

ST AIDAN'S CHURCH, GRAVESEND - ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Charity No. 1130169

Background

St Aidan's parish occupies almost 1 sq. mile, containing a population of over 11,450 (estimated from the 2011 Census). The inhabitants are predominantly White British with a small Asian population of long standing and, in recent years, a growing African-Caribbean population. There is a Muslim cultural centre close to the church (formerly a public house). The church's buildings consist of the Hall (built 1954), Vicarage (built 1958) and Church (built 1963) of which the rear two window bays were converted in 2006 to the 'Powerhouse' consisting of a kitchen, two meeting rooms (which can be opened out to form an extension to the worship area, two toilets (one suitable for those with disabilities) and, on the accessible mezzanine floor, a computer room and balcony overlooking the worship area. All these buildings are adjacent to each other in the Westcourt area of the parish. The Christopher Centre (in the Riverview Park area of the parish) was once managed by St Aidan's but is now let on a long lease from the Diocese to the Christopher Centre Residents' Association – St Aidan's pays for any use during the week but has free use, if required, on Sundays. The PCC represents the congregation and supports the incumbent in maintaining the work and witness of the Church in the parish. The PCC takes responsibility for the fabric of the church buildings and ensures safeguarding policies and practices are adopted and maintained.

Membership

During 2024, the following served as members of the PCC:

Incumbent: The Rev'd Michael Payne

Lay Reader: Dr Peter Harris (licensed 13th May 2023, resigned 14/4/2024, confirmed by letter 28/5/2024)

Churchwardens: Dennis Ashurst (resigned on 28/4/2024)

Rob Hollands (from AGM 26/3/2023, sworn in 14/6/2023)

Deanery Synod Reps: Dr Peter Harris (resignation dates as for Lay Reader), Janet Morris (to 17/3/2024)

Elected members: Ann Ashurst, Mike Butler, Javid Elahi (from 17/3/2024), Doreen McIntosh, Steve Kench-Cannon, Jan Hollands, Barbara Potter, David Rawlinson (died 22/6/2024), Jenny Rawlinson, David Sisterson, Janet Trevor, Anne Welch (died 21/1/2024), Michael Welch.

Mavis Prater (retired as a Licensed Reader on 15th May 2022) but continued as Reader Emeritus.

Sylvia Munns (licensed as an Anna Chaplain on 15th February 2022) continued in this role.

Dr Peter Harris held the Bishop's Certificate to preach at certain number of sermons each year and was licensed as a Lay Reader on 13th May 2023, resigning on 14th June 2024.

The APCM was held on 17th March 2024.

Staff

Services are taken by the Vicar.

Committees

The PCC normally meets about quarterly. Matters of principle, and proposals for expenditure, are referred to the full Council.

Standing Committee: This committee (normally meeting a fortnight before most PCC meetings) undertakes the initial assessment of important issues. In an emergency it may make decisions on important matters which must then be submitted to the full Council for ratification.

Fund Raising & Social Committee: Organises fundraising and social activities.

Nursery School Management Committee: The Vicar is the chair of this committee. It is responsible for running the St Aidan's Nursery School on two sites on weekday mornings. It consists of 5 (currently 3) members of the PCC and 4 staff members.

Pastoral Care Team – Formed to consider the well-being of members of the congregation and arranging visits or other communication with those in hospital and those sick at home or housebound for other reasons. Meetings are usually held about once a month.

Church attendance: At the APCM on 17th March, there were 62 names on the roll (one less than the previous year). There were 47 Easter communicants, 54 Christmas communicants (home Communions excluded), no confirmations, 7 funerals, 14 baptisms and no weddings.

FINANCE

See separate report annexed which also gives information about 'away giving'.

REVIEW

Church/Powerhouse Fabric

The porches are used by youngsters to gain access to the flat roof resulting in unpleasant graffiti and risks to themselves. Spikes (approved by the police) have been applied to the edges but to no effect. Plans are in hand for the removal of these porches and a faculty will be required.

Hall Fabric

The Hall roof was repaired in May to overcome the problem of persistent leaks. The Hall continues to give good service to the church and the community although it needs redecoration. The flooring is in very poor condition and a grant for the necessary upgrade work was applied for (received early in 2025).

Vicarage

The damp/mould problem had improved (although not completely eliminated) since the Diocese had installed a ventilation system. The Diocese had also dealt with a serious mouse infestation and commercially available rodenticide was used to keep the premises mouse-free.

Nursery School

The Nursery School successfully continued to operate from the Church Hall and the Christopher Centre throughout the year making full use of the enclosed Woodland Garden which they have created at the side of the Hall. The low wooden fence on the two 'open' sides of the garden area was replaced with a higher metal fence to improve security.

Ministry & Mission

The regular pattern of services was as follows:

Sundays: Common Worship Sung Parish Eucharist (BCP used about 4 times p.a.) Once each quarter the service includes anointing for healing and wholeness for those who wished it. The Sunday morning service is usually live-streamed although this was temporarily suspended (until 7th April) whilst better equipment was sourced and this has significantly improved transmission quality.

Wednesdays: Morning Prayer, (said) Common Worship Eucharist (BCP once per month)

Fridays: The Holy Rosary (once per month)

Starting during the first Covid Lockdown, the Vicar's weekly on-line 'Reflection' communiqués (with paper copies for those not on-line) which included commentaries on Sunday's readings by several regular contributors, continued. On-line services were temporarily discontinued pending the acquisition of better streaming equipment. On several days of the week, Facebook Night Prayer, continued and attracted some viewings far beyond the parish boundary. On Tuesday mornings from 16th January to 27th February the Church Lounge was open to all as a Warm Space, with refreshments available. Small grants were received from Gravesend Borough Council and Kent County Council towards the cost of heating the premises and we have a score of '5' from their Food Safety department.

The Ash Wednesday Eucharist was held, followed by the liturgies for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Day. The much appreciated All Souls' Service of Remembrance & Thanksgiving

was held on 3rd November. A short Service of Remembrance was held at the site of RAF Gravesend on 10th November.

Powerhouse

The computer suite was run by a volunteer but since his death in June, the Computer Room has been effectively closed to the wider public. Apart from the Warm Space earlier in the year, there has only been one 'outside' hire of the Lounge/West Room (generating about £12). As with the Hall, one-off evening lets are not feasible as there is no one living near the buildings willing to open and close for hirers. The original computer hardware is nearing the end of its life and it is understood that the current version of the software in use will soon no longer be supported.

Safeguarding & Children's Work

The Parish Safeguarding Officer (appointed 15/11/2018) and her details are displayed in the Church & Church Hall and were sent to the Diocesan Office. The ***Promoting A Safer Church – Safeguarding Policy Statement*** is displayed in the Church and the Hall. The ***Formal Statement of Adoption*** of this policy was agreed and signed at the APCM and a copy is displayed in the Church. Posters are displayed to raise domestic abuse awareness. The work of the PSO continued to be demanding during the year.

Sunday School was held twice a month during morning services, with numbers increasing through the year, and our thanks go to Mrs Ann Ashurst, and Mrs Amy Payne. 'Little Rainbows', a weekly afternoon meeting for pre-schoolers with their carers continued successfully throughout school term times.

The Vicar was a trustee at the Aletheia Academies Trust which included many local schools including St George's C of E Secondary school.

Safety & Security

Several smoke alarms in the church have recently been replaced having reached the end of their working life. At the last inspection of the Hall a possible fire risk was identified, and a smoke alarm has now been installed in the Gents toilet adjacent to the electrical fuse box. Apart from a couple of small housekeeping issues no other problems have been identified.

Data Protection

The Church's Data Protection Officer continued to ensure that personal data is held only in accordance with the requirements of the GDPR. Main services are streamed/recorded, and all attending are made aware, on the weekly newsletter handed to all attendees, of the availability of consent forms which include more detailed information about the consent process.

Music

The small choir sung during the Sunday morning services (except during the monthly All Age-format service) although the organist played at all Sunday morning services. The choir performed a number of seasonal carols at the Advent Sunday and the Nine Lessons Services. Sadly, one of our sopranos died early in the year, further depleting choir numbers.

Social & other events

Aidan Ladies held monthly meetings throughout the year. An Agapé meal was held in Holy Week. There were no Christian Aid door to door collections but bucket collections were held at a local supermarket and a Plant Sale and Bring and Buy Sale, with refreshments, (to benefit Christian Aid) was held on 25th May. Coffee Mornings were held during the year on the first Wednesday of the month after the morning service. The Quiz Evening scheduled for 6th July was cancelled because of the death of one of the organisers a little while before. A very well attended (176 people) Light Party for young people and their families was held on 31st October and proved a good outreach opportunity.

St Aidan's continued to have contact with the work of the Hope Gardens in Tamil Nadu, South India and some individuals, and the Church collectively sponsored several children there. Also, as a result of a brother of a member of the congregation being consecrated a Bishop in Sierra Leone, we have

links with his work there. Thirty-three shoe boxes were filled and passed to *Amen* in November for sending to Romania. The well attended Christmas Fair was held on 30th November.

M J Welch

M J Welch
PCC Secretary 7/5/2025

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC) OF ST AIDAN, GRAVESEND

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 2 to 8, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 (2017, 5th Edition) ('the Regulations') and the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and examiner

As the members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and of the Charities Act 2011 does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 (2017, 5th edition). That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- 1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
 - to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met; or
- 2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Mr. Keith Scudder
42 Frobisher Way,
Gravesend,
Kent
DA12 4RA

26th February 2025

FINANCE – 2024

General

The accounts for the year show a loss on the General Fund of £1,072 which leaves a balance on the General Fund of £2,125 which is still well below the reserves policy amount.

Gift Aid for the year was £5,799 (2023: £5,301). The Powerhouse made a loss of £792 (2023: £209) and the Hall made a loss of £4,129 (2023: Profit £3,867). We still only have 3 hirers and 2 of those, although regular, do not hire it for long each week.

The Nursery School showed a profit of £35,669 (2023: Profit £21,826) after the transfer of funds for the rent of the Church Hall. The fund balance now stands at £104,662.

Reserves Policy

It is the PCC's policy to try to maintain free reserve funds equal to 3 months' expenditure. The restrictive funds are excluded from this policy.

Explanation of Funds

The PCC has a General Fund through which all transactions relating to normal income and expenditure on the Ministry, the Church building and the general activities of the PCC pass. The Church and Church Hall Repair Fund contain funds set aside to meet repair expenditure to the buildings, consequent upon a quinquennial review, or to meet large items of repair or replacement as they arise. The uses of these funds are restricted to those purposes only.

There are two Stipend Funds to be used as necessary to ensure that the cost of the incumbent's stipend can be met should the General fund be unable to meet the whole cost in any year. The Restrictive Fund is to be used for this purpose only, but the Designated Fund can be used for any clergy of the parish.

The Nursery School restrictive fund covers the financial affairs of the Nursery School. The school is to be self-supporting but is enabled to contribute to the General Fund of the PCC. The school meets at the Christopher Centre and the Church Hall 5 mornings a week.

ST AIDANS PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
Registered Charity No:1130169
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

									2024	2023
		General	Dedicated	Restrictive Funds					Total	Total
		Fund	Fund	Building	Grants	Stipend		Nursery Sch.		
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources	note									
Giving	1	31,001							31,001	30,554
Ordinary Income	2	925		3,319				305,945	310,189	263,704
Fund Raising	3	1,522							1,522	2,082
Charity Appeals		842							842	635
Legacies&Other Incom	4	5,115	8,151						13,266	9,483
Grants Received					0				0	1,150
Interest		1,970	76	101				948	3,095	2,267
Total		41,376	8,227	3,420	0	0	0	306,893	0	359,916
Outgoing Resources										
The Ministry	5	18,348							18,348	24,034
The Church	6	10,400							10,400	18,095
Ordinary Expenditure	7	4,517						265,525	270,041	236,794
Charitable Donations		1,362							1,362	986
Grant Expenditure					21				21	864
Other Expenditure	8	17,121							17,121	14,873
Total		51,748	0	0	21	0	0	265,525	0	317,294
Net Incoming										
Resources		(10,372)	8,227	3,420	(21)	0	0	41,368	0	42,622
Fund Transfers		9,300		(3,600)				(5,700)	0	0
Net movement of Funds in Year		(1,072)	8,227	(180)	(21)	0	0	35,668	0	42,622
Balance Brought Fwd		3,197	732	3,062	2,141	46,006	0	68,993	0	124,131
Balance Carried Fwd		2,125	8,959	2,882	2,120	46,006	0	104,661	0	166,753

Notes on Statement of Financial Activities

Income		2024	2023
note 1	Giving	£	£
	Free Will Offering	21,138.55	20,724
	Collection	2,645.07	3,424
	Income Tax recovered - Gift Aid	5,798.52	5,301
	Donations	1,418.42	1,104
		31,000.56	30,553
note 2	Ordinary Income		
	PCC fees	925.40	972
		925.40	972
note 3	Fund Raising	1,522.45	2,082
		1,522.45	2,082
note 4	Legacies	0.00	0
	Grants: TOG Student	0.00	0
	Insurance Claims	0.00	300
	Other	0.00	0
	* Church Hall Rents	5,014.00	8,033
	Powerhouse Rents	86.00	1,145
	Pilot Sales	0.00	0
	Book of Remembrance	15.00	5
		5,115.00	9,483
	* Additionally £5,700 (2023: 5700) paid by the Nursery School is treated as a Funds Transfer		
	Interest	2,046.49	416
Expenditure			
note 5	The Ministry		
	Stipend	14,000.00	19,492
	Vicars expenses	0.00	78
	Curate	0.00	0
	TOG Student	0.00	0
	Vicarage	4,348.21	4,464
		18,348.21	24,034
note6	The Church		
	Services	265.74	455
	Organist Fees	0.00	0
	Organ Maintenance	1,044.54	907
	Heat & Light etc.	2,449.75	2,095
	Repairs & Maintenance	4,306.53	12,245
	Grounds	184.00	498
	Insurance	2,149.43	1,894
		10,399.99	18,094
note 7	Ordinary Expenditure		
	Parish Share	0.00	0
	Building Repair Fund	2,300.00	2,300
	Administration	2,042.60	2,122
	Young Peoples Work	174.21	0
		4,516.81	4,422
note8	Other Expenditure		
	FWO	35.15	32
	Subscriptions	770.05	708
	Church Hall Expenses	14,842.89	12,010
	Independent Examiners Fee	120.00	140
	Other Costs	497.51	629
	Powerhouse Expenses	855.72	1,354
	Other	0.00	0
		17,121.32	14,873

ST AIDAN'S NURSERY SCHOOLS
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2024

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
	£	£		£	£	£	£	£
CURRENT ASSETS								
Cash at bank - current account	5258.15	8384.27	20230.08	15418.93	16000.18	32122.81	2608.46	30044.33
Cash at bank - deposit account	100610.23	86321.9	55237.54	75745.16	70174.01	47393.98	75941.70	40100.70
Petty cash / floats	163.22	115.61	87.57	36.17	135.47	134.42	361.09	97.38
Debtors & prepayments	78.99	0.00	0.00	52.20	290.00	924.58	5.61	182.92
Total current assets	106110.59	94821.78	75555.19	91252.46	86599.66	80575.79	78916.86	70425.33
CURRENT LIABILITIES								
Creditors (Money owed - rent, auditor etc)	1406.45	1338.39	1342.6	594.55	1428.19	1826.99	394.39	1827.68
Other - donations (unallocated petty cash)	42.5	42.5	42.5	42.5	42.50	42.50	42.50	
Other (including deferred income)	0.00	24448.05	27003.08	25274.54	25706.55	24690.60	25050.30	25229.16
Total creditors	1448.95	25828.94	28388.18	25911.59	27177.24	26560.09	25487.19	27056.84
NET CURRENT ASSETS	104661.64	68992.84	47167.01	65340.87	59422.42	54015.70	53429.67	43368.49
REPRESENTED BY:-								
Reserves brought forward as at 1st January	68992.84	47167.01	65340.87	59422.42	54015.70	53429.67	43368.49	42301.36
Surplus (deficit) for the period	35668.8	21825.83	-18173.86	5918.45 From TB	5406.72	586.03	10061.18	1067.13
Reserves carried forward as at 31st December	104661.64	68992.84	47167.01	65340.87	59422.42	54015.70	53429.67	43368.49
Diff	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

£42.50 Unallocated petty cash from 2018 still not shown in 2023 listing

**ST AIDAN'S NURSERY SCHOOLS
INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT
FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2024**

WITH ACCRUALS FROM TRIAL BALANCE TOTALS

CODE		C/C 2024 £	C/H 2024 £	Central Costs 2024 £	Total 2024 £
INCOME					
1x01	Fees received	12739.25	720		13459.25
1x02	Funding received	141831.06	142948.8		284779.89
1x03	NEST refunds				0
1x04	Fundraising	988.68	829.65		1818.33
1x05	Grants: Salary Equipment / Training				0
1x06	Interest Income			948.33	948.33
1x07	Donations	350.00	100.00	1340.00	1790
1x11	Other income (incl Snack Fees)	921.50	3176.00		4097.5
	TOTAL INCOME	156830.49	147774.48	2288.33	306893.30
EXPENDITURE					
2x01 &2	Salaries (including Employer's NIC)	124416.13	75235.53	18047.14	217698.80
2x03	Rent	7675.00	5700.00		13375.00
2x04	Subscriptions	95.71			95.71
2x05	Mobile Phone			671.65	671.65
2x06	Course Fees	369.20	555.20	553.25	1477.65
2x07	Stationery	58.33	25.72	216.78	300.83
2x08	Printing and Photocopying	219.88	141.88	42.00	403.76
2x09	Postage				0.00
2x10	Craft Materials	48.64	25.44	902.07	976.15
2x11	Books	35.15	18.66	145.90	199.71
2x12	Equipment	800.69	649.19	4321.95	5771.83
					0.00
2x13	Repairs & Renewals		3600.00		3600.00
2x14	Christmas Party/ Enertainers			460.00	460.00
2x15	Consumables	1251.79	845.09	2554.26	4651.14
2x16	Auditors Renumeration			140.00	140.00
2x17	Insurance			4478.57	4478.57
2x18	Membership Fees	3.59		205.77	209.36
2x19	Bank Charges				0.00
2x20	KCC Inspection Fees				0.00
2x21	Other Staff Costs	171.10	125.70	2875.00	3171.80
2x22	Recruitment Costs				0.00
2x23	Ex-Gratia Payments				0.00
2x24	Donations by Nursery				0.00
2x25	Promotion of Nursery				0.00
2x26	Ofsted Costs			100.00	100.00
2x27	NEST Costs			13442.54	13442.54
	Float / Adjustment (In year movement)unalloc petty cash				0.00
	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	135145.21	86922.41	49156.88	271224.50
	 Surplus / (Deficit) before Central Costs	 21685.28	 60852.07	 -46868.55	 35668.80
	 Allocation of Central Costs				
	Christopher Centre - 90%	-42181.7		-42181.7	
	Community Hall - 10%		-4686.855	-4686.86	
		-20496.42	56165.22	0.00	35668.80

SAINT AIDAN'S PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Registered Charity No:1130169

BALANCE AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2024

2023		2024	2024
£		£	£
	Fixed Asset:		
892	Investment a cost: Held at Diocese		892
	Current Assets		
46,005	Investments-National Savings	46,006	
6,595	-Held at Diocese	6,415	
	Cash		
1,665	-at Diocese	1,845	
87,055	-on Deposit	109,569	
10,516	-Current Account	6,984	
1,578	Debtors& Prepayments	2,174	
153,414		172,993	
	Current Liabilities		
(30,175)	Sundry Creditor	(7,131)	
123,239	Net Current Assets		165,862
124,131	Total Net Assets		166,753
	Represented by:-		
3,197	General Fund	2,125	
732	Designated Stipend fund	8,959	
	Restricted Funds:		
2,141	Grants	2,120	
3,062	Building Repair Fund	2,882	
46,006	Stipend Fund	46,006	
0	Donations	0	
68,993	Nursery School	104,661	
0	Development Fund	0	
124,131			166,753

Hon Treasurer



26th February 2025

ST.AIDANS PCC
Statement of Away Giving

Charity	Balance 2023	In 2024	Out 2024	Now Due
Demelza House	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ellenor/Lions Foundation	0.00	51.00	54.82	(3.82)
Great Ormond Street	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Blood Runners	0.00	65.50	65.50	0.00
Rhema Trust (Hope Garden)	0.00	0.00	200.00	(200.00)
Food Bank	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sanctuary	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Making Memories	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
* Smartie Lent Appeal	0.00	239.12	239.12	0.00
House of Mercy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Water Aid	0.00	56.90	56.90	0.00
Street Pastors	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Poverty & Hope.	61.00	88.00	149.00	0.00
Make a Wish	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Church Urban Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Samaritans	0.00	66.00	66.00	0.00
Cancer Research	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
RNLI	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Air Ambulance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Diocese of Bo	0.00	84.10	400.00	(315.90)
Christingle	0.00	191.66	0.00	191.66
	61.00	650.62	1,231.34	(328.06)

Accruals 191.66

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Mr. Keith Scudder
42 Frobisher Way,
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DA12 4RA

26th February 2025