £74.5k in grants, of which £45k has been spent on building repairs and improvements. This will culminate in the full refurbishment of the kitchen which is scheduled to be completed by the end of April 2025. We have committed to continuing this work with a plan to raise a further £100k for additional improvements to the Hall and adjacent facilities.

Going into 2025, we know that we need to address issues such as a heating system that needs replacing, a building that needs major repairs to make it fit for purpose, as well as a need to strengthen and grow our community. We need to continue to pray for growth in engagement of current and new members, spiritually and practically. Please pray that we will be given the wisdom to use what we have and what we receive effectively. Pray that we will see an increase in financial support from our donors, and that we are diligent and successful in finding grants, developing income streams and reducing expenditure.

Dave Cuttler (Treasurer)

ELECTORAL ROLLS REPORT

This report is for the year January to December 2024. The Electoral Roll included the two congregations of St John's and St Stephen's. We began the year with 149 people on the electoral roll.

The electoral roll has been revised for 2025 with the following numbers:

- 20 members at St Stephen's Church, Canley
- 97 members at St John the Baptist, Westwood.
- 40 members at St James, Fletchamstead

DEANERY REPORT

David Hammond continued as Area Dean there has been a continued commitment to praying together and building relationships between churches.

Deanery Synod acts as an intermediary between the Councils of each parish and the Synod of the diocese as a whole. With representatives from each parish.

While typically Coventry South and Kenilworth have met together in the past - more recently we have been having separate meetings (for Coventry South) allowing us to spend more time on local matters roughly twice a year.

Parishes take it turns to present the battles, breakthroughs and blessings that they are having.

Tim Pollard (Deanery and Diocesan Synod Representative)

MISSION HUB REPORT

2024 marked our second year as a Mission Hub. To summarize our journey so far: 2023 was about laying the foundation, and 2024 has been the year we've started to build upon it.

We continue to gather church leaders from our local area for monthly prayer and mutual support. We continue to be a supportive and encouraging presence at our monthly deanery meetings, always looking for ways to bless and support those churches around us.

Highlights

Some highlights include the launch of a new worshipping community in the Garden of Hope and the growing opportunities to collaborate in mission with other churches in our deanery.

We have received a warm welcome from and strengthened our connections with our local schools , we have also had opportunities to connect with several secondary schools in our area. One significant highlight is the grant we have received to launch a Growing Faith Learning Hub in our local church of England school. There is great vision for this and a hope that in coming years this will not only lead to church growth but also the creation of new communities of faith in our wider community.

New Growth

Early in 2024 we saw Hope Springs join St John's with Steve Elton taking on leadership of the church, this has brought renewed missional energy to the church and we are excited for what God has in store as we seek him for new opportunities to plant or to graft in the coming years.

We have appointed a volunteer student worker who has gathered and galvanised a wonderful group of students at St John's. This new growth is significant for our ongoing vision to plant new worshipping communities. Through grant applications, this role has become paid for 2025, as Mark takes on the role of *Student & Social Media Discipleship Enabler,* with a missional focus on the role of social media for Gen Z students.

The addition of Steve and Mohammad to the Bridge Leadership Team, alongside David, Erin and Sarah, has fostered a more collaborative approach to shaping the Mission Hub Flight Plan. After many years of conversation and prayer, the decision was made for St James Church in Tile Hill to join the Bridge Benefice. We feel privileged, as a Mission Hub, to come alongside St James as they seek revitalisation and growth after a very difficult year. This step forward has brought fresh energy and a renewed sense of anticipation as we look ahead to the coming season and explore contextual, differentiated expressions of suburban mission together.

Throughout the year we have come to a greater understanding that the Mission Hub is not a stand alone project or something that is only for the 'leaders', but is a way of life that is weaved into everything we do and everything we plan. Just as Jesus commanded his disciples to go into all the world and share the good news, we are called to follow the example of the apostles in planting new seeds of faith and strengthening existing believers wherever God may lead us. This is our shared mission, woven into the very fabric of who we are and what we do.

THE BRIDGE

www.thebridgecoventry.org

Charity registration number 1129017

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	D Hammond	
	E Gilmour	
	C Hammond	
	S Elton	(Appointed 1 September 2024)
	M Jermyn	
	T Hickinbottom	
	J Smailes	
	M Robinson	
	J Sayer	
	G Thomas	
	M Lane	(Appointed 1 April 2024)
	A Baxter	(Appointed 1 April 2024)
	L Sampson	(Appointed 1 July 2024)
	C Howarth	(Appointed 1 October 2024)
Charity number	1129017	
Independent examiner	Azets Audit Services 3Mc Middlemarch Business Park Siskin Drive Coventry United Kingdom CV3 4FJ	

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

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JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

JOINT COUNCIL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

The Trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the Charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)".

Objectives and activities

Objectives and Aims

The Primary objective of the Joint Council is to co-operate with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church; pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The Joint Council excercises all the functions of the PCC's of the parishes of Westwood and Canley, which went into abeyance when the Jount Council was created.

Public Benefit

The Joint Council have had due regard to guidance published by the Charity Commission on public benefit and consider that the charity complies with the requirements

Volunteers

The Joint Council, would like to thank all staff, volunteers and supporters, without whose efforts the work of the charity would not be possible

Achievements and performance

Charitable activities

The Joint Council of the Bridge Benefice, Coventry has now been in operation for 4 years. The Charity Commission has sanctioned that the existing charity registration of St John's can be re-named 'The Bridge Benefice Coventry' whilst keeping the existing charity number. The accounts of the two Parishes of St John's Westwood and St Stephen's Canley were transferred to the Joint Council on 1st January 2021 and this is the report of the combined accounts for 2024.The Bridge is two bases namely St John's Westwood, St Stephen's Canley

The Bridge Benefice Increased by £16,038 (all funds) for 2024. The performance for unrestricted funds only is as follows: -

In comparison to 2023 income was: -

- Planned giving was £235,462 including Gift aid. In 2023 giving was £214,016.
- Gift Aid was £35,912 of the planned giving. In 2023 Gift Aid was £39,575.
- The trading activities of Occasional Offices, room hire and Car park rental, totalled £19,997. In 2023 was £16,571.
- There was Other Income of £393.
- In addition, there was grant income of £6,053 used to replace the flat roof, a further gift of £25,000 towards the main church roof.
- Overall Income was £286,905

In comparison to 2023 expenditure was as follows: -

- The total cost of staff was £94,106. In 2023 it was £75,561.
- Groups and meetings expenditure was £11,663. In 2023 it was £12,075.
- Spend on buildings, equipment etc was £76,909. In 2023 it was £58,097.
- Parish Share was £80,000. In 2023 it was £80,000
- Gifts to supported organisations was on budget at £23,270. In 2023 £32,400 was given to these organisations. The support percentage of forecast income was reduced from 12% to 10% from 2023 to 2024 hence the drop in amount given away
- Overall expenditure was £285,948,In 2023 it was £258,303

Overall, this resulted in a surplus of £957 in 2024 on unrestricted funds. In 2023 the deficit was £27,619. This leaves cash in the bank at year end of £35,590 in the general account plus £29,792 in a designated building fund for St John's, so a total of £65,382 in unrestricted funds.

Thus, the finances of The Bridge Benefice are in a stronger position at the end of 2024 with unrestricted and designated funds representing 22.7% of the turnover in 2024 which is above the target range of 10% to 15%. The strong year end financial position is thanks to donations totalling £45,000 in the last few months of 2024.

The flat roof at St John's was replaced in the spring of 2024. The overall cost of the project was £86,646. This was funded by:-

- A grant paid directly to the contractor by the grant funding body of £60,974 ex VAT
- recovering the VAT on the project of £15,894
- The Church using its designated building fund to cover the balance of £16,494

To grow the continuing work of the church, as we hope to do, we need to encourage some further increases in regular income

The buildings at both St Stephen's and St John's require investment

- At St John's a new roof for the main church building plus associated add-ons. This is yet to be costed but likely to be over £1,000,000.

- At St Stephen's is continuing consultation with the Canley Community Centre to build a new building which is both a church and a community centre. Further preparatory work will continue in 2025.

God's generosity and blessings are again recognised by the Joint Council as He continues to grow His work, and we continue to seek His will to further develop and grow His kingdom through His churches St John's Westwood, St Stephen's Canley.

It is expected that St James Fletchamstead will join the Bridge during the second half of 2025.

Financial review

The charity has a reserves policy to maintain reserves to a level where adequate working capital is available, but not to allow excessive reserves being maintained or for funds to go into deficit. The total amount of reserves, including restricted funds, held at the year end amounted to £116,207.

The results for the year are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities and the Trustees consider the results to be in line with expectations. The year-end position is shown in the balance sheet.

The Trustees has assessed the major risks to which they are exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

Structure, governance and management
Governing Document

The Joint Council's governing documents are the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956, as amended, and the Church Representation Rule (which are contained in Schedule 3 to the Synodical Government Measure 1969, as amended), A scheme made in November 2020 under section M38 of the Church Representation Rules modified how the Rules apply in the Bridge Benefice and created the Joint Council.

The Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

D Hammond	
E Gilmour	
C Hammond	
S Elton	(Appointed 1 September 2024)
M Jermyn	
T Hickinbottom	
J Smailes	
M Robinson	
J Sayer	
L Dawson	(Resigned 31 March 2024)
J Martin	(Resigned 31 May 2024)
B Packwood	(Resigned 30 September 2024)
G Thomas	
M Lane	(Appointed 1 April 2024)
A Baxter	(Appointed 1 April 2024)
L Sampson	(Appointed 1 July 2024)
C Howarth	(Appointed 1 October 2024)

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees
The membership of the Joint Council is set by the Church Representation Rule, as modified by the 2020 scheme.

Organisational Structure
Decisions made in formal Joint Council meetings are communicated to staff who perform direct and administrative roles and overseen by the Joint Council.

JOINT COUNCIL REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Commencement of Activities

The charity registered with the Charity Commission on 6th April 2009.

Approved by order of the board of the Joint Council on 1st April 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

D Hammond

Dated: 1/4/25

J Smailes

Dated: 1/4/25

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Joint Council of The Bridge Benefice, Coventry for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act).

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable 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 ACA, which is one of the listed bodies.

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared financial statements in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn.

I understand that this has been done in order for financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

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 that in any material respect:

1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3 the financial statements 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 financial statements to be reached.

Robert Anderson FCA
Azets Audit Services

3Mc Middlemarch Business Park
Siskin Drive
Coventry
CV3 4FJ
United Kingdom

Dated: 17/4/25

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	3	235,462	28,562	264,024	214,016	34,307	248,323
Charitable activities	4	20,001	1,427	21,428	16,571	1,286	17,857
Other Income	5	31,053	14,621	45,674	97	5,030	5,127
Investments	6	389	-	389	-	-	-
Total income		286,905	44,610	331,515	230,684	40,623	271,307
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	7	285,948	29,528	315,476	258,303	17,659	275,962
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers		957	15,082	16,039	(27,619)	22,964	(4,655)
Gross transfers between funds		14,007	(14,007)	-	-	-	-
Net income/(expenditure) for the year/ Net movement in funds		14,964	1,075	16,039	(27,619)	22,964	(4,655)
Fund balances at 1 January 2024		50,418	49,750	100,168	78,037	26,786	104,823
Fund balances at 31 December 2024		65,382	50,825	116,207	50,418	49,750	100,168

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
Current assets					
Debtors	12	24,313		17,980	
Cash at bank and in hand		108,764		91,578	
		133,077		109,558	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(16,870)		(9,390)	
Net current assets			116,207		100,168
Income funds					
Restricted funds	14		50,825		49,750
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds	15	29,792		8,172	
General unrestricted funds		35,590		42,246	
			65,382		50,418
			116,207		100,168

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 1st April

D Hammond
Trustee

J Smailes
Trustee

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Joint Council of The Bridge Benefice, Coventry is an unincorporated charity registered in England

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charity's [governing document], the Charities Act 2011, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019). The Charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The Charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements 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 the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, [modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value]. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the Charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the Charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the Charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the Charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.5 Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

1.6 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.7 Financial instruments

The Charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the Charity's balance sheet when the Charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the Charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.8 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the Charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.9 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2024	2024	2024	2023	2023	2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	235,462	28,562	264,024	214,016	34,307	248,323

4 Charitable activities

	Other Trading Activities 2024 £	Other Trading Activities 2023 £
Parochial Fee Income	3,790	3,038
Car Park Rental Income	9,361	7,971
Room Hire Income	8,273	6,832
Other Income	4	16
	21,428	17,857
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	20,001	16,571
Restricted funds	1,427	1,286
	21,428	17,857

5 Other Income

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Building repair fund	31,053	-	31,053	97	-	97
Mission Hub Grant	-	4,227	4,227	-	3,175	3,175
Coventry South Deanery Fund	-	-	-	-	855	855
T Walters Funeral	-	-	-	-	1,000	1,000
St Stephens Building Fund	-	10,194	10,194	-	-	-
Canley Parade	-	200	200	-	-	-
Other Income	31,053	14,621	45,674	97	5,030	5,127

6 Investments

	Unrestricted funds	Total
	2024	2023
	£	£
Interest receivable	389	-

7 Charitable activities

	Charitable Activities 2024	Charitable Activities 2023
	£	£
Staff costs	85,850	66,611
Staffing Costs - Clergy Expenses	5,739	6,690
Staffing Costs - Training	2,388	2,152
Staffing Costs - Other	129	108
Groups & Meetings	11,662	12,075
Building, Equipment & Administration	73,868	55,671
Diocesan Payments	80,000	80,000
Supported Organisations	23,270	32,400
Charitable Activities	29,528	17,659
	312,434	273,366
Share of governance costs (see note 8)	3,042	2,596
	315,476	275,962
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	285,948	258,303
Restricted funds	29,528	17,659
	315,476	275,962

8 Support costs

	Support costs	Governance costs	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Audit fees	-	2,742	2,742	2,596
Software Subscriptions	-	300	300	-
	-	3,042	3,042	2,596
Analysed between				
Charitable activities	-	3,042	3,042	2,596

Governance costs includes payments to the examiners of £2,742 (2023: £2,596) for examination fees and other services

9 Trustees

Trustee remuneration and benefits

The Clergy received in total £5,740 in expenses, David Hammond was paid £3,000, Erin Gilmore £1,200 and Caroline Hammond £1,200, Steve Elton £180, Ben Packwood £160. No other member of the Joint Council received any remuneration, either directly or indirectly.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year to 31 December 2024, nor for the year to 31 December 2023.

10 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
	7	6

Employment costs	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	81,578	63,719
Other pension costs	4,272	2,892
	85,850	66,611

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

11 Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxationof Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

12 Debtors

Amounts falling due within one year:	2024 £	2023 £
Trade debtors	2,219	2,265
Other Debtors & Accrued Income	19,456	13,170
Prepayments	2,638	2,545
	24,313	17,980

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade creditors	2,840	1,804
Accruals and deferred income	14,030	7,586
	16,870	9,390

14 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

		Movement in funds					Movement in funds			
	Balance at 1 January 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Revaluations, gains and losses	Balance at 1 January 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance at 31 December 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Church Growth in deprived areas	2,417	-	-	-	-	2,417	-	-	-	2,417
Church Live Development Fund	1,149	-	-	-	-	1,149	-	-	-	1,149
Co-ordinated Care Fund	856	168	(778)	-	-	246	5,000	(659)	-	4,587
Coventry South Deanery Funds	-	855	-	-	-	855	-	(82)	-	773
Funeral Deposits	228	-	-	-	-	228	-	-	-	228
Honest to God	2,437	-	-	-	-	2,436	-	-	-	2,436
Investment Fund	6,000	-	-	-	-	6,000	-	-	-	6,000
Mission Hub Grant	-	3,175	(2,855)	-	-	320	4,227	(1,527)	(202)	2,818
Mission to Children	119	-	-	-	-	119	-	-	-	119
Garden of Hope	210	12,838	(2,348)	-	-	10,700	8,064	(12,980)	617	6,401
St Stephens Building Fund	10,194	-	-	-	-	10,194	10,194	-	(10,194)	10,194
Tom Walters Funeral	-	1,000	-	-	-	1,000	-	-	-	1,000
Trinity Room Carpet Fund	623	97	-	-	-	720	5	-	-	725
Youth & Student Work	1,723	11,621	(809)	-	-	12,535	-	-	(4,058)	8,477
Canley Childrens Work	-	-	-	-	-	-	200	(200)	-	-
Kx Midlands Development Fund	830	-	-	-	-	830	-	(415)	(415)	-
Collection for Specific Purposes	-	-	-	-	-	-	362	(359)	(3)	-
Ahmed Support Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	11,308	(11,308)	-	-
Kidz Club Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,825	(572)	248	3,501

14 Restricted funds **(Continued)**

Parochial Fees	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,427	(1,427)	-	-
	26,786	29,754	(6,790)	-	-	49,750	44,610	(29,528)	(14,007)	50,825

15 Designated funds

The income funds of the charity include the following designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes:

		Movement in funds						
	Balance at 1 January 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Balance at 1 January 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance at 31 December 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Building Repair Provision Fund	21,913	97	(13,838)	13,935	31,053	(33,369)	(6,827)	4,792
Church Roof Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	25,000	25,000
	21,913	97	(13,838)	13,935	31,053	(33,369)	18,173	29,792

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2024	Restricted funds 2024	Total 2024	Unrestricted funds 2023	Restricted funds 2023	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 December 2024 are represented by:						
Current assets/(liabilities)	65,382	50,825	116,207	50,417	49,751	100,168
	65,382	50,825	116,207	50,417	49,751	100,168

17 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2023 - none).

Charity registration number 1129017

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	D Hammond	
	E Gilmour	
	C Hammond	
	S Elton	(Appointed 1 September 2024)
	M Jermyn	
	T Hickinbottom	
	J Smailes	
	M Robinson	
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	C Howarth	(Appointed 1 October 2024)
Charity number	1129017	
Independent examiner	Azets Audit Services 3Mc Middlemarch Business Park Siskin Drive Coventry United Kingdom CV3 4FJ	

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

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JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

JOINT COUNCIL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

The Trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the Charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)".

Objectives and activities

Objectives and Aims

The Primary objective of the Joint Council is to co-operate with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church; pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The Joint Council excercises all the functions of the PCC's of the parishes of Westwood and Canley, which went into abeyance when the Jount Council was created.

Public Benefit

The Joint Council have had due regard to guidance published by the Charity Commission on public benefit and consider that the charity complies with the requirements

Volunteers

The Joint Council, would like to thank all staff, volunteers and supporters, without whose efforts the work of the charity would not be possible

Achievements and performance

Charitable activities

The Joint Council of the Bridge Benefice, Coventry has now been in operation for 4 years. The Charity Commission has sanctioned that the existing charity registration of St John's can be re-named 'The Bridge Benefice Coventry' whilst keeping the existing charity number. The accounts of the two Parishes of St John's Westwood and St Stephen's Canley were transferred to the Joint Council on 1st January 2021 and this is the report of the combined accounts for 2024.The Bridge is two bases namely St John's Westwood, St Stephen's Canley

The Bridge Benefice Increased by £16,038 (all funds) for 2024. The performance for unrestricted funds only is as follows: -

In comparison to 2023 income was: -

- Planned giving was £235,462 including Gift aid. In 2023 giving was £214,016.
- Gift Aid was £35,912 of the planned giving. In 2023 Gift Aid was £39,575.
- The trading activities of Occasional Offices, room hire and Car park rental, totalled £19,997. In 2023 was £16,571.
- There was Other Income of £393.
- In addition, there was grant income of £6,053 used to replace the flat roof, a further gift of £25,000 towards the main church roof.
- Overall Income was £286,905

In comparison to 2023 expenditure was as follows: -

- The total cost of staff was £94,106. In 2023 it was £75,561.
- Groups and meetings expenditure was £11,663. In 2023 it was £12,075.
- Spend on buildings, equipment etc was £76,909. In 2023 it was £58,097.
- Parish Share was £80,000. In 2023 it was £80,000
- Gifts to supported organisations was on budget at £23,270. In 2023 £32,400 was given to these organisations. The support percentage of forecast income was reduced from 12% to 10% from 2023 to 2024 hence the drop in amount given away
- Overall expenditure was £285,948,In 2023 it was £258,303

Overall, this resulted in a surplus of £957 in 2024 on unrestricted funds. In 2023 the deficit was £27,619. This leaves cash in the bank at year end of £35,590 in the general account plus £29,792 in a designated building fund for St John's, so a total of £65,382 in unrestricted funds.

Thus, the finances of The Bridge Benefice are in a stronger position at the end of 2024 with unrestricted and designated funds representing 22.7% of the turnover in 2024 which is above the target range of 10% to 15%. The strong year end financial position is thanks to donations totalling £45,000 in the last few months of 2024.

The flat roof at St John's was replaced in the spring of 2024. The overall cost of the project was £86,646. This was funded by:-

- A grant paid directly to the contractor by the grant funding body of £60,974 ex VAT
- recovering the VAT on the project of £15,894
- The Church using its designated building fund to cover the balance of £16,494

To grow the continuing work of the church, as we hope to do, we need to encourage some further increases in regular income

The buildings at both St Stephen's and St John's require investment

- At St John's a new roof for the main church building plus associated add-ons. This is yet to be costed but likely to be over £1,000,000.

- At St Stephen's is continuing consultation with the Canley Community Centre to build a new building which is both a church and a community centre. Further preparatory work will continue in 2025.

God's generosity and blessings are again recognised by the Joint Council as He continues to grow His work, and we continue to seek His will to further develop and grow His kingdom through His churches St John's Westwood, St Stephen's Canley.

It is expected that St James Fletchamstead will join the Bridge during the second half of 2025.

Financial review

The charity has a reserves policy to maintain reserves to a level where adequate working capital is available, but not to allow excessive reserves being maintained or for funds to go into deficit. The total amount of reserves, including restricted funds, held at the year end amounted to £116,207.

The results for the year are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities and the Trustees consider the results to be in line with expectations. The year-end position is shown in the balance sheet.

The Trustees has assessed the major risks to which they are exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

Structure, governance and management
Governing Document

The Joint Council's governing documents are the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956, as amended, and the Church Representation Rule (which are contained in Schedule 3 to the Synodical Government Measure 1969, as amended), A scheme made in November 2020 under section M38 of the Church Representation Rules modified how the Rules apply in the Bridge Benefice and created the Joint Council.

The Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

D Hammond	
E Gilmour	
C Hammond	
S Elton	(Appointed 1 September 2024)
M Jermyn	
T Hickinbottom	
J Smailes	
M Robinson	
J Sayer	
L Dawson	(Resigned 31 March 2024)
J Martin	(Resigned 31 May 2024)
B Packwood	(Resigned 30 September 2024)
G Thomas	
M Lane	(Appointed 1 April 2024)
A Baxter	(Appointed 1 April 2024)
L Sampson	(Appointed 1 July 2024)
C Howarth	(Appointed 1 October 2024)

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees
The membership of the Joint Council is set by the Church Representation Rule, as modified by the 2020 scheme.

Organisational Structure
Decisions made in formal Joint Council meetings are communicated to staff who perform direct and administrative roles and overseen by the Joint Council.

JOINT COUNCIL REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Commencement of Activities

The charity registered with the Charity Commission on 6th April 2009.

Approved by order of the board of the Joint Council on 1st April 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

D Hammond

Dated: 1/4/25

J Smailes

Dated: 1/4/25

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Joint Council of The Bridge Benefice, Coventry for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act).

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable 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 ACA, which is one of the listed bodies.

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared financial statements in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn.

I understand that this has been done in order for financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

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 that in any material respect:

1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3 the financial statements 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 financial statements to be reached.

Robert Anderson FCA
Azets Audit Services

3Mc Middlemarch Business Park
Siskin Drive
Coventry
CV3 4FJ
United Kingdom

Dated: 17/4/25

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	3	235,462	28,562	264,024	214,016	34,307	248,323
Charitable activities	4	20,001	1,427	21,428	16,571	1,286	17,857
Other Income	5	31,053	14,621	45,674	97	5,030	5,127
Investments	6	389	-	389	-	-	-
Total income		286,905	44,610	331,515	230,684	40,623	271,307
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	7	285,948	29,528	315,476	258,303	17,659	275,962
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers		957	15,082	16,039	(27,619)	22,964	(4,655)
Gross transfers between funds		14,007	(14,007)	-	-	-	-
Net income/(expenditure) for the year/ Net movement in funds		14,964	1,075	16,039	(27,619)	22,964	(4,655)
Fund balances at 1 January 2024		50,418	49,750	100,168	78,037	26,786	104,823
Fund balances at 31 December 2024		65,382	50,825	116,207	50,418	49,750	100,168

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
Current assets					
Debtors	12	24,313		17,980	
Cash at bank and in hand		108,764		91,578	
		133,077		109,558	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(16,870)		(9,390)	
Net current assets			116,207		100,168
Income funds					
Restricted funds	14		50,825		49,750
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds	15	29,792		8,172	
General unrestricted funds		35,590		42,246	
			65,382		50,418
			116,207		100,168

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 1st April

D Hammond
Trustee

J Smailes
Trustee

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Joint Council of The Bridge Benefice, Coventry is an unincorporated charity registered in England

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charity's [governing document], the Charities Act 2011, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019). The Charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The Charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements 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 the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, [modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value]. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the Charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the Charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the Charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the Charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.5 Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

1.6 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.7 Financial instruments

The Charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the Charity's balance sheet when the Charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the Charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.8 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the Charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.9 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2024	2024	2024	2023	2023	2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	235,462	28,562	264,024	214,016	34,307	248,323

4 Charitable activities

	Other Trading Activities 2024 £	Other Trading Activities 2023 £
Parochial Fee Income	3,790	3,038
Car Park Rental Income	9,361	7,971
Room Hire Income	8,273	6,832
Other Income	4	16
	21,428	17,857
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	20,001	16,571
Restricted funds	1,427	1,286
	21,428	17,857

5 Other Income

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Building repair fund	31,053	-	31,053	97	-	97
Mission Hub Grant	-	4,227	4,227	-	3,175	3,175
Coventry South Deanery Fund	-	-	-	-	855	855
T Walters Funeral	-	-	-	-	1,000	1,000
St Stephens Building Fund	-	10,194	10,194	-	-	-
Canley Parade	-	200	200	-	-	-
Other Income	31,053	14,621	45,674	97	5,030	5,127

6 Investments

	Unrestricted funds	Total
	2024	2023
	£	£
Interest receivable	389	-

7 Charitable activities

	Charitable Activities 2024	Charitable Activities 2023
	£	£
Staff costs	85,850	66,611
Staffing Costs - Clergy Expenses	5,739	6,690
Staffing Costs - Training	2,388	2,152
Staffing Costs - Other	129	108
Groups & Meetings	11,662	12,075
Building, Equipment & Administration	73,868	55,671
Diocesan Payments	80,000	80,000
Supported Organisations	23,270	32,400
Charitable Activities	29,528	17,659
	312,434	273,366
Share of governance costs (see note 8)	3,042	2,596
	315,476	275,962
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	285,948	258,303
Restricted funds	29,528	17,659
	315,476	275,962

8 Support costs

	Support costs	Governance costs	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Audit fees	-	2,742	2,742	2,596
Software Subscriptions	-	300	300	-
	-	3,042	3,042	2,596
Analysed between				
Charitable activities	-	3,042	3,042	2,596

Governance costs includes payments to the examiners of £2,742 (2023: £2,596) for examination fees and other services

9 Trustees

Trustee remuneration and benefits

The Clergy received in total £5,740 in expenses, David Hammond was paid £3,000, Erin Gilmore £1,200 and Caroline Hammond £1,200, Steve Elton £180, Ben Packwood £160. No other member of the Joint Council received any remuneration, either directly or indirectly.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year to 31 December 2024, nor for the year to 31 December 2023.

10 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
	7	6

Employment costs	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	81,578	63,719
Other pension costs	4,272	2,892
	85,850	66,611

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

11 Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxationof Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

12 Debtors

Amounts falling due within one year:	2024 £	2023 £
Trade debtors	2,219	2,265
Other Debtors & Accrued Income	19,456	13,170
Prepayments	2,638	2,545
	24,313	17,980

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade creditors	2,840	1,804
Accruals and deferred income	14,030	7,586
	16,870	9,390

14 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

		Movement in funds					Movement in funds			
	Balance at 1 January 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Revaluations, gains and losses	Balance at 1 January 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance at 31 December 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Church Growth in deprived areas	2,417	-	-	-	-	2,417	-	-	-	2,417
Church Live Development Fund	1,149	-	-	-	-	1,149	-	-	-	1,149
Co-ordinated Care Fund	856	168	(778)	-	-	246	5,000	(659)	-	4,587
Coventry South Deanery Funds	-	855	-	-	-	855	-	(82)	-	773
Funeral Deposits	228	-	-	-	-	228	-	-	-	228
Honest to God	2,437	-	-	-	-	2,436	-	-	-	2,436
Investment Fund	6,000	-	-	-	-	6,000	-	-	-	6,000
Mission Hub Grant	-	3,175	(2,855)	-	-	320	4,227	(1,527)	(202)	2,818
Mission to Children	119	-	-	-	-	119	-	-	-	119
Garden of Hope	210	12,838	(2,348)	-	-	10,700	8,064	(12,980)	617	6,401
St Stephens Building Fund	10,194	-	-	-	-	10,194	10,194	-	(10,194)	10,194
Tom Walters Funeral	-	1,000	-	-	-	1,000	-	-	-	1,000
Trinity Room Carpet Fund	623	97	-	-	-	720	5	-	-	725
Youth & Student Work	1,723	11,621	(809)	-	-	12,535	-	-	(4,058)	8,477
Canley Childrens Work	-	-	-	-	-	-	200	(200)	-	-
Kx Midlands Development Fund	830	-	-	-	-	830	-	(415)	(415)	-
Collection for Specific Purposes	-	-	-	-	-	-	362	(359)	(3)	-
Ahmed Support Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	11,308	(11,308)	-	-
Kidz Club Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,825	(572)	248	3,501

14 Restricted funds **(Continued)**

Parochial Fees	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,427	(1,427)	-	-
	26,786	29,754	(6,790)	-	-	49,750	44,610	(29,528)	(14,007)	50,825

15 Designated funds

The income funds of the charity include the following designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes:

		Movement in funds						
	Balance at 1 January 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Balance at 1 January 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance at 31 December 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Building Repair Provision Fund	21,913	97	(13,838)	13,935	31,053	(33,369)	(6,827)	4,792
Church Roof Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	25,000	25,000
	21,913	97	(13,838)	13,935	31,053	(33,369)	18,173	29,792

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2024	Restricted funds 2024	Total 2024	Unrestricted funds 2023	Restricted funds 2023	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 December 2024 are represented by:						
Current assets/(liabilities)	65,382	50,825	116,207	50,417	49,751	100,168
	65,382	50,825	116,207	50,417	49,751	100,168

17 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2023 - none).

THE JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

England & Wales - Charity number 1129017

Accounts

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

THE BRIDGE

THE BRIDGE

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VICAR'S LETTER

Personally, this was the year of returning to strength and health, as well as starting to re-engage with passions and ideas. 2023 was a year about returning to "normal," whilst moving into new things. For example, I stopped being the parent of primary school children. These lines in the sand of "transition" are important but actually many things stay the same. I'm still in the same parental role but the context has shifted slightly.

It felt like we relaunched our churches in 2023 and regained the strength that we had in 2019. So it was a year of transition, but also returning to and continuing in "normal". We're still re-emerging, building teams and getting used to giving and serving again.

As we came back together in many ways and rebuilt in many ways, we were rebuilding our confidence in God whilst taking time to heal and overcome all that had come our way. We are in the middle of repenting and believing (Mark 1:15). Some of us are trying to have the confidence to step out again after disappointment, others having felt stifled and stuck by external events are now being liberated.

It's possible to debate long and hard as to whether it is possible to change the mind of God. It's interesting to look at key figures in the Bible; Abraham (Gen 18), Moses (Exodus 32) and many of the prophets. They seemed to be able to convince God to change His ideas or targets or to know that He was saying one thing to produce a different effect: repentance. Yet we know that God is unchangeable and unchanging and knows all things. He sees the end from the beginning. He has a grand plan that nobody can thwart. He's already won. So this has been a year of endings and beginnings. We have moved forwards in key ways.

It's been a real joy to see the Garden of Hope, Soup Lunch, Memory Café, Dandelions and other events in Canley and Westwood appear like spring bulbs pushing through the surface. We've added new team members and expanded roles; having a whole year of Erin with us has been a great gift.

We've also said goodbye to Sarah and the Ashelby family. There have been many momentous endings and beginnings which I think will have huge repercussions over the coming five years and we continue to be a church that not only works in our space but sends out to ripple across the city and beyond.

We have also welcomed many back to church, especially the Ahmad family; fruitful missionaries returning to join us as we walk into a new season.

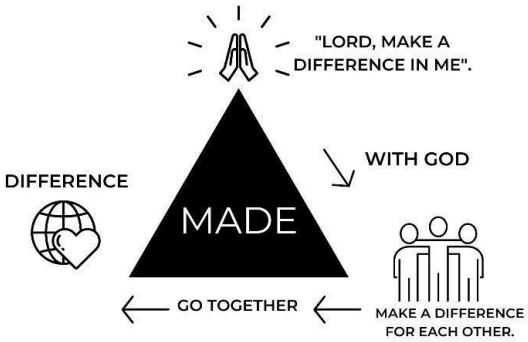
We serve and love a God who by His very nature is relational. Everything good grows from relationship. It hurts when we say goodbye, but we know that new faith relationships are always around the corner as we partner and share faith.

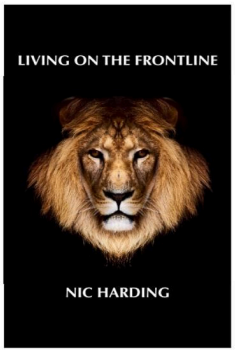
Beginning a relationship in support and prayer, then putting on a worship event together gave me a new friend in Steve Elton. This alone would have been a very good outcome, but it would not have made it into my report to the church! Instead, what grew from that friendship was an idea from God's heart, that Hope Springs and St John's join and hopefully "go forth and multiply", "being sent on our way by the Holy Spirit" (Acts 13:4).

Relational support received from and given to St James (Fletchamstead / Tile Hill) via various relationships has also led to further partnership, planning to join The Bridge from 2025 while we seek to appoint an Associate Vicar for St James and The Bridge in 2024. We change and transition in community, knowing that to be a growing organism is always to be in transition, whether on a personal, family or community level.

After nine years as Vicar here and following the call to pioneer transformation, I'm looking to the academic year of 2024/25 as the point where the trees will have taken root and their strength will have been built to bear much fruit (John 15) as they remain connected to the Lord.

I am full of hope and faith that we can share God's love effectively together and enter a season of much fruitfulness. However, I am also very aware of the spiritual battle we are walking into. A battle where we have the capacity to overcome if we will choose to live by our call:





This means each one of us choosing to become self-feeding disciples of Jesus, giving and receiving in committed relationships and communities, expressing our faith together in ways that bring others to know Jesus and bring the Kingdom.

I'm inviting all of us to read and put into practice my good friend, Dr Nic Harding's practical book *Living on the Frontline*, about living in the victory that Jesus won for us on the cross and winning the battle we face each day. This is the preparation we need to have life in all its fullness (John 10:10).

The message of sin, the world and the enemy is to give in. To chase comfort and ease, the things of this world. We're tempted to walk away from the battle and allow the call to discipleship to be something we do as an afterthought, an add on.

But this is our primary call for this life and prepares us for the next. Yes, we're bruised, battered and things can be tough, but we live to be a band of siblings on mission together, chinking a glass, looking and seeing the love and shared experience in every eye after a week spent pushing back the darkness in harmony with one-another. As we invite Him to be with us, and we are a community in covenant relationship, we can keep going until we see the victory.

David

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

St Stephen's Church

It has been a pleasure to serve this year as Churchwardens for St Stephen's, helping where we have been able to encourage the fantastic and inspiring activity that happens in our small part of the world.

God has blessed us with a wonderful group of people that make up the St Stephen's church family and it is great to see the different aspects of the Holy Spirit at work amongst us. As we look at our church services and community outreach activities we are reminded of 1 Corinthians 12.12 and see the demonstration of how, through each of us, He has blessed us with a variety of gifts and talents. Brought together there is a great amount of creativity, care and wisdom that spans generations and cultural boundaries that make our church a special place.

We are grateful to all those that have helped serve the church this year. To Jenni, Anna and the wider Bridge staff team for supporting the church and to Sarah Ashelby for her dedicated leadership of St Stephen's over the years of her training and curacy. We will be praying for Sarah as she moves on to her new role as Rector at All Saints, Allesley.

We look forward to 2024 when Erin Gilmour will be joining us as Associate Minister. We are excited for what God has in store. God is good.

Tom and Katie

St John's Church

Throughout 2023, we have seen a lot of change in St John's. Erin has worked so hard to help us become more missional and championed the church to be active in this.

We had great success in our “Afternoon in the Garden” event, even with the rain and finishing in the church! Later in the year, we came together for Bonfire night with volunteers making sure there was an incredible firework display and of course the hospitality of our community ensuring we were fed and watered.

Soup lunch has gone from strength to strength, now to the point that it will look to start its own Alpha course in 2024!

We are blessed that while Erin will be working less with St John’s in 2024, she is staying in The Bridge and will continue to bless our communities.

This year, we also came together to see Caroline ordained priest and are thankful for her work in the Garden of Hope. This is a unique and special place for many in our church and it has really allowed us to encounter God in new and exciting ways.

In 2024 we will finally be able to get the flat roof replaced and watertight! We are so thankful to the team who came to help make this happen, and their continuing efforts towards looking at the pitched roof and the vision for the church as a whole.

Next year we will also be blessed to have Hope Springs church come and join us, exploring their future with us. I know many within the church welcome the opportunity for a 3rd Sunday service again and are intrigued and interested in how Hope Springs approach worship and church. We see this as a fantastic opportunity for both churches to learn and grow together for the glory of God’s kingdom.

David has been preparing and will take his Sabbatical in 2024. With the change in recent years, we encourage and pray for rest and rejuvenation

for David. The role of priest is not easy, and we pray that during this time David can draw closer to God and come back with a new vision and energy for our churches.

Our communities are growing vibrant and we have many looking to volunteer in the wider life of the church (though we would always appreciate more). We continue to pray for direction and growth and be Spirit-led in our future.

Ben and Carolyn

JOINT COUNCIL REPORT

The purpose of the Joint Council is to work with the Vicar to advance the whole mission of the Church in the parishes of Canley and Westwood. It is a registered charity, and its members are the charity's trustees. They are:

Clergy (ex-officio members)

- David Hammond, Vicar
- Erin Gilmour, Associate Minister
- Sarah Ashelby, Curate
- Caroline Hammond, Curate

Elected members (Base, year of the APCM when their term ends)

- Laura Dawson (Canley, 2026)
- Tom Hickinbottom (St Stephen's Churchwarden, 2024)
- Matt Jermyn (Canley, 2025)
- Jonathan Martin (Canley, 2024)
- Ben Packwood (St John's Churchwarden, 2026)
- Michelle Robinson (St John's, 2024)
- Jan Sayer (Burton Green, 2025)
- Jeff Smailes (St John's, 2026)
- Graham Thomas (St John's, 2025)

Four members are elected from Canley, four from St John's and one from Burton Green, and the elected members must include at least one Churchwarden from each parish. Members are elected for three years at a time, and three of the nine elected members will complete their three-year term each year.

During 2023 the Joint Council met seven times. Topics discussed included student, youth and childrens' work, building and roof repairs, staff recruitment and clergy calling. Safeguarding, finances and Eco-church are standing items on every agenda.

SAFEGUARDING REPORT

Safeguarding continues to be a high priority for the Bridge as we believe that keeping all people safe is of paramount importance.

- During 2023 we continued to have a Safeguarding Team made up of Laura Dawson, our Bridge Safeguarding Officer, Emily Newbury, St Stephen's Safeguarding Champion and Rebecca Torpey, St John's Safeguarding Champion.
- Safeguarding continues to be a key agenda item at the Joint Council and the leadership team have ensured that we are compliant with the Church of England's Promoting a Safer Church Policy.
- Jenni Dunne has continued to focus on updating volunteer's DBS checks this year and we have made some significant progress in this area. There has been an improvement in our figures for Safeguarding Training. Thank you to the volunteers who act promptly when they have received emails asking them to complete either of these tasks.

STAFFING REPORT

Staffing at The Bridge continues to change with each season (and 2023 has seen plenty of change!), but it also presents us with lots of opportunities. The team has continued to grow and develop across 2023 with several answers to prayer for provision.

During 2023 we said;

- a goodbye to Ros as Administrator at St John's
- a hello to Liz as voluntary Administrator at St John's
- a goodbye to Alison as Children's Discipleship Enabler at St John's
- a hello to Anna as Children's Discipleship Enabler across The Bridge (and then a temporary 'see you later' as she went on adoption leave)
- a hello to Amy as our Children's Discipleship Enabler Adoption Cover
- a temporary 'see you later' to Sarah as Operations Minister she went on maternity leave
- a hello to Beth as Operations Manager Maternity Cover

We are excited for 2024 and all that God is doing and will continue to do. He has been so faithful through every trial and adversity, as well as in the good and fruitful times. In all situations our staff is growing together and we see the goodness and faithfulness of God worked out in each one of them.

ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH, CANLEY

Congregation

2023 has marked a year of deepening connections and exploring new horizons in faith and community engagement at St Stephen's. It has also seen Sarah Ashelby finish her curacy placement with us. We have been richly blessed by Sarah's leadership during her curacy and the seeds of her investment in people will live on into the life of the church and surrounding community for years to come.

Our church family has shown tremendous support for one another and for the wider Canley area through various initiatives. Special thanks are extended to those who have dedicated their time and skills, particularly through volunteering that keeps our church a welcoming and nurturing place to be.

We have welcomed several guest speakers during the year helping us to connect more with our mission partners and have enjoyed working together to achieve a bronze Eco Church award which included a sermon series on creation care. The church continues to explore faith in Jesus in a family friendly atmosphere where everyone is welcome.

Connect Groups and Contact Groups

The Connect and Contact Groups have continued to be vital in offering spaces for more intimate fellowship, prayer and bible study. These groups have been instrumental in facilitating personal growth and stronger bonds within our church family, playing a role in the ongoing process of renewal, spiritual growth and providing a structure of support to our church family.

Our two children's Connect groups have continued in 2023 supported by Anna Martin and team. These have been instrumental in helping our young people explore faith through the themes of construction and creativity. These groups have been very popular and have shown a real opportunity for mission in our young people with many of them wanting to invite friends.

Outreach and Community Engagement

Our commitment to embodying the "MADE in Canley" mission — making a difference every day — has continued. Our outreach efforts have included:

- Litter picks in Canley
- Creative family engagements during school holidays (Hobby Hub)
- Continued support for our local food bank and food hub services
- Active participation in community enhancement projects, such as the Canley Parade and Canley Big Lunch
- Our ever popular Nativity Trail which sees many local people coming to the church building for an interactive trail following the story of the nativity
- Our alternative carol service, Carol'oke, which mixes traditional carols with performances from our talented church family members, young and old(er)

Our outreach activities have not only provided practical support but have also opened avenues for meaningful conversations about faith, hope and love. The church's involvement in local governance and community planning initiatives, including the Canley Playing Out programme, underscores our commitment to being an integral part of our community's fabric.

As we reflect on 2023, we are filled with gratitude for blessings we have experienced. We move forward with anticipation for the ways in which God will continue to work in and through St Stephen's Church, Canley, to impact our congregation and the wider community positively. We are also excited for the start of Erin Gilmour's ministry of leadership at St Stephen's beginning in 2024.

Tom Hickinbottom
Churchwarden

Children & Youth

This has been a year of some change in the team. Anna continued as St Stephen's Children's Worker until she was appointed as the Bridge Children Discipleship Enabler. Then in August she went on adoption leave and Jenni stepped in to help coordinate and keep things running smoothly. Amy was then appointed as Children Discipleship Enabler Adoption Cover in late November.

Throughout the year, Kid's Connect groups continued. After a break in the autumn term, we relaunched with our Christmas special and are excited to see them fully running again in 2024 with a vision to grow into youth groups. It has been a joy to see how our children have engaged through these groups, as well as exploring prayer together.

Our outreach to our local families has also been a wonderful area of growth and engagement. We held our Easter Trail and Nativity Trail in St Stephen's which were both very well attended with around 100 coming along to hear about the Easter and Christmas stories. Hobby Hub continued (crafts, games, refreshments and films during school holidays) which was a huge hit with the local community. We were also able to take a trip to see The Gruffalo courtesy of Warwick Arts Centre as outreach to Canley families.

Thank you so much to the wonderful team of volunteers who make all of this possible. The team at St Stephen's looks forward to all God has in store for children and their discipleship journeys in 2024.

Jenni Dunne

ST JOHN'S CHURCH, WESTWOOD

Overview

It is a great privilege to write this report, sitting at my desk already three months into 2024. I feel very encouraged when I look back over 2023 and remember where God has been at work in St John's.

We started with a strong focus on prayer with our monthly meetings, laying a foundation of prayer for new growth. As we moved through the year it was great to see the church begin to regain strength and new ideas and plans began to emerge. It was not an easy year by any stretch of the imagination, but as we continued to press into God we began to feel as though we were beginning to slowly come out of the fog into a wide open space.

Dandelions, Memory Cafe and Art Group continue to be a place of connection and reaching out. Soup Lunch, which was launched in December 2022, also continues to be a great initiative where lots of people from different demographics enjoy the welcome, comfort and companionship of a shared lunch.

Our Connect groups, now established, have become places of deep relationship and discipleship and we started huddles for those who had taken leadership roles. We joined together as a whole Bridge Wide family in our "pilgrimage" to New Wine (I say pilgrimage as it did feel like that at times, thanks to the great British weather!). Our 'Afternoon in the Garden', which was actually inside, was a great success and gave us an opportunity to welcome the local community into the church.

The beginning of September marked the re-energisation of our kid's group with a new curriculum and lots of new leaders. We also launched

our Sunday youth group which began to meet in The Shack during our morning services.

Autumn also brought with it change as we welcomed Beth, Operations Manager Maternity Cover, and Amy, Children's Discipleship Adoption Cover, both who have settled into life at The Bridge really well and have both brought with them fresh energy and life. We announced our exploration of partnering with and hopefully eventually joining with Hope Springs... This is to be worked out throughout 2024.

Autumn's highlight was our wonderful Bonfire Night in the Garden of Hope with hot dogs, hot chocolate and many many sparklers. We even had a fireworks display! Lots of people joined in, brought their friends and we even had our new students bring their housemates along. It was a brilliant evening and one I hope can be repeated again in 2024!

I am so thankful that, although at times difficult, I spent 2023 leading St John's. I am thankful to my development team, Ben, Carolyn, Jeff, Sarah and Kathryn who have worked hard behind the scenes to support and champion the numerous initiatives and changes throughout the year.

I am also very thankful for each and every person who has tirelessly given up their time and energy to serve St John's, be that in front of church, with the children and young people, making St John's a welcoming and hospitable place. You are all so valued. Thank you!

May 2024 be a year of new life and growth!

Erin Gilmour

Students

In 2023 the students began to work out what sustaining a small group looked like for them without a student worker in post. They've built deep and meaningful relationships and organise socials for people of peace to join in with. In the summer we advertised for a Student Worker and unfortunately were unable to recruit for the role. Erin and a wonderful team of volunteers, including myself, Kath and Andy Poole, Jeff Smailes and Jonathan and Hannah Lidbetter poured time and energy into our welcome to St John's with events, goody bags and attending church fairs and searches. We've introduced two monthly rhythms, Sunday lunches with members of the wider church family, Carolyn Howarth taking a lead on this, and also a monthly event led by the student team for students to engage with.

The student community has grown in size and the new year brings new life with Mark Ahmed taking a lead as the team recalibrates to listen to what God is saying for the new season and covering it in prayer. Campus is full of open minds and hearts and there is hope to see our student ministry grow as we equip and enable mission amongst students.

Sarah Packwood

Children & Youth

This year has been one of change throughout the children's team at St John's. Alison brilliantly led children's work until Easter. Following Alison, Erin led children's work as Associate Minister of St John's and in late November, Amy was then appointed as Children Discipleship Enabler Adoption Cover. Amy has been instrumental in coordinating children's work going into the new year and we're excited to see what 2024 brings.

Groups flourished in 2023 to very large amounts, with some sessions being attended by up to 92 children! Our 0-5 team have enjoyed leading sessions throughout the year. This group was led by Min and a group of super leaders; Caroline G, Anya and Olya, as well as a group of volunteers who helped support on an adhoc basis.

Our 5-11 group have developed their relationship with God as well as each other during the year. The children have enjoyed a range of sessions including learning about the Heroes of the Bible and going out together into the Garden of Hope. We have a wonderful group of committed volunteers who help us to run these sessions. We are so appreciative for all who give their time to nurture the faith of our children at St John's.

Rebecca leads a great team of volunteers, running our mid-week babies and children's group; Dandelions. This group has a large number of parents and children who attend most weeks, often going on to attend other events run by The Bridge.

In November we had a Bonfire Party at St John's, which was well attended by lots of Bridge families and their friends which they invited. It was a really special time to celebrate together and reach families in our community.

We are grateful for the amazing support of Susie and Nick Romney, with Rebecca who lead a spectacular pre-school 'Pop-Up' nativity service with the support of the Dandelion team helping with the craft and the Refresh team helping with the refreshments. It was really well attended and was a huge hit.

Throughout this year we have been praying for provision in youth work. We launched our Sunday youth groups in The Shack and are excited to further grow our youth ministry in 2024. Looking back, we are so grateful to

everyone who made children and youth work possible at St John's. You are all wonderful and it wouldn't have been possible without you!

The Garden of Hope

It has been a great year for The Garden of Hope project. There is a fantastic team of volunteers (which has grown this year), who turn up regularly on a Monday morning for coffee and gardening. Since people have taken responsibility for different areas the whole thing has become a lot more manageable (Kathryn Hammond's brilliant idea!).

It has been great to work with people who have good gardening knowledge as this is not an area of strength for me. The gardening team have even continued to meet through much of the winter this year and surprisingly Mondays have been mostly dry.

It has been great to develop the spiritual side of the project over the last year through running a number of retreats including: a couple of art retreats, gardening retreats, a walking retreat, a reading retreat, a reset retreat and even retreats for a couple of other churches. These retreats have been attended by both Christians and those exploring faith. We have also hosted events including: a couple of sessions for the Diocesan New Worshipping Communities Taster Day, Dandelions Toddler group in the summer, the Christian Union Summer Ball, two Ukrainian afternoon Tea Parties, a Palm Sunday service, various Community Sundays and a wonderful Bonfire Night event where we met loads of new people from our local community.

Since the wooden signs went up last year (thanks Cliff), we have seen many people passing through the garden including people of different faiths and nationalities – often commenting on how peaceful they find the Garden of

Hope. It has been great to hear such positive feedback from many people who are frequent visitors. We recently received this email:

"I just want to drop a line and thank you very much for creating and maintaining the Garden of Hope. It is a lovely serene area, and I have been enjoying visiting it often!"

The funding bids were successful (thank you Jesus!), so we have been able to invest some money into creating a raised beds area in liaison with the Coventry Refugee and Migrant Centre, who have referred a couple of people to grow vegetables. We have also brought a couple of sheds and are in the process of purchasing a sit on mower. It has been wonderful to watch the Garden of Hope grow and develop as people care for it. We are excited for all that God will do this year in the Garden of Hope and one of our key next developments will be to put up an outdoor post-mounted notice board so that we can advertise retreats etc. to visitors of the garden. Look out for this year's retreat programme coming soon...

If you'd like to get involved in this project please email: caroline@thebridgecoventry.org

If you have any furniture in good condition, cuttings of plants you can offer, boulders, stones (any size), bricks or slabs please do get in touch. Or you'd like to financially give to the work of the project you can do so here: https://thebridgecoventry.churchsuite.com/donate/fund/ojcmchjg

Caroline

TRINITY CHURCH, BURTON GREEN

When we (John and Becky Finlayson, Dave and Isabel Merrifield, and Jan Sayer, later joined by Kathryn Hammond) agreed to take over leading the church in Burton Green, more recently known as Trinity Church Burton Green, we were excited by the history of worship, prayer and prophecy over the village (dating back to the first services held in the school hall in 1909). It is a place that has been prayed over for much of the last 115 years.

Before the pandemic, we had a small (about 20+ regulars) but flourishing congregation. During the pandemic, we thrived as a church on zoom, meeting every week online on Sundays; there was real support, care and prayer for all. Since the pandemic, we have lost many people who used to attend Trinity Church Burton Green. Some died, some moved away, some were called by God to serve in other churches (including St John's), and a few just never returned.

In January 2024, the decision was taken to stop meeting as a congregation in Burton Green. This was a sad and hard decision, but one that we all agreed on. Nearly all the remaining attendees will rejoin first-Sunday rhythms at St John's.

As we reflect on our time in leadership, our thoughts are also drawn to celebrate those that have been part of the congregation and leaders over the years: Mike and Dorinda Holt, John and Barbara Gardner, Jerry and Sue Marshall, Alison Goodall, and Carol Currington immediately spring to mind. We honour them and all those who went before, for their service and faithfulness.

We confidently trust that God's kingdom will come in Burton Green, in His time. And maybe, in time, the church in Burton Green will once again be replanted. Of the leadership team, John and Becky, will no longer be part

of St John's, sensing God's calling elsewhere, though they will continue to live as incarnational missionaries in the village. Dave and Isabel are exploring possibilities with God. Kathryn and Jan will continue working and worshipping at St John's as before.

FABRIC REPORT

St Stephen’s, Canley

This report outlines the condition and status of the fabric of St Stephen's Canley for the current year, noting that no material changes or alterations have been made to the property. It serves to document the upkeep and preservation efforts in maintaining the church in accordance with the guidelines and requirements of the Church of England.

Building Exterior

- Roof and Gutters: The roof tiles and gutters have been inspected and cleaned. The flat roof above the vestry is likely in need of repair or replacement in the near future.
- Walls and Windows: The walls and stained-glass windows remain in good condition. The window in the nave has a small hole. The toilet windows are in need of replacement and will likely need to be before next winter as the wooden frames are in poor condition.
- Doors: The main entrance and side doors are in reasonable condition, the vestry door was fully replaced during the year and the other doors restained.

Building Interior

- Nave and Sanctuary: Both the nave and sanctuary are in reasonable condition, though they could warrant redecoration. The floor in the sanctuary is in need of replacement as elements of the laminate flooring are lifting up and causing a trip hazard. This has been mitigated with tape for the time being. The chairs are in good condition.
- Electrical Systems: The electrical systems, including lighting and heating, have been regularly tested and are fully operational. The

kitchen circuit is limited in its capacity and would warrant an upgrade when possible.

- Plumbing: There are no known issues with the plumbing.

Churchyard

- Landscaping: The churchyard is well-kept, with regular maintenance of the grounds. The pathways and lawns are in good condition, with no significant changes.
- Boundary Walls and Gates: The boundary walls and gates have been inspected and are in stable condition, requiring no immediate attention.

Maintenance

Routine maintenance tasks have been carried out consistently throughout the year to ensure the preservation of the church's fabric. This includes cleaning, inspections, and minor repairs as necessary.

St John’s, Westwood

Two great working parties took place during 2023 to keep the grounds in good shape. Many thanks to all who turned up and helped.

Concerning repairs and renovation to the flat roof - all approvals are in place, grant funding has been secured and a contractor has been appointed. Work is due to start in January 2024.

There was a whole church meeting about the need for a main roof renovation project. Preparation work for this continued with a number of 'expert' surveys being commissioned. Meetings were held with the Diocese fundraising team and building project section to understand what support

was available and how to prepare for such a major project. A whole church meeting is planned for March 2024.

Particular thanks for the ongoing service of Dave Cass and Phil Dunkerley who carry out many minor fixes as well as general maintenance jobs.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Finance Report – full details in the year end accounts

The Joint Council of the Bridge Benefice, Coventry has now been in operation for 3 years. The Charity Commission has sanctioned that the existing charity registration of St John's can be re-named 'The Bridge Benefice Coventry' whilst keeping the existing charity number. The accounts of the two Parishes of St John's Westwood and St Stephen's Canley were transferred to the Joint Council on 1st January 2021 and this is the report of the combined accounts. The Bridge has three bases namely St John's Westwood, St Stephen's Canley and Trinity Burton Green.

The Bridge Benefice was in deficit by £4,654 (all funds) for 2023. The performance for unrestricted funds only is as follows:-

In comparison to 2022 and the forecast budget income the following changes occurred:

- Planned giving was £214,016 including Gift aid which was below the budget of £259,500 (82% of budget). In 2022 giving was £209,519.
- Gift Aid was £39,575 of the planned giving. In 2022 Gift Aid was £36,297.
- The trading activities of Occasional Offices, room hire and car park rental totalled £16,571 (2022 was £12,269). This was ahead of their combined budget by £6,055 or 58%.
- Overall income was £230,684. This was £39,316 or 14.6% below the planned budget of £270,000 income for the year; however, it was £8,796 above 2022. In 2022 overall income was £221,888.

In comparison to 2022 and the forecast budget expenditure, the following changes occurred:

- The total cost of staff was £75,561. This was 19% below the budget of £93,500. In 2022 it was £88,443.
- Groups and meetings expenditure was £12,075. The budget was £13,540, so came to an underspend of £1,465. In 2022 it was £11,153.
- Spend on buildings, equipment etc. was £55,671, compared to the budget of £50,060. In 2022, £43,974 was spent on buildings etc.
- Parish Share was as planned at £80,000. In 2022 it was £76,225.
- Gifts to supported organisations was on budget at £32,400. In 2022, £22,000 was given to these organisations.
- Overall expenditure was £258,303. Compared to a budget of £270,000, so an underspend of £11,697 or 4%. In 2022 it was £243,865.

Overall, this resulted in a deficit of £27,619 in 2023 on unrestricted funds. In 2022 the deficit was £21,978. This leaves cash in the bank at year end of £28,505 in the general account plus £21,913 in a designated building fund for St John's, so a total of £50,418 in unrestricted funds.

Thus, the finances of The Bridge Benefice are in a weaker position at the end of 2023 with unrestricted and designated funds representing 19.5% of the turnover in 2023 which is above the target range of 10% to 15%. In 2024 the Bridge needs to at least cover costs to sustain a stable financial position.

To grow the continuing work of the church, as we hope to do, we need to encourage some further increases in regular giving.

The buildings at both St Stephen's and St John's require investment:

- At St John's the outcome of the 2020 Quinquennial inspection will require major investment in the fabric of the church building, initially a new flat roof (estimated c£90,000) followed before 2025, where a new roof for the main church building plus associated add-ons will be needed. This is yet to be costed but it is likely to be over £1,000,000.

- At St Stephen's an initial consultation has taken place on the possibility of working with the Canley Community Centre to build a new building which is both a church and a community centre. Further preparatory work will commence in 2024.

God's generosity and blessings are again recognised by the Joint Council as He continues to grow His work, and we continue to seek His will to further develop and grow His kingdom through His churches St John's Westwood, St Stephen's Canley and Trinity Burton Green.

Jeff Smailes

ELECTORAL ROLLS REPORT

This report is for the year January to December 2023. The Electoral Roll includes the two congregations of St John's and St Stephen's. We began the year with 151 people on the electoral roll – 114 in St John's and 37 in St Stephen's. In September two people left St John's, so we ended the year with 149 people on the roll – 112 in St John's and 37 in St Stephen's. There were no changes at the time of the APCM in April 2023.0

DEANERY REPORT

David Hammond continued as Area Dean, having stepped into the role in 2022. This year there has been a continued commitment to praying together and building relationships between churches.

Charity registration number 1129017

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

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JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

JOINT COUNCIL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The Trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023.

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In comparison to 2022 and the forecast budget income the following changes occurred: -

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Overall, this resulted in a deficit of £27,619 in 2023 on unrestricted funds. In 2022 the deficit was £21,978. This leaves cash in the bank at year end of £28,505 in the general account plus £21,913 in a designated building fund for St John's, so a total of £50,418 in unrestricted funds.

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The Trustees has assessed the major risks to which they are exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

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The Joint Council's governing documents are the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956, as amended, and the Church Representation Rule (which are contained in Schedule 3 to the Synodical Government Measure 1969, as amended), A scheme made in November 2020 under section M38 of the Church Representation Rules modified how the Rules apply in the Bridge Benefice and created the Joint Council.

The Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

D Hammond	
J Smailes	
T Hickinbottom	
M Jermyn	
J Martin	
L Dawson	
S Ashelby	
A Mahtani	(Resigned 30 June 2023)
A Smith	(Resigned 30 June 2023)
J Sayer	
M Robinson	
E Gilmour	
C Hammond	
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G Thomas	(Appointed 30 April 2023)

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees
The membership of the Joint Council is set by the Church Representation Rule, as modified by the 2020 scheme.

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JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

JOINT COUNCIL REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Commencement of Activities

The charity registered with the Charity Commission on 6th April 2009.

Approved by order of the board of the Joint Council on .....
and signed on its behalf by:

.....
D Hammond

Dated: 7/4/24

.....
J Smalles

Dated: 7/4/24

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Joint Council of The Bridge Benefice, Coventry for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the Trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act).

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable 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 ACA, which is one of the listed bodies.

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared financial statements in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn.

I understand that this has been done in order for financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

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 that in any material respect:

1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3 the financial statements 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 financial statements to be reached.

Robert Anderson FCA
Azets Audit Services

3Mc Middlemarch Business Park
Siskin Drive
Coventry
CV3 4FJ
United Kingdom

Dated: 10/4/24

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	3	214,016	34,307	248,323	209,519	20,698	230,217
Charitable activities	4	16,571	1,286	17,857	12,269	1,184	13,453
Other Income	5	97	5,030	5,127	100	-	100
Investments	6	-	-	-	-	75	75
Total income		230,684	40,623	271,307	221,888	21,957	243,845
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	7	258,303	17,659	275,962	243,865	23,386	267,251
Net (expenditure)/income for the year/ Net movement in funds		(27,619)	22,964	(4,655)	(21,977)	(1,429)	(23,406)
Fund balances at 1 January 2023		78,037	26,786	104,823	100,014	28,215	128,229
Fund balances at 31 December 2023		50,418	49,750	100,168	78,037	26,786	104,823

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
Current assets					
Debtors	12	17,980		11,586	
Cash at bank and in hand		91,578		100,221	
		109,558		111,807	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(9,390)		(6,984)	
Net current assets			100,168		104,823
Income funds					
Restricted funds	14		49,750		26,786
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds	15	21,913		35,654	
General unrestricted funds		28,505		42,383	
			50,418		78,037
			100,168		104,823

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 6/4/24

D Hammond
Trustee

J Smailes
Trustee

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Joint Council of The Bridge Benefice, Coventry is an unincorporated charity registered in England

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charity's [governing document], the Charities Act 2011, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019). The Charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The Charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements 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 the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, [modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value]. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the Charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the Charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the Charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the Charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.5 Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

1.6 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.7 Financial instruments

The Charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the Charity's balance sheet when the Charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the Charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.8 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the Charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.9 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2023	2023	2023	2022	2022	2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	214,016	34,307	248,323	209,519	20,698	230,217

4 Charitable activities

	Other Trading Activities 2023 £	Other Trading Activities 2022 £
Parochial Fee Income	3,038	2,682
Car Park Rental Income	7,971	6,811
Room Hire Income	6,832	3,960
Other Income	16	-
	17,857	13,453
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	16,571	12,269
Restricted funds	1,286	1,184
	17,857	13,453

5 Other Income

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
Building repair fund	97	-	97	100
Mission Hub Grant	-	3,175	3,175	-
Coventry South Deanery Fund	-	855	855	-
T Walters Funeral	-	1,000	1,000	-
Other Income	97	5,030	5,127	100

6 Investments

	Total 2023 £	Restricted funds 2022 £
Interest receivable	-	75

7 Charitable activities

	Charitable Activities 2023 £	Charitable Activities 2022 £
Staff costs	66,611	80,323
Staffing Costs - Clergy Expenses	6,690	6,370
Staffing Costs - Training	2,152	1,820
Staffing Costs - Other	108	(71)
Groups & Meetings	12,075	11,153
Building, Equipment & Administration	55,671	52,380
Diocesan Payments	80,000	76,625
Supported Organisations	32,400	22,000
Charitable Activities	17,659	14,851
	273,366	265,451
Share of governance costs (see note 8)	2,596	1,800
	275,962	267,251
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	258,303	243,865
Restricted funds	17,659	23,386
	275,962	267,251

8 Support costs

	Support costs £	Governance costs £	2023 £	Support costs £	Governance costs £	2022 £
Examiners fees	-	2,596	2,596	-	1,800	1,800
	-	2,596	2,596	-	1,800	1,800
Analysed between						
Charitable activities	-	2,596	2,596	-	1,800	1,800

Governance costs includes payments to the examiners of £2,596 (2022: £1,800) for examination fees and other services

9 Trustees

Trustee remuneration and benefits

The Clergy received in total £6,689 in expenses, David Hammond was paid £3,600, Sarah Ashelby £689, Erin Gilmore £1,200 and Caroline Hammond £1,200. No other member of the Joint Council received any remuneration, either directly or indirectly.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year to 31 December 2023, nor for the year to 31 December 2022.

10 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
	6	3

Employment costs	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	63,719	75,469
Social security costs	-	2,721
Other pension costs	2,892	2,133
	66,611	80,323

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

11 Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxationof Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

12 Debtors

Amounts falling due within one year:	2023 £	2022 £
Trade debtors	2,265	874
Other Debtors & Accrued Income	13,170	8,997
Prepayments	2,545	1,715
	17,980	11,586

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade creditors	1,804	3,192
Accruals and deferred income	7,586	3,792
	9,390	6,984

14 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

		Movement in funds				Movement in funds		
	Balance at 1 January 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Revaluations, gains and losses	Balance at 1 January 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Balance at 31 December 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Church Growth in Deprived Areas (St Stephens)	2,417	-	-	-	-	2,417	-	-	2,417
Church Live Development Fund	1,149	-	-	-	-	1,149	-	-	1,149
Cost of Living	1,523	328	(995)	-	-	856	168	(778)	246
Coventry South Deanery Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	855	-	855
Funeral Deposits	228	-	-	-	-	228	-	-	228
Honest to God	2,437	-	-	-	-	2,437	-	-	2,437
Investment Fund	-	6,000	-	-	-	6,000	-	-	6,000
Mission Hub Grant 2023	830	-	-	-	-	830	-	-	830
Mission to Children	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,175	(2,855)	320
Garden of Hope	104	15	-	-	-	119	-	-	119
St Stephens Building Fund	471	1,851	(2,112)	-	-	210	12,838	(2,348)	10,700
Tom Walters Funeral	18,654	75	(8,535)	-	-	10,194	-	-	10,194
Trinity Room Carpet Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	-	1,000
Youth & Student Work	402	221	-	-	-	623	97	-	720
	-	1,723	-	-	-	1,723	11,621	(809)	12,535
	28,215	10,213	(11,642)	-	-	26,786	29,754	(6,790)	49,750

15 Designated funds

The income funds of the charity include the following designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes:

	Movement in funds						
	Balance at 1 January 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Balance at 1 January 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Balance at 31 December 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Building Repair Provision Fund	36,181	100	(627)	35,654	97	(13,838)	21,913
	36,181	100	(627)	35,654	97	(13,838)	21,913

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2023	Restricted funds 2023	Total 2023	Unrestricted funds 2022	Restricted funds 2022	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 December 2023 are represented by:						
Current assets/(liabilities)	50,417	49,751	100,168	78,037	26,786	104,823
	50,417	49,751	100,168	78,037	26,786	104,823

17 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2022 - none).

Charity registration number 1129017

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

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JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

JOINT COUNCIL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The Trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023.

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In comparison to 2022 and the forecast budget income the following changes occurred: -

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- Spend on buildings, equipment etc was £55,671, versus the budget of £50,060. In 2022 £43,974 was spent on buildings etc.
- Parish Share was as planned at £80,000. (2022 was £76,225)
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The Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

D Hammond	
J Smailes	
T Hickinbottom	
M Jermyn	
J Martin	
L Dawson	
S Ashelby	
A Mahtani	(Resigned 30 June 2023)
A Smith	(Resigned 30 June 2023)
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G Thomas	(Appointed 30 April 2023)

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees
The membership of the Joint Council is set by the Church Representation Rule, as modified by the 2020 scheme.

Organisational Structure
Decisions made in formal Joint Council meetings are communicated to staff who perform direct and administrative roles and overseen by the Joint Council.

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JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

JOINT COUNCIL REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Commencement of Activities

The charity registered with the Charity Commission on 6th April 2009.

Approved by order of the board of the Joint Council on .....
and signed on its behalf by:

.....
D Hammond

Dated: 7/4/24

.....
J Smalles

Dated: 7/4/24

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Joint Council of The Bridge Benefice, Coventry for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the Trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act).

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable 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 ACA, which is one of the listed bodies.

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared financial statements in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn.

I understand that this has been done in order for financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

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 that in any material respect:

1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3 the financial statements 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 financial statements to be reached.

Robert Anderson FCA
Azets Audit Services

3Mc Middlemarch Business Park
Siskin Drive
Coventry
CV3 4FJ
United Kingdom

Dated: 10/4/24

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	3	214,016	34,307	248,323	209,519	20,698	230,217
Charitable activities	4	16,571	1,286	17,857	12,269	1,184	13,453
Other Income	5	97	5,030	5,127	100	-	100
Investments	6	-	-	-	-	75	75
Total income		230,684	40,623	271,307	221,888	21,957	243,845
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	7	258,303	17,659	275,962	243,865	23,386	267,251
Net (expenditure)/income for the year/ Net movement in funds		(27,619)	22,964	(4,655)	(21,977)	(1,429)	(23,406)
Fund balances at 1 January 2023		78,037	26,786	104,823	100,014	28,215	128,229
Fund balances at 31 December 2023		50,418	49,750	100,168	78,037	26,786	104,823

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
Current assets					
Debtors	12	17,980		11,586	
Cash at bank and in hand		91,578		100,221	
		109,558		111,807	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(9,390)		(6,984)	
Net current assets			100,168		104,823
Income funds					
Restricted funds	14		49,750		26,786
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds	15	21,913		35,654	
General unrestricted funds		28,505		42,383	
			50,418		78,037
			100,168		104,823

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 6/4/24

D Hammond
Trustee

J Smailes
Trustee

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Joint Council of The Bridge Benefice, Coventry is an unincorporated charity registered in England

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charity's [governing document], the Charities Act 2011, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019). The Charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The Charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements 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 the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, [modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value]. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the Charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the Charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the Charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the Charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.5 Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

1.6 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.7 Financial instruments

The Charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the Charity's balance sheet when the Charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the Charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.8 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the Charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.9 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2023	2023	2023	2022	2022	2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	214,016	34,307	248,323	209,519	20,698	230,217

4 Charitable activities

	Other Trading Activities 2023 £	Other Trading Activities 2022 £
Parochial Fee Income	3,038	2,682
Car Park Rental Income	7,971	6,811
Room Hire Income	6,832	3,960
Other Income	16	-
	17,857	13,453
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	16,571	12,269
Restricted funds	1,286	1,184
	17,857	13,453

5 Other Income

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
Building repair fund	97	-	97	100
Mission Hub Grant	-	3,175	3,175	-
Coventry South Deanery Fund	-	855	855	-
T Walters Funeral	-	1,000	1,000	-
Other Income	97	5,030	5,127	100

6 Investments

	Total 2023 £	Restricted funds 2022 £
Interest receivable	-	75

7 Charitable activities

	Charitable Activities 2023 £	Charitable Activities 2022 £
Staff costs	66,611	80,323
Staffing Costs - Clergy Expenses	6,690	6,370
Staffing Costs - Training	2,152	1,820
Staffing Costs - Other	108	(71)
Groups & Meetings	12,075	11,153
Building, Equipment & Administration	55,671	52,380
Diocesan Payments	80,000	76,625
Supported Organisations	32,400	22,000
Charitable Activities	17,659	14,851
	273,366	265,451
Share of governance costs (see note 8)	2,596	1,800
	275,962	267,251
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	258,303	243,865
Restricted funds	17,659	23,386
	275,962	267,251

8 Support costs

	Support costs £	Governance costs £	2023 £	Support costs £	Governance costs £	2022 £
Examiners fees	-	2,596	2,596	-	1,800	1,800
	-	2,596	2,596	-	1,800	1,800
Analysed between						
Charitable activities	-	2,596	2,596	-	1,800	1,800

Governance costs includes payments to the examiners of £2,596 (2022: £1,800) for examination fees and other services

9 Trustees

Trustee remuneration and benefits

The Clergy received in total £6,689 in expenses, David Hammond was paid £3,600, Sarah Ashelby £689, Erin Gilmore £1,200 and Caroline Hammond £1,200. No other member of the Joint Council received any remuneration, either directly or indirectly.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year to 31 December 2023, nor for the year to 31 December 2022.

10 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
	6	3

Employment costs	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	63,719	75,469
Social security costs	-	2,721
Other pension costs	2,892	2,133
	66,611	80,323

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

11 Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxationof Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

12 Debtors

Amounts falling due within one year:	2023 £	2022 £
Trade debtors	2,265	874
Other Debtors & Accrued Income	13,170	8,997
Prepayments	2,545	1,715
	17,980	11,586

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade creditors	1,804	3,192
Accruals and deferred income	7,586	3,792
	9,390	6,984

14 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

		Movement in funds				Movement in funds		
	Balance at 1 January 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Revaluations, gains and losses	Balance at 1 January 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Balance at 31 December 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Church Growth in Deprived Areas (St Stephens)	2,417	-	-	-	-	2,417	-	-	2,417
Church Live Development Fund	1,149	-	-	-	-	1,149	-	-	1,149
Cost of Living	1,523	328	(995)	-	-	856	168	(778)	246
Coventry South Deanery Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	855	-	855
Funeral Deposits	228	-	-	-	-	228	-	-	228
Honest to God	2,437	-	-	-	-	2,437	-	-	2,437
Investment Fund	-	6,000	-	-	-	6,000	-	-	6,000
Mission Hub Grant 2023	830	-	-	-	-	830	-	-	830
Mission to Children	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,175	(2,855)	320
Garden of Hope	104	15	-	-	-	119	-	-	119
St Stephens Building Fund	471	1,851	(2,112)	-	-	210	12,838	(2,348)	10,700
Tom Walters Funeral	18,654	75	(8,535)	-	-	10,194	-	-	10,194
Trinity Room Carpet Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	-	1,000
Youth & Student Work	402	221	-	-	-	623	97	-	720
	-	1,723	-	-	-	1,723	11,621	(809)	12,535
	28,215	10,213	(11,642)	-	-	26,786	29,754	(6,790)	49,750

15 Designated funds

The income funds of the charity include the following designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes:

	Movement in funds						
	Balance at 1 January 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Balance at 1 January 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Balance at 31 December 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Building Repair Provision Fund	36,181	100	(627)	35,654	97	(13,838)	21,913
	36,181	100	(627)	35,654	97	(13,838)	21,913

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2023	Restricted funds 2023	Total 2023	Unrestricted funds 2022	Restricted funds 2022	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 December 2023 are represented by:						
Current assets/(liabilities)	50,417	49,751	100,168	78,037	26,786	104,823
	50,417	49,751	100,168	78,037	26,786	104,823

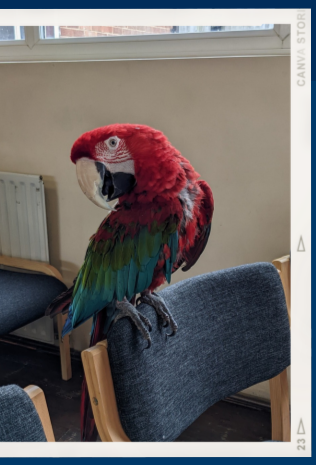
17 Related party transactions

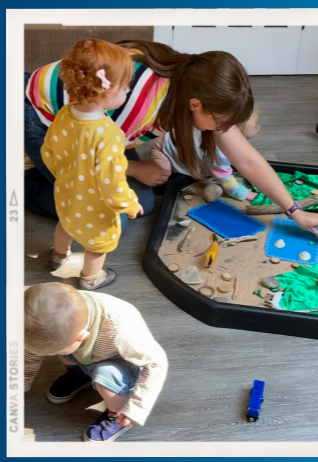
There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2022 - none).

THE JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

England & Wales - Charity number 1129017

Accounts





ANNUAL REPORT 2022

THE BRIDGE

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VICAR'S LETTER

Who is the Vicar of the Bridge?
It's my title, but in practice we work as a combined leadership team;

A Bridge Leadership Team of four, a Joint Council of more, Development teams, people working, leading and serving across the church; we all make up some of the role that many years ago would all have been the Vicar's.
The word Vicar actually means "deputy or substitute," it has come to mean a church leader in our denomination, but I like that original definition. In a sense I'm Jesus' deputy, His substitute. He's returned to the Father, filled me with the Holy Spirit and left me to complete His work.

You are also, in equality with me, called to the same role. Wherever we are, we are standing as a deputy for Jesus. His actions, in life, death and resurrection give us an identity as His siblings, children of Father God, beloved, called and forgiven and people in whom the fullness of God the Holy Spirit lives.
So, <u>you</u> are the vicar...

What about your work, role and call?
We never say it out loud, but often there is an unspoken hierarchy of work in the church. Full Time Christian workers at the top, doctors and nurses second, teachers next and everyone else lagging behind.
<u>This is nonsense. And a lie from the enemy.</u>
It undermines the dignity of all work.

Wherever we are we get to:

- Model Godly Character
- Make good work
- Minister grace and love
- Mould culture
- Be a Mouthpiece for truth and justice
- Be a Messenger of the gospel,
- And *Maybe, plant a contact group…

All of our work, whether as a parent, a retired person volunteering and grandparenting, a barista, a student, a salesperson, a lawyer, a vicar or a carer (etc.) is equally valid and valued by God. By living out these "7 M's" we are the "vicars" wherever we are.

*The "maybe" is only here because that's on Holy Spirit, do the other 6 and see…
(and because maybe begins with M!)

In 2022 my work as "Vicar" was further shared and diluted. My role now is a mix of being Area Dean of Kenilworth, Area Dean of Coventry South, and a 0.6 role of building the Bridge as Mission Hub to help other churches in the Diocese plant new congregations and expressions of church. Erin is my other half (0.4) at the Mission Hub and also leader at St John's, Sarah A is a Curate in name but a co-leader in practice and Sarah P runs the many functional operations of our organisation as The Bridge.
The Wardens, Staff, Joint Council members, Leaders of Congregations, Communities, Connect, and Contact groups and those who serve or lead groups for particular age groups or ministries all make up the body of Christ in this place. We are a community, we aim to function as extended family and an organisation on a mission.

Whether it's me in my role or you in yours, our call and identity is the same:

> "A disciple is someone who is increasingly worshipping Jesus in all of life, being changed by Jesus in all of life, and learning how to obey Jesus in all of life, and then teaching others to do the same.
> New identity of the disciple - Baptised into the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
>
> - In the name of the Father, we are learning to be family.
> - In the name of the Son, he is King and we are His servants, 'serving the least of these'.
> - In the name of the Spirit we are sent ones, witnesses, a missionary people sent into the world sent to make disciples who make disciples.
>
> = 'a family of missionary servants sent as disciples who make disciples'
>
> The process is life on life, life in community, and life on mission
> Everyone grows in gospel fluency, learning to apply the death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus in all of life."
>
> *Jeff Vanderstelt*

This comes through personal choice, accountability groups, huddles and vulnerability.

This is not new, what is new is that we are a post-pandemic group of people.
Since 2020 many of us have lost our way, a little or a lot.
For a while many of us lived without community, without life-on-life, life on mission dialled down, the flow of the Spirit had fewer outlets for a season.
During the pandemic our world got smaller, more individualistic, more self-pleasing and both more scary and more insecure.

Losing each other for a season meant losing our identity.
That's why I've reiterated it above.
We see this in the issues around; names on rotas, bums on seats and money in giving. These are important things, but what's worrying is the lack of open homes, lives and hearts in prayer; the lack of the life of a missionary disciple.

There are very few people who are a more engaged missionary disciple in 2023 than 2019.

I'm not pointing the finger. It's me.
I now have a knowledge of the fragility of my own mental health. I have a wider spectrum of roles, more responsibility, more work, a wife with a full time paid job and new demands on her time, a bigger team to lead, teenage children(!) etc…

I didn't like the lockdowns or pandemic, but I really liked having no evening meetings and pleasing myself with my time and just doing what I liked more often.

But it wasn't good for me. What's easy rarely is.
This way of living wasn't my call and now it's time to pick up my cross and get on living out who I am, who we are and making this world the kingdom of God, person by person.

Are you coming?

We need to have a difference made in us every day.
That'll cost time, discipline and commitment.

We need to make a difference for each other every day.
That'll cost comfort, individualism and security.

We need to make a difference for those who don't know Jesus yet every day.
That'll cost reputation, rejection and respect.

It'll mean taking up our Cross to follow Jesus, but in doing so we'll lose our lives again in order to gain His life in us and that life is eternal.

As we follow the narrow path we'll live in the Father's presence of love and peace.
As we follow in the footsteps of our Lord, we'll experience His life of joy and rest.
As we follow the Spirit within us we'll find our true identity and life to the full.

So let's reclaim our birth-right of missionary discipleship.
Stop doing, self-pleasing or grumbling and start really <u>being</u>.

It's time for me to go,

It's time for you to go,

Come on!

David

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

St Stephen's Church

We were so grateful to get back into a 'new normal' in 2022. We have welcomed new members into our congregation and started lots of new rhythms - you can read about these in the St. Stephen's Report. Returning to in person meetings and starting new groups has required people to step into old and new volunteer roles. We thank God for these wonderful people who allow our church family to flourish and grow.
As we look forward to 2023 we are excited and expectant of what God has planned. We will be praying for Sarah as she moves on to her new roles whilst also praying and planning for a new leader for St. Stephen's. We have been so incredibly blessed by Sarah - we are certainly a different church from that which she joined in 2017!
Tom and Katie

St John's Church

For St John's 2022 was a year of further transition as we said goodbye to our Associate Minister, Ann Peachey, and her wonderful family who served us so well during their time with The Bridge. Later in the year, the Benefice became one of the four Diocesan Mission Hubs, and welcomed Erin Gilmour as our Associate Minister for the Mission Hub and to lead St John's congregation.

We also re-launched Communities and small groups in line with the 4 C's - a tremendous effort from the staff team that assigned every member of the congregation a Connect or Contact Group.

The St John's building presented some degree of challenge with a moth infestation providing a useful opportunity to review what is being stored in the vestry, and a heightening of the awareness that both the pitched and flat roof will need to be replaced in the near future.

Following Erin's arrival, the St John's Development team has been relaunched and we are excited to start 2023 with a specific focus on prayer and intercession.
Ben and Arun

JOINT COUNCIL REPORT

The purpose of the Joint Council is to work with the Vicar to advance the whole mission of the Church in the parishes of Canley and Westwood. It is a registered charity, and its members are the charity's trustees. They are:
Clergy (ex-officio members)

- David Hammond, Vicar
- Erin Gilmour, Associate Minister
- Sarah Ashelby, Curate
- Caroline Hammond, Curate

Elected members (Base, year of the APCM when their term ends)

- Laura Dawson (Canley, 2023)
- Tom Hickinbottom (Canley Churchwarden, 2024)
- Matt Jermyn (Canley, 2025)
- Jonathan Martin (Canley, 2024)
- Arun Mathani (St John's Churchwarden, 2025)
- Michelle Robinson (St John's, 2024)
- Jan Sayer (Burton Green, 2025)
- Jeff Smailes (St John's, 2023)
- Andrew Smith (St John's, 2023)

Four members are elected from Canley, four from St John's and one from Burton Green, and the elected members must include at least one Churchwarden from each parish. Members are elected for three years at a time, and three of the nine elected members will complete their three-year term each year.

During 2022 the Joint Council met seven times. Topics discussed included student, youth and childrens' work, a new building for St Stephen's, building repairs, staff recruitment and a staff pay review. Safeguarding, finances and Eco-church are standing items on every agenda.

SAFEGUARDING REPORT

Safeguarding continues to be a high priority for the Bridge as we believe that keeping all people safe is of paramount importance.

- We now have a Safeguarding Team and have now recruited Emily Newbury (St Stephen's) and Rebecca Torpey (St John's) to be our Safeguarding Champions and act as a local point of contact at each base.
- Safeguarding continues to be a key agenda item at the Joint Council and the leadership team have ensured that we are compliant with the Church of England's Promoting a Safer Church Policy.
- Jenni Dunne has focused her efforts on updating leader's DBS checks this year and we have made some significant progress in this area. We hope to improve our figures for Safeguarding Training in the coming year. Please act promptly if Jenni emails you asking you to complete either of these tasks.
- We have graduated from a level 2 safeguarding organisation to a level 3 organisation which reflects our progress over the past year.

STAFFING REPORT

Staffing is one that continues to have changed but also is allowing us to also fulfil the vision of the Bridge with each opportunity that arises.

2022 has been about building a team and setting ourselves up well for the coming seasons. We made a decision to extend our Children's Discipleship Enabler roles another year. During 2023 we will be saying goodbye to Alison at St John's as Children's Discipleship Enabler and we've begun to pray and discuss a way forward with the Joint Council for a medium and long term provision for children, youth and student discipleship and mission to align with the vision for The Bridge.

During 2022 we said;

- a hello to Ros as Administrator at St John's,
- a hello to Anna as our Children's Discipleship Enabler at St Stephen's
- a goodbye to Ann Peachey as Associate Minister at St John's,
- a hello to Caroline Hammond as Curate at The Bridge with a focus on Retreat ministry with The Garden of Hope,
- a goodbye to Tatenda Munzara as our Student Worker and Media Officer,
- a hello to Erin Gilmour as our Mission Hub Associate Minister and leader of St John's.

We are excited for 2023 and all that God is doing and will continue to do. He's been faithful and we know that even in the adversity of health and life's circumstances our staff team builds their hope on God's provision and the difference He makes everyday. We see that in the team dynamics and relationships they have with God and one another.

ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH, CANLEY

Congregation

2022 has been a year of thoroughly enjoying being back together in person! Whilst we continued to livestream our services to give a 'window' into what church might be like if you came along, our focus shifted back to being together with each other and God - it felt good! In our teaching we explored all kinds of topics through our "What Jesus Said About...." series as well as considering Creation as a gift and responsibility. An exciting development during the year was the introduction of our "Table Service." This service brings family-friendly worship, prayer, games, creativity, Communion and lunch all together in one lovely morning! The heart behind it is to bring together eating together and worshipping together, so we can "display" on our table the generosity, abundance and welcome of God through remembering Jesus in communion and sharing a meal together.

I remain grateful for the 'family feel' at St Stephen's - people do a great job of 'pitching in' and we have worked together to serve each other and our community over the past year. Thanks especially go to those who have committed to serving via the joyous rota!! In 2022 we welcomed Katie Western as a new church warden, as well as Laura Dawson as Parish Safeguarding Officer; both of whom I am grateful to for both their practical help but also their wisdom and perspective.

Communities, Connect Groups and Contact Groups

The year began with two Communities and during the Autumn term merged to meet as one Community on a third Sunday. We have enjoyed litterpicks, lunches, prayer walks, woodland walks, as well as various outreach events (see below). The latter part of 2022 has felt like a "waiting" time - coming together in one group has allowed us to continue meeting together whilst waiting to see what new vision and opportunities God might bring across the Church. Meeting as a

Community has served to remind us that as a church we are so much more than a Sunday morning service!

Various Connect groups and Contact groups began or re-emerged during the latter part of 2022. These have offered places, for those who have wanted it, to meet together to pray, read the bible and deepen friendship. This has been an important aspect of Church for many as we have continued to try to restore much of what was challenged during the Pandemic. The vision for Contact groups as groups where new people can explore faith in Jesus remains strong and some initial experimentation and learning took place this year. We look forward to what God will do next!

Outreach and Community Engagement

We've continued to try to live out our mission to be "MADE in Canley" - making a difference everyday to our local community. Events have included:

- Litterpicks
- Summer Picnics on Prior Deram Park
- Easter trail
- Nativity trail
- Carol'oke
- Canley Parade
- Opening for prayer after the Queen's death
- Canley Big Lunch
- Hobby Hubs (free family activities during school holidays)
- Weekly Foodbank

Members of St Stephen's continue to volunteer regularly at Foodbank and Food Hub as well as being involved in the Warm Hub at Canley Community Center and serving as governors at Leigh School. I (Sarah) have had the pleasure of being part of the Canley Playing Out steering committee, which uses creativity and the arts to enhance community cohesion, and out of which the Canley Parade was born.

On a personal note...

Towards the end of 2022 I began to sense more strongly a call from God that my time ministering at St Stephen's might be coming to an end. I have absolutely loved being at St Stephen's the past 6 years, it has felt like 'home' in the truest sense of the word. I have felt a strong call to this particular corner of the world since I first arrived here in 2003...20 years ago!! I am confident God has a good plan for us as a family as we discern the next steps, and for St Stephen's as it moves forward into the next adventure God has in store! My thanks go to so many who have made my first tinkering with church leadership such a joy.
Sarah Ashelby

Children & Youth

Since starting as St Stephen's Discipleship Enabler in January '22, it's been a blast! It's been great getting to know children in our church at a deeper level, firstly by taking Key Stage 2 children out on trips during the Summer '22 term. This informed the planning and introduction in September '22, of two midweek Kids Connect groups. One based on construction activities (Minecraft and Lego) and one based on creativity (dance, art and drama). All 15 children and a fab team of 5 adults love going deeper together and deeper with God as we explore prayer alongside the above activities.

We restarted the monthly Kids Group, post-pandemic, where we have around 15+ children, between 5-12 yrs old and a fab team of 4 adults. It's been a fun challenge, as we navigate using the family centre, and get used to all being together again. (Getting online registration set up has been a personal highlight, too!)

It's been lots of fun organising some outreach events, including Hobby Hub (crafts, games, refreshments and films during school holidays) as well as the Easter and Nativity Trails. They were huge hits with the local

community, and it was great to see non-church families come along and have fun as they explored the Easter/Nativity story. Along with Alison Fry, and Sarah Ashelby, we also spent time this Spring term leading assemblies for Leigh Primary School - I have started to get to know pupils and staff, which is fab!

Since January, it's been great gathering the whole Kids Team (8 of us in total), getting to know each other, having socials, praying, sharing vision and going through the safer recruitment process! We have made a plan to meet regularly throughout the year - please pray as I try to gather more team for the year ahead, as we look to multiply the groups.

It has been a joy getting to know children, parents/carers and the kids team better this year, and I look forward to all God has in store for children and their discipleship journeys in the year to come.

Anna Martin

ST JOHN'S CHURCH, WESTWOOD

Overview

This is a year that's seen reconfiguration and reimagination as we relaunched Communities and Connect Groups bringing more multigenerational opportunities for relationship and new and familiar ministries coming alive. Children's ministry continues to be brought to life post-pandemic and amazing community and invitational opportunities with Memory Cafe, Refresh, Art Group, Dandelions (Toddler & Baby Group), Christmas events and services, Student Welcome, a church with local school pupils visiting, a Light Party and spaces for retreat too in the Garden of Hope both in organised events and informally. A year that's been full of change and stretch but one where we see how God is inviting us into more as David and Erin report.

January - September

It's a struggle to know who gets to write this report.
2022 opened with me off sick, Ann Peachey planning her move to the parishes next door.
The hope of a Mission Hub associate was in the future.

The people who held St John's together then, Jeff, Stuart, Alison, Dan, Sarah P, Ann, Will, Josh, Elaine, Ed etc aren't the exact same team who brought in the new year of 2022...
Ben, Erin, Caroline, Jeff, Michelle and more came on board as the year went on and some others stepped out as they were needed elsewhere or needed a break.

The wardens will give the overview of events, but to give the feel:
Generosity, Coping and growing Joy.

St John's has been through more instability and personnel change than we could have imagined. Despite this we are more than surviving.

This is not ideal for a church and we are rebuilding but interviews led us to Erin and she has brought more than stability. We have a new heart, a growing passion for prayer and a sense of confidence in God and what he is doing.

We are used to being a strong congregation.
Used to having multiple musicians, preachers, pray-ers, teams and great hospitality. We still have many strengths and the hospitality and welcome remain wonderful. But other areas show weakness.

But when we are weak, God is strong.
We have space for new leaders, room to grow, and innovate.
Often a lower reliance on self leads to a greater reliance on God in prayer.

David Hammond

October - December

In October 2022 I was warmly welcome as the new Mission Hub Associate, St Johns Church Leader. I have enjoyed getting to know the people of St John's, building relationships and leading a new Connect and Community. Some highlights of the Autumn/Winter were our Light Party, using the Garden of Hope and sharing some tasty hot dogs, our Christmas Carol Services, with a wonderful choir, a great message and really good social time, this was closely followed by our Pop Up Nativity, with many families from our communities joining in. Our celebrations culminated in a wonderful Bridge Christmas Day Service where much fun was had.

We are looking forward to beginning 2023 with a strong focus on prayer. I am excited for what is to come.

Erin Gilmour

Students

In 2022 we said goodbye to our Student Worker, Tatenda Munzara. His investment in building relational capital with students at St John's has gifted the church with volunteers in tech, music and our mid-week baby and toddler group.

At the beginning of the new academic year we spend a day investing in the vision of students for St John's with a heavy emphasis on welcome and belonging. As the students have settled into a Connect Group they are now beginning to explore what the mission could look like in 2023. Going into the new year we are excited to invest in our students more deeply in mentoring and huddling and encouraging them in their discipleship journeys and stepping out in faith to be salt and light on campus and in their social groups.
Sarah Packwood

Children & Youth

Our 0-5 team have enjoyed leading sessions throughout the year to groups of up to 12 children. This group has been led by John Finlayson and a group of super leaders; Caroline G, Min, Anya and Olya. We also have a small group of volunteers who help support on an adhoc basis.

Our 5-11 group have developed their relationship with God as well as each other during the year. Each session has around 18-25 children attending. They now meet at the start of every session in their accountability groups, where they talk about their week and pray for each other. The children have enjoyed a range of sessions including going out for prayer walks in the local area and using the Garden of Hope. Thanks goes to Lynne and Liz for their constant support during these sessions.

Rebecca leads a great team of volunteers, running our babies and children's group; Dandelions. This group has a large number of parents registered and a core group of families who come most weeks. Parents and children from this group have attended other events run by The Bridge.

In October we had a light party at St. Johns, which was well attended by over 120 Bridge Families and their friends. It was a great time for families to get together for fun and celebration of light as an alternative to the normal celebrations around that time.

We are grateful for the amazing support of Susie and Nick Romney who lead a spectacular pre-school nativity service with the support of the Dandelion team helping with the craft and the Refresh team helping with the refreshments.

We have developed links with a local school, where our children's discipleship enabler has lead sessions in the classroom, trips to visit the church and assemblies.
Alison Fry

In 2022 we invited St John's to pray into the provision for youth work, both financially and in personnel. We ended 2022 committed to finding a way forward to begin September 2023, or sooner to invest in our youth. We're looking forward to what God will do and invite you to continue to pray, consider volunteering or financially committing to continue to support children and youth.

The Garden of Hope

This year has seen lots of new developments in the Garden of Hope. We have a brilliant team of volunteers who have worked hard on Monday mornings to transform the space. We now have running water in the Garden of Hope which was a relief and blessing during the very hot summer as we fought to keep plants alive! The barefoot walk proved to be very popular with the children during the summer months and some daring adults. We ran our first Art Retreat in November with a local artist which was attended by 30 people both Christians and non Christians. It has been a real joy to meet new people in the garden that have no connection to church but love to come and visit, many of them testifying to the peace that they experience in the garden. We now have 2 signs ready to go up which will help people find the Garden of Hope and flyers to promote, hopefully, this will raise the profile of the garden in our local area. We have just submitted 2 funding bids and if they are successful we can improve the garden further. We are currently in conversation with the Refugee and Migrant Centre who have 4 refugees who would like to grow some vegetables in the Garden of

Hope. It feels like the project is gathering momentum and we hope that we can build from a strong place over the coming year.

If you'd like to get involved in this project please email:
caroline@thebridgecoventry.org

If you have any furniture in good condition, cuttings of plants you can offer, boulders, stones (any size), bricks or slabs please do get in touch.

Or you'd like to financially give to the work of the project you can do so here: https://thebridgecoventry.churchsuite.com/donate/fund/ojcmchjg

TRINITY CHURCH, BURTON GREEN

Over the last year we have really enjoyed being able to meet and worship together. We often experience God's presence during our simple, intimate services each first Sunday of the month.

We have enjoyed going deeper as a Connect group on the second and fourth week, as well as finding encouragement meeting with our Community each month.

As part of our ministry to the village, John serves as a Governor at Burton Green Primary School as a foundation governor. However, he will be stepping down having finished his 4-year term in 2023.

As a number of our congregation struggle with ill-health, it is good for us to be able to support each other. Looking forward, we're excited to spend more time with our local friends and neighbours, discern new ways of engaging and connecting with the community, and invite them on a journey of exploring faith. We wonder if God will use the opening of the new Village Hall to provide us with such opportunities.

FABRIC REPORT

St Stephen's, Canley

A programme of works continued to rectify any items raised in the quinquennial inspection. This included work to replace one of the flat roofs and to repair tiles on the main roof. The rear fire door to the vestry was also replaced.

Work with APEC architects on a feasibility study for a combined new building with Canley Community Centre was completed and is now being reviewed. We hope to move this project forward in 2023.

St John's, Westwood

2022 was a year of progress

- Two great working parties to keep the grounds in good shape. Thanks to all who turned up and helped.
- A special thanks to Pete Carless who built the new cupboard in the Leigh Room. The Children's team and Dandelions really appreciate being able to store their items out of sight.
- The flat roof, all approvals are in place just awaiting grant funding to cover the cost! Hopefully contractors will be onsite by the Autumn.
- There is a team meeting to look at how to progress replacing the main roof.
    - Any person wanting to write or help to write grant applications please let Erin know.
- Thanks for the ongoing service of Dave Cass and Phil Dunkerley who carry out many minor fixes as well as general maintenance jobs.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Finance Report – full details in the year end accounts

The Bridge Benefice was in deficit by £23,406 (all funds) at the end of 2022. During 2022 the Bridge returned to more 'normal' operations in the three bases of The Bridge, namely St John's Westwood, St Stephen's Canley and Trinity Burton Green.

There were (unrestricted funds only): -

Income

- Planned giving was £172,980 which was below the budget of £180,250 (96% of budget)
- Gift Aid was £36,297.
- Trading activities of Occasional Offices, room hire and Car park rental, totalled £12,269.
- Overall income at, was £221,888, £9,112 or 3.9% below the planned budget income.

In comparison to the forecast budget expenditure the following changes occurred: -

- The total cost of staff was £88,443 (9.0%) below the budget of £97,200 by £8,757, driven by no replacement of the student worker. Staff costs were £71,174 in 2021.
- Groups and meetings expenditure was £11,153.
- Spend on buildings, equipment etc. was £45,645.
- Parish Share was as planned at £76,625.
- Gifts to supported organisations was on budget at £22,000.
- Overall expenditure was £242,900, versus a budget of £258,800, so an underspend of £15,900 or 6.1%

Overall, this resulted in a deficit of £21,978 in 2022 on unrestricted funds. This leaves cash in the bank at year end of £42,383 in the general account plus £35,654 in a designated building fund for St John's, so a total of £78,037.

Thus, the finances of The Bridge Benefice are in a weaker position at the end of 2022.

The Joint Council would like to thank all those who have given to the church bases in 2023. We are in a good financial position but would like to do more.

The expenditure in 2023 to keep the existing staff, recruit a new part time person to cover youth or student worker, maintain the existing rhythm of meetings and meet the costs of running the buildings is estimated at £270,000. Income in the first quarter of 2023 is tracking at c£225,000. The reserves will not cover that deficit of £45,000, so please stand with us in faith and prayer that resources will flow in to allow the church to flourish.

Jeff Smailes

ELECTORAL ROLLS REPORT

During the year January 2022 to December 2022 the two parishes of St Stephen's and St John's combined as the Bridge Benefice, so the electoral rolls for both these churches currently sit separately.

So over the year, St John's started the year with 117 people and ended the year with 118. St Stephen's started the year with 40 and ended the year with 37. The combined numbers for the Bridge Benefice is an increase of - from 153 to 151.

DEANERY REPORT

2022 saw a change of Area Dean as David Hammond stepped into the role. With this there's been a shift of focus to praying and sharing, focussing on building relationships and building one another up across the churches.

Charity registration number 1129017

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	D Hammond	
	J Smailes	
	T Hickinbottom	
	M Jermyn	
	J Martin	
	L Dawson	
	S Ashelby	
	A Mahtani	
	A Smith	
	J Sayer	
	M Robinson	
	E Gilmour	(Appointed 30 September 2022)
	C Hammond	(Appointed 1 July 2022)
Charity number	1129017	
Independent examiner	Azets Audit Services	
	3Mc Middlemarch Business Park	
	Siskin Drive	
	Coventry	
	United Kingdom	
	CV3 4FJ	

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

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Balance sheet	6
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JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

JOINT COUNCIL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

The Trustees presents its report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2022.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the Charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)".

Objectives and activities

Objectives and Aims

The Primary objective of the Joint Council is to co-operate with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church; pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The Joint Council excercises all the functions of the PCC's of the parishes of Westwood and Canley, which went into abeyance when the Jount Council was created.

Public Benefit

The Joint Council have had due regard to guidance published by the Charity Commission on public benefit and consider that the charity complies with the requirements

Volunteers

The Joint Council, would like to thank all staff, volunteers and supporters, without whose efforts the work of the charity would not be possible

JOINT COUNCIL REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Achievements and performance

Charitable activities

The Joint Council of the Bridge Benefice, Coventry has now been in operation for 25 months. The Charity Commission has sanctioned that the existing charity registration of St John's can be re-named 'The Bridge Benefice Coventry' whilst keeping the existing charity number. The accounts of the two Parishes of St John's Westwood and St Stephen's Canley were transferred to the Joint Council on 1st January 2021 and this is the report of the combined accounts.

The newly formed Bridge Benefice was in deficit by £23,406 (all funds) at the end of 2022. During 2022 the Bridge returned to more 'normal' operations in the three bases of The Bridge, namely St John's Westwood, St Stephen's Canley and Trinity Burton Green. There were (unrestricted funds only): -

- In comparison to the forecast budget income the following changes occurred: -
- Planned giving was £172,980 which was below the budget of £180,250 (96% of budget)
- Gift Aid at £36,297.
- Trading activities of Occasional Offices, room hire and Car park rental, totalled £12,269, £3,759 or 44.2% ahead of their combined budget.
- Overall income at £221,888, was £9,112 or 3.9% below planned budget income.
- In comparison to the forecast budget expenditure the following changes occurred: -
- The cost of staff was £88,443 (9.0%) below the budget of £97,200 by £8,757, driven by a replacement for the student worker not being recruited. Staff costs were £71,174 in 2021.
- Groups and meetings expenditure was £11,153. The budget was £17,000, so an underspend of £5,847. However, spend was up from £6,932 in 2021 as services and meetings were back to pre-pandemic levels.
- Spend on buildings, equipment etc was £46,645, versus the budget of £43,250.
- Parish Share was as planned at £76,625.
- Gifts to supported organisations was on budget at £22,000.
- Overall expenditure was £243,865, versus a budget of £258,800, so an underspend of £14,935 or 5.8%.
- Overall, this resulted in a deficit of £21,978 in 2022 on unrestricted funds. This leaves cash in the bank at year end of £100,221.
- Thus, the finances of The Bridge Benefice are in a weaker position at the end of 2022 with the unrestricted and undesignated funds representing 17.4% of the turnover in 2022 which is above the target range of 10% to 15%.

To grow the continuing work of the church, as we hope to do, we need to encourage some further increases in regular giving

The buildings at both St Stephen's and St John's require investment

- At St John's the outcome of the 2020 Quinquennial inspection will require major investment in the fabric of the church building, initially a new flat roof (estimated c£60,000) followed before 2025 of a new roof for the main church building plus associated add-ons. This is yet to be costed but likely to be over £400,000. Funds set aside already to pay some of the cost, and we are investigating possibilities for receiving Grant Aid, for the work.
- At St Stephen's an initial consultation has taken place on the possibility of working with the Canley Community Centre to build a new building which is both a church and a community centre. Further preparatory work will commence in 2023.

God's generosity and blessings are again recognised by the Joint Council as He continues to grow His work, and we continue to seek His will to further develop and grow His kingdom through His churches St John's Westwood, St Stephen's Canley and Trinity Burton Green.

Financial review

The charity has a reserves policy to maintain reserves to a level where adequate working capital is available, but not to allow excessive reserves being maintained or for funds to go into deficit. The total amount of reserves held at the year end amounted to £104,822.

The results for the year are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities. The year-end position is shown in the balance sheet.

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which they are exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

Structure, governance and management
Governing Document

The Joint Council's governing documents are the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956, as amended, and the Church Representation Rule (which are contained in Schedule 3 to the Synodical Government Measure 1969, as amended), A scheme made in November 2020 under section M38 of the Church Representation Rules modified how the Rules apply in the Bridge Benefice and created the Joint Council.

The members of the Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

D Hammond
J Smailes
T Hickinbottom
M Jermyn
J Martin
L Dawson
S Ashelby
A Mahtani
A Smith
J Sayer
M Robinson
E Gilmour (Appointed 30 September 2022)
C Hammond (Appointed 1 July 2022)

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees
The membership of the Joint Council is set by the Church Representation Rule, as modified by the 2020 scheme.

Organisational Structure
Decisions made in formal Joint Council meetings are communicated to staff who perform direct and administrative roles and overseen by the Joint Council.

Commencement of Activities

The charity registered with the Charity Commission on 6th April 2009.

Approved by order of the board of the Joint Council on .....
and signed on its behalf by:

.....
D Hammond

Dated: 13/3/23

.....
J Smailes

Dated: 13/3/23

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Joint Council of The Bridge Benefice, Coventry for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act).

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

Independent examiner's statement

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared financial statements in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn.

I understand that this has been done in order for financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

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 that in any material respect:

1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or

2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or

3 the financial statements 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 financial statements to be reached.

Robert Anderson FCA
Azets Audit Services

3Mc Middlemarch Business Park
Siskin Drive
Coventry
CV3 4FJ
United Kingdom

Dated: 13/3/23

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	3	209,519	20,698	230,217	220,387	11,593	231,980
Charitable activities	4	12,269	1,184	13,453	10,587	1,903	12,490
Other Income	5	100	-	100	9,294	26,792	36,086
Investments	6	-	75	75	-	268	268
Total income		221,888	21,957	243,845	240,268	40,556	280,824
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	7	243,865	23,386	267,251	216,634	26,404	243,038
Gross transfers between funds		-	-	-	(2,417)	2,417	-
Net (expenditure)/income for the year/ Net movement in funds		(21,977)	(1,429)	(23,406)	21,217	16,569	37,786
Fund balances at 1 January 2022		100,014	28,215	128,229	78,797	11,646	90,443
Fund balances at 31 December 2022		78,037	26,786	104,823	100,014	28,215	128,229

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Notes	2022 £	£	2021 £	£
Current assets					
Debtors	11	11,586		11,077	
Cash at bank and in hand		100,221		120,890	
		111,807		131,967	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	(6,984)		(3,738)	
Net current assets			104,823		128,229
Income funds					
Restricted funds	13		26,786		28,215
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds	14	35,654		36,181	
General unrestricted funds		42,383		63,833	
			78,037		100,014
			104,823		128,229

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on .....

15/3/23

D Hammond
Trustee

13/3/23

J Smailes
Trustee

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Joint Council of The Bridge Benefice, Coventry is an unincorporated charity registered in England

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charity's [governing document], the Charities Act 2011, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019). The Charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The Charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements 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 the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, [modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value]. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees has a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the Charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the Charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the Charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the Charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.5 Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

1.6 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.7 Financial instruments

The Charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the Charity's balance sheet when the Charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the Charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.8 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the Charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.9 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies, the Trustees is required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	**Restricted funds**	**Total**	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2022	**2022**	**2022**	2021	2021	2021
	£	**£**	**£**	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	209,519	20,698	230,217	220,387	11,593	231,980

4 Charitable activities

	Other Trading Activities 2022	**Other Trading Activities 2021**
	£	**£**
Parochial Fee Income	2,682	4,430
Car Park Rental Income	6,811	6,895
Room Hire Income	3,960	1,165
	13,453	12,490
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	12,269	10,587
Restricted funds	1,184	1,903
	13,453	12,490

5 Other Income

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2022	2021	2021	2021
	£	£	£	£
Building repair fund	100	9,294	26,792	36,086

The other income relates to the funds introduced by the acquisition of the St Stephens Church into the charity

6 Investments

	Restricted funds	Restricted funds
	2022	2021
	£	£
Interest receivable	75	268

7 Charitable activities

	Charitable Activities 2022 £	Charitable Activities 2021 £
Staff costs	80,323	65,273
Staffing Costs - Clergy Expenses	6,370	6,014
Staffing Costs - Training	1,820	2,434
Staffing Costs - Other	(71)	(1,773)
Furlough Scheme Grants	-	(772)
Groups & Meetings	11,153	6,643
Buildings, Finance & Administration	52,380	46,003
Diocesan Payments	76,625	72,500
Supported Organisations	22,000	32,290
Charitable Activities	14,851	12,886
	265,451	241,498
Share of governance costs (see note 8)	1,800	1,540
	267,251	243,038
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	243,865	216,634
Restricted funds	23,386	26,404
	267,251	243,038

8 Support costs

	Support costs £	Governance costs £	2022 £	Support costs £	Governance costs £	2021 £
Examiners fees	-	1,800	1,800	-	1,540	1,540
	-	1,800	1,800	-	1,540	1,540
Analysed between						
Charitable activities	-	1,800	1,800	-	1,540	1,540

Governance costs includes payments to the examiners of £1,800 (2021: £1,540) for examination fees.

9 Trustees

Trustee remuneration and benefits

Jeff Smailes was office administrator and Joint Council Treasurer in 2022 and received £122 and received no pension contributions. The Clergy received in total £6,372 in expenses, David Hammond was paid £3,600, Sarah Ashelby £1,572, Ann Peachey £300, Erin Gilmour £300 and Caroline Hammond £600. No other member of the Joint Council received any remuneration, either directly or indirectly.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year to 31 December 2022, nor for the year to 31 December 2021.

10 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2022 Number	2021 Number
	3	3

Employment costs	2022 £	2021 £
Wages and salaries	75,469	60,970
Social security costs	2,721	2,320
Other pension costs	2,133	1,983
	80,323	65,273

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

11 Debtors

Amounts falling due within one year:	2022 £	2021 £
Trade debtors	874	91
Other debtors	8,997	9,648
Prepayments and accrued income	1,715	1,338
	11,586	11,077

12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade creditors	3,192	1,242
Accruals and deferred income	3,792	2,496
	6,984	3,738

13 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

		Movement in funds					Movement in funds		
	Balance at 1 January 2021	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Revaluations, gains and losses	1 Balance at January 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Balance at 31 December 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Bridge Fund for Childrens Work	739	-	(739)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Church Growth in Deprived Areas (St Stephens)	-	-	-	2,417	-	2,417	-	-	2,417
Church Live Development Fund	1,149	-	-	-	-	1,149	-	-	1,149
Co-ordinated Care Fund	1,533	474	(484)	-	-	1,523	328	(995)	856
Funeral Deposits	228	-	-	-	-	228	-	-	228
Honest to God	2,437	-	-	-	-	2,437	-	-	2,437
Kx Midlands Development Fund	1,730	-	(900)	-	-	830	-	-	830
Mission to Children	-	104	-	-	-	104	15	-	119
Garden of Hope	3,468	100	(3,097)	-	-	471	1,851	(2,112)	210
St Stephens Building Fund	-	27,060	(8,406)	-	-	18,654	75	(8,535)	10,194
Trinity Room Carpet Fund	362	40	-	-	-	402	221	-	623
Collection for Specific Purposes	-	104	(104)	-	-	-	304	(304)	-
Vicars DIscretionary Fund	-	10,771	(10,771)	-	-	-	10,256	(10,256)	-
Parochial Fees Owed to DBF	-	1,903	(1,903)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Youth & Student Work	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,723	-	1,723
Investment Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,000	-	6,000
	11,646	40,556	(26,404)	2,417	-	28,215	20,773	(22,202)	26,786

14 Designated funds

The income funds of the charity include the following designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes:

				Movement in funds		
	Balance at 1 January 2021	Resources expended	Balance at 1 January 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Balance at 31 December 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Building Repair Provision Fund	40,048	(3,867)	36,181	100	(627)	35,654
	40,048	(3,867)	36,181	100	(627)	35,654

15 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2022	Restricted funds 2022	Total 2022	Unrestricted funds 2021	Restricted funds 2021	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 December 2022 are represented by:						
Current assets/(liabilities)	78,037	26,786	104,823	100,014	28,215	128,229
	78,037	26,786	104,823	100,014	28,215	128,229

16 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2021 - none).

Charity registration number 1129017

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	D Hammond	
	J Smailes	
	T Hickinbottom	
	M Jermyn	
	J Martin	
	L Dawson	
	S Ashelby	
	A Mahtani	
	A Smith	
	J Sayer	
	M Robinson	
	E Gilmour	(Appointed 30 September 2022)
	C Hammond	(Appointed 1 July 2022)
Charity number	1129017	
Independent examiner	Azets Audit Services	
	3Mc Middlemarch Business Park	
	Siskin Drive	
	Coventry	
	United Kingdom	
	CV3 4FJ	

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

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Balance sheet	6
Notes to the financial statements	7 - 15

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

JOINT COUNCIL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

The Trustees presents its report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2022.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the Charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)".

Objectives and activities

Objectives and Aims

The Primary objective of the Joint Council is to co-operate with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church; pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The Joint Council excercises all the functions of the PCC's of the parishes of Westwood and Canley, which went into abeyance when the Jount Council was created.

Public Benefit

The Joint Council have had due regard to guidance published by the Charity Commission on public benefit and consider that the charity complies with the requirements

Volunteers

The Joint Council, would like to thank all staff, volunteers and supporters, without whose efforts the work of the charity would not be possible

JOINT COUNCIL REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Achievements and performance

Charitable activities

The Joint Council of the Bridge Benefice, Coventry has now been in operation for 25 months. The Charity Commission has sanctioned that the existing charity registration of St John's can be re-named 'The Bridge Benefice Coventry' whilst keeping the existing charity number. The accounts of the two Parishes of St John's Westwood and St Stephen's Canley were transferred to the Joint Council on 1st January 2021 and this is the report of the combined accounts.

The newly formed Bridge Benefice was in deficit by £23,406 (all funds) at the end of 2022. During 2022 the Bridge returned to more 'normal' operations in the three bases of The Bridge, namely St John's Westwood, St Stephen's Canley and Trinity Burton Green. There were (unrestricted funds only): -

- In comparison to the forecast budget income the following changes occurred: -
- Planned giving was £172,980 which was below the budget of £180,250 (96% of budget)
- Gift Aid at £36,297.
- Trading activities of Occasional Offices, room hire and Car park rental, totalled £12,269, £3,759 or 44.2% ahead of their combined budget.
- Overall income at £221,888, was £9,112 or 3.9% below planned budget income.
- In comparison to the forecast budget expenditure the following changes occurred: -
- The cost of staff was £88,443 (9.0%) below the budget of £97,200 by £8,757, driven by a replacement for the student worker not being recruited. Staff costs were £71,174 in 2021.
- Groups and meetings expenditure was £11,153. The budget was £17,000, so an underspend of £5,847. However, spend was up from £6,932 in 2021 as services and meetings were back to pre-pandemic levels.
- Spend on buildings, equipment etc was £46,645, versus the budget of £43,250.
- Parish Share was as planned at £76,625.
- Gifts to supported organisations was on budget at £22,000.
- Overall expenditure was £243,865, versus a budget of £258,800, so an underspend of £14,935 or 5.8%.
- Overall, this resulted in a deficit of £21,978 in 2022 on unrestricted funds. This leaves cash in the bank at year end of £100,221.
- Thus, the finances of The Bridge Benefice are in a weaker position at the end of 2022 with the unrestricted and undesignated funds representing 17.4% of the turnover in 2022 which is above the target range of 10% to 15%.

To grow the continuing work of the church, as we hope to do, we need to encourage some further increases in regular giving

The buildings at both St Stephen's and St John's require investment

- At St John's the outcome of the 2020 Quinquennial inspection will require major investment in the fabric of the church building, initially a new flat roof (estimated c£60,000) followed before 2025 of a new roof for the main church building plus associated add-ons. This is yet to be costed but likely to be over £400,000. Funds set aside already to pay some of the cost, and we are investigating possibilities for receiving Grant Aid, for the work.
- At St Stephen's an initial consultation has taken place on the possibility of working with the Canley Community Centre to build a new building which is both a church and a community centre. Further preparatory work will commence in 2023.

God's generosity and blessings are again recognised by the Joint Council as He continues to grow His work, and we continue to seek His will to further develop and grow His kingdom through His churches St John's Westwood, St Stephen's Canley and Trinity Burton Green.

Financial review

The charity has a reserves policy to maintain reserves to a level where adequate working capital is available, but not to allow excessive reserves being maintained or for funds to go into deficit. The total amount of reserves held at the year end amounted to £104,822.

The results for the year are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities. The year-end position is shown in the balance sheet.

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which they are exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

Structure, governance and management
Governing Document

The Joint Council's governing documents are the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956, as amended, and the Church Representation Rule (which are contained in Schedule 3 to the Synodical Government Measure 1969, as amended), A scheme made in November 2020 under section M38 of the Church Representation Rules modified how the Rules apply in the Bridge Benefice and created the Joint Council.

The members of the Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

D Hammond
J Smailes
T Hickinbottom
M Jermyn
J Martin
L Dawson
S Ashelby
A Mahtani
A Smith
J Sayer
M Robinson
E Gilmour (Appointed 30 September 2022)
C Hammond (Appointed 1 July 2022)

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees
The membership of the Joint Council is set by the Church Representation Rule, as modified by the 2020 scheme.

Organisational Structure
Decisions made in formal Joint Council meetings are communicated to staff who perform direct and administrative roles and overseen by the Joint Council.

Commencement of Activities

The charity registered with the Charity Commission on 6th April 2009.

Approved by order of the board of the Joint Council on .....
and signed on its behalf by:

.....
D Hammond

Dated: 13/3/23

.....
J Smailes

Dated: 13/3/23

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Joint Council of The Bridge Benefice, Coventry for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act).

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

Independent examiner's statement

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared financial statements in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn.

I understand that this has been done in order for financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

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 that in any material respect:

1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or

2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or

3 the financial statements 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 financial statements to be reached.

Robert Anderson FCA
Azets Audit Services

3Mc Middlemarch Business Park
Siskin Drive
Coventry
CV3 4FJ
United Kingdom

Dated: 13/3/23

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	3	209,519	20,698	230,217	220,387	11,593	231,980
Charitable activities	4	12,269	1,184	13,453	10,587	1,903	12,490
Other Income	5	100	-	100	9,294	26,792	36,086
Investments	6	-	75	75	-	268	268
Total income		221,888	21,957	243,845	240,268	40,556	280,824
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	7	243,865	23,386	267,251	216,634	26,404	243,038
Gross transfers between funds		-	-	-	(2,417)	2,417	-
Net (expenditure)/income for the year/ Net movement in funds		(21,977)	(1,429)	(23,406)	21,217	16,569	37,786
Fund balances at 1 January 2022		100,014	28,215	128,229	78,797	11,646	90,443
Fund balances at 31 December 2022		78,037	26,786	104,823	100,014	28,215	128,229

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Notes	2022 £	£	2021 £	£
Current assets					
Debtors	11	11,586		11,077	
Cash at bank and in hand		100,221		120,890	
		111,807		131,967	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	(6,984)		(3,738)	
Net current assets			104,823		128,229
Income funds					
Restricted funds	13		26,786		28,215
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds	14	35,654		36,181	
General unrestricted funds		42,383		63,833	
			78,037		100,014
			104,823		128,229

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on .....

15/3/23

D Hammond
Trustee

13/3/23

J Smailes
Trustee

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Joint Council of The Bridge Benefice, Coventry is an unincorporated charity registered in England

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charity's [governing document], the Charities Act 2011, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019). The Charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The Charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements 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 the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, [modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value]. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees has a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the Charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the Charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the Charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the Charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.5 Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

1.6 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.7 Financial instruments

The Charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the Charity's balance sheet when the Charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the Charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.8 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the Charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.9 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies, the Trustees is required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	**Restricted funds**	**Total**	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2022	**2022**	**2022**	2021	2021	2021
	£	**£**	**£**	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	209,519	20,698	230,217	220,387	11,593	231,980

4 Charitable activities

	Other Trading Activities 2022	**Other Trading Activities 2021**
	£	**£**
Parochial Fee Income	2,682	4,430
Car Park Rental Income	6,811	6,895
Room Hire Income	3,960	1,165
	13,453	12,490
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	12,269	10,587
Restricted funds	1,184	1,903
	13,453	12,490

5 Other Income

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2022	2021	2021	2021
	£	£	£	£
Building repair fund	100	9,294	26,792	36,086

The other income relates to the funds introduced by the acquisition of the St Stephens Church into the charity

6 Investments

	Restricted funds	Restricted funds
	2022	2021
	£	£
Interest receivable	75	268

7 Charitable activities

	Charitable Activities 2022 £	Charitable Activities 2021 £
Staff costs	80,323	65,273
Staffing Costs - Clergy Expenses	6,370	6,014
Staffing Costs - Training	1,820	2,434
Staffing Costs - Other	(71)	(1,773)
Furlough Scheme Grants	-	(772)
Groups & Meetings	11,153	6,643
Buildings, Finance & Administration	52,380	46,003
Diocesan Payments	76,625	72,500
Supported Organisations	22,000	32,290
Charitable Activities	14,851	12,886
	265,451	241,498
Share of governance costs (see note 8)	1,800	1,540
	267,251	243,038
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	243,865	216,634
Restricted funds	23,386	26,404
	267,251	243,038

8 Support costs

	Support costs £	Governance costs £	2022 £	Support costs £	Governance costs £	2021 £
Examiners fees	-	1,800	1,800	-	1,540	1,540
	-	1,800	1,800	-	1,540	1,540
Analysed between						
Charitable activities	-	1,800	1,800	-	1,540	1,540

Governance costs includes payments to the examiners of £1,800 (2021: £1,540) for examination fees.

9 Trustees

Trustee remuneration and benefits

Jeff Smailes was office administrator and Joint Council Treasurer in 2022 and received £122 and received no pension contributions. The Clergy received in total £6,372 in expenses, David Hammond was paid £3,600, Sarah Ashelby £1,572, Ann Peachey £300, Erin Gilmour £300 and Caroline Hammond £600. No other member of the Joint Council received any remuneration, either directly or indirectly.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year to 31 December 2022, nor for the year to 31 December 2021.

10 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2022 Number	2021 Number
	3	3

Employment costs	2022 £	2021 £
Wages and salaries	75,469	60,970
Social security costs	2,721	2,320
Other pension costs	2,133	1,983
	80,323	65,273

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

11 Debtors

Amounts falling due within one year:	2022 £	2021 £
Trade debtors	874	91
Other debtors	8,997	9,648
Prepayments and accrued income	1,715	1,338
	11,586	11,077

12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade creditors	3,192	1,242
Accruals and deferred income	3,792	2,496
	6,984	3,738

13 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

		Movement in funds					Movement in funds		
	Balance at 1 January 2021	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Revaluations, gains and losses	1 Balance at January 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Balance at 31 December 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Bridge Fund for Childrens Work	739	-	(739)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Church Growth in Deprived Areas (St Stephens)	-	-	-	2,417	-	2,417	-	-	2,417
Church Live Development Fund	1,149	-	-	-	-	1,149	-	-	1,149
Co-ordinated Care Fund	1,533	474	(484)	-	-	1,523	328	(995)	856
Funeral Deposits	228	-	-	-	-	228	-	-	228
Honest to God	2,437	-	-	-	-	2,437	-	-	2,437
Kx Midlands Development Fund	1,730	-	(900)	-	-	830	-	-	830
Mission to Children	-	104	-	-	-	104	15	-	119
Garden of Hope	3,468	100	(3,097)	-	-	471	1,851	(2,112)	210
St Stephens Building Fund	-	27,060	(8,406)	-	-	18,654	75	(8,535)	10,194
Trinity Room Carpet Fund	362	40	-	-	-	402	221	-	623
Collection for Specific Purposes	-	104	(104)	-	-	-	304	(304)	-
Vicars DIscretionary Fund	-	10,771	(10,771)	-	-	-	10,256	(10,256)	-
Parochial Fees Owed to DBF	-	1,903	(1,903)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Youth & Student Work	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,723	-	1,723
Investment Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,000	-	6,000
	11,646	40,556	(26,404)	2,417	-	28,215	20,773	(22,202)	26,786

14 Designated funds

The income funds of the charity include the following designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes:

				Movement in funds		
	Balance at 1 January 2021	Resources expended	Balance at 1 January 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Balance at 31 December 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Building Repair Provision Fund	40,048	(3,867)	36,181	100	(627)	35,654
	40,048	(3,867)	36,181	100	(627)	35,654

15 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2022	Restricted funds 2022	Total 2022	Unrestricted funds 2021	Restricted funds 2021	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 December 2022 are represented by:						
Current assets/(liabilities)	78,037	26,786	104,823	100,014	28,215	128,229
	78,037	26,786	104,823	100,014	28,215	128,229

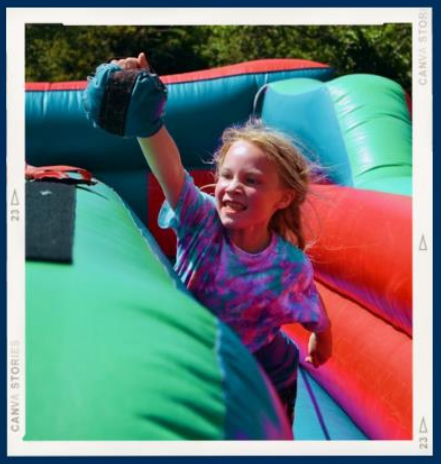
16 Related party transactions

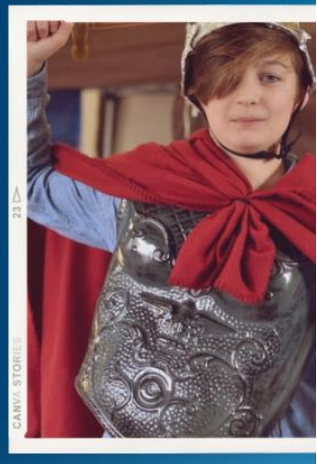
There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2021 - none).

THE JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

England & Wales - Charity number 1129017

Accounts





ANNUAL REPORT 2021

THE BRIDGE

Vicar's Letter

As APCM's have crept later in the year the fact that we report on Jan-Dec 2021 seems hard to process. My own journey of 2021 was not one I wish to relive, but I will always be healthier for it. It was a hard year for many of us but also a year of grace, mercy and new birth.

A year when many of us, certainly I, came face to face with our own inner selves through the crucible of lockdowns and pressurised decision making. The pandemic has been shaking, (Hebrews 12:26-29) exposing cracks and exhibiting strong foundations. This means we need humility about our view of God, ourselves and our relationships as we move forward and rebuild in a new landscape. We also can be confident in a loving Father, a trusted friend and a constant companion who is and was with us through it all. Many of those we know are coming to terms with life in 2022 without the God who makes a difference to our lives**. The confidence we have in God and the humility He is growing in us will set us up well to share Jesus with those we know, love and pray for.**

Like most churches we are returning to health. Sundays are returning to their pre-pandemic places, but still a little short in volunteers, spark and numbers. In Canley there are good things happening in the week and a growing fringe. Our churches have good numbers of children but we are in need of a plan for growth amongst youth. St John's has quite a few events coming online or continuing which need to be linked up missionally. We hope that this will be done everywhere through the "Four C's".

You will all have heard of this exciting reorganisation of missional communities into smaller Connect or Contact groups whilst retaining the midsized group monthly known as Communities. This transition will be slow and steady but brings hope of a creative new life.

We are looking forward to revitalisation of our Sunday's for a new season in every base. I have no specific plan in mind, but know that the Holy Spirit is stirring; As we emphasise that every size of group is equally valid as church we need to re-envision the meaning and reinstate the value of Sunday. Taking on board all we have learned through the pandemic and asking God to guide.

We always say thank you to many people, but this year the number is smaller and the debt of thanks greater. Small brave teams of people did so much to make mission, discipleship, services, events, buildings and admin work in extreme circumstances. **We're so grateful to you all who give your time so freely and generously.**

The staff team is a fantastic one. The number of staff paid by the church can look plentiful, but equates to 3 full time posts as everyone is part time. Curates have much training to do alongside their parish roles.

Rev'd Ann Peachey moving to take on the next door parishes is such a mixture of blessing and loss. Ann and Will have been a wonderful team at St John's and we are hugely in their debt. We knew there would be a call to leadership and I'm so glad that it's so close, but we will miss them hugely.

Tatenda Munzara will also be a great loss, not just to his flock of students, but to many of us as his warmth, passion and prayerfulness have been a joy to share. It's been a pleasure to have him on the team.

The team is growing stronger (in hours), but we are somewhat held back until the new (full-time) Associate arrives (interview 15/6/22, arrival tbc) and we recruit a new student worker. Having the Holman Group offer to support us in communication both internal and in mission is exciting too.

Finance is a key issue at the moment. Our giving as a church has stayed at the same level for some time. All costs are up and we are working to increase our pay to our staff in the light of the cost of living crisis and our desire to be an exemplary employer.

We long to do more and especially do more for youth as our many children grow older.

We have employed two part time Children's Disciplers, 10hrs a week on a 12 month contract one in Canley and one in Westwood. This was possible for 2022 due to our reserves built up through prudence in 2020-21. We are looking at a gap in our budget for 2023 of over £10,000 and will not be able to continue to employ our staff unless we see an increase in the amount we all give. I'll be writing to all of you in more detail about this.

This is not worrying me, God has us and we can continue in any circumstance, but **it is time for us all to review our giving and give first to God**. Our family has given 10% of gross income to our church for the last 20 years and it has been a joyful journey to do so. I look forward to Caroline returning to paid employment so we can be more generous in taxation and giving.

The Bridge feels like it is moving forward from a difficult season with a realistic hope. We shall remain strong, but with faith and love there may be great times ahead. The world around us looks full of uncertainty, but we have already been pruned, we have reshaped for the future, we have been recognised by and will be invested by our diocesan leadership.

We may find ourselves amongst a world in difficult times still to come, and be the house built on the rock in which others can shelter and learn to build on the same foundation. Again, humility amongst those who struggle and taking a posture of a servant rather than a benefactor will be key, along with confidence in sharing the hope that we have.

I encourage you to be **people of parties, people of hospitality and people of prayer**. This is to be like Jesus, he had no home or income during his ministry but he was at every party, however dodgy the partygoers, he was unhurried with time for all and an invitation always forthcoming, he got up early and stayed up late to spend time with his Father.

Let's be increasingly like Jesus in these things, it's what he calls us to, what we need and what will transform and bless the community around us. Let's enjoy Him together and let that hope and joy be infectious.

David Hammond

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St Stephen's, Canley

Congregations

As has been said, much of the year was still mid-pandemic, although we had begun to learn how to continue connecting with each other and with God in our 'new normal.' I'm grateful to those who continued to lead, facilitate and engage in online services for much longer than any of us had foreseen or wanted! We continued to meet together frequently outdoors, enjoying many walks, picnics and garden get-togethers as both Communities and as a whole congregation.
We said thank you to a few people who stepped down from the Leadership team during the year (Gavin Irvine, Mike Ashelby, Anna Martin and Jonathan Martin) and welcomed a few new faces to the team. The Leadership team is currently Sarah Ashelby, Tom Hickinbottom, Hannah Irvine, Matt Jermyn, Debbie Rumsby and Laura Dawson. My thanks as always go to this team as well as the many people who either lead Communities or contribute faithfully to make Sunday services happen.

Communities

Our two Communities had been launched during 2020 in the height of lockdowns, so 2021 saw much enjoyment (and relief!) in being able to gather in person and begin to form deeper relationships and welcome others. One 2021 highlight was watching The Chosen tv series "together apart" - watching in our own homes, and then connecting via Zoom to discuss. We look forward to welcoming more people into our Communities, and organising ourselves into smaller groups who meet more frequently.

Events & Highlights

Particular highlights of the year were the Canley Big Lunch (in partnership with other local organisations and groups) where we gave away burgers and hot dogs and chatted with hundreds of local Canley people. Our first ever Easter trail and second Nativity trail were also both fantastic, giving us a great opportunity to tell the gospel stories in creative and inclusive ways. We joined in with New Wine from homes across Canley, and loved the New Wine service in St John's field with others from the Bridge.

In October the foodbank moved from the Family Centre into the main church, which has created a great opportunity for welcoming users and having good conversations. For Christmas 2021 we introduced a new service, "Caroloke", at which local residents and church members contributed dances, poems, jokes and songs alongside the usual bible readings and carols. It was a really special, moving and joyful experience and very popular. We also joyfully baptised both adults and children through 2021 and welcomed new people who had come to faith during the pandemic.

During the year, we made significant progress with exploring potential new building options with both the congregation, wider community in Canley and our architects APEC and we look forward to where this might go in 2022.

On a personal level it was brilliant to be able to take a few guests to the Cathedral and later celebrate together at my priesting ordination party on St John's field (and I'm sure I managed to beat David on the gladiator podiums!)

Children & Youth

There were, of course, challenges as we continued to try to be the Church during a pandemic. In particular, we have missed being able to run children's groups due to our restrictive building (and being unable to use the Family Centre). We have felt the value of our on-going commitment to worshipping together as an extended family, and enjoy our children and young people being with us, but also look forward to having greater capacity (building and volunteers) to have time in our age groups as well.

Overall, in much the same way as the year before it, 2021 seems like a year to look back with grateful hearts at God's goodness and faithfulness. I look back with a sense of 'being held' by God and feel excited now to look forward with fresh hope for what God may do amongst us next.

Sarah Ashelby

St John's, Westwood

Congregations

At St John's we started another year with restrictions and zoom meetings, and ended the year with Christmas services in person and things looking more like pre Covid. Although it was difficult to meet up, we still managed to grow and develop the teams, including the staff team – with Tatenda, our Media and Student worker joining us in June, and Alison, our Children's discipleship enabler starting in October. Jeff finished as Administrator with our thanks, and continued to bring lots of support in his other roles, including helping Ros, our new administrator settle in.

It's been very exciting to see the church family gaining in confidence together again, first outside in the garden, and then inside, masked and at a distance. The separation grew a sense of longing to be together and worship again – making a joyful noise to the Lord. We give thanks to God that the congregation steadily grew during the year, getting back towards pre-pandemic numbers, with the student group trebling. New people on teams – some leading worship, leading prayers and services, and preaching for the first time. We have had many new people come to St John's during 2021, some brand new Christians, and some from Alpha over the summer, which is a real blessing.
New styles of worship and services were tried out during the year – encouraging us to gather together in safe ways, particularly outside. We followed the example of the Forest Missional Community group to use the field as a safer space to gather to pray and worship, particularly over the Summer.

In September we launched a new style multi-generational service Breakfast Breakout church, with breakfast, then 20 minutes together, followed by 20 minutes activity which can be chosen on the day, from quiet meditation, to discussion. It's worked really well and has drawn in those who've struggled to get back to church or who are on the fringe, as it is welcoming, friendly and unthreatening.

Communities

Missional Communities and other groups have grown or finished their time together and merged with other groups. The leaders have met regularly for huddle and support, and gathered for training and refreshment in September. The Pastoral care team has continued offering love and support. Refresh Women's group met on zoom for the first part of 2021 and gathered together at St John's in December for their Christmas celebration.

Events & Highlights

As the year went on and restrictions eased we starting having baptisms and Weddings again. We're grateful to Rev Kathryn Hammond who joined us early on in the year, who coordinates. Kathryn led a Celebration of Life service in November, when all the families were invited to come to remember their loved ones who died recently.

Other highlights of the year include:

- Summer term Alpha on zoom and 'away day' together in church in June
- Sarah's ordination party in July on field – picnic and inflatables
- Digital New Wine on field followed by picnic
- Student work launch October
- An evangelistic Carol Service
- Popup Nativity
- Christmas Eve Midnight Holy Communion
- Christmas Day
-

We ended the year with a renewed purpose and confidence and joy at seeing what God is doing amongst us. It has been wonderful to see new ways of worshipping, with different members of our church family getting involved, for example the children leading our intercessions, students leading discussions, and our retired family members leading services and hosting students into their homes for meals. We've had babies born during the year, with baptisms and families growing in faith and number. There is so much to celebrate and thank God for. "Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love endures forever. Ps 107:1

Ann Peachey

Students

In June 2021, I (Tatenda) was welcomed as the new student worker, My hybrid role as a student worker and media officer involved the well-being and pastoral lead of the students. Joining in the summer, I established a regular student syllabus, with the help of Ann and Will Peachey.

This academic year, the student work restarted in-person with a launch of various social events that were designed to be invitational to new and returning students at Warwick and Coventry University. Strong relationships were built with Warwick Christian Union (CU), having regular 'Equip' meetings being hosted at St. John's Westwood - a notable mention was the CU summer ball and Wonder Festival also being facilitated with the church.

We saw an increase in both domestic and international students this year and a great amalgamation with each other. As it currently stands, we have fourteen students who call St. John's their place of worship and a lot of them regularly invite their non-christian friends and housemates to social events designed for the wider church and students.

In the autumn term, we started student bible study meetings called 'Tea & Theology' which are held on Thursdays. This space has been the source of many testimonies, including people learning to hear the voice of God and getting introduced to operating in the prophetic. Overall, the student life has grown and has been nurtured by amazing volunteers & contributors to events, like the Peacheys, Carolyn Howarth and our Children's Discipleship enabler, Alison Fry.

Tatenda Munzara

Children & Youth

During the summer months, Forest MC continued to have sessions on the field. Once a month they ran larger sessions which other family groups joined in. Since September we have started up our 0-5 group during Sunday Services. This is headed up by John Finlayson and has 6-12 children attend each session. From this group we have said goodbye to Michelle Robinson who has been a leader of this group for over the last 10 years and will be greatly missed.

Our 5-11 group was re-started up from October this year, and is led by myself (Alison Fry). We regularly have 14-22 children attending this group. This group has been able to make use of the Garden of Hope during sessions and have been able to run sessions outside as well as inside.

While there are no formal groups for the over 11+, each child in this age range is participating in some activity within the church, either in worship, sound desk or supporting the 0-5 group.

In October we had a light party at St John's, which was a great time for families to get together for fun and celebration of light as an alternative to the normal celebrations around that time.

In October I was employed as Children Discipleship Enabler, and have been working at getting the children Sunday groups up and running again and updating our children's policies and safeguarding.

We are grateful for the amazing support of Susie and Nick Romney, and of Debbie Rumsby who put on a spectacular pre-school nativity service despite all the chopping and changing of COVID policies leading up to the service.

Alison Fry

Trinity Church, Burton Green

Over the last year we have really enjoyed being able to meet together and worship together in person again. We often experience God's presence during our simple, intimate services each first Sunday of the month. We're glad to have restarted serving tea and coffee, helping everyone to feel welcome and comfortable.

We continue to meet together on the third Sunday of each month to go deeper in our relationships with each other and pray for Burton Green village.

As part of our ministry to the village, John serves as a Governor at Burton Green Primary School as a foundation governor. It is good to support the staff and help promote "Life in all its fullness" (the school vision) for the school community.

As a number of our congregation struggle with ill-health, it is good for us to be able to support each other. Looking forward, we're excited to spend more time with our local friends and neighbours, discern new ways of engaging and connecting with the community, and invite them on a journey of exploring faith. We wonder if God will use the opening of the new Village Hall to provide us with such opportunities.

John Finlayson

Garden of Hope

This time last year we were asking you to pray for planning permission for The Garden of Hope. As many of you will be aware, unfortunately, we were not awarded planning permission and initially this felt like a huge set back. However, with some adaptions to the original plans and creative thinking we developed a new plan that would not require planning permission.

Over the last year, with plenty of labour, love and donations, we have started to see the conversion of the field into a peaceful garden and meditation space. We now have two gazebos, a barefoot walk, a fire pit area, an arbour for quiet reflection, a cross, a labyrinth and lots of other developments that are beginning to transform the space. We have just started a coffee morning on Mondays which are open to all and hopefully from the summer we will be able to run retreats in the garden too.
We are now taking bookings for church groups to use it so please do get in touch if you would like to use the space. Email: thegardenofhope@thebridgecoventry.org

If you would like to support the project, you can do so by:

- Monthly financial contributions (or one off) – use the normal church bank details but reference 'The Garden of Hope.'
- Prayer – for team, resources and mission.
- Join the small team!

Caroline Hammond

Staffing Report

2021 was a year that included lots of change and the opportunity to implement the delayed plans of the past couple of years. Some key things to know about our staff team:

- Our staff work hard and are generous with their gifts and skills
- All our staff (not including our Vicar and Curate) are part time, and most work less than 12 hours a week.
- The staff employed by the Joint Council equate to 3 full-time members of staff. The opportunity to sustain and grow our ministry staff team (whether in hours or persons) is dependent on your giving.

At the beginning of the year of 2021, I (Sarah Packwood) joined the team as Operations Minister. Over the first few months I worked with the Joint Council to start a recruitment process firstly for filling the gap for communications and also student work. We had not intended to create a job that was blended with both these areas but the right candidate for both Media Officer and Student Worker was Tatenda Munzara who joined the team in June. A lot of the year, time, energy and primarily prayer was poured into the recruitment of our Children's Discipleship Enablers. It took time, conversation and patience to create the right roles in the right timing. We created roles that brought the wisdom and DNA of Kidz Klub into the aspiration and vision of the future as the charity itself ceased operations. We recruited Alison Fry for St John's and later Anna Martin who would start in the first quarter of 2022. These are 12 month contracts that with your increased giving we hope to extend.

As the year closed we said goodbye to Jeff Smailes as a staff member who had been a key player in the pandemic and transition of staff during 2020 and 2021. We also recruited Ros Ginn as St John's Church Administrator to begin at the start of 2022.

During 2022 we will be saying;

- a goodbye to Ann Peachey as Associate Minister at St John's,
- a hello to Caroline Hammond as Curate at The Bridge,
- a goodbye to Tatenda Munzara as our Student Worker and Media Officer
- a hello, we hope, to a new Student Worker and Associate Minister at St John's.

As we continue our journey in 2022;

- Celebrate with us those who have served across The Bridge and are moving on
- Welcome well those who will join our team,
- Pray for the health and wellbeing of staff,
- Pray for the Joint Council and Bridge Leadership Team as they make decisions
- Give for the sustainability and growth of our staff team.

Sarah Packwood

Safeguarding Report

In December 2021, I (Laura Dawson) was appointed as the new PSO for the Bridge Benefice. I would like to thank Jane Tranter and clergy who held this role prior to this as well as Sarah Packwood and Jenni Dunne who have both worked extremely hard in recent months.

- Safeguarding continues to be a key agenda item at the Joint Council and the leadership team have ensured that we are compliant with the Church of England's Promoting a Safer Church Policy. Over the past year, we have ensured that all volunteers are safely recruited, we have updated our reporting concerns policy and we have been working closely with the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisors when needed.
- Safeguarding training and DBS checks are largely up to date but please act quickly if you are asked to do either of these.
- In 2022, we are hoping to recruit Safeguarding Champions for each base as another point of contact for queries and concerns.

Laura Dawson

Joint Council Report

The purpose of the Joint Council is to work with the Vicar to advance the whole mission of the Church in the parishes of Canley and Westwood. The Joint Council is a registered charity, and its members are the charity's trustees. The current members of the Joint Council are: Clergy (ex-officio members: David Hammond (Vicar), Sarah Ashelby (Curate) and Ann Peachey (Associate Minister) and lay representatives:

Elected member	**Base**	**Member Base Term Ends**
Jan Sayer	Trinity	2022
Tom Hickinbottom	St Stephen's (Churchwarden)	2024
Jonathan Martin	St Stephen's	2024
Matt Jermyn	St Stephen's	2022
Laura Dawson	St Stephen's	2023
Arun Mathani	St John's (Churchwarden)	2022
Jeff Smailes	St John's	2023
Andrew Smith	St John's	2023
Michelle Robinson*	St John's	2024

*Appointed in October 2021 to fill a vacancy left after the APCM.

Four members are elected from Canley, four from St John's and one from Burton Green, and the elected members must include at least one Churchwarden from each parish. Members are elected for three years at a time, and three of the nine elected members will complete their three-year term each year. During 2021 the Joint Council met seven times. Topics discussed included: the proposal for the Bridge to become a Hub Church as part of the Diocesan strategy for resourcing new worshiping communities; work on St John's and St Stephen's church buildings; the proposal for a new building for St Stephen's; staff appointments; and structures for community life at the Bridge. Safeguarding and finances are standing items on the agenda.

Matt Jermyn

Financial Report

The Joint Council of the Bridge Benefice, Coventry has now been in operation for 13 months. The accounts of the two Parishes of St John's Westwood and St Stephen's Canley were transferred to the Joint Council on 1st January 2021. This is the first report of the combined accounts.

The comparisons are against the 2021 Budget rather than the prior year, as the prior year data is for St John's only. The summary below includes the restricted funds as appropriate.

The newly formed Bridge Benefice was in surplus by £37,786, this however, includes a one-off transfer of cash from St Stephen's of £36,086, so on a going year basis the surplus was £1,700.

During 2021 the COVID virus outbreak continued to have a significant impact on the day-to-day operation of the three bases of The Bridge with a subsequent knock-on effect on both the income and expenditure.

Income

- Planned giving was £176,627 which was £3,127 above budget.
- Gift Aid at £43,161 was also above budget by £4,661.
- Cash giving at services dropped to only £359, £2,141 below budget.
- Trading activities of Occasional Offices, room hire and Car park rental, totalled £10,587 – on budget.
- Overall income at £244,470, was £19,470 ahead of planned budget income.

Expenditure

- The cost of paying staff was £65,273 – below the budget by £11,727, driven by hires starting later than forecast.
- There was a small amount of furlough income of £772.
- Other staff costs were £3,496 below budget.
- Groups and meetings expenditure was £6,643, an underspend of £10,207.
- Spend on buildings, equipment etc was £46,003, over the budget by £5,353.
- Parish Share was as planned at £72,500
- Gifts to supported organisations was £32,290 over budget of £27,070 by £5,220. This includes giving via restricted funds.
- Overall expenditure was £243,038, versus a budget of £245,500.

The finances of The Bridge Benefice are in a stronger position at the end of 2021 with unrestricted funds of £63,833, representing 29% of the turnover in 2021. To grow the continuing work of the church, we need to encourage some further increases in regular giving. The buildings at both St Stephen's and St John's require investment.

God's generosity and blessings are again recognised by the Joint Council as He continues to grow His work.

Jeff Smailes

Churchwarden's Report

Like for most people, 2021 was a year of start and stop for the church. For the wardens it was a year of interpreting guidelines and finding our way back to some form of normal worshipping patterns in our buildings whilst continuing our efforts to ensure everyone was able to connect with our communities and our corporate worship.

We are so very blessed to have such a wonderful clergy and staff team who have worked tirelessly to find new ways of ministering, new ways of helping our communities to gather and new ways to reach out to those around us.

At Stephen's we had church picnics and prayer walks, new missional communities were formed and fantastic outreach events were held. We served hundreds of hot dogs and burgers at the Canley Big Lunch which was perhaps the first taste of normal life returning for the church. Our nativity trail was well attended by local residents who walked the streets of Canley following the story of Jesus' birth.

At St John's we experimented with a new format of service: 'Breakfast Breakout' church, aiming to provide a range of expressions of gathered church that were suitable for all ages and stages after spending some time fellowshipping together. We were also pleased to welcome Alison Fry to the staff team as our Children's Discipleship Enabler and are excited to see how she continues to develop the work she had been doing in a previously voluntary capacity.
We would like to thank all who have given so much in support of the life of the church this year whether that be in the visible or the invisible work.

As always we want to give particular thanks to our clergy and staff team who have undertaken a marathon of planning and preparation all whilst leading us through another turbulent year.

We look forward to 2022 being a year of rejoicing in God's favour and blessing knowing that He is our provider and our restorer in both the hard times and the good times.

Tom, Arun and Hannah

Fabric Reports

St Stephen's, Canley

This year was a quinquennial inspection year for St Stephen's. The report highlighted a number of areas that require attention. A programme of works was started to rectify these.

The church started working with APEC architects in combination with the Canley Community Centre to explore what a new building for both organisations would need. This included engagement exercises with both the St Stephen's congregation and the community at large. We look forward to the outcome of this work in 2022.

St John's, Westwood

The St John's 2020 Quinquennial Inspection took place in February 2020 and resulted in a number of urgent actions. There were two main areas

- a new flat roof (estimated c£60,000)
    - architects have been engaged to prepare the drawings/plans for the
    - Faculty & quoting process
    - the process of obtaining the Faculty approval is in progress
    - the quoting process should start in May/June
    - there is £36,000 in the designated building fund to part fund this. Grant applications will be submitted once the costs are known
- to recover the pitched roof to the main church building (which has reached the end of its effective life) by 2025, plus associated works and measures to help achieve the 'Net Zero' target. The aim is to substantially extend the life of the main church building and lower the environmental impact of running our church buildings
    - Plans to start the preparation work in the second half of 2022
    - Grant funding will be sought to help meet the cost of the roof

In the meantime, several smaller maintenance activities have taken place

- Cleaning the main roof gutters
- Repairing the dip in the path outside the Trinity Room
- Updating the live streaming equipment
- Keeping the grounds presentable through working parties & other actions.
- A report on the condition of the electrical installation has been obtained and some updating and remedial works are required.

The QI report can be made available if people would like to read the recommendations in detail.
Should the church have aspirations for the future development of the church field, once the Garden of Hope project has come to an end, consideration needs to be given to whether representations should be made as part of Coventry City Council's Local Plan review, which is to start later this year.

Electoral Rolls Report

During the year January 2021 to December 2021 the two parishes of St Stephen's and St John's combined as the Bridge Benefice, so the electoral rolls for both these churches currently sit separately, though they will be combined in the near future.

After revisions, St John's started the year with 117 people and ended the year with 115; St Stephen's started the year with 39 and ended the year with 37. So the combined numbers for the Bridge Benefice is an overall decrease of four - from 156 to 152.

Deanery Report

The four Synod meetings last year included talks on Working Towards Net-Zero, Living in Love and Faith, and Deanery Plans; we also have had presentations from a different parish each meeting.

We have begun having meetings in person, and so visit a church in our deanery (or Kenilworth) each time.

The biggest item was accepting a deanery plan (as a working document) for the next 3 + years of clergy deployment. We are blessed in this deanery that the plan involves staying with current resourcing with current levels rather than merging more parishes (as has happened elsewhere); although this plan will be reviewed and go to PCCs for further consultation and potential amendments as our positions post-Covid become more clear.

This Annual Report is reflective of one benefice, two parishes and three congregations:

Charity Registration No. 1129017

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	D Hammond	
	J Smailes	
	T Hickinbottom	
	M Jermyn	
	J Martin	
	L Dawson	
	A Peachey	
	S Ashelby	
	A Mahtani	
	A Smith	
	J Sayer	
	M Robinson	(Appointed 5 October 2021)
Charity number	1129017	
Independent examiner	Azets Audit Services 3Mc Middlemarch Business Park Siskin Drive Coventry West Midlands United Kingdom CV3 4FJ	

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

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JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

JOINT COUNCIL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

The Trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2021.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the Charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)".

Objectives and activities

Objectives and Aims

The Primary objective of the Joint Council is to co-operate with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church; pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The Joint Council excercises all the functions of the PCC's of the parishes of Westwood and Canley, which went into abeyance when the Jount Council was created.

Public Benefit

The Joint Council have had due regard to guidance published by the Charity Commission on public benefit and consider that the charity complies with the requirements

Volunteers

The Joint Council, would like to thank all staff, volunteers and supporters, without whose efforts the work of the charity would not be possible

Achievements and performance

Charitable activities

The Joint Council of the Bridge Benefice, Coventry has now been in operation for 13 months. The Charity Commission has sanctioned that the existing charity registration of St John's can be re-named the 'The Bridge Benefice Coventry' whilst keeping the existing charity number. The accounts of the two Parishes of St John's Westwood and St Stephen's Canley were transferred to the Joint Council on 1st January 2021 and this is the first report of the combined accounts. The comparisons are against the 2021 Budget rather than prior year, as the prior year data is for St John's only.

The newly formed Bridge Benefice was in surplus by £37,786, this however, includes a one-off transfer of cash from St Stephen's of £36,086, so on a going year basis the surplus was £1,700. During 2021 the COVID virus outbreak continued to have a significant impact on the day-to-day operation of the three bases of The Bridge, namely St John's Westwood, St Stephen's Canley and Trinity Burton Green. There were: -

- There was a lockdown at the start of 2021 which coupled with other restrictions around meeting together in the church buildings, as well as in each other's homes impacted on the activity of the church with a subsequent knock-on effect on both the income and expenditure.
- In comparison to the forecast budget income the following changes occurred: -
- Planned giving was £176,627 which was £3,127 above budget
- Gift Aid at £43,161 was also above budget by £4,661
- Cash giving at services dropped to only £359, £2,141 below budget
- Trading activities of Occasional Offices, room hire and Car park rental, totalled £10,587, £87 ahead of their combined budget
- Overall income at £244,470, was £19,470 ahead of planned budget income, which is a testament to the commitment of the members of the Bridge benefice.
- In comparison to the forecast budget expenditure the following changes occurred: -
- The cost of paying staff was £65,273 – below the budget by £11,727, driven by hires starting later than forecast.
- There was a small amount of furlough income of £772 – the cleaner was furloughed in lockdowns.
- There was virtually no income from staff charge out, just £80
- Other staff costs were £3,496 below budget.
- Groups and meetings expenditure was £6,643 – meetings just did not happen. The budget was £16,850, so an underspend of £10,207
- Spend on buildings, equipment etc was £46,003, over the budget of £40,650 by £5,353
- Parish Share was as planned at £72,500
- Gifts to supported organisations was £32,290 over budget of £27,070 by £5,220
- Overall expenditure was £243,038, versus a budget of £245,500
- Overall, this resulted in a surplus of £37,786 in 2021.
- Thus, the finances of The Bridge Benefice are in a stronger position at the end of 2021 with unrestricted funds of £63,833, representing 29% of the turnover in 2021 which is above the target range of 10% to 15%.

To grow the continuing work of the church, as we hope to do, we need to encourage some further increases in regular giving

The buildings at both St Stephen's and St John's require investment

- At St John's the outcome of the 2020 Quinquennial inspection will require major investment in the fabric of the church building, initially a new flat roof (estimated c£60,000) followed before 2025 of a new roof for the main church building plus associated add-ons. This is yet to be costed but likely to be over £400,000. Funds set aside already to pay some of the cost, and we are investigating possibilities for receiving Grant Aid, for the work.
- At St Stephen's an initial consultation has taken place on the possibility of working with the Canley Community Centre to build a new building which is both a church and a community centre. Further preparatory work will commence in 2022.

There has been investment made in new staff in 2021, the Bridge Benefice has recruited

- Sarah Packwood as Operations Manager – January 2021
- Tatenda Munzara as student and communication officer – July 2021
- Alison Fry as Children's Discipleship Enabler St John's – October 2021
- Anna Martin as Children's Discipleship Enabler St Stephen's – January 2022
- Ros Ginn replaced Jeff Smailes as Administrator at St John's - January 2022

God's generosity and blessings are again recognised by the Joint Council as He continues to grow His work, and we continue to seek His will to further develop and grow His kingdom through His churches St John's Westwood, St Stephen's Canley and Trinity Burton Green.

Financial review

The charity has a reserves policy to maintain reserves to a level where adequate working capital is available, but not to allow excessive reserves being maintained or for funds to go into deficit. The total amount of reserves held at the year end amounted to £100,014.

The results for the year are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities, and the Trustees consider the results to be better than expected, especially with the pandemic. The year-end position is shown in the balance sheet.

The Trustees has assessed the major risks to which they are exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

Structure, governance and management
Governing Document

The Joint Council's governing documents are the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956, as amended, and the Church Representation Rule (which are contained in Schedule 3 to the Synodical Government Measure 1969, as amended), A scheme made in November 2020 under section M38 of the Church Representation Rules modified how the Rules apply in the Bridge Benefice and created the Joint Council.

The Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

D Hammond	
J Smailes	
T Hickinbottom	
M Jermyn	
J Martin	
L Dawson	
A Peachey	
S Ashelby	
E Robinson	(Resigned 23 May 2021)
A Mahtani	
J Finlayson	(Resigned 23 May 2021)
A Smith	
J Sayer	
M Robinson	(Appointed 5 October 2021)

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees
The membership of the Joint Council is set by the Church Representation Rule, as modified by the 2020 scheme.

Organisational Structure
Decisions made in formal Joint Council meetings are communicated to staff who perform direct and administrative roles and overseen by the Joint Council.

Commencement of Activities

The charity registered with the Charity Commission on 6th April 2009.

Approved by order of the board of the Joint Council on 5th April 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
Mr D Hammond

Dated: 5/4/22

.....
Mr J Smailes

Dated: 5/4/22

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Joint Council of The Bridge Benefice, Coventry for the year ended 31 December 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act).

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable 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 ACA, which is one of the listed bodies.

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared financial statements in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn.

I understand that this has been done in order for financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

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 that in any material respect:

1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3 the financial statements 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 financial statements to be reached.

Robert Anderson FCA
Azets Audit Services

3Mc Middlemarch Business Park
Siskin Drive
Coventry
West Midlands
CV3 4FJ
United Kingdom

Dated: 11/4/2022

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total 2020 £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	3	220,387	11,593	231,980	177,291	18,450	195,741
Charitable activities	4	10,587	1,903	12,490	12,146	-	12,146
Other Income	5	9,294	26,792	36,086	-	-	-
Investments	6	-	268	268	-	-	-
Total income		240,268	40,556	280,824	189,437	18,450	207,887
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	7	216,634	26,404	243,038	181,700	17,993	199,693
Net incoming resources before transfers		23,634	14,152	37,786	7,737	457	8,194
Gross transfers between funds		(2,417)	2,417	-	-	(29,112)	(29,112)
Net income/(expenditure) for the year/							
Net movement in funds		21,217	16,569	37,786	7,737	(28,655)	(20,918)
Fund balances at 1 January 2021		78,797	11,646	90,443	71,060	40,301	111,361
Fund balances at 31 December 2021		100,014	28,215	128,229	78,797	11,646	90,443

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Notes	2021 £	£	2020 £	£
Current assets					
Debtors	11	11,077		10,651	
Cash at bank and in hand		120,890		93,480	
		131,967		104,131	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	(3,738)		(13,688)	
Net current assets			128,229		90,443
Income funds					
Restricted funds	13		28,215		11,646
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds	14	36,181		40,048	
General unrestricted funds		63,833		38,749	
			100,014		78,797
			128,229		90,443

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 5th April 2022

Mr D Hammond
Trustee

Mr J Smailes
Trustee

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Joint Council of The Bridge Benefice, Coventry is an unincorporated charity registered in England

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charity's [governing document], the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The Charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The Charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements 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 the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the Charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the Charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the Charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the Charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.5 Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

1.6 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.7 Financial instruments

The Charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the Charity's balance sheet when the Charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the Charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.8 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the Charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.9 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	**Restricted funds**	**Total**	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2021	**2021**	**2021**	2020	2020	2020
	£	**£**	**£**	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	220,387	11,593	231,980	177,291	18,450	195,741

4 Charitable activities

	Other Trading Activities 2021 £	Other Trading Activities 2020 £
Parochial Fee Income	4,430	947
Car Park Rental Income	6,895	10,094
Room Hire Income	1,165	1,105
	12,490	12,146
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	10,587	12,146
Restricted funds	1,903	-
	12,490	12,146

5 Other Income

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Other Income	9,294	26,792	36,086	-

The other income relates to the funds introduced by the acquisition of the St Stephens Church into the charity

6 Investments

	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Interest receivable	268	-

7 Charitable activities

	Charitable Activities 2021 £	Charitable Activities 2020 £
Staff costs	65,273	59,189
Staffing Costs - Clergy Expenses	6,014	-
Staffing Costs - Training	2,434	-
Staffing Costs - Other	(1,773)	-
Furlough Scheme Grants	(772)	-
Groups & Meetings	6,643	2,987
Buildings, Finance & Administration	46,003	25,916
Diocesan Payments	72,500	68,095
Supported Organisations	32,290	24,073
Charitable Activities	12,886	17,993
	241,498	198,253
Share of governance costs (see note 8)	1,540	1,440
	243,038	199,693
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	216,634	181,700
Restricted funds	26,404	17,993
	243,038	199,693

8 Support costs

	Support costs £	Governance costs £	2021 £	Support costs £	Governance costs £	2020 £
Examiners fees	-	1,540	1,540	-	1,440	1,440
	-	1,540	1,540	-	1,440	1,440
Analysed between						
Charitable activities	-	1,540	1,540	-	1,440	1,440

Governance costs includes payments to the examiners of £1,540 (2020: £1,440) for examination fees.

9 Trustees

Trustee remuneration and benefits

Jeff Smailes was office administrator and Joint Council Treasurer in 2021 and received £2,839 and received no pension contributions. The Clergy received in total £6,013 in expenses, David Hammond was paid £3,600, Sarah Ashelby £1,563 and Ann Peachey £850. Ann Peachey was paid by the Diocese but the Joint Council paid £10,000 to the Diocese for her stipend. No other member of the Joint Council received any remuneration, either directly or indirectly.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year to 31 December 2021, nor for the year to 31 December 2020.

10 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2021 Number	2020 Number
	3	3

Employment costs	2021 £	2020 £
Wages and salaries	60,970	55,851
Social security costs	2,320	1,603
Other pension costs	1,983	1,735
	65,273	59,189

11 Debtors

Amounts falling due within one year:	2021 £	2020 £
Trade debtors	91	1,926
Other debtors	9,648	8,250
Prepayments and accrued income	1,338	475
	11,077	10,651

12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade creditors	1,242	11,760
Accruals and deferred income	2,496	1,928
	3,738	13,688

13 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

		Movement in funds					Movement in funds			
	Balance at 1 January 2020	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Revaluations, gains and losses	Balance at 1 January 2021	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance at 31 December 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Bridge Fund for Childrens Work	739	-	-	-	-	739	-	(739)	-	-
Church Growth in Deprived Areas (St Stephens)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,417	2,417
Church Live Development Fund	1,149	-	-	-	-	1,149	-	-	-	1,149
Co-ordinated Care Fund	-	2,897	(1,364)	-	-	1,533	474	(484)	-	1,523
Funeral Deposits	228	-	-	-	-	228	-	-	-	228
Honest to God	6,854	-	(4,418)	-	-	2,437	-	-	-	2,437
Kx Midlands Development Fund	2,164	-	(435)	-	-	1,730	-	(900)	-	830
Mission to Children	-	-	-	-	-	-	104	-	-	104
Retreat Garden	-	3,468	-	-	-	3,468	100	(3,097)	-	471
St Stephens Building Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	27,060	(8,406)	-	18,654
Trinity Room Carpet Fund	54	308	-	-	-	362	40	-	-	402
Collection for Specific Purposes	-	-	-	-	-	-	104	(104)	-	-
Vicars DIscretionary Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,771	(10,771)	-	-
Parochial Fees Owed to DBF	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,903	(1,903)	-	-
Saint Aidan's	29,113	-	-	(29,113)	-	-	-	-	-	-
	40,301	6,673	(6,217)	(29,113)	-	11,646	40,556	(26,404)	2,417	28,215

14 Designated funds

The income funds of the charity include the following designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes:

		Movement in funds				
	Balance at 1 January 2020	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Balance at 1 January 2021	Resources expended	Balance at 31 December 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Building Repair Provision Fund	42,278	1,850	(4,080)	40,048	(3,867)	36,181
	42,278	1,850	(4,080)	40,048	(3,867)	36,181

15 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2021	Restricted funds 2021	Total 2021	Unrestricted funds 2020	Restricted funds 2020	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 December 2021 are represented by:						
Current assets/ (liabilities)	100,014	28,215	128,229	78,797	11,646	90,443
	100,014	28,215	128,229	78,797	11,646	90,443

16 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2020 - none).

Charity Registration No. 1129017

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	D Hammond	
	J Smailes	
	T Hickinbottom	
	M Jermyn	
	J Martin	
	L Dawson	
	A Peachey	
	S Ashelby	
	A Mahtani	
	A Smith	
	J Sayer	
	M Robinson	(Appointed 5 October 2021)
Charity number	1129017	
Independent examiner	Azets Audit Services 3Mc Middlemarch Business Park Siskin Drive Coventry West Midlands United Kingdom CV3 4FJ	

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

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Balance sheet	7
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JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

JOINT COUNCIL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

The Trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2021.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the Charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)".

Objectives and activities

Objectives and Aims

The Primary objective of the Joint Council is to co-operate with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church; pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The Joint Council excercises all the functions of the PCC's of the parishes of Westwood and Canley, which went into abeyance when the Jount Council was created.

Public Benefit

The Joint Council have had due regard to guidance published by the Charity Commission on public benefit and consider that the charity complies with the requirements

Volunteers

The Joint Council, would like to thank all staff, volunteers and supporters, without whose efforts the work of the charity would not be possible

Achievements and performance

Charitable activities

The Joint Council of the Bridge Benefice, Coventry has now been in operation for 13 months. The Charity Commission has sanctioned that the existing charity registration of St John's can be re-named the 'The Bridge Benefice Coventry' whilst keeping the existing charity number. The accounts of the two Parishes of St John's Westwood and St Stephen's Canley were transferred to the Joint Council on 1st January 2021 and this is the first report of the combined accounts. The comparisons are against the 2021 Budget rather than prior year, as the prior year data is for St John's only.

The newly formed Bridge Benefice was in surplus by £37,786, this however, includes a one-off transfer of cash from St Stephen's of £36,086, so on a going year basis the surplus was £1,700. During 2021 the COVID virus outbreak continued to have a significant impact on the day-to-day operation of the three bases of The Bridge, namely St John's Westwood, St Stephen's Canley and Trinity Burton Green. There were: -

- There was a lockdown at the start of 2021 which coupled with other restrictions around meeting together in the church buildings, as well as in each other's homes impacted on the activity of the church with a subsequent knock-on effect on both the income and expenditure.
- In comparison to the forecast budget income the following changes occurred: -
- Planned giving was £176,627 which was £3,127 above budget
- Gift Aid at £43,161 was also above budget by £4,661
- Cash giving at services dropped to only £359, £2,141 below budget
- Trading activities of Occasional Offices, room hire and Car park rental, totalled £10,587, £87 ahead of their combined budget
- Overall income at £244,470, was £19,470 ahead of planned budget income, which is a testament to the commitment of the members of the Bridge benefice.
- In comparison to the forecast budget expenditure the following changes occurred: -
- The cost of paying staff was £65,273 – below the budget by £11,727, driven by hires starting later than forecast.
- There was a small amount of furlough income of £772 – the cleaner was furloughed in lockdowns.
- There was virtually no income from staff charge out, just £80
- Other staff costs were £3,496 below budget.
- Groups and meetings expenditure was £6,643 – meetings just did not happen. The budget was £16,850, so an underspend of £10,207
- Spend on buildings, equipment etc was £46,003, over the budget of £40,650 by £5,353
- Parish Share was as planned at £72,500
- Gifts to supported organisations was £32,290 over budget of £27,070 by £5,220
- Overall expenditure was £243,038, versus a budget of £245,500
- Overall, this resulted in a surplus of £37,786 in 2021.
- Thus, the finances of The Bridge Benefice are in a stronger position at the end of 2021 with unrestricted funds of £63,833, representing 29% of the turnover in 2021 which is above the target range of 10% to 15%.

To grow the continuing work of the church, as we hope to do, we need to encourage some further increases in regular giving

The buildings at both St Stephen's and St John's require investment

- At St John's the outcome of the 2020 Quinquennial inspection will require major investment in the fabric of the church building, initially a new flat roof (estimated c£60,000) followed before 2025 of a new roof for the main church building plus associated add-ons. This is yet to be costed but likely to be over £400,000. Funds set aside already to pay some of the cost, and we are investigating possibilities for receiving Grant Aid, for the work.
- At St Stephen's an initial consultation has taken place on the possibility of working with the Canley Community Centre to build a new building which is both a church and a community centre. Further preparatory work will commence in 2022.

There has been investment made in new staff in 2021, the Bridge Benefice has recruited

- Sarah Packwood as Operations Manager – January 2021
- Tatenda Munzara as student and communication officer – July 2021
- Alison Fry as Children's Discipleship Enabler St John's – October 2021
- Anna Martin as Children's Discipleship Enabler St Stephen's – January 2022
- Ros Ginn replaced Jeff Smailes as Administrator at St John's - January 2022

God's generosity and blessings are again recognised by the Joint Council as He continues to grow His work, and we continue to seek His will to further develop and grow His kingdom through His churches St John's Westwood, St Stephen's Canley and Trinity Burton Green.

Financial review

The charity has a reserves policy to maintain reserves to a level where adequate working capital is available, but not to allow excessive reserves being maintained or for funds to go into deficit. The total amount of reserves held at the year end amounted to £100,014.

The results for the year are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities, and the Trustees consider the results to be better than expected, especially with the pandemic. The year-end position is shown in the balance sheet.

The Trustees has assessed the major risks to which they are exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

Structure, governance and management
Governing Document

The Joint Council's governing documents are the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956, as amended, and the Church Representation Rule (which are contained in Schedule 3 to the Synodical Government Measure 1969, as amended), A scheme made in November 2020 under section M38 of the Church Representation Rules modified how the Rules apply in the Bridge Benefice and created the Joint Council.

The Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

D Hammond	
J Smailes	
T Hickinbottom	
M Jermyn	
J Martin	
L Dawson	
A Peachey	
S Ashelby	
E Robinson	(Resigned 23 May 2021)
A Mahtani	
J Finlayson	(Resigned 23 May 2021)
A Smith	
J Sayer	
M Robinson	(Appointed 5 October 2021)

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees
The membership of the Joint Council is set by the Church Representation Rule, as modified by the 2020 scheme.

Organisational Structure
Decisions made in formal Joint Council meetings are communicated to staff who perform direct and administrative roles and overseen by the Joint Council.

Commencement of Activities

The charity registered with the Charity Commission on 6th April 2009.

Approved by order of the board of the Joint Council on 5th April 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
Mr D Hammond

Dated: 5/4/22

.....
Mr J Smailes

Dated: 5/4/22

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Joint Council of The Bridge Benefice, Coventry for the year ended 31 December 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act).

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable 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 ACA, which is one of the listed bodies.

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared financial statements in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn.

I understand that this has been done in order for financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

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 that in any material respect:

1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3 the financial statements 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 financial statements to be reached.

Robert Anderson FCA
Azets Audit Services

3Mc Middlemarch Business Park
Siskin Drive
Coventry
West Midlands
CV3 4FJ
United Kingdom

Dated: 11/4/2022

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total 2020 £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	3	220,387	11,593	231,980	177,291	18,450	195,741
Charitable activities	4	10,587	1,903	12,490	12,146	-	12,146
Other Income	5	9,294	26,792	36,086	-	-	-
Investments	6	-	268	268	-	-	-
Total income		240,268	40,556	280,824	189,437	18,450	207,887
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	7	216,634	26,404	243,038	181,700	17,993	199,693
Net incoming resources before transfers		23,634	14,152	37,786	7,737	457	8,194
Gross transfers between funds		(2,417)	2,417	-	-	(29,112)	(29,112)
Net income/(expenditure) for the year/							
Net movement in funds		21,217	16,569	37,786	7,737	(28,655)	(20,918)
Fund balances at 1 January 2021		78,797	11,646	90,443	71,060	40,301	111,361
Fund balances at 31 December 2021		100,014	28,215	128,229	78,797	11,646	90,443

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Notes	2021 £	£	2020 £	£
Current assets					
Debtors	11	11,077		10,651	
Cash at bank and in hand		120,890		93,480	
		131,967		104,131	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	(3,738)		(13,688)	
Net current assets			128,229		90,443
Income funds					
Restricted funds	13		28,215		11,646
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds	14	36,181		40,048	
General unrestricted funds		63,833		38,749	
			100,014		78,797
			128,229		90,443

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 5th April 2022

Mr D Hammond
Trustee

Mr J Smailes
Trustee

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Joint Council of The Bridge Benefice, Coventry is an unincorporated charity registered in England

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charity's [governing document], the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The Charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The Charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements 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 the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the Charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the Charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the Charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the Charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.5 Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

1.6 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.7 Financial instruments

The Charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the Charity's balance sheet when the Charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the Charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.8 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the Charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.9 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	**Restricted funds**	**Total**	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	2021	**2021**	**2021**	2020	2020	2020
	£	**£**	**£**	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	220,387	11,593	231,980	177,291	18,450	195,741

4 Charitable activities

	Other Trading Activities 2021 £	Other Trading Activities 2020 £
Parochial Fee Income	4,430	947
Car Park Rental Income	6,895	10,094
Room Hire Income	1,165	1,105
	12,490	12,146
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	10,587	12,146
Restricted funds	1,903	-
	12,490	12,146

5 Other Income

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Other Income	9,294	26,792	36,086	-

The other income relates to the funds introduced by the acquisition of the St Stephens Church into the charity

6 Investments

	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Interest receivable	268	-

7 Charitable activities

	Charitable Activities 2021 £	Charitable Activities 2020 £
Staff costs	65,273	59,189
Staffing Costs - Clergy Expenses	6,014	-
Staffing Costs - Training	2,434	-
Staffing Costs - Other	(1,773)	-
Furlough Scheme Grants	(772)	-
Groups & Meetings	6,643	2,987
Buildings, Finance & Administration	46,003	25,916
Diocesan Payments	72,500	68,095
Supported Organisations	32,290	24,073
Charitable Activities	12,886	17,993
	241,498	198,253
Share of governance costs (see note 8)	1,540	1,440
	243,038	199,693
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	216,634	181,700
Restricted funds	26,404	17,993
	243,038	199,693

8 Support costs

	Support costs £	Governance costs £	2021 £	Support costs £	Governance costs £	2020 £
Examiners fees	-	1,540	1,540	-	1,440	1,440
	-	1,540	1,540	-	1,440	1,440
Analysed between						
Charitable activities	-	1,540	1,540	-	1,440	1,440

Governance costs includes payments to the examiners of £1,540 (2020: £1,440) for examination fees.

9 Trustees

Trustee remuneration and benefits

Jeff Smailes was office administrator and Joint Council Treasurer in 2021 and received £2,839 and received no pension contributions. The Clergy received in total £6,013 in expenses, David Hammond was paid £3,600, Sarah Ashelby £1,563 and Ann Peachey £850. Ann Peachey was paid by the Diocese but the Joint Council paid £10,000 to the Diocese for her stipend. No other member of the Joint Council received any remuneration, either directly or indirectly.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year to 31 December 2021, nor for the year to 31 December 2020.

10 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2021 Number	2020 Number
	3	3

Employment costs	2021 £	2020 £
Wages and salaries	60,970	55,851
Social security costs	2,320	1,603
Other pension costs	1,983	1,735
	65,273	59,189

11 Debtors

Amounts falling due within one year:	2021 £	2020 £
Trade debtors	91	1,926
Other debtors	9,648	8,250
Prepayments and accrued income	1,338	475
	11,077	10,651

12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade creditors	1,242	11,760
Accruals and deferred income	2,496	1,928
	3,738	13,688

13 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

		Movement in funds					Movement in funds			
	Balance at 1 January 2020	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Revaluations, gains and losses	Balance at 1 January 2021	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance at 31 December 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Bridge Fund for Childrens Work	739	-	-	-	-	739	-	(739)	-	-
Church Growth in Deprived Areas (St Stephens)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,417	2,417
Church Live Development Fund	1,149	-	-	-	-	1,149	-	-	-	1,149
Co-ordinated Care Fund	-	2,897	(1,364)	-	-	1,533	474	(484)	-	1,523
Funeral Deposits	228	-	-	-	-	228	-	-	-	228
Honest to God	6,854	-	(4,418)	-	-	2,437	-	-	-	2,437
Kx Midlands Development Fund	2,164	-	(435)	-	-	1,730	-	(900)	-	830
Mission to Children	-	-	-	-	-	-	104	-	-	104
Retreat Garden	-	3,468	-	-	-	3,468	100	(3,097)	-	471
St Stephens Building Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	27,060	(8,406)	-	18,654
Trinity Room Carpet Fund	54	308	-	-	-	362	40	-	-	402
Collection for Specific Purposes	-	-	-	-	-	-	104	(104)	-	-
Vicars DIscretionary Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,771	(10,771)	-	-
Parochial Fees Owed to DBF	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,903	(1,903)	-	-
Saint Aidan's	29,113	-	-	(29,113)	-	-	-	-	-	-
	40,301	6,673	(6,217)	(29,113)	-	11,646	40,556	(26,404)	2,417	28,215

14 Designated funds

The income funds of the charity include the following designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes:

		Movement in funds				
	Balance at 1 January 2020	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Balance at 1 January 2021	Resources expended	Balance at 31 December 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Building Repair Provision Fund	42,278	1,850	(4,080)	40,048	(3,867)	36,181
	42,278	1,850	(4,080)	40,048	(3,867)	36,181

15 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2021	Restricted funds 2021	Total 2021	Unrestricted funds 2020	Restricted funds 2020	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 December 2021 are represented by:						
Current assets/ (liabilities)	100,014	28,215	128,229	78,797	11,646	90,443
	100,014	28,215	128,229	78,797	11,646	90,443

16 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2020 - none).

THE JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

England & Wales - Charity number 1129017

Accounts

THE BRIDGE ANNUAL REPORT

2020

VICAR'S LETTER

I've said in a few places that unlike every other APCM, this one feels like an exercise in doing what we must, rather than doing what is most necessary. This has not been anywhere near the year which we had hoped for and planned. This is not the time for setting new vision or being gung-ho about the future.

So, at first, I struggled with what to say. What needs to be said, is what needs to be celebrated.

What we can celebrate this year is each other. We can celebrate the generosity of spirit, the action of prayer and the many ways in which we have had the privilege of serving one another in difficult circumstances. We can celebrate those we have lost, even as we experience the pain of missing them.

Before singling out specific people and areas, I want to thank everyone.

Thank you for all that you were before the pandemic, all that you have been throughout it and all that you will be wherever we end up.It is important to thank people for what they have done. In times we have all found hard, on many, many levels, before doing so, it's important to say that we are all valued for who we are, first and foremost as well as being valued for what we do.

I have been reminded how much the church is all of us. Not leaders or staff or buildings or heroes, but a family, a community of people. With God at our centre, in front to guide and at the rear to make sure no one is left behind. We are all needed, wanted and called.

I am currently (slowly) working my way through "You Are Enough", by Jonathan Puddle. A series of daily writing and meditation exploring how we can love ourselves as God loves us. I thought this was an area in which I was strong. It turns out I have a long way to go.

I believe that the Gospel which we need to preach into the coming weeks and months is the eternal gospel of Jesus which has always been preached, but we need to frame it not so much in our identity as overcomers, but in our identity as those who follow a servant king. To become those who know what it is to be broken and to be held in our brokenness, those who are not arrogant and overconfident but understand our own brokenness and our need for Jesus.Those who weep with those who weep and rejoice with those who rejoice, offering Jesus as the only way through these trying times.

And so, back to thanking people. If I do not mention your name, that does not mean you didn't contribute, aren't seen or are less important. I long for us to be a more encouraging and less critical church.As we celebrate some individuals let us be generous and if you notice people that I have left out, please take the time to contact them yourself and thank them for all they have done and all that they are, rather than correcting me.

I must start with those who have served and loved our children. It has been a very hard time to know how to continue to disciple children and young people. We have spent most of the pandemic without any specific paid workers in this area.

Those who have stepped up and stepped in have been a godsend and I am extremely grateful for all of the parents who have taken this as an opportunity to step up and to journey deep in faith with their families rather than give up or step back.

Alison Fry and Anna Martin are the first people that come to mind, but then comes an army of others who have done so many things, big and small that I can't list here. The innovations that have come out of the difficulty have been a joy to all of us. The families at Forest Church (St John's) and the leaders providing kids zoom room space (St Stephen's) have been a joy to behold and I have done next to nothing to make that happen.

Production teams will be thanked elsewhere, but those who provided the kit and those who have made it work are greatly to be appreciated.

Staffing has been an issue. We knew that for various reasons there would be turnover of staff team in 2020 and a year of prayer for recruitment. The pandemic put paid to this careful plan and we have run very ad hoc. I'm deeply grateful for all those who have been on that staff team at various points and especially those who filled in. Jeff Smailes and Karenza Mahtani I have both gone above and beyond. Karenza in taking on a staff role voluntarily and Jeff in consistently working many more hours than he is paid for.

We will be thanking those who are finishing terms of service this time, Jonathan Martin, Graham Thomas and Jane Tranter amongst others.

It feels a hard time to properly thank and celebrate people. And all of these have served so diligently often in trying circumstances, through a time of transition which has added much complexity to their roles.

I had hoped that 2020 would be the year where transition turned into growth, it seems that 2021 might be that year. But there is always fruitfulness in discipline and character in waiting and the longer we wait, I hope, the greater the fruit.

I am trying to declare everyday a verse from Isaiah, this past few years has taught me my finite abilities, my failings and needs. I know that in my own strength very little is possible, but I cling on to all that God can do in our weaknesses.

Declare with me Isaiah 14:27:

"The Lord who rules over all has planned it.

Who can stop him?

He has reached out his powerful hand.

Who can keep him from using it?"

David Hammond

GATHERINGS

St John's Church, Westwood

There were so many services done in so many ways:

Streaming from the vicarage, streaming from church, recordings and stremaing from homes around the parish, David and Caroline's infamous after-service-diatribes, creative kids stuff from around the parish (Thank you Smailes, wanklings and Dean's), hybrid church, communion in the vicarage garden, mown pods in the field to keep us distant, nativity for toddlers online(wow!), christmas carols in the car park.

What a creative bunch! Who knew we had all that in us?

At St John's we are so grateful to God for Josh and Roxy who took on livestreaming our services. Their arrival to join the church in Jan 2020 was an actual Godsend. It has been amazing to be able to be joined by so many digitally and we pray continually about the ongoing impact of this new window to the world.

St Stephen's Church, Canley

At St Stephen's we began pre-recorded services in March. Thanks goes to all those who adapted so quickly in challenging and scary times to lead services, lead worship and preach. It took great courage to continue to use the gifts God had given His people and put them out there online! Particular thanks to those who gave many many hours of time to editing the videos. From November we moved to live streaming from the building, inviting a small number of people to join us in person who were unable to access online content. Thanks again to the team (Mike Ashelby, Michael Lane and Tom Hickinbottom) who worked so hard to get the tech in place. We enjoyed gathering in person during the Autumn term on Sunday evenings for a quiet reflective space and communion.

Before the pandemic at St Stephen's, we enjoyed social time during the middle of our worship services as part of our expression of Church, which we called "Cake Break." From March onwards we moved to Cake Break on Zoom which has been a valuable time of fun, games, catching up, sharing, and praying for each other. Thank you to those who hosted and came along.

Burton Green

Before the first lockdown we enjoyed the first couple of months meeting for services and community breakfasts. Once lockdown started, we found that having regular 1-1 phone conversations really deepened our relationships and helped us to get to know each other better. We then started (**even**simpler!) online services and bring-your-own breakfast chats. Through these we enjoyed being able to stay connected and worship God together our bigger group too. It was great that so many were able to make the transition and persevere with the technology to 'meet' online.

From October, we decided it was time to try something new; starting to meet in smaller groups that would focus on prayer for Burton Green village, each other, and going deeper in relationship together.

Looking forward, we're excited to spend in-person time with our local friends and neighbours again, discern new ways of engaging and connecting with the community, and invite them on a journey of exploring faith.

PASTORAL/MISSIONAL RESPONSE TO PANDEMIC

From St Stephen's perspective this has been a major focus for the year. How we have looked after each other. Also, the co-ordinated care fund (contribution from across bases) but also how people volunteered to pick up shopping, take food to people they didn't know etc - there's some great stories which would be good to capture) Also Food Hub has been a major development in 2020.

Many at St John's have served by being good neighbours, either through their community of mission or from their household. Thank you to those who contributed so generously to the Care Fund which we set up which has supported folks mainly in Canley but has been contributed to from across the Bridge.

BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS, FUNERALS

Although no baptisms took place during 2020, we're looking forward to this beginning again. At St Stephen's we had to delay a number of adult baptisms in 2020 due to Covid restrictions but look forward to them taking place in June 2021. Two weddings at St John's have been delayed from 2020. Funerals also were restricted in numbers and this year we remember much loved member of our church; Elizabeth Kennell.

TEACHING

During the year of 2020, the Bridge as a collective have done teaching series together and in our individual church bases as God has led, some of the series we've looked at are: "We Need Jesus" during the Autumn, Colossians during the Summer and during our Spring terms church bases looked their own series; St Stephen's looked at Family & Community then Josiah and at St John's we followed a series looking at Creation through to Restoration.

We're looking forward to continuing to look at teaching series across the Bridge and trying out some new rhythms in the future. We are also looking forward to restoring the rhythms of podcasting our teaching as our capacity grows.

PRAYER & PROPHECY

As we went into lockdown, we moved our 9am Prayers online and invited the Bridge family to join in from home. It has been a joy to see new faces join in interceding for our world, community, and church.

Prophecy Clinic, like everything, had to adapt in 2020 and we headed onto Zoom. Since then, we have welcomed people from across the Bridge and it's been a privilege listening for and sharing God's love with them.

Sunday Nights were introduced at St Stephen's during the Autumn term to offer a space to pray together as restrictions allowed.

CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS

Nativity Trail

2020 saw our first ever Canley Nativity Trail. Whilst we were sad not to do our usual Christingle Service the pandemic enabled another vision Sarah had had for several years to see fruition. Despite the pouring rain, 150 people walked the Trail. Local residents and members of St Stephen's filmed small parts of the Christmas Story (in full costume!) which were shown via scanning QR codes at each house on the trail, alongside Nativity themed window displays. The end of the trail was the stable (with manger and baby!) at St Stephen's where photos could be taken, and a creative prayer said inside the Church. Whilst we missed being able to extend our usual hospitality to people, due to Covid restrictions, it was an amazing evangelistic opportunity to share the good news of Jesus' arrival, and we look forward to building on this in future Christmases.

Interactive zoom Nativity

Instead of the usual Christmas Nativity hosted at St John's we adapted for Covid-19 Christmas 2020 and came up with a first! Nick and Susie Romney, with creative help from Carolyn and others, put on a spectacular Interactive zoom Nativity. Invitations were given out, activity packs were distributed, costumes were made, and the Christmas story and message was shared with many households, many of whom do not regularly attend church. It was a great event, we had the shepherds, stars, Marys, the lot! No octopus's though. We had songs and a cuppa tea and chat at the end.

Thanks so much to the Romneys for not only coming up with a great idea but making it happen. It cheered people up to see each other and to feel Christmassy when so much had been cancelled.

Carols around the bonfire

This was a last minute bit of worshipful fun. (waiting for permission and making sure it was safe). Singing around braziers in the car park was something I never expected to be doing. I found my love for carolling this year! Thanks to the Mayhews and Smiths for their help and to St Lawrence's for the gear and thanks to all those who hung around singing and chatting as long as was safe and reasonable. One of my highlights of the year.

CHILDREN & YOUTH

St John's Church, Westwood

During the year we said goodbye to Katherine our Children and Youth Worker where she spent the last few months on furlough, however we are grateful for the time she spent on our staff team.

This time of church at home has birthed lots of creativity and digging deep as a church family. We have discovered the beauty of God's creation and how to embrace the season by sharing ideas and inspiration and seeking God in the small things. We have enjoyed worshiping and learning as a whole family this season: the sermon series on Matthew, We Need Jesus, with children's videos and activity sheets, and Jesus The Way, the Truth and the Light with input for children from Anna Martin.

Some families have been meeting as Forest church MC every week, open air when possible and supporting each other on zoom.

We give thanks to God for all that Alison Fry has shared in terms of resources for families on the church Facebook pages for creative worship and learning. We also thank God for the fun Interactive Nativity on zoom before Christmas put together by Nick and Susie Romney and Carolyn Howarth. We were joined by friends and friends of friends to celebrate and share the good news of Jesus at Christmas.

Some families have also enjoyed the Parenting for Faith course, discussing issues together.

We have all enjoyed seeing new members of our church family on zoom coffee time: 3 new babies born during lockdown. It has been great for us all to be thinking of how to include children and different ways of worshiping and learning as we prepare services, talks and prayers, and to hear from what has gone well for families and been accessible.

We have had different people involved in creative services particularly Forest MC, which we would like to do more of.

St Stephen's Church, Canley

In the Spring term we enjoyed meeting once a month for our kids groups whilst the adults met in the Family Centre. Thank you to Anna Hickinbottom and team for all they have done to help children make their own connection with God. During the pandemic we met online for "Kids Zoom Zone" before the service for games, catching up and to introduce the themes of the services.

During the summer we were blessed to have one in person "Kids Catch Up" after school one day, where we focused on "fanning your friendship with God." Children have also been included as we met online in Missional Communities and in smaller groups in gardens and we continue to pray the wider community of faith will enable discipleship to children.

MISSIONAL COMMUNITIES

St John's Church, Westwood

"An army marches on its stomach" Frederick the Great.

"A church is only as strong as its communities" DH

It's been a different year for many communities. Some finding ways to keep each other sane and healthy, others with the capacity to be creative. We are indebted to the enduring quality of service and leadership offered across the church by MC co-ordinators.

We've praised Forest Church in many places, but the growth of faith in our primary aged kids ahs been exciting and hearing them in the field occasionally from my garden has been a grearce of smiles on tricky days. The canon Park MC has transitioned leadership but carried on from strength to strength, cook-a-longs, quizzes, online parties and (obviously!) regular worship and prayer have not just held the community together but provided a space for others to explore.

Many times both privately and publicly I've (David) thanked God for our MC's and their leaders. This is the church.

St Stephen's Church, Canley

At the start of 2020 Sarah began sharing more detailed vision about St Stephen's and missional communities. Having preached into it during January and February, asking people to join one of the two new communities being due to launch at Easter, we had not anticipated that a global pandemic was about to arrive! God was faithful in his call though and we continued with the plan of launching a dedicated Sunday for meeting as missional communities from May onwards. Although this has been challenging due to Covid restrictions, lots of the church has been able to connect into either a wider missional community or a smaller group. By the end of 2020 St Stephen's had two missional communities; "Mission to Kids & Families" and "Justice & Freedom" - both with smaller groups within them which met weekly. We continued to focus on 2s & 3s (accountable relationships) as a key place of deep discipleship, despite the challenges of meeting together.

STUDENTS

During the year we said goodbye to Jen as she got married and moved down South, we are so grateful for her time with us with both Young Adults and pouring time and energy into St John's website.

It's been a strange and difficult year for all students around the world. Here at St John's it started well with Student Bonfire evening organised by Ruach and Fran at the beginning of the academic year where we welcomed a dozen freshers. As we moved to online church and no student worker in place we found that the students involved at church were the handful of 3rd year. These faithful few have met on zoom regularly throughout the year, praying for their peers and for the student work here at the Bridge. They are currently involved in the online Alpha course, sharing their faith and love for God with those who are seeking him.

We give thanks to God for them and their encouragement to us and we thank God too for the new student worker we believe he will provide for next academic year.

GROUPS

Although many groups took place during 2020 in different formats, we've noted down some of the changes of a couple of these groups.

St Stephen's Toddler Group enjoyed running until March when it needed to stop due to Covid restrictions.

Refresh took place during the beginning of the year and have occasionally been online. We are grateful that the team are arriving into this year with fresh energy and excitement about one day soon gathering again in person.

GARDEN OF HOPE

Caroline Hammond

The dream of the missional Garden of Hope project will hopefully soon become a reality. We have applied for planning permission to convert St John's field into a garden for the local community. It will be a space for community, connection and contemplation. Coventry Planning Committee will hopefully be meeting to decide whether to approve a change of use for the field on 27th May. Please pray that they say yes! If you haven't already done so you can help this project by leaving a positive comment on the planning application here:

http://planning.coventry.gov.uk/portal/servlets/PlanningComments?REFNO=FUL/202

1/0369

I have applied for financial assistance from diocesan funds to ask for support for this project. Conversations are ongoing although we will hopefully have some clarity in the near future. Ways you can get involved: Comment on planning application online.

Gardening: At the moment this is mainly pruning and removing brambles but if we receive planning approval we can start landscaping too! Money: Financial donations are key, please consider giving a one off donation here: https://www.stewardship.org.uk/pages/gardenofhope

Or speak to me about becoming a partner by giving a direct debit each month.

Fundraising…if you have any experience and time to write funding applications please speak to me.

Prayer:

- Planning permission
- Money
- Team
- Prayer for people to become Christians through this project.

STAFF

There's been a number of changes to the staff team in 2020, and we begun with employing Jenni Dunne at St Stephen's from the end of February – a really interesting time to start!

St John's made use of the Government furlough scheme with Stevey, Katherine & Caroline being on furlough from April through August. We are so grateful for each of these individuals as they finished their time on the staff team.

Caroline finished her employment with us and remains part of St John's Westwood and The Garden of Hope is part of her placement for ordination training with St Mellitus.

Ann Peachey joined us in October to step into the role as Church Leader at St John's and it has been a joy getting to know her and work with her.

Ruach finished his placement with us and has since become employed by Church Army, working at a Centre of Mission in Wales.

Sarah finished her ordination training at St Mellitus in June and began as Curate at The Bridge in July. She was ordained as a deacon in late September (slightly later than expected!) with 5 guests present in the Cathedral. After contracting Lymes Disease in October she was off sick during October, November and December (her first Christmas not working in Church for over 15 years!) - thank you to staff and lay leaders who stepped up to serve St Stephen's during that time.

As the year finished we had recruited Sarah Packwood who started with us in the turn of the new year as Operations Minister.

SAFEGUARDING OVERVIEW

At St Stephen's we have had no PSO in place during 2020 and clergy have acted in this role. At St John's we give thanks to Jane Tranter for being Westwood's PSO. Some key points to note:

- Safeguarding arrangements for the Bridge jointly are being worked on and a Safeguarding Officer for the Benefice is being appointed. This is a standing item at Joint Council meetings.
- Training and DBS checks are largely up to date but please act quickly if you are asked to do either of these.
- The Joint Council confirms that it has complied with its legal duty to have due regard for the House of Bishop's guidance on safeguarding.

ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT

The electoral roll for St John's has 117 members of which 9 have joined for the new roll.

The electoral roll for St Stephen's has 39 members.

LEADERSHIP

Joint Council

The Joint Council is the legal entity which is responsible for the activities and finances of the Bridge Benefice. It is made up of the vicar, other clergy and lay leaders, and lay representatives from each base. It is a registered charity and the members are its trustees. The main purpose of the Council is 'to cooperate with the incumbent to promote the whole mission of the Church' in Canley and Westwood parishes.

The current members are David Hammond, Sarah Ashelby, Ann Peachey, John Finlayson, Tom Hickinbottom, Ed Robinson, Jonathan Martin, Arun Mathani, Matt Jermyn, Jan Sayer, Jeff Smails, Laura Dawson and Andrew Smith. Sarah Packwood also attends the Council's meetings, which have been held monthly since the APCMs in 2020.

There are places for nine elected lay representatives, which must include at least one churchwarden from each parish. Three of those nine spaces must be elected to each year. The current term of Tom Hickinbottom, Ed Robinson and Jonathan Martin will end after the APCMs in 2021.

Deanery

Deanery Synod meetings migrated mid-year to Zoom, this year we had three Synod meetings in 2020 which included talks on "General Synod and Synodical Structures", "Collective Trauma", and "an introduction from the (then) new Archdeacon Missioner". Also this year the previous Area-Dean stood down, and Rev Matt Taylor (of St Martin's, Finham) has been appointed as the new Area-Dean.

The Deanery also has sub-committees for discussing and agreeing parish share, and others for discussing parishes in vacancy and longer term strategy – including preparing a draft deanery plan that will be presented at synod soon. Rev David Hammond is part of the Deanery Planning Group.

Diocese & Resource Hub Plans

The diocese is creating and resourcing 6 mission hub churches who will receive regular curacies and a full time associate minister for five years. The onus will be on these churches to lead out in mission and/or resource other parishes. At the time of writing it has not been officially confirmed that we will be one of these churches but it looking highly likely.

For us this is ostensibly marking what is already going on, but it dovetails nicely with our vision and shows that as we continually give away people to the rest of the Kingdom, God will provide for us also.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

St John's Church, Westwood

The church had a surplus of just under £10,000 in 2020. This was a result of:-

- Costs were controlled during the lockdowns and use was made of the furlough scheme, the total spend was reduced by £32,400.
    - Staff costs were £22,900 lower, helped by £12,000 furlough payments.
    - Other costs were £9,500 lower
- Income also declined, overall giving was down by £18,700 and car park income and room hire was by £4,800
- Unrestricted reserves were £38,750 at the end of 2020, representing 20% of income, above the guidelines set by the PCC of 10% to 15%.
- There are other funds
    - The building fund stands at over £40,000 but the flat roof needs replacing and Featherbed Lane needs to be resurfaced both in 2021. These actions will use most of these funds dependent on the availability of grants.
    - There are a number of restricted funds totalling just over £10,500
    - St John's no longer holds any funds on behalf of St Aidan's.

Overall, St John's has come through the pandemic in a stronger financial position, ready to grow God's kingdom. Thank you all for your ongoing financial support.

St Stephen's Church, Canley

The financial position for St Stephen's in 2020 was broadly similar to the previous year, with a few notable variations due to the switch to digital services and preparation for the move to merge into The Bridge.

Income from donations was unchanged apart from a small shift away from regular gifted aided giving and open plate collections towards non-gifted aided regular giving. Some income was restricted for the Coordinated Care Fund – much of which was transferred from St John's. That money was used to provide pastoral care in the form of food parcels and the remainder was transferred back to St John's, so that the fund finished the year back on zero for St Stephen's.

Overall, income fell (by c. £3k) due largely to the almost total drop in church lettings for external groups. A secondary factor was that 2019 income had been given a one-off boost by the sale of the old chairs (for £800).

Meanwhile, expenditure increased slightly (less than £400 change). The biggest changes resulted from the shift in staffing arrangements, wherein staff were transferred to St John's (in anticipation of the merge into The Bridge) and staff time bought back (for administration and cleaning).

Taken together, St Stephen's made a smaller surplus in 2020 than in 2019 (around half the size), but still a surplus of around £3,000. Hence, our end of year balance of funds increased to around £43k (of which c. £2.5k was restricted and c. £27k was on deposit in our notice account).

FABRIC REPORT

St John's Church, Westwood

St John's had a quinquennial inspection in February 2020 which made a number of recommendations mainly around the roof, the path from the car park and a few safety issues regarding signs.

The main roof had a full structural survey in November 2020 and it has been agreed at the Joint Council to devise a plan for replacing the roof by 2026. The aim is to start the preparatory work on this in 2023. Quotes have been received to clean the gutters along with some minor repairs to the roof such as slipping tiles, pointing etc. The flat roof continued to leak in 2020 and there is a process in place with the diocese to agree what materials can be used to replace it and then quotes will be obtained and the work completed hopefully before winter 2021.

The foul drains under the path were inspected and are sound. A quote is in progress to excavate the path, repack and tarmac.

Other work is ongoing and thanks go to Dave Cass and Phil Dunkerley who put in a significant amount of time and effort to keep the buildings & grounds in good repair.

St Stephen's Church, Canley

This year there were limited items requiring action due to significantly reduced use of the building during the pandemic. The main piece of work was the replacement of the external protective grill surrounding the stained glass windows. This concludes the required items raised in the last quinquennial inspection.

It is recognised that there are other areas of repair such as the flooring and entrance doors that will need remedial repair or replacement in the near future and we are undertaking explorative work to inform the cost of the works required.

The next quinquennial inspection is overdue and will be undertaken in 2021.

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1129017

REPORT OF THE PCC AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020 FOR

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST WESTWOOD

Azets Limited
3Mc Middlemarch Business Park
Siskin Drive
Coventry
West Midlands
CV3 4FJ

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST WESTWOOD

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PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JOHN
THE BAPTIST WESTWOOD

REPORT OF THE PCC
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

The PCC present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2020.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)".

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and Aims

The role of the PCC is to co-operate with the incumbent in promoting the whole mission of the church in the parish and beyond; pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical, and is governed under The Church of England Measures of 1956.

Public benefit

The PCC have had due regard to guidance published by the Charity Commission on public benefit and consider that the charity complies with the requirements.

Volunteers

The PCC, on behalf of the charity, would like to thank all staff, volunteers and supporters, without whose efforts the work of the charity would not be possible.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE
Charitable activities

During 2020 the church explored the creation of 'The Bridge Benefice' under new legal processes that came into effect during 2020. On the 1st October 2020, 'The Bridge Benefice' was created by putting into abeyance the PCCs of St John's Westwood and St Stephen's Canley. Then, on the 1st November a new Joint Council of Trustees to run the Bridge Benefice was approved by the Bishops Council and formed. The accounts of the two Parishes will merge effective 1st January 2021. The individual Parish accounts for the year end 2020 will be calculated and audited separately. The Charity Commission has sanctioned that the existing charity registration of St John's can be re-named the 'The Bridge Benefice Coventry' whilst keeping the existing charity number.

In 2012 a new community was set up in Wood End, Coventry, known as Saint Aidan's Community. Following a period of discernment and consultation, it has been agreed that the future administration and oversight of mission and ministry in this area of the city should now come under the leadership and governance of St Laurence's Church, Foleshill. In the meantime, Westwood Church continue to provide banking and financial services, with the Saint Aidan's balances appearing as a restricted fund. This relationship ended in 2020 with the final transfer of £29,113 from St John's to St Laurence's.

The initial income and expenditure estimates and budgets for Westwood church in 2020 showed a balanced budget with a small surplus of £1,270. During 2020, however, the COVID virus outbreak developed into a world pandemic significantly impacting on the day-to-day operation of the church. There were: -

- Two lockdowns in 2020 and another at the start of 2021. These impacted on the activity of the church with a subsequent knock-on effect on both the income and expenditure of the church.
- In comparison to the forecast budget income the following changes occurred: -
    - Planned giving was down £12,007, which had a knock-on effect on gift aid of £2,515.
    - Cash giving at services dropped by £4,162.
    - Car park & room hire income were down £3,406 & £1,395, respectively.
    - Overall, the income was down by £23,813 and £17,500 below 2019.
- In comparison to the forecast budget expenditure the following changes occurred: -
    - The cost of paying staff was down by £22,895 - furlough grants contributed £12,305 towards this reduction.
    - Other staff costs were reduced by £2,389.
    - Groups and meetings expenditure was also down by £4,193 – Meetings just did not happen.
    - Spend on buildings, equipment etc dropped by £4,974.
    - However, the support to our partner organisations was up by £1,941.
    - Overall expenditure was down by £32,510 versus budget and £32,404 compared to 2019.
- Overall, this resulted in a surplus of £9,967 in 2020.
- Thus, the finances of St John's are in a stronger position at the end of 2020 with unrestricted funds of £38,749, representing 20.7% of turnover, which is above the target range of 10% to 15%. This excludes movements in the restricted funds.

To grow the continuing work of the church, as we hope to do, we need to encourage some further increases in regular giving. There has also been a drop in the proportion of the regular giving, which is Gift Aided, and now over 20% of our current regular income is not Gift Aided. It is our intention to try and extend the opportunity for the Government to assist us in the future,

The outcome of the 2020 Quinquennial inspection will require major investment in the fabric of the church building, initially a new flat roof (estimated c£40,000) followed by c2025 a new roof for the main church building plus associated add-ons is yet to be costed but likely to be over £300,000. We have funds set aside already to pay some of the cost, and are investigating possibilities for receiving Grant Aid, for when we undertake the necessary work.

God's generosity and blessings are again recognised by the PCC as He continues to grow His work, and we continue to seek His will to further develop and grow His kingdom through His church at Westwood.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves policy

The charity has a reserves policy to maintain reserves to a level where adequate working capital is available, but not to allow excessive reserves being maintained or for funds to go into deficit. The total amount of reserves held at the yearend amounted to £90,443.

The results for the year are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities, and the Trustees consider the results to be better than expected, especially with the pandemic. The year-end position is shown in the balance sheet.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes an unincorporated charity. The charity is governed by The Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 (as amended) and The Church Representation Rules (contained in Schedule 3 to the Synodical Government Measure 1969 as amended).

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The PCC are appointed and elected in accordance with The Church Representation Rules. PCC members are elected by private ballot at each Annual Parochial Church Meeting. Members are elected for a three-year term, four being appointed each year. No member may serve more than two consecutive terms.

Organisational structure

The charity's organisational structure is set by the Church of England Measures of 1956 (as amended). Decisions made in formal PCC meetings are communicated to staff who perform direct and administrative roles and overseen by the PCC.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number

1129017

Principal address

St Johns Church
45 Westwood Heath Road
Coventry
West Midlands
CV4 8GN

Trustees (and changes during 2020)

D Hammond	Priest in Charge and Chairman
R Ayton	
B Barnes	resigned March 2020.
P Dunkerley	
C Hammond	Church Leader – co-opted as Staff Rep March 2019, stood down May 2020.
H Hatcher	stood down November 2020.
A Mahtani	Church Warden and Lay Vice-Chairman
E Robinson	
C Ruddell	
J Sayer	
J Smailes	Secretary
A Smith	Lay Reader
P Tandy	Church Warden
G Thomas	Treasurer - stood down November 2020.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Independent examiner

Robert Anderson FCA
Azets Audit Services
3Mc Middlemarch Business Park
Siskin Drive
Coventry
West Midlands
CV3 4FJ

COMMENCEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

The charity registered with the Charity Commission on 6th April 2009.

Approved by order of the board of the Joint Council on 30 March 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
D Hammond - Trustee

.....
J Smailes - Trustee

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JOHN

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST WESTWOOD

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020 set out on pages six to fourteen.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner
As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements.

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Basis of the independent examiner's 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 statements below.

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 that in any material respect:

1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by Section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3 the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4 the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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 financial statements to be reached.

Robert Anderson FCA
Azets Audit Services
3Mc Middlemarch Business Park
Siskin Drive
Coventry
West Midlands
CV3 4FJ

Date: 30/04/2021

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST WESTWOOD

STATEMENT OF FINACIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPEDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	2020 Unrestricted funds £	2020 Restricted Funds £	2020 Total funds £	2019 Total Funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		177,291	18,450	195,741	261,682
Charitable activities					
Other trading activities	3	12,146	-	12,146	17,629
Other income		-	-	-	-
Total		189,437	18,450	207,887	279,311
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities	4	181,700	47,105	228,806	350,400
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) BEFORE TRANSFERS		7,737	(28,656)	(20,919)	(71,089)
Gross transfer between funds		-	-	-	-
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total Funds Brought Forward		71,060	40,302	111,362	182,451
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		78,797	11,646	90,443	111,362

CONTINUING OPERATIONS
All income and expenditure has arisen from continuing activities.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST WESTWOOD

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	31.12.20 Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total funds £	31.12.19 Total Funds £
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	9	8,738	1,913	10,651	12,972
Cash at Bank and in hand		81,834	11,646	93.480	104,909
		90,572	13,559	104,131	193,640
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	10	(12,273)	(1,415)	(13,688)	(6,520)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		78,797	11,646	90,443	111,361
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		78,797	11,646	90,443	111,361
NET ASSETS		78,797	11,646	90,443	111,361
FUNDS	11				
Unrestricted funds				78,797	71,060
Restricted funds				11,646	40,301
TOTAL FUNDS				90,443	111,361

The financial statements were approved by the Board of the Joint Council on 30 March 2020 and were signed on its behalf by:

.....
D Hammond -Trustee

.....
J Smailes –Trustee

1. Accounting policies

Charity information

Parochial Church Council of St John the Baptist Westwood is an unincorporated charity registered in England.

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The accounts are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

Going concern

At the time of approving the accounts, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the accounts.

In early March 2020, the COVID-19 virus was declared a global pandemic. Business continuity, including supply chains and consumer demand across a number of industries and countries, could be severely impacted for months or more, as governments and their citizens take significant and unprecedented measures to mitigate the consequences of the pandemic.
The trustees are monitoring the ever changing situation and continue to evaluate the charities ability to continue to trade on an ongoing and foreseeable basis. However, due to the uncertainty surrounding COVID-19 no adjustments have been made to these financial statements which may arise from the impact of COVID-19 on the charity. Despite the unknown impact COVID-19 may or may not have on the charity under normal circumstances the trustees would have had a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources, thus the trustees would have adopted the going concern basis of accounting.

Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives unless the funds have been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the accounts.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

Income
All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure
Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Cash and cash equivalents
Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

Financial instruments
The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets
Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities
Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities
Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

Taxation
The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits
The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charity's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Consecrated land and buildings and movable church furnishings
Consecrated land and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s 96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993.
No value is placed on movable church furnishings held by the church wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off when incurred.

2. Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3. Other investment activities

	2020	2019
	£	£
Parochial Fee income	947	1,658
Church field rental income	-	-
Car park rental income	10,094	13,330
Room hire income	1,105	2,795
Bookstall	-	(154)
	12,146	17,629

4. Charitable activities

	2020	2019
	£	£
Staffing costs	59,189	77.038
Supported Organisations	24,073	27,292
Diocesan Payments	68,095	67,250
Groups and Meetings	2,987	8,897
Buildings, Finance & Administration*	25,916	28,147
	180,260	208,624
Share of governance costs (see note 5)	1,440	1,400
	181,700	210,024

Memo: * includes £4,080 cost for a structural survey undertaken in November and paid for in January 2021

5. Support costs

	Support costs	Governance Costs	2020	2019	Basis of allocation
	£	£	£	£	
Legal and professional	-	1,440	1,440	1,400	Governance
	-	1,440	1,440	1,400	
Analysed between					
Charitable activities	-	1,440	1,440	1,400	

6. Trustee remuneration and benefits

Caroline Hammond as Church Leader stepped down from the PCC in May 2020 and resigned as Church Leader at the end of August 2020 £7,266 and £390 contribution to her pension in 2020 in her role as co-opted Staff Representative to the PCC in the period January to August 2020. This cost was offset by Government furlough income of £3,896. Jeff Smailes was office administrator and PCC Secretary in 2020 and received £7,131 and received no pension contributions. David Hammond was paid £3,882 in Vicar's expenses. No other member of the PCC received any remuneration, either directly or indirectly.

Trustees' expenses
There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year to 31 December 2020, nor for the year to 31 December 2019.

7. Employees

Number of employees
The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2020	2019
Staff	3	3

Employment costs	2020	2019
	£	£
Wages and salaries including CJRS claims	57,090	73,259
Social security costs	364	943
Employer pension contributions	1,735	2,836
	59,189	77,038

No employees received emoluments more than £60,000.

8. Pension costs

The PCC makes contributions to a pension scheme for certain employees under a defined contribution pension scheme. The costs are accounted for when they fall due for payment.

9. Debtors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2020	2019
	£	£
Gift aid	8,250	9,479
Debtors	1,926	2,145
Social security and other tax	-	-
Prepayments	475	1,348
	10,651	12,972

10. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2020	2019
	£	£
Creditors	11,760	2,936
Accrued expenses	1,928	3,584
	13,688	6,520

11. Movement in funds

	At 1.1.20 £	Net Movement in funds £	Transfer between funds £	At 31.12.20 £
Unrestricted Funds				
General Fund	28,782	9,967	-	38,749
Building Repair Provision Fund	42,278	(2,230)	-	40,048
	71,060	7,737	-	78,797
Restricted Funds				
Sundry Specific Donations	11,189	457	-	11,646
Saint Aidan's	29,113	(29,113)	-	-
	40,302	(28,656)	-	11,646
	111,362	(20,919)	-	90,443

Net movement in funds in 2020, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming Resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in Funds £
Unrestricted Funds			
General Fund	187,587	(177,620)	9,967
Building Repair Provision Fund	1,850	(4,080)	(2,230)
	189,437	(181,700)	7,737
Restricted Funds			
Sundry Specific Donations	18,450	(17,993)	457
Saint Aidan's	-	(29,113)	(29,113)
	18,450	(47,105)	(28,655)
	207,887	(228,806)	(20,919)

12. Contingent Liabilities

There were no contingent liabilities

13. Other financial commitments

At the balance sheet date there were no commitments under any operating leases.

14. Related party disclosures

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 December 2020.

15. Ultimate controlling party

The ultimate controlling party is the Parochial Church Council (PCC).

PCC of St John the Baptist Westwood - General Fund

Abbreviated Profit & Loss & Draft Budget for The Bridge for 2021

	2019	Full year 2020			2021 Budget
	2019 Actual	Approved Budget	Year end actual	Variances	The Bridge Benefice Coventry
Income					
Planned & Regular Giving	154,864	160,000	143,831	-16,169	176,000
Gift Aid Refund from Inland Revenue	32,476	34,000	31,485	-2,515	38,500
One-off Donations	29	50	88	38	0
Parochial Fee Income	1,658	1,500	947	-553	1,500
Field, Car Park & Room Rentals	16,125	16,000	11,199	-4,801	9,000
Sundry Income	-65	-150	37	187	0
Total Income	**205,087**	**211,400**	**187,587**	**-23,813**	**225,000**
Expenditure					
Staffing					
Payroll costs, including NI and Pensions	77,038	81,773	68,414	-13,359	77,000
Staff Time Recharged Out	-5,391	-8,000	-5,231	2,769	-1,500
Furlough Grants	0	0	-12,305	-12,305	-500
Total Staff cost excluding pay	10,496	10,700	8,311	-2,389	13,500
Total Staff Costs	**82,143**	**84,473**	**59,189**	**-25,284**	**88,500**
Groups and Meetings	**8,897**	**7,180**	**2,987**	**-4,193**	**16,850**
Buildings, Equipment & Administration					
Buildings & Grounds	15,636	15,400	11,621	-3,779	24,400
Equipment	5,580	6,175	4,601	-1,574	11,250
Administration	5,326	5,240	5,614	374	8,000
Parish Share	67,250	68,095	68,095	0	72,500
Total Buildings, Equipment & Admin	**95,192**	**96,345**	**91,371**	**-4,974**	**117,650**
Partners & Supported Organisations	**23,792**	**22,132**	**24,073**	**1,941**	**27,000**
Total Expenditure	**210,024**	**210,130**	**177,620**	**-32,510**	**250,000**
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	**-4,937**	**1,270**	**9,967**	**8,697**	**-25,000**
General Fund Balance at Year End	**28,782**	**30,052**	**38,749**		**23,043**
Percent of Turnover	**14.0%**	**14.2%**	**20.7%**		**10.2%**

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1129017

REPORT OF THE PCC AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020 FOR

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST WESTWOOD

Azets Limited
3Mc Middlemarch Business Park
Siskin Drive
Coventry
West Midlands
CV3 4FJ

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST WESTWOOD

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PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JOHN
THE BAPTIST WESTWOOD

REPORT OF THE PCC
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

The PCC present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2020.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)".

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and Aims

The role of the PCC is to co-operate with the incumbent in promoting the whole mission of the church in the parish and beyond; pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical, and is governed under The Church of England Measures of 1956.

Public benefit

The PCC have had due regard to guidance published by the Charity Commission on public benefit and consider that the charity complies with the requirements.

Volunteers

The PCC, on behalf of the charity, would like to thank all staff, volunteers and supporters, without whose efforts the work of the charity would not be possible.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE
Charitable activities

During 2020 the church explored the creation of 'The Bridge Benefice' under new legal processes that came into effect during 2020. On the 1st October 2020, 'The Bridge Benefice' was created by putting into abeyance the PCCs of St John's Westwood and St Stephen's Canley. Then, on the 1st November a new Joint Council of Trustees to run the Bridge Benefice was approved by the Bishops Council and formed. The accounts of the two Parishes will merge effective 1st January 2021. The individual Parish accounts for the year end 2020 will be calculated and audited separately. The Charity Commission has sanctioned that the existing charity registration of St John's can be re-named the 'The Bridge Benefice Coventry' whilst keeping the existing charity number.

In 2012 a new community was set up in Wood End, Coventry, known as Saint Aidan's Community. Following a period of discernment and consultation, it has been agreed that the future administration and oversight of mission and ministry in this area of the city should now come under the leadership and governance of St Laurence's Church, Foleshill. In the meantime, Westwood Church continue to provide banking and financial services, with the Saint Aidan's balances appearing as a restricted fund. This relationship ended in 2020 with the final transfer of £29,113 from St John's to St Laurence's.

The initial income and expenditure estimates and budgets for Westwood church in 2020 showed a balanced budget with a small surplus of £1,270. During 2020, however, the COVID virus outbreak developed into a world pandemic significantly impacting on the day-to-day operation of the church. There were: -

- Two lockdowns in 2020 and another at the start of 2021. These impacted on the activity of the church with a subsequent knock-on effect on both the income and expenditure of the church.
- In comparison to the forecast budget income the following changes occurred: -
    - Planned giving was down £12,007, which had a knock-on effect on gift aid of £2,515.
    - Cash giving at services dropped by £4,162.
    - Car park & room hire income were down £3,406 & £1,395, respectively.
    - Overall, the income was down by £23,813 and £17,500 below 2019.
- In comparison to the forecast budget expenditure the following changes occurred: -
    - The cost of paying staff was down by £22,895 - furlough grants contributed £12,305 towards this reduction.
    - Other staff costs were reduced by £2,389.
    - Groups and meetings expenditure was also down by £4,193 – Meetings just did not happen.
    - Spend on buildings, equipment etc dropped by £4,974.
    - However, the support to our partner organisations was up by £1,941.
    - Overall expenditure was down by £32,510 versus budget and £32,404 compared to 2019.
- Overall, this resulted in a surplus of £9,967 in 2020.
- Thus, the finances of St John's are in a stronger position at the end of 2020 with unrestricted funds of £38,749, representing 20.7% of turnover, which is above the target range of 10% to 15%. This excludes movements in the restricted funds.

To grow the continuing work of the church, as we hope to do, we need to encourage some further increases in regular giving. There has also been a drop in the proportion of the regular giving, which is Gift Aided, and now over 20% of our current regular income is not Gift Aided. It is our intention to try and extend the opportunity for the Government to assist us in the future,

The outcome of the 2020 Quinquennial inspection will require major investment in the fabric of the church building, initially a new flat roof (estimated c£40,000) followed by c2025 a new roof for the main church building plus associated add-ons is yet to be costed but likely to be over £300,000. We have funds set aside already to pay some of the cost, and are investigating possibilities for receiving Grant Aid, for when we undertake the necessary work.

God's generosity and blessings are again recognised by the PCC as He continues to grow His work, and we continue to seek His will to further develop and grow His kingdom through His church at Westwood.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves policy

The charity has a reserves policy to maintain reserves to a level where adequate working capital is available, but not to allow excessive reserves being maintained or for funds to go into deficit. The total amount of reserves held at the yearend amounted to £90,443.

The results for the year are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities, and the Trustees consider the results to be better than expected, especially with the pandemic. The year-end position is shown in the balance sheet.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

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Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The PCC are appointed and elected in accordance with The Church Representation Rules. PCC members are elected by private ballot at each Annual Parochial Church Meeting. Members are elected for a three-year term, four being appointed each year. No member may serve more than two consecutive terms.

Organisational structure

The charity's organisational structure is set by the Church of England Measures of 1956 (as amended). Decisions made in formal PCC meetings are communicated to staff who perform direct and administrative roles and overseen by the PCC.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number

1129017

Principal address

St Johns Church
45 Westwood Heath Road
Coventry
West Midlands
CV4 8GN

Trustees (and changes during 2020)

D Hammond	Priest in Charge and Chairman
R Ayton	
B Barnes	resigned March 2020.
P Dunkerley	
C Hammond	Church Leader – co-opted as Staff Rep March 2019, stood down May 2020.
H Hatcher	stood down November 2020.
A Mahtani	Church Warden and Lay Vice-Chairman
E Robinson	
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J Sayer	
J Smailes	Secretary
A Smith	Lay Reader
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G Thomas	Treasurer - stood down November 2020.

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Independent examiner

Robert Anderson FCA
Azets Audit Services
3Mc Middlemarch Business Park
Siskin Drive
Coventry
West Midlands
CV3 4FJ

COMMENCEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

The charity registered with the Charity Commission on 6th April 2009.

Approved by order of the board of the Joint Council on 30 March 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
D Hammond - Trustee

.....
J Smailes - Trustee

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JOHN

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST WESTWOOD

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020 set out on pages six to fourteen.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner
As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements.

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Basis of the independent examiner's 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 statements below.

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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 that in any material respect:

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2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3 the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4 the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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 financial statements to be reached.

Robert Anderson FCA
Azets Audit Services
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Date: 30/04/2021

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST WESTWOOD

STATEMENT OF FINACIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPEDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	2020 Unrestricted funds £	2020 Restricted Funds £	2020 Total funds £	2019 Total Funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		177,291	18,450	195,741	261,682
Charitable activities					
Other trading activities	3	12,146	-	12,146	17,629
Other income		-	-	-	-
Total		189,437	18,450	207,887	279,311
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities	4	181,700	47,105	228,806	350,400
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) BEFORE TRANSFERS		7,737	(28,656)	(20,919)	(71,089)
Gross transfer between funds		-	-	-	-
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total Funds Brought Forward		71,060	40,302	111,362	182,451
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		78,797	11,646	90,443	111,362

CONTINUING OPERATIONS
All income and expenditure has arisen from continuing activities.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST WESTWOOD

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	31.12.20 Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total funds £	31.12.19 Total Funds £
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	9	8,738	1,913	10,651	12,972
Cash at Bank and in hand		81,834	11,646	93.480	104,909
		90,572	13,559	104,131	193,640
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	10	(12,273)	(1,415)	(13,688)	(6,520)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		78,797	11,646	90,443	111,361
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		78,797	11,646	90,443	111,361
NET ASSETS		78,797	11,646	90,443	111,361
FUNDS	11				
Unrestricted funds				78,797	71,060
Restricted funds				11,646	40,301
TOTAL FUNDS				90,443	111,361

The financial statements were approved by the Board of the Joint Council on 30 March 2020 and were signed on its behalf by:

.....
D Hammond -Trustee

.....
J Smailes –Trustee

1. Accounting policies

Charity information

Parochial Church Council of St John the Baptist Westwood is an unincorporated charity registered in England.

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The accounts are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

Going concern

At the time of approving the accounts, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the accounts.

In early March 2020, the COVID-19 virus was declared a global pandemic. Business continuity, including supply chains and consumer demand across a number of industries and countries, could be severely impacted for months or more, as governments and their citizens take significant and unprecedented measures to mitigate the consequences of the pandemic.
The trustees are monitoring the ever changing situation and continue to evaluate the charities ability to continue to trade on an ongoing and foreseeable basis. However, due to the uncertainty surrounding COVID-19 no adjustments have been made to these financial statements which may arise from the impact of COVID-19 on the charity. Despite the unknown impact COVID-19 may or may not have on the charity under normal circumstances the trustees would have had a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources, thus the trustees would have adopted the going concern basis of accounting.

Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives unless the funds have been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the accounts.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

Income
All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure
Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Cash and cash equivalents
Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

Financial instruments
The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets
Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities
Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities
Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

Taxation
The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits
The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charity's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Consecrated land and buildings and movable church furnishings
Consecrated land and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s 96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993.
No value is placed on movable church furnishings held by the church wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off when incurred.

2. Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3. Other investment activities

	2020	2019
	£	£
Parochial Fee income	947	1,658
Church field rental income	-	-
Car park rental income	10,094	13,330
Room hire income	1,105	2,795
Bookstall	-	(154)
	12,146	17,629

4. Charitable activities

	2020	2019
	£	£
Staffing costs	59,189	77.038
Supported Organisations	24,073	27,292
Diocesan Payments	68,095	67,250
Groups and Meetings	2,987	8,897
Buildings, Finance & Administration*	25,916	28,147
	180,260	208,624
Share of governance costs (see note 5)	1,440	1,400
	181,700	210,024

Memo: * includes £4,080 cost for a structural survey undertaken in November and paid for in January 2021

5. Support costs

	Support costs	Governance Costs	2020	2019	Basis of allocation
	£	£	£	£	
Legal and professional	-	1,440	1,440	1,400	Governance
	-	1,440	1,440	1,400	
Analysed between					
Charitable activities	-	1,440	1,440	1,400	

6. Trustee remuneration and benefits

Caroline Hammond as Church Leader stepped down from the PCC in May 2020 and resigned as Church Leader at the end of August 2020 £7,266 and £390 contribution to her pension in 2020 in her role as co-opted Staff Representative to the PCC in the period January to August 2020. This cost was offset by Government furlough income of £3,896. Jeff Smailes was office administrator and PCC Secretary in 2020 and received £7,131 and received no pension contributions. David Hammond was paid £3,882 in Vicar's expenses. No other member of the PCC received any remuneration, either directly or indirectly.

Trustees' expenses
There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year to 31 December 2020, nor for the year to 31 December 2019.

7. Employees

Number of employees
The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2020	2019
Staff	3	3

Employment costs	2020	2019
	£	£
Wages and salaries including CJRS claims	57,090	73,259
Social security costs	364	943
Employer pension contributions	1,735	2,836
	59,189	77,038

No employees received emoluments more than £60,000.

8. Pension costs

The PCC makes contributions to a pension scheme for certain employees under a defined contribution pension scheme. The costs are accounted for when they fall due for payment.

9. Debtors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2020	2019
	£	£
Gift aid	8,250	9,479
Debtors	1,926	2,145
Social security and other tax	-	-
Prepayments	475	1,348
	10,651	12,972

10. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2020	2019
	£	£
Creditors	11,760	2,936
Accrued expenses	1,928	3,584
	13,688	6,520

11. Movement in funds

	At 1.1.20 £	Net Movement in funds £	Transfer between funds £	At 31.12.20 £
Unrestricted Funds				
General Fund	28,782	9,967	-	38,749
Building Repair Provision Fund	42,278	(2,230)	-	40,048
	71,060	7,737	-	78,797
Restricted Funds				
Sundry Specific Donations	11,189	457	-	11,646
Saint Aidan's	29,113	(29,113)	-	-
	40,302	(28,656)	-	11,646
	111,362	(20,919)	-	90,443

Net movement in funds in 2020, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming Resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in Funds £
Unrestricted Funds			
General Fund	187,587	(177,620)	9,967
Building Repair Provision Fund	1,850	(4,080)	(2,230)
	189,437	(181,700)	7,737
Restricted Funds			
Sundry Specific Donations	18,450	(17,993)	457
Saint Aidan's	-	(29,113)	(29,113)
	18,450	(47,105)	(28,655)
	207,887	(228,806)	(20,919)

12. Contingent Liabilities

There were no contingent liabilities

13. Other financial commitments

At the balance sheet date there were no commitments under any operating leases.

14. Related party disclosures

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 December 2020.

15. Ultimate controlling party

The ultimate controlling party is the Parochial Church Council (PCC).

PCC of St John the Baptist Westwood - General Fund

Abbreviated Profit & Loss & Draft Budget for The Bridge for 2021

	2019	Full year 2020			2021 Budget
	2019 Actual	Approved Budget	Year end actual	Variances	The Bridge Benefice Coventry
Income					
Planned & Regular Giving	154,864	160,000	143,831	-16,169	176,000
Gift Aid Refund from Inland Revenue	32,476	34,000	31,485	-2,515	38,500
One-off Donations	29	50	88	38	0
Parochial Fee Income	1,658	1,500	947	-553	1,500
Field, Car Park & Room Rentals	16,125	16,000	11,199	-4,801	9,000
Sundry Income	-65	-150	37	187	0
Total Income	**205,087**	**211,400**	**187,587**	**-23,813**	**225,000**
Expenditure					
Staffing					
Payroll costs, including NI and Pensions	77,038	81,773	68,414	-13,359	77,000
Staff Time Recharged Out	-5,391	-8,000	-5,231	2,769	-1,500
Furlough Grants	0	0	-12,305	-12,305	-500
Total Staff cost excluding pay	10,496	10,700	8,311	-2,389	13,500
Total Staff Costs	**82,143**	**84,473**	**59,189**	**-25,284**	**88,500**
Groups and Meetings	**8,897**	**7,180**	**2,987**	**-4,193**	**16,850**
Buildings, Equipment & Administration					
Buildings & Grounds	15,636	15,400	11,621	-3,779	24,400
Equipment	5,580	6,175	4,601	-1,574	11,250
Administration	5,326	5,240	5,614	374	8,000
Parish Share	67,250	68,095	68,095	0	72,500
Total Buildings, Equipment & Admin	**95,192**	**96,345**	**91,371**	**-4,974**	**117,650**
Partners & Supported Organisations	**23,792**	**22,132**	**24,073**	**1,941**	**27,000**
Total Expenditure	**210,024**	**210,130**	**177,620**	**-32,510**	**250,000**
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	**-4,937**	**1,270**	**9,967**	**8,697**	**-25,000**
General Fund Balance at Year End	**28,782**	**30,052**	**38,749**		**23,043**
Percent of Turnover	**14.0%**	**14.2%**	**20.7%**		**10.2%**