



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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.

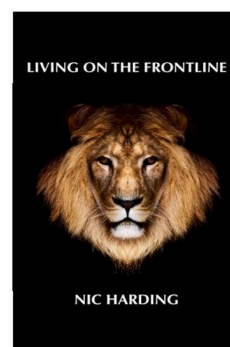
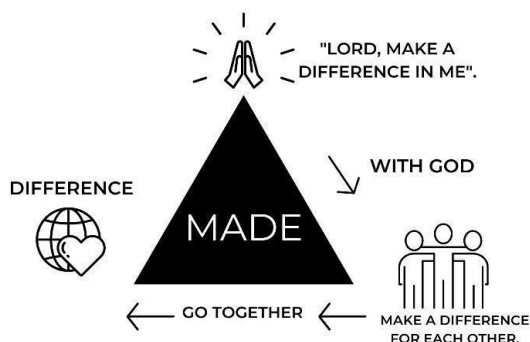
We serve and love a God who by His very nature is relational. Everything good grows from relationship. It hurts when we say goodbye, but we know that new faith relationships are always around the corner as we partner and share faith.

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/ojcmchjq>

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.

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 exercises all the functions of the PCC's of the parishes of Westwood and Canley, which went into abeyance when the Joint 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 OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

JOINT COUNCIL REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Achievements and performance

Charitable activities

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 is 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) ahead of their combined budget by £6,055 or 58%.
- Overall income at, was £230,684, this is £39,316 or 14.6% below the planned budget of £270,000 income but 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 (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 an underspend of £1,465. In 2022 it was £11,153.
- 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)
- Gifts to supported organisations was on budget at £32,400. In 2022 £22,000 was given to these organisations.
- Overall expenditure was £258,303, (2022 was £243,865) versus a budget of £270,000, so an underspend of £11,697 or 4%.

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 cost to sustain a stable financial position.

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

JOINT COUNCIL REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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 £100,169.

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 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	
S Ashelby	
A Mahtani	(Resigned 30 June 2023)
A Smith	(Resigned 30 June 2023)
J Sayer	
M Robinson	
E Gilmour	
C Hammond	
B Packwood	(Appointed 30 April 2023)
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

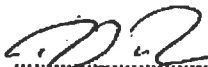
Decisions made in formal Joint Council meetings are communicated to staff who perform direct and administrative roles and overseen by the Joint Council.

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY**JOINT COUNCIL REPORT (CONTINUED)****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

Commencement of Activities

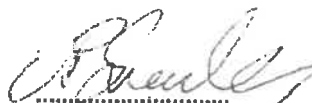
The charity registered with the Charity Commission on 6th April 2009.

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.

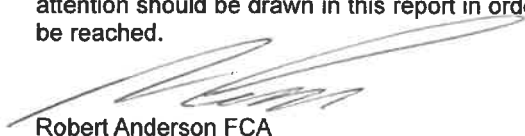
Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared financial statements in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting 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:10/11/24.....

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

		Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
	Notes						
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

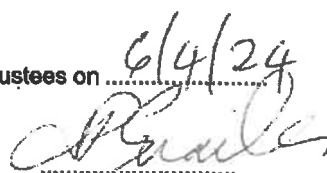
BALANCE SHEET

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	
		<u>109,558</u>		<u>111,807</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(9,390)		(6,984)	
Net current assets			<u>100,168</u>		<u>104,823</u>
Income funds					
Restricted funds	14		49,750		26,786
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>					
Designated funds	15	21,913		35,654	
General unrestricted funds		<u>28,505</u>		<u>42,383</u>	
			<u>50,418</u>		<u>78,037</u>
			<u>100,168</u>		<u>104,823</u>

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


D Hammond
Trustee


J Smailes
Trustee

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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.

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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.

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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.

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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	-
	<u>17,857</u>	<u>13,453</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	16,571	12,269
Restricted funds	1,286	1,184
	<u>17,857</u>	<u>13,453</u>

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	-
	<u>97</u>	<u>5,030</u>	<u>5,127</u>	<u>100</u>
Other Income				

6 Investments

	Total 2023 £	Restricted funds 2022 £
Interest receivable	-	75

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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
	<u>273,366</u>	<u>265,451</u>
Share of governance costs (see note 8)	2,596	1,800
	<u>275,962</u>	<u>267,251</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	258,303	243,865
Restricted funds	17,659	23,386
	<u>275,962</u>	<u>267,251</u>

8 Support costs

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

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

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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

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 Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

12 Debtors

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

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

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

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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:

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

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Building Repair Provision Fund	36,181	100	(627)	35,654	97	(13,838)
	36,181	100	(627)	35,654	97	(13,838)

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total Unrestricted funds 2023 £	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	104,823
	50,417	49,751	100,168	78,037	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.

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 exercises all the functions of the PCC's of the parishes of Westwood and Canley, which went into abeyance when the Joint 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 OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

JOINT COUNCIL REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Achievements and performance

Charitable activities

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 is 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) ahead of their combined budget by £6,055 or 58%.
- Overall income at, was £230,684, this is £39,316 or 14.6% below the planned budget of £270,000 income but 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 (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 an underspend of £1,465. In 2022 it was £11,153.
- 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)
- Gifts to supported organisations was on budget at £32,400. In 2022 £22,000 was given to these organisations.
- Overall expenditure was £258,303, (2022 was £243,865) versus a budget of £270,000, so an underspend of £11,697 or 4%.

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 cost to sustain a stable financial position.

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

JOINT COUNCIL REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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 £100,169.

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 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	
S Ashelby	
A Mahtani	(Resigned 30 June 2023)
A Smith	(Resigned 30 June 2023)
J Sayer	
M Robinson	
E Gilmour	
C Hammond	
B Packwood	(Appointed 30 April 2023)
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.

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:10/11/24.....

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

		Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
	Notes						
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

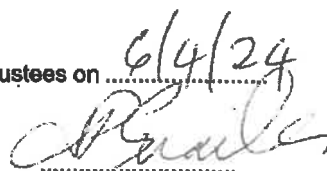
BALANCE SHEET

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	
		<u>109,558</u>		<u>111,807</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(9,390)		(6,984)	
Net current assets			<u>100,168</u>		<u>104,823</u>
Income funds					
Restricted funds	14		49,750		26,786
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>					
Designated funds	15	21,913		35,654	
General unrestricted funds		<u>28,505</u>		<u>42,383</u>	
			<u>50,418</u>		<u>78,037</u>
			<u>100,168</u>		<u>104,823</u>

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


D Hammond
Trustee


J Smailes
Trustee

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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.

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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.

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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.

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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	-
	<u>17,857</u>	<u>13,453</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	16,571	12,269
Restricted funds	1,286	1,184
	<u>17,857</u>	<u>13,453</u>

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	-
	<u>97</u>	<u>5,030</u>	<u>5,127</u>	<u>100</u>
Other Income				

6 Investments

	Total 2023 £	Restricted funds 2022 £
Interest receivable	-	75

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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
	<u>273,366</u>	<u>265,451</u>
Share of governance costs (see note 8)	2,596	1,800
	<u>275,962</u>	<u>267,251</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	258,303	243,865
Restricted funds	17,659	23,386
	<u>275,962</u>	<u>267,251</u>

8 Support costs

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

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

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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
	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>
Employment costs	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	63,719	75,469
Social security costs	-	2,721
Other pension costs	2,892	2,133
	<u>66,611</u>	<u>80,323</u>

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 Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

12 Debtors

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

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

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

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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:

	Balance at 1 January 2022	Incoming resources	Movement in funds		Revaluations, gains and losses	Balance at January 2023	Movement in funds		Balance at 31 December 2023
	£	£	Resources expended	Transfers	£	£	Incoming resources	Resources expended	£
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

JOINT COUNCIL OF THE BRIDGE BENEFICE, COVENTRY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Building Repair Provision Fund	36,181	100	(627)	35,654	97	(13,838)
	36,181	100	(627)	35,654	97	(13,838)

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total Unrestricted funds 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).