

Annual Report May 2025



Church Office, St Matthew's Church, St Matthew's Street, Cambridge, CB1 2LT
office@stmatthews.uk
www.stmatthews.uk
01223 363545
registered charity 112983

stmatthew'schurch

How is it going?

This could be a big year for St Matthew's. Every year we want to grow in our faith and bring others into our church family. But if we do that this year, that could be a blessing to another part of Cambridge too. In a year's time, we hope to be ready to send a team to revitalise another church and help them reach out to a rapidly growing population.

Our Associate Vicar, Tom, has built a good relationship with a church that might invite us. If it goes ahead, all of us will be affected and all of us will be needed. We'll need enough to move church to make a real difference. We'll need those who stay behind to help continue the work here. We are praying and leaving the outcome to God, but either way it would be great to see growth.

We are seeing encouraging signs. Our children and youth work has grown. New members have joined prayer meetings and Bible groups. We ran out of chairs on Easter Sunday and are running an extra Life Explored group to meet demand, with more guests than usual.

But not everything is growing. 5pm church attendance dropped with fewer new students. Regular giving went down while average pay increased, so we can't afford to replace our student worker when he moves on, or to run a church weekend. We'll need a 4% increase to break even, more than that to get back to a full budget. Please pray for God to provide.

When Jesus died for us, he showed that real spiritual gains come at great cost. It won't be easy.

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich. (2 Corinthians 8:9)

How can I join in?

Pray Prayer is powerful and effective. There's no substitute for a whole church family sharing and praying together. If you are able, please prioritise that on the first Tuesday of each month (see p.8).

Speak God can use us even when we feel weak and inadequate. We are all different, but we can all play a part in befriending, inviting, and welcoming those we don't yet know, while speaking about Jesus.

Serve We believe every member of church has something different to offer. The more who play an active part in Bible groups and teams, the sooner we can start or revitalise another church. If you would be interested in serving, please speak to one of the staff team.

Give We are asking everyone to review regular giving towards the costs of the ministry we receive here, as well as our mission partners elsewhere. We will need more income to carry on as we are, because costs continue to increase but giving has gone down.

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Activities

This is the report of the PCC to church members, reviewing all our activities in turn, so we can thank God for all that has been achieved so far and so we can pray and plan for areas where more work is needed.

Attendance

Average Sunday attendance (in October, the month we check annually) was 91 adults and 39 children at 10.30am, and 39 adults at 5pm, with about seven devices watching online. This is lower than the previous year so we looked at January as well as October and found attendance had dropped at 5pm from 2024 to 2025, but was about the same at 10.30am. Our diocesan returns for 2024 recorded that 34 adults & children began attending and 20 left Cambridge, moved church or stopped attending. The total number on our Sunday contact list is currently 226 regulars and 41 occasional attenders.

In April 2024 there were 135 members on our electoral roll. In 2025 the electoral roll was completely revised so that at its publication on 4th May 2025, there were 121 members. This drop in numbers is normal during a year when the roll is completely revised, as former members sometimes don't get removed until that year, and sometimes current members miss the date for filling in a new form.

During 2024, 10 people were welcomed into St Matthew's through baptism, confirmation, or affirmation of baptism vows. Four of those were baptised, two on the basis of their own faith and two babies on the basis of their parents' faith. St Matthew's hosted funerals for Pamela Bryant, Diana Wilson, Ian Fiddes and Swee Kim Huen.

We delivered our Christmas programme to 2,000 homes in the local area. On average we receive 32,380 visits to our home webpage per month. We regularly email prayer news to approximately 165 people and send occasional email, text or WhatsApp publicity to approximately 620 people. Our social media accounts have followers in four countries and our Easter posts reached approximately 400 people.

Helen Wilson (Administrator)

Bible groups for adults

In September, we started a new Thursday morning group for women because the existing two groups were at capacity. Currently, we have five Tuesday evening groups, two Wednesday evening groups, three Thursday morning groups (including a crèche), and a Thursday early-evening group.

Some groups have welcomed new members, either because they are new to Cambridge or have recently come to faith. The Tuesday evening group for those in their 20s and 30s continues to attract newcomers as they move to Cambridge.

The Thursday early-evening group runs at the same time as JAFFA/Youth group, allowing parents with children in those groups to participate in a Bible study regularly. This group has also seen new members join.

Additionally, the Coffee Pot group has moved from Wednesday mornings to Wednesday afternoons. This time works better for those who attend and would like a group that is more accessible to them.

During term time, most groups meet weekly, except for the first Tuesday of each month when we come together for our prayer meeting. We hold regular leaders' meetings to discuss how to support everyone in the groups as they grow in their faith. There is also an ongoing need to recruit and train new leaders.

Claire Mason (Children's & Women's Worker)

Buildings

In 2024, the Quinquennial (a survey of our church buildings, conducted by an architect) identified repairs needed costing in excess of £30k. A programme of repairs will be drawn up based on their urgency and these will need to be carried over the next few years. Along with routine maintenance of the boilers and gas appliances etc, we also redecorated the small hall and made improvements to the car park surface.

There has been a couple of leaks in the church roof, one of which has been repaired. The other one is in the lantern area and is less serious. The repair has been deferred until such time as it becomes more serious, as gaining access to the lantern will be expensive.

We have a problem with cluster flies dropping to the floor of the church, particularly during the late summer and autumn. Fumigation was carried out in an attempt to eradicate the problem and this will be repeated in the Autumn this year.

During routine maintenance one of the external glass doors was recently found to be defective and unsafe. Consequently, a new glass door has been installed.

30, St Matthew's Street continues to be rented by students, and another lease has been signed by a new group of students who will replace the current tenants in September. In October, Tom & Gemma moved into a larger house that St Matthew's are renting from another church, so 36 St Matthews Street is now rented to another family on a 12 month lease. The house was redecorated throughout prior to the tenants moving in.

Martin Carter (Buildings Manager)

Church planting or revitalisation

St Matthew's have been praying that, God willing, we might "send a congregation and preacher to reach the unreached" (see appendix 5). We appointed our Associate Vicar to help us grow over 5 years and then to lead a group away from St Matthew's to start up a new church or strengthen a church that needs our help. He has been with us for 4 years, so we hope to ready after one more year, if God provides a suitable opportunity.

After exploring a number of possibilities around Cambridge, this year our church council committed to pursuing a partnership with Trumpington parish church. This would involve Tom being licensed to serve Trumpington as well as St Matthew's initially, and then becoming their Vicar when there is a vacancy, inviting people from St Matthew's to join him. In the year ahead, Tom will increase his involvement at Trumpington, leading services there and supporting Mandy, the current Vicar, especially during her sabbatical this summer. Meanwhile the Trumpington church council and annual meeting are weighing up whether to go ahead with this, with the involvement of the archdeacon and the Bishop's team.

To bring this about we need to keep praying for St Matthew's to grow so that, Lord willing, we can send a good number of people with Tom but also continue to sustain what we are doing here.

Tom Simpson (Associate Vicar)

Evangelism

Sharing the good news of Jesus is central to our mission as a church, because Jesus commands it and we believe everyone needs Jesus. The first step is often when church members build relationships through work, hobbies, schools, volunteering, sports, or being good neighbours. Once we get talking about our lives and faith, we often invite them to try out church with us. Easter Sunday was fuller than in previous years, taking us a little by surprise so that we needed more Bibles and chairs, which is a great problem to have. But we've also seen a good number of guests invited by church members even when there is no special occasion. We've had new people visiting us almost every Sunday this year.

We stopped running occasional church-wide social events a few years ago, partly because we found it more effective to invite guests to regular groups, or for regular groups to run a special event, so that guests can keep coming back and be drawn into a community that keeps meeting. This has been working well in Thursday morning women's group, Roots, international fellowship, JAFFA, youth, coffee pot and student group. Similarly, Slice of Life for over 50s has a good number of regulars who are not yet believers. This year the maximum attendance reached 35, which is higher than in previous years.

For those who are ready to take a serious look at Christianity we offered a Life Explored course, a small discussion group over seven sessions tackling common questions, basic beliefs and reading through a gospel. This year we ran it three times rather than twice because of demand, courses ranged from 5 to 15 participants. We also met individually with several who were not available for those courses.

Frank Price (Vicar)

Families & children

Each Sunday at 10.30am we have three groups for children from 3-11 years. Each group is led by a small team of leaders who prepare Bible teaching, build relationships with the children and pray for them and their families. Over the past year we have taught from 1 Kings, Mark's gospel, and Paul's journey to Rome from Acts. Team members attend termly meetings for training and support.

JAFFA continues to meet on Thursday evenings for children in school years 3-6. Numbers have increased to about 20 attending regularly some from the church family, others invited by friends or from the local community. Each week there are activities including craft, games, and team challenges plus a Bible talk. Special events in the Autumn and Spring give the opportunity for children to invite friends.

Claire Mason has the opportunity to teach Year 1 students at St Matthew's Primary School about Christmas and Easter, and in the summer term, the children visit the church. Additionally, Year 5 students from St Matthew's School visited in the summer as part of their RE curriculum. For the first time in many years, Brunswick nursery came to the church for Easter and would like to come again at Christmas.

Claire Mason (Children's & Women's Worker)

Families with pre-school children

Our work with families with young children has two main focuses. Firstly, we reach out through Mini Matts, our church toddler group, with around 50 adults and children attending regularly. During the free play, Bible story and communal activities, we seek to build relationships and share the gospel with those attending. We continue to give thanks for God bringing a steady stream of people through the doors and for the positive relationships we've built with families. However, financial pressures on parents and increased government-funded nursery provision means that our time with these families is increasingly limited.

Secondly, we welcome a good number of pre-school families to our Sunday gatherings. We give thanks for a real growth in this area over the last couple of years. The Sunday morning crèche has good numbers most weeks, with other families preferring to use the parent and child room. We keep under review how we structure our Sunday gatherings to make them as accessible as possible to families with pre-school children.

Tom Simpson (Associate Vicar)

Finance

We are grateful to God that we have a good number of generous church members who give financially and in many other ways. Usually, regular giving usually goes up a little each year to reflect average pay increases. However, regular giving and other income (from renting out our buildings and car park when we are not

using them) decreased a little last year. Consequently, last year's deficit was significantly more than we had expected.

The deficit was not entirely unplanned. We took on an extra staff member temporarily to put to good use some spare funds we'd received in previous years, and that extra post comes to an end shortly. Our expenses continue to rise a little each year to reflect inflation and average pay, so we are rapidly using up our reserves and in danger of running low on funds in 2026. For that reason, we are asking everyone to pray and review their giving and we are also avoiding non-essential expenditure for the time being.

For example, we will not be able to replace Henry when he moves away in September, and we will need to have a church day out rather than a weekend away next year. We reduced spending on the Good Friday lunch, activities at the youth weekend and postponed non-essential building work. Even so, we estimate that we need an increase of 4% overall so that income and expenditure balance in 2026. We would need more than that to get back to our full budget.

We are grateful that God has always provided when we have asked him, and we can also be encouraged by a strong response to the appeal for one-off donations in November, when this need was first made known.

Steve Giles (Treasurer)

Internationals

St Matthew's works together with Friends International (FI) to introduce the gospel to international visitors to Cambridge, some of whom come from countries where it is hard to hear about Jesus.

Links with the Barn international cafe (run by FI) a Bible discussion at Central Language School, and the one year FI Reach Volunteer training programme allow us to invite people to join the International Fellowship at St Matthew's. This meets on Friday evenings at a local home. The group has a format similar to a home group, starting by eating together and then following a series of discussions in Mark's gospel, but is aimed at newcomers who are not yet believing or not yet settled in a church in the UK. Recent attendees come from Turkey, Saudi Arabia, India, China, Ukraine, South Korea and more. At our Chinese New Year event about 30 people joined us to make dumplings together.

In Autumn 2024 we hosted an outreach course consisting of eight weeks of talks and discussion in partnership with FI. Christ Church Lowestoft very generously hosted us for a weekend away in November where we took time to discuss the Bible together, spend with our hosts and join them on Sunday at church.

David Binns (Leader, International Fellowship)

Mission partners

Our current mission partners are: Maxime and Demelza, who work in church planting in France, as well as supporting their university Christian Union; Hiromi, who is back in the UK and working in Oxford with Friends international, reaching Japanese people and preparing Japanese Christians for return to Japan; Tim and Shireen, who work in Leicester especially among ethnic minorities; and Andy and Amy who are leading a church revitalisation project in Doncaster.

Another couple from our church are involved in outreach to Asia including medical support for Christians in ministry there.

We support each of our mission partners both in prayer and financially. This year we have also been able to help a volunteer with Friends International, who is part of a team reaching overseas students for Jesus, both at St Matthew's and across Cambridge.

Each year St Matthew's holds a Mission Sunday when we focus on mission beyond our own congregation. In 2024 Andy Thomas joined us, both for the services and for lunch.

Zoe Binns (Chair, Mission committee)



Tim & Shireen



Hiromi



Andy & Amy, Zoe, Samuel & James



**Maxime & Demelza, Joshua, Noah,
Charlotte & Luca**

Prayer meetings

Meeting together to pray as a church family is our first priority as it expresses our dependence on God for all that we do as a church. We meet in the church building with some joining on Zoom on the first Tuesday of each month (apart from August). About 55 have been attending regularly in 2025, up from about 45 last year. Throughout the year we have prayed for a wide range of areas of church life including International Fellowship, Mini Matts and work with young families, student work, youth work, Sunday children's ministry, schools work including JAFFA and links with local schools, plus all those involved in our Sunday services. Each month we also pray for an area of ministry outside St Matthew's. Harriet Ngugi the new team leader for Friends International in Cambridge joined us in July and Alison Kennedy the ARU Chaplain joined us in September. We have also prayed for our Christmas outreach, for Christians in the workplace and for the general election and our government.

Our mission partners are prayed for regularly. Over the past year, we have had in-person visits from Hiromi and Tim & Shireen, while Maxime & Demelza joined us via Zoom from Bordeaux.

We update the prayer news on the church website each month and on PrayerMate, allowing church members to continue praying throughout the month.

Claire Mason (Children's & Women's worker)

Safeguarding

We want to be a church family that reflects God's character of showing mercy and compassion to the weak and vulnerable, and opposing injustice. This will show in how we relate to one another and care for each other especially those who might be more vulnerable to harm, whether they are children, young people or adults. We hold an annual Safeguarding Sunday in February to raise awareness of the importance of safeguarding across the church family.

Claire Mason is the Parish Safeguarding Officer, appointed by the PCC to ensure that the church is a safe place for everyone. She does this with the support and training of safeguarding professionals in the Diocese of Ely. She is the first point of contact for any concerns about someone in the church, the care that we provide or if something at church isn't right.

The Parish Dashboard is an online progress report of how well we are meeting the Church of England safeguarding requirements including safeguarding policies, safer recruitment and safeguarding training. Safeguarding is a regular item at each PCC meeting. In March 2025 the PCC checked and approved our current safeguarding action plan from the Parish Dashboard. Outstanding action is mostly ensuring that all volunteers working with children, young people and vulnerable adults are up to date with training. (The full report is available on the church website.)

Claire Mason (Children's & Women's worker)

Students

We are in contact with approx. 40 university or sixth form students who have attended events here, but we only see about 10-15 of them at church or student group on a typical Sunday. Some are studying elsewhere and join us out of term time when they are back home with parents. Some work at weekends or travel long distances to study because of accommodation costs. Others are sent on long placements as part of their course. Some are exploring Christianity and not yet in the church habit.

We connect with new students at September and January welcome weeks at Anglia Ruskin University with our own stall at fresher's fair, visiting Christian Union events, assisting the chaplaincy and serving on the iCafe team for internationals. We have seen new students join us this year, though not as many as in recent years.

We encourage students and sixth formers to attend 5pm church and stay on for free pizza, games and topical Bible discussion, working through a three year programme of basic beliefs and issues facing students. Doing it straight after church makes it easier for them than coming to a separate midweek group as others do. Those available for more are offered Life Explored, 1-1 Bible partnerships, roles on church teams, and a student weekend away. Some take part in midweek Christian Union at sixth form or ARU.

Many of the students attend only very occasionally but a handful have become committed believers through this ministry. Henry Wilkes is one of those, and we are delighted that he is looking to continue in Christian work after moving on in September. The student work will be handed over to Charlotte Hayward-Faulkner with the support of the volunteer team, Abi, Rachel and Jacob.

Frank Price (Vicar)

Wider church

St Matthew's takes an active part in the wider church. We are represented at Deanery and Diocesan Synod by both clergy and laity and seek to work closely with other like-minded churches both near and far. This year, Frank Price has been appointed as an Assistant Diocesan Director of Ordinands, helping to select new vicars for training and continues to chair a local chapter group of Cambridge clergy.

This has been a tumultuous year in the Church of England. It continues to be divided over the introduction of the Prayers of Love and Faith, which affects relationships within the church at all levels. Sadly, there seems to be no sign of this being resolved any time soon. Safeguarding failures led to the resignation of the Archbishop of Canterbury in November and the Bishop of Liverpool in January 2025. The leadership team continue to reflect on the lessons from these reports and situations in order to make St Matthew's Church a safe space for all.

Concerningly, the Church of England continues to decline in number. The church nationally is now around 20% smaller than it was before the pandemic. We seek to play our part in encouraging the wider church to focus on evangelism and discipleship in order to reverse this decline.

Tom Simpson (Associate Vicar)

Youth

Youth group has continued to grow since last year, with average numbers of 22 on a Thursday and 17 on Sunday mornings. The biggest change this has made has been on Sundays as we no longer all fit in the vicarage! Instead, we have had one of the discussion groups remain in the service each week with the chance to discuss what they heard in the sermon at the end with their group leader. On Thursdays, we have held a number of guest-friendly events (including a Christmas party, Bake-Off, and Escape the Zombie Apocalypse) giving the opportunity for youth to invite their friends. I've been delighted to see a number of guests joining in with a few of those becoming familiar faces at other times.

I am extremely grateful to all the leaders for their hard work and flexibility, and I am excited there are others who are in the process of joining the team.

I have been really encouraged to see friendships form and grow since September, which was helped by spending extended time together at both the Youth and Church weekends away. We have 11 young people (13-18) signed up to Sparkford 3 this year. Camp not only facilitates deeper friendships but is often a significant and formational time in a young person's faith, so I am thrilled to see the momentum continue to grow there.

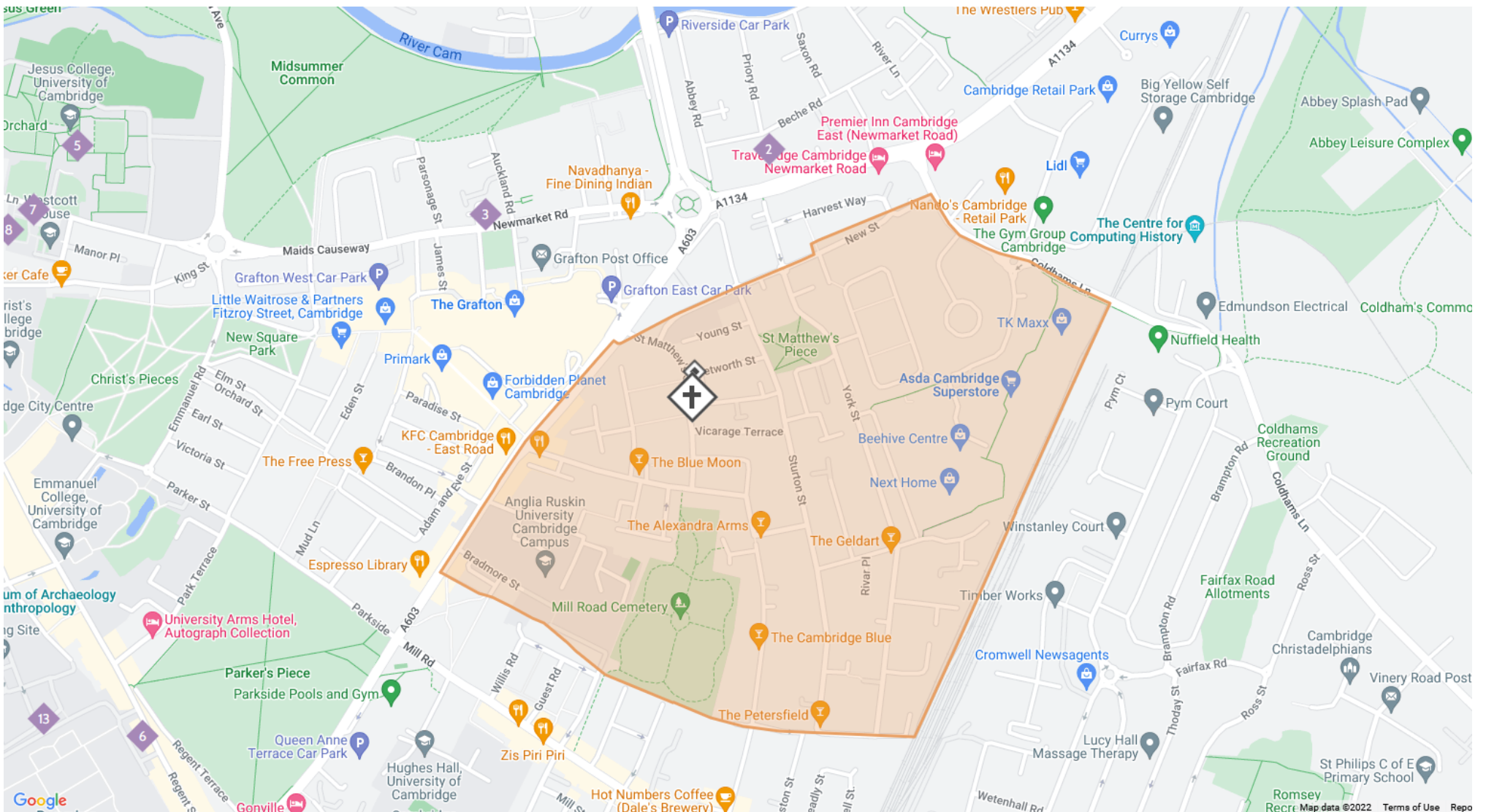
I co-lead an after-school bible club at Parkside School on Tuesdays with 3-5 students. It has been great to build relationships with the teachers and have a presence in the school.

Charlotte Hayward-Faulkner (Youth worker)

Church Overview

Objectives

St Matthew's Church was opened over 150 years ago with the words: ***‘we preach Christ crucified’*** (1 Corinthians 1:23) and that is still our primary aim today. Church members invite our ***networks*** of personal contacts and our ***neighbourhood*** (the local area, the parish) to ***come and hear*** why that good news is so important or to ***come and help*** us share that. When ‘we preach Christ crucified’, we make disciples who want to obey everything Christ commanded (Matthew 28:19-20). That will include loving our neighbours and serving the wider community in a range of ways that benefit the public.



St Matthew's Church parish & surrounding area

Membership & governance

We're a warm church family of all ages and nationalities. We welcome visitors of all faiths or none. We welcome any who want to join to receive communion with us, if they are baptised and can affirm the baptism vows: "I repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour, I turn to Christ as Saviour and I submit to Christ as Lord". St Matthew's parish is in Ely Diocese in the Church of England, but we belong to Christ first, so we welcome members from other church backgrounds.

Church members appoint the 'St Matthew's Parochial Church Council' (PCC) at an annual meeting, following the 'Church Representation Rules'. PCC members are trustees for the church, a registered charity, and also for the 'Sidgwick Trust' which manages the properties next door. The 'St Matthew's Parish Rooms' trust manages the church halls. The PCC governs general direction and policies. Day-to-day management is delegated to staff and other teams. (See appendix 6 so you know who to contact.)

St Matthew's PCC Summary Accounts
For the year ending 31st December 2024

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	2023 £
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Regular giving	198,363.53	16,528.50	214,892.03	220,283.55
One-off giving (incl grants)	32,365.76	-	32,365.76	33,360.81
Recovered tax	42,290.24	3,841.24	46,131.48	48,569.77
Total voluntary income	273,019.53	20,369.74	293,389.27	302,214.13
Income from investments (Interest)	53.64	-	53.64	33.65
Church activities (Bookstall, etc.)	847.96	-	847.96	955.89
Other Incoming Resources	30,806.72	-	30,806.72	31,894.73
Total Incoming Resources	304,727.85	20,369.74	325,097.59	335,098.40
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Mission giving	-	33,764.92	33,764.92	38,468.81
Staff and Diocesan costs	258,880.16	-	258,880.16	226,581.93
Church running costs & activities	48,391.08	3,395.16	51,786.24	64,784.82
Other costs	11,972.81	-	11,972.81	11,975.56
Total Resources Expended	319,244.05	37,160.08	356,404.13	341,811.12
Transfer between funds	(17,318.31)	17,318.31		
Surplus/(loss) for the year	(31,834.51)	527.97	(31,306.54)	(6,712.72)

Balance Sheet
Position at 31st December 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
NET FIXED ASSETS	3,791.02	6,924.31
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors	37,835.95	26,090.03
Cash at bank and in hand	81,943.53	117,738.51
	<u>119,779.48</u>	<u>143,828.54</u>
LIABILITIES		
Creditors - amounts falling due in one year	28,633.81	24,509.62
	<u>28,633.81</u>	<u>24,509.62</u>
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities	<u>94,936.69</u>	<u>126,243.23</u>
Loans due > 1 year	-	-
Total net assets	<u>94,936.69</u>	<u>126,243.23</u>

*The above report is a concise summary of the formal report.
You can find the full report and budget for the year ahead on the church website or
by contacting the church office (office@stmatthews.uk).*

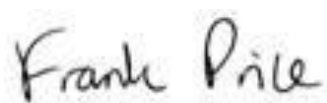
Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Matthew, Cambridge (Charity number 1129835)

**Statement of Financial Activities
For year ending 31st December 2024**

		2024 Unrestricted Funds £	2024 Restricted Funds £	2024 Total Funds £	2023 Unrestricted Funds £	2023 Restricted Funds £	2023 Total Funds £
INCOMING RESOURCES							
	Notes						
Voluntary Income	2(a)	273,019.53	20,369.74	293,389.27	284,917.88	17,296.25	302,214.13
Income from investments (Interest)	2(b)	53.64	-	53.64	33.65	-	33.65
Church activities (Bookstall, etc.)	2(c)	847.96	-	847.96	955.89	-	955.89
Other Incoming Resources	2(d)	30,806.72	-	30,806.72	31,894.73	-	31,894.73
Total Incoming Resources		<u>304,727.85</u>	<u>20,369.74</u>	<u>325,097.59</u>	<u>317,802.15</u>	<u>17,296.25</u>	<u>335,098.40</u>
RESOURCES EXPENDED							
Mission giving	3(a)	-	33,764.92	33,764.92	-	38,468.81	38,468.81
Staff and Diocesan costs	3(b)	258,880.16	-	258,880.16	226,581.93	-	226,581.93
Church running costs & activities	3(c)	48,391.08	3,395.16	51,786.24	59,934.82	4,850.00	64,784.82
Other costs	3(d)	11,972.81	-	11,972.81	11,975.56	-	11,975.56
Total Resources Expended		<u>319,244.05</u>	<u>37,160.08</u>	<u>356,404.13</u>	<u>298,492.31</u>	<u>43,318.81</u>	<u>341,811.12</u>
Transfer from/(to) general funds		<u>(17,318.31)</u>	<u>17,318.31</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(15,075.52)</u>	<u>15,075.52</u>	<u>-</u>
Surplus/(loss) for the year		<u>(31,834.51)</u>	<u>527.97</u>	<u>(31,306.54)</u>	<u>4,234.32</u>	<u>(10,947.04)</u>	<u>(6,712.72)</u>
Movement between Funds	11						
Balances B/Fwd 1 January		125,784.46	458.77	126,243.23	121,550.14	11,405.81	132,955.95
Balances C/Fwd 31 December		93,949.95	986.74	94,936.69	125,784.46	458.77	126,243.23
		0.00					
Balance Sheet							
At 31 December							
	Notes	2024 £	2023 £				
NET FIXED ASSETS	5	3,791.02	6,924.31				
CURRENT ASSETS							
Debtors	6	37,835.95	26,090.03				
Cash at bank and in hand	7	<u>81,943.53</u>	<u>117,738.51</u>				
		<u>119,779.48</u>	<u>143,828.54</u>				
LIABILITIES							
Creditors - amounts falling due in one year	8	28,633.81	24,509.62				
Creditors - amounts falling due after one year	9	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>				
		<u>28,633.81</u>	<u>24,509.62</u>				
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities		<u>94,936.69</u>	<u>126,243.23</u>				
PARISH FUNDS	12						
Unrestricted		93,949.95	125,784.46				
Restricted		<u>986.74</u>	<u>458.77</u>				
		<u>94,936.69</u>	<u>126,243.23</u>				

The notes on pages 2 to 5 form part of this account

Adopted by the Parochial Church Council on 28th April, 2025 and signed on its behalf by



The Revd Frank Price (PCC Chairman)



Steve Giles (Treasurer)

Notes to the financial statements
For year ending 31/12/24

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and the Charities SORP (2015) (based on FRS 102). The financial statements have been prepared on the basis of historic cost. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. The charity is a public benefit charity

A statement of cash flows has not been prepared as the PCC has taken the exemption from preparing the statement as it meets the definition of a small entity in FRS 102 (derived from the Companies Act 2006, section 382).

Funds

Restricted funds represent donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of the year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not normally invest separately for each fund.

Unrestricted funds are general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

Incoming resources

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resources to which they relate are received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. Income for the weekend away is recognised in the year in which it occurs. All other income is recognised when it is receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Resources expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan ministry share is accounted for when due. Amounts received specifically for mission are dealt with as restricted funds. Expenditure for the weekend away is recognised in the year in which it occurs. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishing held by the vicar and the church wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property and listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected.

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight-line basis over four years (sometimes five years for high cost durable assets).

2. INCOMING RESOURCES

	2024 Unrestricted Funds £	2024 Restricted Funds £	2024 Total Funds £	2023 Unrestricted Funds £	2023 Restricted Funds £	2023 Total Funds £
2 (a) Voluntary Income						
Tax efficient planned giving	168,645.00	15,358.50	184,003.50	181,548.00	12,252.00	193,800.00
Other planned giving	29,718.53	1,170.00	30,888.53	24,773.55	1,710.00	26,483.55
Collections of loose cash	1,429.07	-	1,429.07	406.81	259.00	665.81
All NON-RECURRING giving	200.00	-	200.00	-	-	-
All tax recovered - Gift Aid	42,290.24	3,841.24	46,131.48	45,494.52	3,075.25	48,569.77
Grants (From Sidgwick Trust and local organisations)	30,736.69	-	30,736.69	32,695.00	-	32,695.00
	<u>273,019.53</u>	<u>20,369.74</u>	<u>293,389.27</u>	<u>284,917.88</u>	<u>17,296.25</u>	<u>302,214.13</u>
2(b) Income from Investments						
Dividends, interest, income	53.64	-	53.64	33.65	-	33.65
2(c) Income from Church Activities						
Parochial Fees retained	163.00	-	163.00	102.00	-	102.00
Bookstall and other activities	684.96	-	684.96	853.89	-	853.89
	<u>847.96</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>847.96</u>	<u>955.89</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>955.89</u>

Notes to the financial statements (continued)
For the year ending 31st December, 2024

	2024 Unrestricted Funds £	2024 Restricted Funds £	2024 Total Funds £	2023 Unrestricted Funds £	2023 Restricted Funds £	2023 Total Funds £
2(d) Other Incoming Resources						
Weekend Away	13,374.09	-	13,374.09	13,403.15	-	13,403.15
Activities income (Meals, Coffee Pot, Youth Group etc)	8,805.14	-	8,805.14	6,864.16	-	6,864.16
Other income	8,627.49	-	8,627.49	11,627.42	-	11,627.42
	<u>30,806.72</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>30,806.72</u>	<u>31,894.73</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>31,894.73</u>
Total Incoming resources	<u>304,727.85</u>	<u>20,369.74</u>	<u>325,097.59</u>	<u>317,802.15</u>	<u>17,296.25</u>	<u>335,098.40</u>
3. RESOURCES EXPENDED						
3(a) Mission Giving						
Own Missionaries	-	29,991.92	29,991.92	-	32,252.61	32,252.61
Other Giving	-	3,773.00	3,773.00	-	6,216.20	6,216.20
	<u>-</u>	<u>33,764.92</u>	<u>33,764.92</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>38,468.81</u>	<u>38,468.81</u>
3(b) Staff and Diocesan costs						
Ministry Share paid to the diocese	70,597.00	-	70,597.00	67,264.23	-	67,264.23
Payroll costs (Staff except incumbent)	180,034.43	-	180,034.43	153,840.52	-	153,840.52
Staff (including incumbent) expenses and training costs	8,248.73	-	8,248.73	5,477.18	-	5,477.18
	<u>258,880.16</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>258,880.16</u>	<u>226,581.93</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>226,581.93</u>
3(c) Church running costs						
Cost of Services	8,926.18	-	8,926.18	7,740.89	-	7,740.89
Cleaning	4,965.96	-	4,965.96	4,702.34	-	4,702.34
Administration	4,738.70	-	4,738.70	3,789.61	-	3,789.61
Maintenance	-	3,395.16	3,395.16	14,782.67	4,750.00	19,532.67
Depreciation	3,870.09	-	3,870.09	3,715.92	-	3,715.92
Publicity	1,389.19	-	1,389.19	1,451.59	-	1,451.59
Activities						
General (Meals, Car park , Mens/womens events etc)	878.27	-	878.27	1,758.85	-	1,758.85
Holiday Club	-	-	0.00	-	-	0.00
Life Explored	24.99	-	24.99	60.67	-	60.67
Mini Matts	185.59	-	185.59	497.39	-	497.39
Children's Work	569.45	-	569.45	459.76	-	459.76
Youth Group	3,253.96	-	3,253.96	2,529.85	-	2,529.85
Sixth form and students	3,111.61	-	3,111.61	3,165.64	100.00	3,265.64
Jaffa	544.07	-	544.07	557.88	-	557.88
Coffee Pot	33.60	-	33.60	-	-	0.00
Other Outreach Activities	270.00	-	270.00	99.58	-	99.58
Gifts and help for Church Members	105.00	-	105.00	107.80	-	107.80
Weekend Away	15,524.42	-	15,524.42	14,514.38	-	14,514.38
	<u>48,391.08</u>	<u>3,395.16</u>	<u>51,786.24</u>	<u>59,934.82</u>	<u>4,850.00</u>	<u>64,784.82</u>
3(d) Other costs						
Church Utility Bills	9,467.08	-	9,467.08	9,386.41	-	9,386.41
Cost of Trading - Bookstall	1,100.85	-	1,100.85	1,216.34	-	1,216.34
Church Insurance Premium	1,404.88	-	1,404.88	1,372.81	-	1,372.81
Loan interest	-	-	0.00	-	-	0.00
Contribution to Sidgwick loan repayment	-	-	0.00	-	-	0.00
New Building Work/Major repairs	-	-	0.00	-	-	0.00
	<u>11,972.81</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,972.81</u>	<u>11,975.56</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,975.56</u>
Total outgoing resources	<u>319,244.05</u>	<u>37,160.08</u>	<u>356,404.13</u>	<u>298,492.31</u>	<u>43,318.81</u>	<u>341,811.12</u>

Notes to the financial statements (continued)
For the year ending 31st December, 2024

4. PAYROLL COSTS

The number of employees employed during the year:	2024	2023
Full time staff	5	4
Part time staff	0	1

TOTAL FUNDS

The breakdown of payroll costs is as follows:	2024	2023
		140,454.9
Salaries and Honoraria	163,964.47	2
Social Security Costs	6,356.66	4,807.20
Pension Costs	9,713.30	8,578.40
	180,034.43	153,840.5
		2

5. FIXED ASSETS

	Church Equipment
Tangible	
Actual/Deemed Cost	
At 1st January 2024	19,743.94
Additions at cost	736.80
Disposals	-
At 31st December 2024	<u>20,480.74</u>
Depreciation	
At 1st January 2024	12,819.63
Charge for the year	3,870.09
Disposals	-
At 31st December 2024	<u>16,689.72</u>
Net fixed assets at 31st December 2024	<u>3,791.02</u>

	2024	2024	2024	2023	2023	2023
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds
	£	£	£	£	£	£
6. DEBTORS						
Tax Recoverable	7,534.36	2,953.75	10,488.11	8,418.68	455.95	8,874.63
Next year w/e away	17,499.24	-	17,499.24	15,470.40	-	15,470.40
Next year ministry share (1mth)	6,921.20	-	6,921.20	-	-	-
Deposits	1,125.00	-	1,125.00	1,125.00	-	1,125.00
Other Debtors	1,802.40	-	1,802.40	620.00	-	620.00
	<u>34,882.20</u>	<u>2,953.75</u>	<u>37,835.95</u>	<u>25,634.08</u>	<u>455.95</u>	<u>26,090.03</u>

7. CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

						113,858.7
Co-operative Bank Current Account	80,092.63	(1,967.01)	78,125.62	113,855.92	2.82	4
Soldo	157.97	-	157.97	273.47	-	273.47
Barclays Bank Treasurers Acct (formerly Standard Life)	1,780.23	-	1,780.23	1,753.85	-	1,753.85
Barclays Bank Treasurers Sub Acct (formerly Standard Life)	1,839.71	-	1,839.71	1,812.45	-	1,812.45
Petty Cash	40.00	-	40.00	40.00	-	40.00
	<u>83,910.54</u>	<u>(1,967.01)</u>	<u>81,943.53</u>	<u>117,735.69</u>	<u>2.82</u>	<u>117,738.5</u>
						1

8. CREDITORS - AMOUNTS FALLING DUE IN ONE YEAR

Ely Diocese	352.00	-	352.00	-	-	-
Missionary Giving	-	-	-	-	-	-
Staff and other expenses	694.00	-	694.00	2,101.49	-	2,101.49
Payroll Liabilities	-	-	-	-	-	-
Deferred income (Next year w/e away)	11,240.00	-	11,240.00	10,540.00	-	10,540.00
Other Creditors	16,197.81	-	16,197.81	11,868.13	-	11,868.13
Deposits for hall hire	150.00	-	150.00	-	-	-
	<u>28,633.81</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>28,633.81</u>	<u>24,509.62</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>24,509.62</u>

9. CREDITORS - AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER ONE YEAR

Loans	-	-	-	-	-	-
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Notes to the financial statements (continued)
For the year ending 31st December, 2024

10. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Incumbent and staff who are PCC members were paid for items relating to their work as set out in the expenses policy. The incumbent is remunerated by the diocese and other staff members are remunerated as disclosed in note 4.

A grant of £29,645 (2023: £29,645) was received from the Trust of Mrs E M Sidgwick, which is deemed to be a related party due to common control. At 31 December 2024 included in debtors is £225.00 (2023: £NIL) due from the Trust of Mrs E M Sidgwick. Included in creditors at 31 December 2024 is £1,003.63 (2023: £30.04) due to the Trust of Mrs E M Sidgwick.

St Matthews Parish Rooms is also deemed to be a related party due to common control. At 31 December 2024 included in debtors is £166.40 (2023: £NIL) due from St Matthews Parish Rooms. Included in creditors at 31 December 2024 is £714.35 (2023: £863.72) due to St Matthews Parish Rooms.

Donations from trustees and persons closely connected with them for the year ending 31 December 2024 were £57,376 (2023: £74,897). This includes amounts to both the restricted and non-restricted funds and excludes Gift Aid recovered.

11. FUNDS

The restricted funds comprise the following:

Jamie Fiddes - donated funds to assist young people financially for Christian activities

Building – Funds donated specifically for use for church maintenance.

Mission – Funds set aside for world-wide mission. Any donations for specific mission partners are passed on during the year. The PCC aims to give at least 10% of all voluntary income to world-wide mission. Donations from the Mission Fund were to church mission partners.

Fund Movements	Jamie Fiddes	Building	Mission	Unrestricted	Total
Balance at 1 January 2024	458.77	-	-	125,784.46	126,243.23
Incoming Resources	173.13	3,750.00	16,446.61	304,727.85	325,097.59
Transfer from/(to) general funds	-	-	17,318.31	(17,318.31)	-
Resources Expended	-	(3,395.16)	(33,764.92)	(319,244.05)	(356,404.13)
Balance at 31 December 2024	<u>631.90</u>	<u>354.84</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>93,949.95</u>	<u>94,936.69</u>

12. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS by fund

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024
Fixed Assets	3,791.02	-	3,791.02
Current Assets	118,792.74	986.74	119,779.48
Liabilities	(28,633.81)	-	(28,633.81)
	<u>93,949.95</u>	<u>986.74</u>	<u>94,936.69</u>

13. RESERVES POLICY

The minimum cash reserve is now 3 months of non-discretionary spending. This reflects the standard notice period for staff. The upper limit adds “expected” regular expenditure such as regular payments to mission partners and the diocese. The range at the end of 2023 was £56,000 to £79,000 and at the end of 2024 is £60,000 to £85,000. The maximum cash reserve at 31 December 2024 is £82,774.

**Independent examiner's report to the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Matthew, Cambridge
(Charity number 1129835)**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Sidgwick Trust for the year ending 31 December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

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

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material 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 Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

P. Denner

PAUL DENNER

Date: 21/10/25

Appendix 4

Minutes of the Annual Meeting Saturday, 11th May, 2024 (12noon)

Frank shared from Romans 15:20. David Binns prayed for the meeting.

1. Apologies were received from 27 members (list in archive). 46 people attended. The meeting was happy for last year's minutes to be signed as an accurate record.
2. Election of Churchwardens, deanery synod reps, PCC members & independent examiner:

Louise Robinson proposed and Chris Knowles seconded that Tom Simpson acted as vote counter. Agreed with no one against.

 - i. *Church wardens:* Jon Davies was proposed by Paula Ayliffe and seconded by Helen Wilson. David Binns was proposed by Hugh Cornes and seconded by Paula Ayliffe. A vote was taken and they were duly elected by all those members present and voting with no-one against.
 - ii. *Deanery synod:* Jon Davies and Louise Robinson were elected in 2023 to serve until May 2029.
 - iii. *PCC:* Tabs Appleyard, David Joy and Jules Tilley were thanked at the end of their three year term. Tim Fieth was proposed by Jon Davies and seconded by David Binns; Morag Willoughby was proposed by Paula Ayliffe and seconded by David Binns; Steve Giles was proposed by David Binns and seconded by Jon Davies. A vote was taken and they were duly elected by all those members present and voting with no-one against.
 - iv. *Independent examiner for the accounts:* Jon Davies proposed and Nic Lawrence seconded that Paul Denner be appointed as independent examiner. Agreed with no one against. Tom Simpson prayed for them.
3. Treasurer's report

Jon Davies presented information covering items for prayer and praise, mission giving, staff costs. Jon thanked Peter Ashworth, Tabs Appleyard, Steve Giles and Helen Wilson for their input. Questions were taken concerning the impact of a future church plant on mission giving the subsequent year, about how we now finance clergy through the diocese, and the value of one-off gifts. Claire Mason led prayer in thanks for the finance team and God's provision.
4. Minister's report:

It has been encouraging to see so many visitors and newcomers join us this year, especially at international fellowship, student group and church. Sunday attendance is now, for the first time, higher than it was before the pandemic. It takes time for newer members to be equipped to lead and serve at church, and our programme has grown steadily over the years. Staff and volunteers have been a little overstretched, so we have not run as many optional or occasional events this year. Instead, we focused on regular groups and ongoing evangelism and discipleship. It has been good to see newer members joining groups, growing more committed, and joining our volunteer teams. Our church community is also becoming more representative of the wider community and visitors find that welcoming. Even so, we would like to see more diversity in key church roles. Our prayer is that, God-willing, in two more years, we might have grown enough to send a team with a preacher to plant or revitalise another church. Our associate vicar is visiting and helping a church that might invite us and continues to explore other possibilities.

'It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known' (Romans 15:20)
5. Reports on church activities:
 - i. Bartow Wylie proposed and Andrew Perrett seconded that we receive the annual report of St Matthew's Church PCC, including the financial statements for 2023, which will be examined independently and have been circulated in advance, passed with no one against. Frank encouraged members to raise any specific concerns with those responsible as in Appendix 6 of the report. Questions and comments were taken about the attendance figures being higher than pre-covid, the extent that the Ephesian fund is being used, about how we support students and integrate them, about supporting leaders who may feel out of their depth with children or vulnerable adults who have additional needs, and about the physical space available for children on Sundays.
 - ii. A time of thanks and prayer took place.

The meeting ended at 1.06 pm

Appendix 5

Church council policies and resolutions

St Matthew's Parish Church Council (PCC) resolution '5 year goal':

“to send a congregation and preacher to reach the unreached

- a) by praying and leaving the outcome to God;
- b) by seeking growth to give what we receive;
- c) by equipping all church members to “preach Christ crucified”;
- d) by exploring possibilities in partnership with another parish in our diocese;
- e) by recruiting an associate vicar for this.”

PCC resolution this year:

“The PCC committed ourselves to an ongoing partnership with Trumpington parish, as a priority over any other potential partnerships, church grafts or church plants that have been considered or might emerge. Tom Simpson would gradually give more time to his role at Trumpington, if invited by their PCC and licensed by the Bishop, while continuing to serve at St Matthew's employed and funded by our PCC. The aim would be to support the incumbent and PCC of Trumpington and build relationships of trust with a view to a possible church graft if there is a vacancy in the next few years and if Tom is appointed as incumbent. At that stage, members of St Matthew's would be invited to switch church and join him, especially if they live in or near Trumpington, or could move house. St Andrew the Great have also said they would like to invite church members to join Tom at that stage. We continue to believe it is important to support evangelical ministry in Oakington and Waterbeach, but we will look for other ways rather than offering a church plant or graft, unless or until the partnership with Trumpington comes to an end. The PCC approved Tom Simpson's draft working agreement for licensing to Trumpington subject to any future amendments that might be agreed by Tom in discussion with Trumpington PCC and the archdeacon.”

The below PCC documents are available on the church website at www.stmatthews.uk/policies and/or on request from the church office:

- Hall hire conditions & fees and governing document for the St Matthew's Parish Rooms Trust
- Mission committee support guidelines
- Oversight from complementarian Bishop – PCC resolution and survey of views
- Privacy notice GDPR
- Role of the PCC
- Safeguarding PCC policy & a progress report called 'dashboard action plan'
- Same-sex blessings, PCC response to the Church of England
- St Matthew's street houses (Sidgwick Trust) governing documents & charitable purposes explained
- Staff pay, housing and pension policy

Appendix 6

Members of committees

Parochial Church Council (PCC) from May 2024 to May 2025

*church policy & direction, overall legal & financial
responsibility, trustees of Sidgwick Trust*

Paula Ayliffe – secretary, until 5/2025

David Binns – warden, ex officio

Jon Davies – warden, deanery synod, ex officio

Tim Fieth – until 5/2027

Steve Giles – until 5/2027

Laura Irvine – until 5/2025

Chris Knowles – diocesan synod, ex officio

Claire Mason – until 5/2026

George Okal – until 5/2026

Frank Price – vicar, ex officio chair

Louise Robinson – until 5/2026, deanery synod

Tom Simpson – associate vicar, ex officio

Caroline Sivasundaram – until 5/2025

Morag Willoughby – until 5/2027

Standing (PCC subcommittee)

staff appointments, vicar accountability & advice

Paula Ayliffe

David Binns

Jon Davies

Claire Mason

Frank Price

Tom Simpson

Mission (PCC subcommittee)

*deciding which external causes to finance,
pray for & promote*

Zoe Binns – chair

Ann Fiddes – secretary

Frank Price

Rhyan Probert

Bartow Wylie

Finance (PCC subcommittee)

budget, staff pay, ministry share, accounts

Steve Giles

Jon Davies

Frank Price

Buildings (PCC subcommittee)

maintenance & development projects

Martin Carter – buildings manager

Franklin Evans – chair

Jacob Giles

David Joy

Frank Price

Staff

programme, hall & church use, volunteer roles, safety

Charlotte Hayward-Faulkner – youth

Claire Mason – children, women

Frank Price – vicar

Tom Simpson – associate vicar

Henry Wilkes – student

Helen Wilson – administrator

Services

reviewing & planning service outlines & music

Martin Carter – band and tech rotas

Claire Mason

Frank Price – chair

Tom Simpson

Helen Wilson – admin, music

Publicity

website, social media, printed publicity

Charlotte Hayward-Faulkner

Henry Wilkes

Helen Wilson

St Matthew's Parish Rooms

*Trustees of the registered charity for the church halls,
setting hire policy and fees.*

Paula Ayliffe – appointed

David Binns – warden, ex officio

Jon Davies – warden, ex officio

Claire Mason – appointed

Nick Moir – rural dean, ex officio

Frank Price – vicar, ex officio

Tom Simpson – appointed

David Todd – patron (Christ Church, Cambridge), ex officio

This report was approved by the PCC on 28th April, 2025, and signed on their behalf by Frank Price (chair of PCC).

Frank Price