

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, PINNER

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2023



ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

SUNDAY 19 MAY 2024

April 2024

Dear Friends,

**The Annual Vestry and Parochial Church Meetings
Sunday 19 May 2024**

I am writing to invite you to the Annual Vestry and Parochial Church Meetings, which take place on Sunday, 19 May in the Church Hall at 11.30 am. The pattern of worship that day will be Eucharists at 8am and 10am, with Evensong at 6.30 pm.

This document includes reports from our church organisations and bodies, as well as the Vicar's report. I would ask you to please read all of these with care, as they reflect the diversity and reality of our life together here at Pinner Parish Church.

At the two meetings themselves (The Vestry and the Parochial) the Churchwardens are elected, as are members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC). In order to vote you need to be present at the meetings – voting in absentia is not allowed by the Church Representation Rules.

I look forward to seeing you all on 19 May.

Yours,



The Rev'd Paul Hullyer
Vicar of Pinner

Pinner Vicarage, Church Lane, Pinner HA5 3AA
Tel: 020 8866 3869
email: paulhullyer.vicar@btinternet.com

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, PINNER

The Annual Vestry Meeting of Parishioners will be held on
Sunday, 19 May 2024
in the Parish Hall at 11.30 am

AGENDA

Parish Vestry Meeting

- 1 Opening Prayer, then the Secretary reads the notice convening the meeting
- 2 Apologies for absence for both meetings
- 3 Minutes of the last Vestry Meeting of 2023 (found in the Annual Report)
- 4 Election of Two Churchwardens

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The **Annual Parochial Meeting** will be held on
Sunday, 19 May after the above meeting

AGENDA

Annual Parochial meeting

1. Opening Prayer, then the Secretary reads the Notice convening the meeting
2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 2023 (found in the Annual Report)
3. Matters arising from the minutes
4. Notification of Any Other Business for this meeting
5. Elections to the Parochial Church Council from May 2024 – May 2027
6. Elections to the Harrow Deanery Synod
7. Electoral Roll report
8. Report on the Financial Affairs of the Church (found in the Annual Report)
9. Election of an Independent Examiner
10. Questions
11. Any other business
12. The Grace

PARISH OF PINNER

The **Meeting of Parishioners** was held on Sunday 21st May 2023 at 11.30am in the Church Hall.

PRESENT: - The Rev'd Paul Hullyer (Chair), Penny French (Churchwarden), the Secretary and members of the Church Council and congregation (See Appendix A).

1. Opening Prayer was said by Rev'd Paul Hullyer.
2. **Apologies for absence:** Angela and Christopher Kenny, Gillian Andrews, Jane Mayes, David Chilton, Olive Thornton, Mary and Richard Lawrey, Judith and Nick Childs, Dorothy and Stuart Nattrass, Bridget Murray, Isabel and Lewis Beddison, Sarah and Tom Hullyer, Sue and Peter Ellis, Phil Lawder, and Ian Galloway.

The Secretary read the notice convening the meeting.

3. **Minutes of the Vestry meeting of 2022 (found in the Annual report):** The adoption of the Minutes of the last Vestry meeting held on Sunday 15th May 2022 was agreed unanimously by all those present and signed by Rev'd Paul Hullyer as a true record of the Meeting.
4. **Election of two Churchwardens:** The Vicar informed the meeting that Angela Kenny and Penny French were prepared to remain in office for another year. Having been duly proposed by Carolyn White and Ian Trimmer and seconded by Morella Boon and Terri Trimmer, they were unanimously re-elected unopposed.

The Vicar took the opportunity to thank both Angela and Penny for their support during the year. Their work, especially at a time when there are so few volunteers within the church to spread the load, was very much appreciated.

This concluded the business of the Meeting of Parishioners.



The **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** was held on Sunday 21st May 2023 at 11.35am in the Church Hall

PRESENT: - The Rev'd Paul Hullyer (Chair), Penny French (Churchwarden), the Secretary and members of the Church Council and congregation (See Appendix A).

1. Opening Prayer was said by Rev'd Paul Hullyer.
2. **Apologies for absence:** - Angela and Christopher Kenny, Gillian Andrews, Jane Mayes, David Chilton, Olive Thornton, Mary and Richard Lawrey, Judith and Nick Childs, Dorothy and Stuart Nattrass, Bridget Murray, Isabel and Lewis Beddison, Sarah and Tom Hullyer, Sue and Peter Ellis, Phil Lawder, and Ian Galloway.

The Secretary read the notice convening the meeting.

3. **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 2022 (found in the Annual report):** - The adoption of the Minutes of the last Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Sunday 15th May 2022 was agreed unanimously by all those present and signed by Rev'd Paul Hullyer as a true record of the Meeting.
4. **Matters arising from the minutes:** - None
5. **Notification of Any Other Business for this meeting:** -
Personal funeral instructions.
6. **Election to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) for the term May 2023 to May 2026:** -
An election was held to fill 11 vacancies and having been duly proposed by Katherine Pinching and seconded by Jane Mayes, Morella Boon was duly elected unopposed.
(Note – At a meeting of the Parochial Church Council on Thursday 25th May 2023, after being duly proposed by Stephen Brown and seconded by Trevor Mitchell, Emmie McGregor was also duly elected as a member of the PCC.
At a meeting of the Parochial Church Council on Tuesday 18th July 2023, after being proposed by Trevor Mitchell and seconded by Stephen Brown, Elizabeth Taleska was also duly elected as a member of the PCC)
7. **Election to the Deanery Synod for the term May 2023 to May 2026:** An election was held to fill 4 vacancies and having been duly proposed by Christopher Lomax and seconded by Penny French, Stephen Brown was duly elected unopposed.
8. **Electoral Roll Report:** - Janet Huszczo reported that since the review of the Electoral Roll at the last Annual Parochial Meeting on 15th May 2022, 4 new members have been added and 8 deleted through death or removal resulting in 229 members remaining on the electoral roll. The Vicar thanked Janet on behalf of himself and the parish for all she did in undertaking the responsibilities of a Parish Administrator and maintaining the smooth running of the Parish Office.
9. **Report on the Financial Affairs of the Church (Attached in the Annual Report):** -
Our Hon. Treasurer, Joanna Kothary, highlighted certain salient points from the Financial Statements for the year to 31st December 2022.
 - There was a surplus of income over expenditure for the year amounting to £43,405. However, this was mainly due to substantial legacies received during the year totalling £40,333.
 - The primary drivers of our income are Stewardship, lettings of our church hall, and rents from our residential properties.
 - With regards our expenses, there is the significant payment made to the Common Fund, also housing our Curate, salaries for our Music Director and Parish Administrator, insurance and utility bills.

- Our managing agents Gibbs Gillespie have advised that the value of our residential properties remains the same as last year.
- The Balance Sheet shows total assets of £1,995,362 of which £1,491,038 represents fixed assets and investments.
- Debtors of £7,933 are monies owed to us during 2022 and Creditors of £4,893 represent monies that we owe, but which were unpaid as at 31st December 2022.

The Treasurer warned that although we have quite substantial reserves they would be quickly depleted if we make losses year on year. This concluded the Treasurer's report. The Vicar thanked Joanna for undertaking the role of Hon Treasurer and fitting it into her busy working day. Joanna also thanked those on the finance team who dealt with the church's finances on a day-to-day basis,

The Vicar then proposed that the APCM accept the Financial Statements as presented which was agreed unanimously by all those present. The Financial Statements will now be signed by the Vicar and Churchwardens with copies being lodged with our Independent Examiner and the Charity Commission.

10. **Election of Independent Examiner:** - The Treasurer, proposed that Buckingham & Company should be appointed for another year and was agreed unanimously by all those present.
11. **Questions:** - A question was raised regarding the restricted balance shown as "Youth Worker - £15,232" bearing in mind that we currently do not have a Youth Worker. The Vicar explained that this was the residue of a fund which was at one time used to finance the salary of a Youth Minister / Worker. It is now used to support various youth activities and Holiday Club. Some parishioners are still giving to this fund as part of their Stewardship. In view of this query the Vicar suggested that the Treasurer may want to change the description of the fund.
12. **Any Other Business:** -
 - At one time there was a form available whereby parishioners could set out their wishes for conducting their funeral. The Vicar confirmed that he held a file containing completed documents and that the appropriate blank forms can be obtained from the Church Office. Mark Arnold is in fact already drafting a small leaflet covering this topic. It was suggested that the form in question could be made available on our church's website. In addition there is an "Advanced Personal Information Pack" readily available from the Bereavement Care website (https://drive.google.com/file/d/10ZfTyV1RirKJlCOR_U409MAgE2sFSF3h/view) which is very helpful. The check list, and the form which follows, will make it much easier for families to cope, following the death of a loved one.
 - The Vicar mentioned that we are going to have a dedicated financial Stewardship campaign in October. With regards finances and trying to save on costs, the Vicar mentioned that after making an appeal for volunteers to tend the churchyard and mow the grass, there was only one person who was willing to help which the Vicar found rather disappointing. Consequently, the PCC will have no option but to employ an outside contractor to undertake this work on a monthly basis. Parishioners will have to accept that without volunteers, the church must pay the market rate for outside professional help.

- Susan Cooper is not seeking re-election to the PCC or Deanery and Diocesan Synods. Consequently, the Vicar, on behalf of the PCC and our parishioners, expressed their heartfelt thanks to Susan for her 30 years of dedicated service to the Anglican Church in her diverse synodical rolls. In reply Susan said that it was a great privilege to represent not only this church, but also the Diocese on General Synod. Susan urged anyone who was thinking of standing for Deanery Synod to put themselves forward for nomination. It was very important to have the voice of our church heard in the Deanery Synod as this Synod elects representatives to the Diocese Synod who in turn elect nominees to the General synods.
- By way of fundraising the Friends of Pinner Parish Church are holding a “Hymns & Pimms” afternoon on Sunday 2nd July at 5pm.
- Finally, the Vicar thanked all those on the Ministry Team for their help and support.

13. To close the meeting the Grace was said together.

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Appendix A

48 Members of the Congregation attending both the Parish Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Meeting signed the attendance register

REPORT ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL DURING 2023

The PCC met 6 times during the year.

Short Report of the Meeting of the Parochial Church Council on 26th January 2023

Parish Finances:- Parish Finances and Financial Update:- The Performance Management Accounts (PMA) for the year to 31st December 2022 and previously circulated were duly noted. At the year-end there was a surplus of £39,410.

Churchwardens Business:-

Installation of new handrails outside the Vestry external door: – Penny French reiterated that at the last PCC meeting she mentioned that she had received a quote for installing a handrail on the left-hand side of the steps leading from the external Vestry door for between £2,500 and £3,000 which was outside our price range. A second quote had been sought which amounted to £960. A much simpler design, but quite adequate. The Vicar confirmed that a faculty is not required.

CCTV Update: – The Vicar explained that CCTV had been installed shortly after lead was stolen from the side aisle roof. That was over fifteen years ago. The CCTV was paid for by the Friends. This system is no longer fit for purpose and needs replacing. The Friends have recently indicated that they have quite a substantial reserves in place and would be open to suggestions as to where this money could be spent. Paul asked the PCC if he had their permission to ask if the Friends would consider covering the cost of installing a new CCTV system together with meeting the cost of the new external notice board. The PCC agreed unanimously to this suggestion.

Parish Hall Committee business: - A report prepared by Ian Galloway on behalf of the Hall Committee and Churchwardens dealing with the resealing of the Church and main Hall floors, and previously circulated was duly noted. The options were discussed in some detail. Once all options and opinions had been considered, Sarah Hullyer, on behalf of the Hall committee proposed that the PCC approve the request to award the sanding and resealing of the main Hall, Chancel and Lady Chapel floors to AJ Flooring and approve for up to £4,600, being the quoted sum (£4,164) plus 10% contingency to cover unforeseen work, the badminton court red

lines and any work on the “circles” in the main body of the church. After being duly seconded by Morella Boon was agreed unanimously by all those present.

Children and Youth Group:- Both SNIP and Kids’ Church are successful and running smoothly. Since the previous PCC meeting, SNIP have been ice-skating, and held a “bake-off” event. There was also a Christmas Craft morning. Twenty children attended and with the help of some members of SNIP, it was a most successful event.

AOB - Historical Artefact:- Pat Clark has recently given Mark Arnold a medieval tile. This was found during restoration work in the mid-1950s inside the church near the Choir stalls. The Vicar asked the PCC’s permission to have this tile framed and hung on the wall in the church. A faculty is not required. The PCC unanimously agreed to this proposal.

Lent Appeal – By an email dated 29th January the PCC Secretary circulated a proposal from the Missions and Charities Committee that the charity Watford and Three Rivers Refugee Partnership (<https://www.wtrrp.org.uk/>) should be our nominated Charity appeal for Lent. The proposal was agreed by a majority.

Short Report of the Meeting of the Parochial Church Council on 28th March 2023

Parish finances:- The draft Financial Statements for the Year to 31st December 2022 and previously circulated were duly noted. Joanna highlighted certain aspects of the draft accounts:-

- Net Income - surplus £36,784, but this figure included legacies received totalling £40,333. Without these legacies we were running a deficit on our day-to-day activities. It is envisaged that we shall have a Stewardship campaign later in the year and our financial policy is to be considered in more detail at the July PCC meeting. Currently we have cash reserves totalling £494,212 and properties valued at £1,485,639.

- Upkeep has increased from last year, £57,097 to £80,931. This was mainly due to increases in the cost of utilities especially electricity.

The draft budget for 2023 together with a commentary and previously circulated was duly noted. It is predicted that there will be an overall operating loss for the year of £33,920 compared to a budgeted loss of £34,682 for 2022.

Children and Youth Group report: The Vicar advised the PCC that attendance for SNIP on average is around 7 or 8 young people for a Sunday evening. They recently had a Pizza evening. There is also the possibility of arranging a “Narrowboat Weekend” in July. Sarah was able to confirm that 12 or more young children will be taking part in the Easter craft morning.

Eco Church Report: - Emma talked about toilet twinning (www.toilettwinning.org/). By donating £60 to twin a toilet, it will help fund a project in a community that will enable families to build a basic toilet and receive education. It was suggested that initially the choir could be asked if they would like to fund twinning one of the toilets in the vestry. Sarah also suggested that the Rainbows could fund another one in the church hall ladies toilets.

AOB:- Additional land to be granted to the Calvary Memorial Garden: The Vicar and Churchwardens would like to apply for a faculty to the Diocese to consecrate and enlarge the Memorial Garden. The Calvary Garden is where cremated ashes are interred. Paul proposed the application and after being duly seconded by Emma Webber was agreed unanimously by all those present.

AOB: Volunteering: Susan reported that following Volunteering Sunday, 10 members of the congregation volunteered to help.

Short Report of the Meeting of the Parochial Church Council on 25th May 2023 – held in the Church Hall

Matters arising: – Churchwardens Business – External Notice Board: Penny French confirmed that the new external notice board was now in place. The PCC agreed that it was an impressive piece of work.

Matters arising: 2023 Quinquennial Inspection – The Vicar reported that, following the inspection by our architect, we are awaiting a structural engineer to report on the spiral staircase in the tower. The architect was concerned about the condition of the steps. There was a previous inspection in 2011 and at that time, the report confirmed there was nothing to worry about. The engineer is expected to inspect the staircase towards the end of June / beginning of July.

AOB: – Additional land to be granted to the Calvary Memorial Garden - The Vicar was pleased to report that after receiving advice from the Diocesan Registrar’s office and talking with the Archdeacon it will not be necessary for us to apply for a faculty to extend our Calvary Memorial Garden. The view was that the entire land was consecrated in 1321. This decision has been confirmed in writing.

Parish Finances: - The Vicar thanked Joanna for completing all the formalities in respect of the Annual Accounts for 2022. The Vicar noted that the PCC, during their July meeting, will have to fix the 2024 Common fund offer. The diocese is asking for an increase of above 4% e.g. 5% increase based on the agreed payment for 2023. i.e. from £113,000 to £119,000.

Contactless payment machine update – The Churchwardens have been contacted by the Diocese which is trying to facilitate contactless-giving in parishes. We were asked if we wanted to apply for a reduced-price machine to enable us to take donations. A decision was taken by the Churchwardens to apply for the “Grant” and we were successful in our bid. If we go ahead, we will be given the machine for a one-off payment of £30 and £4.20 per month sim costs. The diocese will help with training and set up and we shall have the machine for a year. If it is proving to work well in that time, we shall be given it to keep, but if not enough use is being made of the machine, it will be taken away and given to another church.

Lighting in church: – A report prepared by Angela Kenny and previously circulated was duly noted. This detailed the repair and replacement of emergency lighting in the Church nave together with the installation of emergency lighting in the chancel and lady chapel. It was noted that the lights behind the stained-glass windows get very hot, cost a huge amount to run and do not meet current required building standards. Consequently, it is recommended that they are replaced by LED lighting.

Angela has obtained quotes from two companies. Akehurst Electrical Services provided a quote for the entire work of £4,126.82. Whitton Electrical has quoted £2,593.52 for part of the work with the remaining being estimated at around £2,500. Angela recommended acceptance of Akehurst's quote, and this was then debated. The PCC accepted Angela's recommendation by a majority of all those present with one abstention. It was noted that all quotes exclude VAT, nevertheless this should be reclaimable from HMRC.

Church Garden Maintenance: Following the departure of Steve Davidson, and lack of volunteers, the Churchwardens have found it necessary to find a professional gardener to regularly cut the grass and undertake maintenance of the church grounds. Penny French has now found a gardening company who is willing to initially bring back the grounds into a good state of tidiness for £1,050. This includes, labour (2 men), materials, removal all the garden waste and is scheduled for Monday 12th June. Then from May to October they will visit fortnightly, cut the grass, weeding, pruning, trimming of shrubs and remove any litter. After an wide-ranging debate the PCC unanimously agreed to proceed, with the understanding with the proviso that after a period of 12 months of monitoring, the contract will be reviewed to ensure we are getting good value for money.

Children and Youth Group report: - SNIP was delighted with the amount of £274.40 they collected from the congregation for their cooked breakfast on Sunday 7th May 2023. The money collected has been given to the charity, FirmFoundation.

Short Report of the Meeting of the Parochial Church Council on 18th July 2023 – held in the Church Hall

Matters arising: – 2023 Quinquennial Inspection. The examination of the spiral staircase within the tower will be carried out by the engineer during September.

Churchwardens Business:- Derek Marshall has installed the handrails beside the steps leading from the Vestry to the Nave.

Historical Artefact: – The medieval tile is currently with the framers in Ruislip Manor.

Extension of the Calvary Memorial Garden:- After the yew tree has been pollarded and pruned back at the end of this month the Vicar and Emma will move the posts and chains adjacent to the path. Thereafter they shall measure the new land into one-foot square plots and add them to the existing maps currently kept in the church office and Vestry safe.

Churchwardens business: - Lighting in church - Angela reported that Akehurst Electronics has installed new lighting behind the stained glass windows and replaced 7 sets of emergency lighting in the Nave and Aisles.

Parish Finances: - The Performance Management Report for the 5 months to May 2023 and previously circulated was duly noted. Joanna highlighted certain aspects of the report:-

- There was a surplus of £862 for the first 5 months of the year.
- The primary sources of our total income are Stewardship, rented property and church hall lettings. The largest outgoings are Common Fund, utilities, the rent for the Curate's accommodation and salaries.

The Standing Committee did not have any recommendation regarding the contribution to the Common fund for 2024 as the Diocese had not published the relevant figures at the time of the last Standing Committee. There followed a lively debate.

At the end of the debate the following proposals were voted upon-

- (a) Reduce our contribution to £100,000 plus 1% for church schools. This was recommended by our Treasurer with the proviso that if at the end of the year there was a surplus then we would discuss making an addition voluntary contribution to the Diocese.
- (b) Reduce our contribution by £10,000 to £103,425 plus 1% for church schools. With the proviso that if at the end of the year there was a surplus then we would discuss making an addition voluntary contribution to the Diocese.
- (c) Make the same contribution as for 2023 (£113,425) plus 1% for church schools. With the proviso that if at the end of the year there was a surplus then we would discuss making an addition voluntary contribution to the Diocese.

The votes, excluding the Vicar who abstained, were as follows (A) 4 votes (B) 6 votes (C) 2 votes. The Vicar will advise the Archdeacon that *“our parish shall reduce its contribution by £10,000 to £103,425 plus 1% for church schools. With the proviso that if at the end of the year there was a surplus then we would discuss making an addition voluntary contribution to the Diocese”*.

Parish Hall Committee report:- A report prepared by Ian Galloway was duly noted. The Hall committee was asking for permission to fund refurbishments to the church hall garden in particular the relaying of the existing paving slabs, levelling the existing sand underlay, supplementing with additional sand to fill the dips then to relay the existing slabs using new slabs to replace the pebbled areas. The work needs to be done quite soon as the paving slabs in the hall garden area have become very uneven and present a trip hazard. Despite repeated efforts the committee has only been able to obtain a single quotation of £5,000 to include labour, additional sand and 30 new slabs. Although this is not covered in the hall budget, the £4,500 allocated for external decoration will not be spent this year. Consequently, Sarah Hullyer on behalf of the hall committee requested the PCC to approve the expenditure of £5,000 to level and relay the hall garden paved area. The proposal was agreed unanimously, by all those present subject to confirmation that

removal of the decorative stones will not have an adverse effect on drainage.

Clock Bell: - The Vicar advised the PCC that he has received a complaint from someone who has moved into a house with close proximity to the church. The basis of the complaint was that the church clock bell chimed throughout the night. Michael Hetreed as Bell Captain was consulted and apparently a mechanism can be installed which would silence the bell each night. The cost of installing such a mechanism would be approximately £2,500. The view of the Vicar and PCC was to take no action, if and until Harrow Council issues the church with an official order of a “noise nuisance” to silence the clock bell between the hours of 11pm and 6am.

Short Report of the Meeting of the Parochial Church Council on 5th October 2023

Churchwardens Business: – CCTV update:- The Vicar confirmed that the Friends of Pinner Parish Church have generously agreed in principle to make a contribution towards the cost of installing a new CCTV system for the church building, but specifically excluding the church hall. A final decision of the actual amount the Friends will pay is dependent on seeing an estimate from the chosen contractor. Penny French will obtain two quotes. It is thought the overall cost will be between £8,000 and £10,000.

Contactless Payment Machine update:- The machine has been installed in the South Porch and is accepting donations. Morella Boon estimates that donations received using the machine are approximately £40 per week.

Parish Finances: - Stewardship Sunday will be held on Sunday 29th October 2023 when stewardship packs will be distributed to the congregation.

The Diocese has been informed that our parish shall reduce its contribution to the Common Fund in 2024 by £10,000 i.e. £103,425 plus 1% for the church schools.

Churchwardens Business - Eastcote Road House: - Angela Kenny reported that the current tenants of our Eastcote Road property are not renewing their tenancy. Gibbs Gillespie have inspected the property and confirmed that it has been well maintained by the tenants during the

period of the tenancy. They believe that the property in its current state of decoration could be rented to new tenants at a figure of £2,000 per calendar month, but if we recarpet and also repaint the walls to refresh the internal decoration, then the rental figure could possibly be increased to £2,500 per calendar month.

Parish Hall Committee report: - Sarah Hullyer reported that the levelling and relaying the Hall's garden paved area was now complete. Subsequent to agreement at the July PCC meeting, a cheaper quote was obtained of just under £4,000. However, when the contractor became aware that we were a church and a charity they reduced their overall cost by 7.5% to £3,698.

It is very unlikely that there is any "RAAC" cement used in the construction of the church hall, but this is being checked by Ian Galloway who will notify the PCC if any RAAC is discovered within the building. The Vicar was able to confirm that RAAC was not used during restoration of the church.

The Hall Committee believe that actual rental for 2023 will exceed its budget by £10,000.

Eco Church Report: - Sarah Hullyer reported that Rainbows who have already sponsored 1 "Toilet Twinning", is well on the way to collecting sufficient donations to sponsor a second toilet. The church choir is also intending to sponsor their own "Toilet Twinning".

Emma and her team are shortly to launch a "Rubbish Campaign". Progress is being made towards our Eco silver award which will eventually involve the congregation's participation.

Safeguarding: - The Vicar reminded everyone on the PCC that they are expected to complete online safeguarding, Basic Awareness and Foundation courses through the "Church of England Safeguarding and Training portal:" <https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/>

Noise Complaint: -The Council has written to the Vicar advising him of the complaint i.e. a statutory nuisance. The Vicar has replied to the Council, at the request of the PCC, asking what steps they intend to take to ascertain if the complaint is justified (See Appendix A). The Vicar will report back to the PCC when he receives a reply.

Short Report of the Meeting of the Parochial Church Council on 4th December 2023

Parish Finances: -Financial report: - Joanna made the following comments:

- At the end of September there was an overall loss of £13,000. Not ideal, but there was already an overall loss budgeted for 2023.
- Income – Consisted mainly from Stewardship, Gift Aid, Hall income and Rental income. No legacies have so far been received this year.
- Expenses – Charitable giving comprises the usual donations that we make during the year. A further £14,750 will be distributed to designated charities before 31st December 2023. Electricity costs are higher than 2022. £14,500 spent on church maintenance includes electrical maintenance £4,000, paving of the garden outside the church hall £3,500, sanding and sealing of the Chancel and Lady Chapel floors £4,000, new handrails for the Vestry £900, the external notice board £1,500, and sound system maintenance £500.

Joanna will now draft the budget for 2024 which will be presented during the January PCC meeting.

Churchwardens Business:- CCTV Quotes for Discussion and Recommendations – Two quotes for CCTV, one from Fire Plus Security Ltd and the other from Viewpoint Connections and previously circulated on behalf of Churchwardens by Penny French were duly noted. Penny recommended acceptance of the quote from Fire Plus as this company was marginally cheaper than Viewpoint. Also Fire Plus has had experience in installing CCTV in both historic and listed buildings. Penny French proposed the acceptance of the quote of £9,000 from Fire Plus and after being seconded by Rev'd Emma Webber was agreed unanimously by all those present.

Eastcote Road and Chamberlain Way Properties redecoration:- A report detailing the cost of redecorating both the Eastcote Road and Chamberlain Way properties prepared on behalf of the Churchwardens by Angela Kenny and previously circulated was duly noted. Gibbs Gillespie has obtained quotes of £10,200 for the redecoration of the Eastcote Road property, and £2,000 for the Chamberlain Way property. It was noted that the tenants had not caused any

internal damage other than the usual “wear and tear”. Angela Kenny proposed acceptance of the quote for the Eastcote Road property, £10,200 including VAT, labour and all materials. After being seconded by Penny French it was agreed unanimously by all those present. Angela Kenny then proposed acceptance of the quote for the Chamberlain Way property, of £2,000 including VAT, labour and all materials. After being seconded by Rev’d Emma Webber was agreed unanimously by all those present.

Parish Hall Committee update: - A report prepared by Ian Galloway on behalf of the Hall committee and shown on screen was duly noted. The PCC have been asked to approve the budget for 2024. It was envisaged the income for the year will be £52,000 and outgoings £24,000. This figure includes the cost of external redecoration.

Report on Outcome of PMF 2023 and Draft Budget and Plans for 2024: – A report prepared by Prof Anthony Pinching on the outcome of the Pinner Music festival for 2023 and previously circulated was duly noted.

Morella Boon on behalf of Prof Pinching proposed the acceptance of his report and approval of the outcome donation of £1, 809 to Harrow Foodbank. After being seconded by Penny French this was agreed unanimously by all those present.

A report prepared by Prof Anthony Pinching of the plans and draft budget for the Pinner Music festival 2024 and previously circulated was duly noted. Angela Kenny on behalf of Prof Pinching proposed the acceptance of his plans, approval of the programme and draft budget for 2024 and agreement of the proposed beneficiary charity, Harrow Bereavement Care. This was agreed unanimously by all those present.

Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults

- The PCC has discussed the topic of safeguarding on several occasions over the course of the year and confirms that it has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, in relation to having due regard to House of Bishops’ guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

*Helen Walsh, PCC Secretary
Trevor Mitchell, PCC Minutes Secretary*

Vicar's Report on Parish Life

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

2024 has seen much of the same in our life together. We have celebrated the Sacraments, listened to, and preached God's Word and lived together in community. These are, I think, the most important pieces of the puzzle of what it actually is to be a parish church in what are increasingly difficult times, not only in terms of church attendance but in the preservation of a Catholic Anglican tradition.

Increasingly more and more churches, when vacant, are becoming a repository for a church plant from another, more "successful" church, and this often results in the inherent traditions and style of worship being, eventually, allowed to wither away in favour of a different churchmanship. We see this quite clearly within our own Diocese, as well as others, and in the years to come this parish would do well to be aware of such ecclesiastical tendencies. Let alone the ongoing kerfuffle concerning the Prayer of Love and Faith for those in same-sex relationship who wish their love to be acknowledged and formally blessed by the church. Last Summer I sat through one of the most poisonous small groups as a part of Diocesan Synod that I have ever been involved in, and realised to my consternation that there are parts of the Diocese and Church of England that I simply do not recognise any longer as being within the Anglican tradition. I resigned my Diocesan Synod membership.

For the CofE there are interesting times ahead, and I do believe that the central tenets of Anglicanism will hold out, but it will not be without more heartache and synodical navel-gazing and while the Church does that, many wonder what we stand for and how inclusive we truly are. We will wait out but do need to remember that the Diocese of London is *far* from representative of the wider Church of England.

In terms of parish life, we have had the usual round of Occasional Offices, although weddings are now rare events and funerals even more unusual unless they are a member of the congregation. The tendency now is for Undertakers to go directly to Civil Celebrants unless people request otherwise. We have lost some dear friends in the past year: may they rest in glory.

We have had the successful Pinner Music Festival and Music in Pinner Series and our choir continue to go from strength to strength. There have also been the occasional concerts in church as well and we continue to be a popular venue for local musicians. The Hymns and Pimms and Carols and Barrels seemed to go well and will be repeated this summer and in Candlemas 2025. There have been the usual school visits, carol services, harvest festivals and we have welcomed the Hatch End Cubs and Beavers into church as well. The clergy have been into local schools as well to take the occasional assembly, although these are becoming rarer as well.

Civic services such as Remembrance Sunday continue to be a vital part of our local life, and I represented the church at Pinner Synagogue at their hastily arranged prayer service in October last year.

The usual round of clergy activities take place, and I am grateful to my ministerial colleagues for all that they do for us. We will say farewell to Emma this June, and also Colin, and so I want to say here how much I have valued Emma's ministry and collegiality during her curacy, as have we all, I know. More thanks to come in due course.....

Angela steps down as a Churchwarden, so thank you to Angela and also to Chris, for 5 years' dedicated work. As an incumbent it is a real blessing to have Wardens who can deal with some of the matters such as church properties, fabric, etc. Angela has been a real gift to us in that role, and I know that we have all valued her ministry as Warden. Penny continues, and a new warden will be appointed in the Vestry meeting in May but thank you to Penny also.

As ever, the parish continues to look for volunteers in many parts of life, especially PCC and synodical membership, servers at the Eucharist, readers and Lay Assistants. If you think that you may be able to help, please let me know.

My personal ministry outside of the parish includes Army life, spiritual direction, clergy mentoring and the Diocesan Ordination retreat. My prayers for us all as we look ahead to another year and, as always, my greatest thanks to Sarah, Tom, Toby and Tilly, whose support is, I assure them, never taken for granted.

With prayers,

Fr. Paul

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Property and Maintenance

The parish owns three residential properties and two of these have had a change of tenants this year. Between tenants both the Chamberlain Way and Eastcote Road properties were completely repainted inside and the Eastcote Road house was fully recarpeted. Gibbs Gillespie, who continue to manage the properties for us, inspect them twice a year. All the statutory gas and electric checks are up to date and all three properties are in a good state of repair.

Maintenance of a number of items takes place every year; fire alarm (hall), fire extinguishers, intruder alarm (sacristy), boilers (hall and church), lightening conductor, PAT testing and gutter clearance. These have all been undertaken this year and the necessary certificates received.

The Quinquennial Inspection was carried out by the Diocesan Architect. As a result of this a Structural Engineer carried out a further inspection of the cracks in the tower. It was determined that these were historic and of no ongoing concern.

Work undertaken in the church this year includes: –

- The wood and glass screen by the South porch was re-attached to the wall;
- Bespoke wrought iron safety handrails were fitted to the outside of the vestry steps and to the inside steps leading to the vestry;
- The new church sign was erected;
- The large Yew tree in the Calvary garden was pruned (by Artemis, a local firm);
- The side gate to the Hall garden was repaired;
- A completely new CCTV system was installed in and around the Church Hall and the Church itself;
- The emergency lighting in the church was replaced and the lighting behind the stained glass was rewired and replaced with energy efficient lighting;
- The Chancel and the Lady Chapel floors were sanded, sealed and varnished at the same time as the Hall floor; and
- The grounds were maintained from April to October by B.Wilson Gardening Services.

We would like to thank Janet Huszczo, Ian Galloway and the Hall Committee for all they have done this year to maintain the fabric of the church and hall.

Penny French & Angela Kenny
Churchwardens

Hall Committee

The hall continues to be well used for church events, and by regular and casual hirers. As well as refreshments after the Sunday morning service, church events include Kid's Church, SNIP, NET talks, the Lent course and the children's Holiday Club.

Our regular hirers include Pinner Parish Pre-school, Pinner Theatre Dance, Rainbows, Tai Chi, Taekwondo, Yoga and Pilates classes. Pianobeats classes, teaching children keyboard skills, are proving increasingly popular and now run 7 days per week in the side rooms.

With the RSPB and Women's Institute holding monthly evening meetings, we are virtually fully booked during the week. We were pleased to once again host the Pinner Sketch Club Summer Exhibition in August, and the PAC Christmas lunch in December.

At weekends the hall is popular for children's parties and other social gatherings.

We are grateful to these outside groups for their use of the hall, which provides a significant contribution to church income.

During the year we had the paving slabs in the hall garden re-laid as their unevenness presented a tripping hazard. The main hall floor was sanded and revarnished, at the same time as the chancel and Lady Chapel floors were similarly treated. We also fitted new blinds in the side rooms and had various plumbing repairs carried out.

My thanks to the hall committee members: Sarah Hullyer and Vino Preetham, and to Janet Huszczo for fielding hall telephone enquiries in the office.

We urgently need some additional parishioners who would be prepared to serve on the hall committee. At present we are down to 3 committee members and there is a need to share the not

inconsiderable task of managing lettings and maintaining the hall.

If you would consider joining the committee, please talk to me.

Ian Galloway
Chairman

Mission & Charities Committee

The Lent and Easter Appeal for 2023 was for the Watford and Three Rivers Refugee Partnership and Tim Whittaker, the Chair of Trustees, launched the Appeal on 19 February 2023. This local charity helps refugees and asylum seekers with the costly and difficult process of gaining the right to stay in this country. A total of £3403.75 (including Gift Aid and GASDS) was raised.

For Harvest 2023, the appeal was principally in aid of Water Aid, which helps local communities in many countries to make clean water and improve sanitation and hygiene. Food donations went to Harrow Foodbank. A total of £2944.50 (including Gift Aid and GASDS) was raised.

For Advent and Christmas 2023, the appeal was for Centrepont, a charity which works with homeless young people. As well as bed spaces and support, it provides a helpline, an independent living programme and guidance to prevent children at risk from becoming homeless. An extraordinary total of £5921.46 (including Gift Aid and GASDS) was paid to the charity. Donations were made in the plate at Christmas services, through Centrepont Gift Aid envelopes, directly to Centrepont and a few donations via the PAYAZ terminal.

The Lent and Easter Appeal for 2024 is for Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), which provides medical services in all the major conflict zones, regardless of ethnicity, religion, or political affiliation. Dr Sakib Burza, an associate professor from London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine who has worked for MSF for over twenty years, gave an excellent talk at the service on 11 February 2024. The need for MSF work is especially urgent at present.

Annual giving was £13,750 for 2023/4. The main groups are (a) Charities funded mostly by churches – budget £6000 (b) locally based UK charities - budget £4000 and (c) International groups – budget £3750. The current charities are (a) USPG, Christians against Poverty (debt counselling), Church Army, Firm Foundation (homeless people in Harrow) (b) Welldon Activity Group, Bereavement Care, St Luke's Hospice, Unseen UK (helpline supporting victims of slavery) (c) Hope and Homes for Children, Mildmay, Kitrinos Healthcare (for refugees).

Peter Wilson

Nurture Education and Training

The NET Group oversees a Study and Development Programme for all Church members and those interested in the topics. The current members of the organising group are: Peter Ellis (Chair), Ann Fuller, Karina Johnson, Rosemary Lay, Jane Mayes, and Emmie McGregor. The Group usually meets about 4 times a year to plan events, but these planned events are open to all.

Christianity in the Gulf - On Saturday 25 February we had a very interesting and informative meeting on 'Christianity in the Gulf' given by The Reverend Andrew Thompson MBE. Andy visited Pinner to talk about his time working among Christians in the Gulf, although he is currently Team Vicar in Uxbridge. He was ordained in 2000 and worked in several Islamic countries as a Christian priest in the Anglican Church between 2005 and 2020. These included Kuwait, Abu Dhabi, and Bahrain. It was fascinating to hear him describe the different ways in which the Islamic authorities relate to the Christian communities in their midst.

Andrew's research showed that to some extent Christian – Muslim relations in the Gulf States are governed by the economy. There are several million foreign Christian workers in the Gulf States, mostly from the Philippines, India, Sri Lanka and Indonesia. In Bahrain, Christianity is the second largest religion. Comparing Saudi Arabia with Bahrain, there is a complete ban on Christian worship in Saudi Arabia whereas in Bahrain, Christianity and other religions enjoy the freedom to worship openly. Yet both countries have similar trading interests and economies.

The Christian Church is certainly present in Oman, but limited, and interestingly churches are only allowed here on the coast. This is linked historically to maritime trading.

The right to practice Christianity and other religions in the Gulf depends on the amount of religious freedom allowed by the different states and their governments.

The talk was even more impressive as Andrew explained how he was born profoundly deaf, learnt to lip read and can now communicate through ordinary speech.

Quiet Day - Our next session was the Quiet Day on Saturday 25 March at SPEC in Waxwell Lane. We received a warm welcome at the former home of the Grail Community in Waxwell Lane (now owned by the Catholic Diocese of Westminster Youth Ministry and known as SPEC (Spiritual and Personal Encounter with Christ) Retreat Centre).

Jane Mayes gently led us through Luke's account of Gabriel's annunciation to Mary and later we reflected on a passage from Ephesians (3:14-21). There was enough time later to explore the lovely grounds, to pray in the chapel, to draw, write and look at pictures and poems.

At the end of the day Fr Paul presided at a Eucharist for the Annunciation. This was a peaceful reflective day which helped our journey through Lent. Cakes and with tea were a treat to round off our time together!

Some comments were:

- The Quiet Day gave time just for me; to think, to write, to read and to walk - in warmth and comfort and without pressure. The day was calm and peaceful without expectation or deadline. A time to stop.
- The Quiet Day was truly excellent - it gave time to reflect and think. Jane is an excellent facilitator and simply allowed things to happen – but of course it's not 'simple', it requires huge skill! I really enjoyed the tranquillity of the day aided by the beautiful surroundings.
- It was respite for me. A chance to put aside all the challenges of life and to just 'be' in the peace and tranquillity of a beautiful space. I felt renewed. Overall, it was an inspiring day in an interesting venue.

The NET Church Party - The next event was definitely not Quiet! The NET Party on Saturday 20 May 2023 went very well indeed. I had concerns that people wanted to sit and so wouldn't mingle. But the format worked well with Toby (as magician) being taken to each table. Tea, sandwiches, cakes, and Prosecco were a good mix, with a few games: Jenga always is a treat!

My Spiritual Journey - Then on Saturday 23 September, Emma Webber led a session on 'My Spiritual Journey'. As the talk began, I was surprised how open and honest Emma was about herself. We heard about her early life, coming from a non-Church family. She described her first career as an archaeologist, working in Scotland. She told us about her two baptisms. She mentioned briefly how she met Colin. I was surprised she had to be asked several times by friends why she did not consider becoming a priest. To me, it was a no-brainer! We were all enthralled by her experiences.

After more coffee and pastries, we discussed 'Spiritual Helps' – things that help us to think about God. Items mentioned were for example, walking, singing, poetry, engaging with others.

This was a truly uplifting morning. Thank you, Emma!

Quiet Morning - The Quiet Morning that followed was an excellent way to start the preparations for Advent.

We assembled in Church on Saturday November 25 - a week before Advent to prepare ourselves for this season. We eagerly anticipated Audrey Hamilton leading us in this Quiet Morning. Audrey was quiet and gentle and this allowed us to contribute in a similar quiet manner. We had 3 sessions of silence interspersed with input from Audrey.

People were invited to describe the first session in a single word: Hope, Love, Peace, Precious, Thankfulness, Togetherness were examples. In the second session Audrey had laid out pictorial scenes or images. It was interesting to see which pictures appealed to people to aid them in prayer; we are all different. We ended the session with a sense of relaxation, mystery, and of God being in our presence.

2024 - Although this is the report of events for 2023, we have already started our 2024 programme.

On 17 Feb Canon Andy Thompson talked about ‘My pilgrimage to Iraq’. About 30 people assembled in the Church Hall to hear the wonderful story of a pilgrimage in Iraq. Canon Andy Thompson started with magic tricks with bangles but then launched into talking about this journey. He spoke about the battle of Karbala (and suggested later that we speak to any of our Shi’a friends about this). I was surprised about the large numbers doing this pilgrimage and that many of them were disabled. I was also surprised that Andy was wearing white robes in stark contrast to all those around him. We delved into the story of Iman Husein.

There were comparisons to be made with Christianity:

- A journey towards death
- Women were witnesses
- Standing up against oppression

But there was a contrast in that there was no resurrection. I was rather horrified about the self-flagellation that went on.

Some conclusions were that:

- Christians have a definite place in the Shi’a story
- There is a belief in a God who is righteous.
- Despite persecution rituals have endured.

There were a lot of questions and comments about this topic and I had to draw a reluctant stop after 12 noon. We hope to see Canon Andrew Thompson in Pinner again, perhaps next year.

We have other events planned for 2024.

1. 16 March - Quiet Day at SPEC with Audrey Hamilton
2. 18 May - ‘Let’s celebrate’ Party in the Church Hall
3. 19 October - ‘The Work of a Church Warden’ with Angela Kenny and Phil Lawder in the Church Hall
4. 30 November - Quiet Morning in Church

We continue to monitor the Prayer leaflets in the Lady Chapel, and the Gospel Imprint leaflets in the Display Rack and replace them when necessary.

I thank the members of the NET group for their commitment and hard work in maintaining our Study and Development Programme in 2023, and also in planning the programme for 2024.

I would like to emphasise that the Programme from the NET Group is for all Church members and those interested in the topics.

If anyone wants something included in the NET Programme, then please do mention that, and we will make efforts to accommodate the request.

Peter Ellis

Chair,

Nurture, Education, and Training Group

Stewardship, Youth Work Fund & Other Voluntary Giving - 2023

Stewardship income in 2023 was **£120,644** down by £5,408 on 2022.

This 4% drop was expected as it was decided not to run a campaign at the end of 2022 to ask people to increase their giving as the financial situation in the country was somewhat volatile at that time. However, a successful giving campaign was run at the end of 2023 which increased pledges by £13,500, this should give a year end figure of around £128,000 in 2024.

Thanks must go to those who increased their pledged giving for 2024 and also to those who have managed, over a difficult year, to maintain their giving.

There was a drop in the number of people giving to 147 (including partners, 177). This was due to people moving from the area, change of circumstances and sadly deaths. Average giving per person increased slightly to £56.80 per month. Again, it should be mentioned that 50% of the income comes from 29 people, this is not unusual in a parish but it could be an issue.

On a positive note, we were able to claim gift aid on 88% of Stewardship gifts, this amounted to **£26,722**.

Stewardship income with the tax reclaim is over half the church’s income and is a vital contribution to the financial security of the church. The vast majority of people in the congregation do show their commitment and support the church financially; amounts given vary enormously but every gift of whatever size is welcome and appreciated.

Youth Work Fund - Income for the Youth Work Fund in 2023 was **£1230**.

We claimed gift aid of **£307.50** which gave a total of **£1537.50**. Thank you to those who give to support Youth Work, in most cases in addition to their regular giving.

Other Gift Aided Giving - Other Gifts where we claim gift aid are given mainly using the yellow church gift aid envelopes with a small amount from card donations via the PAYAZ terminal in the porch.

Gifts via the Yellow Church envelopes were £1670 as compared with £686 in 2022, a welcome increase. An additional £50 was given and gift aided using the PAYAZ terminal in the porch. The total tax reclaim was £430.

Cash Giving and GASDS - Gift Aid on Small Donations (GASDS) is claimed on most cash gifts up to and including £30. HMRC considers gifts tapped using the PAYAZ terminal as cash (but not ones which are given using “Chip & Pin”). Gifts can be gift aided.



The PAYAZ card terminal was installed in late July. The transaction fee is 34p per £10 given and there is a monthly charge of £4.20. In a full year it is likely that income will be around £2000.

Amounts given in 2023 totalled £4270.75:

Plate cash gifts	£1681.25
Wallsafe gifts	£1671.75
Card	£917.75

Over the year the GASDS claimed on all eligible cash donations was £1475 of which £974 went into church funds and the balance to the Easter, Harvest and Christmas charities.

Other Voluntary Giving

Generous sponsorship for the church music events came to £5375 including gift aid.

I would like to record thanks to Trevor Mitchell, Stewardship Recorder, who banks (not in Pinner) and records all cash and cheques during the year. Also, thanks to Janet Huszczo who prints off all the documents for Stewardship campaigns and envelopes for the charity appeals.

*Morella Boon
Gift Aid Recorder*

Kids Church

Kids' Church have enjoyed meeting for their sessions of discussion, craft work and activities each week in term time during the 10am Parish Eucharist. These sessions are based on one of the Eucharist readings for that particular week, with material generally drawn from the website Sermons4Kids.

We have been very happy to welcome younger children aged 3-4 as well as those who are older, up to the age of 12, from the choir and the congregation. Three of our members from Kids' Church have been Confirmed in this last year - Ava, Lydia and Nahla.

Thank you to the Leaders and Helpers for all the interesting sessions - Morella Boon, Jude Brampton (welcomed to the team in Spring 2023), Dawn Friday, Sarah Hullyer, Joanna Kothary, Jane Lamprill and Helen Lawson (both also recently welcomed to the team), Katherine Pinching and Sally Smyth. Please let us know if you would like to join the team as a Leader or a Helper, or if you know of any young person who would like to come to a session. New young members are always really welcome at Kids' Church.

Hilary Gould and Carolyn White

Holiday Club

In July 2023, we welcomed over 40 children to our Streetwise Holiday Club. Each day we had a Bible story drama about various residents of the fictional Luke Street and their encounters with Jesus. There was also singing and dancing in the hall and a time in smaller groups for activities, which included soap making, cooking and many other crafts. On Friday we had a Streetdance workshop, which was very much enjoyed by everyone. We were able to share our week with parents and the church congregation at the celebration service on Sunday.

With thanks to all those who helped on stage, leading groups, dancing, refreshments and behind the scenes

Sarah Hullyer

Rainbows -1st Pinner Rainbows

The Rainbow Unit in Pinner continues to thrive with a full unit of 18 girls and still a very long waiting list. Over the past year we have welcomed 14 new Rainbows as the older ones have moved up to Brownies.

Our Wednesday meetings have included working towards several badges as well as celebrating many special occasions such as the Coronation, Diwali, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Chinese New Year and Easter. Our activities have included crafts, cooking, planting, science as well as playing games and generally having fun!

We had a summer picnic at the Willow Tree Centre in Harefield and went on a winter walk across the farm to Harrow Garden Centre. As a unit we twinned 2 toilets in the hall - one with a toilet in Malawi and the other in Uganda.

By the time of the APCM, we will have joined many other Rainbows across Middlesex Northwest County for a Rainbow Fun Day at Willow Tree.

With thanks to all the leaders and helpers who have volunteered this year – Sally, Andrea, Shivani and Natalia, as well as several Duke of Edinburgh Award volunteers who have chosen to do their placements with us at Rainbows.

Sarah Hullyer

GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

Bereavement Visitors

Our Parish Bereavement Visiting Team supports bereaved people in the Church as well as those in the community who are referred to us via Bereavement Care by local GPs, social workers and other agencies. Support is offered either face-to-face or by telephone.

Our Memorial Service was held in November and the Lights of Life Tree in the Lady Chapel took place during the Christmas period. It provided a focus for anyone who wished to remember loved ones who have died. We are grateful to Ann Goldsworthy who inscribes the names of the departed in our Book of Remembrance, as well as to other parishioners who helped with these events in different ways.

The annual Bereavement Care Day Conference entitled “Coping with Life Alone” with the keynote speaker Rabbi Dr. Jonathan Romaine.

Bereavement Care offers ongoing training and support for all visitors, and we remain grateful to Dr. Dorothy Edwards, our Consultant Supervisor.

Bridget Murray



Pinner Guild of Church Bell Ringers

Pinner is fortunate to have a strong band of 19 members, including 17 active ringers of which 3 are junior members. Another teenager learnt to ring rounds for his Duke of Edinburgh award. Two life members died during the year, Anne Payne for whom we rang a touch of Grandsire doubles and Beryl Dew. A memorial service for Beryl was held in Eastcote.

Until just before Christmas regular practice has been well supported on Tuesday evenings. There were two visits of Cub Scouts to the bell tower and the church.

We have rung for service on almost every Sunday morning and most evenings and for the special weekday feast day services. We hosted a MCA district practice in March with refreshments of tea/coffee and cakes provided by the churchwardens.

Special occasion ringing included an open tower event for St Georges Day, on April 23rd, and ringing on consecutive days for the King's coronation from 5th to 8th of May. It was obvious to us that intensive practice does lead to improved striking. For the Big Help Out event on Monday we again had an open tower with refreshments provided by the band; it proved very popular. We have rung for two weddings - in June and October.

We have a new Steeplekeeper: Patrick, and with enthusiastic in-house skills are able to maintain and fix the bells as required.

Social events this year have included a bellringers' barbeque in August, hosted by Jane and Patrick in their delightful and secluded garden. In November our dinner was held in Sougtani, the Lebanese restaurant in Pinner. Olivia created the Bellringers' calendar which now hangs in the ringing chamber.

Following a complaint about the noise of bellringing practice on Tuesday evenings by one new local resident, officers of Harrow Council assessed the sound and declared that it was a statutory nuisance. There followed several communications and meetings involving the vicar, tower captain and a council member which at the time of writing (March 2024) have resulted in practice times being trialled between 4.30 and 6.30. The band includes 3 teenagers at school, 3 working adults and one member requiring childcare, so this time of practice has had very limited success. The church wardens agreed to comply with the time limit but pointed out that this would make effective practice impossible and lead to the end of bellringing in Pinner. In this reply therefore was a request to allow practice to be held between 19.00 – 20.30 and to consider the effect of sound control in the belltower that would reduce the level of noise below the level of nuisance. Patrick and Michael are actively researching effective sound control measures. Currently the bells can only be rung until 7pm on practice night.

The officers of Harrow Council have achieved their aim of stopping a noise nuisance due to a complaint by one local resident to which they had to respond.

The bellringers of St John the Baptist are one of the most numerous and well supported bands in the Southwest district of the Middlesex County Association of Church Bell ringers. The Association would be very concerned if the band were shut down by such a complaint and will offer appropriate support.

Thanks are due to the vicar and ringers of St Martin's Ruislip who have invited Pinner Ringers to practise there on Tuesday evenings until 9.15. Many of our ringers have taken up this offer.

Thanks go from all the ringers to our Tower Captain, Michael Hetreed, for his patience and dedication. This has ensured that the bells continue to ring in Pinner and that the band of bell ringers continues to grow. We all hope that the present situation will be resolved soon and that Pinner Practice Night may resume satisfactorily in Pinner.

Sue Ellis
Tower Secretary

Music Report



Perhaps a good way to assess how the choir is getting on is to look at what was achieved at the major musical events during the year.

The first of these was the Fauré's *Requiem* on Passion Sunday, at which we were joined by singers from the Amici Choir. At an additional service on the eve of the Coronation the choir sang Handel's *The King Shall Rejoice*, which was then reprised along with the Vivaldi *Gloria* with orchestra at the *pmf* opening concert. The year ended with the traditional Advent Procession and Carol Service. All these events maintained the high standard that Pinner is lucky to enjoy from its amateur choir. In particular, the Carol Service drew much praise from the good people of Pinner.

The choral evensongs have also gone well. Usually, our choir of about twenty puts on good performances of traditional Cathedral repertoire. Choral settings of the canticles and responses are a matter of routine, unlike any other parish church choirs in the area. Sunday mornings, however, have become more of a challenge. A faithful band of about 10 adults and 8 junior choristers have maintained the tradition but it is becoming increasingly difficult to keep going. In particular, the number of children taking part is not growing sufficiently to maintain the top line, mainly because the parents of new applicants, whilst happy for their children to enjoy the coaching for ABRSM exams on Tuesday nights, are not prepared to commit to singing on the Sunday mornings. We do still have several very good young singers led by our senior choristers Saffron, Alex and Celia. Lydia and Nahla have also made excellent contributions and their end of the service "What happened in Kids' Club?" slot has become one of the most eagerly anticipated parts of our Sundays. We look to the Archbishops and the Bishop of London for guidance in the area of recruitment.

We are still very lucky in having a large group of organists to call upon, but particular thanks must go to Ian Galloway for performing on most Sunday mornings, and Paul Jeanes for playing at many of our evensongs and most importantly, for making himself available for our special services and concerts.

Martin Singleton



Church Flowers

The team has once again taken great joy in the decoration of our medieval Church for the liturgical year, particularly, for Easter, Christmas and Harvest Festival. We have also continued to have the privilege of arranging flowers for parishioners in memory of their loved ones.

Yet again, we were pleased to fill the Church with flowers for Pinner Music Festival in June. We also decorated the Church for a wedding and represented St. John's with an arrangement entitled 'Renewal of Marriage Vows' at the Flower Festival held by St Lawrence Church, Eastcote.

I would like to thank the whole team for the support and help they have given me personally and for their commitment and hard work in ensuring the Church is always beautifully decorated. I would also like to express our gratitude for the kind words and appreciation we have received from parishioners and the clergy team.

Finally, we are a very supportive group and would warmly welcome any new members who love flowers.

Judith Brampton

The Friends of Pinner Parish Church

Whilst fundraising continued to be comparatively lower than the years pre-Covid, we held a very successful 'Hymns and Pimms' service and refreshments in July. We extend our grateful thanks to Father Paul, the Director of Music, Martin Singleton, and the choir for their contribution to such an enjoyable event.

We were very pleased to be able to contribute £6,000 towards a new CCTV system installed in the church and hall towards the end of the year. Our donation reflected 100% of the costs associated with the church building.

Despite the above, 2023 remained a challenging year for us. Whilst the Committee - consisting

of the Treasurer, Secretary and 5 members - remains wholly committed to the continued success of The Friends, we have still been unable to find someone willing to take on the role of Chair. We therefore remain at a difficult point in the life of this charity.

In order for the Friends to move forward - and to avoid having to potentially make some tough choices and decisions - we still need the impetus of new Committee members and in particular a Chair. We would encourage you to consider whether you would be willing to contribute to - or further help - the purpose of The Friends.

On behalf of the Committee

House Groups

We have been meeting regularly, about every 6 weeks during the year, with 6-9 members attending. We have been carefully studying a book recommended by the Archbishop of York, 'Sleepers Wake—Getting Serious about Climate Change' by Nicholas Holtman.

This topical book describes its serious ramifications on our society and spiritual lives. This has led to some interesting views and discussions within the group. We have shared our ideas on ways to conserve and recycle our materials and the impact of our changing environment on our social and economic position, with biblical references and from a spiritual outlook. This book is worth a read!

In future, we plan to read through a book of the Bible together, listen to an audio course, or look at a book with a Christian emphasis.

Stephen Brown and Terri Trimmer

Pinner Parish Review

Pinner Parish Review is published ten times a year. The church office prints seventy copies on a regular basis, and more are produced on occasions. The Review is on the Church's website and copies are to be found in the South Porch and in the foyer of the Church Hall. Being on-line means the Review has a wide circulation and readers are given an insight into life at St. John's.

Special thanks go to Anne Davis who left the Review team this year after many years, and we wish her a happy retirement from the team. Thanks also go to Carolyn White who now proof-reads for us.

Thank you to all contributors to the Review. Please continue to send articles and photographs which are suitable for inclusion to me at: audrey.taylor@pinnerparishchurch.org.uk so that the publication continues to flourish. With 'home-grown' material we do not have to worry about copyright.

Audrey Taylor

Pinner and District Faiths Dialogue

May 2023 Meeting: Prayer, Food for the Soul- participants brought their own prayers to share and discuss-held at St Luke's Parish Centre.

October 2023 Meeting: We joined the Jewish communities at Mosaic Synagogue in Stanmore, in a sukkah or booth, for a bible study on Ecclesiastes (Kohelet).

7 November 2023 Meeting: Interpreting our religious texts in modern times, held at Pinner Synagogue with speakers including Rev Stuart Natrass and general discussion.

*Katherine Pinching-co-chair with Jenny
Nemko of the United Synagogue.*



Pinner Music Festival

The Pinner Music Festival has been a consistent part of the Parish activities for nearly 60 years, for the first 50 of which it was directed by Michael Turvey, the Church's Director of Music, and colleagues. It comprises a week of concerts, normally in early June. PMF is a part of the wider community activities of the Parish Church. It has raised substantial funds for smallish, locally-based charities (about £20,500 in the last 7 Festivals) – as well as bringing music and musicians of a high standard to St John's, Pinner, and the surrounding community.

Pinner Music Festival is formally a Parish activity, its committee being a sub-committee of PCC and answerable to PCC. In the Autumn, PMF sends the PCC a proposed plan and draft budget for approval, together with a suggested charity, for the following year's Festival, as well as sending a report on the financial and artistic outcome of the June Festival. Finances are held within PCC accounts (as a separate PCC-PMF account, with parish officers as signatories) and subject to audit, as part of Parish Accounts. Reserves of £6,000 have been built up.

We are very grateful to the Parish Treasurer, Jo Kothary, and especially Chris Lomax, Paymaster, for their help and support through the year. The PMF Committee is chaired by Professor Anthony Pinching (who is also Director of PMF), and includes David Gould (until July 2023), Paul Jeanes (from July 2023), Emmie McGregor and Stephen Brown (PCC Representative), with Shirley Wootten, Marketing Consultant, co-opted.

Pinner Music Festival 2023 (12th – 17th June) was another wonderful display of lovely classical music played by outstanding musicians. We began, as has been our recent custom, with a Seminar, chaired by Anthony Pinching, introducing some of the artists and programmes; Jessica Duchén, Marco Galvani, Emma Halnan & Tim Hugh provided fascinating insights into these, and the wider world of music and music education.

The Pinner Parish Church Choir delighted us with Vivaldi's *Gloria* (with a splendid orchestra), anthems and solo pieces under the direction of Martin Singleton. The Aurora Trio entertained us wonderfully at the first lunchtime concert, in a fine mix of works for flute, viola and harp –including major works by Bax and Debussy. Emma Halnan gave the premiere of *La Rossa*, a piece for solo flute by Martin Bussey drawn from his *A Brother Abroad*, commissioned by PMF-2021 and recently recorded, along with the solo pieces for flute and for French horn, to be released on CD in summer 2024. In the evening, we were treated to a concert drama *Beethoven – Immortal Beloved* presented by Jessica Duchén, from her remarkable book, with linked music played supremely well by Viv McLean. The second lunchtime concert was by some of next generation of musicians, from Yehudi Menuhin School: a Debussy Prelude, a Beethoven Trio,

and a superb account of Poulenc's Violin Sonata. Our penultimate concert was by the international musicians of Trio Balthasar in stunning performances of Judith Weir and Dvorak Piano Trios, and Sally Beamish's wonderful arrangement of Debussy's *La Mer*. We concluded with Haydn's *The Creation* (Parts 1 & 2), with three soloists, Festival Choir & Orchestra conducted (for the last time) by David Gould. This glorious work was performed with much gusto and enjoyment by and for all. David has contributed enormously to Pinner Music Festival in many ways since 2016 and we are greatly indebted to him.

Overall this was another splendid Festival, but audience numbers have remained lower than before the pandemic. However, despite this, with extra donations and a modest rise in ticket prices, we were able to donate a substantial sum to our charity, Harrow Foodbank.

Our plan for PMF 2024 (10th–15th June) aims to sustain or increase audience numbers, while containing costs. Artists with local links form a major part of our Festival plan, and we shall have two lunchtime concerts again.

The Parish Church Choir mark Stanford's anniversary, and we showcase the Royal Academy of Music Harp Ensemble, thanks to a local link. Rebecca Boyle brings her own string quartet in popular works, as well as leading our Festival Orchestra at the end of the week. Young Artists, Amber Emson and Leah Nicholson bring us a delicious concert including César Franck's great violin sonata. George Strivens returns with his Mera Horn Trio, playing wonderful works by Richard Strauss, Clara Schumann and Brahms, and with Alexandra Lowe (soprano) will present George's own arrangement of *Four Last Songs*; he will also play *The Rites Observed*, another piece drawn from Martin Bussey's *A Brother Abroad*. We conclude with Paul Jeanes conducting soloists, Festival Choir & Orchestra in three of Handel's *Coronation Anthems* and Haydn's *Nelson Mass*.

The PMF Committee does an enormous amount of voluntary work throughout the year to plan, publicise and coordinate the Festival. It is strongly supported by many volunteers from the Parish, who help with the practical aspects and to create the particular ambience that is Pinner Music Festival, and which is always appreciated by artists and audiences. We benefit from substantial business sponsorship and personal

donations, and are very grateful for these, which make the quality of our Festivals possible. We very much appreciate the continuing support and oversight of the Vicar and the PCC.

*Professor Anthony J Pinching
Festival Director, PMF,
on behalf of the PMF Committee*

Harrow Deanery Synod

The Deanery Synod met for three sessions during the year with a time of worship led by the host church or school, who were invited to give a profile of the parish or school and its mission and ministries before the Synod prayed for them. Hosts also kindly provided refreshments. At each meeting reports were tabled or presented on the recent sessions by those elected to the Diocesan and General Synods. There was also a short business meeting held using the Zoom Software. During the year a new triennium started, and elections were held in preparation for the opening meeting.

The first meeting was held on 8 February at St Alban's North Harrow with the theme of "Modern Slavery – what is it and what can we do about it?". Pattie Gercke, Development Worker for the Compassionate Communities Team of the Diocese, gave a presentation on Modern Slavery. Modern Slavery is a serious crime in which people are coerced or deceived into a situation where they are exploited for the purpose of making a profit. The offence is punishable by up to life imprisonment under the 2015 Modern Slavery Act. She described the various forms of slavery, the victims, the signs to look out for, the resources available, and what we in the parishes can do about it. She then answered questions.

At the Parish APCMs new lay representatives on the Synod were elected. Elections were made for the Triennium. John Dolling was elected as Lay Chairman; Robert May as Secretary; David Green, Barry Hingston, Ajay More and Emma Webber as Clergy Members of the Standing Committee; Mary Abbott, Toby Partridge and Clive Scowen as Lay Members of the Standing Committee; Derek Taylor-Mew as Independent Examiner; John Spencer as Representative on Bereavement Care Management Committee and Clementina Pagano as Foundation Governor of St John's School Stanmore. The three representatives on Harrow SACRE (Standing

Advisory Committee for Religious Education) had agreed to continue and were confirmed (Revd James Power, Alison Stowe, and Mary Abbott).

A meeting to discuss Synod business was held using the Zoom software on 15 June. Five applications for a grant from the Deanery Mission Fund had been received from St Mary's Kenton for notice boards, All Saints Harrow Weald for sound system improvements, St Peter's West Harrow for Messy Church equipment, Re:Generation Schools Work for equipment and materials and Holy Trinity Wealdstone for outreach events. These were all approved. The Deanery Accounts for 2022 were received and approved, subject to Independent Examination. Toby Partridge was confirmed as the Deanery representative on the Area Finance Committee.

The triennium opened with the 4 July session, which was held at St Mary the Virgin Kenton and started with a Eucharist. Bishop Lusa Nsenga-Ngoy addressed the Synod and answered questions. Synod agreed to coopt the Headteachers of two Church of England Schools to be members of the Synod. – Jo Hester at St John's Stanmore and Daniel Norris at St Jerome's Harrow.

The third meeting was held on 23 November at Bishop Ramsey Church of England School Ruislip. Dr Hilary Macaulay, Headteacher, introduced the school and its vision and activities. These included three projects:- *The Big Feast* providing a different experience of worship; the *Willesden Area Church of England Choir Project* where over two days twelve schools in the Area worked with the London Gospel Community Choir; *Common Good Schools* which was designed through the lessons and assemblies to get schools working with their community.

Synod was then given fifteen minutes for conversation in groups to consider three questions:- *"What is your response to these projects?"*, *"What volunteering opportunities could your church offer for students in your community?"* and *"Do you have any other ideas for how your church community could link with your local schools?"*.

Alison Stowe gave a report from Harrow SACRE (Standing Advisory Committee for Religious Education). Ann Lynes announced

that she is stepping down as Area Dean and the Bishop will appoint a successor. A By-Election had been held to fill a vacancy for a Lay Representative of the Synod on the London Diocesan Synod. Noah Kelly of St Alban's North Harrow had been elected to fill this vacancy.

Robert May
Honorary Secretary



Pinner Association of Churches

I took over at the end of June as the Church's PAC representative. Since this time, we have had two Worshipping Together services. The first was the Eco-Harvest Worship on 24 September at St John's which Rev'd Emma Webber led. We worshipped God, celebrated the Harvest, and considered how we can protect harvests for future generations together. The second was combined with the AGM on 19 November at Cannon Lane Methodist Church when the new Chair took over.

The Welcome Lunches which happen six times at Pinner Methodist Church Hall continue to be well supported. They are for senior citizens who are housebound or live on their own. An additional lunch was added this year – a Christmas Welcome Lunch – which took place on Sunday 10 December.

The PAC Coffee Mornings are held every Friday from 11.00 am to 12 noon at St Luke's Parish Centre, Love Lane.

On Thursday 21 December at 6.30 pm for an hour, we held our annual Carols by Torchlight around the Christmas tree at the top of the High Street. This was much-enjoyed and rounded off by mince pies.

The Christmas Day lunch proved very popular this year with 70 guests receiving a delicious meal. Five takeaway meals were also provided. We were fortunate in that the event was supported by over 90 volunteers helping at the various stages of planning, delivery, clear-up, cooking, serving and driving the guests.

On Good Friday the Walk of Witness took place. It was very well supported and ended with hot cross buns at St Luke's Parish Church. Volunteers from each of the churches carried the cross and there were Bible readings at various points.

Helen Lawson

Walking Group

The group continues to offer weekly Wednesday walks of between 6 and 10 miles. We have a large mailing list who receive details of each walk and have been fortunate to attract a number of new people from outside the church who lead some of the walks and without whom the walks would be less frequent.

We walk locally (up to about an hour and a quarter journey time) and enjoy urban routes in the wetter months and countryside walks when the ground conditions are drier. When travelling by public transport we can often offer short cuts/exit points for those who prefer a shorter ramble.

Typically, there are about 12 to 15 people on each walk, but the numbers can rise to around 30. Sometimes we do special interest visits - a particularly popular one was a surprisingly entertaining tour of Highgate cemetery. Another walk paused at Kenwood House to appreciate the art there. We have also toured the Old Bailey in 2023 and had a guided tour of connected crime scenes in early 2024.

It is a friendly activity, and you would be welcome to join us but as most of the group are regular walkers it would be advisable for you to choose a route with an early exit if you wish to join us for the first time. If you intend to join us and want to receive details of the weekly walk meet up and route information, please contact us at nickandjudithchilds@gmail.com.

In addition to the weekly walks we typically offer a four night residential trip - in 2023 we doubled up with a trip to the Isle of Wight in March and one to the Yorkshire Dales (Malham) in May. These are becoming increasingly popular after some entertaining write ups in the Parish Review by church members. Some of those who join us prefer to pass on guided walking and use the country hotel as a base for exploring attractions in the local area.

I wish to thank my fellow walk leaders individually for their positive contribution and skill in identifying and planning suitable walks - Ashlie, Chris and Paul, Diana, Di, Haydee and Ken, David and Joy, Ed, Lis and Derek. I also wish to express my thanks to Judith, my wife, for her thoughtful advice and good sense of direction (!)

Do consider trying out this healthy and enjoyable activity if you can and are available on Wednesdays.

Nick Childs



Music in Pinner Series

Classical and Jazz Concerts: '23 – '24 Season

Music in Pinner Series (mps) is a monthly series of Saturday concerts, conducted under the aegis of Pinner Parish Church and its PCC. Music in Pinner Series is formally a part of Parish community activities, with corresponding benefits to the Parish of raised profile and goodwill. It is run as a sub-committee of PCC and answerable to PCC.

In late Spring, MPS sends the PCC a proposed plan and draft budget for approval early in the year for the following Season. MPS also sends the PCC a report on the financial and artistic outcome of the previous Season. Finances are held within PCC accounts (within the PCC-PMF account, but clearly separated from PMF, with parish officers as signatories) and subject to audit, as part of Parish Accounts. Reserves of £7,500 have been kindly provided by PCC from part of the proceeds of Pinner Jazz. The Church receives 12.5% of ticket income for concerts on site, and 5% for those offsite. Profits from any year are added to reserves held in the designated account to support future seasons.

MPS is directed by Professor Anthony Pinching, with a supporting team including Stuart Nattrass (Jazz Advisor), Stephen Brown (PCC Representative) and Trevor Mitchell (MPS Stage Manager), with Shirley Wootten (Marketing Consultant) co-opted. Parish Treasurer, Jo Kothary, and paymaster Chris Lomax, manage the PCC-PMF account, supported by Kevin Ogilvie (Bookkeeper), with budget-setting and financial oversight by the MPS Director.

We planned a 7-concert MPS Season '23-'24, with four jazz concerts & three classical; at least one of the jazz concerts should also appeal to a classical audience. Audience numbers have remained relatively low for classical concerts, as for post-Covid audience patterns across the sector. However, one lunchtime concert in February was well attended, with the time of day being one of the factors. Our jazz series has remained popular and draws from a wider catchment area, thanks to the impact of our predecessor, Pinner Jazz. We project that we shall remain in good positive balance by careful management of expenditure.

The season started with a bounce led by Quintet a Tete, a fine young jazz ensemble, recreating some jazz icons; we then had a great treat by pianist Patrick Hemmerlé in lovely French impressionist pieces and virtuosic opera transcriptions. Nat Steele's superb quartet recreated, and built upon the legacy of, the Modern Jazz Quartet. Scott Hamilton made a welcome return in January to Pinner United Synagogue playing brilliantly with his long-standing UK rhythm section to a capacity audience. Our February lunchtime concert was by the exceptional Ensemble Hesperis, whose outstanding performances and thoughtful introductions to their early music (Bach, Handel, Oswald, Telemann) repertoire charmed us all.

In March we shall hear the fine musicianship of the Dominic Alldis Trio in jazz arrangements of classical themes (evoking Jacques Loussier). The final concert in late April is to be by the Solarek Piano Trio, whose programme includes Hélène Liebmman, Fanny Mendelssohn & Brahms.

We anticipate, on the basis of good ticket sales to date, that a further MPS season will be feasible for '24-'25. This will comprise four jazz and four classical concerts, one of the latter being a Charity Concert, and two of the winter concerts being at lunchtime. Tentative artist bookings are being made, subject to later PCC approval.

The volunteers behind Music in Pinner Series do a great deal of work throughout the year to plan, publicise and coordinate these concerts, strongly supported by others on each concert day. Audience and artists always appreciate the welcome that they get and the very engaged audiences that they experience at these concerts, as well as the fine acoustic of St John's Church. We are very grateful for the support and oversight of the PCC.

*Anthony Pinching,
Director, Music in Pinner Series*

Charity Number 1130752

*Ecclesiastical Parish of
St. John the Baptist, Pinner*

Financial Statements

31 December 2023

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL
PARISH CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, PINNER

Parochial Church Council Members year ending 31 December 2023

Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) or co-opted by the PCC in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. During the year, the following served as members of the PCC. Members of the PCC Standing Committee are marked with an asterisk.

Clergy: Reverend Paul Hullyer*
Mark Arnold
Emma Webber *

Church Wardens: Angela Kenny* (first elected 2019)
Penny French* (first elected 2021)

Diocesan Synod: Susan Cooper

Deanery Synod: Stephen Brown

Elected to PCC: **Retiring 2024 (elected in May 2021)**
Carolyn White*
Sarah Hullyer
Hilary Gould

Retiring 2025 (elected in May 2022)
Karina Johnson*

Retiring 2026 (elected in May 2023)
Morella Boon
Muriel McGregor
Elizabeth Taleska

Safeguarding Officer: Katherine Pinching (co-opted)

Treasurer: Joanna Kothary* (co-opted)

The following are not members of the PCC but are in attendance in order to fulfil their functions

PCC Secretary: Helen Walsh

Minutes Secretary: Trevor Mitchell

**THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH CHURCH
OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, PINNER**

**ANNUAL REPORT
For the year ended 31 December 2023
TREASURER'S REPORT**

Introduction

The Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. John the Baptist, Pinner - Charity No. 1130752 - (the "Church") have been prepared in accordance with the 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 (FRS102) published on 16 July 2014 and the Charities Act 2011.

Objectives and activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our Church and to become part of our Parish community of St John the Baptist. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the Parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups living within our Parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning activities for the year the incumbent and the PCC have considered the Commission's Guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific Guidance on Charities for the advancement of religion. We try to enable people to live out their faith as part of our Parish community through worship and prayer, provision of pastoral care and outreach work.

To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church of St John the Baptist.

It is a requirement for parishes with a gross income of over £250,000 to include a statement in the Annual Report of their risk assessment and consequent management systems established and this has been completed.

The Statutory Accounts comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet and Notes to the Accounts.

Overview

At the end of the year 2023 the Church funds totalled £1,909,060 (2022 £1,995,364), a decrease of £86,304 for the year. These funds are as follows:

Funds		2023	2022
		£	£
Unrestricted	General Fund	-9,319	37,995
	Special Receipts Unspecified	2,869	2,500
	Legacies	95,897	95,397
	Youth Committee	679	679
	Capital Reserves	200,375	200,375
	Church Fabric and Buildings	3,520	3,520
	Missions & Charities	480	480
	Music in Pinner	6,455	6,455
	Jazz in Church	13,179	13,179
	Hall Fund	128,518	93,428
	Sub-Total	442,653	454,008
	Fixed Assets & Investments	1,416,337	1,491,038
	Total Unrestricted Funds	1,858,990	1,945,046
Restricted	Special Receipts, Nominated	2,622	3228
	Hall Fund	4,546	4546
	Tower (Bell Ringers)	1,330	1,363
	Flower Arrangers	440	401
	Music Festival	10,727	11,652
	Music in Pinner	7,430	7,309
	Youth Worker	16,739	15,232
	Church Restoration	-39	281
	Choir Tour	4,936	4,936
	IT/Software/Web/Training	1,340	1,370
	Total Restricted Funds	50,070	50,318
Total All Funds		1,909,060	1,995,364

Risk Assessment and Management

Risks associated with the affairs of Pinner Parish Church are periodically reviewed by the members of the Standing Committee. The Committee advises the PCC that appropriate arrangements are in place to identify, assess and manage risks that arise from the running of the Church (e.g. statutory health and safety, fire, food hygiene, insurance of properties, public liability, reputation, child protection, handling of money, data protection). The Committee reports annually to the PCC and submits a revised Risk Register of significant risks. A copy is posted in the Church porch and details of health and safety arrangements are available on the website.

Review of the year 2023

Summary

Total Incoming Resources for the year ended 31 December 2023 were £306,754 (2022 - £358,570) and total expenditure was £318,555 (2022 - £315,166) leading to a deficit in the year of £11,801.

Incoming Resources

Key points to note are:-

- Within voluntary income, planned giving reduced by £8,005 and income from legacies reduced by £39,833.
- Income from Hall rental increased by £6,474
- Total Income and Endowments decreased by £51,813. This was mainly attributable to a reduction in Legacies.
- Income from the rental of the three investment properties owned by the Church, and income from hiring the hall made up 34% of the church's income (2022 - 28%)

Overall Resources Used

Key points to note are:-

- The parish contribution to the Diocesan Common Fund was £113,425 and was paid in full.
- Ministry costs increased by £2,797 but were offset by a £3,517 reduction in Parish administrator costs following a reduction in hours worked.
- Expenditure on Activities, such as the music concerts (PMF, and MPS) remained similar to 2022.
- Upkeep Costs increased in 2023 due to one off expenses incurred for lighting electrical work in the church, floor sanding, relaying of paving, new notice board and hand rails.

Reserves and Reserve Policy

The reserves we maintain are:-

General Reserves, which contain all non-restricted reserves including non-specific legacies received.

Capital Reserves for funding expenditure of a capital nature and future contingencies in respect of general operating costs.

Restricted Reserves such as ancillary activities, which include sums held by PMF, MPS, Bellringers, Church Flowers, current restoration activities and any other specific reserves.

“Reserves” also exist in the form of the “investment” properties.

The policy of the Church is to maintain an adequate reserve to meet all eventualities and has in previous years been based on one year’s unrestricted costs (designed to cover running costs and any unforeseen and urgent capital requirements that may arise). This year’s reserve continues to remain at £200,375. This is lower than policy dictates due to a transfer from Capital Reserves to the Restoration fund for the restoration work carried out in a prior year, which was approved by PCC prior to the commencement of works. The reserve total requires to be substantial but not excessive, in order to protect against the impact of potential major repairs costs for our medieval Church.

The Outlook for the Future

In 2023 we report a deficit of £11,801 (2022: £43,405). Income from hall rentals and rents of our properties continue to contribute a significant part of our total income (34%). Hall income has shown some growth in 2023. Rental income from 37 Eastcote Road is being used following the appointment of a new curate in 2021.

Acknowledgements

The devolved finance system cannot work without the many dedicated people performing their responsible tasks conscientiously. I would like to express my gratitude and offer my thanks to Carolyn White, for managing the fees system, Jude Brampton, for managing the intricacies of the flower fund, Martin Singleton, for managing the junior choir pay system, Trevor Mitchell, for banking all cash income and keeping immaculate accounts, Morella Boon for handling Gift Aid and GASDS claims from HMRC, Nick Childs for managing the reclaim of VAT and Chris Lomax for managing payments. I should also like to acknowledge the service of our bookkeeper, Kevin Ogilvie, and the devolved payroll service of David Graham Associates.

Joanna Kothary, Treasurer
16-Apr-24

THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, PINNER

Independent Examiners' Report to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. John the Baptist, Pinner (Charity No. 1130752)

I report to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the PCC, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act'). You are satisfied that the charity is not required by charity law to be audited and have chosen to have an independent examination.

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed the requirements of Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts and 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 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, which is one of the listed bodies.

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 charity 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.



Anthony Phillips FCCA

On behalf of:

Buckingham & Company Ltd
27A Maxwell Road
Northwood
Middlesex
HA6 2XY

THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, PINNER

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ended 31 December 2023

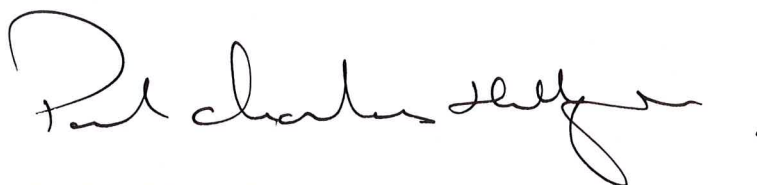
		2023	2023	2023	2022
		Unrestricted Funds (Inc. fixed assets)	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
	Note	£	£	£	£
INCOME & ENDOWMENTS					
Voluntary Income	3(a)	155,908	5,648	161,556	225,312
Activities for Generating Funds	3(b)	4,702	23,484	28,186	28,895
Income from Church Activities	3(c)	55,222	0	55,222	48,169
Income from Investments	3(d)	61,790	0	61,790	56,195
Other Income		0	0	0	0
TOTAL INCOME & ENDOWMENTS		277,622	29,132	306,754	358,571
EXPENDITURE					
Expenditure on raising funds	4(a)	55	0	55	0
Church Activities					
Grants payable under charitable objects	4(b)	14,000	3,586	17,586	15,804
The Ministry	4(c)	154,088	0	154,088	154,808
Support costs for services	4(d)	19,684	174	19,858	20,322
Activities	4(e)	539	23,449	23,988	22,658
Upkeep	4(f)	75,387	320	75,707	74,901
Management and administration	4(g)	27,192	81	27,273	26,673
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		290,945	27,610	318,555	315,166
NET INCOME/EXPENDITURE BEFORE INVESTMENT GAINS/LOSSES		-13,323	1,522	-11,801	43,405
LOSS ON REVALUATION OF INVESTMENTS	8&4(h)	-74,504	0	-74,504	- 701
NET INCOME/EXPENDITURE BEFORE TRANSFERS		-87,827	1,522	-86,305	42,704
TRANSFER BETWEEN FUNDS	6 & 7			0	0
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		-87,827	1,522	-86,305	42,705
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1 JANUARY 2023		1,945,046	50,318	1,995,364	1,952,660
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 DECEMBER 2023		1,857,219	51,840	1,909,060	1,995,364

THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, PINNER

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Fixed Assets and Investments	8	1,416,337	1,491,038
CURRENT ASSETS			
Prepayments	9	15,885	7,101
Debtors	9	5,122	7,933
Short term deposits	12	316,784	306,948
Cash at bank and in hand	12	177,393	187,239
		<u>515,184</u>	<u>509,220</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors due within one year	10	22,461	4,893
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>492,723</u>	<u>504,327</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>1,909,060</u>	<u>1,995,364</u>
FUNDS			
	11		
Unrestricted		442,653	454,008
Restricted		50,070	50,318
Total Restricted and Unrestricted		<u>492,723</u>	<u>504,326</u>
Capital Funds		1,416,337	1,491,038
Total		<u>1,909,060</u>	<u>1,995,364</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 7/5/2024 and signed, on its behalf by:



Rev Paul Hullyer (Chairman)



Church Warden

THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, PINNER

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1. BASIS OF PREPARATION AND ASSESSMENT OF GOING CONCERN

The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Report Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) published on 16 July 2014 and the Charities Act 2011. The Charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102. The PCC consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered to be material in relation to these financial statements.

Incoming resources

Voluntary income and capital sources

- (a) collections are recognised when made;
- (b) amounts receivable under covenant are recognised only when honoured by the covenantor;
- (c) income tax recoverable on covenanted or gift aid donations is recognised when claimable;
- (d) grants and legacies are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its entitlement and the amount due;
- (e) funds raised by Church events are accounted for gross;

Other ordinary income

- (a) rental income from the letting of Church premises is accounted for when earned;
- (b) Parochial fees due to the PCC for weddings, funerals etc. are accounted for on an event by event basis.

Application of resources

Grants

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid.

Costs directly related to the work of the Church

The Diocesan quota (Common Fund) is accounted for when payable.

Fixed assets for use by the Church

Consecrated land and buildings and movable Church furnishings

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.96 (2) (a) of the Charities Act 2011. No value is placed on the unmovable Church furnishings held by the Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers this to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings, whether maintenance or improvement is written off.

Other land and buildings

Other land and buildings held for the PCC for its own purposes is shown at cost. No depreciation is charged against such properties but any expenditure on maintenance or improvement is written off as incurred.

Investment properties

Properties which are let and held as investment properties are shown at the last known market value.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment

Office equipment used within the Church premises is depreciated on a straight-line basis. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1,000 or less are written off in the period in which the asset is acquired.

Fixtures & fittings are depreciated on a straight line basis over 10 years.

Current assets

- (a) amounts owing to the PCC as at 31 December 2023 in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable;
- (b) short-term deposits consist of cash held on deposit at the Central Board of Finance.

Risk management

All PCCs with income and expenditure over £250,000 must have a policy with regard to the management of risks. This policy is reviewed annually by the PCC which is satisfied that appropriate systems are in place to mitigate those risks identified.

3 INCOME & ENDOWMENTS

		Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
3(a) Voluntary Income					
Planned giving:	Gift Aid	120,704	1,230	121,934	127,432
	Tax recovered	28,002	308	28,310	30,817
Collections		6,333	0	6,333	11,812
Special receipts		369	3,680	4,049	14,587
Sundry donations		0	430	430	330
Legacies		500	0	500	40,333
Church Restoration		0	0	0	0
Sub-total		155,908	5,648	161,556	225,311
3(b) Activities for generating funds					
Publications		116	0	116	70
Fees		1,351	86	1,437	2,815
Children and youth		991	0	991	1,180
Sundry receipts		2,244	217	2,461	1,885
Events receipts (PMF & MPS)		0	23,181	23,181	22,944
Sub-total		4,702	23,484	28,186	28,894
3(c) Income from Church activities					
Use of Church		581	0	581	1
Hall contributions		54,641	0	54,641	48,167
700th anniversary events		0	0	0	0
Sundry		0	0	0	0
Sub-total		55,222	0	55,222	48,168
3(d) Investment income					
Rent from houses		49,873	0	49,873	51,958
Interest from deposit accounts		11,917	0	11,917	4,236
Investment Fund income		0	0	0	0
Sub-total		61,790	0	61,790	56,194
TOTAL INCOME & ENDOWMENTS		277,622	29,132	306,754	358,567

4 EXPENDITURE

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
4(a) Expenditure on raising funds	55	-	55	0
	55	-	55	0
Church Activities				
4(b) Expenditure on Charitable activities				
Overseas missions	0	0	0	0
Relief agencies	0	0	0	0
Home missions	0	0	0	0
Secular charities	0	0	0	0
Charitable giving from general fund	14,000	0	14,000	14,446
Charitable giving from special collections	0	3,586	3,586	1358
Sub-total	14,000	3,586	17,586	15,804
4(c) The Ministry				
Clergy expenses	4,365	0	4,365	2,308
Curate house expenses	21,505	0	21,505	21,323
Parish Administrator	14,277	0	14,277	17,794
Cost of Youth Minister	0	0	0	0
Children & Youth Work	516	0	516	1,081
Diocesan quota	113,425	0	113,425	112,302
Sub-total	154,088	0	154,088	154,808
4(d) Support costs for services				
Sacristan	1,496	0	1,496	2,014
Service books, posters	138	0	138	348
Robes	0	0	0	170
Music	1,032	0	1,032	769
Choir costs	1,087	0	1,087	737
Organists' costs	14,837	0	14,837	14,610
Training	0	0	0	0
Quiet days/pilgrimages	0	0	0	638
Flowers for Church	1,094	174	1,268	1,036
Sub-total	19,684	174	19,858	20,322
Carried forward	187,827	3,760	191,587	190,934

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
4 EXPENDITURE (continued)				
Brought Forward	187,827	3,760	191,587	190,934
4(e) Activities				
Books and materials	158	0	158	48
Refreshments	381	0	381	225
Sundry activities (inc MPS, Music Festival)	0	23,449	23,449	22,704
Library	0	0	0	0
700th anniversary events	0	0	0	0
Donations (MPS)	0	0	0	0
Choir Tour Costs	0	0	0	-319
Sub-total	539	23,449	23,988	22,658
4(f) Upkeep				
Vicarage and garden	565	0	565	376
Burhill Grove	2,201	0	2,201	3142
Eastcote Road	2,963	0	2,963	2,273
Chamberlain Way	2,815	0	2,815	1241
Church running expenses	25,107	0	25,107	22,155
Church maintenance	17,070	320	17,390	14,456
Organ and piano	390	0	390	402
Churchyard		0	-	157
Church Hall	19,666	0	19,666	20,888
Gardener	4,610	0	4,610	9,811
Sub-total	75,387	320	75,707	74,901
4(g) Management and administration				
Computing	673	30	703	698
Postage, telephone	1,753	0	1,753	1,556
Books, stationery	228	0	228	348
Printing, photocopying	1,589	0	1,589	1293
Fees, subscriptions, gifts	617	20	637	565
Accountancy	3,571	0	3,571	3,832
Property Management Fees Burhill Grove	1,959	0	1,959	2,047
Property Management Fees Eastcote Rd	2,669	0	2,669	3,052
Property Management Fees Chamberlain Way	1,854	0	1,854	1,690
Bank charges	262	31	293	292
Sundry Expenditure	0	0	0	0
Audit & Legal Fees	2,820	0	2,820	2,700
Depreciation	9,197	0	9,197	8,600
Suspense Transfers	0	0	0	0
Other Expenditure used	0	0	0	0
Sub-total	27,192	81	27,273	26,673
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	290,945	27,610	318,555	315,166
4(h) Gain on Revaluation of Investments	-74,504	0 -	74,504 -	74,504

5 STAFF COSTS (including Social Security)	2023	2022
	£	£
Director of Music	12,112	11,300
Parish Administrator	14,277	17,794
	26,389	29,094

The above notes represent staff costs and emoluments.

During the year, the PCC employed and contracted (i) a Director of Music & (ii) a Parish Administrator.

None of the PCC received any remuneration or received any other benefits from an employment with the Charity.

6 FUND DETAILS

	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Unrestricted Funds				
General	-9,319		-9,319	37,993
Special Receipts, Unspecified	2,869		2,869	2,500
Legacies	95,897		95,897	95,397
Youth Committee	679		679	679
Capital Reserve	200,375		200,375	200,375
Church Fabric and Building	3,520		3,520	3,520
Missions and Charities	480		480	480
Music in Pinner	6,455		6,455	6,455
Jazz in Church	13,179		13,179	13,179
Hall Fund	128,518		128,518	93,428
	442,653		442,653	454,006
Fixed Assets and Investments	1,416,337		1,416,337	1,491,038
Total	1,858,990		1,858,990	1,945,044
Restricted Funds				
Special Receipts, Nominated		2,622	2,622	3228
Hall		4,546	4,546	4546
Tower (Bell Ringers)		1,330	1,330	1,363
Flower Arrangers		440	440	401.2
Music Festival		10,727	10,727	11,652
Music in Pinner		7,430	7,430	7309
Youth Worker		16,739	16,739	15,232
Church Restoration		-39	-39	281
Choir Tour		4,936	4,936	4,936
IT/Software/Web Training		1,340	1,340	1,370
Total		50,071	50,071	50,318
TOTAL FOR ALL FUNDS	1,858,990	50,071	1,909,061	1,995,362

7 TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS

There were no transfers between funds.

8 FIXED ASSETS FOR USE BY THE PCC

	Investments	Investment Properties	Infrastructure & Office Equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£
At 1 January 2023	5,399	1,475,000	82,970	1,563,369
Revaluation	496	-75,000	0	-74,504
Additions		0	9,000	9,000
Disposals		0	0	0
At 31 December 2023	5,895	1,400,000	91,970	1,497,865
DEPRECIATION				
At 1 January 2023	-	-	72,331	72,331
Charge for the year			9,197	9,197
At 31 December 2023	-	-	81,528	81,528
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31 December 2023	5,895	1,400,000	10,442	1,416,337
At 31 December 2022	5,399	1,475,000	10,639	1,491,038

Investment Properties

The Investment Properties shown above relate to 37 Eastcote Road, 47 Chamberlain Way and 6 Burhill Grove. In accordance with FRS 102, each year the PCC obtain a professional market valuation for the above properties and as at the Balance Sheet date the market value of these three properties was £1,400,000.

9 DEBTORS	2023	2022
	£	£
Income tax recoverable	3,192	2,770
Prepayments	15,885	7,101
Other debtors	1,930	5,162
Total Debtors	21,006	15,032

10 CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	2023	2022
	£	£
Agency Collections	0	0
Deferred Income	1,630	0
Trade Creditors & Accruals	20,831	4,893
Total Creditors	22,461	4,893

11 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total
	£	£	£
Fixed Assets (Net)	1,410,442	0	1,485,639
Investments	5,895	0	5,399
Fixed Assets and Investments	1,416,337	0	1,491,038
New Current Assets	492,723	0	504,327
Fund balance	1,909,060	0	1,995,364

12 ANALYSIS OF BANK BALANCES

	2023	2022
	£	£
General Current Account	131,154	151,420
Restoration Account	0	0
Deposit Accounts	316,784	306,947
Other Associated Bank Accounts & Cash	46,239	35,818
Total Bank Accounts	494,177	494,185