

St Laurence Church Catford
37 Bromley Road
London, SE6 2TS

Regd Charity: 1101092

Annual Report and Accounts 2024

2024 Report and Accounts for the Parochial Church Council of St Laurence Church, Catford

Aim and purposes

St Laurence's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Canon Charles Pickstone, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of St Laurence Centre.

Objectives and activities

The mission of the parish, as expressed in the parish mission statement, is 'to offer, on behalf of a place that God loves, namely Catford, the praise that it has largely forgotten to express'. The PCC is committed to inviting as many people as possible to worship God, and if they feel so called to become part of the parish community at St Laurence's. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament. Concomitantly, we invite local people to express their worship of God in altruistic service to their local community.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the gospel; developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus especially as expressed through the sacraments
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish
- Missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate this work, we regard the maintenance of the fabric of the church of St Laurence and St Laurence Centre as of great importance.

Achievements and performance

2024 has been a period of slow growth, marked by a number of key developments.

(1) There have been important developments in our work with young people, especially with regard to music. A key aspect of our work locally, going back to the founding of the parish, has been making available to young people a rich musical repertoire, in particular in enabling them to understand and appreciate the emotional languages of classical and contemporary music as an expression of worship of God. To this end, we have developed increasingly strong links with our local state primary schools. We have been running an after school club in our neighbouring Rushey Green School premises in conjunction with their music teacher, 'The Rushey Green Songstars'; we are now running our own after school club in the church, which provides education in singing and also oven chips, known as 'Tunes and Chips'. Attended by children from Rushey Green School and Holbeach School (another state school in the parish), this has been very successful, thanks partly to a significant number of dedicated volunteers from the congregation. In return for their free musical education, the young people sing at a service in church every month.

(2) The year has seen a particular focus on giving to charity; during Lent, we had visiting preachers from the Manna Society, Christian Aid, Friends of the Holy Land and Action for Conservation. Representatives from these charities had the chance to speak at length about the work of their charity after mass in the church hall.

(3) The work of the Centre, which is run by a subcommittee of the Church Council, continues to flourish under the able direction of the Parish Manager. The usage rate has increased over the year, so that on many days all the rooms are in use much of the day. The church continues to make its hall and ancillary rooms available to local people (of every faith and none) as cheaply as possible, to allow for the growth of community locally. The facilities are used for public and private meetings, social events, training sessions, exercise classes, funeral wakes, blood donation, luncheon clubs, meetings of the local assembly, and Scouts, Cubs and Beavers. Thus church's facilities are used to benefit the diverse communities of Catford, demonstrating our commitment to serving the broader community beyond our regular parishioners.

The nursery who use two rooms in the Centre changed hands over the year, which required considerable negotiation. Members of the church also engaged in various charitable activities at an administrative and managerial level, including providing support for older people's organisations like Ageing Well in Lewisham, the hugely popular Hummingbird Club for Caribbean elders, and Lewisham Elders' Forum.

(4) Use of the church for occasional services during the week has increased. Sadly, this is partly due to the large number of funerals in church that we are asked to conduct (this year 18 funerals in church, up from 12 the previous year). In particular, the Windrush generation of Caribbean people who came to the UK in the 1960s are reaching the end of the lives, having made an important and distinctive contribution to British life and society, and many of their families are looking to have their funerals conducted at St Laurence's. We also hosted the 10th anniversary service of our local foodbank, and were honoured to host the Mayor of Lewisham's Civic Carol Service for the first time for many years. The Bishop of Woolwich's annual clergy study day for all local Anglican clergy took place here in the autumn.

(5) Finally, despite the challenges posed by the continuing conflict in the Holy Land, St Laurence's managed to maintain interfaith dialogue and cooperation, especially with our Jewish and Muslim neighbours, notably through a general election hustings organised by and on behalf of local faith communities.

(6) We have continued to stream our Sunday morning services via social media, attracting a wide range of followers all over the world from Barbados to Australia, and on occasion being seen live in 30–40 homes.

Financial review

We made a small surplus, before gains on investments, of £2,313 in unrestricted undesignated funds (£7,277 including gains on investments and designated income). Voluntary income was higher than the previous year. Giving by the congregation increased satisfactorily, despite the cost of living crisis that continued to affect many households. We contributed £75,000 towards Diocesan funds. Staff costs went up due to the increased number of lettings necessitating extra caretaking; also, there was a considerable increase in the London Living Wage, which we pay as a minimum to all staff.

Reserves policy

It is PCC policy to try to maintain a balance on free reserves (net current assets) which equates to at least six months' unrestricted payments during normal times. This is equivalent to around £160,000. It is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow, to meet emergencies and to protect members of staff in the case of failure. The balance of our unrestricted reserves at the year-end was £167,877 which is comfortably above our target.

The balance of £13,523 in the fabric fund is retained towards meeting the upkeep of the Church Hall, Church and Flats, while the £16,289 restricted fund is money that has been given specifically to renew the church lighting. The boiler reserve is the residual value of our Air Source Heat pumps, which is depreciated over 20 years. It is our policy to invest the short term investment fund balances with the CCLA Church of England Deposit Fund, and the remainder in the CCLA Church of England Investment Fund.

Volunteers

We would like to thank all the volunteers who have worked so hard over so the year to enable the church and community centre to survive financially and morally, to care for the congregation, and to keep everyone who enters the building safe. In particular, we want to mention our churchwardens Mrs Baker (until April), Ms Browne-Marke (from April) and Ms Mayne, who have worked so tirelessly on our behalf. We have an estimated 50 volunteers who contribute time and energy to the running of the Church and Community Centre, and the entire community of congregation and Centre users are extremely grateful to them.

Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a Registered Charity, no 1131092.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St Laurence's, the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our vicar) and other licensed clergy, churchwardens, the Chair of the Centre Management Committee, the safeguarding officers, the readers and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. The Director of Music, Parish Accountant and Parish Manager are required to be in attendance when invited. All those who attend our services/members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the electoral roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish, including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

The full PCC met six times during the year with an average level of attendance of 75%. Given its responsibility for managing St Laurence Centre, the PCC has a Centre Management committee dealing with the running of the Centre. This committee is responsible to the PCC and reports back to it regularly, minutes of their decisions being received by the full PCC and discussed as necessary.

Administrative information

St. Laurence Church is situated at 37, Bromley Road, Catford. It is part of the Diocese of Southwark within the Church of England. The correspondence address is the Parish Office, 37, Bromley Road, London, SE6 2TS. Registered charity number 1131092.

PCC members who have served at any time from 1 January 2024 until the date this report was approved are:

Ex officio members:

Incumbent: The Reverend Canon Charles Pickstone (chairman)

Clergy & readers: The Rev'd Olukayode Oyeboade (to October 2024), Mrs Grace Blyth

Wardens:

Mrs Joan Baker (to April 2024)

Ms Marva Mayne

Ms Corinne Browne-Marke (from April 2024)

PCC hon treasurer

Ms Beverley Chin

Deanery Synod representatives:

Mrs Grace Blyth, Ms Florence Browne-Marke, Mr Robert Green (from April 2024)

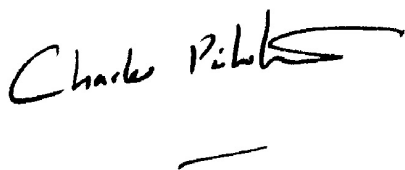
Elected members: Ms Donna Archibald (from April 2024); Ms Elaine Dixon (until April 2024); Mr Kofi Hagan (from April 2024); Ms Leanne Harvey-Thompson; Ms Lesley Ihekuna; Ms Dorna McCorkle (from April 2024); Mr Victor Obasogie; Mr Paul Omondiale; Ms Alice Prince-Gilbert; Ms Bridgit Sam-Bailey (to April 2024); Ms Jennifer Thorne.

Chair of Centre Management Committee: Mr Ray Williams

Church Council Secretary: Ms Joyce Turpin

Parish safeguarding officers: Ms Lesley Ihekuna, Ms Fiona Tyrell-Jackson

Approved by the PCC on 26th March 2025, and signed on their behalf by the Reverend Canon Charles Pickstone (PCC Chairman)



Charles Pickstone

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of St Laurence Catford Parochial Church Council

I report on the accounts of the church for the year ended 31 December 2024 which are set out on the subsequent pages, which show that income exceeds expenditure by £17,827 (of which £7,277 is in unrestricted funds). The net assets are valued at £347,609.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The church's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The church's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of 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 no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the gross income for the year exceeds the amount provided in section 145 (3) of the Act, I confirm that I am qualified to act as Independent Examiner under the provisions of that section of the Act and that my qualification is as shown below.

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 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act 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.



26th April, 2025
Gavin Ellis
Accountant
34 London Road
Hailsham
East Sussex
BN27 3BW

Parochial Church Council of St Laurence, Catford

Statement of Financial Activities

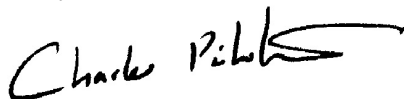

for the year ended 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds		Total funds 2024	Total funds 2023
	General Funds	Designated	Boiler	Other		
	2024	2024	2024	2024	2024	2023
Notes	£	£	£	£	£	£
Incoming resources						
Voluntary income	2(a) 67,187			14,700	81,887	58,765
Activities for generating funds	2(b) 70,228				70,228	72,902
Income from investments	2(c) 3,030				3,030	2,902
Church activities	2(d) 200,278	2,500			202,778	183,564
TOTAL INCOME	340,725	2,500	-	14,700	357,925	318,132
Expenditure						
Church activities	3(a) 337,689			4,150	341,839	331,360
Raising funds	3(b) 723				723	578
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	338,412	-	-	4,150	342,562	331,938
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) BEFORE INVESTMENT GAINS AND LOSSES & RESERVE TRANSFERS	2,313	2,500	-	10,550	15,363	(13,806)
NET GAINS /(LOSS) ON INVESTMENTS BOILER RESERVE TRANSFERS	5 2,464				2,464 -	9,234 -
NET INCOME Transfers	4,777 8,652	2,500	- (8,652)	10,550	17,827 -	(4,572) -
Total funds brought forward	139,925	12,023	164,395	13,439	329,781	334,353
Total funds carried forward	153,354	14,523	155,742	23,989	347,609	329,781

Parochial Church Council of St Laurence, Catford
Statement of Financial Position at 31 December 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Investments	5	113,556	108,061
Computer equipment		-	1,207
Boiler		176,769	186,589
		<u>290,325</u>	<u>295,858</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors and prepayments	6a	27,187	25,696
Short-term deposits	6b	9,124	5,500
Cash at bank and in hand		58,714	49,780
		<u>95,025</u>	<u>80,976</u>
LIABILITIES			
Creditors – due within 1 year	7	<u>37,741</u>	<u>47,052</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)		57,284	33,924
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>347,608</u>	<u>329,781</u>
PARISH FUNDS			
Unrestricted funds			
General funds	9	153,354	139,925
Designated funds	9	14,523	12,023
Restricted	8	23,989	13,439
Boiler reserve	8	155,742	164,394
		<u>347,608</u>	<u>329,781</u>
		-	-

The notes on the succeeding pages form part of these accounts Approved
by the Parochial Church Council on 26th March 2025, and signed on its
behalf by

The Rev'd Canon Charles Pickstone (PCC Chair)

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCCs, and with the Regulations' 'true and fair view' provision. They have been prepared under FRS102 (2016) as the applicable accounting standards and the 2016 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP(FRS102)).

ASSETS

Consecrated and benefice property

In so far as consecrated and benefice property of any kind is excluded from the statutory definition of 'charity' by Section 10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011 such assets are not capitalised in the financial statements.

Moveable church furnishings

These are capitalised at cost and depreciated over their useful economic life other than where insufficient cost information is available. In this case the item is not capitalised, but all items are included in the Church's inventory in any case.

Tangible fixed assets for use by the charity

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £1,000. They are valued at cost or else, for gifts-in-kind, at a reasonable estimate of their open market value on receipt.

Depreciation is calculated to write off the capitalised cost of fixed assets less their currently anticipated residual fair value over their estimated useful lives as follows:

Land: nil

Boilers, fixtures and fittings: 20 years

Computers: 3 years (starting from the first full year after purchase).

No depreciation is provided on buildings as the currently estimated residual value of the properties is not less than their carrying value and the remaining useful life of these assets currently exceeds 50 years, so that any depreciation charges would be immaterial.

An impairment review is carried out at each year-end and any resultant loss identified included in expenditure for the year.

Investments

Investments quoted on a recognised stock exchange or whose value derives from them are valued at market value at the year end. Other investment assets are included at PCC's best estimate of market value.

Short term deposits

These are the cash held on deposit either with the Deposit Protection Fund or at the bank.

FUNDS

Unrestricted Funds

These represent the remaining income funds of the PCC that are available for spending on the general purposes of the PCC, including amounts designated by the PCC for fixed assets for its own use or for spending on a future project and which are therefore not included in its 'free reserves' as disclosed in the trustees' report.

The Church Council consider it appropriate to keep approximately six months of expenditure as unrestricted reserves.

Restricted Funds

These are income funds that must be spend on restricted purposes and details of the funds held and restrictions provided are shown in the notes to the accounts.

2. INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS

		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	TOTAL 2024 £	TOTAL 2023 £	
2(a)	Voluntary income					
	Planned giving: Gift Aid donations	37,664		37,664	31,618	
	Tax recoverable	10,614		10,614	9,784	
	Other planned giving	5,266		5,266	7,298	
	Collections (open plate)	9,064		9,064	7,626	
	Grants		14,700	14,700	(1,813)	
	Donations, appeals, etc	4,580		4,580	4,252	
		<u>67,187</u>	<u>14,700</u>	<u>81,887</u>	<u>58,765</u>	-
2(b)	Activities for generating funds					
	Fundraising	1,796		1,796	6,968	
	Rent-temporary let of clergy flats	68,432		68,432	65,934	
		<u>70,228</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>70,228</u>	<u>72,902</u>	-
2(c)	Income from investments					
	Dividends on CCLA Investment Fund	3,030		3,030	2,902	
		<u>3,030</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,030</u>	<u>2,902</u>	-
2(d)	Income from church activities					
	Fees for weddings and funerals	2,735		2,735	3,235	

Church Centre lettings-local community use	189,498		189,498	177,795	
Other Income	10,545		10,545	2,534	
	202,778	-	202,778	183,564	-
Total income	343,225	14,700	357,925	318,132	-

3. EXPENDITURE

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	TOTAL 2024	TOTAL 2023	
	£	£	£	£	
3(a) Church Activities					
Missionary & charitable giving, (note 11)	4,827		4,827	3,167	
Ministry: diocesan parish quota	75,000		75,000	71,000	
Other ministry cost	2,005		2,005	2,469	
Church running & maintenance	145,402		145,402	132,997	
Major repairs	23,529		23,529	29,440	
Printing, postage & stationery	2,778		2,778	3,626	
Bank charges	1,456		1,456	1,409	
Director of music, organist, tuning	10,043		10,043	19,882	
Caretaking	72,514		72,514	65,036	
Events	134	4,150	4,284	2,334	
	337,689	4,150	341,839	331,360	
3(b) Raising funds					
Costs of refreshments	723		723	578	
	723	-	723	578	
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	338,412	4,150	342,562	331,938	-

4. STAFF COSTS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages & salaries	116,106	114,398

No. of permanent employees 10 10

There were no employee benefits to key management personnel in the previous or current years.

During the year, the PCC employed a Parish Manager, Director of Music, a Finance Officer and a number of caretakers.

5. FIXED ASSETS

Investments	2024	2023
	£	£
Amounts invested with CCLA		
Amounts held in trust by CCLA through The South London Church Fund and the Southwark Diocesan Board of Finance in respect of monies in connection with:		
Sale of 34 Canadian Avenue (1987)	36,811	36,811
Miss Hilda May Augusta Marsh & Miss Pansie Beatrice Edney bequests (1989)	3,180	3,180
	39,991	39,991
These funds are principally invested in units of the CBF Church of England Investment Fund		
Market value of 4,780.34 units at 01 January 2024 (2023:4,646.20)	108,061	95,925
Sale of 0 units during 2024 (2023:0)	-	-
Cost of 130.67 additional units purchased during 2024 (2023:134.14)	3,030	2,902
Increase/(Decrease) in Market Value during the year	2,464	9,234
Market value of 4,911.01 units at 31 Dec 2024 (2023:4,780.34)	113,556	108,061

	Units	Value (£)
Cost of additional units 34 Canadian Avenue	110.61	2,565
Marsh & Edney	20.06	465
	130.67	3,030
Units at Dec 31st, 2024 34 Canadian Avenue	4,157.07	96,123
Marsh & Edney	753.94	17,433
	4,911.01	113,556

6. CURRENT ASSETS

6(a) Debtors and prepayments

2024 2023

	£	£
Prepayments	1,173	1,108
Accrued income	8,000	8,000
Debtors	18,014	16,588
	<u>27,187</u>	<u>25,696</u>

6(b) Short term deposits

Deposits with Nat West Bank	3,724	100
Deposit protection scheme	5,400	5,400
	<u>9,124</u>	<u>5,500</u>

7. LIABILITIES

Amounts held on behalf of others

	2024 £	2023 £
Vicar's Discretionary fund	2,194	2,194
Women's fellowship	800	1,649
Choir holiday fund	-	268
Choir Bursary fund	1,384	2,247
Minichoir fund	-	337
Choir Concerts Fund	-	55
Benevolent Fund	-	200
Toilet Twinning	-	-
Other	260	260
	<u>4,639</u>	<u>7,211</u>

Flat deposits held	5,400	5,400
Other creditors and accruals	27,702	34,155
	<u>37,741</u>	<u>46,765</u>

8. RESTRICTED FUNDS

The restricted funds have evolved as follows:

	Balance 31/12/2023 £	Donations 2024 £	Expenditure 2024 £	Transfer 2024 £	Balance 31/12/2024 £
Church Lighting Fund	13,439	5,000	2,150		16,289
Green Boiler Fund	164,394			(8,652)	155,742
Tunes & Chips (Diocesan grant)	-	1,500	1,500		-
Heritage Fund - Passion Play	-	8,200	500		7,700
	<u>177,834</u>	<u>14,700</u>	<u>4,150</u>	<u>(8,652)</u>	<u>179,731</u>

9. SUMMARY OF UNRESTRICTED FUND MOVEMENTS

	2024 £	2023 £
Designated unrestricted funds		
Church maintenance fund		
Balance 1 January	7,679	7,679
Transfers during the year	1,500	-
Balance 31 December	<u>9,179</u>	<u>7,679</u>
Centre maintenance fund		
Balance 1 January	4,344	4,344
Transfers during the year	-	-
Balance 31 December	<u>4,344</u>	<u>4,344</u>
Parish Hardship fund		
Balance 1 January	-	-
Transfers during the year	1,000	-
Balance 31 December	<u>1,000</u>	<u>-</u>
Total designated funds	<u>14,523</u>	<u>12,023</u>
Unrestricted and undesignated funds		
Balance 1 January	139,924	131,169
Surplus and transfers during the year	13,429	8,754
Balance 31 December	<u>153,353</u>	<u>139,924</u>

	Restricted £	Designated £	Unrestricted & undesignated £	Total £
Total reserves at 31st December 2024	179,731	14,523	153,353	347,608

10. SUMMARY OF ASSETS BY FUND

	unrestricted funds	restricted funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Investments & other fixed assets	134,583	155,742	290,325	295,858
Debtors & prepayments	27,187	-	27,187	25,696
Short term deposits	9,124	-	9,124	5,500
Cash at bank and in hand	34,725	23,989	58,714	49,780
less creditors due within one year	(37,741)	-	(37,741)	(47,052)
	167,877	179,731	347,608	329,781

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11. CHARITABLE DONATIONS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Lewisham Churches Care		500
St Christopher's Hospice	570	500
Sense		500
Smile Train	500	500
Melqosh Mission	500	500
Friends of the Holy Land	668	500
A Rocha UK		125
Royal British Legion		42
Cancer Research	500	
Mammakind	500	
Amos Trust	500	
Alzheimers Society	126	
Christian Aid	343	
The Manna Society	297	
Action for Conservation	78	
	4,584	3,167

12. SUMMARY OF GRANTS RECEIVED

The PCC wishes to record its gratitude to the following generous donors:

	2024	2023
	£	£
The SLCF and SDBF (school singing project)		925
London borough of Lewisham (The Big Help Out)		50
The National Lottery Heritage Fund (Passion Play project)	8,200	
Southwark Diocese (Tunes & Chips project)	1,500	
London borough of Lewisham (Church lighting project)	5,000	