

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. JAMES, TAUNTON

England & Wales · Charity number 1130757

Details

Other names PCC TAUNTON ST JAMES

Status Registered

Legal form Previously excepted

Registered 2009-07-27

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address St. James Church Office
St. James Street
Taunton
TA1 1JS

Phone 01823272931

Email info@stjamestaunton.co.uk

Website www.stjamestaunton.org

Activities

Objects: Promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church.

Activities: Regular public worship. Provision of sacred space for personal prayer and contemplation. Pastoral work, including visiting the sick and the bereaved. Teaching of Christianity. Taking religious assemblies in schools. The provision of a youth club and activities for senior citizens, parents and toddlers and other special need groups. Supporting other charities in the UK and overseas.

Classification

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

Geography

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

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£175,612	£192,167	-	-
2023-12-31	£162,205	£170,645	-	-
2022-12-31	£146,331	£161,891	-	-
2021-12-31	£135,496	£163,548	-	-
2020-12-31	£228,542	£157,129	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Fabian Rene Marc Wuyts	Chair	2018-08-14
Celia Ruth Wojcik		2026-04-19
Christine Rickard		2019-04-29
David John Smith		2026-04-19
David Thomas Jordan		2020-10-12
Fiona Margaret Hope		2023-05-09
George Michael Gillingham		2025-05-12
JENNIFER GERTRUDE ELIZABETH WAKEFIELD		
Johannes Smit		2023-05-09
Linda Irene Jones		2021-05-10
MARTIN PERCIVAL WAKEFIELD		
Michael Ronald Newberry		2026-05-11
Nigel Derek Bright		2021-04-26
RICHARD MARTIN CARPENTER		
RICHARD SAINSBURY		2013-05-02
ROGER IAN FENTON		2013-05-02
Ruth Preater-Gillard		2026-04-19

Accounts



Annual Report for 2024

Encountering God

Growing as Followers of Jesus

Participating in the Life of His Spirit

Prepared by the PCC, the Coordinators and other leaders

Fabian Wuyts

Vicar

14 April 2025

Registered Charity No: 1130757.

Full name of the charity: The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. James, Taunton.

Short names: St James Church PCC; St James Church Taunton.

Address: St James Church Office, St James Street, Taunton, TA1 1JS.

This report covers calendar year 2024 and has been written to meet the requirements of the Charity Commission's Statement of Recommended Practices (SORP FRS102).

Foreword by the Vicar

As we look back on 2024, my heart is full of gratitude. I want to begin by saying a heartfelt thank you to each and every one of you who give your time, your gifts, and your prayers to support the life and ministry of our church. Whether you serve on a team, help and work behind the scenes, or simply offer a word of encouragement – you are part of what God is building here, and I am truly thankful.

One of the most encouraging signs of growth this year has been within our ministry to children and their families. We give thanks to God for the appointment of Rachel Haddell, who, alongside a faithful and creative team of leaders and helpers, has helped shape a vibrant and supportive children's ministry. It has been a joy to see families drawn in and young lives being nurtured in faith.

We are also deeply grateful for the arrival of Glenys Hanlon as our new church administrator. Her warmth, hospitality, and professionalism have already made a noticeable impact, and we thank God for bringing her to journey with us at this time.

Throughout the year, we have continued to explore new ways of staying rooted in prayer and drawing close to God. We give thanks for Lynn and Felicity, whose leadership in reflective prayer events has helped grow a deeper awareness of God's presence and goodness among us.

This past year, we also saw the greatest number of Alpha courses ever offered through our church – with three courses hosted at St James Church and one held beyond our church walls. This is a remarkable encouragement, as more people continue to explore faith in Jesus in an open and welcoming environment.

We have also taken a closer look at our pastoral care ministry, and I am deeply grateful to everyone involved in this vital part of life at St. James. Pastoral care is not limited to a single team or group – it is beautifully woven into the very fabric of our church community. Whether through our Life Groups, including Thursday Fellowship and Hymns and Tea, our prayer ministry, or the informal support offered through special interest groups, our church family has shown a remarkable commitment to walking alongside one another in times of both joy and sorrow.

A sincere thank you to our leaders, volunteers, safeguarding team, prayer intercessors, and to every person who offers a phone call, a visit, a meal, or simply a listening ear. Your love in action reflects the heart of Christ, and our community is stronger and more compassionate because of you.

Our Welcome Team remains central in helping newcomers feel at home, and our Welcome Lunches continue to thrive – offering valuable space for connection, conversation, and community. We are also deeply thankful for all the other faithful teams and ministries that support the life of the church – whether on Sundays, throughout the week, in maintaining our facilities, or in carrying the love of Jesus into our local schools, community, and beyond. Your faithfulness is not unseen.

Looking ahead to 2025, we sense a strong call to deepen and expand our ministry to children, young people, and their families – placing them ever more at the heart of all we do. We are praying for the right person to join us in ministering to our growing number of teenagers, and we are actively exploring the exciting possibility of welcoming an intern studying for Youth Ministry from September. So watch the space!

Yet above all else, we are reminded to remain close to Jesus – rooted deeply in Scripture and prayer. We are not simply building programmes; we are agents of the Kingdom, representing Christ's heart and purpose in our homes, our work, our communities, and our church life. Jesus only did what he saw the Father doing – and we are called to grow in that same intimacy and obedience, empowered by the Holy Spirit. These are not mere ideas to nod along with; they are the heartbeat of a fruitful, faithful life.

So let us continue to spend time with Him. Let us listen closely for the Spirit's guidance, lay down our striving, and walk in step with the amazing plans God has for our lives and the life of his church. He is the Shepherd – seeking the lost, caring for his flock, and leading us with love, power and wisdom. That is his heart. And we want to follow it.

Prayer for Growth

Heavenly Father, increase in number your Church at St James as you deepen us as followers and learners of Christ.

Help us to show uninhibited reliance on your grace and power as we seek renewal of our lives, our church, our community and our world.

Give us courage, imagination and generosity in order that your kingdom may come and your abundant life be known by all.

We make this prayer in the name and to the glory of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Rev Fabian Wuyts
Vicar, St James Church

Introduction

St James Church, Taunton, is a parish church within the Diocese of Bath and Wells in the Church of England. Its parish includes the Roughmoor, North Town, Priory and Firepool areas of Taunton. The church's membership is drawn partly from within the parish, partly from across the rest of the town, and from nearby villages. Its services and activities are open to all, and the church works with other churches and local inter-church organisations in proclaiming and applying the good news of Jesus Christ.

The size of the worshipping community at the end of 2024 (as declared for the "Mission Statistics" return to the diocese) was 159 adults and 32 children. For comparison, the 2023 figures were 160 adults and 27 children. At the 2024 Annual Meeting, there were 159 people on the Church Electoral Roll.

Objectives

The governing document is The Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956. In common with other Anglican (Church of England) churches, this gives the objects of the church as to:

Promote in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The PCC's registration with the Charity Commission (using headings provided by Church of England Guidance at the time of initial registration) expands the statement of objects as covering:

- *Regular public worship open to all.*
- *The provision of sacred space for personal prayer and contemplation.*
- *Pastoral work, including visiting the sick and the bereaved.*
- *Teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups*
- *Taking of religious assemblies in schools.*
- *The provision of a youth club with a Christian ethos.*
- *Promotion of Christianity through the staging of events and meetings, and the distribution of literature.*
- *Promoting the whole mission of the Church through provision of activities for senior citizens, parents and toddlers and other special need groups.*
- *Supporting other charities in the UK and overseas.*

Public Benefit

The PCC has noted the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit, including publication PB4 *The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit*.

Worship services are all open to the public. The church building is open as many days as possible for private prayer, and is available for weddings and funerals of parishioners as required. Baptisms of parishioners are normally conducted during Sunday morning services.

Pastoral support is available to anyone who requests it. Church members also receive support through home groups.

Significant effort goes into supporting St James Church School, with volunteers helping to lead assemblies, assist school staff run Christmas, Easter and Leaver's services in the church building, listen to children reading and run a mentoring scheme.

The church also supports local Christian organisations – further details are in the *Local and International Mission Partners* section, below.

A church does not exist in isolation, but is part of one world-wide church of all denominations. St James supports the work of several organisations whose work is overseas – further details are in the *Local and International Mission Partners* section, below.

The PCC also has maintenance responsibilities for St James' Church building (Grade 2* listed) and the church halls. The halls are available for hire by community groups. The church building is also used for concerts and by some other groups, such as the NHS Blood Donor service.

How St James Church Operates

St James Church has long had a tradition of Every Member Ministry, with all members encouraged to play an active part – and not wait to be told what to do. This applies to all parts of church life except those where licenced clergy are required to undertake a specific role.

Paid staff: Vicar (full-time), Church Administrator, Children's Church Pastor and Caretaker (all part-time). The administrator handles bookings for the church halls; we welcomed Mrs Glenys Hanlon as our new administrator in June 2024. The caretaker works alongside the administrator and together they look after the needs of hirers of church premises. The Children's Church Pastor leads Sunday children's activities, and liaises with families; this is a new post from April 2024, and we were pleased to appoint church member Rachel Haddell.

Church officers: the churchwardens, together with the vicar, manage the day-to-day business of the church, assisted by the administrator. All financial matters are handled by the Treasurer, assisted by the Planned Giving and Payroll Officer. The PCC Secretary manages the routine business of the PCC and looks after governance matters.

PCC: The PCC meets monthly, except in May (Annual Church Meeting) and August (summer holidays). It approves all major non-recurring financial expenditure and decides proposals to undertake any major new activity. The PCC's Standing Committee is empowered by law to conduct PCC business in between meetings of the council. Its members are the church officers plus one ordinary member of the PCC.

Readers and service leaders: a small group of church members, including one licenced Reader, assists the vicar in leading services and preaching.

Coordinators: a number of coordinators were appointed from 2012 to manage certain aspects of church life with delegated responsibility from the vicar and PCC. The aim is to avoid overloading the vicar with too many decisions. The Worship, Discipleship and Facilities (premises and technical) Coordinators continue to function largely as originally envisaged. A Hospitality Coordinator has since been appointed. The Pastoral area is currently being reviewed. The original intention was that this structure would evolve with experience, and this has taken the form of establishing groups and teams.

Groups and Teams: these look after specific activities, again with the expectation that they will progress their business without unnecessarily troubling the vicar or churchwardens. The following are currently operating: Mission Review Group (support for mission partners), Welcoming Team, Prayer Team, Deputy Wardens, Hospitality Team, Tech Team, Pastoral Team, Worship Group, Safeguarding Team, Premises Team (including gardening), Flower Team, Banner Group, Hymns and Tea Team, and the Churchyard Development Group. In 2024 the PCC agreed to form a Communications Team, and this will gradually become operational in 2025.

Fellowship and Interest Groups: Lest the previous paragraphs give the impression that everything is business related, most of the groups and teams work with a strong element of fellowship. The same members may also be part of other groups, such as Life Groups or specific interest groups such as the Bellringers, the Art Group and St James Players.

Diocesan authority: provisions decided by General Synod or decisions made by Diocesan Synod govern, for example, the type of public worship services that can be provided but allow a church to develop its own style. The appointment of clergy and readers is managed by the diocese, in

consultation with the parish. Payment of clergy is carried out via the diocesan Common Fund, to which all parishes pay their Parish Share (Benefice Share from 2025). Significant maintenance work and alteration of the church building is overseen by a Diocesan Advisory Committee, through faculties granted by the diocesan chancellor; this process is in lieu of civil planning procedures. The parish is required to appoint an architect approved by the diocese to advise on and specify all works required.

Activities

Worship

There is one service on a Sunday at 10.30 am which is live streamed on YouTube and available later on the church YouTube channel in 'tidied up' form. This service is Communion on two Sundays and Morning Worship/ All Age Worship on the other Sundays with the pattern dependant on school holidays and other factors. These services are planned by Fabian and are each part of a themed series. Fabian works in collaboration with Ray Crooks (the Musical Director) and Worship Coordinator as well as a leading and preaching team, Fabian organises these rotas. Alongside this there are those who read and lead prayers within the services. Church Suite is used to support this.

Prayer ministry happens after each morning service as well as within communion services. This is led by Sue Lucas and Vicky Dykes. Ongoing training takes place for the team.

The Musical Director selects the songs and hymns in consultation with the vicar and the Worship Coordinator and those leading the service.

The style is contemporary corporate worship with a range of songs and instrumentation that complement this. The music team currently comprises of a drummer and singers with the Music Director providing settings to match the available skills. New music is introduced in collaboration with the Musical Director, Worship Coordinator, and the Vicar and meetings take place as required to practice new worship songs. There is excellent commitment and engagement from the team with different members leading the praise section of each service. There are also meetings when required with the Vicar to look at the praise and worship within the morning service.

Sue Doyle leads the dance ministry which enhances our worship and adds dimension to our prayers during each service. Members of the church are encouraged to use the flags to express the lyrics of the songs we sing or words we say.

St James Players have contributed dramatic interpretations of Bible passages to our services to help our understanding of particular themes.

Alongside Morning Worship there is a growing young people and children's church in the hall planned and led by Rachel Haddell and the CYP team that is engaging the younger members of our church and is well received with excellent feedback.

The crèche area for younger children continues to be well used and the south side of the church is arranged to encourage family groups and participation.

This side of the church is also used by members of a nearby residential home. Their support workers comment that they respond well to the music in particular those with actions and signs.

A great deal of planning, preparation and set up goes into each service. A hard working and dedicated team of volunteers runs the various elements of the technical set up, sound, live stream, visuals on screen, flowers and banners as the visual expression of the season or theme, the Welcome Team, and last but definitely not least, the Hospitality Team which provides refreshments at morning services and many other events.

Online Morning Prayer continues on Mondays and Thursdays at 9.15am on Zoom, streamed on Facebook. Church Members are encouraged to use the Prayer Space in church.

The monthly evening service known as "The Room" continues on the first Sunday of each month at 7.00 pm in the Hall. The format is more informal and contemporary with a mixture of songs supported by a small worship band and singers. The aim is to give people the space (room) to worship, contribute, reflect, respond and worship in a more informal setting. This includes songs, readings, media, testimony, prayer and response. It is led by different members of the congregation each month and has been well received by those who attend.

We must always be mindful that Worship is a whole life experience and is not confined to the time in church services and the portion where we sing. Praise within our worship may seem to be a vertical act – we receive from God and we return our praise to him. However it is also Horizontal – we praise God with others and in speaking and singing out our praise with each other we encourage each other and remind ourselves of God's character and acts. But there is a third dimension – the world beyond the walls of our church and we need to “Declare his Glory among the Nations , his marvellous deeds among all peoples.”

So as stated in previous reports we continue to consider how we reach out to those who are currently outside of the church and those without a church background and endeavour to make worship accessible and relevant within the changing landscape.

Psalms reminded Israel that they were not to be like other nations and were not to hide from the rest of the world and become inward looking. The people of God instead were to proclaim his character and his acts to the whole world

I would also again this year like it noted that there is a great commitment required for both online and face to face services in facilitating the technology required and my thanks go to all those who give their time to this ministry.

Richard Lucas, Worship Coordinator

Pastoral Care

Pastoral care at St. James is deeply embedded within the life of the church, ensuring that members are supported spiritually, emotionally, and practically. Various groups and ministries contribute to this essential aspect of church life, with a focus on small group support, prayer ministry, hospitality, and newcomer integration.

Life Groups play a crucial role in providing pastoral care, with 10 groups engaging up to approximately 20 members on a weekly or bi-monthly basis. Leaders are key in ensuring that members feel supported within these small communities.

Beyond Life Groups, several key gatherings contribute significantly to the pastoral care landscape of St. James:

- Thursday Fellowship: A group of 25-30 participants, known for its strong contact lists, home visits, and phone outreach.
- Hymns and Tea: A group of 30-45 attendees, including elderly individuals and families with special needs. This gathering fosters connection and joy through hymn singing and fellowship.
- Special Interest Groups: Activities like art groups and bell ringing provide spaces for meaningful connections and informal pastoral support.

Effective pastoral care is built on a foundation of safeguarding and well-supported volunteers. Our approach includes:

- Safe Recruitment: Clear role descriptions and a structured recruitment process to help volunteers thrive.
- Ongoing Support: Training sessions to equip volunteers with the skills necessary for providing effective care.
- Specialist Insight: A small, dedicated team may be assembled to offer personalized and holistic support in cases of complex pastoral needs.

Prayer remains central to pastoral care at St. James, with the following key elements:

- Post-Service Prayer: Providing opportunities for prayer and support after Sunday services.
- Prayer Chain Team: A confidential intercession service for acute or urgent prayer needs.

The Hospitality Team and Welcome Team Ministry play a vital role in fostering fellowship and integrating new members into the church community.

I am deeply grateful to everyone who contributes to the care and support of others, whether through leadership roles or personal initiatives. Pastoral care is a shared responsibility, and our collective efforts help build a compassionate and supportive church family. Assessing and

improving our pastoral strategy is an ongoing process, and we recognize several key areas that require attention:

1. Bereavement Support

We want to address the growing need for grief support through initiatives such as promoting resources from other churches (e.g., St. George's Wilton), continuing our annual services for remembering loved ones, and creating a space for the bereaved to receive support and help.

2. Integration of Pastoral Systems

We see the need to strengthen the links between prayer ministry, Life Groups, and professional support services (signposting). We also want to ensure individuals unable to attend church due to illness or other circumstances receive pastoral support through visits, phone calls, or written communication.

3. Improved Follow-Up for Newcomers

We want to implement a system for contacting and supporting those who stop attending and provide pastoral follow-up where appropriate.

4. Growing Support for Families, Children, and Young People

We aim to recruit additional volunteers for Children's Church, allowing leaders to focus on building meaningful connections with parents and carers. We recognize the vital role of investing time in supporting and equipping families, empowering them to navigate today's complex and challenging world with confidence and faith.

Pastoral care at St. James continues to be a vital ministry, ensuring that individuals and families receive the support they need. Through Life Groups, prayer ministry, hospitality, pastoral visiting, safe recruitment, and specialized support, we seek to create a community where everyone feels valued and cared for. Moving forward, our focus will be on strengthening our systems, equipping volunteers, and expanding our reach to meet the evolving needs of our congregation.

Fabian Wuyts, Vicar

Discipleship

Exciting Times. New people seem to be appearing at church most Sundays, and, after a few weeks to settle in, it is my privilege to chat with them and see what faith needs we can meet. Requests to join a Life Group have been, almost without exception, satisfied, but most groups are near maximum people or space capacity, making the need for additional Life Group leaders a priority in the coming year.

There are currently 10 Life Groups, with a total of approximately 86 regularly attending members. Both I and the church are indebted to the leaders for their faithful ministry, which can often present some challenges. As leaders, we meet 4 times each year, meetings of mutual support, fellowship and prayer, and the church continues to invest in developing this ministry and support the leaders.

We were able to deliver 3 Alpha Course in 2024 (one more than planned) with 19 people completing the course and wanting to make a commitment or renew their commitment to Jesus. I am indebted to the Life Groups and others who generously donated desserts and full meals in support of Alpha. Plans are in place to again offer 3 Alpha Course in 2025

Study notes for Life Groups (and all church members) continue to be produced 'in house' each week and build on and compliment the subject of the Sunday readings and talk. The notes continue to be authored by Fabian, Richard Carpenter and myself, and this brings a variety of style and content that has been well received.

Roger Fenton, Discipleship Coordinator

Children's & Youth Work

Having appointed Rachel Haddell as a part-time Children's church pastor in April 2024, the Children's church has continued to flourish on a Sunday morning. We have a wonderful team of volunteers who bring a variety of gifts and strengths to the ministry. We welcome between 20 and 30 children most Sundays but are in regular contact with around 50 children and young people.

The children remain in a mixed-age group using the hall and outdoor space for stories, songs, crafts, snacks, games and prayer. Babies and toddlers transition from playing in their dedicated

play space at the back of church (often popping into the hall initially just for a snack) to attending Children's church with a parent/ carer when ready. We welcome parents both attending with their children or leaving their children with the team. Friendships between parents and informal support often begin around the edges of this room.

During the school holidays, we enjoy All-Age services with the whole church family. During the summer holidays, we planned some simple activities to get the children interacting with the wider congregation. At Christmas, some of the young people tried out being welcomers at the door, getting involved with drama, lighting candles and reading liturgies. Larger numbers of children do require a bit more thought but Rachel, Fabian and the team are working hard to ensure our All-Age services have a consistent format, and that we build services where everyone can bring their different talents and personalities and feel welcome, involved and engaged.

One specific development during this annual reporting period was to set up a specific group for young people in Y6 and above. The focus for this has been to encourage the young people to grow in their faith and friendship. Our concern, if this group had not started was that there would be no provision for those finishing Y6 in July and possibly losing the opportunity to engage with them. Thanks to Karen and Steve Sancto, we now have a group (age 10+) meeting in the lounge once a month on a Sunday morning. This group currently continues to join the wider children's church on the other Sunday mornings.

The group has also enjoyed social activities once a half term. So far the social activities have involved fun visits to McDonalds and bowling and an evening packing Christmas shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse. Our numbers have grown with young people inviting their neighbours and friends. It has been amazing to see God at work in this and we are praying for his guidance as to how we take this forward.

A Family breakfast in the New Year was a highlight of our year. We welcomed around 50 children and parents for breakfast, worship, a treasure hunt and prayer. This was a great opportunity to get to know each other a little better. A WhatsApp group for our church families has been invaluable for communicating plans, events, timings and details. An informal 'mums evening out' during half term also came about as a result of this group and many are keen for more.

Schools Work

We continue to have a strong link with the local Church of England St James Church School.

Collective Worship: Fabian and Mike Gillingham lead weekly all school collective worship. The content of the collective worship is a mixture of singing, Bible story, reflection and prayer. There is good participation, fun and a sense of anticipation.

The school continues to hold their Christmas and Easter services at St James Church as well as a special Leavers Service that includes a free lunch and activities provided by a team of volunteers from St James church.

Teaching: The Vicar helps teach specific years about Christian Festivals and occasional services such as Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals.

Fabian also takes part in the Ethos Group that meets several times a year to look at the Christian and Pastoral input across the school.

Mentoring and Reading: David Jordan leads a team of 5 mentors who have been trained through TLG (Transforming Lives for Good) who are working with 5 individual children referred by the school who feel they would benefit from individual time. Two of the mentors started at the beginning of 2024 having done the necessary training. In addition, David coordinates four other people who go into listen to children reading. It has been a great privilege to partner with the school in this way and we have been warmly welcomed.

North Town School: Our involvement consists mainly in offering the church for their Harvest, Christmas, Carol, Easter and Leavers services. Once a year Fabian helps with the Harvest Assembly and is always available for Christian input where needed.

Prayer: As a church we pray for the schools and meet twice a term at St James Church for a prayer meeting – although mainly attended by the school volunteers and staff members it is open to any church member has a heart for supporting the school.

David Jordan, church school team liaison

Communications

Communication includes both internal information provided to church members and external messaging for those who may be interested in who we are and what we do. Anything internal needs to be written such that it is also intelligible to enquirers.

Internally the weekly bulletin is the main means of informing church members (and anyone else who has signed up to receive it) of what is happening. It is sent out by the church administrator by email from our ChurchSuite database. Immediate notices are also displayed before and after morning services through a video carousel on the screens. Various noticeboards in the church carry other information, but this cannot be relied on to reach everyone.

The church magazine is published quarterly in print and on the website. Thanks to Chris Doyle for his hard work in putting this together and for the quality of the presentation. It carries a wide range of articles from church members, and a summary of what the PCC has been looking at.

Externally, online media are our main method of communication, and we are still developing our approach to this. The PCC has recently decided to form a Communications Team, one whose remit is to take a proactive approach rather than react to events as they are planned.

The website is the core of the online presence, being the overall source that can be referenced from other media. Its content is kept up to date and its structure adjusted to better meet the evolving nature of the content. Most of the site contains ongoing information, but the front page is regularly updated with new information, linking to details in the rest of the site. A “Bible Bytes” page carries audio recordings of the Sunday morning talks, which are posted a day or so after the service, and also “Bible Reflections” drawn from the twice-weekly online morning prayer services.

Facebook is the main online front window and this is kept up to date weekly, together with links to livestreamed services on YouTube, and further details of events on the website. The twice weekly Morning Prayer services (whose participants meet on Zoom) are also posted on Facebook.

YouTube carries tidied-up videos of our morning services, which replace the livestream recordings. Many people prefer to catch up this way rather than via Facebook. It also carries other occasional videos. The service recordings used on YouTube are also sent out on DVD to a few church members who do not have the internet.

Local and International Mission Partners

We have active links with six local Christian organisations working in the local community and five national/international organisations involved in humanitarian relief and the Mission of the Gospel.

These are our **local links** and, and in all but two we have church members volunteering with them:

- **Street Pastors** (ministry to young people visiting night clubs and local community areas during the daytime) and **School Pastors**. Street pastors also operate in Bridgwater and Wellington.
- **Taunton Team Chaplaincy**: Chaplaincy team members and Rail Responders are operating as before the pandemic and the Courts Chaplaincy is now well established at the magistrates' court and hopeful of extending to working in the Crown Court in the future
- **Besom**: remains very busy and are receiving referrals from keyworkers for gardening, decorating, furniture and starter packs for people setting up in new accommodation.
- **Open Door** continue their work with the homeless, providing food, wash facilities and clothing in the centre and support services for those wanting to move on.
- **Taunton Youth for Christ** has continued to work with schools and detached youth where possible and their work with young people has developed a greater urgency. They have a bus which provides a mobile meeting point. Kelly Jones is the coordinator and is supported by the trustees and volunteers and is passionate about working with young people on the margins.
- **Taunton Area Debt Advice** provide advice to those struggling with financial difficulties, and have adapted to using more technology to assist their work.

In addition we have links with the following National organisation:

- **Transforming Lives for Good** – is a UK organisation which supports and encourages local churches in partnering with local schools, offering training for mentors and support for Make Lunch Activities. We have a mentoring team operating at our church school. We now have 5 mentors working with 5 young people. It is a great privilege to be actively part of working with the school in addition to other activities there involving other church members and the Vicar

The church continues to support the following **overseas missions**, financially and in prayer:

- **TEAR Fund** (emergency and relief work).
- **Samaritans Purse** (international relief organization); and
- **Barnabas Fund** (which supports the persecuted church worldwide).
- **ACTS (Uganda)** – a locally-founded charity supporting children with profound disabilities in Uganda. Ruth Preater-Gillard has organised several fund raising events for ACTS.

We continue to make financial grants to the above charities and have maintained our commitment to give 10% of our income to mission. We review the grants on an annual basis and although we have to make adjustment in accordance with our income, we remain committed to these very important organisations.

Our formal link with **WEC** ended in 2023 when Dave and Margie Whitehorn retired from their role as Area Director in Western and Central Africa. Dave and Margie had been our links for over 30 years and still continue to keep us in touch with their prayer letters.

We also have some links with **Rooted in Jesus** – a teaching ministry in Africa. Both the Vicar and Roger Fenton have engaged in this ministry and Roger made a return visit in January 2024.

Jenny Wakefield, Mission Review Team

Community links

This section covers various groups and initiatives which reach out into the wider community. All of these events see participation from people who do not normally come to a church service.

Thursday Fellowship meets monthly. Carole and the committee provide a varied programme for church members and nonchurch members, but also the ongoing care and prayer for the members.

Hymns and Tea continues to run twice a month on Sunday afternoons. It has proved popular for those who enjoy hearing the organ, singing hymns together and enjoying tea, cake and chat afterwards in the church.

The Eco group has continued to advocate for a positive response to our responsibilities in God's Created world. The churchyard conservation area has been extended and further developed in conjunction with Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society and other local experts. Children's Church participate in some events, and have built a second bug hotel.

In April, St. James Players presented *Bodysnatchers*, a whodunnit mystery written by one of its members to tell the story of Easter in a new way. Money raised for the presentation went to Open Door's Raising the Roof Appeal.

In September, the Players "staffed" the annual Heritage Open Days on two Saturdays with a caste of historical characters illustrating scenes from the history of the church. Many conversations were had with the steady stream of visitors throughout both days.

Our bellringers meet weekly for practice and welcome new members. They ring for some morning services and share duties with other towers' teams, both locally and wider in the diocese.

The Art Group continues to meet weekly in the Hall offering an opportunity for those who enjoy creativity through different art mediums.

Open Church and Prayer Space – the Side Chapel continues to be appreciated as a prayer space by visitors. The temporary curtain separating it from the chancel has been replaced by a voile screen made and installed by two volunteers.

The Flower Team continues to produce wonderful displays that add to the worship experience but also are frequently commented on by visitors. More importantly the fact that the team are often working in the church on a Friday gives them an opportunity to talk with visitors to the church.

In November, a team set up “Calm and Bright”, an Advent Quiet Space with a guided meditation, crafts, a reading corner, a sacred dance workshop, and reflective music and prayer.

Our Caretaker, Administrator and other volunteers working in the church have many opportunities to talk with visitors and enquirers, when a chance conversation, the handing out of a booklet or leaflet provides an opportunity to share God's love.

We continue to foster good relationships with hirers of church premises. The many concerts held in the church during the year help to make residents aware of us as a church, as do the frequent blood donating sessions run by the NHS.

Facilities

70 jobs were completed during the year, comprising a mixture of immediate repairs, routine maintenance and small improvements. This is a 65% increase over the previous year and the team has also continued to make inroads into the backlog.

The main project for 2024 was the replacement of the 1975-vintage electrical distribution boards in the church, along with some additional electrical sockets. This was followed by the five-yearly Electrical Installation Condition Report (EICR) which identified further work needed in the halls.

Another project was obtaining a faculty to fit three emergency lights in the church, mainly to improve safety at evening concerts where it could be difficult to manage the evacuation of an audience of 300 people should there be a power cut during an evening concert. The work will be carried out in early 2025, along with the replacement of most of the remaining discharge lamps in the church. We will then audit the remaining non-LED light fittings in the premises.

The rectification of loose stonework at the top of the tower in 2023 was followed up in 2024 by a full inspection by Sally Strachey Historic Conservation, along with the repair of the more significant issues found. A further week's work will be carried out in 2025.

The main excitement of the year was the accidental discovery of an unmarked early Victorian vault in the churchyard, about which we have since found no records. This has temporarily halted plans to level the uneven ground in this area to make an accessible garden. An archaeological investigation will hopefully be undertaken in 2025.

The demise of two gas fires necessitated a temporary move to electrical heating for the Small Hall and the Lounge. We were beginning to look at the possibility of a heat pump system to replace all the gas fires in the halls building, when the diocese provided us with an energy audit, and we will be seeking companies to come up with costed proposals for the halls. We will also ask advice about the church heating, but the halls are used more often and are the priority for action.

Two smaller projects are worthy of note. Two volunteers made and hung voile curtains to lightly enclose the Prayer Space in the Side Chapel; this area is often remarked on by visitors as being an attractive and welcoming place. Meanwhile, another volunteer has started a running working party to replace the vinyl seats and backs on all 130 chairs in the halls, which have not worn well.

The gardening team continues to enhance the conservation area in the churchyard, and the annual summer Working Parties carried out essential maintenance work on drains, gutters and various painting, oiling and cleaning tasks. We are now looking at establishing a decorating programme.

The technical team dealt with various issues with the livestream operation and continues to staff this, along with the projection and sound system for every main service.

Martin Wakefield, Facilities Coordinator

Financial Review

The majority of the PCC's income is from direct giving by church members (including tax reclaimed under Gift Aid), with a smaller proportion deriving from hire of premises. No funds are raised from the general public.

2024 Significant events. The after-effects of Covid have now disappeared and Stewardship remains at a healthy level, with at least 70% of the congregation continuing to support through regular giving. Excluding a one-off donation of £10,000, it should be noted that this equates to a slight decrease allowing for current inflation levels.

Hall hire continued to increase, and was slightly up on 2023 after taking into account increases in hiring charges. Increases in Stewardship and hall hire meant that the predicted deficit for the year was less than expected.

A Children's Church Pastor was employed from April, and a new Church Administrator from May.

Routine expenditure was on a par with 2023, although a noticeable increase in utility rates and a major upgrade to the electrical systems resulted in an overall deficit of just over £20,000.

The General Fund ended the year with a balance of £162,524, with no restricted funds. This was £16,555 less than at the end of 2023.

Investment Policy: it is our strategy to invest our funds balances in the Church of England's Central Board of Finance deposit funds.

No funds are held as custodian trustee on behalf of others.

Reserves policy: within the General Fund, the PCC has designated the following reserve funds:

Projects Fund – for capital projects being planned by the church and as a place to hold legacies when first received. There is no set level for this fund, monies being assigned to it as needs arise and funding allows. Although designated for projects, this fund will need to be used for day to day running expenses should a further shortfall arise.

Fabric Fund – for major fabric repairs that will occur from time to time but cannot be met out of annual income (for example, gas boiler replacement, re-roofing, repairs to stonework). The intention is to maintain this fund at £30,000, but that level will fluctuate according to demand.

Risks Fund - for maintaining essential church activities for a period of up to around one year should there be a loss of income for any reason. This fund is set at 10% of Stewardship giving (and Gift-aid), which allows, for example, for members moving away; plus 30% of non-giving income (i.e. hall hire and car park charges, over which church members do not have control).

The Reserves Policy is reviewed annually.

At the end of 2024, the designated reserve funds stood as follows:

Projects Fund:	£119,901 (£134,055 at the end of 2023.)
Fabric Fund:	£20,000
Risks Fund:	£22,623
	(10% of giving = £12,722, plus 30% of other income = £9,901)
Total:	£162,524

The total exceeds the £94,253 needed to cover the recommended accounting practice of holding in reserve 6 months' budgeted expenditure.

The £119,901 held at the end of the year in the designated Projects Fund was not assigned to specific projects. This figure has been drawn upon at the end of the year, as has the fabric fund. The church maintains a Capital Expenditure Plan detailing future projects which may in due course draw on this Fund. The PCC has decided that some of the funds can be used to pay for the Children's Church Pastor.

Grant-making policy: the PCC has a policy of donating a minimum of 10% of stewardship giving (including cash collections and income tax recovered) to other Christian organisations. This is because an individual church such as St James is part of the one worldwide Christian church, with different parts of the church undertaking different responsibilities, and also being dependent on each other. Local organisations supported have aims which overlap with those of St James church. Organisations outside the local area are largely ones with which the church has had a relationship for some time. From time to time, the PCC also supports church members undergoing Christian training and undertaking full-time work with Christian organisations.

Richard Sainsbury, Treasurer

Staff and Volunteer Support

Approximately two and a half full-time equivalent posts are paid. The vicar is full-time, and the balance is made up of three part-time posts: the Church Administrator, the Children's Church Pastor and the Caretaker. A curate (which is a diocesan training appointment) was with us from mid-2021 to February 2024.

The majority of effort spent on preparing for and running church activities comes from volunteers: 88 members carry out various roles (approximately 180) within the church on a voluntary basis. This is equivalent to at least 10 full-time posts.

The contributions of all volunteers are much appreciated and are essential for the running of services, children's and other groups, maintenance, pastoral care and every other aspect of church life. In particular, the churchwardens, treasurer, and Music Director all carry heavy loads.

Appointment of volunteers: where a post involves working with children or vulnerable adults, appointments are made using the Safer Recruitment process set out in the Church of England's safeguarding guidance. This includes having a formal job description, being interviewed with references taken up, and, where eligible, the completion of enhanced DBS checks. Other appointments are made using a process appropriate to their role and in accordance with Church of England Safer Recruitment Guidance

Supporting volunteers: everyone who volunteers should have the opportunity to discuss their roles with the relevant coordinator in order to agree expectations, receive support, be reasonably resourced, discuss training needs and, as far as practicable, have these met. The safeguarding team have recently completed an audit, in which job roles have been reviewed and team leaders asked to confirm that their team are complying with Church of England guidelines as set out in the Safer Recruitment and People Management Guidance 2021.

Safeguarding

As a church we adhere to the Church of England Policy – Promoting a Safer Church:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2017-11/cofe-policy-statement.pdf>.

The latest guidance documents can be found in the e-manual on the Church of England website:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding/safeguarding-e-manual>

The Church of England Safeguarding Handbook continues to provide practical information; a copy of this is kept in the office, on the safeguarding noticeboard or can be found online at:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-10/ParishSafeGuardingHandBookAugust2019Web.pdf>.

Volunteers and team leaders within our church community need to be aware of the guidance with particular references to sections 11 and 12 which refer to how we conduct our activities and involvement in social media as safely as possible. In 2024 The Safeguarding team conducted an audit of all teams who confirmed that they were working with a knowledge of these two sections.

The aim of the Church's safeguarding policy is to encourage a safer culture within the church. We are *"called to share the good news of God's salvation through Jesus Christ. The life of our communities and institutions is integral to how we address this task. The good news speaks of welcome for all, with a particular regard for those who are most vulnerable, into a community where the value and dignity of every human being is affirmed and those in positions of responsibility and authority are truly trustworthy. Being faithful to our call to share the gospel therefore compels us to take with the utmost seriousness the challenge of preventing abuse from happening and responding well where it has"*; from Promoting a Safer Church 2016.

In 2023 we appointed Jacqui Sainsbury as assistant Parish Safeguarding officer working with our existing Parish Safeguarding officer, primarily to assist with the administrative work. This has been an enormous help and we can now say we have a Safeguarding Team. Work has continued in using the Parish Dashboard system which has been advocated by the Diocese as a bespoke means of maintaining Parish Records. We are also now using Parish Hubs which has enabled us to store our training records and some recruitment information, giving easier access for the team and vicar. Further development of the hub is promised in the future.

The Parish Safeguarding Team working with the Vicar, Wardens and PCC, has a responsibility to:

- Carry out safer recruitment procedures
- Respond to any disclosures or concerns
- Work with the Diocesan Safeguarding Team on any matters connected with parish safeguarding
- Raise the profile of safeguarding in the parish and ensure PCC is kept up to date with developments
- Advise regarding training.

Safer recruitment procedures are carried out for all appointments involving working with Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults, which all require DBS clearance.

For other voluntary posts there is a recruitment procedure in place operated by those in charge of different volunteers. We follow the guidance issued by the Church of England as set out in the Safer Recruitment and People Management Guidance

<https://www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding/safeguarding-e-manual/safer-recruitment-and-people-management-guidance>

Currently we have 88 volunteers from within the congregation engaged in a number of different teams and roles within the church, comprising approximately 180 different roles..

The Church of England recommends that anyone who acts as a volunteer should have safeguarding training, at least at basic awareness level and for many roles working with children or vulnerable adults a higher level of training (Foundation or Leadership) is required. This training is available online but for people who are not comfortable with this technology the PSO offers to support their training with in-house sessions as agreed with the Diocesan Safeguarding Manager (DSM). Training should be renewed every three years and reminders have been sent out. The use of the Parish Safeguarding hubs with assist in the administration of this and the Safeguarding team is very grateful to church volunteers for their response which in general is very good.

Safeguarding Training is obligatory for all clergy, PTO clergy and licensed readers, and this is overseen by the diocese. The diocese has been working hard to increase the number of leadership courses available. The PCC members have all completed the Domestic Violence Awareness and Foundation courses, which are available online. All church officers required to undertake leadership training have done so in the past 12 months.

Members of the prayer team, home group leaders and pastoral visitors have been encouraged to complete the Domestic Abuse Awareness Course and virtually all have now done so.

In November 2024 St. James again took part in the national Safeguarding Sunday with a service aimed at helping the congregation understand more about keeping our church a safe place.

Jenny Wakefield, Parish Safeguarding Officer

Risks

Finance: the main risk to the operation of the church is financial support. Most funding comes from church members, supplemented by income from hiring the church hall and car park. The church is not in receipt of any regular funding from other sources, either from within the Church of England, or the government. Grants may be obtainable to cover partial costs of some projects, and legacies may occasionally be received, but such sources do not impact on routine planning.

The church's finances are thus vulnerable to:

- Fluctuations in income from hall hire;
- Church members moving away;
- Gradual changes from one generation to another of members' understanding of their financial responsibility;
- Unexpected large costs for repairing the church building;
- Increases in the Parish Share contribution to the diocese which can be well above inflation.

In 2020, one of these risks materialised, in that the majority of income from hall hire ceased due to Covid; it has now recovered.

The PCC keeps a proactive watch on these matters through reports from the Treasurer to alternate meetings of the council. An annual stewardship campaign, in liaison with the Planned Giving Officer, aims to refresh church members' awareness of the principles of giving.

Communications: as the church grows in numbers, there is a risk of fragmentation due to the inability of all members to know every other member and what the various groups and teams are doing. The PCC has recently agreed to form a Communications Team (which will also cover outreach communications).

Disaster Recovery Planning: The loss of the use of the church building is not considered to be a major risk. In 2001, the church moved its activities temporarily to the local church school, while the floor in the church building was replaced. It is considered that similar arrangements could be made

again. The PCC does not consider that any disaster recovery plans need to be maintained for specific activities; the scale of operations is such that contingency plans are best drawn up in response to the nature of any issue that may occur.

Health & Safety: physical risks are managed through the church's *Health and Safety Policy*, which is reviewed annually by the PCC. The policy includes a schedule of risks using a checklist provided by the Ecclesiastical Insurance Company. The Schedule sets out the procedures for mitigating and managing each risk. Equipment safety checks (gas appliances, security alarms, lightning conductor, fire extinguishers and electrical PAT testing) are undertaken annually. A summary reminder is issued to all volunteers annually.

Trustees

The members of the Parochial Church Council are the trustees of the charity. PCC members who served at any time from 1st January 2024 until the date this report was approved were:

Vicar:	Rev Fabian Wuyts	Chairman	*	
Curate:	Rev David Wilkie		*	<i>Until 9 February 2024</i>
Churchwardens:	Mr Nigel Bright	Vice chair	*	<i>Until 13 May 2024 From 13 May 2024</i>
	Mrs Joyce Kirk		*	
	Mrs Fiona Hope		*	
Deanery Synod:	Mr Richard Carpenter			
	Ms Chris Rickard		*	
	Mr Martin Wakefield	Secretary	*	
Elected members:	Mr Martin Bluemel			<i>Until 13 May 2024</i>
	Mr Roger Fenton			
	Mrs Marilyn Gibson			<i>Until 9 Sept 2024</i>
	Mrs Lyn Jones			
	Mr David Jordan			
	Mrs Sue Lucas			<i>Until 13 May 2024</i>
	Mrs Jane Price			<i>From 13 May 2024</i>
	Mr Richard Sainsbury	Treasurer	*	
	Mr Johan Smit			
	Mrs Jenny Wakefield			
	Mrs Vashti Wuyts Smit			
	<i>There were three vacancies for elected members from 9 Sept 2024.</i>			
Ex-officio	Mr Nic Tall	Diocesan Synod & General Synod.		<i>Until 8 April 2024</i>

* Asterisks indicate members of the Standing Committee: the Church Officers plus one ordinary member of the PCC.

Appointment of trustees: The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church of England's *Church Representation Rules*. The number of elected members is 12, with one-third coming up for election each year.

Ex-officio members of the PCC are: clergy licensed to the parish, two churchwardens, separately elected annually, three representatives of the parish to Deanery Synod, elected every three year, and any members of Diocesan Synod and General Synod who are members of the church.

Recruitment of trustees: all Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and consider standing for election to the PCC. Active recruitment may occur when one sector of the church appears to be under-represented on the PCC.

Training of trustees: new members are provided with a copy of the *PCC Standing Orders*, which sets out how the PCC works, and a copy of the booklet *Trusteeship – an introduction for PCC members*. They are encouraged to obtain a copy of *A Handbook for Churchwardens and Parochial Church Councillors* and to attend any training events run by the diocese. PCC members also receive safeguarding awareness training.

Custodian Trustees: The Diocese of Bath and Wells is the custodian trustee for property owned by the church, i.e. the church hall and associated buildings and land.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
			2024 £	2023 £
INCOME				
Donations & Legacies	131,856		131,856	126,749
Income from church activities	35,039		35,039	29,642
Investment Income	8,718		8,718	5,814
TOTAL INCOME	<u>175,612</u>		<u>175,612</u>	<u>162,205</u>
EXPENDITURE				
Church activities	<u>189,117</u>	<u>3,050</u>	<u>192,167</u>	<u>170,645</u>
NET EXPENDITURE	<u>-13,505</u>	<u>-3,050</u>	<u>-16,555</u>	<u>-8,440</u>
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS				
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1 JAN 2024	176,029	3,050	179,079	187,518
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 DEC 2024	<u><u>£162,524</u></u>		<u><u>£162,524</u></u>	<u><u>£179,079</u></u>

BALANCE SHEET
As at 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
			2024 £	2023 £
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors	23,876		23,876	24,197
Short term deposits	151,275		151,275	159,145
Cash at bank & in hand	<u>2,526</u>		<u>2,526</u>	<u>6,844</u>
	<u>£177,677</u>		<u>£177,677</u>	<u>£190,186</u>
LIABILITIES				
Creditors - amounts falling due within one year	<u>-15,153</u>		<u>-15,153</u>	<u>-11,107</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS	<u>£162,524</u>		<u>£162,524</u>	<u>£179,079</u>
LIABILITIES				
Amounts falling due in more than one year				
NET ASSETS	<u><u>£162,524</u></u>		<u><u>£162,524</u></u>	<u><u>£179,079</u></u>
PARISH FUNDS:				
GeneralUnrestricted Funds	162,524		162,524	176,029
Capital				
TLG Make Lunch				325
Children & Families Worker				<u>2,725</u>
	<u><u>£162,524</u></u>		<u><u>£162,524</u></u>	<u><u>£179,079</u></u>

Approved on behalf of the Parochial Church Council on
and signed by:

Rev. Fabian Wuyts

Mr Nigel Bright

10th April 2025

(Vicar)

(Churchwarden)

The notes on pages 2 to 6 form part of these Accounts.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

1. Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP (FRSSE) published on the 16th July 2014 and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include financial statements of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body or those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds

Unrestricted funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC.

Restricted funds represent donations or grants received for a specific object, or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not normally invest separately for each fund. Where there is no separate investment, interest is apportioned to individual funds on an average balance basis.

Income

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.

Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised only when received.

Income Tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is reasonably certain.

Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised when the rental is due.

Expenditure

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

Fixed assets**Consecrated property and moveable church furnishings**

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993.

No value is placed on movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and listed in the church's inventory which can be inspected at any reasonable time, 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 benefice buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the SOFA and separately disclosed in the year of expenditure if it exceeds £5,000.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight line basis over 4 years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £2,500 or less are written off when acquired.

2. Grants

The following grants of over £1,000 were made in the year:

Taunton Team Chaplaincy	£2,000	The Besom in Taunton	£2,650.00
Taunton Street Pastors	£1,200		
Taunton Area Debt Advice	£2,000		
Taunton Youth for Christ	£1,500		

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	
			2024	2023
Missionary Giving				
Church Overseas:				
- Missionary Societies				£500
- Relief and Development Agencies	£2,000	£40	£2,040	£1,630
Home Missions	£9,050	£214	£9,264	£9,224
Other	£2,000		£2,000	£2,000
	£13,050	£254	£13,304	£13,354

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Wages and salaries	£23,226	£21,441

During the year the PCC employed a musical director, a caretaker, and an administrator, plus an assistant administrator/IT support. The highest paid employee received £6,780. None of the Trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from an employment with this charity. There are no employees who receive emoluments of more than £60,000

Payments totalling £5,251 were made to 9 PCC members during the year for the reimbursement of expenses. These expenses were for Admin, Repairs, Social, Evangelism and fees , plus Vicars, expenses and Fees. There are no further related party transactions in the year.

3(c). Independant examiner fees

These amounted to £60 for the year.

4. Debtors

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Income tax recoverable	21,925	19,633
Prepayments and accrued income	1,951	2,233
Other debtors		
	<u>£23,876</u>	<u>£21,867</u>

5. Creditors

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Deferred income	1,413	1,300
Accruals of utility and other costs	13,740	1,379
Other creditors		
	<u>£15,153</u>	<u>£2,679</u>

6. Major Expenditure

Replacement and upgrading of electrical sysytems. £8,634

7. Capital Commitments

Repairs to Tower stonewark £5,000

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

8. INCOME

	General Fund		2023
	Unrestricted	Restricted Miss, CF & TLG	Total
	£	£	£
Donations & Legacies			
Stewardship	105,400		99,544
Appeals			
Income tax recoverable	21,826		21,830
Collections	141		25
Grants			
Legacies	4,488		1,500
Donations			3,851
	<u>£131,856</u>	<u>£131,856</u>	<u>£126,750</u>
Income from church activities			
Church & hall lettings	28,737		26,145
Car park charges	4,266		3,478
Fees	2,035		19
	<u>£35,039</u>	<u>£35,039</u>	<u>£29,642</u>
Investment Income			
Interest	8,718		5,814
	<u>8,718</u>	<u>8,718</u>	<u>5,814</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>£175,612</u>	<u>£175,612</u>	<u>£162,206</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

9. EXPENDITURE

	General Fund		2023
	Unrestricted	Restricted	
	£	Miss, CF & TLG £	Total £
Church activities			
Missionary giving	12,725	325	13,050
Charitable giving	655		655
Diocesan Parish Share	96,559		96,559
Clergy expenses	701		701
Wages & honoraria	20,501	2,725	23,226
Gas Account	8,542		8,542
Electricity account	4,801		4,801
Insurance	4,111		4,111
Water rates	237		237
Cleaning materials	1,918		1,918
Wine	212		212
Flowers	615		615
Music & hymn books	1,212		1,212
Maintenance & repairs	27,934		27,934
Children & youth work	778		778
Social functions	-815		-815
Evangelism	895		895
Church weekend			
Training	6,302		6,302
Office expenses	1,234		1,234
Telephone			
TLG for Lunch			
	£189,117	£3,050	£192,167
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED			£170,645

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

10. Fund Summary

	General Fund		2023	
	Unrestricted	Restricted Miss, CF & TLG	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
TOTAL INCOME	175,612		175,612	162,206
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	189,117	3,050	192,167	170,645
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES	-13,505	-3,050	-16,555	-8,439
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	-13,505	-3,050	-16,555	-8,439
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1 JAN 2024	176,029	3,050	179,079	187,518
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 DEC 2024	£162,524		£162,524	£179,079
REPRESENTED BY:				
Assets				
Debtors	23,876		23,876	24,197
Short term deposits	151,275		151,275	159,146
Cash at bank & in hand	2,526		2,526	6,843
	£177,677		£177,677	£190,186
Creditors				
Creditors & accrued expenses	15,153		15,153	11,107
	15,153		15,153	11,107
NET ASSETS	£162,524		£162,524	£179,079

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO
THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. JAMES, TAUNTON**

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2024, which incorporate the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet and the Notes to the Accounts, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and s.145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of Independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under s.145(5)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church Guidance, 2006 edition, issued by the Finance Division of the Archbishops' Council. That examination includes a review of the accounting records maintained by the Trustees and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. the accounting records were not kept 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 accounting 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.



Helen Hubbard FCA BFP Independent examiner ICAEW
Amherst & Shapland
(Taunton and Wiveliscombe)
Chartered Accountants
141 Staplegrove Road
Taunton
TA2 6AF

Date:

09/05/2025

Accounts



Annual Report for 2023

Encountering God

Growing as Followers of Jesus

Participating in the Life of His Spirit

Prepared by the PCC, the Coordinators and other leaders

Fabian Wuyts

Vicar

08 April 2024

Registered Charity No: 1130757.

Full name of the charity: The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. James, Taunton.

Short names: St James Church PCC; St James Church Taunton.

Address: St James Church Office, St James Street, Taunton, TA1 1JS.

This report covers calendar year 2023 and has been written to meet the requirements of the Charity Commission's Statement of Recommended Practices (SORP FRS102).

Foreword by the Vicar

Come and See

We live in a “Come and See” kind of world. We might tell a friend, a neighbour or a family member to:

- Come and See this movie.
- Come and See this post, this video.
- Come and See this game
- Come and See this person, this performer, actor, singer, etc.

We invite people to come and see what we’re most excited about!

In the opening chapter of John’s Gospel, a new follower of Jesus called Philip finds Nathanael and excitedly tells him that he “had found him of whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote.” (John 1.46) Following Nathanael’s perplexed reaction, Philip invites him to “come and see.”

In 2023, we sought to be intentional in inviting our friends, neighbours and family members to “Come and See” for themselves why we are excited about Jesus. The *Stable Manners* event gave us all an opportunity to have friends and family hear the familiar story of the birth of Jesus in a creative and thought-provoking way. For me it was an occasion to invite my neighbours and the evening led to a further conversation around a good bottle of wine!

To grow a culture of “Come and See” takes time, but I am encouraged to see people being more confident in inviting friends and families to a church activity or a church event. Now, a “Come and See” vision is not just about bringing people to church activities, but also about inviting them into our homes and into our lives. It is about sharing what God has done in us and showing in words and actions the difference Jesus is making in our daily lives.

“Come and See” is about the power of Invitation and Relationship. It is an invitation into a relationship, for that is what Jesus is all about. In this first chapter of John’s Gospel, we see John inviting two of his disciples, including Andrew, to come and see Jesus. Andrew inviting Peter to come and see Jesus. Philip inviting Nathaniel to come and see Jesus. Jesus inviting all of them to “Follow Me!” Our job is to invite people to “COME and SEE.” Jesus is the one who invites people to “FOLLOW ME.”

Prayer for Growth

Heavenly Father, increase in number your Church at St James as you deepen us as followers and learners of Christ.

Help us to show uninhibited reliance on your grace and power as we seek renewal of our lives, our church, our community and our world.

Give us courage, imagination and generosity in order that your kingdom may come and your abundant life be known by all.

We make this prayer in the name and to the glory of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Rev Fabian Wuyts

Introduction

St James Church, Taunton, is a parish church within the Diocese of Bath and Wells in the Church of England. Its parish includes the Roughmoor, North Town, Priory and Firepool areas of Taunton. The church's membership is drawn partly from within the parish, partly from across the rest of the town, and from nearby villages. Its services and activities are open to all, and the church works with other churches and local inter-church organisations in proclaiming and applying the good news of Jesus Christ.

The size of the worshipping community at the end of 2023 (as declared for the "Mission Statistics" return to the diocese) was 160 adults and 27 children. For comparison, the 2022 figures were 158 adults and 20 children. At the 2023 Annual Meeting, there were 168 people on the Church Electoral Roll.

Objectives

The governing document is The Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956. In common with other Anglican (Church of England) churches, this gives the objects of the church as to:

Promote in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The PCC's registration with the Charity Commission (using headings provided by Church of England Guidance at the time of initial registration) expands the statement of objects as covering:

- *Regular public worship open to all.*
- *The provision of sacred space for personal prayer and contemplation.*
- *Pastoral work, including visiting the sick and the bereaved.*
- *Teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups*
- *Taking of religious assemblies in schools.*
- *The provision of a youth club with a Christian ethos.*
- *Promotion of Christianity through the staging of events and meetings, and the distribution of literature.*
- *Promoting the whole mission of the Church through provision of activities for senior citizens, parents and toddlers and other special need groups.*
- *Supporting other charities in the UK and overseas.*

Public Benefit

The PCC has noted the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit, including publication PB4 *The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit*.

Worship services are all open to the public. The church building is open as many days as possible for private prayer, and is available for weddings and funerals of parishioners as required. Baptisms of parishioners are normally conducted during Sunday morning services.

Pastoral support is available to anyone who requests it. Church members also receive support through home groups.

Significant effort goes into supporting St James Church School, with volunteers helping to lead assemblies, assist school staff run Christmas, Easter and Leaver's services in the church building, listen to children reading and run a mentoring scheme. It also supports local Christian organisations including Street Pastors, Taunton Team Chaplaincy, Besom, Open Door and Taunton Area Debt Advice.

A church does not exist in isolation, but is part of one world-wide church of all denominations. St James supports the work of WEC (church planting), TEAR Fund and Samaritans Purse (emergency and relief work), and Barnabas Fund (support for the persecuted church worldwide).

The PCC also has maintenance responsibilities for St James' Church building (Grade 2* listed) and the church halls. The halls are available for hire by community groups. The church building is also used for concerts and by some other groups, such as the NHS Blood Donor service.

How St James Church Operates

St James Church has long had a tradition of Every Member Ministry, with all members encouraged to play an active part – and not wait to be told what to do. This applies to all parts of church life except those where licenced clergy are required to undertake a specific role.

Paid staff: Vicar, Church Administrator and Caretaker. The administrator handles bookings for the church halls. A caretaker works alongside the administrator and together they look after the needs of hirers of church premises.

Church officers: the churchwardens, together with the vicar, manage the day-to-day business of the church, assisted by the administrator. All financial matters are handled by the Treasurer, assisted by the Planned Giving and Payroll Officer. The PCC Secretary manages the routine business of the PCC and looks after governance matters.

PCC: The PCC meets monthly, except in May (Annual Church Meeting) and August (summer holidays). It approves all major non-recurring financial expenditure and decides proposals to undertake any major new activity. The PCC's Standing Committee is empowered by law to conduct PCC business in between meetings of the council. Its members are the church officers plus one ordinary member of the PCC.

Readers and service leaders: a small group of licenced Readers assists the vicar in leading services and preaching. Alongside them a number of church members are now occasionally leading services.

Coordinators: a number of coordinators were appointed from 2012 to manage certain aspects of church life with delegated responsibility from the vicar and PCC. The aim is to avoid overloading the vicar with too many decisions in a church which is steadily growing. The original intention was that this structure would evolve with experience. The Worship, Discipleship and Facilities (premises and technical) Coordinators continue to function largely as originally envisaged. The Outreach post was discontinued as having too wide a remit for one person to manage, and some aspects have been taken over by forming other groups and teams. The Pastoral area is currently being reviewed, as is the leadership of Children's Church.

Groups and Teams: a number of groups and teams have been established to look after specific activities, again with the expectation that they will progress their business without unnecessarily troubling the vicar or churchwardens. The following groups and teams are currently operating: Mission Review Group (support for mission partners), Welcoming Team, Prayer Team, Deputy Wardens, Tech Team, Pastoral Team, Worship Group, Safeguarding Team, Premises Team (including gardening), Flower Team, Hymns and Tea Team, and the Churchyard Development Group. A Communications Team is currently being formed.

Fellowship and Interest Groups: Lest the previous paragraphs give the impression that everything is business related, most of the groups and teams work with a strong element of fellowship. The same members may also be part of other groups, such as Life Groups or specific interest groups such as the Bellringers, the Art Group and St James Players.

Diocesan authority: various provisions decided by General Synod or decisions made by Diocesan Synod govern, for example, the type of formal public worship services that can be provided but allow a church to develop its own style. The appointment of clergy and readers is managed by the diocese, in consultation with the parish. Payment of clergy is carried out via the diocesan Common Fund, to which all parishes pay their Parish Share. Maintenance work and alteration of the church building is overseen by a Diocesan Advisory Committee, through faculties granted by the diocesan chancellor; this process is in lieu of civil planning procedures. The parish is required to appoint an architect approved by the diocese to advise on and specify all works required.

Activities

Worship

There is one service on a Sunday at 10.30 am which is live streamed on Facebook and available later on the church YouTube channel. This service is Communion on the first and third Sundays and Morning Worship/ All Age Worship on the second, fourth and fifth Sundays. These services are planned by Fabian and are each part of a themed series. Fabian works in collaboration with Ray Crooks (the Musical Director) and Worship Coordinator as well as a range of church members

who contribute to, lead, preach, read and lead prayers within the services. Fabian organises these rotas. Church Suite is used to support this.

Alongside this prayer ministry happens after each morning service as well as within communion services. This is led by Vicky Dykes and Sue Lucas. Ongoing training takes place for the team.

The Musical Director selects the songs and hymns in consultation with the vicar and the Worship Coordinator and those leading the service.

The style is contemporary corporate worship with a range of songs and instrumentation that complement this. The music team is comprised of instrumentalists and singers with the Music Director providing settings to match the available skills. New music is introduced in collaboration with the Musical Director, Worship Coordinator, and the Vicar and meetings take place as required to practice new worship songs. There is excellent commitment and engagement from the team with different members leading the praise section of each service. There are also meetings when required with the Vicar and (until recently) the Curate to look at the praise and worship within the morning service.

Sue Doyle leads the dance ministry which enhances our worship and adds dimension to our prayers during each service. Members of the church are encouraged to use the flags to express the lyrics of the songs we sing or words we say.

St James Players have contributed dramatic interpretations of Bible passages to our services to help our understanding in particular over the summer months of All Age Worship and in special services during the year.

Alongside Morning Worship there is young people and children's worship in the hall planned and led by the CYP team and that is engaging the youngsters and it is well received with excellent feedback.

The crèche area for younger children continues to be well used and the south side of the church is arranged to encourage family groups and participation.

This side of the church is also used by members of a nearby residential home. Their support workers comment that they respond well to the music in particular those with actions and signs.

A great deal of planning, preparation and set up goes into each service. A hard working and dedicated team of volunteers runs the various elements of the technical set up, sound, live stream, visuals on screen, flowers and banners as the visual expression of the season or theme, refreshments/hospitality, and the welcome team.

Online Morning Prayer continues on Mondays and Wednesdays at 9.15am on Zoom, streamed on Facebook. Church Members are encouraged to meet in the Prayer Space in church each Friday at 5pm.

An innovation this year has been the re-introduction of a monthly evening service known as "The Room". This is on the first Sunday of each month at 7.00 pm in the Hall. The format is more informal and contemporary with a mixture of songs supported by a small worship band of guitar, keyboard, drums and singers. The idea is to give people space (the room) to worship, contribute, reflect, respond and worship in a more informal setting. This includes songs, readings, media, testimony, prayer and response. It is led by different members of the congregation each month and has been well received by those who attend.

We continue to consider how we reach out to those who are currently outside of the church and those without a church background and endeavour to make worship accessible and relevant within the changing landscape.

I would again this year like it noted that there is a great commitment required for both online and face to face services in facilitating the technology required and my thanks go to all those who give their time to this ministry.

Richard Lucas, Worship Coordinator

Pastoral Care

Pastoral care is at the heart of the Christian faith and discipleship. While we all have a responsibility to look out and care for those whom God put on our path, the local church needs to put in place systems and activities that make pastoral care available to all.

Much of the pastoral care takes place within the Life Group system. Life groups comprise of traditional home groups as well as interest groups such as Bell Ringers, the Art Group, the Thursday Fellowship, Hymns and Tea, the Flower Team, etc. A new poster promoting Life Groups has recently been devised and Life Groups will be regularly promoted during Sunday Services to encourage new people to join in.

To ensure that those who cannot attend a service are still able to feel connected with the life of the church, each Sunday is live streamed on our Facebook page and the service is also available on our YouTube Channel.

After many years of fruitful ministry, Annie Reid felt it was time to step down from her role of Pastoral Coordinator. After a time of prayer and reflection with the PCC, it was decided to form a new Pastoral Visiting Team. The Vicar has approached a few people who have been showing gifts and skills in pastoral care and the team is currently going through the process of safe recruitment. The team will be available to visit, phone or write to those in the church who need encouragement, prayer, a listening ear or guidance.

At St James, we also know the importance of giving a warm and effective welcome. This happens through our dedicated Welcoming Team Ministry and a 'fit for purpose' building. The welcome team is responsible for making the first personal connection with visitors and new comers. They seek to get to know them and connect them with established members of the St James community. Three times a year they organise a Welcome Lunch which gives newcomers an opportunity to learn about the vision and life of St James and meet key leaders of the church.

Anne Tuckley continues to oversee the email based prayer chain. Anyone in the church is given the opportunity to send a specific prayer request to a dedicated church email address. That request is shared in confidence to a team of dedicated prayerful members of the church. We also have a Prayer Ministry Team that provides prayer during Holy Communion and after each Sunday service. Three times a year they meet to review the ministry, get training and encourage each other in this key area of pastoral care.

With the growing number of families and children there is a growing need to find suitable pastoral care for them. This took place through the oversight of our Curate, Dave Wilkie, working closely with the Children Church Leaders and helpers. Dave will soon be moving on and the PCC has agreed to employ a part time Children Church Pastor who will be working with the Vicar to oversee the Sunday Children's Church and pastoral care of families (established and new ones).

Discipleship

With God continuing to grow the numbers attending church, 2023 was primarily a year of getting to know new people, and reacquainting with others. Requests from new members to join a Life Group have been satisfied, and I have enjoyed many fruitful conversations in response to questions of faith and discipleship.

One Alpha course was offered, and run successfully with 8 participants, of which 3 completed only half, and 5 fully completed and made new or re-commitments to God. The expectation for 2024 is to run at least two courses.

Study notes for Home Groups (with copies available to all) continued to be produced 'in house' by four authors in monthly rotation, namely Richard Carpenter, Dave Wilkie, Fabian Wuyts, and myself. These notes have been well received and will continue.

Last year I reported that the number of Life Groups (Home Groups) had reduced by one, but I am pleased to say this has been reversed, and we are back up to 11 groups, with, in total, approximately 95 members. Both I and the church are indebted to the 11 leaders for their faithful ministry, a role which is often challenging. We continue to invest in this valuable resource, to fully support the leaders as they develop their ministry to their group and look for growth in fellowship, discipleship, and commitment. In expectation of God continuing to bring new people into our church, I hope to be reporting next year of a further increase in Life Groups.

I have reported previously that the challenge of this Discipleship role is communicating with church members who choose not to be in a Life Group (for a variety of valid reasons). How to meet any

needs which I fail to identify, because I may not have spoken to them for weeks (lots of people attend on a Sunday!). Please be assured I am always open for a friendly chat.

Roger Fenton, Discipleship Coordinator

Children's & Youth Work

Dave Wilkie continued to build and strengthen a team of leaders and helpers for the Children's Church. The leadership team has been blessed with the arrival of Steve and Karen Sancto. The number of children of primary age attending is usually between 15-20 each Sunday. Recently we have seen a significant growth in weekly numbers of 20-25 children and we are currently in contact with 45 children. A few new families have joined, one in particular coming nearly every week. The program remains creative, giving space to both activities that are more "sportive" in nature and creative actives. Each week there is space for worship, learning from the Bible, praying and reflecting on the story/theme through fun and creative activities.

With Dave moving on, the church is now recruiting a paid post to oversee this important ministry. In time, the person in post will seek to recruit a few more volunteers to help and at least another person willing to take a lead once a week.

To resource the team, the church has started a membership with "Raise up Faith", a resource website that provides material for church and school assemblies. The membership will be reviewed twice a year.

The youth group has not restarted and there is still no provision for them on a Sunday morning. Similarly the weekly Toddler Group has not restarted. The view of the PCC is to concentrate on recruiting a paid Children's Church Pastor and then to create a paid post for outreach. Our discerned priority is to build up on our school link and the reputation we have in the community through our special events like "Fun Day," "Messy Christingle," "Crib Service," etc.

This year, families connected through TLG, Besom, the local school and foodbank were invited for an Easter Banquet. Half of the families present were from the community and the other half were already linked to the life of the church. This was a great opportunity to form friendship. The chef who oversaw the meal came with two of his employees and provided his service for free.

For Easter, Dave created an Easter trail and for the Christmas season we had much better attendance both at our Messy Christingle and Crib Service.

During his curacy time with us, Dave has had a great impact and ministry among families and we are grateful to God for bringing him and his family to our church for the last three and half years. His departure will leave a gap, but a great team of leaders and volunteers are stepping up and we look forward to what God will do with us this coming year.

Schools Work

St James church continues to have a strong link with the local Church of England St James Church School.

Collective Worship: Fabian and Dave lead weekly all school collective worship. The content of the collective worship is a mixture of singing, Bible story, reflection and prayer. There is good participation, fun and a sense of anticipation. Fabian is looking to form a team to help him now that Dave is moving on. Mike Gillingham has already expressed a willingness to lead collective assembly and has started the safe recruiting process. We hope for an April start.

The school continues to hold their Christmas and Easter services at St James Church as well as a special Leavers Service that includes a free lunch and activities provided by a team of volunteers from St James church.

Our involvement with North Town School consists mainly in offering the church for their Harvest, Christmas, Carol, Easter and Leavers services. Once a year Fabian helps with the Harvest Assembly and is always available for Christian input where needed.

Teaching: The school has also asked the Vicar to help teach specific years about Christian Festivals and occasional services such as Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals. The teaching takes place in the classroom or in the church.

Fabian and Vashti take part in the Ethos Group that meets several times a year to look at the Christian and Pastoral input across the school.

Mentoring and Reading: David Jordan leads a team of 5 mentors who have been trained through TLG (Transforming Lives for Good) who are working with 5 individual children referred by the school who feel they would benefit from individual time. Two of the mentors started at the beginning of 2024 having done the necessary training. In addition, David coordinates four other people who go into listen to children reading. It has been a great privilege to partner with the school in this way and we have been warmly welcomed.

Prayer: As a church we pray for the schools and meet twice a term at St James Church for a prayer meeting – although mainly attended by the school volunteers and staff members it is open to any church member has a heart for supporting the school.

Outreach

- Church members have continued to volunteer in a host of different community organisations activities including Besom, Foodbank, Street and School Pastors, schools work, and chaplaincy, as well as in their own neighbourhoods.
- *Hymns and Tea* has been started on a Sunday afternoon at the initiative of Carol Sweeting. It has proved popular for those who enjoy hearing the organ, singing hymns together and enjoying tea, cake and chat afterwards in the church. Thanks to Carol, Dave on the organ and the refreshment providers for this fortnightly event.
- Thursday Fellowship meets once a month. Vicky and the committee provide a varied programme for church members and nonchurch members, but also the ongoing care and prayer for the members.
- The Eco group have continued to advocate for a positive response to our responsibilities in God's Created world. The churchyard space is subject of discussion by a small development group and plans are under discussion as to how the area can be used by the community
- St. James Players presented *Stable Manners* an original "pantivity" (a cross between a pantomime and a nativity) written by Chris Doyle in January – which told the Christmas story from a lively and slightly different angle and was well attended providing the opportunity to invite non-church friends and to raise money for the Foodbank and ACTs Uganda a local initiative providing support for children with profound disability. In the Summer the Players were involved in bringing drama to the all age worship services in a series about heroes in the bible. Planning is now in hand for another original presentation - a Whodunnit for Easter entitled *Bodysnatchers*. The aim being to enable church members to invite friends. Money raised for the presentation will go to the Open Door Raising the Roof Appeal.
- The Art Group continues to meet in the Hall offering an opportunity for those who enjoy creativity through different art mediums.
- Open Church and Prayer Space – The church is now open from 9-5 during the week and the side Chapel has been transformed by Vashti and her team to provide a comfortable and relaxed area for people come and sit, pray and contemplate in quiet and peaceful surroundings.
- The Flower Team continues to produce wonderful displays that add to the worship experience but also are frequently commented on by visitors. More importantly the fact that the team are often working in the church on a Friday gives them an opportunity to talk with visitors to the church.
- Caretaker, Administrator and others: in the same vein we should not underestimate the opportunities to talk with visitors and enquirers to our church, when a chance conversation, the handing out of a booklet or leaflet provides an opportunity to share God's love.
- We also continue to foster good relationships with hirers of church premises. The many concerts held in the church during the year help to make residents aware of us as a church, as do the frequent blood doning sessions run by the NHS.

Communications

Communication includes both internal information provided to church members and external messaging for those who may be interested in who we are and what we do. Anything internal needs to be written such that it is also intelligible to enquirers.

Internally the weekly bulletin is the main means of informing church members (and anyone else who has signed up to receive it) of what is happening. It is sent out by the church office by email from our ChurchSuite database. Immediate notices are also displayed before and after morning services through a video carousel on the screens. Various noticeboards in the church carry other information, but this cannot be relied on to reach everyone.

The church magazine is published quarterly - thanks to Chris Doyle for his hard work in putting this together and for the quality of the presentation. As well as hard copy it is also available on the website. It carries a wide range of articles from church members, and a summary of what the PCC has been looking at.

Externally, online media are our main method of communication, and we are still developing our approach to this. The PCC has recently decided to form a Communications Team, one whose remit is to take a proactive approach rather than react to events as they are planned.

The website is the core of the online presence, being the overall source of information that can be referenced from other media. It has now been consolidated and most of the pages have been overhauled. Most of the site contains ongoing information, but the front page is regularly updated with new information and links to topical items in the rest of the site. A "Bible Bytes" page carries audio recordings of the Sunday morning talks, which are posted a day or so after the service, and also "Bible Reflections" drawn from the twice-weekly online morning prayer services.

Facebook is the main online front window and the page is kept up to date weekly. The Sunday morning service is livestreamed to it, as are the twice weekly Morning Prayer services whose participants meet on Zoom. The new Communications Team will hopefully further develop this page and make it a "must see" site for the local community, and also develop our Instagram page.

YouTube carries tidied-up videos of our morning services. Many people prefer to catch up this way rather than via Facebook. It also carries other occasional videos. The service recordings used on YouTube are also sent out on DVD to church members who do not have the internet.

Local and International Mission Partners

We have active links with six local Christian organisations working in the local community and four nation/international organisation involved in humanitarian relief and the Mission of the Gospel. We also have growing connections with two other organisations both based in Africa.

Our **local links** are as follows and, in all but one we have church members volunteering in them:

- **Street Pastors** (ministry to young people visiting the town's night clubs and local community areas during the day time) and School Pastors.
- **Taunton Team Chaplaincy**: Chaplaincy team members and Rail Responders are operating as before the pandemic and the Courts Chaplaincy is now well established at the magistrates court and hopeful of extending to working in the Crown Court in the future
- **Besom**: remains very busy and are receiving referrals from keyworkers for gardening, decorating, furniture and starter packs for people setting up in new accommodation.
- **Open Door** continue their work with the homeless.
- **Taunton Youth for Christ** have continued to work with schools and detached youth where possible and their work with young people has developed a greater urgency. They now have a bus which provides a mobile meeting point. Kelly Jones is the coordinator and is supported by the trustees and volunteers and is passionate about working with young people on the margins.
- **Taunton Area Debt Advice** have adapted to using more technology to assist their work.

In addition we have links with the following National organisation:

- **Transforming Lives for Good** – is a UK organisation which supports and encourages local churches in partnering with local schools, offering training for mentors and support for Make Lunch Activities. We have a mentoring team operating at our church school. We now have 5

mentors working with 5 young people. It is a great privilege to be actively part of working with the school in addition to other activities there involving other church members and the Vicar

The church continues to support the following **overseas missions**, financially and in prayer:

- **TEAR Fund** (emergency and relief work).
- **Samaritans Purse** (international relief organization); and
- **Barnabas Fund** (which supports the persecuted church worldwide).

We continue to make financial grants to the above charities and have maintained our commitment to give 10% of our income to mission. Last year we had to make the difficult decision to reduce some of the grants due to our own reduced income. The grants have again been reviewed in early 2024 and a small surplus in our income enabled a partial restitution to be made.

Our formal link with **WEC** ended in 2023 when Dave and Margie Whitehorn retired from their role as Area Director in Western and Central Africa. Dave and Margie had been our links for over 30 years and will still continue to keep us in touch with their prayer letters.

In addition we have been developing links with **Rooted in Jesus** – a teaching ministry in Africa. Both the Vicar and Roger Fenton have engaged in this ministry and Roger made a return visit in January 2024.

We also have had links with **ACTS Uganda**, a small local charity providing support for disabled children in Uganda. Ruth Preater-Gillard was part of team which went to offer professional support in 2023 and she has subsequently raised additional funds for the charity.

It will be noted that Home for Good and Watch are not listed in the above report. These were not organisations that we supported locally and following review with the people who formerly represented them it was not felt that we had sufficient active connection to continue their being on our active list.

Jenny Wakefield, Mission Review Team

Facilities

43 jobs were completed during the year, comprising a mixture of immediate repairs, routine maintenance and small improvements. The number of backlog items continues to fall slowly.

The focus of 2023 turns out to have been replacing light fittings. The major project was the replacement of all the main lights in the Nave, Aisles and Side Chapel (which were discharge types) with dimmable LEDs. Moving the light switches also simplified the replacement of the 1975-vintage distribution boards, which will be done in February 2024, along with various other improvements to the installation. Separately, old and/or failed lights were replaced in the toilet cubicles, the link corridor, tower noticeboards, boiler house, and the vestries. The new vestry lights have emergency light batteries, and permission is being sought to install emergency lights in the church itself, the last part of the premises not yet to be so equipped. After the remaining half-dozen assorted discharge lights are replaced, most lights will be LEDs, with the remainder fluorescents.

The major excitement of the year was the discovery of movement of the stone parapet on the west side at the top of the tower, which resulted in the main church door (below it) being closed for several weeks. The actual repair to one weathered mortar joint was straightforward, but the experience has led us to look at a proactive maintenance programme for the tower stonework. A rope-access conservation company has visited and we await their recommendations.

Progress continues on work identified by the 2020 Quinquennial Inspection. Two items are outstanding, one of which is in hand. The other, some repointing on roof upstands, we will probably leave until our new architect can clarify the requirement in the 2025 QI. Meanwhile our regular works contractor has carried out numerous other repointing jobs over the course of the year.

The gardening team continues to enhance the conservation area in the churchyard, and the annual Drains and Gutters Working Party carried out its essential tasks. This year we added a very effective Maintenance Working Party day, which we will continue with in future years.

The technical team has established a workable balance of Sunday operations to cover sound, projection and livestream, but could do with more volunteers to make it easier to deal with holidays

and other absences. The team is now planning to rewire the AV distribution system to allow the replacement of obsolescent equipment and temporary workarounds.

Some progress has been made in rationalising furniture, with the disposal of 70 heavy chairs (yet to be replaced) and the acquisition of 12 staging units which will remove our dependence on borrowing from other organisations. Several older items of furniture have been identified as redundant, but they have ended up in the chancel which has become a storage area. Once they have gone, the temporary screen arrangement in the chancel can be reviewed.

Martin Wakefield, Facilities Coordinator

Financial Review

The majority of the PCC's income is from direct giving by church members (including tax reclaimed under Gift Aid), with a smaller proportion deriving from hire of premises. No funds are raised from the general public.

2023 Significant events. Income has shown strong indications of returning to pre-covid levels following 3 years of noticeable reductions. Stewardship levels continued to increase despite economic challenges with at least 80% of the congregation continuing to support through regular giving, and despite a slight decrease in numbers was up by 5%. It should be noted that this equates to a slight decrease allowing for current inflation levels. Hall hire also increased throughout the year, and despite still not reaching 2019 levels, was well up on 2022. Increases in Stewardship and hall hire meant that the predicted deficit for the year was less than expected.

Expenditure, other than expenditure on maintenance and repairs, was at a similar level to 2022.

The General Fund ended the year with a balance of £179,079, of which £3,050 were restricted funds. This was £8,439 less than at the end of 2022.

During 2023 the main church lighting system was totally replaced at a cost of over £7,000.

Investment Policy: it is our strategy to invest our funds balances in the Church of England's Central Board of Finance deposit funds.

No funds are held as custodian trustee on behalf of others.

Reserves policy: within the General Fund, the PCC has designated the following reserve funds:

Projects Fund – for capital projects being planned by the church and as a place to hold legacies when first received. There is no set level for this fund, monies being assigned to it as needs arise and funding allows. Although designated for projects, this fund will need to be used for day to day running expenses should a further shortfall arise.

Fabric Fund – for major fabric repairs that will occur from time to time but cannot be met out of annual income (for example, gas boiler replacement, re-roofing, repairs to stonework). The intention is to maintain this fund at £30,000, but that level will fluctuate according to demand (during 2023 the main lighting system was replaced).

Risks Fund - for maintaining essential church activities for a period of up to around one year should there be a loss of income for any reason. This fund is set at 10% of Stewardship giving (and Gift-aid), which allows, for example, for members moving away; plus 30% of non-giving income (i.e. hall hire and car park charges, over which church members do not have control).

The Reserves Policy is reviewed annually.

At the end of 2023, the designated reserve funds stood as follows:

Projects Fund:	£134,055 (£139,317 at the end of 2022.)
Fabric Fund:	£24,000
Risks Fund:	£21,024
	(10% of giving = £12,137, plus 30% of other income = £8,887)
Total:	£179,079

The total exceeds the £98,146 needed to cover the recommended accounting practice of holding in reserve 6 months' budgeted expenditure.

The £134,055 held at the end of the year in the designated Projects Fund was not assigned to specific projects. This figure has been drawn upon at the end of the year, as has the fabric fund. The church maintains a Capital Expenditure Plan detailing future projects which may in due course

draw on this Fund. The PCC has decided that some of the funds can be used to pay for the proposed Children and Families Worker, but the exact amount has not been determined, pending a further appeal. Similar to 2022 there is no surplus on the General Fund (after allowing for designated reserves and restricted funds).

Grant-making policy: the PCC has a policy of donating a minimum of 10% of stewardship giving (including cash collections and income tax recovered) to other Christian organisations. This is because an individual church such as St James is part of the one worldwide Christian church, with different parts of the church undertaking different responsibilities, and also being dependent on each other. Local organisations supported have aims which overlap with those of St James church. Organisations outside the local area are largely ones with which the church has had a relationship for some time. From time to time, the PCC also supports church members undergoing Christian training, and undertaking full-time work with Christian organisations.

Richard Sainsbury, Treasurer

Staff and Volunteer Support

Approximately three full-time equivalent posts are paid. One of these is the vicar, and another is made up of two part time posts: the Church Administrator and the Caretaker. A curate has been with the church since mid-2021; this is a training post, funded by the diocese. Dave Wilkie, left us in February 2024 to become a vicar in Exeter Diocese.

The majority of effort spent on preparing for and running church activities comes from volunteers: 81 members carry out various roles within the church on a voluntary basis. This is equivalent to at least 10 full-time posts.

The contributions of all volunteers are much appreciated and are essential for the running of services, children's and other groups, maintenance, pastoral care and every other aspect of church life. In particular, the churchwardens, treasurer, and Music Director all carry heavy loads.

Appointment of volunteers: where a post involves working with children or vulnerable adults, appointments are made using the Safer Recruitment process set out in the Church of England's safeguarding guidance. This includes having a formal job description, being interviewed with references taken up, and the completion of DBS checks. Other appointments are made using a lighter process.

Supporting volunteers: everyone who volunteers has a right to be able to discuss their roles with the relevant coordinator in order to agree expectations, receive support, be reasonably resourced, discuss training needs and, as far as practicable, have these met.

Safeguarding

As a church we adhere to the Church of England Policy – Promoting a Safer Church:
<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2017-11/cofe-policy-statement.pdf>.

The latest guidance documents can be found in the e-manual on the Church of England website:
<https://www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding/safeguarding-e-manual>

The Church of England Safeguarding Handbook continues to provide practical information; a copy of this is kept in the office, on the safeguarding noticeboard or can be found online at:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-10/ParishSafeGuardingHandBookAugust2019Web.pdf>.

Volunteers and those who lead teams within our church community need to be aware of the guidance with particular references to sections 11 and 12 which refer to how we conduct our activities and involvement in social media as safely as possible.

The aim of the Church's safeguarding policy is to encourage a safer culture within the church. We are *"called to share the good news of God's salvation through Jesus Christ. The life of our communities and institutions is integral to how we address this task. The good news speaks of welcome for all, with a particular regard for those who are most vulnerable, into a community where the value and dignity of every human being is affirmed and those in positions of responsibility and authority are truly trustworthy. Being faithful to our call to share the gospel therefore compels us to take with the utmost seriousness the challenge of preventing abuse from happening and responding well where it has"*; from Promoting a Safer Church 2016.

In 2023 we were fortunate to be able to appoint Jacqui Sainsbury as assistant Parish Safeguarding officer working with our existing Parish Safeguarding officer, primarily to assist with the administrative work. This has been an enormous help and we can now say we have a Safeguarding Team. Work has continued in using the Parish Dashboard system which has been advocated by the Diocese as a bespoke means of maintaining Parish Records. We are also now using Parish Hubs which will eventually enable storage of Recruitment and training records with easier access for the team and Vicar.

The Parish Safeguarding Team working with the Vicar, Wardens and PCC, has a responsibility to:

- Carry out safer recruitment procedures
- Respond to any disclosures or concerns
- Work with the Diocesan Safeguarding Team on any matters connected with parish safeguarding
- Raise the profile of safeguarding in the parish and ensure PCC is kept up to date with developments
- Advise regarding training.

Safer recruitment procedures are carried out for all appointments involving working with Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults, which all require DBS clearance.

For other voluntary posts there is a recruitment procedure in place operated by those in charge of different volunteers. We follow the guidance issued by the Church of England as set out in the Safer Recruitment and People Management Guidance

<https://www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding/safeguarding-e-manual/safer-recruitment-and-people-management-guidance>

Currently we have 81 volunteers from within the congregation engaged in a number of different teams and roles within the church.

The Church of England recommends that anyone who acts as a volunteer should have safeguarding training, at least at basic awareness level (formerly C0) and for many roles working with children or vulnerable adults a higher level of training (Foundation or Leadership) is required. This training is available online but for people who are not comfortable with this technology the PSO offers to support their training with in-house sessions as agreed with the Diocesan Safeguarding Manager (DSM). Training should be renewed every three years and reminders have been sent out. The use of the Parish Safeguarding hubs with assist in the administration of this and the Safeguarding team is very grateful to church volunteers for their response which in general is very good.

Safeguarding Training is obligatory for all clergy, PTO clergy and licensed readers, and this is overseen by the diocese. The diocese has been working hard to increase the number of leadership courses available. The PCC members have all completed the Domestic Violence Awareness and Foundation courses, which are available online. All church officers required to undertake leadership training have done so in the past 12 months.

Members of the prayer team, home group leaders and pastoral visitors have been encouraged to complete the Domestic Abuse Awareness Course and virtually all have now done so.

In November 2023 St. James took part in the National initiative of Safeguarding Sunday with a service aimed at helping the congregation understand more about keeping our church a safe place to be in.

Jenny Wakefield, Parish Safeguarding Officer

Risks

Finance: the main risk to the operation of the church is financial support. Most funding comes from church members, supplemented by income from hiring the church hall and car park. The church is not in receipt of any regular funding from other sources, either from within the Church of England, or the government. Grants may be obtainable to cover partial costs of some projects, and legacies may occasionally be received, but such sources do not impact on routine planning.

The church's finances are thus vulnerable to:

- Fluctuations in income from hall hire;
- Church members moving away;

- Gradual changes from one generation to another of members' understanding of their financial responsibility;
- Unexpected large costs for repairing the church building;
- Increases in the Parish Share contribution to the diocese which can be well above inflation.

In 2020, one of these risks materialised, in that the majority of income from hall hire ceased due to Covid; it has now recovered.

The PCC keeps a proactive watch on these matters through reports from the Treasurer to alternate meetings of the council. An annual stewardship campaign, led by the Planned Giving Officer, aims to refresh church members' awareness of the principles of giving.

Communications: as the church grows in numbers, there is a risk of fragmentation due to the inability of all members to know every other member and what the various groups and teams are doing. The PCC has recently agreed to form a Communications Team (which will also cover outreach communications).

Disaster Recovery Planning: The loss of the use of the church building is not considered to be a major risk. In 2001, the church moved its activities temporarily to the local church school, while the floor in the church building was replaced. It is considered that similar arrangements could be made again. The PCC does not consider that any disaster recovery plans need to be maintained for specific activities; the scale of operations is such that contingency plans are best drawn up in response to the nature of any issue that may occur.

Health & Safety: physical risks are managed through the church's *Health and Safety Policy*, which is reviewed annually by the PCC. The policy includes a schedule of risks using a checklist provided by the Ecclesiastical Insurance Company. The Schedule sets out the procedures for mitigating and managing each risk. Equipment safety checks (gas appliances, security alarms, lightning conductor, fire extinguishers and electrical PAT testing) are undertaken annually. A summary reminder is issued to all volunteers annually.

Trustees

The members of the Parochial Church Council are the trustees of the charity. PCC members who have served from 1st January 2023 until the date this report was approved were:

Vicar:	Rev Fabian Wuyts	Chairman	*	
Curate:	Rev David Wilkie		*	<i>Until 9 February 2024</i>
Churchwardens:	Mr Nigel Bright Mrs Joyce Kirk	Vice chair	* *	
Deanery Synod:	Mr Richard Carpenter			
	Ms Chris Rickard		*	
	Mr Martin Wakefield	Secretary	*	
Elected members:	Mr Martin Bluemel			
	Mr Roger Fenton			
	Mrs Marilyn Gibson			
	Mrs Fiona Hope			<i>From 9 May 2023</i>
	Mrs Lyn Jones			
	Mr David Jordan			
	Mrs Sue Lucas			
	Mrs Sheila Marlow			<i>Until 9 May 2023</i>
	Mr Richard Sainsbury	Treasurer	*	
	Mr Johan Smit			<i>From 9 May 2023</i>
	Mrs Jenny Wakefield			
	Mrs Vashti Wuyts Smit			
	<i>There was one vacancy for an elected member from 9 May 2023.</i>			
Ex-officio	Mr Nic Tall	Diocesan Synod & General Synod.		

* Asterisks indicate members of the Standing Committee: the Church Officers plus one ordinary member of the PCC.

Appointment of trustees: The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church of England's *Church Representation Rules*. The number of elected members is 12, with a minimum of four places to come up for election each year.

Ex-officio members of the PCC are:

- Clergy licensed to the parish.
- Two churchwardens, separately elected annually.
- Three representatives of the parish to Deanery Synod, elected every three years.
- Any members of Diocesan Synod and General Synod who are members of the church.

Recruitment of trustees: all Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and consider standing for election to the PCC. Active recruitment may occur when one sector of the church appears to be under-represented on the PCC.

Training of trustees: new members are provided with a copy of the *PCC Standing Orders*, which sets out how the PCC works, and a copy of the booklet *Trusteeship – an introduction for PCC members*. They are encouraged to obtain a copy of *A Handbook for Churchwardens and Parochial Church Councillors* and to attend any training events run by the diocese. PCC members also receive safeguarding awareness training.

Custodian Trustees: The Diocese of Bath and Wells is the custodian trustee for property owned by the church, i.e. the church hall and associated buildings and land.

PCC St James Taunton

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
			2023 £	2022 £
INCOME				
Donations & Legacies	126,312	437	126,749	119,805
Income from church activities	29,642		29,642	24,271
Investment Income	5,814		5,814	2,255
TOTAL INCOME	<u>161,768</u>	<u>437</u>	<u>162,205</u>	<u>146,331</u>
EXPENDITURE				
Church activities	<u>169,731</u>	<u>914</u>	<u>170,645</u>	<u>161,891</u>
NET EXPENDITURE	<u>-7,963</u>	<u>-477</u>	<u>-8,440</u>	<u>-15,560</u>
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS				
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1 JAN 20223	183,991	3,527	187,518	203,078
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 DEC 2023	<u><u>£176,028</u></u>	<u><u>£3,050</u></u>	<u><u>£179,078</u></u>	<u><u>£187,518</u></u>

BALANCE SHEET As at 31 December 2023

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
			2023 £	2022 £
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors	24,197		24,197	21,867
Short term deposits	156,096	3,050	159,146	161,874
Cash at bank & in hand	<u>6,844</u>	<u></u>	<u>6,844</u>	<u>6,457</u>
	<u>187,136</u>	<u>3,050</u>	<u>190,186</u>	<u>190,198</u>
LIABILITIES				
Creditors - amounts falling due within one year	<u>-11,107</u>	<u></u>	<u>-11,107</u>	<u>-2,679</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS	<u>176,029</u>	<u>3,050</u>	<u>179,079</u>	<u>187,518</u>
LIABILITIES				
Amounts falling due in more than one year				
NET ASSETS	<u><u>176,029</u></u>	<u><u>3,050</u></u>	<u><u>179,079</u></u>	<u><u>187,518</u></u>
PARISH FUNDS:				
GeneralUnrestricted Funds	176,029		176,029	183,991
Capital				
TLG Make Lunch		325	325	802
Children & Families Worker		<u>2,725</u>	<u>2,725</u>	<u>2,725</u>
	<u><u>£176,029</u></u>	<u><u>£3,050</u></u>	<u><u>£179,079</u></u>	<u><u>£187,518</u></u>

Approved on behalf of the Parochial Church Council on
and signed by:

Rev. Fabian Wuyts

Mrs Joyce Kirk

10th April 2024

(Vicar)

(Churchwarden)

The notes on pages 2 to 6 form part of these Accounts.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

1. Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP (FRSSE) published on the 16th July 2014 and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include financial statements of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body or those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds

Unrestricted funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC.

Restricted funds represent donations or grants received for a specific object, or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not normally invest separately for each fund. Where there is no separate investment, interest is apportioned to individual funds on an average balance basis.

Income

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.

Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised only when received.

Income Tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is reasonably certain.

Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised when the rental is due.

Expenditure

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. In 2023 the Parish Share request was not paid in full while we are running a deficit. Amounts received specifically for mission are dealt with as restricted funds. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred.

Fixed assets

Consecrated property and moveable church furnishings

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993.

No value is placed on movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and listed in the church's inventory which can be inspected at any reasonable time, 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 benefice buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the SOFA and separately disclosed in the year of expenditure if it exceeds £5,000.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight line basis over 4 years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £2,500 or less are written off when acquired.

2. Grants

The following grants of over £1,000 were made in the year:

Taunton Team Chaplaincy	£2,000	The Besom in Taunton	£2,400
Taunton Street Pastors	£1,200		
Taunton Area Debt Advice	£2,000		
Taunton Youth for Christ	£1,800		

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2023	2022
<u>Missionary Giving</u>				
Church Overseas:				
- Missionary Societies	£500		£500	£500
- Relief and Development Agencies	£1,500	£437	£1,937	£1,630
Home Missions	£8,025		£8,025	£9,224
Other	£2,250		£2,250	£2,000
	<u>£12,275</u>	<u>£437</u>	<u>£12,712</u>	<u>£13,354</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Wages and salaries	£21,441	£16,292

During the year the PCC employed a musical director, a caretaker, and an administrator, plus an assistant administrator/IT support. The highest paid employee received £14,287. None of the Trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from an employment with this charity. The church passes on occasional payments received from hirers who have engaged the services of church members (some of whom might be trustees) as event stewards. There are no employees who receive emoluments of more than £60,000.

Payments totalling £7,295 were made to 9 PCC members during the year for the reimbursement of expenses. These expenses were for Admin, Repairs, Social, Evangelism and fees, plus Vicars, expenses and Fees. There are no further related party transactions in the year.

3(c). Independant examiner fees

These amounted to £60 for the year.

4. Debtors

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Income tax recoverable	£22,081.00	£19,633.00
Prepayments and accrued income	£2,116.00	£2,233.00
Other debtors		
	<u>£24,197.00</u>	<u>£21,866.00</u>

5. Creditors

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Deferred income	1,363.00	1,300.00
Accruals of utility and other costs	9,744.00	1,379.00
Other creditors	-	
	<u>11,107.00</u>	<u>2,679.00</u>

6. Major Expenditure

Replacement of Lighting in Church £6,500

7. Capital Commitments

Replacement of Electrical distribution board £9,000

PCC St James Taunton

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS **for the Year Ended 31 December 2023**

8. INCOME

	General Fund		2022
	Unrestricted	Restricted Miss, CF & TLG	Total
	£	£	£
Donations & Legacies			
Stewardship	99,544		94,438
Appeals			
Income tax recoverable	21,830		19,633
Collections	25		59
Grants			2,604
Legacies	1,500		1,500
Donations	3,414	437	3,070
	<u>126,312</u>	<u>437</u>	<u>119,804</u>
 Income from church activities			
Church & hall lettings	26,145		19,409
Car park charges	3,478		3,558
Fees	19		1,305
	<u>29,642</u>		<u>24,271</u>
 Investment Income			
Interest	5,814		2,255
	<u>5,814</u>		<u>2,255</u>
 TOTAL INCOME	<u>£161,768</u>	<u>£437</u>	<u>£162,205</u>
			<u>£146,330</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

9. EXPENDITURE

	General Fund		2022	
	Unrestricted	Restricted Miss, CF & TLG	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Church activities				
Missionary giving	12,025	437	12,462	11,092
Charitable giving	923		923	1,177
Diocesan Parish Share	87,966		87,966	95,759
Clergy expenses	1,353		1,353	935
Wages & honoraria	24,166		24,166	21,441
Gas Account	4,934		4,934	3,367
Electricity account	2,818		2,818	2,645
Insurance	4,220		4,220	3,555
Water rates	210		210	133
Cleaning materials	1,617		1,617	1,163
Wine	166		166	77
Flowers	275		275	465
Music & hymn books	1,065		1,065	1,111
Maintenance & repairs	20,622		20,622	9,931
Children & youth work	617		617	654
Social functions	-657		-657	58
Evangelism	261		261	1,600
Church weekend				
Training	50		50	71
Office expenses	5,692		5,692	4,838
Telephone	1,390		1,390	1,477
TLG for Lunch	20	477	497	344
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	£169,731	£914	£170,645	£161,891

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

10. Fund Summary

	General Fund		2022	
	Unrestricted	Restricted Miss, CF & TLG	Total	Total
	£	£	£ £	£
TOTAL INCOME	161,768	437	162,205	146,331
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	169,731	914	170,645	161,891
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES	-7,963	-477	-8,440	-15,560
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	-7,963	-477	-8,440	-15,560
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1 JAN 2022	183,991	3,527	187,518	203,078
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 DEC 2023	176,028	3,050	179,078	187,518
REPRESENTED BY:				
Assets				
Debtors	24,197		24,197	21,867
Short term deposits	156,096	3,050	159,146	161,874
Cash at bank & in hand	6,844		6,844	6,457
	187,136	3,050	190,186	190,198
Creditors				
Creditors & accrued expenses	11,107		11,107	2,679
	11,107		11,107	2,679
NET ASSETS	£176,029	£3,050	£179,079	£187,518

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF SAINT JAMES TAUNTON

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2023, pages 1 to 6 incorporating the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet and the Notes to the Accounts, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and s.145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of accounts. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under s.145(5)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church Guidance, 2006 edition, issued by the Finance Division of the Archbishops' Council. That examination includes a review of the accounting records maintained by the Trustees and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

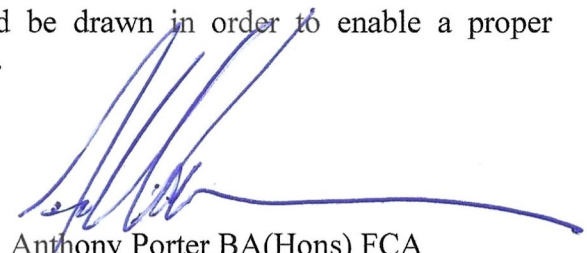
Independent examiner's statement

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

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act as also contained within the Regulations.

Have not been met; or

- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Anthony Porter BA(Hons) FCA
Amherst & Shapland
(Taunton and Wiveliscombe)
Chartered Accountants
141 Staplegrove Road
Taunton
Telephone: 01823 326555
19th September 2024

Accounts



Annual Report for 2022

Encountering God
Growing as Followers of Jesus
Participating in the Life of His Spirit

Prepared by the PCC and the Coordinators

Fabian Wuyts

Vicar

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Registered Charity No: 1130757.

Full name of the charity: The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. James, Taunton.

Short names: St James Church PCC; St James Church Taunton.

Address: St James Church Office, St James Street, Taunton, TA1 1JS.

This report covers calendar year 2022 and has been written to meet the requirements of the Charity Commission's Statement of Recommended Practices (SORP FRS102).

Foreword by the Vicar

A Hopeful People

One of the most loved chapters in all of Scriptures is 1 Corinthians 13 (a favourite reading at weddings!). The chapter ends with the famous phrase “And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.” While the themes of love and faith are ever-present in Christian talks and teachings, the concept of hope is often side-lined.

The Cambridge dictionary defines the noun hope as “something good that you want to happen in the future, or a confident feeling about what will happen in the future.” In this sense, the word hope expresses what we dream of or wish for in the future. For many today, there is a general hope that the current energy crisis will soon be alleviated, that the war in Ukraine will end and that the cost of living will stop rising. People dream of solutions to tackle global warming or have hopes for advances in medical sciences to combat cancer, Alzheimer’s and dementia, to name just a few.

But what about our Christian hope? For too long, the Christian hope has been reduced to the idea of going to heaven when you die. However, close attention to the whole movement in Scriptures should have informed us that the Christian hope is not so much us going up to heaven in the future (although it includes that) as heaven coming down in the present. It is about God interacting with his creation through a nation (Israel) and ultimately through his Son (Emmanuel, God with us) who sets in motion the coming reign of God on earth (the kingdom of God) with his life, death and resurrection. The Christian hope is therefore a present reality and we should be able to draw attention to the signs of that reality in our individual lives and our communal gatherings.

Our church annual report is an opportunity to look back with gratitude, celebrate the signs of the Christian hope at work in us and through us and look forward in faith, love and hope.

So be encouraged as you read the signs of God’s hope through the pages of this report and continue to pray that God’s kingdom will expand as we respond in faith and obedience to the promptings of God’s Holy Spirit

Prayer for Growth

Heavenly Father, increase in number your Church at St James as you deepen us as followers and learners of Christ.

Help us to show uninhibited reliance on your grace and power as we seek renewal of our lives, our church, our community and our world.

Give us courage, imagination and generosity in order that your kingdom may come and your abundant life be known by all.

We make this prayer in the name and to the glory of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Rev Fabian Wuyts

Introduction

St James Church, Taunton, is a parish church within the Diocese of Bath and Wells in the Church of England. Its parish includes the Roughmoor, North Town, Priory and Firepool areas of Taunton. The church's membership is drawn partly from within the parish, partly from across the rest of the town, and from nearby villages. Its services and activities are open to all, and the church works with other churches and local inter-church organisations in proclaiming and applying the good news of Jesus Christ.

Attendance at services, surveyed during October 2022, was 158 adults and 20 children attending at least once in the course of the month. For comparison, the count for October 2021 registered 111 adults and 15 children, in a period where many were still isolating due to the continuing pandemic. At the 2022 Annual Meeting, there were 167 people on the Church Electoral Roll.

Objectives

The governing document is The Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956. In common with other Anglican (Church of England) churches, this gives the objects of the church as to:

Promote in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The PCC's registration with the Charity Commission (using headings provided by Church of England Guidance at the time of initial registration) expands the statement of objects as covering:

- *Regular public worship open to all.*
- *The provision of sacred space for personal prayer and contemplation.*
- *Pastoral work, including visiting the sick and the bereaved.*
- *Teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups*
- *Taking of religious assemblies in schools.*
- *The provision of a youth club with a Christian ethos.*
- *Promotion of Christianity through the staging of events and meetings, and the distribution of literature.*
- *Promoting the whole mission of the Church through provision of activities for senior citizens, parents and toddlers and other special need groups.*
- *Supporting other charities in the UK and overseas.*

Public Benefit

The PCC has noted the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit, including publication PB4 *The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit*.

Worship services are all open to the public. The church building is open as many days as possible for private prayer, and is available for weddings and funerals of parishioners as required. Baptisms of parishioners are normally conducted during Sunday morning services.

Pastoral support is available to anyone who requests it. Church members also receive support through home groups.

The church is gradually rebuilding its outward-facing activities following the Covid lockdowns. While the former parent and toddler group and after-school club have yet to be restarted, volunteers staff a school mentoring scheme. It also supports local Christian organisations including Street Pastors, Taunton Team Chaplaincy, Besom, Open Door and Taunton Area Debt Advice.

A church does not exist in isolation, but is part of one world-wide church of all denominations. St James supports the work of WEC (church planting), TEAR Fund and Samaritans Purse (emergency and relief work), and Barnabas Fund (support for the persecuted church worldwide).

The PCC also has maintenance responsibilities for St James' Church building (Grade 2* listed) and the church halls. The halls are available for hire by community groups. The church building is also used for concerts and by some other groups, such as the NHS Blood Donor service.

Operating

The vicar and the churchwardens manage the day-to-day business of the church, assisted by a Church Administrator. In particular, the church administrator handles bookings for the church halls. A caretaker works alongside the administrator and together they look after the needs of hirers of

church premises. All financial matters are handled by the Treasurer, assisted by the Planned Giving and Payroll Officer.

Various church members manage other church activities on a day-to-day basis, and there are rotas and teams in place to manage all activities which occur on a regular weekly or monthly basis.

The vicar and PCC have appointed coordinators to whom authority has been delegated to manage certain aspects of church life: Worship, Pastoral Care, Discipleship, Children & Young People's work, Administration, and Facilities (premises and technical). The aim is to avoid overloading the vicar with too many decisions in a church which is steadily growing, and also to free his time so he can focus on where he can be most effective. The scope of the previous post of Outreach Coordinator post proved to be too wide for one person to oversee, and has been partly succeeded by a Mission Review Group and a Welcoming Team, with other areas of interest yet to be staffed.

The PCC meets monthly, except in May (Annual Church Meeting) and August (summer holidays). It approves all major non-recurring financial expenditure and decides proposals to undertake any major new activity.

The Standing Committee is empowered by law to conduct PCC business in between meetings of the council. Its members are the church officers plus one ordinary member of the PCC. In practice, the Standing Committee operates primarily through email discussions.

Various provisions decided by legislation (enacted by General Synod) or decisions made by Diocesan Synod govern, for example, the type of formal public worship services that can be provided but allow a church to develop its own style. The appointment of clergy and readers is managed by the diocese, in consultation with the parish. Payment of clergy is carried out via the diocesan Common Fund, which scheme decouples clergy pay from a parish's financial circumstances. Maintenance work and alteration of the church building is overseen by a Diocesan Advisory Committee, through faculties granted by the diocesan chancellor; this process is in lieu of civil planning procedures. The parish is required to appoint an architect approved by the diocese to advise on and specify all works required.

Activities

Worship

Contributed by Richard Lucas, Worship Coordinator.

There is one service on a Sunday at 10.30 am which is live streamed on Facebook and available later on the church YouTube channel. This service is Communion on the first and third Sundays and Morning Worship/ All Age Worship on the second, fourth and fifth Sundays. These services are planned by Fabian and are each part of a themed series. Fabian works in collaboration with Ray Crooks (the Musical Director) and Worship Coordinator as well as the range of church members who contribute to, lead and preach within the services. Fabian organises these rotas and Sara Bright oversees the rotas for those who lead the prayers and deliver the Bible readings. Church Suite is now being used to support this.

The Musical Director and Worship Leader select the songs and hymns in consultation with the vicar and those leading the service.

The style is based around the leading of a contemporary style of corporate worship with a range of songs and instrumentation that complement this. Worship is corporate, it is not just the people who are seen at the front each week. The music team are instrumentalists and singers with the Music Director providing settings to match the available skills. New music is introduced in collaboration with the Musical Director, Worship Coordinator, and the Vicar and open meetings take place as required to practice new worship songs.

There are also meetings when required with the Vicar and Curate to look at the praise and worship within the morning service.

Although we now have fewer musicians and singers, there is a good commitment and engagement from the team with different members leading the praise section of each service.

Sue Doyle leads the dance ministry which enhances our worship and adds dimension to our prayers during each service. Members of the church are encouraged to use the flags express the lyrics of the songs we sing or words we say.

St James Players have contributed dramatic interpretations of Bible passages to our services to help our understanding.

Alongside Morning Worship there is young people and children's worship in the hall planned and led by the CYP team and that is engaging the youngsters, well received with excellent feedback.

The crèche area for younger children continues to be well used and the right-hand side of the church is arranged to encourage family groups and participation.

This side of the church is also used by members of a nearby residential home. Their support workers comment that they respond well to the music and suggested that signing to a song or two would be helpful for their participation.

A great deal of planning, preparation and set up go into each service. The hard working and dedicated team of volunteers involved work on the various elements of the technical set up, sound, live stream, visuals on screen, flowers and banners as the visual expression of the season or theme, refreshments/hospitality, welcome team.

Online Morning Prayer continues on Mondays and Wednesdays at 9.15AM on Zoom, streamed on Facebook. The monthly Church Prayer meeting prayer space occurs each Friday at 5pm in Church.

Our online and digital channels are:

- **Facebook** – the livestream recording remains there after the service is over. We are currently reviewing how long various items should remain on Facebook.
- **Website - Bible Bytes Podcast** – an audio-only track of just the readings and the talk, posted a day or so after the service on the website.
- **YouTube** – A tidied-up version of the live recording is posted one or two days after the service and remains accessible for several months. If you subscribe to our YouTube channel you will be informed as soon as there is a new recording.
- **DVD** – we produce a small number of DVDs for church members who do not have the internet.

We will continue to consider how we reach out to those outside the church and those without a church background and endeavour to make worship accessible and relevant within a changing landscape. Finally, I would like it noted that there is a great commitment required both online and face to face and in ensuring that the technical side functions and my thanks go to all those who give their time to this ministry.

Pastoral Care

Contributed by Annie Reid, Pastoral Coordinator.

As Covid restrictions have been lifted, it is encouraging to see many returning to St James services in person. The establishment of a Welcome Group at the 10.30 service is helping to integrate former and new members. Occasional welcome lunches after services have helped newcomers to settle into our fellowship. More such lunches are planned.

The email prayer chain is overseen by Anne Tuckley - and the congregation is being encouraged to join members of the Prayer Team after the 10.30 morning service.

The 10.30 service is still being made available on-line and this is much appreciated by those still unable to attend church in person.

Several new members have joined the Flower Rota which is ably co-ordinated by Lyn Jones; the team are especially looking forward to decorating the church for the Coronation!

Under the guidance of Vicky Dykes and her team, Thursday Fellowship is flourishing with members meeting once a month.

"Hymns and Tea" happens once a month in church and has a steady following; those attending enjoy listening to the organ followed by a time of fellowship accompanied by tea, sandwiches and cake.

Discipleship

Contributed by Roger Fenton, Discipleship Coordinator.

The impact of compliance with Covid restrictions have dominated my annual reports over the previous 2 years, and to some extent, echoes continue to impact our church and home group meetings during 2022. It is difficult to assess something as amorphous as 'discipleship' when face to face meetings remain a challenge to some church members and an unknown number of potentially interested enquirers.

An Alpha Course was delivered 'on-line' in the first few months of 2022, which was well received and certainly delivered a refreshing of faith for some, and an introduction and challenge for others. Plans are in place to offer another Alpha Course in 2023, this time meeting 'face to face'.

It has been a pleasure to work with home group leaders and their group members these past twelve months. The number of home groups has reduced by one during 2022; there are now 10 home groups, a reduction of one, when the group led by both Jane McCallum and Richard Sainsbury merged with Andy Hall's group. I wish to sincerely thank both Jane and Richard for their faithful leading for many years. Home group leaders continue to meet together four times a year, for fellowship, for prayer, the sharing of experience, and to learn from one another. Leading a group is not easy and we are blessed to have the current leaders and in 2023 the intention is to invest further in this valuable resource to fully support the leaders as they develop their ministry to the group and look for growth in fellowship, discipleship, and commitment.

God continues to bless our church with new families joining and growing our children and family activities and worship in addition to individuals and couples of all ages. I look forward to getting to know them better. I am excited by the discipleship possibilities God is challenging me and us all with in the year ahead, and beyond.

Children's & Youth Work

Contributed by David Wilkie, our curate.

Children's Church

Children's church has continued to run term time throughout 2022 seeing a consistent number of children of 10-15 but usually not the same ones. It has continued with a consistent creative program in the same style as messy church and has a great team of dedicated volunteers. It was with sadness that we had to say goodbye to a lead volunteer Gavin at the start of 2023 who moved to attend a Coptic church with his family in Bristol. He brought a lot of energy, ideas and led fortnightly. Recently we have seen a significant growth in weekly numbers of 20-25 children and we are currently in contact with 45 children. A few new families have joined, one in particular coming nearly every week. We are recruiting a few more volunteer to help but still need another person willing to take a lead some weeks. To help it to remain volunteer led I purchased a resource from the 'Little Worship Company' which provides us with ideas for the rest of the year. There is a weekly advert put out on social media which may be helping the growth.

Youth

The youth group has not restarted and there is still no provision for them on a Sunday morning. This weighs heavily on my heart as the message it sends to them is that they are not important. A space to encourage discussion on a Sunday would be good and a weekly small group dedicated to them. A Christian youth festival called Satellites has moved to Bath & West show ground and it would be good to take a group in August 2023.

Schools

Fabian and I have continued to lead a weekly assembly at St James School. It is a wonderful opportunity to speak to over 100 students and teachers for 25 minutes. This year we settled on teaching them a different song every half term and are now well known by the children and staff. This year St James have included the church in its curriculum throughout the year with classes either attending the church to learn about things like baptism or Fabian going into classrooms to teach. Annual events such as the school Christingle, carols, nativity, leavers continued for St James and were very well attended.

We were invited to a couple of assemblies for North Town School again such as harvest. While they had to cancel their Christmas events at the church due to viruses, they did visit the church for their leavers service.

Toddlers

The weekly Toddler Group has not yet restarted. While we have all the equipment needed, we are lacking lead volunteers. It is a provision needed in Taunton and an effective way to reach those in our parish. Existing ones are well attended and often at capacity.

Other Events

Christmas events: the church Christingle wasn't as well attended as previous years as memory serves but is a wonderful time to host families mostly connected with St James School. The crib service was a delight but again seemed lower in numbers. Perhaps the traditional attenders that always came to events like this were lost during the pandemic, and other people started new traditions. It would be good to have specific advertisement next year explaining what each service is.

Diamond Jubilee fun day: an amazing fun day in June where we hosted over 400 people to an incredibly popular day. I was so impressed by all our volunteers who served their socks off for hours! People queued hours for a face-paint, the clergy got soaked, hundreds of burgers were served and rockets got stuck up trees. Amazing outreach event - well done St James!

Future Events: An Easter banquet for families connected to the church and various charities is planned for April 2023 and we hope to soon have a 'Spring of Hope' reflection installed in the church yard this spring.

Outreach

Contributed by Jenny Wakefield, Mission Review Group

Within our overall Church Vision of Encountering, Growing and Participating, we seek to share the Good News of Jesus with our wider community.

We continue to encourage each church member to share that gospel in their everyday lives, using the "Life on the Frontline" and "Living the Story Telling the story" approach to share the life changing message of Jesus.

The Church in the week

- Church members have continued to volunteer in a host of different community organisations activities including Besom, Foodbank, Street Pastors, schools, chaplaincy, as well as in their own neighbourhoods.
- The Queen's Jubilee was celebrated with a fun day which was attended by large numbers of people from the community and provided a rich mix of food, fun and celebration as well as opportunity to reflect on the

remarkable life and example of service of Queen Elizabeth, our longest serving sovereign.

- The death of the Queen at the end of the year, gave opportunities for people to seek a quiet space to reflect on the Queen's life of Service and pray for our nation and new monarch.
- *Hymns and Tea* has been started on a Sunday afternoon at the initiative of Carol Sweeting. It has proved popular for those who enjoy hearing the organ, singing hymns together and enjoying tea, cake and chat afterwards in the church. Thanks to Carol, Dave on the organ and the refreshment providers for this fortnightly event.
- Thursday Fellowship is back and active once a month. Vicky and the committee provide a varied programme for church members and nonchurch members, but also the ongoing care and prayer for the members.
- The Eco group have continued to advocate for a positive response to our responsibilities in God's Created world.
- St. James Players have been able to return to live performances with a Murder mystery play in March and then the creation of *Stable Manners*, written by Chris Doyle, which presented the Christmas and Epiphany story in a fresh and accessible way culminating in sell out performances in January 2023. This also raised money for the Foodbank and ACTs Uganda.
- The Art Group continues to meet in the Hall offering an opportunity for those who enjoy creativity through different art mediums.
- The Flower Team continues to produce wonderful displays that add to the worship experience but also are frequently commented on by visitors. More importantly the fact that the team are often working in the church on a Friday gives them an opportunity to talk with visitors to the church.
- Caretaker, Administrator and others: in the same vein we should not underestimate the fact that there are opportunities to talk with visitors and enquirers to our church, when a chance word, the handing out of a booklet or leaflet provides an opportunity to share God's love.

We also continue to foster good relationships with hirers of church premises. The many concerts held in the church during the year help to make residents aware of us as a church, as do the frequent blood doning sessions run by the NHS.

Communications

How we communicate is an essential part of our outreach. New ways of communicating continue to be experimented with as we get to grips with the medium of social media and its possibilities. However we continue to use a mixture of communication tools to cater for the range of people we meet.

The *Stable Manners* production provided an opportunity to look at the way people heard about the play, and showed that word of mouth is the most powerful means of communication, with posters and flyers also playing a part.

Facebook and the website are now increasingly becoming our front window and while many are still grappling with how to use it, it has been an important tool in helping us worship, communicate, encourage and keep in touch.

The Church Suite database continues to enable us to send out the weekly bulletin, vicar's letter, and now rotas etc, by email.

The Parish Magazine continues to be produced quarterly thanks to Chris Doyle for his hard work in putting this together and for the quality of the presentation. It is produced in hard copy and an online format. The quality of the articles is excellent and thanks must also go to the contributors.

Local and International Mission

With the ending of pandemic restrictions it has been possible to return to live opportunities for Mission representatives to update the church in the main morning services. There is now a regular morning slot once a month for our mission partners to share news in turn.

As a church we have links with the following, and in almost all we have church members volunteering:

- **Street Pastors** (ministry to young people visiting the town's night clubs and local community areas during the day time) and School Pastors.
- **Taunton Team Chaplaincy:** Chaplaincy team members and Rail Responders are operating as before the pandemic and the Courts Chaplaincy led by Michael Hayes is now well established at the magistrates court.
- **Besom:** remains very busy having recommenced all their activities and are receiving referrals from keyworkers for gardening, decorating, furniture and crisis food packs.
- **Open Door** continue their work with the homeless.
- **Taunton Youth for Christ** have continued to work with schools and detached youth where possible and their work with young people has developed a greater urgency. They now have a bus which provides a mobile meeting point. Kelly Jones has joined the team as coordinator, while Ant Stevens continues as youth worker.
- **Taunton Area Debt Advice** have adapted to using more technology to assist their work.
- **Home for Good** is an agency that encourages churches to support the work of adoption and fostering.
- **Transforming Lives for Good** – mentoring at our church school: Initially 4 mentors now reduced to 3 mentors when one member moved away from Taunton.
- **Watch** – local mental health organisation for peer group support

The church continues to support the following overseas missions, financially and in prayer:

- **WEC:** David and Margie Whitehorn, the leaders for WEC's church planting work in Africa; they have been able to make visits in the past year but will be retiring in August 2023.
- **TEAR Fund** (emergency and relief work).
- **Samaritans Purse** (international relief organization); and
- **Barnabas Fund** (which supports the persecuted church worldwide).

We continue to make financial grants to the above charities and have maintained our commitment to give 10% of our income to mission. However with a reduction in giving during the pandemic period it has been necessary to review the grants that we give and make reductions to three of the organisations we support.

Facilities

Contributed by Martin Wakefield, Facilities Coordinator.

A record 56 jobs were completed during the year, comprising a mixture of immediate repairs, routine maintenance and small improvements. As well as jobs arising in-year, a number of backlog items were tackled, reducing the outstanding jobs list to the smallest it has been for many years.

The prize for the most annoying job of the year goes to the water boiler in the kitchen, which, after the repair of four leaks, finally suffered a major failure and had to be replaced. Two long-standing matters were completed, one being the clearance of moss from the last section of the hall roof, and the other being the replacement of the last incandescent lightbulb (that we know of) with an LED lamp. The most unusual job was identifying why the server circuit breaker kept tripping during the annual Fun Day – spilt coffee had managed to

find its way into a 13A socket! A special mention needs to be made of the repair to the frame of the painting in the chancel, carried out for no charge by Tim Everett Fine Art; he also cleaned the painting so we can see it at last.

Limited progress was made on major projects due to the lack of effort available. The project to replace the main church lights (mercury discharge) with dimmable LEDs passed through PCC and has since been given "List B" approval by the archdeacon. The draft specification for the replacement of the electrical distribution boards in the church is nearing completion. A draft specification was prepared in support of a possible automatic barrier for the car park. Clearance of the outer vestry (prior to replacement of the floor) continues slowly, with a large cupboard being removed.

Progress continues on work identified by the 2020 Quinquennial Inspection. It is hoped that our contractor can complete the repointing and other jobs in 2023.

The gardening team continues to enhance the conservation area in the churchyard, and the annual Drains and Gutters Working Party carried out its essential tasks.

The technical team has taken over the operation of the livestream camera and has been progressively adapting the balance of operations to be sustainable with the number and skills of the volunteers available. Work continues on the church website to improve its look and feel, following last year's rationalisation of the two domain names. The church YouTube page was brought back into use with tidied-up versions of the weekly livestreamed Sunday service, and a podcast series was started on the website using the Sunday talk and also the reflections from the twice-weekly online Morning Prayer sessions.

Administration Administrative matters are covered in various places elsewhere in this report, so a separate report has not been prepared.

Our Administrator is Rachel Knowlman.

Financial Review

Contributed by Richard Sainsbury, Treasurer

The majority of the PCC's income is from direct giving by church members (including tax reclaimed under Gift Aid), with a smaller proportion deriving from hire of premises. No funds are raised from the general public.

2022 Significant events. The Covid-19 Pandemic continued to have an effect on 2022's finances, though there was a noticeable return to pre-pandemic levels of giving and Hall hire. Stewardship giving remained strong throughout the year and despite some donors leaving, over 80% continued to support the ministry faithfully during 2022, and with the addition of new members, stewardship was considerably increased from 2021. Hall hire also increased throughout the year, and despite still not reaching 2019 levels, was well up on 2021. Increases in Stewardship and Hall hire meant that the predicted deficit for the year was a lot less than expected.

Expenditure, other than expenditure on maintenance and repairs and extra activities, was slightly down compared to 2021.

The General Fund ended the year with a balance of £187,518, of which £3,527 were restricted funds. This was £15,560 less than at the end of 2021.

There were no major repair expenses during 2022.

Investment Policy: it is our strategy to invest our funds balances in the Church of England's Central Board of Finance deposit funds.

No funds are held as custodian trustee on behalf of others.

Reserves policy: within the General Fund, the PCC has designated the following reserve funds:

Projects Fund – for capital projects being planned by the church and as a place to hold legacies when first received. There is no set level for this fund, monies being assigned to it as

needs arise and funding allows. Although designated for projects, this fund will need to be used for day to day running expenses should a further shortfall arise.

Fabric Fund – for major fabric repairs that will occur from time to time but cannot be met out of annual income (for example, gas boiler replacement, re-roofing, repairs to stonework). The intention is to maintain this fund at £30,000, but that level will fluctuate according to demand.

Risks Fund - for maintaining essential church activities for a period of up to around one year should there be a loss of income for any reason. This fund is set at 10% of Stewardship giving (and Gift-aid), which allows, for example, for members moving away; plus 30% of non-giving income (i.e. hall hire and car park charges, over which church members do not have control).

The former Opportunity Fund, which was reported last year as being wiped out by the deficit situation, has been discontinued.

The Reserves Policy is reviewed annually.

At the end of 2022, the designated reserve funds stood as follows:

Projects Fund:	£139,317 (£157,782 at the end of 2021.)
Fabric Fund:	£30,000
Risks Fund:	£18,191 (10% of giving = £11,301, plus 30% of other income = £6,890)
Total:	£187,533

The total exceeds the £89,005 needed to cover the recommended accounting practice of holding in reserve 6 months' budgeted expenditure.

The £139,317 held at the end of the year in the designated Projects Fund was not assigned to specific projects. This figure has been drawn upon at the end of the year, leaving the Fabric Fund at its full amount. The church maintains a Capital Expenditure Plan detailing future projects which may in due course draw on this Fund. The PCC has decided that some of the funds can be used to pay for the proposed Children and Families Worker, but the exact amount has not been determined, pending a further appeal. Unlike previous years there is no surplus on the General Fund (after allowing for designated reserves and restricted funds).

Grant-making policy: the PCC has a policy of donating a minimum of 10% of stewardship giving (including cash collections and income tax recovered) to other Christian organisations. This is because an individual church such as St James is part of the one worldwide Christian church, with different parts of the church undertaking different responsibilities, and also being dependent on each other. Local organisations supported have aims which overlap with those of St James church. Organisations outside the local area are largely ones with which the church has had a relationship for some time. From time to time, the PCC also supports church members undergoing Christian training, and undertaking full-time work with Christian organisations.

Staff and Volunteer Support

Approximately three full-time equivalent posts are paid. One of these is the vicar, and another is made up of two part time posts: the Church Administrator and the Caretaker. A curate has been with the church since mid-2021; this is a training post, funded by the diocese.

The majority of effort spent on preparing for and running church activities comes from volunteers: 76 members carry out various roles within the church on a voluntary basis. This is equivalent to at least 10 full-time posts.

The contributions of all volunteers are much appreciated and are essential for the running of services, children's and other groups, maintenance, pastoral care and every other aspect of church life. In particular, the churchwardens, treasurer, and Music Director all carry heavy loads.

Appointment of volunteers: where a post involves working with children or vulnerable adults, appointments are made using the Safer Recruitment process set out in the Church of England's safeguarding guidance. This includes having a formal job description, being interviewed with references taken up, and the completion of DBS checks. Other appointments do not usually warrant such a formal process.

Supporting volunteers: everyone who volunteers has a right to be able to discuss their roles with the relevant coordinator in order to agree expectations, receive support, be reasonably resourced, discuss training needs and, as far as practicable, have these met.

Safeguarding

Contributed by Jenny Wakefield, Parish Safeguarding Officer.

As a church we adhere to the Church of England Policy – Promoting a Safer Church:
<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2017-11/cofe-policy-statement.pdf>.

The April 2021 guidance documents can be found in the e-manual on the Church of England website: <https://www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding/safeguarding-e-manual/safer-recruitment-and-people-management-guidance>.

The Church of England Safeguarding Handbook continues to provide practical information; a copy of this is kept in the office, on the safeguarding noticeboard or can be found online at: <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-10/ParishSafeGuardingHandBookAugust2019Web.pdf>. Volunteers and those who lead teams within our church community need to be aware of the guidance with particular references to sections 11 and 12 which refer to how we conduct our activities and involvement in social media as safely as possible.

The aim of the Church's safeguarding policy is to encourage a safer culture within the church. We are *"called to share the good news of God's salvation through Jesus Christ. The life of our communities and institutions is integral to how we address this task. The good news speaks of welcome for all, with a particular regard for those who are most vulnerable, into a community where the value and dignity of every human being is affirmed and those in positions of responsibility and authority are truly trustworthy. Being faithful to our call to share the gospel therefore compels us to take with the utmost seriousness the challenge of preventing abuse from happening and responding well where it has"*; from Promoting a safer Church 2016.

The Parish Safeguarding Officer, working with the Vicar, Wardens and PCC, has a responsibility to:

- Carry out safer recruitment procedures
- Respond to any disclosures or concerns
- Work with the Diocesan Safeguarding Team on any matters connected with parish safeguarding
- Raise the profile of safeguarding in the parish and ensure PCC is kept up to date with developments
- Advise regarding training.

In November 2022 St. James took part in the National initiative of Safeguarding Sunday with a service aimed at helping the congregation understand more about keeping our church a safe place to be in.

Safer recruitment procedures are carried out for all appointments involving working with Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults, which all require DBS clearance.

For other voluntary posts there is a recruitment procedure in place operated by those in charge of different volunteers. There is a recommendation from the Church of England that anyone who acts as a volunteer should have safeguarding training, at least at basic awareness level (formerly C0) and for many roles working with children or vulnerable adults a higher level of training (Foundation or Leadership) is required. This training is available online but for people who are not comfortable with this technology the PSO will be offering to support their training with in-house sessions as agreed with the Diocesan Safeguarding Manager (DSM). Training should be renewed every three years and reminders have been sent out at the beginning of 2023 as a significant number of people will need to renew their training.

Safeguarding Training is obligatory for all clergy, PTO clergy and licensed readers, and this has been undertaken for those in these roles. The diocese has been working hard to increase the number of leadership courses available. The PCC members have all completed the Domestic Violence Awareness course, which is available online. Other key church officers are being encouraged to complete this too.

While many activities were in abeyance during the pandemic period, lessening the number of people requiring safer recruitment procedures, this has now changed. During the past year the Welcoming Team has been established and the Prayer Team has been reactivated. The safer recruitment process has been carried out for those involved. The PSO works closely with the Vicar,

PCC and with advice from the DSM with regard to ensuring the correct level of safer recruitment is carried out ensuring that Safeguarding is embedded in our church culture and we are aware of the universal responsibility.

Risks

Finance: the main risk to the operation of the church is financial support. Most funding comes from church members, supplemented by income from hiring the church hall and car park. The church is not in receipt of any regular funding from other sources, either from within the Church of England, or the government. Grants may be obtainable to cover partial costs of some projects, and legacies may occasionally be received, but such sources do not impact on routine planning.

The church's finances are thus vulnerable to:

- Fluctuations in income from hall hire;
- Church members moving away;
- Gradual changes from one generation to another of members' understanding of their financial responsibility;
- Unexpected large costs for repairing the church building;
- Increases in the Parish Share contribution to the diocese which can be well above inflation.

In 2020, one of these risks materialised, in that the majority of income from hall hire ceased. It then became apparent that some church members had drifted away while others decided to move churches, so stewardship income also decreased. Both membership and hall hire income have been recovering since then, but still have some way to go before regaining pre-pandemic levels.

The PCC keeps a proactive watch on these matters through reports from the Treasurer to alternate meetings of the council. An annual stewardship campaign, led by the Planned Giving Officer, aims to refresh church members' awareness of the principles of giving.

Communications: as the church grows in numbers, there is a risk of fragmentation due to the inability of all members to know every other member and what the various groups and teams are doing. Part of the PCC's strategy for growth is that the coordinators will facilitate communications within their respective functional areas.

Disaster Recovery Planning: The loss of the use of the church building is not considered to be a major risk. In 2001, the church moved its activities temporarily to the local church school, while the floor in the church building was replaced. It is considered that similar arrangements could be made again. The PCC does not consider that any disaster recovery plans need to be maintained for specific activities; the scale of operations is such that contingency plans are best drawn up in response to the nature of any issue that may occur.

Health & Safety: physical risks are managed through the church's *Health and Safety Policy*, which is reviewed annually by the PCC. The policy includes a schedule of risks using a checklist provided by the Ecclesiastical Insurance Company. The Schedule sets out the procedures for mitigating and managing each risk. Equipment safety checks (gas appliances, security alarms, lightning conductor, fire extinguishers and electrical PAT testing) are undertaken annually. A summary reminder is issued to all volunteers annually.

Trustees

The members of the Parochial Church Council are the trustees of the charity. PCC members who have served from 1st January 2022 until the date this report was approved were:

Vicar:	Rev Fabian Wuyts	Chairman	*	
Curate:	Rev David Wilkie		*	
Churchwardens:	Mr Nigel Bright		*	
	Mrs Joyce Kirk		*	
Deanery Synod:	Mr Richard Carpenter	Vice chairman	*	
	Ms Chris Rickard		*	
	Mr Martin Wakefield	Secretary	*	
Elected members:	Mr Martin Bluemel			
	Mr Roger Fenton			
	Mrs Marilyn Gibson			
	Miss Lizzie Haddell			(until May 2022)

	Mrs Lyn Jones		
	Mr David Jordan		
	Mrs Julie Kimber		(until July 2022)
	Mrs Sue Lucas		
	Mrs Sheila Marlow		
	Mr Richard Sainsbury	Treasurer	*
	Mrs Jenny Wakefield		
	Mrs Vashti Wuyts Smit		
Ex-officio	Mr Nic Tall	Diocesan Synod	

* Asterisks indicate members of the Standing Committee: the Church Officers plus one ordinary member of the PCC.

Appointment of trustees: The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church of England's *Church Representation Rules*. The number of elected members is 12, with a minimum of four places to come up for election each year.

Ex-officio members of the PCC are:

- Clergy licensed to the parish.
- Two churchwardens, separately elected annually.
- Three representatives of the parish to Deanery Synod, elected every three years.
- Any members of Diocesan Synod and General Synod who are members of the church.

Recruitment of trustees: all Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and consider standing for election to the PCC. Active recruitment may occur when one sector of the church appears to be under-represented on the PCC.

Training of trustees: new members are provided with a copy of the *PCC Standing Orders*, which sets out how the PCC works, and a copy of the booklet *Trusteeship – an introduction for PCC members*. They are encouraged to obtain a copy of *A Handbook for Churchwardens and Parochial Church Councillors* and to attend any training events run by the diocese. PCC members also receive safeguarding awareness training.

Custodian Trustees: The Diocese of Bath and Wells is the custodian trustee for property owned by the church, i.e. the church hall and associated buildings and land.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF SAINT JAMES TAUNTON

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2022, which incorporate the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet and the Notes to the Accounts, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and s.145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of accounts. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under s.145(5)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church Guidance, 2006 edition, issued by the Finance Division of the Archbishops' Council. That examination includes a review of the accounting records maintained by the Trustees and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

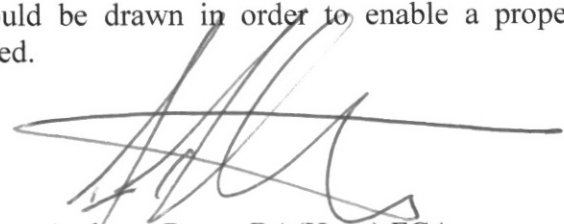
Independent examiner's statement

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

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act as also contained within the Regulations.

Have not been met; or

- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Anthony Porter BA(Hons) FCA
Amherst & Shapland
(Taunton and Wiveliscombe)
Chartered Accountants
141 Staplegrove Road
Taunton
Telephone: 01823 326555
19th May 2023

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2022 £	2021 £
INCOME				
Donations & Legacies	118,970	835	119,805	119,621
Income from church activities	24,271		24,271	15,714
Investment Income	2,255		2,255	161
TOTAL INCOME	<u>145,496</u>	<u>835</u>	<u>146,331</u>	<u>£135,496</u>
EXPENDITURE				
Church activities	161,535	356	161,891	£163,548
NET EXPENDITURE	<u>-16,039</u>	<u>479</u>	<u>-15,560</u>	<u>-28052</u>
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS	-46	46		
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1 JAN 2022	200,076	3,002	203,078	231,130
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 DEC 2022	<u><u>183,991</u></u>	<u><u>3,527</u></u>	<u><u>187,518</u></u>	<u><u>£203,078</u></u>

BALANCE SHEET
As at 31 December 2022

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2022 £	2021 £
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors	21,867		21,867	20,822
Short term deposits	158,347	3,527	161,874	179,832
Cash at bank & in hand	6,457		6,457	7,139
	<u>£186,671</u>	<u>£3,527</u>	<u>£190,198</u>	<u>£207,792</u>
LIABILITIES				
Creditors - amounts falling due within one year	-£2,679.22		-£2,679.22	-£4,715.00
	<u>£183,991</u>	<u>£3,527</u>	<u>£187,518</u>	<u>£203,077</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS				
LIABILITIES				
Amounts falling due in more than one year				
	<u>£183,991</u>	<u>£3,527</u>	<u>£187,518</u>	<u>£203,077</u>
NET ASSETS				
PARISH FUNDS:				
GeneralUnrestricted Funds	183,991		183,991	200,075
Capital				
TLG Make Lunch		802	802	277
Children & Families Worker		2,725	2,725	2,725
	<u>£183,991</u>	<u>£3,527</u>	<u>£187,518</u>	<u>£203,077</u>

Approved on behalf of the Parochial Church Council on
and signed by:

Rev. Fabian Wuyts

Mrs Joyce Kirk

17th April 2023

(Vicar)

(Churchwarden)

The notes on pages 2 to 6 form part of these Accounts.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

1. Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP (FRSSE) published on the 16th July 2014 and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include financial statements of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body or those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds

Unrestricted funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC.

Restricted funds represent donations or grants received for a specific object, or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not normally invest separately for each fund. Where there is no separate investment, interest is apportioned to individual funds on an average balance basis.

Income

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.

Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised only when received.

Income Tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is reasonably certain.

Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised when the rental is due.

No Contracts or Grants were received from Government or Local Authority during the year

No corporate donations were received and the highest individual donor was £4,800.

No income was received from outside the UK, nor were charitable activities delivered outside the UK.

Expenditure

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

During the year grants of £11,092 were given to other charities and £550 given to Church members.

Fixed assets**Consecrated property and moveable church furnishings**

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993.

No value is placed on movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and listed in the church's inventory which can be inspected at any reasonable time, 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 benefice buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the SOFA and separately disclosed in the year of expenditure if it exceeds £5,000.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight line basis over 4 years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £2,500 or less are written off when acquired.

2. Grants

The following grants of over £1,000 were made in the year:

Taunton Team Chaplaincy	£3,000	The Besom in Taunton	£2,400
Taunton Street Pastors	£1,200		
Taunton Area Debt Advice	£2,000		
Taunton Youth for Christ	£1,800		

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	
			2022	2021
Missionary Giving				
Church Overseas:				
- Missionary Societies	-500		-500	1000
- Relief and Development Agencies	140	130	270	3286
Home Missions	9200	24	9224	9226
Other	2000	98	2098	2000
	£10,840	£252	£11,092	£15,512

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Wages and salaries	£21,441	£16,292

During the year the PCC employed a musical director, a caretaker, and an administrator, plus an assistant administrator/IT support. None of the Trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from an employment with this charity. There are no employees who receive emoluments of more than £60,000

Payments totalling £5,013 were made to 10 PCC members during the year for the reimbursement of expenses. These expenses were for Admin, Repairs, Social, Evangelism and fees, plus Vicars, expenses and Fees. There are no further related party transactions in the year.

3(c). Independent examiner fees

These amounted to £60 for the year.

4. Debtors

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Income tax recoverable	£19,633	£19,411
Prepayments and accrued income	£2,233	£1,410
Other debtors		
	<u>£21,867</u>	<u>£20,822</u>

5. Creditors

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Deferred income	£1,300	£1,248
Accruals of utility and other costs	£1,379	£3,894
Other creditors		
	<u>£2,679</u>	<u>£5,142</u>

6. Major Expenditure

There were no major items of expenditure during 2022

7. Capital Commitments

Replacement of Lighting in Church £6,500
 Replacement of Electrical distribution board £5,000

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

8. INCOME

	General Fund			Total Funds			2021
	Unrestricted	Restricted Miss, CF & TLG	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations & Legacies							
Stewardship	94,438		94,438	94,438		94,438	86,433
Appeals							
Income tax recoverable	19,633		19,633	19,633		19,633	19,396
Collections	59		59	59		59	96
Grants	2,025	579	2,604	2,025	579	2,604	100
Legacies							12,000
Donations	2,814	256	3,070	2,814	256	3,070	1,596
	<u>£118,970</u>	<u>£835</u>	<u>£119,805</u>	<u>£118,970</u>	<u>£835</u>	<u>£119,805</u>	<u>£119,621</u>
 Income from church activities							
Church & hall lettings	19,409		19,409	19,409	-	19,409	10,867
Car park charges	3,558		3,558	3,558	-	3,558	3,653
Fees	1,305		1,305	1,305	-	1,305	1,195
	<u>£24,271</u>		<u>£24,271</u>	<u>£24,271</u>		<u>£24,271</u>	<u>£15,715</u>
 Investment Income							
Interest	2,255		2,255	2,255	-	2,255	161
	<u>2254.97</u>		<u>2254.97</u>	<u>2254.97</u>		<u>2254.97</u>	<u>161</u>
 TOTAL INCOME	<u>£145,496</u>	<u>£835</u>	<u>£146,331</u>	<u>£145,496</u>	<u>£835</u>	<u>£146,331</u>	<u>£135,497</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

9. EXPENDITURE

	General Fund			Total Funds			2021
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	Miss, CF & TLG £	£	£	£	£	£
Church activities							
Missionary giving	10,841	252	11,092	10,841	252	11,092	17,337
Charitable giving	1,177		1,177	1,177	-	1,177	595
Diocesan Parish Share	95,759		95,759	95,759	-	95,759	95,759
Clergy expenses	935		935	935	-	935	567
Wages & honoraria	21,441		21,441	21,441	-	21,441	16,292
Heating	3,367		3,367	3,367	-	3,367	3,273
Lighting	2,645		2,645	2,645	-	2,645	1,945
Insurance	3,555		3,555	3,555	-	3,555	3,369
Water rates	133		133	133	-	133	99
Cleaning materials	1,163		1,163	1,163	-	1,163	881
Wine	77		77	77	-	77	-
Flowers	465		465	465	-	465	350
Music & hymn books	1,111		1,111	1,111	-	1,111	1,021
Maintenance & repairs	9,931	-	9,931	9,931	-	9,931	7,936
Children & youth work	654		654	654	-	654	577
Social functions	58		58	58	-	58	98
Evangelism	1,600		1,600	1,600	-	1,600	1,311
Church weekend	-		-	-	-	-	-
Training	71		71	71	-	71	
Office expenses	4,838		4,838	4,838	-	4,838	6,777
Telephone	1,477	-	1,477	1,477	-	1,477	1,194
TLG for Lunch	240	104	344	240	104	344	4,468
Traidcraft	-		-	-	-	-	301
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	£161,535	£356	£161,891	£161,535	£356	£161,891	£163,548

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

10. Fund Summary

	General Fund			Total Funds			2021
	Unrestricted	Restricted Miss, CF & TLG	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
TOTAL INCOME	145,496	835	146,331	145,496	835	146,331	135,496
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	161,535	356	161,891	161,535	356	161,891	163,548
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES	<u>-£16,039</u>	<u>£479</u>	<u>-£15,560</u>	<u>-£16,039</u>	<u>£479</u>	<u>-£15,560</u>	<u>-£28,051</u>
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	- 16,039	479	- 15,560	- 16,039	479	- 15,560	- 28,051
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1 JAN 2022	200,076	3,002	203,078	200,076	3,002	203,078	231,130
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 DEC 2022	<u>£184,037</u>	<u>£3,481</u>	<u>£187,518</u>	<u>£184,037</u>	<u>£3,481</u>	<u>£187,518</u>	<u>£203,079</u>
REPRESENTED BY:							
Assets							
Debtors	21,867		21,867	21,867		21,867	20,822
Short term deposits	158,347	3,527	161,874	158,347	3,527	161,874	179,832
Cash at bank & in hand	6,457		6,457	6,457	-	6,457	7,139
	<u>£186,671</u>	<u>£3,527</u>	<u>£190,198</u>	<u>£186,671</u>	<u>£3,527</u>	<u>£190,198</u>	<u>£207,792</u>
Creditors							
Creditors & accrued expenses	2,679		2,679	2,679	-	2,679	4,715
	<u>2679.22</u>		<u>2679.22</u>	<u>2679.22</u>		<u>2679.22</u>	<u>4715</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>£183,991</u>	<u>£3,527</u>	<u>£187,518</u>	<u>£183,991</u>	<u>£3,527</u>	<u>£187,518</u>	<u>£203,077</u>

Accounts



Annual Report for 2021

Encountering God
Growing as Followers of Jesus
Participating in the Life of His Spirit

Prepared by the PCC and the Coordinators

Fabian Wuyts

Vicar

11 April 2022

Registered Charity No: 1130757.

Full name of the charity: The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. James, Taunton.

Short names: St James Church PCC; St James Church Taunton.

Address: St James Church Office, St James Street, Taunton, TA1 1JS.

This report covers calendar year 2021 and has been written to meet the requirements of the Charity Commission's Statement of Recommended Practices (SORP FRS102).

Foreword by the Vicar

Does your pair of shoes fit?

I recently read that when we try to force our own agenda or strive to do what we want to do, there is a sense of spiritual discomfort. Joyce Meyer uses the analogy of the discomfort that comes from wearing a pair of shoes that don't fit. Throughout Scriptures we see how God promises to guide those willing to listen and obey. In other words, He will make sure you end up with shoes (a purposeful life) that fit.

Jesus said: "my sheep listen to my voice; I know them and they follow me." (John 10.27)

The series "Fit for purpose" aimed at providing us with the tools to know how our life can bring about the purposes of God. God has and will continue to shape us in a unique way with skills, experiences, spiritual gifts, personalities and dreams. He will continue to instruct, guide, teach and confide to those willing to listen and yield to his guidance and teaching. It is a great encouragement to know that we do not need to be perfect in order to hear God's guidance, but we do need an attitude of humility. Another great assurance is that God can do immeasurably more than we can think or imagine with our small and simple obedience. This is what I was reminded of with the story of Hattie May Wiatt, a six-year-old girl who lived near Grace Baptist Church in Philadelphia, USA. She told her minister that the Sunday school was so crowded that she was afraid to go there alone. The minister then replied that when they would get the money they would construct a church building large enough to get all the children in. Two years later, in 1886, Hattie May died. After the funeral Hattie's mother gave the minister a little bag they had found under their daughter's pillow containing 57 cent in change that she had saved up. Alongside it was a note in her handwriting: "to help build bigger so that more children can go to Sunday school." The minister changed all the money into pennies and offered each one for sale. He received \$250 and 54 of the cents were given back. The \$250 was itself changed into pennies and sold by the newly formed "Wiatt Mite Society." In this way, her 57 cents kept on multiplying. Twenty-six years later, the minister explained the results of her 57-cent donation: a church with a membership of over 5,600 people, a hospital where tens of thousands of people had been treated, 80,000 young people going through university, 2,000 people going out to preach the gospel – all this happened because Hattie May Wiatt invested her 57 cents (story used in Bible in One Year, HTB).

Eugene Peterson once said "God cannot fit into our plans, we must fit into his. Holy is the word that sets God apart and above . . . Holy means that God is alive on God's terms, alive in a way that exceeds our experience and imagination. Holy refers to life burning with an intense purity that transforms everything it touches into itself." God does not require our business, but our faithfulness. We all have something to contribute to God's kingdom and when we walk with "shoes fit for us," we will experience God's fruitfulness and life.

Lord open my eyes to the danger of business in my life and teach me the blessings that comes with simple obedience and faithfulness to your guidance. I want to be found with shoes that fit me.

Prayer for Growth

Heavenly Father, increase in number your Church at St James as you deepen us as followers and learners of Christ.

Help us to show uninhibited reliance on your grace and power as we seek renewal of our lives, our church, our community and our world.

Give us courage, imagination and generosity in order that your kingdom may come and your abundant life be known by all.

We make this prayer in the name and to the glory of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Rev Fabian Wuyts

Introduction

St James Church, Taunton, is a parish church within the Diocese of Bath and Wells in the Church of England. Its parish includes the Roughmoor, North Town, Priory and Firepool areas of Taunton. The church's membership is drawn partly from within the parish, partly from across the rest of the town, and from nearby villages. Its services and activities are open to all, and the church works with other churches and local inter-church organisations in proclaiming and applying the good news of Jesus Christ.

Attendance at services, surveyed during October 2019, was 202, this being the "number attending at least once during the period", excluding visitors. There were also 46 people under 18 attending at least once. Equivalent figures are not available for 2020 due to the COVID-19 restrictions. The count for October 2021 registered 111 adults and 15 children, in a period where many were still isolating due to the continuing pandemic.

At the 2021 Annual Meeting, there were 180 people on the Church Electoral Roll.

Objectives

The governing document is The Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956. In common with other Anglican (Church of England) churches, this gives the objects of the church as to:

Promote in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The PCC's registration with the Charity Commission (using headings provided by Church of England Guidance at the time of initial registration) expands the statement of objects as covering:

- *Regular public worship open to all.*
- *The provision of sacred space for personal prayer and contemplation.*
- *Pastoral work, including visiting the sick and the bereaved.*
- *Teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups*
- *Taking of religious assemblies in schools.*
- *The provision of a youth club with a Christian ethos.*
- *Promotion of Christianity through the staging of events and meetings, and the distribution of literature.*
- *Promoting the whole mission of the Church through provision of activities for senior citizens, parents and toddlers and other special need groups.*
- *Supporting other charities in the UK and overseas.*

Public Benefit

The PCC has noted the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit, including publication PB4 *The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit*.

Worship services are all open to the public. The church building is open as many days as possible for private prayer, and is available for weddings and funerals of parishioners as required. Baptisms of parishioners are normally conducted during Sunday morning services. The church building is also used for concerts and by some other groups, such as the NHS Blood Donor service.

Pastoral support is available to anyone who requests it. Church members also receive support through home groups.

The church runs a parent and toddler group an after-school club (both of these currently still in abeyance), a school mentoring scheme and Make Lunch scheme and a parenting support group (Family Links Nurturing Programme). It also supports local Christian organisations including Street Pastors, Taunton Team Chaplaincy, Besom, Open Door and Taunton Area Debt Advice.

A church does not exist in isolation, but is part of one world-wide church of all denominations. St James supports the work of WEC (church planting), TEAR Fund and Samaritans Purse (emergency and relief work), and Barnabas Fund (support for the persecuted church worldwide).

The PCC also has maintenance responsibilities for St James' Church building (Grade 2* listed) and the church halls. The halls are available for hire by community groups.

From March 2020, the in-person activities had to be suspended, but support of individuals continued through a network of telephone and social media conversations, and worship services

continued online. This situation continued through to the end of 2021, with some activities resuming over the summer until having to be closed again.

Operating

The vicar and the churchwardens manage the day-to-day business of the church, assisted by a Church Administrator. In particular, the church administrator handles bookings for the church halls and supervises the work of the caretaker. All financial matters are handled by the Treasurer, assisted by the Planned Giving and Payroll Officer.

Various church members manage other church activities on a day-to-day basis, and there are rotas and teams in place to manage all activities which occur on a regular weekly or monthly basis.

The vicar and PCC have appointed coordinators to whom authority has been delegated to manage certain aspects of church life: Worship, Pastoral Care, Discipleship, Children & Young People's work, Outreach, Administration, and Facilities (premises and technical). The aim is to avoid overloading the vicar with too many decisions in a church which is steadily growing, and also to free his time so he can focus on where he can be most effective. This delegated leadership arrangement has continued with our new vicar. At the end of the year, the Outreach Coordinator post was vacant.

The PCC meets monthly, except in May (Annual Church Meeting) and August (summer holidays). It approves all major non-recurring financial expenditure and decides proposals to undertake any major new activity. The agenda includes a strategic overview of the church's activities. In 2021, the meetings from January to July were held on Zoom videoconferencing, with in-person meetings resuming in September.

The Standing Committee is empowered by law to conduct PCC business in between meetings of the council. Its members are the church officers plus one ordinary member of the PCC. In practice, the Standing Committee operates primarily through email discussions.

Various provisions decided by legislation (enacted by General Synod) or decisions made by Diocesan Synod govern, for example, the type of formal public worship services that can be provided but allow a church to develop its own style. The appointment of clergy and readers is managed by the diocese, in consultation with the parish. Payment of clergy is carried out via the diocesan Common Fund, which scheme decouples clergy pay from a parish's financial circumstances. Maintenance work and alteration of the church building is overseen by a Diocesan Advisory Committee, through faculties granted by the diocesan chancellor; this process is in lieu of civil planning procedures. The parish is required to appoint an architect approved by the diocese to advise on and specify all works required.

Activities

Worship

Contributed by Richard Lucas, Worship Coordinator.

The worship in the Church that takes place within the services is coordinated by the worship coordinator alongside the Vicar and the Musical Director. There are a range of people within the Church who contribute to, lead and preach within the services. The Worship leader and the Musical Director select the worship songs and the Vicar plans the themes and organises rotas for leading and officiating. The worship coordinator plans the singing and rotas for singing in church. There are meetings when required with the Vicar and Curate to look at the praise and worship within the morning service.

Over the past year the pattern of worship moved from an online recorded service at 10.30, with a pre-recorded evening service, to socially distanced covid-secure in-person and streamed version to the current model - a service at 10.30 which is streamed. The church is set out to creatively allow for a covid regulations with chairs set apart and separate areas for families and those who wish or need to be masked.

There is currently no evening service. Over lockdown, a team grew within evening services. It had been a joy to see people flourish and have their gifts used and expanded despite the difficult and different circumstances. Evening Connect services ended last August when as a church we moved back to all

services being in church and with one 10.30 service. The evening service which ran till August was given the title Connect@7 after discussion and prayer with the Vicar, curate and team, with a link to what we are as church and what our vision is saying to us. The aim was to be different, though not for its own sake and to reach out to those who are not (maybe yet) within the church or in possession of a faith but are connected to us.

With the church delivering services in lockdown we had to look at different formats and styles. As a church we had to get used to worshipping from home and without personal interaction and face to face greeting. The lesson we took from this was that we will not be returning to the church as it was but to a church as it will be. Some will have seen the content and look to attend others will find the return difficult and the fear of Covid will linger in the way that we interact. This has resulted in fewer musicians and singers which has increased the commitment of those who are prepared to take part.

Alongside Morning Worship there is young people and children's worship in the hall led by David and Vashti with a team and this is exceedingly well planned with a team to support and it has received excellent feedback and is engaging with the children and families. They start in the church building then move to the hall, returning at the end of the service. There is a crèche area for younger children every week, which continues to be well used.

There is a team of volunteers involved in each morning service and a wide range of people contribute to a service with a welcome team, refreshments, technical set up and flowers. A great deal of preparation goes into the planning and the setting up for each week, with a small and hardworking team on the sound and technical side who now have the added task of ensuring that the live stream is set up and operated with the added pressures that that brings. However thanks to these efforts the service leaves the building and goes to those who are unable to attend. A small number of DVDs are produced for those at home without internet. The past years have also shown that through an online presence the church can reach well beyond the walls of the building and engage with a wide It is appreciated there may be gaps that need to be filled as we return to enable the smooth set up and organising of services with the wide range of activities and equipment needed whatever church will look like on a Sunday as we move into a new and exciting pattern of worship and being church.

The music team comprises instrumentalists and singers with the Music Director providing settings to match the available skills. New music is introduced on a regular basis in collaboration with the Musical Director, Worship Coordinator, and the Vicar. The style is based around the leading of corporate worship with a contemporary feel and with a range of songs and instrumentation that complement this. This has taken on a new form in the world of the pandemic. The Musical Director works with a team of singers, instrumentalists, and technicians with practice sessions each month across the whole team. Worship is corporate, it is not just the people who are seen at the front each week.

Lockdown prompted Morning Prayer to be taken online on Monday to Thursday using a combination of Zoom and Facebook; it now continues on Mondays and Wednesdays. The monthly Church Prayer meeting had also moved online, but is now held in-person each Friday at 5pm in Church. Other services, such as the monthly communion service for the Alzheimer's group, will also move from online back to in-person.

As in previous years we will continue to consider how we reach out to those outside the church and those without a church background and endeavour to make worship accessible and relevant within a changing landscape.

Finally, I would like it noted that there is a great commitment required both online and face to face and in ensuring that the technical side functions and

my thanks go to all those who give their time to this ministry in particular during the past two years.

Pastoral Care *Contributed by Annie Reid, Pastoral Coordinator.*

Pastoral care

Whilst it is encouraging to see so many members of the congregation able and willing to come to church, there are still others who are nervous about attending live services; it seems likely that telephone support will remain a permanent feature of the pastoral care role for some time yet.

Over the past year, we have lost a couple of members of the pastoral care team so there are opportunities for new people to come forward to help.

Email

The email prayer chain continues to operate and is still supported by our good friend Jill Winstanley - albeit remotely from Nottingham!

The flower Rota

The flower group are back in action providing lovely floral decorations in church on a weekly basis - thanks to all the members of this group for their contributions.

Thursday Fellowship

This gathering restarted in February 2022 with an enthusiastic audience of about 30 individuals who were privileged to hear an excellent talk by Andy Rowden. Meetings will now resume monthly as before.

Welcoming

A new team has been formed to welcome newcomers to church services and will be starting work in early March.

Discipleship *Contributed by Roger Fenton, Discipleship Coordinator.*

I finished my report last year with a comment that it was expected that Government Covid restrictions would be lifted in the summer (of 2021). Well lifted they were, but in part only, although they did not permit churches to gather properly, so most of the difficulties of offering or assessing discipleship ministry remained. And today as I write, some church members remain sensibly cautious about returning to open gatherings and so, as per last year's report, the information contains an element of 'circumstantial evidence'.

As 2021 ended some home groups were beginning to physically meet together but keeping within regulations, but for most groups their meetings continued via Zoom, and some groups remained unable to meet at all. Home Group Leaders maintained contact and support of their members by phone calls and an occasional meeting with individuals 'in the open air'. Such contact proved invaluable to many. Study notes continued to be available every week, be that for group sharing or individual reflection. Until groups are physically meeting together again it is difficult to assess what impact Covid has had upon membership numbers. I believe we should expect an overall reduction.

One Alpha course was delivered in the Spring of 2021 'on-line', which I am confident achieved the prime objective of growing the faith of all participants and therefore the Kingdom, but other churches have received the membership benefit. I wish to thank the church members who helped and supported the running of Alpha. Alpha will continue to be offered in 2022.

I look forward to 2022 when I expect to be in a position to write a more detailed report.

Children's church

We were able to restart the children's church on the 26th of September 2021 and I am really proud of what we have achieved! There has been consistent leadership with a pair of volunteers taking it in turns every other week and each individual taking it in turns to lead the week. The creative collaborative working through Dropbox has produced so many amazing sessions that the children really love. Attendance has varied, hitting the highs of 16 to the lows of three but there are on average a higher number around 12-14. Children want to keep coming back and we have formed a lovely atmosphere that includes healthy snacks, a story, a time of worship/prayer and some wonderful crafts and games. The numbers have dipped in the past month and this is a concern. We are considering how to advertise the children's church to St James School either through assemblies or using their website. There has been some interest throughout the year to restart a toddlers group, but due to the lack of someone to take the lead on this, we have not been able to do so.

Youth

It is with sadness that the weekly youth group stopped their weekly meeting after September 2021. There was a consistent group of around 6-8 young people who attended every Sunday evening at Fabian's house and we worked through Urban Saints sessions and had some fun socials. It came to an end due to a lack of volunteers and time as it was led by David and Fabian every week. With the effort shifting to other challenges, such as children's church, something had to give and sadly it was this group. The hope was that the young people might be disciplined through the running of the children's church and there is a consistent pool of 3-4 young people who do help but the others have not wanted to attend. There is no Sunday youth provision for them but they are a very welcome and helpful part of the children's church. It would be wonderful to be able to give them a space on a Sunday for discussion and input, especially those who have now been put off from attending church as there is nothing targeted for their age group. Again this requires volunteers to lead this.

School Assemblies

Every Wednesday afternoon Fabian and David have run a virtual assembly for the whole of St James School. We really enjoy leading the children in songs using our guitar, telling stories and interacting with around 100 children at once through a screen. This is both a challenge and a delight! North Town School invited David to give the harvest assembly in 2021 and it was well-received with another few being booked in November. Unfortunately, covid put a stop to this as the school had to reintroduce year group bubbles. Now that it has opened up again it is hoped that another invitation might come our way.

Other events

Despite restrictions, we were able to host many school events such as North Town's leavers' service and St James Nativity and Christingle. The reception class at St James School had a fun morning being introduced to the church and North Town's reception class are also visiting in March. There were a number of family events held, such as a church picnic at French Weir Park and the churchyard. The Easter trail seemed to be well attended by the community over the fortnight it was open with many names being written on stones. All-age services such as the Christingle and the crib service were especially well attended by pupils from St James School.

Transforming Lives for Good (TLG)

Contributed by the TLG teams.

TLG is an organisation that supports churches working with struggling children, through local schools. We participate in two programmes:

TLG Make Lunch enables and equips churches to bring hope to struggling children through holiday lunch clubs. This is normally done by making free hot meals, but this has not been practicable during the Covid pandemic. Instead, we have been delivering food boxes for families identified by several local schools, including our church school. The boxes themselves are provided by Taunton Food Bank, and we supplement them with “recipe bags” containing the ingredients and a recipe for making a family meal, and also activity bags for the children. We are planning to begin making hot meals using the facilities of our church kitchen, in the Easter holidays in 2022.

TLG Early Intervention provides one-to-one mentoring for children who are struggling in some way or other. A team from the church is working with four children identified by our church school, for one hour each week, with activities and chat tailored to the child’s needs. During the Covid pandemic, some sessions were held online.

Outreach

Contributed by Jenny Wakefield, Mission Review Group

Our core approach to outreach: **Scattered Lives.**

We have continued to encourage each church member to share the gospel in their everyday lives, using the “Life on the Frontline” and “Living the Story Telling the story” approach to share the life changing message of Jesus.

Activities happening and restarting

- Church members have continued to volunteer in a host of different community organisations activities including stacking shelves, delivering supplies and working at vaccination centres.
- The Eco group have continued to advocate for a positive response to our responsibilities in God’s Created world
- St. James Players were not able to produce any live entertainment or fund raising but produced the fourth online performance “Postcard from Bethlehem” in January, and for Easter prepared a radio version of their 2018 PassionEaster play, which was broadcast on Tone FM. Preparation began for a live “Murder Mystery” event in 2022.
- The Art Group recommenced on Zoom initially with about but have been meeting together weekly in the hall since mid 2021.

It has remained a largely “uneventful” year with regard to one-off events and celebrations as we seek God’s guidance as to how to connect with our community and demonstrate God’s purpose.

Communications

How we communicate is an essential part of our outreach. New ways of communicating are being experimented with as we get to grips with the medium of social media and its possibilities

Facebook and website are now increasingly becoming our front window and while many are still grappling with how to use it, it has been an important tool in helping us worship, communicate, encourage and keep in touch.

The Church Suite database has enabled us to send out the weekly bulletin, vicar’s letter, etc, by email.

The Parish Magazine continues to be produced quarterly thanks to Chris Doyle and is produced in an online format with printed copies available from the office.

Local and International Mission

It continued to be a great privilege during the early part of 2021 to interview representatives of the local and international organisations that we have a link with on zoom and to find out what they are doing despite the pandemic. These interviews continue to be on YouTube and the Church Mission pages. None of our mission partners were static and if anything their need for support is as great as it ever was.

As a church we have links with the following and in almost all we have church members volunteering:

- Street Pastors (ministry to young people visiting the town's night clubs and local community areas during the day time) and School Pastors.
- Taunton Team Chaplaincy: Chaplaincy team members and Rail Responders have gradually restarted their activities and the plans for a Court Chaplaincy in 2022 are well advanced.
- Besom: Also have restarted their activities over the year and were very busy with referrals from keyworkers for furniture and crisis food packs.
- Open Door have reopened during the year and recommenced their work with the homeless.
- Taunton Youth for Christ have continued to work with schools and detached youth where possible and their work with young people has developed a greater urgency.
- Taunton Area Debt Advice have been preparing to help people as the issues of debt emerge from the Covid period as protection is removed
- Home for Good is an agency that encourages churches to support the work of adoption and fostering.
- TLG – as mentioned above
- Watch – local mental health organisation for peer group support

The church continues to support the following overseas missions, financially and in prayer:

- David and Margie Whitehorn, the leaders for WEC's church planting work in Africa; they have made one visit to Africa in addition to supporting churches online
- TEAR Fund (emergency and relief work).
- Traidcraft, Freda continued to process orders for their products but this will now be in abeyance as she has moved away.
- Samaritans Purse (international relief organization); and
- Barnabas Fund (which supports the persecuted church worldwide).

All these organisations have been profoundly affected by the global nature of the crisis.

The mission review group has met once during the pandemic. There is no change in the above list of organisations supported.

Facilities

Contributed by Martin Wakefield, Facilities Coordinator.

The year for the premises team was dominated by a seemingly never-ending series of equipment breakdowns and other repairs, accounting for 26 of the 43 items on the completed jobs list. These included both main heating boilers, all four water heaters serving sinks, both drinks water boilers, the office security alarm controller, two light fittings, a fridge, the microwave, the Perspex in the outside noticeboard (twice), two leaks caused by cracks in roof leadwork, a video monitor, the lower section of one of the main church doors, the usual crop of broken slates and other minor repairs, and ending with the emergency replacement by Western Power of the main electrical fuse.

Some improvements were completed, including a new top for the serving counter in the church, additional storage units for the creche and the installation of two removable bollards in the pedestrian entrance to the car

park. Progress with the office refurbishment project was limited (due to the lack of available effort) to the gas fire being removed and reinstalled in the lounge.

The full report from the 2020 Quinquennial Inspection was received, this having been delayed by the furloughing of staff at the architect's practice during the pandemic. Two minor remedial items have been addressed, and another six are being fed into the works programme. The main item outstanding from the 2019 electrical EICR, the replacement of the 1975-vintage electrical distribution boards in the church, has not been progressed, again due to the lack of available effort. Improvements to signage have been made following the routine review of the Fire Risk Assessment, and attention is being given to extending the test schedule for emergency lights to include smoke and CO detectors.

Another productive 'drains and gutters working party' was held, proving the viability of dedicated sessions for this type of work. A 'painting and decorating working party' was established and a review of the premises conducted; the team will begin work in 2022. The gardening team continues to do sterling work, including the enhancement of the conservation area in the churchyard.

The technical team has had its work cut out over the year staffing the resumed Sunday morning services with a reduced number of team members. At the same time it has trialled methods of supporting the audio feed for the livestreaming of this service (which is different from the requirement for in-building sound reinforcement). The weekly production of DVDs for church members without internet has continued, covering both the livestreamed service and one of the midweek Zoom morning prayer sessions. Meanwhile, much thought has gone into the future reconfiguration of the video system to better support livestreaming, beginning with the imminent transfer of the camera operation from the ministry team.

Some background work has also continued on the church website, firstly to enable the old website to be taken out of use, and then in preparation for rationalising the church's two domain names.

Administration Administrative matters are covered in various places elsewhere in this report, so a separate report has not been prepared.

Our Administrator is Rachel Knowlman, who took over mid-year.

Financial Review

Contributed by Richard Sainsbury, Treasurer

The majority of the PCC's income is from direct giving by church members (including tax reclaimed under Gift Aid), with a smaller proportion deriving from hire of premises. No funds are raised from the general public.

2021 Significant events. The Covid-19 Pandemic continued to have an effect on 2021's finances, though Stewardship giving remained strong throughout the year. Over 90% of donors continued to support the ministry faithfully during 2021. Despite a gradual return of hirers in 2021, hall hirings were still less than 50% of the income from pre-pandemic times.

Income from stewardship and collections were down in 2021 compared with 2020. Expenditure, other than expenditure on maintenance and repairs and extra activities, was slightly down compared to 2020.

The General Fund ended the year with a balance of £203,078, of which £3,002 were restricted funds. This was £28,052 less than at the end of 2020, despite receiving a legacy of £12,000 during 2021. Of this amount £4,229 was from the restricted fund for TLG Make Lunch.

There were no major repair expenses during 2021.

Investment Policy: it is our strategy to invest our funds balances in the Church of England's Central Board of Finance deposit funds.

No funds are held as custodian trustee on behalf of others.

Reserves policy: within the General Fund, the PCC has designated the following reserve funds:

Projects Fund – for capital projects being planned by the church and as a place to hold legacies when first received. There is no set level for this fund, monies being assigned to it as needs arise and funding allows. Although designated for projects, this fund will need to be used for day to day running expenses should a further shortfall arise.

Fabric Fund – for major fabric repairs that will occur from time to time but cannot be met out of annual income (for example, gas boiler replacement, re-roofing, repairs to stonework). The intention is to maintain this fund at £30,000, but that level will fluctuate according to demand.

Opportunity Fund – for short-notice opportunities that may arise, for example a piece of land adjoining the church being put on the market, leaving no time to raise the required funds for a deposit through an appeal. The intention is to maintain this fund at £20,000. However, the continuing deficit situation has rendered the fund unsustainable, so it has been reduced to zero to take up the bulk of the 2021 shortfall.

Risks Fund - for maintaining essential church activities for a period of up to around one year should there be a loss of income for any reason. This fund is set at 10% of Stewardship giving (and Gift-aid), which allows, for example, for members moving away; plus 30% of non-giving income (i.e. hall hire and car park charges, over which church members do not have control).

The Reserves Policy is reviewed annually.

At the end of 2021, the designated reserve funds stood as follows:

Projects Fund:	£157,782 (£166,399 at the end of 2020.)
Fabric Fund:	£30,000
Opportunity Fund:	£0 (£20,000 at the end of 2020)
Risks Fund:	£15,296 (10% of giving = £10,582, plus 30% of other income = £4,714)
Total:	£203,078

The total exceeds the £85,680 needed to cover the recommended accounting practice of holding in reserve 6 months' budgeted expenditure.

The £157,782 held at the end of the year in the designated Projects Fund was not assigned to specific projects. The church maintains a Capital Expenditure Plan detailing future projects which may in due course draw on this Fund. The PCC has decided that some of the funds can be used to pay for the proposed Children and Families Worker, but the exact amount has not been determined, pending a further appeal. Unlike previous years there is no surplus on the General Fund (after allowing for designated reserves and restricted funds) Each year, the PCC considers how to spend or designate any surplus assets.

Grant-making policy: the PCC has a policy of donating a minimum of 10% of stewardship giving (including cash collections and income tax recovered) to other Christian organisations. This is because an individual church such as St James is part of the one worldwide Christian church, with different parts of the church undertaking different responsibilities, and also being dependent on each other. Local organisations supported have aims which overlap with those of St James church. Organisations outside the local area are largely ones with which the church has had a relationship for some time. From time to time, the PCC also supports church members undergoing Christian training, and undertaking full-time work with Christian organisations.

Staff and Volunteer Support

Approximately three full-time equivalent posts are paid. One of these is the vicar, and another is made up of two part time posts: the Church Administrator and the Caretaker. A curate joined the church mid-year; this is a training post, funded by the diocese.

The majority of effort spent on preparing for and running church activities comes from volunteers. It is difficult to gauge the total effort put in by voluntary workers, but (in a normal year) a conservative estimate would be more than 12 full-time equivalent posts, probably more. In total, around 130 members carry out various roles within the church on a voluntary basis.

The contributions of all volunteers are much appreciated and are essential for the running of services, children's and other groups, maintenance, pastoral care and every other aspect of church life. In particular, the churchwardens, treasurer, and Music Director all carry heavy loads.

Appointment of volunteers: where a post involves working with children or vulnerable adults, appointments are made using the Safer Recruitment process set out in the Church of England's safeguarding guidance. This includes having a formal job description, being interviewed with references taken up, and the completion of DBS checks. Other appointments do not usually warrant such a formal process.

Supporting volunteers: everyone who volunteers has a right to be able to discuss their roles with the relevant coordinator in order to agree expectations, receive support, be reasonably resourced, discuss training needs and, as far as practicable, have these met.

Safeguarding

Contributed by Jenny Wakefield, Parish Safeguarding Officer.

As a church we adhere to the Church of England Policy – *Promoting a Safer Church*:
<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2017-11/cofe-policy-statement.pdf>

New guidance documents were produced in April 2021 and details of these can be found in the e-manual on the Church of England website:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding/safeguarding-e-manual/safer-recruitment-and-people-management-guidance>

The Church of England Safeguarding Handbook continues to provide practical information; a copy of this is kept in the office, on the safeguarding noticeboard or can be found on line at:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-10/ParishSafeGuardingHandBookAugust2019Web.pdf>

The aim of the Church's safeguarding policy is to encourage a safer culture within the church. We are *"called to share the good news of God's salvation through Jesus Christ. The life of our communities and institutions is integral to how we address this task. The good news speaks of **welcome for all**, with a particular regard for those who are most vulnerable, into a community where the value and dignity of every human being is affirmed and those in positions of responsibility and authority are truly trustworthy. Being faithful to our call to share the gospel therefore compels us to take with the utmost seriousness the challenge of preventing abuse from happening and responding well where it has"* From Promoting a safer Church 2016

Parish Safeguarding Officer working with the Vicar, Wardens and PCC has a responsibility to:

- Carry out safer recruitment procedures
- Respond to any disclosures or concerns
- Work with the Diocesan Safeguarding Team on any matters connected with parish safeguarding
- Raise the profile of safeguarding in the parish and ensure PCC is kept up to date with developments
- Advise regarding training.

Safer recruitment procedures are carried out for all appointments involving working with Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults, which all require DBS clearance.

For other voluntary posts there is a recruitment procedure in place operated by those in charge of different volunteers. There is a recommendation from the Church of England that anyone who acts as a volunteer should have safeguarding training, at least at basic awareness level (formerly C0) and for many roles working with children or vulnerable adults a higher level of training (Foundation or Leadership) is required.

Safeguarding Training is obligatory for all clergy, PTO clergy and licensed readers, and this has been undertaken for those in these roles. There has been a backlog in leadership training for other volunteers, partly due to the lack of availability of courses for non-clergy volunteers. However online training is now available for a number of courses, including Safeguarding Awareness, Foundation and Domestic Violence Awareness.

While many activities have been in abeyance during the pandemic period there has been a lessened number of people requiring safer recruitment procedures. With the commencement of new activities and projects this will change, and we need to ensure that we are maintaining the requirements laid down in the guidance and extending the understanding that Safeguarding is embedded in our church culture and we are aware of the universal responsibility.

Risks

Finance: the main risk to the operation of the church is financial support. Most funding comes from church members, supplemented by income from hiring the church hall and car park. The church is not in receipt of any regular funding from other sources, either from within the Church of England, or the government. Grants may be obtainable to cover partial costs of some projects, and legacies may occasionally be received, but such sources do not impact on routine planning.

The church's finances are thus vulnerable to:

- Fluctuations in income from hall hire;
- Church members moving away;
- Gradual changes from one generation to another of members' understanding of their financial responsibility;
- Unexpected large costs for repairing the church building;
- Increases in the Parish Share contribution to the diocese which can be well above inflation.

In 2020, one of these risks materialised, in that the majority of income from hall hire ceased.

The PCC keeps a proactive watch on these matters through reports from the Treasurer to alternate meetings of the council. An annual stewardship campaign, led by the Planned Giving Officer, aims to refresh church members' awareness of the principles of giving.

Communications: as the church grows in numbers, there is a risk of fragmentation due to the inability of all members to know every other member and what the various groups and teams are doing. Part of the PCC's strategy for growth is that the coordinators will facilitate communications within their respective functional areas.

Disaster Recovery Planning: The loss of the use of the church building is not considered to be a major risk. In 2001, the church moved its activities temporarily to the local church school, while the floor in the church building was replaced. It is considered that similar arrangements could be made again. The PCC does not consider that any disaster recovery plans need to be maintained for specific activities; the scale of operations is such that contingency plans are best drawn up in response to the nature of any issue that may occur.

Health & Safety: physical risks are managed through the church's *Health and Safety Policy*, which is reviewed annually by the PCC. The policy includes a schedule of risks using a checklist provided by the Ecclesiastical Insurance Company. The Schedule sets out the procedures for mitigating and managing each risk. Equipment safety checks (gas appliances, security alarms, lightning conductor, fire extinguishers and electrical PAT testing) are undertaken annually.

Trustees

The members of the Parochial Church Council are the trustees of the charity. PCC members who have served from 1st January 2021 until the date this report was approved were:

Vicar:	Rev Fabian Wuyts	Chairman	*	
Curate:	Rev David Wilkie		*	
Churchwardens:	Mr Steve Bradford Mr Nigel Bright Mrs Joyce Kirk		* * *	(until April 2021) (from April 2021)
Deanery Synod:	Mr Richard Carpenter	Vice chairman	*	
	Ms Chris Rickard		*	
	Mr Martin Wakefield	Secretary	*	
Elected members:				
	Mr Martin Bluemel			(from April 2021)
	Mrs Ruth Dunn			(until April 2021)
	Mr Roger Fenton			
	Mrs Marilyn Gibson			
	Miss Lizzie Haddell	Associate Warden	*	
	Mrs Lyn Jones			(from April 2021)
	Mr David Jordan			
	Mrs Julie Kimber			(from April 2021)
	Mrs Sue Lucas			

	Mrs Sheila Marlow		
	Mrs Ruth Preater-Gillard		(until April 2021)
	Mr Richard Sainsbury	Treasurer	* (co-opted)
	Mrs Liz Sykes		(until April 2021)
	Miss Emily Tall		(until April 2021)
	Mrs Jenny Wakefield		
	Mrs Vashti Wuyts Smit		(from April 2021)
Ex-officio	Mr Nic Tall	Diocesan Synod	

* Asterisks indicate members of the Standing Committee: the Church Officers plus one ordinary member of the PCC.

Appointment of trustees: The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church of England's *Church Representation Rules*. The number of elected members is 12, with a minimum of four places to come up for election each year.

Ex-officio members of the PCC are:

- Clergy licensed to the parish.
- Two churchwardens, separately elected annually.
- Three representatives of the parish to Deanery Synod, elected every three years.
- Any members of Diocesan Synod and General Synod who are members of the church.

Recruitment of trustees: all Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and consider standing for election to the PCC. Active recruitment may occur when one sector of the church appears to be under-represented on the PCC.

Training of trustees: New members are provided with a copy of the *PCC Standing Orders*, which sets out how the PCC works, and a copy of the booklet *Trusteeship – an introduction for PCC members*. They are encouraged to obtain a copy of *A Handbook for Churchwardens and Parochial Church Councillors* and to attend any training events run by the diocese. PCC members also receive safeguarding awareness training.

Custodian Trustees: The Diocese of Bath and Wells is the custodian trustee for property owned by the church, i.e. the church hall and associated buildings and land.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2021 £	2020 £
INCOME				
Donations & Legacies	119186	436	119621	221667
Income from church activities	15714		15714	15372
Investment Income	161		161	800
TOTAL INCOME	<u>135061</u>	<u>436</u>	<u>135496</u>	<u>237839</u>
EXPENDITURE				
Church activities	<u>159034</u>	<u>4514</u>	<u>163548</u>	<u>159348</u>
NET EXPENDITURE	<u>-23974</u>	<u>-4078</u>	<u>-28052</u>	<u>78492</u>
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS				
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1 JAN 2021	224050	7080	231130	152637
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 DEC 2021	<u>200076</u>	<u>3002</u>	<u>203078</u>	<u>231129</u>

BALANCE SHEET
As at 31 December 2021

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2021 £	2020 £
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors	20822		20822	22457
Short term deposits	176830	3002	179832	206750
Cash at bank & in hand	<u>7139</u>		<u>7139</u>	<u>4558</u>
	<u>204791</u>	<u>3002</u>	<u>207792</u>	<u>233763</u>
LIABILITIES				
Creditors - amounts falling due within one year	<u>-4715</u>		<u>-4715</u>	<u>-2634</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS	<u>200075</u>	<u>3002</u>	<u>203077</u>	<u>231129</u>
LIABILITIES				
Amounts falling due in more than one year				
NET ASSETS	<u>200075</u>	<u>3002</u>	<u>203077</u>	<u>231129</u>
PARISH FUNDS:				
GeneralUnrestricted Funds	200075		200075	224050
TLG Make Lunch		277	277	4355
Children & Families Worker		<u>2725</u>	<u>2725</u>	<u>2725</u>
	<u>200075</u>	<u>3002</u>	<u>203077</u>	<u>231130</u>

Approved on behalf of the Parochial Church Council on
and signed by:

Rev. Fabian Wuyts

Mrs Joyce Kirk

10th April 2022

(Vicar)

(Churchwarden)

The notes on pages 2 to 6 form part of these Accounts.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

1. Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP (FRSSE) published on the 16th July 2014 and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include financial statements of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body or those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds

Unrestricted funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC.

Restricted funds represent donations or grants received for a specific object, or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not normally invest separately for each fund. Where there is no separate investment, interest is apportioned to individual funds on an average balance basis.

Income

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.

Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised only when received.

Income Tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is reasonably certain.

Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised when the rental is due.

Expenditure

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

Fixed assets**Consecrated property and moveable church furnishings**

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993.

No value is placed on movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and listed in the church's inventory which can be inspected at any reasonable time, 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 benefice buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the SOFA and separately disclosed in the year of expenditure if it exceeds £5,000.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight line basis over 4 years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £2,500 or less are written off when acquired.

2. Grants

The following grants of over £1,000 were made in the year:

Barnabas Fund	1000	The Besom in Taunton	2400
Samaritans Purse	1000	Taunton Youth for Christ	1800
Taunton Area Debt Advice	2000	TEAR Fund	1286
Taunton Street Pastors	1200	WEC	1000
Taunton Team Chaplaincy	3000		

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	
			2021	2020
Missionary Giving				
Church Overseas:				
- Missionary Societies	1000		1000	1000
- Relief and Development Agencies	3000	286	3286	3571
Home Missions	9220	6	9226	9785
Other	2000		2000	2046
	<u>15220</u>	<u>292</u>	<u>15512</u>	<u>16402</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Wages and salaries	16292	15150

During the year the PCC employed a musical director, a caretaker, and an administrator, plus an assistant administrator/IT support. The highest paid employee was paid £7531.18. None of the Trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from an employment with this charity. There are no employees who receive emoluments of more than £60,000

Payments totalling £4397 were made to 9 PCC members during the year for the reimbursement of expenses. These expenses were for Admin, Repairs, Social, Evangelism and fees , plus Vicars, expenses and Fees. There are no further related party transactions in the year.

3(c). Independant examiner fees

These amounted to £150 for the year.

4. Debtors

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Income tax recoverable	19411	20361
Prepayments and accrued income	1410	1549
Other debtors	<u>20822</u>	<u>21910</u>

5. Creditors

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Deferred income	1248	1220
Accruals of utility and other costs	3894	1414
Other creditors	<u>-</u>	<u>2634</u>
	<u>5142</u>	<u>2634</u>

6. Major Expenditure

There were no major items of expenditure during 2021

7. Capital Commitments

There are no major capital commitments for 2022

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

8. INCOME

	General Fund			Total Funds			2020
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations & Legacies							
Stewardship	86433		86433	86433		86433	92402
Appeals							2402
Income tax recoverable	19396		19396	19396		19396	20886
Collections	96		96	96		96	40
Grants		100	100		100	100	5930
Legacies	12000		12000	12000		12000	97510
Donations	1261	336	1596	1261	336	1596	2497
	<u>119186</u>	<u>436</u>	<u>119621</u>	<u>119186</u>	<u>436</u>	<u>119621</u>	<u>221667</u>
 Income from church activities							
Church & hall lettings	10867		10867	10867		10867	12544
Car park charges	3653		3653	3653		3653	2480
Fees	1195		1195	1195		1195	348
	<u>15714</u>		<u>15714</u>	<u>15714</u>		<u>15714</u>	<u>15372</u>
 Investment Income							
Interest	161		161	161		161	800
	<u>161</u>		<u>161</u>	<u>161</u>		<u>161</u>	<u>800</u>
 TOTAL INCOME	<u>135061</u>	<u>436</u>	<u>135496</u>	<u>135061</u>	<u>436</u>	<u>135496</u>	<u>237838</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

9. EXPENDITURE

	General Fund				Total Funds			2020
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	Ror Miss, CF & TLG £	£	£	£	£	£	£
Church activities								
Missionary giving	17052	286	17337		17052	286	17337	16402
Charitable giving	595		595		595		595	2092
Diocesan Parish Share	95759		95759		95759		95759	94526
Clergy expenses	567		567		567		567	278
Wages & honoraria	16292		16292		16292		16292	15150
Heating	3273		3273		3273		3273	3089
Lighting	1945		1945		1945		1945	2099
Insurance	3369		3369		3369		3369	3337
Water rates	99		99		99		99	117
Cleaning materials	881		881		881		881	914
Wine								116
Flowers	350		350		350		350	179
Music & hymn books	1021		1021		1021		1021	1038
Maintenance & repairs	7936		7936		7936		7936	8570
Children & youth work	577		577		577		577	604
Social functions	98		98		98		98	224
Evangelism	1311		1311		1311		1311	1450
Church weekend								
Training							6777	5261
Office expenses	6777		6777		6777		1194	1284
Telephone	1194		1194		1194		4468	2315
TLG for Lunch	240	4228	4468		240	4228	4468	301
Traidcraft	-301		-301		-301		-301	
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	159034	4514	163548		159034	4514	163548	159346

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

10. Fund Summary

	General Fund			Total Funds			2020
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	Miss, CF & TLG £	£ £	£	£	£	£
TOTAL INCOME	135061	436	135496	135061	436	135496	237838
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	159034	4514	163548	159034	4514	163548	159346
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES	<u>-23974</u>	<u>-4078</u>	<u>-28052</u>	<u>-23974</u>	<u>-4078</u>	<u>-28052</u>	<u>78492</u>
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	-23974	-4078	-28052	-23974	-4078	-28052	78492
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1 JAN 2021	224050	7080	231130	224050	7080	231130	152637
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 DEC 2021	<u>200076</u>	<u>3002</u>	<u>203078</u>	<u>200076</u>	<u>3002</u>	<u>203078</u>	<u>231129</u>
REPRESENTED BY:							
Assets							
Debtors	20822		20822	20822		20822	21911
Short term deposits	176830	3002	179832	176830	3002	179832	206751
Cash at bank & in hand	7139		7139	7139		7139	4556
	<u>204791</u>	<u>3002</u>	<u>207792</u>	<u>204791</u>	<u>3002</u>	<u>207792</u>	<u>233217</u>
Creditors							
Creditors & accrued expenses	4715		4715	4715		4715	2634
	<u>4715</u>		<u>4715</u>	<u>4715</u>		<u>4715</u>	<u>2634</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>200075</u>	<u>3002</u>	<u>203077</u>	<u>200075</u>	<u>3002</u>	<u>203077</u>	<u>230583</u>

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF SAINT JAMES TAUNTON

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2021, which incorporate the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet and the Notes to the Accounts, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and s.145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of accounts. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under s.145(5)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church Guidance, 2006 edition, issued by the Finance Division of the Archbishops' Council. That examination includes a review of the accounting records maintained by the Trustees and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

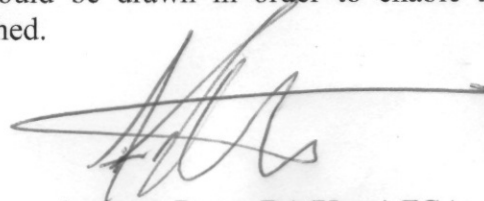
Independent examiner's statement

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

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act as also contained within the Regulations.

Have not been met; or

- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Anthony Porter BA(Hons) FCA
Amherst & Shapland
(Taunton and Wiveliscombe)
Chartered Accountants
Bridge House
14 Bridge Street
Taunton
Telephone: 01823 326555
4th October 2022

Accounts



Annual Report for 2020

Vision Statement

Encountering God

Growing as Followers of Jesus

Participating in the Life of His Spirit

Prepared by the PCC and Coordinators

Fabian Wuyts

Vicar

8 March 2021

Registered Charity No: 1130757.

Full name of the charity: The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. James, Taunton.

Short names: St James Church PCC; St James Church Taunton.

Address: St James Church Office, St James Street, Taunton, TA1 1JS.

This report covers calendar year 2020 and has been written to meet the requirements of the Charity Commission's Statement of Recommended Practices (SORP FRS102).

Foreword by the Vicar

By the time you read the annual report, a year will have passed since the first lockdown took place and the reality of living through a pandemic hit us all. It is difficult to summarise all the emotions and struggles, the joys and pains, the gains and losses, the highs and lows of the past year. Maybe we should not try to summarise them too quickly, but learn to create space to hear, listen and learn from each other.

One of the questions that often comes to the fore in meetings that includes leaders is “what have you learned in the past months?” While the question is important and can inform future personal and church decisions, I have come to believe that a more fruitful question for us all is “how have I changed and how has the church changed?” On a personal level, this pandemic has brought to the surface my need to own up and be responsible for my Spiritual growth, to pray more and wait longer on his promptings, to recognise my tendency to do things in my own strength, to recognise how fragile and vulnerable I am, to be quick to forgive and quick to move on in trust.

On the church level, I think this pandemic has shown the church’s willingness to do things differently, the ability of each Christian to love and care in new and imaginative ways, the growing realisation that things can be stopped, reduced, pruned and changed.

Despite the many struggles and challenges we have all been facing in this pandemic we should get hold of God’s promises and expect to see his goodness at work in the ordinary activities of our life and in the life of his church. God’s faithfulness is without question. His generosity is perfect. His affection is tender and loving. His presence is permanent. His acceptance of us is unconditional. His communication is up-building and for our best interest. His authority is right and true. Yes! His plans are still to prosper, He has not forgotten us. He has been (and will continue to be) with us in the fire and the flood. He is faithful forever, perfect in love so let us embrace his sovereignty over us. Eugene Peterson once said “God cannot fit into our plans, we must fit into his. We can’t use God – God is not a tool or appliance or credit card. Holy is the word that sets God apart and above our attempts to enlist him in our wish-fulfilment fantasies or our utopian schemes for making our mark in the world. Holy mean that God is alive on God’s terms, alive in a way that exceeds our experience and imagination. Holy refers to life burning with an intense purity that transforms everything it touches into itself.” So let us pray together and say to God with sincere hearts: not our will Lord, but yours be done, in our lives, in our church, in our community and in our world.

Rev Fabian Wuyts

Prayer for Growth

Heavenly Father, increase in number your Church at St James as you deepen us as followers and learners of Christ.

Help us to show uninhibited reliance on your grace and power as we seek renewal of our lives, our church, our community and our world.

Give us courage, imagination and generosity in order that your kingdom may come and your abundant life be known by all.

We make this prayer in the name and to the glory of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Introduction

St James Church, Taunton, is a parish church within the Diocese of Bath and Wells in the Church of England. Its parish includes the Roughmoor, North Town, Priory and Firepool areas of Taunton. The church's membership is drawn partly from within the parish, partly from across the rest of the town, and from nearby villages. Its services and activities are open to all, and the church works with other churches and local inter-church organisations in proclaiming and applying the good news of Jesus Christ.

Attendance at services, surveyed during October 2019, was 202 (compared to 207 in 2018, 197 in 2017, 202 in 2016, 194 in 2015, 187 in 2014 and 171 in 2013), this being the "number attending at least once during the period", excluding visitors. There were also 46 people under 18 attending at least once. Equivalent figures are not available for 2020 due to the COVID-19 restrictions.

At the 2020 Annual Meeting, there were 182 people on the Church Electoral Roll.

Objectives

The governing document is The Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956. In common with other Anglican (Church of England) churches, this gives the objects of the church as to:

Promote in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The PCC's registration with the Charity Commission (using headings provided by Church of England Guidance at the time of initial registration) expands the statement of objects as covering:

- *Regular public worship open to all.*
- *The provision of sacred space for personal prayer and contemplation.*
- *Pastoral work, including visiting the sick and the bereaved.*
- *Teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups*
- *Taking of religious assemblies in schools.*
- *The provision of a youth club with a Christian ethos.*
- *Promotion of Christianity through the staging of events and meetings, and the distribution of literature.*
- *Promoting the whole mission of the Church through provision of activities for senior citizens, parents and toddlers and other special need groups.*
- *Supporting other charities in the UK and overseas.*

Public Benefit

The PCC has noted the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit, including publication PB4 *The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit*.

Worship services are all open to the public. The church building is open as many days as possible for private prayer, and is available for weddings and funerals of parishioners as required. Baptisms of parishioners are normally conducted during Sunday morning services. The church building is also used for concerts and by some other groups, such as the NHS Blood Doning service.

Pastoral support is available to anyone who requests it. Church members also receive support through home groups.

The church runs a parent and toddler group, an after-school club, a school mentoring scheme and Make Lunch scheme and a parenting support group (Family Links Nurturing Programme). It also supports local Christian organisations including Street Pastors, Taunton Team Chaplaincy, Besom, Open Door and Taunton Area Debt Advice.

A church does not exist in isolation, but is part of one world-wide church of all denominations. St James supports the work of WEC (church planting), TEAR Fund and Samaritans Purse (emergency and relief work), and Barnabas Fund (support for the persecuted church worldwide).

The PCC also has maintenance responsibilities for St James' Church building (Grade 2* listed) and the church halls. The halls are available for hire by community groups.

From March 2020, the in-person activities had to be suspended, but support of individuals continued through a network of telephone and social media conversations, and worship services continued online.

Operating

The vicar and the churchwardens manage the day-to-day business of the church, assisted by a Church Administrator. In particular, the church administrator handles bookings for the church halls and supervises the work of the caretaker. All financial matters are handled by the Treasurer.

Various church members manage other church activities on a day-to-day basis, and there are rotas and teams in place to manage all activities which occur on a regular weekly or monthly basis.

The vicar and PCC have appointed coordinators to whom authority has been delegated to manage certain aspects of church life: Worship, Pastoral Care, Discipleship, Children & Young People's work, Outreach, Administration, and Facilities (premises and technical). The aim is to avoid overloading the vicar with too many decisions in a church which is steadily growing, and also to free his time so he can focus on where he can be most effective. This delegated leadership arrangement has continued with our new vicar.

The PCC meets monthly, except in April (Annual Church Meeting) and August (summer holidays). It approves all major non-recurring financial expenditure and decides proposals to undertake any major new activity. The agenda includes a strategic overview of the church's activities.

The Standing Committee is empowered by law to conduct PCC business in between meetings of the council. Its members are the church officers plus one ordinary member of the PCC. In practice, the Standing Committee operates primarily through email discussions.

Various provisions decided by legislation (enacted by General Synod) or decisions made by Diocesan Synod govern, for example, the type of formal public worship services that can be provided but allow a church to develop its own style. The appointment of clergy and readers is managed by the diocese, in consultation with the parish. Payment of clergy is carried out via the diocesan Common Fund, which scheme decouples clergy pay from a parish's financial circumstances. Maintenance work and alteration of the church building is overseen by a Diocesan Advisory Committee, through faculties granted by the diocesan chancellor; this process is in lieu of civil planning procedures. The parish is required to appoint an architect approved by the diocese to advise on and specify all works required.

Activities

Worship

Contributed by Richard Lucas, Worship Coordinator.

The worship in the Church that takes place within the services is coordinated by the worship coordinator alongside the Vicar and the Musical Director. There is a range of people within the Church who contribute to, lead and preach within the services. A greater range of members have been encouraged to take part and use their gifts and this had a positive effect with their ministries being used and this has contributed to a wide range of people being available and confident in their ministry, in particular with All-Age Worship and evening services where those available from the Ministry team is more limited.

The worship coordinator meets regularly with the Vicar to look at the overview of services. There will be meetings to look at song choices and themes with the Vicar and the Musical Director. The Vicar plans the themes and organises rotas for leading and officiating. The worship coordinator plans the singing and rotas when we are meeting in church in person. The worship Coordinator has an overview of the evening services and the direction of travel for these. He has met with the Vicar and Curate to plan the pattern and content. Over the past year of lockdown, a team has been grown within evening services. It has been a joy to see people flourish and have their gifts used and expanded despite the difficult and different circumstances.

Prior to the Corona Virus lockdown, the main worship service remained at 10.30am on a Sunday, alternating between Holy Communion and Morning Worship and an All-Age Service. Services run for around an hour and a quarter with the exception of the All Age Service, with a pre and after-service time of fellowship. During Morning Worship, an alternative Messy Church service, primarily for families, runs in the hall on one Sunday. On other Sundays, Sunday Club groups for 3-16 year-olds run in the halls. There is a

crèche for younger children every week, in the church alongside the service. with a large team of volunteers involved in each morning service. There may be gaps that need to be filled within this ministry when we return to enable the smooth set up and organising of services with the wide range of activities and equipment needed whatever church will look like on a Sunday.

The music team comprises a range of instrumentalists and singers with the Music Director providing settings to match the available skills. New music is introduced on a regular basis in collaboration by the Musical Director, Worship Coordinator, and the Vicar. The style is based around the leading of corporate worship with a contemporary feel and with a range of songs and instrumentation that complement this. This has taken on a new form in the world of the pandemic . The Musical Director works with a team of singers, instrumentalists, and technicians , to arrange and present new songs that are new recordings for a Sunday and created during lockdown remotely.

The pattern of evening services, adopting a common time of 7pm and an informal praise format has run for several years and has a consistent attendance of between 20 and 40. Prior to lockdown this was a guitar led service with a band who are growing and learning as they worship. The monthly pattern included an emphasis on praise, communion, and teaching. The aim was to provide a substantive alternative to the morning service, for those who are either not able to attend in the morning or desire a different style and approach within a smaller setting. The first Sunday of the Month is Soul Space, a meeting for young people led by church members; this involves a range of worship and activities.

Services were also held during the week. The “Praise and Play” service a monthly Holy Communion Service for the Alzheimer’s group. Off-site, regular services are held at Calway House residential home. Communion services are held elsewhere such as Pegasus Court and home Communion is also provided for those unable to attend church. Readers, retired clergy and other church members also help to lead services at other churches in the area prior to Covid and lockdown

As in previous years we will continue to consider how we reach out to those outside the church and those without a church background and endeavour to make worship accessible and relevant within a changing landscape.

This landscape has changed greatly in the past year. At Easter last year we moved to a pre-recorded format online through Facebook and YouTube and through the new church website. It has been a challenge as new forms and formats are explored and as church we have been on a journey together. Initially the morning service moved online at 10.30, using songs extracted from previous service recordings; and with a Zoom social at 11.15. When the first lockdown was eased the Church was opened and there were Covid-secure 9.00 and 10.30 services, with live streaming introduced as soon as the technical details had been arranged. After the second lockdown, the 10.30 service stayed online, while the 9.00 resumed in church. When the lockdown returned again we reverted to the 10.30 pre-recorded pattern.

The evening service followed the style and content of the evening service pre lockdown with the same contributors, with a variety of styles and content and with reference to local events and to the seasons.

The evening service has been given the title Connect@7 after discussion and prayer with the Vicar, curate and team, with a link to what we are as church and what our vision is saying to us. The aim is to be different, though not for its own sake and to reach out to those who are not (maybe yet) within the church or in possession of a faith but are connected to us in lockdown and accessing our content. We followed the guide from the PCC that it should connect with people in lockdown, rather than follow a normal service format.

With the church delivering services in lockdown we have had to look at different formats and styles. As a church we have had to get used to worshipping from home and without personal interaction and face to face greeting. The lesson we will take from this is that we will not be returning to the church as it was but to a church as it will be. Some will have seen the content and look to attend others will find the return difficult and the fear of Covid will linger in the way that we interact. It is to be hoped and believed that we will learn from our period of forced isolation, able to worship God in all our circumstances and locations and lead others to him.

Lockdown prompted Morning Prayer to be taken online on Monday to Thursday using a combination of Zoom and Facebook. The monthly Church Prayer meeting has also moved online.

Finally, I would like it noted that there is a great commitment required both online and face to face and in ensuring that the technical side functions and my thanks go to all those who give their time to this ministry in particular during this past year.

Pastoral Care *Contributed by Annie Reid, Pastoral Coordinator.*

Pastoral visiting

It has been a challenging time for all because of Covid - with the official advice for many weeks being to "stay at home." Despite this restriction, the pastoral care function at St James church has continued – but in a different way.

At the start of lockdown, a small pastoral care team offered their services to contact members of the congregation by telephone for a chat from time to time. This continued throughout the times of lockdown and we know from our feedback that many members of the congregation have welcomed these calls and have felt well supported. Thanks to Jenny Wakefield, Roger Fenton, Annie Reid and Fabian Wuyts for undertaking this important work. The Email Prayer Chain continues to operate for the prayer needs of the church.

Flower rota

With the church building being closed for long periods, the flower group has had little opportunity to provide floral decorations; there was however a lovely display for Christmas and thanks are due to those who were able to help.

Thursday Fellowship

Vicky Dykes and Pam Anderson have done a wonderful job during this difficult period in keeping their fortnightly newsletter going. This has gone out to all members and has been a vital link for this group – publishing news, providing interesting stories, celebrating birthdays and sharing prayers. This has all been hugely appreciated by the members of the fellowship.

Welcoming

During lockdown, there have been further discussions looking at ways of improving the welcoming of newcomers to the church (when we eventually get back to live services) Details will follow in due course.

Discipleship *Contributed by Roger Fenton, Discipleship Coordinator.*

Lockdown in compliance with Covid 19 restrictions have severely limited what has been possible for Discipleship ministry. Most of the year the church was unable to physically meet together for worship or any other purpose, which curtailed most normal channels and conduits for this vital ministry. Meeting remotely via the internet has proved the best substitute and of real benefit for many but not all, making any summary of discipleship over the past year difficult to access.

Of the eleven home groups, seven have been meeting regularly via Zoom (although not all members are able to attend) and four groups are not meeting, either lacking the necessary electronic equipment or the desire to meet via this

method. Home group leaders continue to meet regularly (via Zoom) and all leaders are actively in contact with all their members to offer support and encouragement in these strange times. I would normally report any changes in attendance of home groups but this year changes are difficult to assess. I am aware of both increases and decreases in membership of some groups and believe the total number attending a home group would be similar to last year, namely around 114. Study notes for home groups continue to be produced 'in house' but we now have a rota of four authors – our Curate Dave Wilkie has been added to the existing team of Fabian, Richard Carpenter, and myself.

An exciting new development has been our offering of our first 'Alpha on-line', which ran in the September – November period, using Zoom technology and the prepared Alpha videos. With the undoubted help of a small group of prayer warriors and other church members the course proved successful and has already started again in 2021 with new attendees.

As I write it appears that the Government is likely to be lifting meeting restrictions sometime this summer, when I will be eager to continue encouragement of growth in Discipleship.

Children's & Youth Work

Contributed by Vashti Smit, Children and Young People's Coordinator.

Pre-Covid, regular activities continued as in 2019. Sunday groups comprised crèche and two age groups in Sunday Club each week, monthly Soul Space for teens and Messy Church on the first Sunday of each month. The usual weekday groups also continued, including Toddler Group, Praise and Play, and the Voice project run with St Mary Magdalene to support our young people in their faith journey.

All these activities had to stop, being replaced by various online groups that have been developed over the course of the year.

Children and Youth and their Families

Lego Church happens at 4pm on a Sunday afternoon. This is going well. Our team consists of Vashti Smit, Dave Wilkie, and Rachel Haddell. We take turns leading the group. The format is as follows: a quick welcome, a Bible story from a children's Bible, children are then encouraged to 'build' the story with lego, duplo, mega blocks. They are then given an opportunity to show their creations and we finish off by saying the Lord's Prayer together.

We have also established a support zoom for the mums, called Wednesday Whlne, which happens every other week. It is an occasion to have a chat and I hope to develop it into a prayer time with possibly looking at it becoming a homegroup of sorts. Mainly, at the moment, we just chat and support each other. The mums are enjoying this group and drop in when they can. They are keen to continue post Covid.

Currently we are planning the Easter activities which Dave is heading up for us. There will be an Easter Trail available for the wider community. There will be an Easter zoom available for St. James families and a special Easter trail for the school.

Youth Zoom – Liz, Dave and Fabian are meeting with our Young People on Zoom every Sundays at 7pm, using material from Alpha and Urban Saints. The evening is a mixture of games, bible reflection, sharing of news and prayers. We also have dedicated social/game zoom sessions.

Online groups

A WhatsApp group for the St. James Families has become a space for staying in touch and prayer

There are various Facebook pages:

- TLG Make Lunch has its own page
- St. James families has 1 open page and one private group

- Praise and Play still has their group.
- The page - an info page for family type events that happen at St. James Church.
- The group - a private way of communicating with the families' particular events that are happening.

Others are under review pending how Covid pans out.

TLG Make Lunch

Most of the wide range of links with St James Church School also had to close at the start of the pandemic. The TLG Mentoring Programme continued on a reduced basis for most of the year, and there are plans with the school to restart it after Easter 2021.

TLG (Transforming Lives for Good) Make Lunch has continued well. We have successfully delivered food boxes over the Christmas holidays, the February half term and we are now planning the Easter TLG. Each delivery consists of a recipe with the necessary ingredients, a Boredom Buster Bag and family size appropriate food parcels for each family. With every delivery we include a scripture verse in the form of a prayer. We currently cover 5 schools and are in direct communication with each school's PFSO: St. James School, Northtown, Parkfield, Nerrols School and Blackbrook School.

We continue our good relations with FoodBank. We have recently been introduced to Morisson's Charity Champion which has expressed a desire to help TLG. We continue to get funding from various grants (£100 more recently through a TLG affiliate). Somerset West and Taunton Council keep us abreast of further available funds should the need arise.

Outreach

Contributed by Jenny Wakefield, Outreach Coordinator.

What a year it has been! Any plans that might have been formed at the beginning of the year were overwhelmed by the changes brought about by the pandemic. It also halted our rethinking the very wide remit of the Outreach Coordinator, possibly in favour of a team approach to the many strands involved. We also recognised the need to integrate activities with a growing social media framework. So, aided by the pandemic the coordinator role has been in abeyance since June, although some aspects of it are still being actively pursued. How we move forward beyond the pandemic to reach out is a work in progress and is part of the challenge for change that we as a church will be engaged with under God's direction.

Our core approach to outreach - Scattered Lives

Over the past five or so years we have continued to encourage each church member to share the gospel in their everyday lives, using the "Life on the Frontline" and "Living the Story Telling the story" approach to share the life changing message of Jesus.

The pandemic has not diminished this, if anything there have been new opportunities to interact with the communities in which we live. Many church members joined in locally organised community initiatives organised on Facebook, which sought to ensure vulnerable people in the community were looked after; prescriptions collected, shopping done and phone calls made. We talked more to neighbours, clapped for the NHS, donated to the foodbank and other charities, volunteered, supported our families and tried to do what we could to ensure people were looked after. St. David talks about "performing the small things" which mean so much and bring blessing and this has been much in evidence. Let me share a few examples of our reaching out:

- From March to September a small team lead by Nic Tall and Susie Peeler delivered food parcels on behalf of St James School to families for whom the pandemic had brought hardship. (More of that in the C&YP report where the TLG partnership with the school will be talked about).

- Throughout the pandemic Vicky and Pam have kept in touch by e mail and phone calls with the 50-plus Thursday Fellowship.
- Individuals have made phone calls to family, friends and neighbours.
- People have volunteered in a host of different community organisations stacking shelves, delivering supplies and more recently helping out at the vaccination centres using previous professional skills.

Communications

How we communicate is an essential part of our outreach. Before the pandemic Nic Tall had been experimenting with Beccy and few others about how Social Media could be used. In the early days of the pandemic, churches were closed and we suddenly found ourselves going to church online. This would not have been possible a few years earlier but we owe a debt of gratitude to those who quickly assimilated skills enabling the church to still be visible, to worship and to meet together. The small team of technical people were working flat out, learning new skills fast and as ever operating in the background. While we need to maintain a balance for those young and not so young who struggle with a surfeit of media, these skills are here to stay.

Facebook has now become our front window and while many are still grappling with how to use it, it has been an important tool in helping us worship, communicate encourage and keep in touch.

The Church Suite database has enabled us to send out the weekly bulletin, vicar's letter, etc, by email.

The Parish Magazine is being produced in an online format with printed copies available from the office.

Events – or Non-events

The pandemic has inevitably called a halt to opportunities for meeting for social and outreach purposes. The art group's hopes of restarting were dashed by the second lockdown, but has been meeting via Zoom. Also affected were the groups that meet in our halls, with whom we had developed good links. The one exception is that Blood Donors continued as it is a necessary service.

St. James Players started the year normally: In February they were able to produce a murder mystery which raised funds for Rail Responders and went on tour to Wilton to help raise funds for the church there. Since March, although panto was ruled out they too have risen to the performing on line and with a lot of help from the techies have produced three radio/YouTube plays.

The Easter Experience was looking uncertain as schools faced the prospects of whether they would close early for Easter. The EE team presented the Experience to three classes but the rest of the week was cancelled as uncertainty in school increased much to everyone's disappointment.

At Christmas Dave Wilkie, Hannah Buckman and the young people's group produced an in-church Christmas event which enabled family groups to experience the Christmas Story. It was the only event that the catering team had been able to support since lockdown.

By and large it's been an "uneventful" year as we have kept our distance, exchanged our smiles for masks and largely stayed at home. What it has shown however is that people have recognised a need for social interaction, for meeting, sharing and support. Although we have to be cautious about the future we must learn the lessons as to how we engage with and serve our community. Our online armchair prayer walks have shown the size and diversity of our parish, the number of schools, organisations, businesses, house, flats, charities, public buildings etc that are contained therein. It's a God-sized challenge.

Local and International Mission

It has been a great privilege during the past year to speak to representatives of the local organisations that we have a link with and to find out what they are doing despite the pandemic. None of them are static and if anything their need for support is as great as it ever was. One organisation is the Mission Focus each month, with the interview being put on our YouTube channel.

- Street Pastors (ministry to young people visiting the town's night clubs): Currently with nightclubs and pubs closed their role has been reduced but as the town opens up they will be needed more than ever
- Taunton Team Chaplaincy: although in some areas has been reduced (e.g., County Hall) in other areas it has increased: the homeless at Canonsgrove, support for business in redundancy, retail outlets and there are plans in embryo for developing a court chaplaincy
- Besom: although unable to go into people's homes to decorate they have continued to be very busy with referrals from keyworkers for furniture and crisis food packs.
- Open Door have been working with the Homeless project at Canonsgrove.
- Taunton Youth for Christ have continued to work with schools and detached youth where possible and their work with young people has developed a greater urgency.
- Taunton Area Debt Advice are poised to help people as the issues of debt emerge from the Covid period where there has been some protection.

The church continues to support the following overseas missions, financially and in prayer:

- David and Margie Whitehorn, the leaders for WEC's church planting work in Africa; while confined to the UK they support their workers on line.
- TEAR Fund (emergency and relief work).
- Traidcraft, Freda has continue to process orders for their products.
- Samaritans Purse (an international relief organization); and
- Barnabas Fund (which supports the persecuted church worldwide).
- Home for Good is an agency that encourages churches to support the work of adoption and fostering.

All these organisations have been profoundly affected by the global nature of the crisis.

The mission review group has met once during the pandemic. There is no change in the above list of organisations.

Publicity

Publicity has taken a different form during the pandemic with most of our communication being online.

Facilities

Contributed by Martin Wakefield, Facilities Coordinator.

Most facilities projects went on the back-burner during 2020.

The year began with the fitting of seven new bell clappers, the construction of a storage rack in the loft for large boxes (of equipment, costumes, etc), the usual variety of minor repairs, and the completion of the project to transfer the church membership database to Church Suite.

The first lockdown saw everything halted, but by June the glaziers were able to repair the two windows in the North Aisle which had been vandalised in 2019. It was also possible to attend to minor repairs as the need arose.

The project to refurbish the church office took a small step forward with the first phase of electrical work being undertaken, but hopes of further progress were thwarted by volunteer effort being directed at supporting the church's online services. While carrying out the electrical work, the opportunity was taken to install emergency lighting in the corridor, thus completing the

programme to install these lights in the halls, kitchen, toilets, office and corridor. Emergency lighting in the church will be undertaken in conjunction with the identified need to adapt doors as proper fire exits.

The first lockdown in March 2020 catapulted the church's activities online, and a tremendous effort ensued. In the first week, a volunteer assisted the vicar in preparing an online service for the first Sunday, supported by another extracting a first batch of songs from archived service recordings. The first home groups went online using Zoom two days after the start of lockdown. The administrator overhauled the list of church members' email addresses so that the weekly bulletin could be issued via email, and our IT support person repurposed the incomplete new website as a resource website, subsequently continuing to develop the site further. After this first week, the evening service team took their services online, the ministry team began morning prayer using Zoom, weekly DVD production began for church members without internet, and a method was developed to enable the music team to record new songs from their homes (with over 30 being produced by the end of the year). After socially-distanced services in church resumed, a number of these were streamed live online, before lockdowns once more intervened.

A Quinquennial Inspection of the church was carried out mid-year: the building is in good condition, and only minor repairs due to weathering were identified.

The usual summer working parties did not take place, but a one-day "drains and gutters" (socially-distanced) working party was very productive, and may form a model for reorganising these events in following years.

Administration Administrative matters are covered in various places elsewhere in this report, so a separate report has not been prepared.

Our Administrator / Administration Coordinator is Beccy Fox, who took over from Alex Dickinson mid-year.

Financial Review

The majority of the PCC's income is from direct giving by church members (including tax reclaimed under Gift Aid), with a smaller proportion deriving from hire of premises. No funds are raised from the general public.

2020 Significant events. The Covid-19 Pandemic had an effect on 2020's finances, though Stewardship giving remained strong throughout the year. Over 90% of donors continued to support the ministry faithfully during 2020. The biggest impact felt was the reduction by over nearly 60% of lettings owing to government restrictions.

Income from stewardship and collections was slightly down in 2020 compared with 2019. Expenditure, other than expenditure on maintenance and repairs and extra activities, was up compared to that in 2019. This was mainly due to an increase in the Parish Share, owing to a change of category.

The General Fund ended the year with a balance of £231,129, of which £7,080 were restricted funds. This was £78,471 more than at the end of 2019, due mainly to legacies totalling £97,510 during the year and Grants received of £5,930.

The major expense of the year was for the repair and replacement to the Church Bell Clappers at a cost of £5,155.

Investment Policy: it is our strategy to invest our funds balances in the Church of England's Central Board of Finance deposit funds.

No funds are held as custodian trustee on behalf of others.

Reserves policy: within the General Fund, the PCC has designated the following reserve funds:

Projects Fund – for capital projects being planned by the church and as a place to hold legacies when first received. There is no set level for this fund, monies being assigned to it as needs arise and funding allows.

Fabric Fund – for major fabric repairs that will occur from time to time but cannot be met out of annual income (for example, gas boiler replacement, re-roofing, repairs to stonework). The intention is to maintain this fund at £30,000, but that level will fluctuate according to demand.

Opportunity Fund – for short-notice opportunities that may arise, for example a piece of land adjoining the church being put on the market, leaving no time to raise the required funds for a deposit through an appeal. The intention is to maintain this fund at £20,000.

Risks Fund - for maintaining essential church activities for a period of up to around one year should there be a loss of income for any reason. This fund is set at 10% of Stewardship giving (and Gift-aid), which allows, for example, for members moving away; plus 30% of non-giving income (i.e. hall hire and car park charges, over which church members do not have control).

The Reserves Policy is reviewed annually.

At the end of 2020, the designated reserve funds stood as follows:

Projects Fund:	£154,891
Fabric Fund:	£30,000
Opportunity Fund:	£20,000
Risks Fund:	£15,856 (10% of giving = £11,245, plus 30% of other income = £4,611)
Total:	£220,747

The total exceeds the £86,575 needed to cover the recommended accounting practice of holding in reserve 6 months' budgeted expenditure.

The £154,891 held at the end of the year in the designated Projects Fund was not assigned to specific projects. The church maintains a Capital Expenditure Plan detailing future projects which may in due course draw on this Fund. The PCC has decided that some of the funds can be used to pay for the proposed Children and Families Worker, but the exact amount has not been determined, pending a further appeal. A further unassigned £3,302 is held as surplus on the General Fund (after allowing for designated reserves and restricted funds) Each year, the PCC considers how to spend or designate any surplus assets.

Grant-making policy: the PCC has a policy of donating a minimum of 10% of stewardship giving (including cash collections and income tax recovered) to other Christian organisations. This is because an individual church such as St James is part of the one worldwide Christian church, with different parts of the church undertaking different responsibilities, and also being dependent on each other. Local organisations supported have aims which overlap with those of St James church. Organisations outside the local area are largely ones with which the church has had a relationship for some time. From time to time, the PCC also supports church members undergoing Christian training, and undertaking full-time work with Christian organisations.

Staff and Volunteer Support

Approximately three full-time equivalent posts are paid. One of these is the vicar, and another is made up of two part time posts: the Church Administrator and the Caretaker. A curate joined the church mid-year; this is a training post, funded by the diocese.

The majority of effort spent on preparing for and running church activities comes from volunteers. It is difficult to gauge the total effort put in by voluntary workers, but (in a normal year) a conservative estimate would be more than 12 full-time equivalent posts, probably more. In total, around 130 members carry out various roles within the church on a voluntary basis.

The contributions of all volunteers are much appreciated and are essential for the running of services, children's and other groups, maintenance, pastoral care and every other aspect of church life. In particular, the churchwardens, treasurer, and Music Director all carry heavy loads.

Appointment of volunteers: where a post involves working with children or vulnerable adults, appointments are made using the Safer Recruitment process set out in the Church of England's safeguarding guidance. This includes having a formal job description, being interviewed with references taken up, and the completion of DBS checks. Other appointments do not usually warrant such a formal process.

Supporting volunteers: everyone who volunteers has a right to be able to discuss their roles with the relevant coordinator in order to agree expectations, receive support, be reasonably resourced, discuss training needs and, as far as practicable, have these met.

Safeguarding

As a church we adhere to the Church of England Policy – *Promoting a Safer Church* – and have been working to the policy and practice guidance as set out on their website.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding/promoting-safer-church/policy-practice-guidance>

The Role of the Parish Safeguarding Officer is to:

- Carry out safer recruitment procedures
- Respond to any disclosures or concerns
- Work with the DSA on any matters connected with parish Safeguarding
- Raise the profile of safeguarding in the parish and ensure PCC is kept up to date with developments
- Advise regarding training.

Safer recruitment procedures are carried out for all appointments involving working with Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults, which all require DBS clearance. During the year there has been a need to safely recruit a small number of people in relation to our community activities.

For other voluntary posts there is a recruitment procedure in place operated by those in charge of different volunteers. There is a recommendation from the Church of England that anyone who acts as a volunteer should have Safeguarding Awareness Training, at least at basic awareness level (C0) and for many roles working with children or vulnerable adults a higher level of training is required or recommended. In a church as large as St. James maintaining this level of requirement is not easy and is a matter of ongoing chasing.

Safeguarding Training is obligatory for all clergy, PTO clergy and licensed readers, and this has been undertaken for those in these roles. There has been a backlog in training for other volunteers, partly due to the lack of availability of courses for non-clergy volunteers. The leadership (C3) course is no longer required for the majority of non-clergy parish officers.

A new Diocesan trainer has been appointed and will be addressing the needs of the Diocese. The pandemic period has involved the suspension of face-to-face courses, but we were fortunate to be able to have two courses for Foundation and one for Leadership level in February 2020.

Risks

Finance: the main risk to the operation of the church is financial support. Most funding comes from church members, supplemented by income from hiring the church hall and car park. The church is not in receipt of any regular funding from other sources, either from within the Church of England, or the government. Grants may be obtainable to cover partial costs of some projects, and legacies may occasionally be received, but such sources do not impact on routine planning.

The church's finances are thus vulnerable to:

- Fluctuations in income from hall hire;
- Church members moving away;
- Gradual changes from one generation to another of members' understanding of their financial responsibility;
- Unexpected large costs for repairing the church building;
- Increases in the Parish Share contribution to the diocese which can be well above inflation.

In 2020, one of these risks materialised, in that the majority of income from hall hire ceased.

The PCC keeps a proactive watch on these matters through reports from the Treasurer to alternate meetings of the council. An annual stewardship campaign, led by the Planned Giving Officer, aims to refresh church members' awareness of the principles of giving.

Communications: as the church grows in numbers, there is a risk of fragmentation due to the inability of all members to know every other member and what the various groups and teams are doing. Part of the PCC's strategy for growth is that the coordinators will facilitate communications within their respective functional areas.

Disaster Recovery Planning: The loss of the use of the church building is not considered to be a major risk. In 2001, the church moved its activities temporarily to the local church school, while the floor in the church building was replaced. It is considered that similar arrangements could be made again. The PCC does not consider that any disaster recovery plans need to be maintained for

specific activities; the scale of operations is such that contingency plans are best drawn up in response to the nature of any issue that may occur.

Health & Safety: physical risks are managed through the church's *Health and Safety Policy*, which is reviewed annually by the PCC. The policy includes a schedule of risks using a checklist provided by the Ecclesiastical Insurance Company. The Schedule sets out the procedures for mitigating and managing each risk. Equipment safety checks (gas appliances, security alarms, lightning conductor, fire extinguishers and electrical PAT testing) are undertaken annually.

Trustees

The members of the Parochial Church Council are the trustees of the charity. PCC members who have served from 1st January 2020 until the date this report was approved were:

Vicar:	Rev Fabian Wuyts	Chairman	*
Curate:	Rev David Wilkie		* (from July 2020)
Churchwardens:	Mr Steve Bradford	Vice chairman	*
	Mrs Joycey Kirk		*
	Mrs Ruth Stevens		* (until October 2020)
Deanery Synod:	Mr Richard Carpenter		
	Ms Chris Rickard		
	Mr Martin Wakefield	Secretary	*
Elected members:	Mrs Ruth Dunn	Minutes Secretary	*
	Mr Roger Fenton		
	Mr Jamie Fox		* (until October 2020)
	Mrs Marilyn Gibson		(from October 2020)
	Mr James Haddell		(until October 2020)
	Miss Lizzie Haddell	Associate Warden	*
	Mr David Jordan		(from October 2020)
	Mrs Sue Lucas		
	Mrs Sheila Marlow		
	Mrs Ruth Preater-Gillard		
	Mr Richard Sainsbury	Treasurer	* (co-opted)
	Mrs Liz Sykes		
	Miss Emily Tall		(from October 2020)
	Mrs Jenny Wakefield		
Ex-officio	Mr Nic Tall	Diocesan Synod	

* Asterisks indicate members of the Standing Committee: the Church Officers plus one ordinary member of the PCC.

Appointment of trustees: The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church of England's *Church Representation Rules*. The number of elected members is 12, with a minimum of four places to come up for election each year.

Ex-officio members of the PCC are:

- Clergy licensed to the parish.
- Two churchwardens, separately elected annually.
- Three representatives of the parish to Deanery Synod, elected every three years.
- Any members of Diocesan Synod and General Synod who are members of the church.

Recruitment of trustees: all Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and consider standing for election to the PCC. Active recruitment may occur when one sector of the church appears to be under-represented on the PCC.

Training of trustees: New members are provided with a copy of the *PCC Standing Orders*, which sets out how the PCC works, and a copy of the booklet *Trusteeship – an introduction for PCC members*. They are encouraged to obtain a copy of *A Handbook for Churchwardens and Parochial Church Councillors* and to attend any training events run by the diocese. PCC members also receive safeguarding awareness training.

Custodian Trustees: The Diocese of Bath and Wells is the custodian trustee for property owned by the church, i.e. the church hall and associated buildings and land.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
			2020 £	2019 £
INCOME				
Donations & Legacies	212,370	9,297	221,667	125,365
Income from church activities	15,372	0	15,372	32,967
Investment Income	800	0	800	1,066
Other incoming resources	0	0	0	0
TOTAL INCOME	<u>228,542</u>	<u>9,297</u>	<u>237,838</u>	<u>159,398</u>
EXPENDITURE				
Church activities	<u>157,129</u>	<u>2,217</u>	<u>159,346</u>	<u>163,852</u>
NET INCOME	71,413	7,080	78,492	-4,454
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS			0	
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1 JAN 2020	152,637	0	152,637	157,091
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 DEC 2020	<u>£224,050</u>	<u>£7,080</u>	<u>£231,129</u>	<u>£152,637</u>

BALANCE SHEET
As at 31 December 2020

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
			2020 £	2019 £
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors	22,457		22,457	24,300
Short term deposits	199,670	7,080	206,750	126,402
Cash at bank & in hand	<u>4,556</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4,556</u>	<u>7,111</u>
	<u>226,683</u>	<u>7,080</u>	<u>233,762</u>	<u>157,813</u>
LIABILITIES				
Creditors - amounts falling due within one year	-2,634	0	-2,634	-5,177
NET CURRENT ASSETS	<u>224,048</u>	<u>7,080</u>	<u>231,128</u>	<u>152,636</u>
LIABILITIES				
Amounts falling due in more than one year			0	
NET ASSETS	<u>224,048</u>	<u>7,080</u>	<u>231,128</u>	<u>152,636</u>
PARISH FUNDS:				
General Unrestricted Funds	224,050		224,050	152,636
TLG Make Lunch		4,355	4,355	0
Childrens' and Families Worker		<u>2,725</u>	<u>2,725</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>£224,050</u>	<u>£7,080</u>	<u>£231,129</u>	<u>£152,636</u>

Approved on behalf of the Parochial Church Council on

10th April 2021

and signed by:

Rev. Fabian Wuyts

(Vicar)

Mrs Joyce Kirk

(Churchwarden)

The notes on pages 2 to 6 form part of these Accounts.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

1. Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, together with applicable accounting. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which

Funds

Unrestricted funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application

Restricted funds represent donations or grants received for a specific object, or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as

Income

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.

Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised only when received.

Income Tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised when the rental is due.

Expenditure

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC. The

Fixed assets

Consecrated property and moveable church furnishings

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993.

No value is placed on movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and listed in the church's inventory

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight line basis over 4 years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase

2. Grants

The following grants of over £1,000 were made in the year:

Barnabas Fund	£1,000	The Besom in Taunton	£2,420
Samaritans Purse	£1,000	Taunton Youth for Christ	£1,800
St James Debt advice	£2,000	TEAR Fund	£1,571
Taunton Street Pastors	£1,200	WEC	£1,000
Taunton Team Chaplaincy	£3,000		

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	
			2020	2019
Missionary Giving				
Church Overseas:				
- Missionary Societies	£1,000	£0	£1,000	£1,000
- Relief and Development Agencies	£3,500	£71	£3,571	£3,534
Home Missions	£9,700	£85	£9,785	£9,771
Other	£2,000	£46	£2,046	£2,268
	<u>£16,200</u>	<u>£202</u>	<u>£16,402</u>	<u>£16,573</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

	2020	2019
Wages and salaries	£15,150	£17,033

During the year the PCC employed a musical director, a caretaker, and an administrator, plus an assistant administrator/IT support. The highest paid employee was paid £6,765.90 One of the Trustees has been paid a remuneration on leaving the PCC as a donation towards ministry training. There are no employees who receive emoluments of more than £60,000

Payments totalling £3566 were made to 11 PCC members during the year for the reimbursement of expenses. These expenses were for Admin, Repairs, Social, Evangelism and fees , plus Vicars, expenses and Fees. There are no further related party transactions in the year.

3(c). Independant examiner fees

These amounted to £150 for the year.

4. Debtors

	2020	2019
Income tax recoverable	£20,361	£21,411
Prepayments and accrued income	£1,549	£2,874
Other debtors		
	£21,911	£24,285

5. Creditors

	2020	2019
Deferred income	1,220	1,200
Accruals of utility and other costs	1,414	3,977
Other creditors	0	
	£2,634	£5,177

6. Major Expenditure

The following major items are included in expenditure in 2019

Replacement of Clappers on Bells	£5,155
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7. Capital Commitments

Replacement of electrical distribution boards, and replacement of lighing. £7,000

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

8. INCOME

	General Fund			Total Funds			2019
	Unrestricted	Restricted Miss, CF & TLG	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations & Legacies							
Stewardship	92,402		92,402	92,402		92,402	94,576
Appeals		2,402	2,402		2,402	2,402	1,373
Income tax recoverable	20,361	525	20,886	20,361	525	20,886	21,411
Collections	40		40	40		40	187
Grants		5,930	5,930		5,930	5,930	
Legacies	97,510		97,510	97,510		97,510	2,000
Donations	2,057	440	2,497	2,057	440	2,497	5,818
	<u>£212,370</u>	<u>£9,297</u>	<u>£221,667</u>	<u>£212,370</u>	<u>£9,297</u>	<u>£221,667</u>	<u>£125,365</u>
 Income from church activities							
Church & hall lettings	12,544		12,544	12,544		12,544	27,954
Car park charges	2,480		2,480	2,480		2,480	3,740
Fees	348		348	348		348	1,273
	<u>15,372</u>		<u>15,372</u>	<u>15,372</u>		<u>15,372</u>	<u>32,967</u>
 Investment Income							
Interest	800		800	800		800	1,066
	<u>800</u>		<u>800</u>	<u>800</u>		<u>800</u>	<u>1,066</u>
 TOTAL INCOME	<u>£228,542</u>	<u>£9,297</u>	<u>£237,838</u>	<u>£228,542</u>	<u>£9,297</u>	<u>£237,838</u>	<u>£159,398</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

9. EXPENDITURE

	General Fund			Total Funds			2019
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	Miss, CF & TLG £	£	£	£	£	£
Church activities							
Missionary giving	16,200	202	16,402	16,200	202	16,402	16,573
Charitable giving	2,092		2,092	2,092		2,092	2,258
Diocesan Parish Share	94,526		94,526	94,526		94,526	82,531
Clergy expenses	278		278	278		278	600
Wages & honoraria	15,150		15,150	15,150		15,150	17,033
Heating	3,089		3,089	3,089		3,089	4,359
Lighting	2,099		2,099	2,099		2,099	3,852
Insurance	3,337		3,337	3,337		3,337	3,305
Water rates	117		117	117		117	142
Cleaning materials	914		914	914		914	1,855
Wine	116		116	116		116	307
Flowers	179		179	179		179	406
Music & hymn books	1,038		1,038	1,038		1,038	1,064
Maintenance & repairs	8,570		8,570	8,570		8,570	19,652
Children & youth work	604		604	604		604	2,620
Social functions	224		224	224		224	476
Evangelism	1,450		1,450	1,450		1,450	1,519
Church weekend							268
Training							
Office expenses	5,261		5,261	5,261		5,261	3,939
Telephone	1,284		1,284	1,284		1,284	1,094
TLG for Lunch	300	2,015		300	2,015	2,315	
Traidcraft	301		301	301		301	
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	£157,129	£2,217	£159,346	£157,129	£2,217	£159,346	£163,852

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

10. Fund Summary

	General Fund			Total Funds			2019
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	Miss, CF & TLG £	£	£	£	£	£
TOTAL INCOME	228,542	9,297	237,838	228,542	9,297	237,838	159,398
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	157,129	2,217	159,346	157,129	2,217	159,346	163,852
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES	<u>£71,413</u>	<u>£7,080</u>	<u>£78,492</u>	<u>£71,413</u>	<u>£7,080</u>	<u>£78,492</u>	<u>-£4,454</u>
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	71,413	7,080	78,492	71,413	7,080	78,492	-4,454
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1 JAN 2020	152,637		152,637	152,637		152,637	157,091
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 DEC 2020	<u>£224,050</u>	<u>£7,080</u>	<u>£231,129</u>	<u>£224,050</u>	<u>£7,080</u>	<u>£231,129</u>	<u>£152,637</u>
REPRESENTED BY:							
Assets							
Debtors	22,457		22,457	22,457		22,457	24,300
Short term deposits	199,670	7,080	206,750	199,670	7,080	206,750	126,403
Cash at bank & in hand	4,556		4,556	4,556		4,556	7,111
	<u>£226,683</u>	<u>£7,080</u>	<u>£233,763</u>	<u>£226,683</u>	<u>£7,080</u>	<u>£233,763</u>	<u>£157,813</u>
Creditors							
Creditors & accrued expenses	2,634		2,634	2,634		2,634	5,177
	<u>2,634</u>		<u>2,634</u>	<u>2,634</u>		<u>2,634</u>	<u>5,177</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>£224,048</u>	<u>£7,080</u>	<u>£231,128</u>	<u>£224,048</u>	<u>£7,080</u>	<u>£231,128</u>	<u>£152,637</u>

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF SAINT JAMES TAUNTON

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2020, which incorporate the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet and the Notes to the Accounts, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and s.145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of accounts. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under s.145(5)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church Guidance, 2006 edition, issued by the Finance Division of the Archbishops' Council. That examination includes a review of the accounting records maintained by the Trustees and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act as also contained within the Regulations.

Have not been met; or

- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Anthony Porter BA(Hons) FCA
Amherst & Shapland
(Taunton and Wiveliscombe)
Chartered Accountants
Bridge House
14 Bridge Street
Taunton
Telephone: 01823 326555
16th June 2021