THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. STEPHEN, SOUNDWELL, BRISTOL

England & Wales · Charity number 1131503

Details

Other names	ST. STEPHEN'S SOUNDWELL
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2009-09-04
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	52 Gladstone Street Staple Hill Bristol BS16 4RF
Phone	01179574297
Website	www.saintstephensoundwell.org

Activities

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

Activities: Regular public worship to all. Teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups. Pastoral work, including visiting the sick and bereaved. Promoting the whole mission of the Church by providing sacred space, events, meetings, school assemblies, literature and various sector 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

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Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL
- Bristol City
- South Gloucestershire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£161,112	£150,675	-	-
2024-12-31	£130,381	£127,465	-	-
2023-12-31	£128,065	£128,121	-	-
2022-12-31	£197,329	£174,596	-	-
2021-12-31	£169,767	£110,053	-	-
2020-12-31	£98,631	£97,140	-	-

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Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Lisa Jayn Wigmore	Chair	2016-09-20
Carolyn Jane Hawkins		2015-04-12
Carolyn Smith		2016-04-01
GEOFFREY HARRIS		
Gill Mae Mayo		2018-03-30
JULIA MERRIFIELD		2012-04-28
LINDA MARION COOPER		
Linda Anna-Caterina Krause		2022-05-15
Lorraine Sanderson		2016-04-01
NICOLA CLARE READ		
Patricia Anne Phipps		2015-04-12
REV A.J.G. COOPER		
Sarah Fry		2021-04-25
Susan Humphrey		2016-04-10
William Alfred Bishop		2015-04-10

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THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. STEPHEN, SOUNDWE

England & Wales - Charity number 1131503

Accounts

ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH, SOUNDWELL, BRISTOL
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Legal and Administrative Information

St Stephen's Church, Soundwell, Bristol, is part of the Diocese of Bristol within the Church of England. We have charitable status under the Charities Act, registered No. 1131503. PCC members are trustees of that charity by virtue of their membership.

Church Address
St Stephen's Church
Church Road
Soundwell
Bristol
BS16 4RH

Chair of PCC
Rev. Lisa Wigmore
52 Gladstone Street
Staple Hill
Bristol
BS16 4RF

Churchwarden
Mrs Gill Mayo
122 Burley Grove
Downend
Bristol
BS16 5QG

Bankers
Lloyds Bank
697 Fishponds Rd
Fishponds
Bristol BS16 3UJ

Independent Examiner
Linda Hughes
Burton Sweet
Cornerstone House
Midland Way, Thornbury
Bristol, BS35 2BS

Churchwarden

PCC members who have served from 1 January 2024 until the date of this report are:

Vicar:	Rev Lisa Wigmore	Chair	Ex Officio
Clergy:	Rev Regan Meares	Vice Chair 'til Aug 2025	Ex Officio
	Rev Sandy Cooper		Ex Officio
Lay Ministers:	Mr Peter Robbins	Safeguarding Officer 'til June 2025	Ex Officio
Wardens:	Mrs Gill Mayo		Ex Officio
Representatives on The Deanery Synod	Mr Bill Bishop		Ex Officio

Elected Members

Mrs Lin Cooper		Elected 2023*
Mrs Carolyn Smith		Elected 2023*
Mrs Sarah Fry		Elected 2023*
Mrs Carolyn Hawkins	Secretary	Elected 2024
Mrs Julia Merrifield	ER Officer	Elected 2024
Mrs Trish Phipps		Elected 2024
Mr Geoff Harris		Elected 2025
Mrs Nicola Read		Elected 2025
Mrs Sue Humphrey		Elected 2025
Mrs Lorraine Sanderson	Treasurer	Elected 2025
Ms Linda Krause		Elected 2025

* end of 3-year term

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 method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. The person to whom day-to-day management is delegated is the Vicar, Rev Lisa Wigmore. The PCC adopts the appropriate training procedures for the wide range of matters affecting the parish, specifically Safeguarding. The PCC has access to training courses arranged by the diocese and deanery.

There are several committees and groups which report to the PCC. Some committees meet on a regular basis whilst others on an ad-hoc basis. All major initiatives, events, proposals and requests are reported to the PCC when it meets every other month. The PCC agenda will always include provision for reports from the following committees & groups:

Ministry Team	Finance Team	Admin Team	Chat at the Turnpike
Sacristy Team	Safeguarding Team	Prayer Teams	Youth Church
Choir	Friday Night Live Team	Outburst Youth Group	Bible Chat
See & Know	Knit & Natter	Ladies Group	Bring Your Bible
Men's Group	Pensioner's Group	Fabric Team	Little Church
Café Central Team	Baptism Prep	Re-Ordering Committee	
Bereavement Team	Pastoral Care Teams	Flower Persons	
Cleaning Team	Welcomers/Sides People	Welcome Space	

The major risks to which the PCC is exposed, as identified by the PCC members, have been reviewed and systems or procedures have been established to manage such risks.

The PCC considers that it has, to the best of its knowledge, taken all reasonable steps to comply with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016. It confirms that there has been one incident since the previous APCM.

An annual budget is prepared to ensure short term viability. Actual results compared with budget are reported regularly to the PCC. The PCC has approved internal controls for annual accounts, cash and cheques handling. All assets are insured and levels reviewed annually and approved by the PCC.

The PCC has met 7 times in 2025 and all meetings have been in person.

Objectives and Aims – our reason for being!

The PCC of St Stephen's, Soundwell, has the responsibility of cooperating with the Vicar, Rev Lisa Wigmore, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical – in short, focusing on what Jesus wants us to do. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church and the Church Hall.

The PCC, in line with Diocesan objectives, continued with a number of specific aims for 2025; To follow Jesus. To serve others. To transform communities. Our Mission Statement is simply: Knowing Jesus and making Jesus known.

In addition, the PCC strives to fulfil our financial and physical responsibilities, both within the Church and to the Diocese

Activities and Achievements – review of the year.

Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll now stands at 111 people, an increase of three from last year. Five names have been removed and eight added.

Ministry Overview

Vicar

Following on from Christmas 2024, we began 2025 celebrating that Jesus is the one in whom we have Hope! We ended the year with the theme that Jesus is, the Light of the World. And I believe His Hope and Light have been evident throughout 2025 and in all we have experienced together at St Stephen's.

I was granted a 3-month sabbatical, which began on 1st March - and this certainly was a hope filled and illuminating time for me. God being 'always and everywhere', and being 'drenched in His love', were words and experiences I had with Him, that refreshed and refuelled me and shone a light to the future for me and for St Stephen's. Regan did a fabulous job in leading us through that time, starting Bible Stories on Friday Lunchtimes in St Stephen's Junior School, and Bring Your Bible each week on Wednesday evenings. Both of these continued throughout the year and are not only welcome additions to the mission and ministry of our Church, but are growing and deepening the faith of those who attend.

Regan completed his Curacy with us in August and moved to a very different Church and community, as a formal placement for the final year of his training, to give him more experience of Parish Ministry in very differing circumstances. This has proved to be the right thing for him and has been valuable in helping him discern where God is leading him next.

2025 saw our 2nd year of 'Little Church'- Church for families who struggle with main church as some of their family members are neuro-diverse. 'Little Church' is a 'Fresh Expression' of church because it has grown from the needs of those who come - meeting them where they are might best describe it. Little Church enables families to come and worship in a safe environment that has been created to welcome and include them in the special and wonderful ways they need.

Numbers attending the Discipleship Courses and Lent Course in 2025 dropped from previous years, so in June we began Bring Your Bible. This weekly, Wednesday evening Bible Study Group offers the opportunity to read and discuss the Bible in a relaxed and open way. During this time Paul's letter to the Philippians, the early chapters of Genesis and the readings used in the Christmas Carol Service have been studied. The group also shares what God might be saying to them during the week through His word, through social media and in their own lives. Numbers of people attending grew throughout the year, with between four and ten people attending each time, and has shown a clear thirst for God's word. Alongside this, Bible Chat, the afternoon Bible Study Group, also continued to grow in numbers, with between eight and fourteen people attending regularly through 2025. This fortnightly group looks at the Gospel reading for the following Sunday, ponders it together, sharing the understanding and meaning it has for us today, and also focuses on where God has been active in lives of group members and in our world. Everyone is welcome to either or both Bible Study Groups.

The monthly Coffee, Chat and Company at the Turnpike Pub attracts people meeting for company and fellowship on the first Wednesday of the month. Welcome Space, from 9am 'til 11.30am on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month, continues to be a place of warm welcome and friendship for all those who attend - there's no requirement to come for the whole session, popping in for a cuppa and chat is wonderful.

Our other 6 Mission Outreach Groups; Ladies Group, Men's Group, Pensioners Group, See & Know, Outburst, Knit and Natter, continued to meet throughout 2025. What joy they are for those who attend! They each continue to be ways in which the love of Jesus is shared within our community.

The Summer and Christmas Fayres were both a huge success in the way that the community wanted to come to their church. Many didn't seem to want to leave and there were some fabulous conversations as well as lots of goodies changing hands. Sue Humphrey does wonders in organising us, so thanks to her, but also to each & every one of you who helped in one way or another.

The links with the 5 Schools in the parish took on a new life with the appointment of Elaine Brewster, our Community Chaplain in September. Throughout the year there were visits to church, RE lessons taught by ministers on both school and church premises, Collective Worship led in school and regular services in church. Linda Krause joined the team of Academy Councillors (used to be called School Governors) at St Stephen's Junior School where lots of vital work takes place. Regan began a Bible Studies Lunch Club in May, which Elaine has built on and continues with Will Bishop, and she has also begun lots of other initiatives, details of which can be found in her report. Together, as a team at St Stephen's, we continue to explore how we might share the story of Jesus in imaginative and interactive ways in our local schools.

The recruitment process for a Community Chaplain produced great fruit with Elaine's appointment. Her first four months with us have seen her settle in wonderfully as part of the Church family as well as bring life and joy to the Children, Youth and Families (C, Y & F's) activities of our church within our community. Part of her focus is the 5 schools, then C, Y & F's opportunities within the parish, as well as the existing and new activities for these age groups in Church.

During the latter part of the year a specific Fabric Team was created to care for and, alongside the Re-ordering Team, to look at the current and future needs of our premises. So that we can continue to be an asset for and with the community in which we are set. The Fabric Team (Gill Mayo, Tim Parker, Paul Sanderson, Matt Gait, Lorraine Sanderson and myself) look at the day to day and year by year maintenance needs. The Re-ordering Team (Sandy Cooper, Carolyn Smith, Julia Merrifield, Nicola Read, Tim Parker, Paul & Lorraine Sanderson, and myself) have been collating information, seeking advice, preparing necessary documentation, so that during 2026 we have thoughts and ideas to share with you. Why are we doing this? Hopefully our Mission Statements below might remind us and keep us on track…

SSS Mission Statement

We exist to share the love of God, which we see most clearly in Jesus. Our Mission as Christians in Soundwell is to enable everyone to get to know Jesus and to deepen their relationship with Him.

We aim to do this by being the Church family for the whole community; journeying together through the good times, tough times, and also the everyday, ordinary times; nurturing faith, having fun, serving our neighbourhood and working in partnership with those around us.

St Stephen's Church is a place of prayer and worship where everyone is welcome; everyone is valued; everyone is important, to us, and to God. This is because life, love and death does not make sense without Jesus.

Vision Statement

St Stephen's… knowing Jesus and making Jesus known.

The reason is outlined in this next statement, but in a nutshell, it's because we know we have to ensure our buildings remain 'fit for purpose' for the next 120 years, whatever wonderful purposes God has planned for them.

Re-ordering Mission Statement

St Stephen's Church, Soundwell, is well-worn, because it's been well used.

We want to make our church a multi-functional facility which is hospitable, fit for purpose and serving the needs of our local community.

St Stephen's… knowing Jesus and making Jesus known.

As a Church, we continue to strive to know Jesus and to make Jesus known to those around us. We plan to do this with joyful, thankful, grateful and generous hearts and minds and through the way we each live our lives separately, and as a church community. We plan to do this by continually Following Jesus, because Jesus is the Light of the World!

Revd Lisa Wigmore
Vicar

Churchwarden

The year felt that it had been full of electrical and roof work, plus Health and Safety, and Fire Risk assessments. However, it started with a further attempt to keep the Church safe from intruders. The Church room door was fitted with a part that ensured it could not be broken into. It also had an efficient electric bell installed.
In February, Simon, a well-qualified Church member offered to inspect the Church and complete a full Health and Safety risk assessment. Tim Parker and myself walked around the Church with him and listed all the necessary steps we needed to take to prevent avoidable accidents. Simon then completed the necessary paperwork to ensure we met the legal requirements.
In his capacity as an experienced Firefighter, Simon then looked at the potential fire risks within the

whole of the Church building, plus what action should be taken in the event of a fire. It was with his guidance that the necessary Fire Risk assessment was completed, and again there were quite a few steps we had to take in order to meet the requirements.

It was in mid-summer that we were suddenly faced with the partial collapse of the old stone wall that divides the Church and Soundwell Academy grounds. The first move had to be getting the area fenced off as potentially there could be further falls. Following an assessment by a qualified person from the Diocese, it was agreed that the existing wall should be made safe, and the fallen stones be removed and safely stacked elsewhere. This was done by a strong group of volunteers. Rebuilding the wall was considered, but this is being held in abeyance as it is possible that long term plans for the Church, could want to occupy that space.

It was around this time that a group was brought together to discuss a brilliant idea that Lisa had been thinking about. The idea was that we set up a FABRIC TEAM who would meet together, as necessary, to discuss outstanding work on the Church building, and, using the skills of the team members, make plans for work to be carried out. This is proving to be very successful, and it has taken stress off me, as Church Warden.

Most important this year is that we had a new volunteer to be an Assistant Warden, he joined the wonderful little team that help ensure the Sunday services run smoothly. We also had some new volunteer Welcomers, who have the important role of ensuring everyone is made welcome in our Church.

Gill Mayo
Churchwarden

Ministry Team

The ministry team - made up of Lisa Wigmore, (Vicar), Sandy and Lin Cooper (Associate Priest and Director of Music), Peter Robbins (Licensed Lay Minister), Gill Mayo (Church Warden), Lorraine Sanderson (Treasurer), and Regan Meares (Assistant Curate) - sadly reduced in size during 2025. Peter stepped away in June for a year-long sabbatical and Regan moved to St Chad's in Patchway to gain some very different and valuable experience there to help him discern where God is calling him next. As your Vicar, I know how hard these folk work for our Church and for the glory of God. They are each fabulous and fantastic and use their God-given gifts and skills in everything they do…. often doing so in a sacrificial manner. I praise & thank God for them!

This has been Gill's ninth year as Church Warden and she has been supported by a fantastic team of seven Assistant Church Wardens; Tim Parker, Geoff Harris, Jan Brookshaw, Bill Brookshaw, Wayne Topps, Carolyn Hawkins & Matt Gait… with Paul Sanderson joining part way through the year. Thank you all.

At the end of 2025, Tim Parker, Paul Sanderson and Julia Merrifield agreed to be Co-Church Wardens alongside Gill, becoming a tighter team of support... the outworking of which we will see in 2026.

Supporting the Ministry Team and often being the first point of contact for the community, are a team who keep the Church Office open and active three mornings a week. Thank you to Bill Bishop, and Jan & Bill Brookshaw for all they do. Many thanks to David Packe who keeps us connected through advertising, the website, our weekly slides and Open Space. Thanks, also to Julie Goss who leads our social media promotions which has successfully translated into people coming to Church.

Particular thanks to the PCC for all their time and input in being an active part in the Governance and Mission of St Stephen's.

Revd. Lisa Wigmore
Vicar

Community Chaplaincy and Family Ministry (September–December 2025)

Elaine Brewster joined the ministry team in September 2025 as Community Chaplain, with a focus on strengthening relationships between the church, local schools, and families.

During this period, Elaine met with the headteachers of both St Stephen's Junior School and St Stephen's Infant School, laying foundations for ongoing partnership. She led collective worship in both schools and hosted school services at St Stephen's Church, including Harvest and Christmas services for the Junior School and a Christmas service for the Infant School.

Elaine supported and developed several school-based initiatives. At St Stephen's Junior School, she established a Crochet After School Club, providing a safe and welcoming space for pupils. She also continued the Bible Lunchtime Club that had been introduced by the previous Curate, expanding it to include colouring and craft activities alongside the Bible story. The club had a regular attendance of approximately 15 pupils, with additional attendees joining on a weekly basis. Elaine also took responsibility for the school's prayer corner, introducing a prayer tree that enabled pupils to write and hang prayers during break and lunchtime.

In December, Elaine and church volunteers delivered "Christmas in a Box" to Year 5 pupils at St Stephen's Junior School. She also facilitated two church-based workshops: one with a Reception class, allowing pupils to tour the church and ask questions, and another with Year 3 pupils exploring the theme "What is a place of worship?".

Within the wider church community, Elaine took an active role in the See and Know toddler group and Sunday Youth Church. She helped lead the purchase of ten Youth Bibles, introduced Bible Races into Sunday morning children's provision, and led the Youth Church in presenting a Youth Nativity.

Elaine also supported Outburst and Little Church, working alongside existing teams to promote and help grow these groups. In addition, she began initial discussions and planning towards the launch of a Bubble Church at St Stephen's. Starting to gather a team of volunteers to be on the team.

To support communication and outreach, Elaine also established a St Stephen's Church Instagram page, complementing the church's existing social media presence that Julie Goss has built and maintained beautifully.

Special thanks to every member of these groups who have helped support and welcome the chaplaincy work this year.

Elaine Brewster
Community Chaplain

Kingswood & South Gloucestershire Deanery Synod

The synod meets 3 times a year and gives an opportunity for church people from churches all over Kingswood and South Gloucestershire Deanery to meet and hear each other's experiences. Good and bad things – problems and solutions are explored. We also get updates on current initiatives passed down from the diocese.

There is usually a talk and a period of group discussions where we can express our points of view and listen to how others have coped or advanced in faith while dealing with a variety of situations.

In February 2025 we met at Downend and the Deanery Mission Action Plan was explained. It was a helpful way to help a Church / Parish / Deanery to help identify areas that are growing and areas we want to grow in to – areas that need growth. It helps with setting goals and identifying stepping stones.

In July we met here at St Stephen's and a good number of parishioners were represented – particularly those on sub committees to achieve the stated Deanery objectives of: Look after your buildings – Eco Church. Experts were in attendance to give advice. I believe they found it very helpful as we <u>are</u> pursuing these Deanery objectives.

In November we met at St Chad's Church Patchway and the subject was "Transforming Church Together". I was able to tell the meeting that we were at the forefront of this and well on our way to achieving many of the aims in this initiative.

If anyone wishes to join the Deanery Synod they can be nominated by our PCC – we have room for more representatives

Please speak to me or a member of the PCC if this interests you.

Bill Bishop
Deanery Synod Representative

Services

Little Church, is Church for families with Neuro-diverse children. We began in January 2024 with 3 families and have grown to 5 families with space for just one, possibly 2 more. It is a fresh expression of Church to meet the needs of the people of our community and it is shining the Light of Jesus for those who attend and lead it.

Friday Night Live, at 6.30pm on the 3rd Friday of each month, shines the light and love of Jesus in very different ways to our more traditional main Sunday Service. In a relaxed way we praise Jesus, explore Scripture together - breaking out in groups to suit our different learning styles as people - and enjoy friendship and fellowship over crackers and cheese afterwards.

St Stephen's Community Worship is a great place to be at 10am each Sunday and we have had 22 people join us this year. The Youth Church team, was led and co-ordinated by Dawn Dufffin, from the start of 2025, with the help and support of Peter Robbins & Regan Meares. In September, Elaine joined with oversight of the team, encouraging Dawn and the rest of the team of leaders and helpers. Thank you to Katy North, Teresa Cooper, Nicola Bailey, Will Bishop, Julie Goss, Lorraine Sanderson and Sue Humphrey who give their time to plan, lead and support our Youth. These young people are the future of our church, so we must inspire and uplift them with our prayers, smiles, words of encouragement and considerations. If God is nudging you to help in any way, please do speak with Elaine or Dawn.

We have valued teams of people leading Ante-Communion (the first part of the service), Intercessions and readings from the Bible. New people have joined these teams this year, and we see the Light of Jesus shining through them! During 2025, Prayer Ministry (praying with others) continued to be offered at the end of many services. Although there are always people available to pray with anyone at any time, so is lighting a candle in private prayer.

At regular intervals throughout the year, we have all been blessed by the witness of our own church members, sharing their testimony during our main Sunday service, and giving glory to God for the way His Light shines through them. What an encouragement to all of us this has been. As have the 4 speakers we had visit us during Lent.

A small but committed congregation meet at 8am on the first and third Sundays of the month for BCP Holy Communion. There continues to be another small, but committed congregation at 10am each Wednesday to share Holy Communion together.

Throughout 2025, a small team of church members continued to take Holy Communion to around nine of our 'At Home Members'. This number can grow when folk are housebound by illness for short periods of time.

Services at Deerhurst Care Home are held monthly, some with Holy Communion, others without. All these are received and valued by residents, staff and carers alike and are well attended. Thank you to the team from St Stephen's who support and help at these services - Margaret Archer, Mike Long, Jean Hulbert and Rosemary Boulton.

Julia Merrifield has done an amazing job in pulling together resources for our 5 All Age Services. These happen at Harvest, Remembrance, Christmas Eve, Mothering Sunday and on our Church's birthday (Dedication). The team of people who plan and lead these services continues to grow and our community tell us they see the Light of Jesus shining through them. This team continue to create the Experience Easter Trail in the Church Garden, which has been a huge success across our community over the last few years, with many people coming to Experience Easter during Holy Week.

All the usual Christian festivals have been celebrated, with Regan conducting a Baptism by Full Immersion in Church on Easter Day - the first time for many years. What joy there was praising our Risen Lord! There was one special Confirmation that took place in June, at Christ Church Hengrove, for Ethan Ridler.

Ministry in our local schools is growing - and building on all that has gone before, Regan and then Elaine are exciting faith in the children. Through these building relationships, this encourages significant numbers of children, parents and carers to attend their many School Christmas Services in Church. Our Church Carols by Candlelight saw Church bursting at the seams again and the Light of Christ shining brightly. The Soundwell Brass Ensemble continues to be a valued part of the worship and fun times at St Stephen's. The Christmas Eve Family Fun Christingle Services and Christmas Morning Family Service also saw similar numbers of people attending as last year, as did Midnight Holy Communion. And wonderfully, the families of Youth Church celebrated with us in main Church with a fabulous re-

telling of The Nativity. Our theme - Jesus the Light of the World, shone brightly in 2025.

We have an amazing and committed team of people who ensure those who have lost loved ones are invited to our Memorial Services, and that they are cared for and welcomed when they do. These services, one in the Spring and one in the Autumn, are well attended and enable people to gather in church to remember their loved ones. There wasn't a Baptism Preparation Session throughout 2025 due to falling numbers in people requesting Baptisms, but there is a small and committed team of people who support Baptism Families at the Baptism Services. During 2025, 9 children and 4 adults were Baptised at St Stephen's. Six funerals were conducted in Church, with a further thirteen at local Crematoriums. And during 2025, there were two wonderful couples who chose St Stephen's Church as the special place for them to be married.

Our main Sunday Services, festivals and occasional offices were enhanced by our Parish Church Choir, led by Lin Cooper. There was a particularly large Choir for the Church Carol Service that sounded amazing. Tim Parker and Lin share the leading of our sung worship week by week by playing the organ and piano, as well as choosing what we sing. We would be lost without them, so thank you.

All these services, and the many events and celebrations at St Stephen's are made possible by the many teams of our Church members. We applaud and thank all those who are mentioned so far and those involved in quiet and unseen ways which support the work of St Stephens Church, including;

- the Sacristy team who prepare for services, assist the priests, clear up and maintain supplies and furnishings appropriate to the liturgical seasons. In addition, there are others who wash, iron and regularly care for the linen.
- the team who administer the Sacrament at the Lady Chapel.
- the team of 'greeters' who provide a warm welcome with a smile week by week at our door.
- the team who manage the supply and arrangements of flowers and decorations to beautify our Church and play their part in preparing the Church for worship for regular Sundays and festivals.
- the team of people who keep the Church building clean and tidy, and decorate our buildings for special occasions.
- those who tend the gardens and look after the day to day repairs to our buildings.
- the many café teams on Sundays and on other occasions, who provide us with refreshments, lay out tables and chairs and clear away afterwards.
- the teams who help us see and hear things clearly by operating and maintaining our audio and visual equipment.
- those who count the cash donations received each week, look after our banking and accounts and administer the 'Parish Giving' and 'By Envelope' schemes.
- the various teams of people praying for us and those who ask for our prayers.

Thank you all!

Dial-a-Sermon (phone in free to hear) & Click-a-Sermon (click link on church website to hear) continues to be refreshed with the sermon of the week, EVERY week! So, if you want to hear the sermon again, or you're not in church on a particular week, but want to connect - then please listen in!

Some folk have chosen to move to other Churches, or have found jobs elsewhere, and some have gone to be with our Lord in glory. But God has brought a significant number of new people to us over 2025, so the average Sunday attendance for 2025 was 77 adults and 10 children, which is an increase on last year.

God's Light has certainly been shining on our Church Community throughout 2025, and we have seen His light shining out form us to touch others with the knowledge and love of Jesus. As we look to the future, let us continue to allow His Light to shine through us as we always and everywhere Follow Jesus!

Revd. Lisa Wigmore
Vicar

Care and Prayer

Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care continued to be a particular focus of the Church during the year. This included home visits, hospital visits, home communions and care home visits and services. Visits were also offered to the newly bereaved, and Memorial Services were held in May and October, for anyone who wished to attend. The love, prayer and reading of the names of those gone to glory was much appreciated by those that came to these special services. There is also a Book of Remembrance in Church.

Jenny Bishop is our Pastoral Care Co-Ordinator, and she supports Lisa and the Ministry Team in caring for the people of our Parish. She phones and visits folk as an ambassador of our church… as do many of the congregation. Jenny, along with Jan Brookshaw, Carolyn Hawkins, Lorraine Sanderson, Regan and Lisa, take Home Communion regularly to around a dozen people – a number that often increases as a short-time need arises for some.

Forging Friendships began during 2024, which continues to offer friendship visits at home to those who would like them and the visitors; Jenny Bishop, Lorraine Sanderson, Trish Phipps, Jean Hulbert, & Carol Murphy; are caring members of the congregation.

The love, care and concern shown by so many of our congregation to each other, especially those who aren't always able to join us in regular worship, is really great. If a member of the congregation notices an empty seat where there is usually a familiar face, they either get in touch or let one of the ministers know about it as soon as possible.

Specific needs are prayed for immediately by a team of people known as our Prayer Chain. They pray for those whose people who have asked Lisa or any of us for prayer, and would like us as the 'church' to be praying for them or the particular situation. Emails are sent to the team to request them to pray immediately. These prayers continue, and also include the names of our home members and those who are to be baptised or married during the year.

Thirteen baptisms took place during 2025, as well as two weddings. Nineteen funerals were conducted either in Church or at other locations, but there were no interments of ashes carried out.

Using the Cycle of Prayer and the diary from Open Space, all church members are able to pray for the life of St. Stephen's. Our Cycle of Prayer, from which we pray for our organisations, individuals, and those living or working in streets in our parish, provides a platform from which specific prayer needs flow.

All requests for prayer are treated as confidential. St Stephens truly is a praying Church!

Lisa Wigmore
Vicar

Safeguarding

Statement of commitment to Safeguarding:

The parish of St Stephen Soundwell is committed to safeguarding children, young people and adults at risk.

Parish Safeguarding Officer: **Peter Robbins LLM (until 15th June 2025)**
Rev Lisa Wigmore took on role from then

Policies
The Safeguarding Policy was reviewed and agreed by the PCC at its meeting on 11th November 2025.

Activities
The PCC oversees the following activities for children, young people or for vulnerable adults:

Youth Church, Little Church - for neurodiverse young people and their caregivers, See and Know Toddler Group, Outburst Youth Group and Welcome Space Social Group for adults and children.

Safer Recruitment & DBS
The PCC is responsible for the safe recruitment of people wanting to work with vulnerable groups through the activities mentioned above, and in its other Mission Outreach Groups.

As part of the safer recruitment process, where eligible, volunteers working with vulnerable groups have been DBS checked at the level appropriate to the role.

Because the parish provides activities for vulnerable groups as Trustees the PCC members are also eligible for an enhanced DBS Check.

All volunteers and PCC members who require one have a current check.

Reporting to the PCC
The PCC was updated about Safeguarding matters in the parish at all 6 meetings during 2025. There was safeguarding awareness matter reported on to the Diocesan Safeguarding Team.

Action Plan
Lisa has been looking for the right people to take on the role as Parish Safeguarding Officers throughout the latter half of 2025. Two people, Nicola Bailey & Lorraine Sanderson came forward at the end of the year and they will begin sharing the role and responsibilities at the start of 2026 with some training to get them started.

Lisa Wigmore
Vicar & Interim Parish Safeguarding Officer

Community

The Church membership is involved in many unseen individual acts of care, service and generosity to those in particular need. In addition, the following community orientated activities have been taking place in and around the Church: we call them our **Mission Outreach Groups:**

Welcome Space

Welcome Space has continued from 9 – 11.30am on the second and fourth Tuesdays each month throughout the year. It began as a Warm Space, intended to be a place in which people could come for warmth, refreshment and a chat during the cold winter months.

This enterprise has continued to be successful during winter and summer alike with a band of 20 or so regulars aged between babies to people in their 90's. It has become a mutually supporting community of people, whilst still being an open place to welcome visitors from time to time.

Currently the team is led by Lorraine Sanderson and Sandy Cooper, supported by a delightful team of 6 faithful people. We pray that Welcome Space will continue to provide a welcome, company and support into the future.

Lorraine Sanderson & Sandy Cooper

Coffee and Chat at the Turnpike Pub.

We have been going for over three years now and around a dozen of us gather on the first Wednesday of every month in the Pool Room of the Turnpike Pub. All ages are welcome and in the last year that has included under one year old to over ninety!

Some of us just have coffee whilst others like to stay on for lunch and to continue fellowship together.

This is one of the few opportunities we get to meet and show our faces outside our church premises and also to support our local pub.

Rosemary Boulton

See and Know

See and Know is our Christian parent and toddler group. We have been running now for 23 years and aim to gently introduce young children and their parents or carers to the Christian Faith. We use songs, rhymes and puppets to encourage the children to share, take turns and have fun learning that Jesus is their friend.

We had a leavers party in the summer, and we said goodbye to 8 children who moved on to school. This left our numbers rather depleted and the remaining children were very young. However, we are now beginning to welcome new children and their carers.

We said goodbye to helper, Carol Millard, at the end of the summer term. Carol has been with us since See and Know started and is sorely missed. However, Elaine, the Community Chaplain, has joined us, along with Stella Hoare and Sarah Cook, which is a great help. We also have a couple of mums who regularly help us to set up.

We have a really friendly and helpful group of mums and nans who are very supportive of each other. We would welcome any new families who would like to join us.

Sue Humphrey

Outburst Youth Group

In 2025 we were delighted to welcome new members to Outburst, including children joining us from our local primary school.

Throughout the year, we explored a wide range of themes such as Mothering Sunday, Easter, Fairtrade and the meaning of Christmas. Our sessions took many forms – film nights, craft session, cooking, discussions, Bible treasure hunts and quizzes – offering something for everyone

Our aim continues to be to show young people that spending time together in a Christian based group can be both enjoyable and enriching. By planting the seeds of faith, we hope that when the time feel right for them to make their own personal commitment they will look back on their experiences at Outburst and St Stephen's and choose to continue their journey with God.

Carolyn Smith

Knit and Natter

Membership has dropped slightly this year due to illness and the loss of our friend Doreen who made the lovely teddies for those being baptised. Some of us are now trying to make them as well as she did. We continue to support the nursing homes, Cossham hospital, the soup run and the shoe box appeal. This year we have knitted dolls clothes and also mittens for the children attending the nursery next to the church. We would welcome new members.

Jan Brookshaw

Pensioners Group

The year passes so quickly. Despite losing several long term and wonderful friends, we have been fortunate in meeting new friends, who find our fortnightly meetings very enjoyable. It seems the content of each meeting is so different, yet suitable for us.

We always look forward to the musical entertainment, which is enjoyed by everyone.

This year we had a trip to Weymouth which was well supported and enjoyed by all.

Our previous years fundraising was for MND. During 2025 our fundraising efforts were not so successful, although our Harvest Sale went well. It was decided that we would find other means of fundraising during 2026.

This year for our Christmas celebration we decided to visit Shepton Mallet and have a fish and chip lunch. This was followed by a visit to Dobbies Garden Centre nearby, to top up with Christmas presents and enjoy a cup of tea. It was very successful and enjoyed by all.

Our Christmas Carol Service was held on a Thursday, joining the Ladies Group, Men's Group and friends. It was followed by refreshments in the Church Hall. Our grateful thanks to Rev Sandy Cooper for his help in arranging this.

Mary Britton (Chairman)

Men's Group

This year we lost four of our longest serving members – Malcolm Pullin, Derek Beek, James Head and Chairman Brian Brown. They are sadly missed and our thoughts and condolences go out to each of their families.

With the rising costs of speakers, we had to reshuffle our set-up, to entertain ourselves some weeks. To this extent our membership filled the gaps with great fellowship and interest, with the outcome meaning we remained financially solvent.

On the summer outing to Weymouth we enjoyed super weather, and a trip to Gloucester Military Museum proved to be very interesting.

The joint Carol Service with the Ladies and Pensioner Groups was very enjoyable, as usual, and our Christmas meal, at the new venue of Keynsham Rugby Club, was highly acceptable and will be used again next year.

We have to say special thanks to Treasurer, Bob and Speaker Secretary, Keith whose roll is now combined with other members. Our "tea boys" Alan Fox and John Gray keep us well refreshed at the start of each meeting. "Thank you guys".

Please note that our meetings are 1.30-3.30 pm on alternate Thursdays in the Church Room. We always extend a genuine and warm welcome to all comers. Here's to a great and successful 2026.

Keith Winter (Chairman)

Ladies Group

Ladies Group had a very good year, with lots of good speakers. Our trip was to Cardiff Bay and then on for shopping. We held a Macmillan Cancer Support afternoon and some people from church joined us.

We had a Harvest Lunch and also a Christmas Auction, with Tim Parker as the Auctioneer.

Our winter outing was to Bath College for an excellent meal and then across the road to the Christmas Market.

Our fundraising project was for St Peters hospice, and we raised £1,000. To end the year we had a joint Carol Service with the Pensioners and Men's groups which was very well attended.

Jean Hulbert (Chairman)

Financial Overview Year ending 31st December 2025

The Parochial Church funds at the end of this financial year stand at £163,683. This shows a small increase of about £10,438 on the 2024 figure due to a combination of Restricted funds given to provide for the salary of a Community Chaplain and monies held in the Hall Fund to finance heating improvements. The main features of 2025 were the recruitment appointment of a Community Chaplain, and some generous grants given to support her salary. Prayerful consideration has continued of how the Church premises and ministries may be made ready for the community of the next generation in Soundwell. As always, the Church has greatly benefitted from the generosity of the community.

Investments
Some of the Church reserve funds are invested with the Central Board of Finance and are managed by the Central Board of Finance. Other funds are lodged with the Church's bankers. The total interest received during the year was £4,541.15.

Unrestricted Funds
The unrestricted general fund reserve has further decreased in the year from £51,029 to £47,881 and is held partly in accounts with Lloyds Bank and in an account with the Central Board of Finance.
In addition, the designated funds have increased from £99,134 to £104,861. Day to day work on maintaining the fabric of the Church building has exceeded budget, and has included ongoing flat roof repairs and electrical systems upgrading. The use of the Church Hall by the community has increased during the year and this year the letting fees have more than covered the general running and maintenance expenses. So some funds have been retained in the Hall Fund to part fund a proposed Eco-friendly heating system and solar panel array. It has not been possible to set aside any resources for the Next Generation Fund. The Next Generation Fund was established in 2021 with a view to building resources for major improvement to the Church in years to come. However there has been significant effort expended in considering what improvements are necessary to enhance the facilities on the Church premises.

Restricted Funds
Restricted Funds within the Church accounts arise from gifts given to the Church to be forwarded to specified Charities. The Church has gratefully received restricted grant funding towards the repair to a flat roof, for eco-enhancements of the Hall electrical system and to support the salary of a Community Chaplain.

Income & Expenditure
Church income is generated mainly from the generosity of Church members, together with some well supported fund-raising fayres and events. Planned giving income increased by 1.9% compared with the previous year. Gift Aid continues to make a significant contribution to the income of the Church.

The Parish Share contribution for 2025 was increased to £70,467. This represents the Parish contribution to the diocese's costs in providing ministers' stipends and housing as well as a further contribution to diocesan and national services costs.

The Church has an agreed policy of giving around 10% of its Voluntary Income to a number of Charities which have become known as our "Mission Partners" because of their ongoing relationship with members of the Church. These include:-

The Bristol Soup Run
The One25 Project, Bristol
Emmaus, Bristol
Sisters of the Church
Christian Aid
Beloved
Bristol Schools Connection
Harvest for the Hungry
Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust

Bristol Churches Fund
The Children's Society
Uganda Mission Project

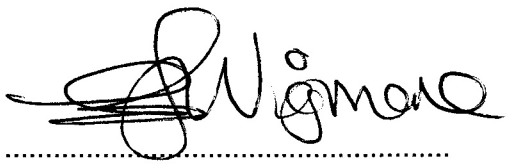
Day to day Church maintenance continues with the annual electrical, fire and boiler tests and certification. Ongoing flat roof repairs continue to be a challenge with significant expenditure during the year. Eco improvements have been carried out in the Church Hall with further work planned for the Church in 2026. Further Eco work is in the final planning stage for Air-to-Air heating for the Church Hall, together with a solar array and battery system. Permissions are awaited and it is hoped that work should commence early in 2026

During the year, many Church members have continued to give through the Parish Giving Scheme. It has also benefitted us by the monthly tax reclaim system and also by the ways those on the scheme are prompted to review their level of their giving annually.

Many other Church members have continued filling their weekly giving envelopes and ensure they have found their way into Church funds.

As in recent years, we are projecting a deficit budget for 2026. However, we do hope to secure some additional grant funding for the Community Chaplain role, and for the Eco upgrades of Solar Panels and a new heating system in the Church Hall, as well as other maintenance. We won't obtain all we need, so we may need to dig deep to ensure we are following Jesus in the ways he wants his church to go. But we know we follow a faithful God, and, together as his people here in Soundwell, we can be grateful people who are joyously hopeful for the future.

Approved by the PCC on 10th March 2026 and signed on their behalf by



.....
Rev'd Lisa Wigmore, PCC Chair
CHARITY NO. 1131503

St. Stephen's Church Soundwell

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st December 2025

				2025				2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
	General	Designated	Restricted	**Total**	General	Designated	Restricted	**Total**
Incoming Resources (Note 1)								
Donations	92,546.85	3,870.00	3,618.81	**100,035.66**	94,275.27	625.93	2,358.92	**97,260.12**
Other voluntary Income	-	-	30,222.32	**30,222.32**	934.00	-	4,500.00	**5,434.00**
Trading	6,020.46	20,292.73	-	**26,313.19**	5,371.47	18,440.26	-	**23,811.73**
Investment Income	4,541.15	-	-	**4,541.15**	3,875.01	-	-	**3,875.01**
Total Incoming Resources	**103,108.46**	**24,162.73**	**33,841.13**	**161,112.32**	**104,455.75**	**19,066.19**	**6,858.92**	**130,380.86**
Resources Used (Note 2)								
Grants	-	-	13,668.81	**13,668.81**	-	-	13,404.37	**13,404.37**
Church Activities	81,281.83	-	11,698.97	**92,980.80**	80,092.33	65.00	65.00	**80,222.33**
Fundraising & publicity	-	-	-	**-**	-	-	-	**-**
Church management & Admin	12,367.37	21,435.49	10,222.32	**44,025.18**	9,261.94	23,158.69	1,417.61	**33,838.24**
Total Resources used	**93,649.20**	**21,435.49**	**35,590.10**	**150,674.79**	**89,354.27**	**23,223.69**	**14,886.98**	**127,464.94**
Net incoming (outgoing) resources	9,459.26	2,727.24	(1,748.97)	10,437.53	15,101.48	(4,157.50)	(8,028.06)	2,915.92
Transfers between Funds	(13,000.00)	3,000.00	10,000.00	**-**	(15,982.61)	5,982.61	10,000.00	**-**
Movement for the year	(3,540.74)	5,727.24	8,251.03	10,437.53	(881.13)	1,825.11	1,971.94	2,915.92
Opening Funds	51,028.75	99,133.70	3,083.39	153,245.84	51,909.88	97,308.59	1,111.45	150,329.92
Balance Carried Fwd	**47,488.01**	**104,860.94**	**11,334.42**	**163,683.37**	**51,028.75**	**99,133.70**	**3,083.39**	**153,245.84**

St. Stephen's Church Soundwell

Year ended 31st December 2025

Balance Sheet			**31/12/2025**		**31/12/2024**
		£	£	£	£
Current Assets					
Debtors	Note 4	5,241.80		4,797.53	
Central Board of Finance		100,447.45		97,097.10	
Cash at Bank and in hand		60,202.59		52,989.97	
Cash in hand		-		-	
			165,891.84		**154,884.60**
Current Liabilities					
Sundry Creditors	Note 4	2,208.47		1,638.76	
			2,208.47		**1,638.76**
Net Assets			**163,683.37**		**153,245.84**
Statement of Funds					
Unrestricted - General	Note 3	47,488.01		51,028.75	
			47,488.01		**51,028.75**
Designated	Note 3				
Designated - Fabric		137.86		339.79	
Designated - Fabric Special Projects		4,683.39		3,793.39	
Designated - Community Chaplain		-		-	
Designated - Next Generation Fund		89,478.67		88,468.67	
Designated - Hall		10,561.02		6,531.85	
			104,860.94		**99,133.70**
Restricted	Note 3				
Mission		16.00		66.00	
Fabric (Church)		-			
Hall Account		-			
Community Chaplain		11,318.42		3,017.39	
			11,334.42		**3,083.39**
Total Funds			**163,683.37**		**153,245.84**

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 10th March 2026 and signed on their behalf by

Reverend Lisa Wigmore, Vicar and PCC Chair .....

Lorraine Sanderson, Treasurer .....

St Stephens Church, Soundwell
Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2025

Notes to the Financial Statements

1 Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the accruals basis
The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Funds

General 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. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Incoming Resources

Voluntary income and capital sources
* 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 donations are received.
* Funds raised by the fete, garden party and similar events are accounted for gross.

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

Income from investments
Dividends and interest are accounted for when received. Tax recoverable on such income is recognised in the same accounting year.

Resources used

*Grant*s
Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

Activities directly relating to the work of the Church
The diocesan quota or parish share is accounted for when payable. Any quota unpaid at 31 December is provided for in these accounts as an operational (though not a legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the Balance Sheet.

Creditors are recognised on the basis of goods and services received and measured at the settlement amount.

Fixed assets

Consecrated land and buildings and movable church furnishings
* Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993.
* Movable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's inventory which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For inalienable property acquired prior to 31st December 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the accounts. Items acquired since 1st January 2001 have been capitalised and depreciated in the accounts over their currently anticipated useful economic life (initially over 4 years) on a straight line basis.
* All expenditure on consecrated or beneficed buildings, individual items under £2,500, or the repair of moveable church furnishings acquired before 31st December 2000 is written off.

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 the asset is acquired.

Current assets
* Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectible.
* Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the Central Board of Finance, Church of England Funds or at the bank

2. Trustee Remuneration, Related parties Transactions and Staff Costs

* Two Trustees received expenses in performance of their duties totalling £932.54.
* Mrs L.M. Cooper who is a Trustee received £1,000 for her work as Musical Director plus £560 for Wedding and Funeral services.
* Mr G. Harris who is a Trustee received £200 for his duties as verger
* Mr P. Sanderson who is the husband of a trustee received £3,145.20 for his duties as Hall Cleaner
* During the year there were two other members of staff, firstly our Church's Promotions Officer, and then, from September 2025, our Community Chaplain.

St. Stephen's Church Soundwell
Year ended 31st December 2025
MOVEMENT OF FUNDS STATEMENT PART 1

Note 1 Incoming Resources

	TOTAL 2025	GENERAL	DESIGNATED FUNDS						RESTRICTED FUNDS				TOTAL 2024
			Total	Fabric	Fabric Special	Community Chaplain	Next Generation	Hall Account	Toal	Mission Fund	Fabric (Church)	Hall Account	Community Chaplain	
Donations	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Gift Aided Donations	64,008.51	64,008.51	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	61,487.88
Income Tax Recovered	17,521.63	17,356.63	-	-	-	-	-	-	165.00	165.00	-	-	-	17,685.88
Non Gift Aided Donations	873.00	873.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,568.00
Open Plate Offering	5,832.37	5,832.37	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,924.65
Other Gifts	10,800.15	4,476.34	2,870.00	1,970.00	890.00	-	10.00	-	3,453.81	3,453.81	-	-	-	10,593.71
Legacies	1,000.00	-	1,000.00	-	-	-	1,000.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Donations	**100,035.66**	**92,546.85**	**3,870.00**	1,970.00	890.00	-	1,010.00	-	**3,618.81**	3,618.81	-	-		**97,260.12**
Other Voluntary Inccome														
Grants and Gifts	30,222.32	-	-	-	-		-	-	30,222.32	-	1,400.00	8,822.32	20,000.00	5,434.00
Total Other Voluntary Income	**30,222.32**	**-**	**-**	-	-		-	-	**30,222.32**	-	1,400.00	8,822.32	20,000.00	**5,434.00**
Trading														
Fees	2,692.00	2,692.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,133.00
Fetes, Bazaars & Fundraising	3,135.73	-	3,135.73	3,135.73	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,085.93
Hall Lettings	17,157.00	-	17,157.00	-	-	-	-	17,157.00	-	-	-	-	-	15,354.33
Sundry	3,328.46	3,328.46	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,238.47
Cards & Calendars	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Insurance Claims	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fairtrade Sales	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Trading	**26,313.19**	**6,020.46**	**20,292.73**	3,135.73	-	-	-	17,157.00	**-**	-	-	-	-	**23,811.73**
Investment Income														
Interest Received	**4,541.15**	**4,541.15**	**-**	-	-	-	-	-	**-**	-	-	-	-	**3,875.01**
Total Incoming Resources	**161,112.32**	**103,108.46**	**24,162.73**	5,105.73	890.00	-	1,010.00	17,157.00	**33,841.13**	3,618.81	1,400.00	8,822.32	20,000.00	**130,380.86**

St. Stephen's Church Soundwell
Year ended 31st December 2025
MOVEMENT OF FUNDS STATEMENT PART 2

Note 2 Resoures Used

	TOTAL 2025	GENERAL	DESIGNATED FUNDS					RESTRICTED FUNDS				TOTAL 2024
			Total	Fabric	Fabric Special	Community Chaplain	Next Generation	Hall Account	Total	Mission Fund	Fabric (Church)	Hall Acount	Community Chaplain	
Grants (Note 6)	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Specific Grants	10,000.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,000.00	10,000.00	-	-	-	10,000.00
Donations from Collections	3,668.81	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,668.81	3,668.81	-	-	-	3,404.37
Total Grants	**13,668.81**	**-**	**-**	-	-	-	-	-	**13,668.81**	13,668.81	-	-	-	**13,404.37**
Church Activities														
Ministry Parish Pledge	70,467.09	70,467.09	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	69,345.00
Clergy Expenses	932.54	932.54	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,100.61
Sundry	200.00	200.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	298.96
Chaplain Costs	11,698.97	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11,698.97	-	-	-	11,698.97	
Church Insurance, Light and Heat	7,021.33	7,021.33	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,464.49
Music Provision	1,680.00	1,680.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,690.00
Communion and Service Costs	980.87	980.87	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,323.27
Total Church Activities	**92,980.80**	**81,281.83**	**-**	-	-	-	-	-	**11,698.97**	-	-	-	11,698.97	**80,222.33**
Fundraising and Publicity														
Sales	**-**	**-**	**-**	-	-		-	-	**-**	-	-	-	-	**-**
Church Management and Administration														
Printing, Stationery and Envelopes	4,682.70	4,682.70	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,270.11
Salaries	3,730.56	3,730.56	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,448.58
Subscriptions and Sundry	3,987.24	3,954.11	33.13	33.13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,378.47
Cards and Calendars	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Church Maintenance	9,674.53	-	8,274.53	8,274.53	-	-	-	-	1,400.00	-	1,400.00	-	-	11,496.18
Spire Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Break in Costs / Security	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hall Running Costs	12,692.91	-	3,870.59	-	-	-	-	3,870.59	8,822.32	-	-	8,822.32	-	2,464.47
Hall Wages	3,931.20	-	3,931.20	-	-	-	-	3,931.20	-	-	-	-	-	3,744.00
Hall Water Rates	368.53	-	368.53	-	-	-	-	368.53	-	-	-	-	-	162.60
Hall Light and Heat	4,957.51	-	4,957.51	-	-	-	-	4,957.51	-	-	-	-	-	3,873.83
Total Management and Admin	**44,025.18**	**12,367.37**	**21,435.49**	8,307.66	-	-	-	13,127.83	**10,222.32**	-	1,400.00	8,822.32	-	**33,838.24**
Total Resources Used	**150,674.79**	**93,649.20**	**21,435.49**	8,307.66	-	-	-	13,127.83	**35,590.10**	13,668.81	1,400.00	8,822.32	11,698.97	**127,464.94**

St. Stephen's Church Soundwell
Year ended 31st December 2025

Note 3 Funds Reconciliation

	Year to 31st Dcember 2025					Year to 31st Dcember 2024				
	Opening Balance £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfers £	Closing Balances £	Opening Balance £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfers £	Closing Balances £
GENERAL	**51,028.75**	103,108.46	(93,649.20)	(13,000.00)	**47,488.01**	**51,909.88**	104,455.75	(89,354.27)	(15,982.61)	**51,028.75**
DESIGNATED FUNDS										
Fabric Fund	339.79	5,105.73	(8,307.66)	3,000.00	137.86	2,387.04	3,085.93	(9,633.18)	4,500.00	339.79
Fabric Special Projects	3,793.39	890.00	-	-	4,683.39	3,167.46	625.93	-	-	3,793.39
Community Chaplain	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(1,482.61)	1,482.61	-
Next Generation Fund	88,468.67	1,010.00	-	-	89,478.67	85,331.67	-	(1,863.00)	5,000.00	88,468.67
Hall Account	6,531.85	17,157.00	(13,127.83)	-	10,561.02	6,422.42	15,354.33	(10,244.90)	(5,000.00)	6,531.85
	99,133.70	24,162.73	(21,435.49)	3,000.00	**104,860.94**	**97,308.59**	19,066.19	(23,223.69)	5,982.61	**99,133.70**
RESTRICTED FUNDS										
Mission Fund	66.00	3,618.81	(13,668.81)	10,000.00	16.00	1,111.45	2,358.92	(13,404.37)	10,000.00	66.00
Fabric (Church)	-	1,400.00	(1,400.00)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hall Account	-	8,822.32	(8,822.32)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Community Chaplain	3,017.39	20,000.00	(11,698.97)	-	11,318.42	-	4,500.00	(1,482.61)	-	3,017.39
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	3,083.39	33,841.13	(35,590.10)	10,000.00	**11,334.42**	**1,111.45**	6,858.92	(14,886.98)	10,000.00	**3,083.39**
Totals	**153,245.84**	161,112.32	(150,674.79)	-	**163,683.37**	**150,329.92**	130,380.86	(127,464.94)	-	**153,245.84**

St. Stephen's Church Soundwell
Year ended 31st December 2025

Note 4 Net Assets per Fund

	Total	2025 General Total	2025 Designated Total	2025 Restricted Total	2025 Designated - Detail						2025 Restricted - Detail					
					Total	Fabric	Next Generation	Special	Community Chaplain	Hall	Total	Mission	Fabric Church	Hall	Account	Community Chaplain
Current Assets	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£		£	£
Debtors	**5,241.80**	1,921.80	3,320.00	-	3,320.00	-	-	-	-	3,320.00	-	-			-	-
Central Board	**100,447.45**	950.97	94,162.06	5,334.42	94,162.06	-	89,478.67	4,683.39	-	-	5,334.42	16.00	-		-	5,318.42
Bank	**60,202.59**	46,070.15	8,132.44	6,000.00	8,132.44	137.86	-	-	-	7,994.58	6,000.00	-	-		-	6,000.00
Cash	**-**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-
	165,891.84	48,942.92	105,614.50	11,334.42	105,614.50	137.86	89,478.67	4,683.39	-	11,314.58	11,334.42	16.00	-		-	11,318.42
Current Liabilities																
Creditors	**2,208.47**	1,103.33	1,028.96	-	1,028.96	275.40	-	-	-	753.56	-	-	-		-	-
	2,208.47	1,103.33	1,028.96	-	1,028.96	275.40	-	-	-	753.56	-	-	-		-	-
Net Assets	**163,683.37**	47,839.59	104,585.54	11,334.42	104,585.54	(137.54)	89,478.67	4,683.39	-	10,561.02	11,334.42	16.00	-		-	11,318.42
Funds	**163,683.37**	47,488.01	104,860.94	11,334.42	104,860.94	137.86	89,478.67	4,683.39	-	10,561.02	11,334.42	16.00	-		-	11,318.42
Difference	**-**	351.58	(275.40)	-	(275.40)	(275.40)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-

	Total	2024 General Total	2024 Designated Total	2024 Restricted Total	2024 Designated - Detail						2024 Restricted - Detail					
					Total	Fabric	Next Generation	Special	Community Chaplain	Hall	Total	Mission	Church Fabric	Hall	Account	Community Chaplain
Current Assets	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£		£	£
Debtors	**4,797.53**	1,103.45	3,694.08	-	3,694.08	-	-	-	-	3,694.08	-	-	-		-	-
Central Board	**97,097.10**	1,751.65	92,262.06	3,083.39	92,262.06	-	88,468.67	3,793.39	-	-	3,083.39	66.00	-		-	3,017.39
Bank	**52,989.97**	49,435.72	3,554.25	-	3,554.25	339.79	-	-	-	3,214.46	-	-	-		-	-
Cash	**-**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-
	154,884.60	52,290.82	99,510.39	3,083.39	99,510.39	339.79	88,468.67	3,793.39	-	6,908.54	3,083.39	66.00			-	3,017.39
Current Liabilities																
Creditors	**1,638.76**	1,262.07	376.69	-	376.69	-	-	-	-	376.69	-	-	-		-	-
	1,638.76	1,262.07	376.69	-	376.69	-	-	-	-	376.69	-	-	-		-	-
Net Assets	**153,245.84**	51,028.75	99,133.70	3,083.39	99,133.70	339.79	88,468.67	3,793.39	-	6,531.85	3,083.39	66.00	-		-	3,017.39
Funds	**153,245.84**	51,028.75	99,133.70	3,083.39	99,133.70	339.79	88,468.67	3,793.39	-	6,531.85	3,083.39	66.00	-		-	3,017.39
Difference	**-**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-

St. Stephen's Church Soundwell
Year ended 31st December 2025

Note 5 List of Funds

General Fund for the operation of the Church

Designated Funds

Fabric Fund which covers the maintenance of the fabric of the Church building
Fabric Special Projects which covers altar linen and similar fabric projects
Next Generation Fund is money set aside by the PCC for the longer term maintenance and development of the Church Buildings
Hall Account covers the operation and maintenance of the Church Hall
Community Chaplain which covers the costs of the Community Chaplain attributable to the Church

Restricted Funds

Mission Fund covers monies given or allocated for Charity work beyond the PCC control
Fabric (Church) covers monies given specifically for Eco and maintenance work
Hall Account covers monies given specifically for Eco and maintenance work
Community Chaplain which covers the funds of the Community Chaplain attributable to external grants

Note 6 Details of Charity Donations

	2025		2024	
	£		£	
Expenditure - Grants				
Bristol Soup run	1,200.00		1,200.00	
One25 Project	1,200.00		1,200.00	
Emmaus	1,200.00		1,200.00	
Sisters of the Church	1,500.00		1,500.00	
Christian Aid	1,200.00		1,200.00	
Beloved	1,200.00		1,200.00	
Bristol Schools Connections	500.00		500.00	
Harvest for the Hungry	1,000.00		1,000.00	
The Marmalade Trust	-		1,000.00	
Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust	100.00		-	
Bristol Churches Fund	900.00		-	
		10,000.00		10,000.00
Donations from collections				
Harvest for the Hungry	501.88		465.51	
Sisters of the Church	1,709.68		1,643.51	
Children's Society	232.25		249.90	
Sundry Donations	50.00		30.00	
Gaza Disaster Fund	-		1,015.45	
Uganda	1,175.00		-	
		3,668.81		3,404.37

St Stephens Church, Soundwell
Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2025

Independent Examiner's Report
to the PCC of St Stephen's Church, Soundwell

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31st December 2025, which are set out on pages 15 to 22.

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").
I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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

* the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
* the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
* the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of the accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirements 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.

Burton Sweet

Burton Sweet
Cornerstone House
Midland Way
Thornbury
Bristol
BS35 2BS

19 March 2026

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. STEPHEN, SOUNDWE

England & Wales - Charity number 1131503

Accounts

ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH, SOUNDWELL, BRISTOL
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Legal and Administrative Information

St Stephen's Church, Soundwell, Bristol, is part of the Diocese of Bristol within the Church of England. We have charitable status under the Charities Act, registered No. 1131503. PCC members are trustees of that charity by virtue of their membership.

Church Address
St Stephen's Church
Church Road
Soundwell
Bristol
BS16 4RH

Chair of PCC
Rev. Lisa Wigmore
52 Gladstone Street
Staple Hill
Bristol
BS16 4RF

Churchwarden
Mrs Gill Mayo
122 Burley Grove
Downend
Bristol
BS16 5QG

Bankers
Lloyds Bank
697 Fishponds Rd
Fishponds
Bristol BS16 3UJ

Independent Examiner
Linda Hughes
Burton Sweet
Cornerstone House
Midland Way, Thornbury
Bristol, BS35 2BS

Churchwarden

PCC members who have served from 1 January 2024 until the date of this report are:

Vicar:	Rev Lisa Wigmore	Chair	Ex Officio
Clergy:	Rev Regan Meares	Vice Chair	Ex Officio
	Rev Sandy Cooper		Ex Officio
Lay Ministers:	Mr Peter Robbins	Safeguarding Officer	Ex Officio
Wardens:	Mrs Gill Mayo		Ex Officio
Representatives on The Deanery Synod	Mr Bill Bishop		Ex Officio

Elected Members

Mrs Lin Cooper		Elected 2023
Mrs Carolyn Smith		Elected 2023
Mrs Sarah Fry		Elected 2023
Mrs Carolyn Hawkins	Secretary	Elected 2024
Mrs Julia Merrifield	ER Officer	Elected 2024
Mrs Trish Phipps		Elected 2024
Mr Geoff Harris		Elected 2022*
Mrs Nicola Read		Elected 2022*
Mrs Sue Humphrey		Elected 2022*
Mrs Lorraine Sanderson	Treasurer	Elected 2022*
Ms Linda Krause		Elected 2022*

* end of 3-year term

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 method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. The person to whom day-to-day management is delegated is the Vicar, Rev Lisa Wigmore. The PCC adopts the appropriate training procedures for the wide range of matters affecting the parish, specifically Safeguarding. The PCC has access to training courses arranged by the diocese and deanery.

There are several committees and groups which report to the PCC. Some committees meet on a regular basis whilst others on an ad-hoc basis. All major initiatives, events, proposals and requests are reported to the PCC when it meets every other month. The PCC agenda will always include provision for reports from the following committees & groups:

Ministry Team	Finance	Admin Team	Chat at the Turnpike
Sacristy Team	Safeguarding Team	Prayer Teams	Youth Church
Choir	Friday Night Live Team	Outburst Youth Group	Bible Study/Chat
See & Know	Knit & Natter	Ladies Group	
Men's Group	Pensioner's Group	Discipleship Groups	
Café Central Team	Baptism Prep	Re-Ordering Committee	
Bereavement Team	Pastoral Care Teams	Flower Persons	
Cleaning Guild	Welcomers/Sides People	Welcome Space	

The major risks to which the PCC is exposed, as identified by the PCC members, have been reviewed and systems or procedures have been established to manage such risks.

The PCC considers that it has, to the best of its knowledge, taken all reasonable steps to comply with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016. It confirms that there has been one incident since the previous APCM.

An annual budget is prepared to ensure short term viability. Actual results compared with budget are reported regularly to the PCC. The PCC has approved internal controls for annual accounts, cash and cheques handling. All assets are insured and levels reviewed annually and approved by the PCC.

The PCC has met 7 times in 2024 and all meetings have been in person.

Objectives and Aims – our reason for being!

The PCC of St Stephen's, Soundwell, has the responsibility of cooperating with the Vicar, Rev Lisa Wigmore, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical – in short, focusing on what Jesus wants us to do. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church and the Church Hall.

The PCC, in line with Diocesan objectives, continued with a number of specific aims for 2024; To follow Jesus. To serve others. To transform communities. Our Mission Statement is simply: Knowing Jesus and making Jesus known.

In addition, the PCC strives to fulfil our financial and physical responsibilities, both within the Church and to the Diocese

Activities and Achievements – review of the year.

Electoral Roll

A new Electoral Roll has been compiled. It now stands at 108 people.

Ministry Overview

Vicar

2024 was another good year - as in 2023, it has been a year that has brought new people to St Stephen's and enhanced the family feel atmosphere that is vibrant and alive.

Following on from Christmas 2023, we began 2024 celebrating that Jesus is JOY to the world. And that JOY infected the whole year.

It was with GREAT joy that 'Little Church' began in January. This is church for families who struggle with main church as some of their family members are neuro-diverse. So, 'Little Church' is a 'Fresh Expression' of church because it has grown from the needs of those who come - meeting them where they are might best describe it. Little Church enables families to come and worship in a safe environment that has been created to welcome and include them in the special and wonderful ways they need. The first service was a joyful success and this continued each term throughout the year.

Following on from an excellent Discipleship Course in 2023 - Getting to know Jesus more - the Lent Course for 2024 was called 'Talking Jesus'. Throughout the 6 sessions we explored God's story, thought about our own, how as Christians we are called to live distinctly and what motivates us, all wrapped up with encouragement and real-life examples about how we might share the Jesus we know with others. It really was great! At our Discipleship groups we thought about and discussed 'Gods character and spiritual powers' and 'Persevering' and the afternoon Bible Study (which we renamed Bible Chat) unpicked the Scripture set for the particular week in which they met.

The monthly Coffee, Chat and Company at the Turnpike Pub moved its time back to 11am in April, and continues to see lots of people meeting for company and fellowship. Welcome Space, from 9am 'til 11.30am on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month, continues to be a place of warm welcome and friendship for all those who attend - there's no requirement to come for the whole session, popping in for a cuppa and chat is wonderful.

Our other 6 Mission Outreach Groups; Ladies Group, Men's Group, Pensioners Group, See & Know, Outburst, Knit and Natter, continued to meet throughout 2024. What joy they are for those who attend! They each continue to be ways in which the love of Jesus is shared within our community.

The links with the 5 Schools in the parish continue to grow, with increased visits to church, RE lessons taught by ministers on both school and church premises, Collective Worship led in school and regular services in church throughout the year. With the addition of Lynn Burton, three of us are now members of St Stephen's Junior School and Soundwell Academy Governing Bodies where lots of vital work takes place. We continue to explore how we might share the story of Jesus in imaginative and interactive ways in our local schools. St Stephen's Junior School became a founding member of the newly formed Mosaic Academy - this is because the Department of Education believe that academies are the best way for children to get an excellent education.

We employed a Community Chaplain in September, to work half-time in our local schools and the other half-time split between the community and church. Sadly, this did not work out as we had hoped, and the employment ceased. Although not the best time of year to be doing so, we advertised again at the end of 2024 but received no applicants. We intend to try again in June 2025.

It was a delight and joy that another one of our young people, Ruby, requested to receive Holy Communion before Confirmation, which, after a period of preparation, happened for her on Easter Day.

The 3rd annual Plant Sale was a huge success with extra funds raised for the mission and ministry of St Stephen's Church. Many didn't seem to want to leave and there were some fabulous conversations as well as lots of plants changing hands and cream teas being consumed. The 'Flower Team' held a very successful Afternoon Tea with Music, which raised a good amount for flowers to decorate Church throughout the year. Both the Summer and Christmas Fayres were well attended and it was obvious that people of our community wanted to come to their church. Another great 'gathering' day was the 'Crafty Day' – folk from church and the community gathered together to make greetings cards, chat and funds for Church were also raised.

Another new venture began in 2024, which we call ‘Bears and Prayers’. We invited all the families who had children baptised during the preceding 2 years to come along, with their Baptism Bears (or others), to remember and celebrate their baptisms and to pray and have fun together. The plan is for this to take place again in 2026.

As all the above and more was taking place, in the background we are still steadily looking towards the future of our church building, so we can pass on what we have been freely given, to the generations to come. It is a slow process, because we are doing things thoroughly and also learning what to do as we go. A sub-group of the PCC has been working diligently to investigate and prepare us for the steps ahead. I especially thank Sandy Cooper, Julia Merrifield, Nicola Read and Carolyn Smith for all their time and efforts. The aim is to have plans for the PCC and wider church to look at during 2025.

Why are we doing this? Hopefully our Mission Statements below might remind us and keep us on track…

SSS Mission Statement
We exist to share the love of God, which we see most clearly in Jesus. Our Mission as Christians in Soundwell is to enable everyone to get to know Jesus and to deepen their relationship with Him.

We aim to do this by being the Church family for the whole community; journeying together through the good times, tough times, and also the everyday, ordinary times; nurturing faith, having fun, serving our neighbourhood and working in partnership with those around us.

St Stephen’s Church is a place of prayer and worship where everyone is welcome; everyone is valued; everyone is important, to us, and to God. This is because life, love and death does not make sense without Jesus.

Vision Statement
St Stephen’s… knowing Jesus and making Jesus known.

The reason is outlined in this next statement, but in a nutshell, it’s because we know we have to ensure our buildings remain ‘fit for purpose’ for the next 120 years, whatever wonderful purposes God has planned for them.

Re-ordering Mission Statement
St Stephen’s Church, Soundwell, is well-worn, because it’s been well used.

We want to make our church a multifunctional facility which is hospitable, fit for purpose and serving the needs of our local community.

St Stephen’s… knowing Jesus and making Jesus known.

As a Church, we continue to strive to know Jesus more and to make Jesus known to those around us. We plan to do this with joyful, thankful, grateful and generous hearts and minds and through the way we each live our lives separately, and as a church community. We plan to do this by continually Following Jesus, because Jesus is the Hope of the World!

Revd Lisa Wigmore
Vicar

Churchwarden

We started 2024 still dealing with the problem of a damp area on the recently resurfaced Church Hall floor. After considering some obvious possible causes, we became aware this could result in us having to spend a large amount of money. For this reason, we contacted our insurance company who instructed a Loss Adjuster to investigate. After further negative tests, eventually with no further work or cost the floor dried and the risen wood blocks settled back causing no further problems.

Although the Church underwent its Quinquennial Survey in 2023, we did not receive the full printed report until January this year. We had already been verbally advised there was no urgent work required, but it was good to see this in print. There were two outstanding jobs at the time, but they had already been done. The list of other work required was recommended to be done within the next 12 to 18 months and there were some other things we needed to consider doing before the next Quinquennial was due. The cost for all this work was estimated by the Surveyor as being £13,500, however this did not take into account rising

inflation. George Chedburn (our Surveyor) completed his report with the following words:
"St Stephen's Church continues to be well maintained and the Church Wardens and PCC should be congratulated on the amount of work that has been completed over the last 20 years, including the upgrading of facilities to meet statutory requirements, as well as building an extension on the south side and introducing a modern, audiovisual system. More recently large-scale works have been completed to stabilise the timber structure of the spire, and work has been carried out on the west end of the Church to alleviate issues associated with rising damp. These improvements appear to be very successful."
Part way through 2023 a water leak appeared from ceiling in the mens toilet which necessitated getting a builder to do some repair work on the roof above. Also, Tim ensured that there were no drainage pipe blockages in that area, plus he then continued to clear all the other drain pipes around the Church. To ensure these pipes would stay clear he put a device on the top of them to ensure leaves or any other debris could not go down.

Later in the year it was time for someone from Pulse to do the annual check on the main boiler and also the gas appliances in the kitchen. On checking the hot water boiler in the kitchen, he discovered there was a problem with the fume extraction outside and therefore recommended that we change to an electric water heater. (Which we are now intending to do)

Over the year we have kept Dan Tippet the Electrician fairly busy, this was with several individual jobs plus the annual PAT testing in which he checks that all of our electrical items are safe to use. He also carried out the required five yearly check on the Church electrical system.

Another annual check which was done early in the year showed that we had several fire extinguishers which were of a type that would be taken out of service in the coming September. For this reason the Avon Fire Extinguisher person agreed he would come back at that time to take those extinguishers away and replace them with more appropriate ones. These are checked on a monthly basis by one of our Assistant Wardens.

So, if we look back over 2024 one thing does stand out, and it is that a lot of work, effort and finance goes into ensuring St Stephen's remains a safe and welcoming place to be.

Gill Mayo
Churchwarden

Ministry Team

The ministry team continues to be made up of Lisa Wigmore, (Vicar), Sandy and Lin Cooper (Associate Priest and Director of Music), Peter Robbins (Licensed Lay Minister), Gill Mayo (Church Warden), Lorraine Sanderson (Treasurer), and Regan Meares (Assistant Curate). As your Vicar, I know how hard these folk work for our Church and for the glory of God. They are each fabulous and fantastic and use their God-given gifts and skills in everything they do…. often doing so in a sacrificial manner. I praise & thank God for them!

This has been Gill's eighth year as Church Warden and she has been supported by a fantastic team of six Assistant Church Wardens; Tim Parker, Geoff Harris, Jan Brookshaw, Bill Brookshaw, Wayne Topps, Carolyn Hawkins & Matt Gait. And for all the 'behind the scenes' work Paul Sanderson does. Thank you all.

Supporting the Ministry Team and often being the first point of contact for the community, are a team who keep the Church Office open and active. This was four mornings a week, but has now been reduced to three. Thank you to Bill & Jenny Bishop and Jan & Bill Brookshaw for all they do. Many thanks to David Packe who keeps us connected through advertising, the website, our weekly slides and Open Space. Thanks, also to Julie Goss who took over promoting St Stephen's on social media and has had an immediate and positive impact.

Particular thanks to the PCC for all their time and input in being an active part in the Governance and Mission of St Stephen's. And to Paul Sanderson and Mike Hudd who, with training and support, are advising the PCC on ways in which we best become an 'Eco Church'.

Revd Lisa Wigmore
Vicar

Services

Little Church, as mentioned above, began in January 2024 and is a fresh expression of Church to meet the needs of the people of our community. It is a delight and joy.

Friday Night Live, at 6.30pm on the 3rd Friday of each month, certainly has a feel of joy about it. Joy in praising Jesus in a relaxed way; joy of exploring Scripture and what it means in different learning styles to suit different people; and joy in the fellowship and friendships that are made.

St Stephen's Community Worship is a great place to be at 10am each Sunday and we have had 22 people join us this year. The Youth Church team, led by Peter Robbins, has grown in its leadership, with new people joining the team of helpers and leaders. Dawn Duffin is one of those who have joined the team and is stepping out in faith to lead/co-ordinate the team during 2025. These young people are the future of our church, so we must encourage them with our prayers, smiles, encouragement and considerations. If God is nudging you to help in any way, please do speak with Peter, Dawn or Lisa.

We have valued teams of people leading Ante-Communion (the first part of the service), Intercessions and readings from the Bible. New people have joined these teams this year, which is a delight & joy! During 2024, Prayer Ministry (praying with others) continued to be offered at the end of many services. Although there are always people available to pray with anyone at any time, so is lighting a candle in private prayer.

At regular intervals throughout the year, we have all been blessed by the witness of our own church members, sharing their testimony during our main Sunday service, and giving glory to God. What an encouragement to all of us this has been. As have the 4 speakers we had visit us during Lent.

A small but committed congregation meet at 8am on the first and third Sundays of the month for BCP Holy Communion. There continues to be another committed congregation at 10am each Wednesday to share Holy Communion together.

Throughout 2024, a small team of church members continued to take Holy Communion to around twelve of our 'At Home Members'. This number can grow when folk are housebound by illness for short periods of time.

Services at Deerhurst Care Home increased in regularity and are now held monthly, some with Holy Communion, others without. Some more prayerful for just a few people and others for everyone. All these are received and valued by residents, staff and carers alike.

The planning team for the all-age community services, which happen at Harvest, Remembrance, Christmas Eve, Mothering Sunday and on our Church's birthday (Dedication), continued to grow in number, confidence and ideas. They are a team of people who are passionate about enabling every member of our community get to know and follow Jesus. This team continue to create the Experience Easter Trail in the Church Garden, which has been a huge success across our community over the last few years, with many people coming to Experience Easter during Holy Week.

Sadly, neither Bishop Viv or Bishop Neil were able to be with us on our 120th birthday and 100 years of being a parish celebrations - General Synod & other commitments meant they were elsewhere. But Bishop Viv will be joining us during Lent 2025 as one of our 4 Lent Speakers.

All the usual Christian festivals have been celebrated, with increases in numbers of people attending. On Palm Sunday, Romeo the donkey and his handler visited us, and Easter Day Bingo brought joy and laughter, as we celebrated and praised our Risen Lord! The theme for our many Christmas Services in 2024 was Jesus… Hope of the world!

Ministry in our local schools is growing, through assemblies and visits to them, this in turn encourages significant numbers of children, parents and carers to attend their many Christmas services in Church. Carols by Candlelight saw our Church bursting at the seams again, this year with numbers increased by approximately 50 people, with the 37th Kingswood Alumni Scout band continuing to be a valued part of the worship and fun times at St Stephen's. The Christmas Eve Family Fun Christingle Services and Christmas Morning Family Service also saw significant increases in people attending, as did Midnight Holy

Communion. For the first time in many years, the families of Youth Church celebrated with us in main Church with a fabulous re-telling of The Nativity.

We have an amazing and committed team of people who ensure those who have lost loved ones are invited to our Memorial Services, and that they are cared for and welcomed when they do. These services, one in the Spring and one in the Autumn, are well attended and enabled people to gather in church to remember their loved ones. There are also a small but committed team of people who support Baptism Families both at the Baptism itself and during the preparation sessions. During 2024, 6 children and 3 adults were Baptised at St Stephen's. Six funerals were conducted in Church, with a further seven at local Crematoriums, with two burial of ashes. And during 2024, there was one wonderful couple who chose St Stephen's Church as the special place for them to be married.

Our main Sunday Services, festivals and occasional offices were enhanced by our Parish Church Choir, led by Lin Cooper. Tim Parker shares with her the leading of our sung worship week by week.

All these services, and the many events and celebrations at St Stephen's are made possible by the many teams of our Church members. We applaud and thank all those who are mentioned so far and those involved in quiet and unseen ways which support the work of St Stephens Church, including;

* the Sacristy team who prepare for services, assist the priests, clear up and maintain supplies and furnishings appropriate to the liturgical seasons. In addition, there are others who wash, iron and regularly care for the linen.
* the team who administer the Sacrament at the Lady Chapel.
* the team of 'greeters' who provide a warm welcome with a smile week by week at our door.
* the team who manage the supply and arrangements of flowers and decorations to beautify our Church and play their part in preparing the Church for worship for regular Sundays and festivals.
* the team of people who keep the Church building clean and tidy, and decorate our buildings for special occasions.
* those who tend the gardens and look after the day-to-day repairs to our buildings.
* the many café teams on Sundays and on other occasions, who provide us with refreshments, lay out tables and chairs and clear away afterwards.
* the teams who help us see and hear things clearly by operating and maintaining our audio and visual equipment.
* those who count the cash donations received each week, look after our banking and accounts and administer the 'Parish Giving' and 'By Envelope' schemes.
* the various teams of people praying for us and those who ask for our prayers.

Thank you all!

Dial-a-Sermon (phone in free to hear) & Click-a-Sermon (click link on church website to hear) continues to be refreshed with the sermon of the week, EVERY week! So, if you want to hear the sermon again, or you're not in church on a particular week, but want to connect - then please listen in!

The average Sunday attendance for 2024 was 75 adults and 7 children, which is a significant increase. God brings new people regularly to our services, so please let us all be as welcoming as we have always been.

This year has been full of joy and hope in Jesus… the joy and hope of Jesus with us now, and the hope we have in Him for ever is clear. As we look to the future, let's keep our hopes clearly founded on and with Jesus. And let's continue to declare, not just with our mouths, but in what we do and think and say, that, We Follow Jesus!

Revd Lisa Wigmore
Vicar

Deanery Synod Report

The synod meets 3 times a year and gives an opportunity for church people from churches all over Kingswood and South Gloucestershire Deanery to meet and hear each other's experiences. Good and bad things – problems and solutions are explored.

We also get updates on current initiatives passed down from the diocese.

There is usually a talk and a period of group discussions where we can express our points of view and listen to how others have coped or advanced in faith while dealing with a variety of situations. In February 2024 we met in St Chad's Church, Patchway and discussed Eco Church and the Uganda link. In June we met in United Church, Longwell Green and discussed Transforming Church and the offer of an energy audit by the diocese. In November we met at St Michael's Stoke Gifford, elected 2 laity and two clergy reps onto Diocesan Synod and discussed the Strategy behind the U18 works within Bristol Diocese. We had talks on Youth Chaplaincy and Growing Faith with practical examples.

Bill Bishop
Deanery Synod Representative

Care and Prayer

Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care continued to be a particular focus of the Church during the year. This included home visits, hospital visits, home communions and care home visits and services. Visits were also offered to the newly bereaved, and Memorial Services were held in May and November, for anyone who wished to attend. The love, prayer and reading of the names of those gone to glory was much appreciated by those that came to these special services. There is also a Book of Remembrance in Church.

Jenny Bishop is our **Pastoral Care Co-Ordinator**, and she supports Lisa and the Ministry Team in caring for the people of our Parish. She phones and visits folk as an ambassador of our church… as do many of the congregation. Jenny, along with Jan Brookshaw, Carolyn Hawkins, Lorraine Sanderson, Regan and Lisa, take Home Communion regularly to around a dozen people – a number that often increases as a short-time need arises for some.

Forging Friendships began during 2024, which has offered friendship visits at home to those who would like them and the visitors; Jenny Bishop, Lorraine Sanderson, Sandra Rosser, Trish Phipps, Jean Hulbert, Carol Murphy; are caring members of the congregation.

The love, care and concern shown by so many of our congregation to each other, especially those who aren't always able to join us in regular worship, is really great. If a member of the congregation notices an empty seat where there is usually a familiar face, they either get in touch or let one of the ministers know about it as soon as possible.

Specific needs are prayed for immediately by a team of people known as our **Prayer Chain**. They pray for those whose people who have asked Lisa or any of us for prayer, and would like us as the 'church' to be praying for them or the particular situation. Emails are sent to the team to request them to pray immediately. These prayers continue, and also include the names of our home members and those who are to be baptised or married during the year.

Nine baptisms took place during 2024, as well as one wedding. Thirteen funerals were conducted either in Church or at other locations, and there were two interments of ashes at other cemeteries.

Using the Cycle of Prayer and the diary from Open Space, all church members are able to pray for the life of St. Stephen's. Our Cycle of Prayer, from which we pray for our organisations, individuals, and those living or working in streets in our parish, provides a platform from which specific prayer needs flow.

All requests for prayer are treated as confidential. St Stephens truly is a praying Church!

Revd Lisa Wigmore
Vicar

Safeguarding

Statement of commitment to Safeguarding:
The parish of St Stephen Soundwell is committed to safeguarding children, young people and adults at risk.
Parish Safeguarding Officer: **Peter Robbins LLM**
Assistant Parish Safeguarding Officer: **Sarah Fry (until 5th November 2024)**

Policies
The Safeguarding Policy was reviewed and agreed by the PCC at its meeting on 12th November 2024.
Additional policies adopted in 2024:
* Recruitment of Ex-Offenders Policy reviewed and agreed 12th November 2024.
* Prevention of-Bullying & Harassment Policy agreed and adopted 12th November 2024

Activities
The PCC oversees the following activities for children, young people or for vulnerable adults:
Youth Church, Little Church for neurodiverse young people and their caregivers, See and Know Toddler Group, Outburst Youth Group and Welcome Space Social Group for adults and children.

Safer Recruitment & DBS
The PCC is responsible for the safe recruitment of people wanting to work with vulnerable groups through the activities mentioned above. During the year, the PCC has recruited the following numbers of people to support those groups.

Youth Church - *4 Leaders, 4 helpers*
Little Church group for neurodiverse young people and their caregivers - *2 leaders and 7 helpers. (A new initiative this year; all leaders and helpers are established in the parish with appropriate Safeguarding clearance)*
Outburst Youth Group - *4 Leaders, 2 helpers*
See and Know Toddlers Group - *3 leaders, 4 helpers*
Welcome Space Social Group - *2 Leaders and 7 helpers*

DBS Checks
As part of the safer recruitment process, where eligible, volunteers working with vulnerable groups have been DBS checked at the level appropriate to the role.
Because the parish provides activities for vulnerable groups as Trustees the PCC members are also eligible for an enhanced DBS Check.
All volunteers and PCC members who require one have a current check.

Training
Safeguarding training at different levels is a requirement for all roles, the current situation in terms of meeting the requirements in the parish is as follows:

Basic Awareness (all church officers and volunteers

Number in Role	Number completed training in last 3 years	Number with no or expired training
21	18	3

Foundation Safeguarding (PCC members, volunteers (leaders) working with vulnerable groups, Churchwardens, Parish Safeguarding Officer

Number in Role	Number completed training in last 3 years	Number with no or expired training
16	11	5

Leadership Safeguarding (Churchwardens, Parish Safeguarding Officers, Licenced Lay Ministers,

Number in Role	Number completed training in last 3 years	Number with no or expired training
3	3	0

Domestic Abuse (PCC members, Churchwardens, Parish Safeguarding Officers, Licensed Lay Ministers)

Number in Role	Number completed training in last 3 years	Number with no or expired training
11	10	1

Reporting to the PCC
The PCC was updated about Safeguarding matters in the parish at all 6 meetings during 2024.
There were no safeguarding matters reported on to the Diocesan Safeguarding Team.

Action Plan
The Safeguarding Officers are preparing an action plan using the Parish Dashboard, progress on which is reported to the PCC meetings.

Peter Robbins
Parish Safeguarding Officer

Community

The Church membership are involved in many unseen individual acts of care, service and generosity to those in particular need. In addition, the following community orientated activities have been taking place in and around the Church: -

Church Outreach Groups:

COFFEE AND CHAT AT THE TURNPIKE PUB
This initiative which started in June 2022 was described as ‘a time to be, be known and be together’.
We meet on the first Wednesday of every month in the Pool Room at the Turnpike from 11 am when the pub opens. All are welcome whether or not they come to our church. We are a friendly bunch and feel it is good for us to show our faces outside our church building and also to support our local business community. Some of us just have coffee whilst others like to stay on for lunch and continue their fellowship together.
It was encouraging to have one person say they sometimes came feeling a bit low but left feeling a whole lot better.
Don’t be shy, give us a try, we would love to see you!
Rosemary Boulton

WELCOME SPACE
Welcome Space began as a Warm Space which was intended to be a place in which people could come for warmth, refreshments and a chat during the cold winter months. This proved to be successful and as the months got warmer, people who attended Warm Space requested that we do not stop running during the summer. This request was wholeheartedly accepted and Warm Space became Welcome Space. Over the last year, we have continued to run every month providing a space which is much needed in the lives of those who attend. Our aim remains the same, to provide a warm place in which people can come and be welcomed, feel safe and talk to others. Throughout our lives each one of us will have challenges and struggles. During these times it is vital to have people we can talk to and people who can offer comfort and support. Welcome Space has certainly provided this and has made a difference in the lives of the people who attend. We currently run from 9 to 11:30am, this early start offers an opportunity for parents who have dropped their children off at school to pop in for a coffee and chat. Our team consists of two main leaders and 7 to 8 helpers. This past year, we have managed to receive a grant from the National Lottery to help us with our expenses and we are grateful for this support. Looking forward, I continue to pray that Welcome Space will provide a space of comfort, company and support in the future. It has certainly been an inspiration for me to watch the leaders and helpers serve and provide for the needs of those who attend. I thank God for Welcome Space, and I pray that He will continue to work in our church and community.
Revd Regan Meares

LADIES GROUP
We had a very interesting programme of speakers throughout the year.
It was our 65th Birthday celebration in May. Our summer outing to Sidmouth was a wash out, it poured with rain all day, but was still very enjoyable.
We also held two Bring and Buy Sales, had a Fish and Chip Lunch, a Harvest Lunch and Christmas Lunch.
A Christmas Meal was at Bath College also visiting the Christmas Market.
Our Carol Service was a combined one with the Pensioners and Men's Groups.
We would like to extend a welcome to any Ladies to join us every other Thursday in the Church Hall.
Jean Hulbert (Chairman)

MEN'S GROUP
Another year has gone by; one during which we sadly lost a long term member and friend.
Despite the rising cost of visiting speakers, we give thanks that we still remain financially solvent; due in part to the sheer determination of all our members. This ensures that we bring great fellowship and interest to every meeting; be it with a visiting speaker, or just from within our members alone.
Among our highlights, the joint Carol Service with the Pensioners and Ladies Groups was a most profound and enjoyable experience. Our summer day out to Exmouth was enjoyed by all, as was our Christmas meal at "Ye Olde Inn", Westerleigh. A recent visit to Frenchay Museum also proved most interesting.
Special thanks goes to Bob, our Treasurer and also to our Speaker Secretary, Keith, whose roll is now combined with other members. Our "tea boys", Alan Fox and John Gray, keep us well refreshed at the start of each meeting. "Thank you guys".
Please note that our meetings are from 1.30pm to approximately 3.30pm on alternate Thursdays in the Church Room. We always extend a genuine and warm welcome to all comers.
Here's to a great and successful 2025.
Brian Brown (Chairman)

PENSIONERS GROUP
We are so fortunate to be able to meet every other Friday. Our group continues to flourish and we are frequently welcoming new members.
As usual, we had our favourite entertainers, held bingo sessions, quizzes and fundraising afternoons. Our annual Christmas Carol Service now runs jointly with Ladies Group and Men's Group and was well supported. Many thanks to Lisa, our Vicar, for giving up her day off to be there to support us. Our outings were well supported and included trips to Weymouth and oak and treasures. This year we raised money through our various auctions etc. for the Jessie May Trust and we were privileged to have a speaker from the trust to receive a cheque.
Our Christmas meal at the Players Club was, as usual, really good, with the meals piping hot and enjoyable.
Sadly, we bade farewell to several members and I thought some prayers go out to their family and friends.
Our grateful thanks must go to Mary for her fantastic leadership when, under very difficult circumstances, she continued to encourage us all. Thank you so much Mary.
Margaret Dodge

OUTBURST YOUTH GROUP
During 2024 we have continued to welcome new members to Outburst, with some children joining us from the local primary schools.
During the year we have covered many subjects including Mothering Sunday, Easter, Fairtrade and the meaning of Christmas to name just a few. These sessions have taken the form of film nights, crafts, discussions, bible treasure hunts and quizzes.
Our aim is to show the young people that meeting together in a Christian based group can be fun and enjoyable. We hope that by planting the seed of Christianity that when they feel ready to make their own commitment in faith they will reflect back on their time at Outburst and St Stephens and want to continue with their journey with God.
Carolyn Smith

SEE & KNOW
See and Know, for those who are new to St Stephen's, is our parent and toddler group.
We began in January 2004 and we welcome parents and carers with babies, toddlers and pre-school children. We have lots of toys, play kitchen, play dough and a different craft activity each week.

Our aim is to gently introduce young children and families to the Christian Faith. We do this with songs and rhymes and our special puppet Monty Mouse, who is a great favourite with everyone. We want them to know that they are all special and loved by Jesus.
There is also tea, coffee, squash and biscuits served during the morning.
We open on Thursday mornings, during term time, from 10-11:45.
We have a dedicated team who help set up and clear away and are happy to chat and encourage if needed.
We don't have a waiting list at present so if you know anyone who would like to come along and join us they would be most welcome.
Love and Blessings
Sue Humphrey

KNIT AND NATTER
This year the group has grown slightly and we now have17 members on the register with a regular attendance of about 13 to 14. Members knit blankets and twiddle muffs for the local nursing homes, items for premature babies for Cossham hospital, hats scarves and gloves for the soup run. We also sent contributions for the Shoe box appeal at Christmas. All this is in addition to making items for friends and family. There is also a lot of nattering going on. We meet on Tuesday afternoon 1.30 to 3.30 and a cuppa and a biscuit is provided and sometimes cake when there is a birthday. If you would like to join us you would be very welcome
Jan Brookshaw

Financial Overview Year ending 31st December 2024

The Parochial Church funds at the end of this financial year stand at £153,246. This shows a small increase of about £2,916 on the 2023 figure mainly due to Restricted funds given to provide for the salary of a Community Chaplain. The main features of 2024 were prayerful consideration of how the Church premises and ministries may be made ready for the community of the next generation in Soundwell. As always, the Church has greatly benefitted from the generosity of the community.

Investments
Some of the Church reserve funds are invested with the Central Board of Finance and are managed by the Central Board of Finance. Other funds are lodged with the Church's bankers. The total interest received during the year was £3,875.01.

Unrestricted Funds
The unrestricted general fund reserve has decreased in the year from £51,910 to £51,029 and is held partly in accounts with Lloyds Bank and in an account with the Central Board of Finance.
In addition, the designated funds have increased from £97,309 to £99,134. Day to day work on maintaining the fabric of the Church building has exceeded budget, and has included ongoing flat roof repairs and electrical systems upgrading. The use of the Church Hall by the community has increased during the year and this year the letting fees have more than covered the general running and maintenance expenses. So, some funds have been set aside from the Hall Fund to the Next Generation Fund. The Next Generation Fund was established in 2021 with a view to building resources for major improvement to the Church in years to come. A detailed survey of the Church site has been carried out to assist with general maintenance and to consider the scope for future enhancements of facilities on the Church premises.

Restricted Funds
Restricted Funds within the Church accounts arise from gifts given to the Church to be forwarded to specified Charities. Also, funds have been given during the year, restricted to support the salary of a Community Chaplain. Our relationship with Fairtrade finally came to a close during 2023.

Income & Expenditure
Church income is generated mainly from the generosity of Church members, together with some well supported fund-raising fayres and events. Planned giving income decreased by 2% compared with the previous year. Gift Aid continues to make a significant contribution to the income of the Church.

The Parish Share contribution for 2024 was increased to £69,345. This represents the Parish contribution to the diocese's costs in providing ministers' stipends and housing as well as a further contribution to diocesan and national services costs.

The Church has an agreed policy of giving around 10% of its Voluntary Income to a number Charities which have become known as our "Mission Partners" because of their ongoing relationship with members of the Church. These include:-

The Bristol Soup Run
The One25 Project, Bristol
Emmaus, Bristol
Sisters of the Church
Christian Aid
Beloved
Bristol Schools Connection
Harvest for the Hungry
The Marmalade Trust
The Children's Society
Gaza Disaster Fund

Day to day Church maintenance continues with the annual electrical, fire and boiler tests and certification. The Quinquennial survey highlighted the normal list of minor maintenance tasks, but with no alarming cost implications this time. Ongoing flat roof repairs continue to be a challenge with some more significant expenditure planned for 2025. Eco improvements possibilities are also being considered for 2025.

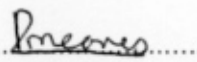
For the Church Hall, in addition to the normal day to day maintenance from our fantastic volunteers, work this year has included replacement of guttering, some lighting upgrades and other electrical equipment to improve our eco footprint.

During the year, many Church members have continued to give through the Parish Giving Scheme. It has also benefitted us by the monthly tax reclaim system and also by the ways those on the scheme are prompted to review their level of their giving annually.

Many other Church members have continued filling their weekly giving envelopes and ensure they have found their way into Church funds.

As in recent years, we are projecting a deficit budget for 2025. However, we do hope to secure some grant funding for the Community Chaplain we hope will join us in September of 2025, and for Eco upgrades to our lighting and other maintenance. We won't obtain all we need, so we may need to dig deep to ensure we are following Jesus in the ways he wants his church to go. But we know we follow a faithful God, and, together as his people here in Soundwell, we can be grateful people who are joyously hopeful for the future.

Approved by the PCC on 11th March 2025 and signed on their behalf by



Rev'd Regan Meares, PCC Vice Chair
CHARITY NO. 1131503

St. Stephen's Church Soundwell

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st December 2024

				2024				2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
	General	Designated	Restricted	**Total**	General	Designated	Restricted	**Total**
Incoming Resources (Note 1)								
Donations	94,275.27	625.93	2,358.92	**97,260.12**	97,287.40	1,602.00	3,543.63	**102,433.03**
Other voluntary Income	934.00	-	4,500.00	**5,434.00**	-	-	-	**-**
Trading	5,371.47	18,440.26	-	**23,811.73**	6,690.71	15,691.24	-	**22,381.95**
Investment Income	3,875.01	-	-	**3,875.01**	3,249.97	-	-	**3,249.97**
Total Incoming Resources	**104,455.75**	**19,066.19**	**6,858.92**	**130,380.86**	**107,228.08**	**17,293.24**	**3,543.63**	**128,064.95**
Resources Used (Note 2)								
Grants	-	-	13,404.37	**13,404.37**	-	-	12,456.14	**12,456.14**
Church Activities	80,092.33	65.00	65.00	**80,222.33**	76,485.33	-	-	**76,485.33**
Fundraising & publicity	-	-	-	**-**	-	-	-	**-**
Church management & Admin	9,261.94	23,158.69	1,417.61	**33,838.24**	9,177.27	30,002.30	-	**39,179.57**
Total Resources used	**89,354.27**	**23,223.69**	**14,886.98**	**127,464.94**	**85,662.60**	**30,002.30**	**12,456.14**	**128,121.04**
Net incoming (outgoing) resources	15,101.48	(4,157.50)	(8,028.06)	2,915.92	21,565.48	(12,709.06)	(8,912.51)	(56.09)
Transfers between Funds	(15,982.61)	5,982.61	10,000.00	**-**	(12,000.00)	3,000.00	9,000.00	**-**
Movement for the year	(881.13)	1,825.11	1,971.94	2,915.92	9,565.48	(9,709.06)	87.49	(56.09)
Opening Funds	51,909.88	97,308.59	1,111.45	150,329.92	42,344.40	107,017.65	1,023.96	150,386.01
Balance Carried Fwd	**51,028.75**	**99,133.70**	**3,083.39**	**153,245.84**	**51,909.88**	**97,308.59**	**1,111.45**	**150,329.92**

St. Stephen's Church Soundwell

Year ended 31st December 2024

Balance Sheet			**31/12/2024**		**31/12/2023**
		£	£	£	£
Current Assets					
				-	
Debtors	Note 4	4,797.53		5,397.14	
Central Board of Finance		97,097.10		92,203.11	
Cash at Bank and in hand		52,989.97		55,159.55	
Cash in hand		-		201.87	
			154,884.60		**152,961.67**
Current Liabilities					
Sundry Creditors	Note 4	1,638.76		2,631.75	
			1,638.76		**2,631.75**
Net Assets			**153,245.84**		**150,329.92**
Statement of Funds					
Unrestricted - General	Note 3	51,028.75		51,909.88	
			51,028.75		**51,909.88**
Designated	Note 3				
Designated - Fabric		339.79		2,387.04	
Designated - Fabric Special Projects		3,793.39		3,167.46	
Designated - Community Chaplain		-		-	
Designated - Next Generation Fund		88,468.67		85,331.67	
Designated - Hall		6,531.85		6,422.42	
			99,133.70		**97,308.59**
Restricted	Note 3				
Mission		66.00		1,111.45	
Community Chaplain		3,017.39		-	
				-	
			3,083.39		**1,111.45**
Total Funds			**153,245.84**		**150,329.92**

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 11th March 2025 and signed on their behalf by

Reverend Regan Meares, PCC Vice Chair .....

Lorraine Sanderson, Treasurer .....

St Stephens Church, Soundwell
Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024

Notes to the Financial Statements

1 Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the accruals basis
The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Funds

General 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. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Incoming Resources

Voluntary income and capital sources
* 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 donations are received.
* Funds raised by the fete, garden party and similar events are accounted for gross.

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

Income from investments
Dividends and interest are accounted for when received. Tax recoverable on such income is recognised in the same accounting year.

Resources used

*Grant*s
Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

Activities directly relating to the work of the Church
The diocesan quota or parish share is accounted for when payable. Any quota unpaid at 31 December is provided for in these accounts as an operational (though not a legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the Balance Sheet.

Creditors are recognised on the basis of goods and services received and measured at the settlement amount.

Fixed assets

Consecrated land and buildings and movable church furnishings
* Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993.
* Movable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's inventory which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For inalienable property acquired prior to 31st December 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the accounts. Items acquired since 1st January 2001 have been capitalised and depreciated in the accounts over their currently anticipated useful economic life (initially over 4 years) on a straight line basis.
* All expenditure on consecrated or beneficed buildings, individual items under £2,500, or the repair of moveable church furnishings acquired before 31st December 2000 is written off.

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 the asset is acquired.

Current assets
* Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectible.
* Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the Central Board of Finance, Church of England Funds or at the bank

2. Trustee Remuneration, Related parties Transactions and Staff Costs

* Two Trustees received expenses in performance of their duties totalling £1,100.61.
* Mrs L.M. Cooper who is a Trustee received £1,500 for her work as Musical Director plus £470 for Wedding and Funeral services.
* Mr G. Harris who is a Trustee received £135 for his duties as verger
* Mr P. Sanderson who is the husband of a trustee received £3,744 for his duties as Hall Cleaner
* During the year there were two members of staff, firstly our Church's Promotions Officer, and then, for a five week period, a Community Chaplain.

St. Stephen's Church Soundwell
Year ended 31st December 2024
MOVEMENT OF FUNDS STATEMENT PART 1

Note 1 Incoming Resources

	TOTAL 2024	GENERAL	DESIGNATED FUNDS						RESTRICTED FUNDS			TOTAL 2023
			Total	Fabric	Fabric Special	Community Chaplain	Next Generation	Hall Account	Toal	Mission Fund	Fair-trade	Community Chaplain	
Donations	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Gift Aided Donations	61,487.88	61,487.88	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	59,447.67
Income Tax Recovered	17,685.88	17,685.88	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	20,748.68
Non Gift Aided Donations	1,568.00	1,568.00	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	2,162.00
Open Plate Offering	5,924.65	5,924.65	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	6,095.32
Other Gifts	10,593.71	7,608.86	625.93	-	625.93		-	-	2,358.92	2,358.92	-	-	13,479.36
Legacies	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	500.00
Total Donations	**97,260.12**	**94,275.27**	**625.93**	-	625.93		-	-	**2,358.92**	2,358.92	-		**102,433.03**
Other Voluntary Inccome													
Grants and Gifts	5,434.00	934.00	-	-	-		-	-	4,500.00	-	-	4,500.00	-
Total Other Voluntary Income	**5,434.00**	**934.00**	**-**	-	-		-	-	**4,500.00**	-	-	4,500.00	**-**
Trading													
Fees	3,133.00	3,133.00	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	4,335.00
Fetes, Bazaars & Fundraising	3,085.93	-	3,085.93	3,085.93	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	4,061.64
Hall Lettings	15,354.33	-	15,354.33	-	-		-	15,354.33	-	-	-	-	11,629.60
Sundry	2,238.47	2,238.47	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	2,345.71
Cards & Calendars	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	10.00
Insurance Claims	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fairtrade Sales	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Trading	**23,811.73**	**5,371.47**	**18,440.26**	3,085.93	-		-	15,354.33	**-**	-	-	-	**22,381.95**
Investment Income													
Interest Received	**3,875.01**	**3,875.01**	**-**	-	-		-	-	**-**	-	-	-	**3,249.97**
Total Incoming Resources	**130,380.86**	**104,455.75**	**19,066.19**	3,085.93	625.93		-	15,354.33	**6,858.92**	2,358.92	-	4,500.00	**128,064.95**

St. Stephen's Church Soundwell
Year ended 31st December 2024
MOVEMENT OF FUNDS STATEMENT PART 2 **Note 2**

Note 2 Resoures Used

	TOTAL 2024	GENERAL	DESIGNATED FUNDS						RESTRICTED FUNDS			TOTAL 2023
			Total	Fabric	Fabric Special	Community Chaplain	Next Generation	Hall Account	Total	Mission Fund	Fair-trade	Community Chaplain	
Grants (Note 6)	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Specific Grants	10,000.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,000.00	10,000.00	-	-	9,000.00
Donations from Collections	3,404.37	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,404.37	3,404.37	-	-	3,456.14
Total Grants	**13,404.37**	**-**	**-**	-	-	-	-	-	**13,404.37**	13,404.37	-	-	**12,456.14**
Church Activities													
Ministry Parish Pledge	69,345.00	69,345.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	66,140.00
Clergy Expenses	1,100.61	1,100.61	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,038.93
Sundry	298.96	168.96	65.00	-	-	65.00	-	-	65.00	-	-	65.00	490.29
Church Insurance, Light and Heat	6,464.49	6,464.49	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,350.55
Music Provision	1,690.00	1,690.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,293.28
Communion and Service Costs	1,323.27	1,323.27	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,172.28
Total Church Activities	**80,222.33**	**80,092.33**	**65.00**	-	-	65.00	-	-	**65.00**	-	-	65.00	**76,485.33**
Fundraising and Publicity													
Sales	**-**	**-**	**-**	-	-		-	-	**-**	-	-	-	**-**
Church Management and Administration													
Printing, Stationery and Envelopes	2,270.11	2,270.11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,107.95
Salaries	6,448.58	3,613.36	1,417.61	-	-	1,417.61	-	-	1,417.61	-	-	1,417.61	3,320.54
Subscriptions and Sundry	3,378.47	3,378.47	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,067.11
Cards and Calendars	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Church Maintenance	11,496.18	-	11,496.18	9,633.18	-	-	1,863.00	-	-	-	-	-	14,862.35
Spire Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Break in Costs / Security	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,098.00
Hall Running Costs	2,464.47	-	2,464.47	-	-	-	-	2,464.47	-	-	-	-	5,806.71
Hall Wages	3,744.00	-	3,744.00	-	-	-	-	3,744.00	-	-	-	-	3,220.90
Hall Water Rates	162.60	-	162.60	-	-	-	-	162.60	-	-	-	-	342.87
Hall Light and Heat	3,873.83	-	3,873.83	-	-	-	-	3,873.83	-	-	-	-	1,353.14
Total Management and Admin	**33,838.24**	**9,261.94**	**23,158.69**	9,633.18	-	1,417.61	1,863.00	10,244.90	**1,417.61**	-	-	1,417.61	**39,179.57**
Total Resources Used	**127,464.94**	**89,354.27**	**23,223.69**	9,633.18	-	1,482.61	1,863.00	10,244.90	**14,886.98**	13,404.37	-	1,482.61	**128,121.04**

St. Stephen's Church Soundwell
Year ended 31st December 2024

Note 3 Funds Reconciliation

	Year to 31st Dcember 2024					Year to 31st Dcember 2023				
	Opening Balance £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfers £	Closing Balances £	Opening Balance £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfers £	Closing Balances £
GENERAL	**51,909.88**	104,455.75	(89,354.27)	(15,982.61)	**51,028.75**	**42,344.40**	107,228.08	(85,662.60)	(12,000.00)	**51,909.88**
DESIGNATED FUNDS										
Fabric Fund	2,387.04	3,085.93	(9,633.18)	4,500.00	339.79	14,085.75	4,261.64	(18,960.35)	3,000.00	2,387.04
Fabric Special Projects	3,167.46	625.93	-	-	3,793.39	2,615.46	552.00	-	-	3,167.46
Community Chaplain	-	-	(1,482.61)	1,482.61	-					
Next Generation Fund	85,331.67	-	(1,863.00)	5,000.00	88,468.67	85,000.00	650.00	(318.33)	-	85,331.67
Hall Account	6,422.42	15,354.33	(10,244.90)	(5,000.00)	6,531.85	5,316.44	11,829.60	(10,723.62)	-	6,422.42
	97,308.59	19,066.19	(23,223.69)	5,982.61	**99,133.70**	**107,017.65**	17,293.24	(30,002.30)	3,000.00	**97,308.59**
RESTRICTED FUNDS										
Mission Fund	1,111.45	2,358.92	(13,404.37)	10,000.00	66.00	1,015.45	3,543.63	(12,447.63)	9,000.00	1,111.45
Fairtrade	-	-	-	-	-	8.51	-	(8.51)	-	-
Community Chaplain	-	4,500.00	(1,482.61)	-	3,017.39					
Spire Fund						-	-	-	-	-
Break In Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1,111.45	6,858.92	(14,886.98)	10,000.00	**3,083.39**	**1,023.96**	3,543.63	(12,456.14)	9,000.00	**1,111.45**
Totals	**150,329.92**	130,380.86	(127,464.94)	-	**153,245.84**	**150,386.01**	128,064.95	(128,121.04)	-	**150,329.92**

St. Stephen's Church Soundwell
Year ended 31st December 2024

Note 4 Net Assets per Fund

	Total	2024 General Total	2024 Designated Total	2024 Restricted Total	2024 Designated - Detail						2024 Restricted - Detail			
					Total	Fabric	Next Generation	Special	Community Chaplain	Hall	Total	Mission	Fairtrade	Community Chaplain
Current Assets	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Debtors	**4,797.53**	1,103.45	3,694.08	-	3,694.08	-	-	-	-	3,694.08	-	-	-	-
Central Board	**97,097.10**	1,751.65	92,262.06	3,083.39	92,262.06	-	88,468.67	3,793.39	-	-	3,083.39	66.00	-	3,017.39
Bank	**52,989.97**	49,435.72	3,554.25	-	3,554.25	339.79	-	-	-	3,214.46	-	-	-	-
Cash	**-**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	154,884.60	52,290.82	99,510.39	3,083.39	99,510.39	339.79	88,468.67	3,793.39	-	6,908.54	3,083.39	66.00	-	3,017.39
Current Liabilities														
Creditors	**1,638.76**	1,262.07	376.69	-	376.69	-	-	-	-	376.69	-	-	-	-
	1,638.76	1,262.07	376.69	-	376.69	-	-	-	-	376.69	-	-	-	-
Net Assets	**153,245.84**	51,028.75	99,133.70	3,083.39	99,133.70	339.79	88,468.67	3,793.39	-	6,531.85	3,083.39	66.00	-	3,017.39
Funds	**153,245.84**	51,028.75	99,133.70	3,083.39	99,133.70	339.79	88,468.67	3,793.39	-	6,531.85	3,083.39	66.00	-	3,017.39
Difference	**-**	-	-	-	-	-		-		-	-	-	-	-

	Total	2023 General Total	2023 Designated Total	2023 Restricted Total	2023 Designated - Detail					2023 Restricted - Detail				
					Total	Fabric	Next Generation	Special	Hall	Total	Spire	Mission	Fairtrade	Break in
Current Assets	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Stock	**-**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Debtors	**5,397.14**	2,463.54	2,933.60	-	2,933.60	-	-	-	2,933.60	-	-	-	-	-
Central Board	**92,203.11**	316.94	91,886.17	-	91,886.17	3,387.04	85,331.67	3,167.46	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bank	**55,159.55**	49,759.28	4,218.82	1,181.45	4,218.82	500.00	-	-	3,718.82	1,181.45	-	1,181.45	-	
Cash	**201.87**	201.87	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	152,961.67	52,741.63	99,038.59	1,181.45	99,038.59	3,887.04	85,331.67	3,167.46	6,652.42	1,181.45	-	1,181.45	-	-
Current Liabilities														
Creditors	**2,631.75**	831.75	1,730.00	70.00	1,730.00	1,500.00	-	-	230.00	70.00	-	70.00	-	-
Outburst	**-**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Flower Fund	**-**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Holiday Club	**-**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Choir Fund	**-**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2,631.75	831.75	1,730.00	70.00	1,730.00	1,500.00	-	-	230.00	70.00	-	70.00	-	-
Net Assets	**150,329.92**	51,909.88	97,308.59	1,111.45	97,308.59	2,387.04	85,331.67	3,167.46	6,422.42	1,111.45	-	1,111.45	-	-
Funds	**150,329.92**	51,909.88	97,308.59	1,111.45	97,308.59	2,387.04	85,331.67	3,167.46	6,422.42	1,111.45	-	1,111.45	-	-
Difference	**-**	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-

St. Stephen's Church Soundwell
Year ended 31st December 2024

Note 5 List of Funds

General Fund for the operation of the Church

Designated Funds

Fabric Fund which covers the maintenance of the fabric of the Church building
Fabric Special Projects which covers altar linen and similar fabric projects
Next Generation Fund is money set aside by the PCC for the longer term maintenance and development of the Church Buildings
Hall Account covers the operation and maintenance of the Church Hall
Community Chaplain which covers the costs of the Community Chaplain attributable to the Church

Restricted Funds

Mission Fund covers monies given or allocated for Charity work beyond the PCC control
Fairtrade covers the acquisition and sale of Fairtrade items and produce
Community Chaplain which covers the funds of the Community Chaplain attributable to external grants

Note 6 Details of Charity Donations

	2024		2023	
	£		£	
Expenditure - Grants				
Bristol Soup run	1,200.00		1,200.00	
One25 Project	1,200.00		1,200.00	
Emmaus	1,200.00		1,200.00	
Sisters of the Church	1,500.00		1,500.00	
Diocese Uganda fund (19 & 20)	-		500.00	
Christian Aid	1,200.00		1,200.00	
Beloved	1,200.00		1,200.00	
Bristol Schools Connections	500.00		500.00	
Harvest for the Hungry	1,000.00		500.00	
The Marmalade Trust	1,000.00			
		10,000.00		9,000.00
Donations from collections				
Harvest for the Hungry	465.51		476.68	
Sisters of the Church	1,643.51		1,672.21	
Children's Society	249.90		1,042.74	
Sundry Donations	30.00		256.00	
Gaza Disaster Fund	1,015.45			
		3,404.37		3,447.63

Independent Examiner's Report
to the PCC of St Stephen's Church, Soundwell

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31st December 2024, which are set out on pages 14 to 22.

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").
I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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

* the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
* the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
* the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of the accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirements 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.

Linda Hughes.

Burton Sweet
Cornerstone House
Midland Way
Thornbury
Bristol
BS35 2BS

2025

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. STEPHEN, SOUNDWE

England & Wales - Charity number 1131503

Accounts

ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH, SOUNDWELL, BRISTOL
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Legal and Administrative Information

St Stephen's Church, Soundwell, Bristol, is part of the Diocese of Bristol within the Church of England. We have charitable status under the Charities Act, registered No. 1131503. PCC members are trustees of that charity by virtue of their membership.

Church Address
St Stephen's Church
Church Road
Soundwell
Bristol
BS16 4RH

Chair of PCC
Rev. Lisa Wigmore
52 Gladstone Street
Staple Hill
Bristol
BS16 4RF

Churchwarden
Mrs Gill Mayo
122 Burley Grove
Downend
Bristol
BS16 5QG

Bankers
Lloyds Bank
697 Fishponds Rd,
Fishponds,
Bristol BS16 3UJ

Independent Examiner
David Biddel
12 The Newlands
Frenchay
BS16 1NQ

Churchwarden

PCC members who have served from 1 January 2023 until the date of this report are:

Vicar:	Rev Lisa Wigmore	Chair	Ex Officio
Clergy:	Rev Regan Meares		Ex Officio
	Rev Sandy Cooper		Ex Officio
Lay Ministers:	Mr Peter Robbins	Safeguarding Officer	Ex Officio
Wardens:	Mrs Gill Mayo		Ex Officio
Representatives on The Deanery Synod	Mr Bill Bishop	Vice Chair	Ex Officio
Elected Members			
	Mrs Lin Cooper		Elected 2023
	Mrs Carolyn Smith		Elected 2023
	Mrs Sarah Fry		Elected 2023
	Mrs Carolyn Hawkins	Secretary	Elected 2021*
	Mrs Julia Merrifield	ER Officer	Elected 2021*
	Mrs Trish Phipps		Elected 2021*
	Mr Geoff Harris		Elected 2022
	Mrs Nicola Read		Elected 2022
	Mrs Sue Humphrey		Elected 2022
	Mrs Lorraine Sanderson	Treasurer	Elected 2022
	Ms Linda Krause		Elected 2022

* end of 3-year term

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 method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. The person to whom day-to-day management is delegated is the Vicar, Rev Lisa Wigmore. The PCC adopts the appropriate training procedures for the wide range of matters affecting the parish, specifically Safeguarding. The PCC has access to training courses arranged by the diocese and deanery.

There are several committees and groups which report to the PCC. Some committees meet on a regular basis whilst others on an ad-hoc basis. All major initiatives, events, proposals and requests are reported to the PCC when it meets every other month. The PCC agenda will always include provision for reports from the following committees:

Ministry Team	Finance	Admin Team	At the Turnpike
Sacristy Team	Safeguarding Team	Prayer Teams	Youth Church
Choir	Friday Night Live Team	Outburst Youth Group	
See & Know	Knit & Natter	Ladies Group	
Men's Group	Pensioner's Group	Discipleship Groups	
Café Central Team	Baptism Prep	Re-Ordering Committee	
Bereavement Team	Pastoral Care Teams	Flower Persons	
Cleaning Guild	Welcomers & Sides People	Welcome Space	

The major risks to which the PCC is exposed, as identified by the PCC members, have been reviewed and systems or procedures have been established to manage such risks.

The PCC considers that it has, to the best of its knowledge, taken all reasonable steps to comply with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016. It confirms that there has been one incident since the previous APCM.

An annual budget is prepared to ensure short term viability. Actual results compared with budget are reported regularly to the PCC. The PCC has approved internal controls for annual accounts, cash and cheques handling. All assets are insured and levels reviewed annually and approved by the PCC.

The PCC has met 7 times in 2023 and all meetings have been in person.

Objectives and Aims – our reason for being!

The PCC of St Stephen's, Soundwell, has the responsibility of cooperating with the Vicar, Rev Lisa Wigmore, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical – in short, focusing on what Jesus wants us to do. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church and the Church Hall.

The PCC, in line with Diocesan objectives, continued with a number of specific aims for 2023; To follow Jesus. To serve others. To transform communities. Our Mission Statement is simply: Knowing Jesus and making Jesus known.

In addition, the PCC strives to fulfil our financial and physical responsibilities, both within the Church and to the Diocese

Activities and Achievements – review of the year.

Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll now stands at 115 people, an increase of 3 from last year. Five names have been removed and eight added.

Ministry Overview

Vicar

2023 was a good year - a year that has brought new people to St Stephen's and an atmosphere that feels vibrant and alive.

Praise God that the updates and extra security measures following a break-in, a wobbly spire and lead theft, were virtually finished. The cost of all of this was immense - in both time and focus as well as money (which we didn't have). Through grant funding applications and the generosity of many people throughout the parish, we have come through this time of trial.

Following on from Christmas 2022, we began 2023 knowing that Jesus is the Light in the darkness of our lives and our world. And His light really shone right through the year, lighting all we planned and said and did in His name and for His glory. No wonder, we got to the end of the year celebrating that Jesus is Joy to the World!

The success of Friday Night Live, on the 3rd Friday of each month, meant that the services carried on throughout the year, even during the usual 'down-time' of August. Its focus on Scripture and how we connect to that as individuals and as a worshipping community, as well as its relaxed style of worship and welcoming atmosphere, has probably been the reason why.

The monthly Coffee, Chat and Company at the Turnpike Pub had to move its start time to 12noon, which wasn't as convenient for many, but still lots of people come along and often has around 22 people meeting up. Warm Space began in January, which provided a space for people to keep warm, meet with others and share refreshments and conversation. It morphed into Welcome Space in the spring and has continued throughout the year. The earlier start time of 9am is welcomed by parents after the 'school run' and is now operating on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month.

Our other 6 Mission Outreach Groups; Ladies Group, Men's Group, Pensioners Group, See & Know, Outburst, Knit and Natter, continued to meet throughout 2023. Some building up from a new start, others welcoming old members back and lots of new ones as well. What joy! They continue to be ways in which the love of Jesus is shared within our community.

The Lent Course in 2023 was based around the film, 'Chocolat', which enabled us to explore Scripture and the ways we live out our own faith with the help of a small French village and its new arrival - a lady who made & sold chocolate!

Talking of food - we had a great time celebrating Regan's Priesting, both at the Ordination Service in Bristol Cathedral AND back in Soundwell when he presided at Holy Communion for the first time and we broke bread together, buffet and BBQ style, afterwards.

The links with the 5 Schools in the parish continue to grow, with increased visits to church, RE lessons taught by ministers on both school and church premises, Collective Worship led in school and regular services in church throughout the year. Two of us are members of St Stephen's Junior School and Soundwell Academy Governing Bodies where lots of vital work takes place. We continue to explore how we might share the story of Jesus in imaginative and interactive ways in our local schools.

It was a delight and joy that several of our young people requested to receive Holy Communion before Confirmation, which, after a period of preparation, happened for most of them on Easter Day. Three of our adult members were Confirmed in November. The Holy Spirit is certainly moving in Soundwell.
We celebrated the King's Coronation with a picnic, which was great fun. The 2nd annual Plant Sale was a huge success with extra funds raised for the mission and ministry of St Stephen's Church. Both the Summer and Christmas Fayres were well attended and it was obvious that that people of our community wanted to come to their church. Many didn't seem to want to leave and there were some fabulous conversations as well as lots of goodies changing hands.

During the year, plans for stars to hang in church, so that we might sparkle for Jesus went underway. Who knew getting the right tinsel would be so difficult?! The result was stunning, as was the response to

sponsor a star. It touched people deeply and many of them chose to sponsor a star for a loved one. St Stephen's Infant school sponsored a star for each year group - so their stars were shining for many children and families!

Shining throughout the streets of Soundwell during Advent were Christmas lights in many homes, some of whom joined with The Friends of Lees Hill to create a Light Trail. We joined in as well, and in addition to the trail, offered a time and space for the community to gather, sharing refreshments and singing carols. This was a joyous and well appreciated mission outreach activity. Another new missional outreach activity was a 'pop-up cinema' in the church hall. Amelia Read came up with the idea and, with a team of helpers, made it happen - the first Free Family Film event took place. Besides the film there was popcorn, hot chocolate, mince pies, sweets and chocolate for everyone to enjoy. The church hall was full and those attending were overjoyed.

Following this event and from time spent with local families, the idea of a group for families with neuro-diverse members was born. A couple of meals out cemented the idea and the group is set to start to meet regularly in 2024.

As all the above and more was taking place, in the background we are still steadily looking towards the future of our church building, so we can pass on what we have been freely given, to the generations to come. During 2023 your PCC began with reminding ourselves who we are as a church, and our reason for being – as outlined in these statements…

SSS Mission Statement

We exist to share the love of God, which we see most clearly in Jesus. Our Mission as Christians in Soundwell is to enable everyone to get to know Jesus and to deepen their relationship with Him.

We aim to do this by being the Church family for the whole community; journeying together through the good times, tough times, and also the everyday, ordinary times; nurturing faith, having fun, serving our neighbourhood and working in partnership with those around us.

St Stephen's Church is a place of prayer and worship where everyone is welcome; everyone is valued; everyone is important, to us, and to God. This is because life, love and death does not make sense without Jesus.

Vision Statement

St Stephen's… knowing Jesus and making Jesus known.

The reason is outlined in this next statement, but in a nutshell, it's because we know we have to ensure our buildings remain 'fit for purpose' for the next 120 years, whatever wonderful purposes God has planned for them.

Re-ordering Mission Statement

St Stephen's Church, Soundwell, is well-worn, because it's been well used.

We want to make our church a multifunctional facility which is hospitable, fit for purpose and serving the needs of our local community.

St Stephen's… knowing Jesus and making Jesus known.

During September and October, I visited each of our Mission Outreach Groups, spoke about it in church and wrote an item for the monthly newsletter, Open Space, explaining the reasons and asking everyone to have a voice and provide us with their feedback. This was in the form of a Questionnaire which could be completed online, or in writing. Not only did it go to everyone in or linked with the church community, but these were posted to 700 homes in the parish, taken to every school, and the Leisure Centre. Posters with QR code access were put up in bus stops, shops and other venues throughout the parish. EVERY effort has been made to hear the views of as many of the people of Soundwell as possible.

As a Church, we continue to strive to know Jesus more and to make Jesus known to those around us. We plan to do this with joyful, thankful, grateful and generous hearts and minds and through the way we each live our lives separately, and as a church community. We plan to do this by continually Following Jesus, because Jesus is Joy to the World!

Revd Lisa Wigmore
Vicar

Churchwarden

As far as the work that had to be carried out on and in the Church was concerned, I think we were all glad to see the back of 2022. We had been dealing with the results of a break in, lead theft and all that was involved with the process of getting the Church Tower repair under way.

By January 2023 most of the repairs required due to the break in, had been carried out, meaning now, importantly we had to ensure the Church was secure, following suggestions from the Police Crime Prevention Officer. It was very sad that we had to go to such lengths to do this, but it was also very necessary we protect ourselves as well, in particular when people are entering the Church alone. Some of the extra security steps had to be taken to ensure the insurance company would still be able to offer us cover. It was mid-February when the alarm system was installed, thus meaning that quite a few of us required instruction on how to use it. Still to come were window bars and metal frames over the roof lights and bars on doors, also a higher more effective gate by the side of the Church Hall was fitted. Again, early in the year we had a “Card Reader” installed, thus allowing Church members and visitors the opportunity to donate to the Church using their bank card etc. Early Summer we had a much needed Freezer delivered for the Church Hall and the old one taken away, this has proved useful for various events that take place using the kitchen.

August brought around the fifth year since the last Quinquennial Survey and for this reason our Surveyor, George Chedburn, visited us to carry out the necessary inspection of our Church buildings. As he finished it was with relief we were able to hear that there was nothing really seriously requiring attention.

Only a short time after this we became aware there was a problem with the Church Hall floor which would require the removal of the existing varnish, sanding the wooden floor and re-varnishing. Just a short while after this work was done there was a problem suggesting an area was very damp, so a dehumidifier was installed. We involved the Insurance Company and further investigation did not give any answers. The outcome was the floor dried out and there has been no further problem.
Paul Wigmore was able to make an alteration to the doors under the stage, which now open sideways rather than pulling down… something that had been causing damage to the floor for many years.
During the Autumn time we had the opportunity to buy some reasonably priced chairs which were similar to those already in the Church Hall. In view of the fact that more were required for larger events, a number of these were purchased.

Coming toward the end of the year, a Company called Gnarly Trees cut back the trees that surround the Church garden, so in the Spring we should get some fresh healthy growth.
Tim Parker has been up on the flat roof attached to the hall, and was able to remove a great deal of dead leaves and weeds etc. and put special covers on the drainpipes to ensure there are no further blockages. His work carried on into the new year when he attended to various drain pipes around the Church.

Again, starting a short while before Christmas, Dan Tippet the Electrician, began the whole list of jobs we had given him, one of which was PAT testing. He has continued with other work which will include the ‘5 year Electrical Test.'
We look forward to a quiet and relaxing 2024.

Gill Mayo
Churchwarden

Ministry Team

The ministry team continues to be made up of Lisa Wigmore, (Vicar), Sandy and Lin Cooper (Associate Priest and Director of Music), Peter Robbins (Licensed Lay Minister), Gill Mayo (Church Warden), Lorraine Sanderson (Treasurer), and Regan Meares (Assistant Curate). As your Vicar, I know how hard these folk work for our Church and for the glory of God. They are each fabulous and fantastic and use their God-given gifts and skills in everything they do…. often doing so in a sacrificial manner. I praise & thank God for them!

This has been Gill's seventh year as Church Warden and she has been supported by a fantastic team of six Assistant Church Wardens; Geoff Harris, Jan Brookshaw, Bill Brookshaw, Tim Parker, Matt Gait, Wayne Topps & Carolyn Hawkins. Thank you all.

Supporting the Ministry Team and often being the first point of contact for the community, are a team who keep the Church Office open and active four mornings a week; Jan Brookshaw, Jenny Bishop, Bill Bishop, and Bill Brookshaw, with David Packe keeping us connected through advertising, the website, our weekly slides and Open Space. Amelia Read took over from Lisa in promoting St Stephen's on social media and has had an immediate and positive impact. Thank you to all of them.

Particular thanks to the PCC for being an active part in the Governance and Mission of St Stephen's.

Revd Lisa Wigmore
Vicar

Services

St Stephen's Community Worship is a great place to be at 10am each Sunday and we have had more than 20 people join us this year. The Youth Church team, led by Peter Robbins, has grown in its leadership, with new people joining the team and helpers and leaders. The young people who come tell us it's a great place to be. These young people are the future of our church, so we must encourage them with our prayers, smiles, encouragement and considerations.

We have valued teams of people leading Ante-Communion (the first part of the service), Intercessions and readings from the Bible. New people have joined these teams this year, which is a delight. During 2023, Prayer Ministry (praying with others) was re-introduced at the end of many services, but this is always on offer, and so is lighting a candle in private prayer.

A small but committed congregation meet at 8am on the first and third Sundays of the month for BCP Holy Communion. There continues to be another committed congregation at 10am each Wednesday to share Holy Communion together.

Throughout 2023, a small team of church members continued to take Holy Communion to around fourteen of our 'At Home Members'. This number can grow when folk are housebound by illness for short periods of time.

Friday Night Live, at 6.30pm on the third Friday of each month, is a service that allows people to explore God's word in ways that suit their own learning style. It is relaxed and open to people of all ages and experiences and has a committed team to plan and lead the worship.

Services at Deerhurst Care Home increased in regularity and are now held monthly, some with Holy Communion, others without. Some more prayerful for just a few people and others for everyone. All these are received and valued by residents, staff and carers alike.

The planning teams for the all age community services, which happen at Harvest, Remembrance, Christmas Eve, Mothering Sunday, Good Friday and on our Church's birthday (Dedication), continued to grow in number, confidence and ideas. They are a team of people who are passionate about enabling the young families of our community get to know and follow Jesus. This team continue to create the Experience Easter Trail in the Church garden, which has been a huge success across our community over the last few years, with many people coming to Experience Easter during Holy Week.

Bishop Lee visited us and preached during Lent, which was a blessing for us, as he retired shortly afterwards.

All the usual Christian festivals have been celebrated, with increases in numbers of people attending. The theme for our many Christmas Services in 2023 was Jesus… joy to the world!

Ministry in our local schools is growing, through assemblies and visits to them, this in turn encourages significant numbers of children, parents and carers to attend their Christmas services in Church. Carols by Candlelight saw our Church bursting at the seams again, this year with numbers increased by over 50, with the 37th Kingswood Alumni Scout band continuing to be a valued part of the worship and fun times at St Stephen's. The Christmas Eve Family Fun Christingle Services and Christmas Morning Family Service were very well attended as usual, as was Midnight Holy Communion.

We have a fabulous team of people who ensure those who have lost loved ones are invited to our Memorial Services, and that they are cared for and welcomed when they do. These services, one in the Spring and one in the Autumn, are well attended and enabled people to gather in church to remember their loved ones. There are also a small but committed team of people who support Baptism Families both at the Baptism itself and during the preparation sessions. During 2023 13 children and 3 adults were Baptised at St Stephen's. Eleven funerals were conducted in Church, with a further thirteen at local Crematoriums, with three burial of ashes. And during 2023, there were 2 wonderful couples who chose St Stephen's Church as the special place for them to be married.

Our main Sunday Services, festivals and occasional offices were enhanced by our Parish Church Choir, led by Lin Cooper. Tim Parker shares with her the leading of our sung worship week by week.

All these services, and the many events and celebrations at St Stephen's are made possible by the many teams of our Church members. We applaud and thank all those who are mentioned so far and those involved in quiet and unseen ways which support the work of St Stephens Church, including;

- the Sacristy team who prepare for services, assist the priests, clear up and maintain supplies and furnishings appropriate to the liturgical seasons. In addition, there are others who wash, iron and regularly care for the linen.
- the team who administer the Sacrament at the Lady Chapel.
- the team of 'greeters' provide a warm welcome with a smile week by week at our door.
- the team who manage the supply and arrangements of flowers and decorations to beautify our Church and play their part in preparing the Church for worship for regular Sundays and festivals.
- the team of people who keep the Church building clean and tidy, and decorate our buildings for special occasions.
- those who tend the gardens and look after the day to day repairs to our buildings.
- the many café teams on Sundays and on other occasions, who provide us with refreshments, lay out tables and chairs and clean away afterwards.
- the teams who help us see and hear things clearly by operating and maintaining our audio and visual equipment.
- those who count the cash donations received each week, look after our banking and accounts and administer the 'Parish Giving' and 'By Envelope' schemes.
- the various team of people praying for us and those who ask for our prayers.

Thank you all!

Dial-a-Sermon (phone in free to hear) & Click-a-Sermon (click link on church website to hear) continues to be refreshed with the sermon of the week, EVERY week! So, if you want to hear the sermon again, or you're not in church on a particular week, but want to connect - then please listen in!

The average Sunday attendance for 2023 was 74 adults and 6 children, which is a significant increase. God brings new people regularly to our services, so please let us all be as welcoming as we have always been.

This year has been a real joy… the joy of Jesus with us is clear. As we look to the future, let's continue to declare, not just with our mouths, but in what we do and think and say, that, We Follow Jesus!

Revd Lisa Wigmore, Vicar

Deanery Synod Report

The synod meets 3 times a year and gives an opportunity for church people from churches all over Kingswood and South Gloucestershire Deanery to meet and hear each other's experiences. Good and bad things – problems and solutions are explored. We also get updates on current initiatives passed down from the diocese.

There is usually a talk and a period of group discussions where we can express our points of view and listen to how others have coped or advanced in faith while dealing with a variety of situations.

In February 2023 we met in Frenchay C of E Primary School which is the first "Passive" school in South Glos. and the deanery. We were taken on a tour of the modern building and told how the building had triple glazing, no air conditioning, sensor lights in corridors which only come on when someone is present, 400mm thick insulation, and overall many eco-friendly features. A look at what the future holds.

The Uganda link was explained and promoted. Anyone wishing to participate in a visit was encouraged to come forward.

The Co-Area Dean is The Revd Bruce Goodwin and the Lay Chair was Kate Davison – now changed by election Feb 2024 to Alison Rowe.

A Climate Emergency was declared by the Bristol Diocese and we were all encouraged to involve our parishes in sustainability projects and look for an "Eco-Champion". A scheme is being promoted for churches to start green projects to reduce energy use and be generally eco-friendly. If proper forms are submitted and inspections agreed and work identified to obtain these ends, a sum of several thousand pounds is available as a grant.

If anyone wishes to join the Diocesan Synod they can be nominated by Deanery Synod members. Please speak to me if this interests you.

Bill Bishop

Care and Prayer

Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care continued to be a particular focus of the Church during the year. This included home visits, hospital visits, home communions and care home visits and services. Visits were also offered to the newly bereaved, and Memorial Services were held in May and November, for anyone who wished to attend. The love, prayer and reading of the names of those gone to glory was much appreciated by those that came to these special services. There is also a Book of Remembrance in Church.

Jenny Bishop is our **Pastoral Care Co-Ordinator**, and she supports Lisa and the Ministry Team in caring for the people of our Parish. She phones and visits folk as an ambassador of our church… as do many of the congregation. Jenny, along with Jan Brookshaw, Carolyn Hawkins, Lorraine Sanderson, Regan and Lisa, take Home Communion regularly to around a dozen people – a number that often increases as a short-time need arises for some.

The love, care and concern shown by so many of our congregation to each other, especially those who aren't always able to join us in regular worship, is really great. If a member of the congregation notices an empty seat where there is usually a familiar face, they either get in touch or let one of the ministers know about it as soon as possible.

Specific needs are prayed for immediately by a team of people known as our **Prayer Chain**. They pray for those whose people who have asked Lisa or any of us for prayer, and would like us as the 'church' to be praying for them or the particular situation. Emails are sent to the team to request them to pray immediately. These prayers continue, and also include the names of our home members and those who are to be baptised or married during the year.

Sixteen baptisms took place during 2023, as well as two weddings. Twenty-four funerals were conducted either in Church or at other locations, and there were three interment of ashes at other cemeteries.

Using the Cycle of Prayer and the diary from Open Space, all church members are able to pray for the life of St. Stephen's. Our Cycle of Prayer, from which we pray for our organisations, individuals, and those living or working in streets in our parish, provides a platform from which specific prayer needs flow.

All requests for prayer are treated as confidential. St Stephens truly is a praying Church!

Revd Lisa Wigmore
Vicar

Safeguarding

Statement of commitment to Safeguarding:
The parish of St Stephen Soundwell is committed to safeguarding children, young people and adults at risk.

Parish Safeguarding Officer:	**Peter Robbins LLM**
Assistant Parish Safeguarding Officer:	**Sarah Fry**

Policies
The Safeguarding policy was reviewed and agreed by the PCC at its meeting on 14th November 2023.

Activities
The PCC oversees the following activities for children, young people or for vulnerable adults:
Youth Church, See and Know Toddler Group, Outburst Youth Group and Welcome Space Social Group

Safer Recruitment & DBS
The PCC is responsible for the safe recruitment of people wanting to work with vulnerable groups through the activities mentioned above. During the year, the PCC has recruited the following numbers of people to support those groups.

Youth Church – 4 Leaders, 4 helpers *(2 of whom are new helpers recruited this year]*
Outburst Youth Group – 7 Leaders, 5 helpers
See and Know Toddlers Group 4 leaders & 4 helpers

Welcome Space Social Group 2 Leaders and 4 helpers. *This is a new group this year, all leaders and helpers are in existing roles in the parish requiring Safeguarding training and DBS for the Leaders*

DBS Checks
As part of the safer recruitment process, where eligible, volunteers working with vulnerable groups have been DBS checked at the level appropriate to the role. Because the parish provides activities for vulnerable groups, the PCC members are also eligible for an enhanced DBS Check.
All volunteers and PCC members who require one have a current check.

Training
Safeguarding training at different levels is a requirement for all roles, the current situation in terms of meeting the requirements in the parish is as follows:

Basic Awareness (all church officers and volunteers

Number in Role	Number completed training in last 3 years	Number with no or expired training
21	18	3

Foundation Safeguarding (PCC members, volunteers (leaders) working with vulnerable groups, Churchwardens, Parish Safeguarding Officer

Number in Role	Number completed training in last 3 years	Number with no or expired training
16	11	5

Leadership Safeguarding (Churchwardens, Parish Safeguarding Officers, Licenced Lay Ministers,

Number in Role	Number completed training in last 3 years	Number with no or expired training
3	2	1

Domestic Abuse (PCC members, Churchwardens, Parish Safeguarding Officers, Licensed Lay Ministers)

Number in Role	Number completed training in last 3 years	Number with no or expired training
11	10	1

Reporting to the PCC
The PCC was updated about Safeguarding matters in the parish at all 6 meetings during 2023.
There was one safeguarding matter which was reported on to the Diocesan Safeguarding Team.

Action Plan
The Safeguarding Officers are preparing an action plan using the Parish Dashboard, progress on which is reported to the PCC meetings.

Community

The Church membership are involved in many unseen individual acts of care, service and generosity to those in particular need. In addition, the following community orientated activities have been taking place in and around the Church: -

Church Outreach Groups:

Coffee, Chat and Company at the Turnpike Pub

This initiative which started in June 2022 is ‘a time to be, be known and be together’.
The group mainly attracts those who live alone who appreciate some company but, of course, a friendly welcome is extended to all. We feel it is good for our church to show its face outside our own building and to support our local business community.

In June the Turnpike changed its opening time from 11am to 12 noon which meant it was no longer convenient for some regulars. However, due to the new time, we seem to have morphed into a lunch club. Whilst numbers have almost halved, around a dozen still gather to share fellowship together on the first Wednesday of every month. We have the Pool Room allocated for our use and have some of our own chairs there in case we need them (thank you Lisa for obtaining these). Some of us struggle to get up on the high chairs!

We aim to have a short prayer during our time together but in the busy coming and going this has occasionally been forgotten. Lord please forgive us! Are our aims and objectives being met? Whilst leaving, one person said they often come in feeling a bit low but after being with ‘us lot’ they walk out feeling a whole lot better! Praise God for that.

Rosemary Boulton

Welcome Space Report

Last winter we came up with the idea of having a Warm Space to help people who were struggling to find somewhere warm. Part of this idea was influenced by the increase in the cost of heating. We planned on having a Warm Space in our Church Room and it would run every Tuesday between the hours of 10 and 12. We decided that we would not only provide a Warm Space, but we would also have snacks and refreshments available for those attending.

As the weather improved and we headed towards summer, we wanted to keep Warm Space open as it proved to be a great place to meet, chat and get to know each other better. Therefore, we changed Warm Space to Welcome Space. We also changed the times it would be open; the new time would be between 9 and 11. The reason why we changed the times was so that we could provide somewhere for the parents who have just dropped their children off at school. This would provide an opportunity for them to enjoy a warm drink and a chat after the often-busy task of getting their kids into school.

At the moment, we are running Welcome Space, every second and fourth Tuesday a month. We have a rota for all those who help with welcoming and serving snacks and refreshments. In the future we are looking to advertise more and hopefully get more people to come and join us.

Revd Regan Meares

Ladies Group

We have more new members since we moved to Thursday Afternoons. We started the year with wine, cheese and a quiz.

One of our talks was by Fussels Fine Foods and we were able to buy oil etc. We have had such interesting speakers and on our birthday the choir sang and Regan told us of his journey to faith. Our Project Evening was for the Sisters of the Church. The Old Crocks Alumni played for us. We had a very good outing to Exmouth with marvellous weather.

We ended the year with a Christmas Meal at Weston College and a visit to the Cadbury Garden Centre. We had a Christmas Party and a Carol Service with the Pensioners and the Men's Group.

Jean Hulbert (Chairman)

Men's Group

Since changing our meetings to afternoons instead of evenings our membership level has continued to hold firm, although there is now some concern as age seems to be taking its toll in terms of health issues with some of our members.
Staying positive however, all of our meetings during the past year have been most enjoyable. Our Summer day trip to Weymouth was particularly enjoyable – the weather was well and truly on our side that day!

One very enjoyable "first" was the combined Carol Service with Ladies Group and Pensioners; a definite "must" for the future!

We hope and pray that our group will continue to thrive to which end we extend a warm welcome to anyone who decides to join us why not pop along one Thursday afternoon for a great chill out and sociable couple of hours.

Brian Brown

Pensioner's Group

Pensioners in the Church District and surrounding areas continue to support our meetings. It is wonderful to know that despite not advertising our events other than in Church documents, we continue to welcome new people - we meet alternate Fridays from 1.45 to 3.45pm.

Very sadly we have lost several members and they are sorely missed.

Our usual favourite entertainers including Les and Gina, Mike Nash, Jon on his Tod and Classic FM are always popular and give everyone the opportunity to heartily sing old songs, bringing back many memories. New items such as a Creative Quiz Game Show and the Yate Ukulele Players also proved popular.
Our outings to Weymouth and Salisbury proved enjoyable, but sadly our third day trip had to be cancelled through lack of support.

Our Christmas meal to the Players Golf Course Club, was once again well supported, and following on from the very cold room last December, the venue this time was well and truly heated.

Our Charity chosen for the year was the Great Western Air Ambulance and a cheque for £500.00 was presented to their Representative who gave a brilliant slide show and talk.
For our Annual Carol Service this year, it was decided to hold a joint Service with both the Ladies and Mens Groups, with shared responsibilities. The Service was well supported with plans to make this an annual joint event.

Groups do not run by themselves and it goes without saying that our Chairperson, Mary Britton, has worked extremely hard this year to ensure that meetings are run with fun and enjoyment, for which we all thank her very much. Thanks also to our Treasurer, Marilyn for the work behind the scene.

Margaret Dodge

Outburst Youth Group

During 2023 we have continued to welcome new members to Outburst, with many children joining us from the local primary schools.

During the year we have covered many subjects including Mothering Sunday, Easter, New Life, God's Creatures, Fairtrade, Remembrance, Advent and the meaning of Christmas to name just a few. These sessions have taken the form of film nights, crafts, discussions, treasure hunts using the bibles, quizzes and maintaining our planter in the church grounds.

Our aim is to show the young people who attend that meeting together in a Christian based group can be fun and enjoyable and doesn't necessarily have to be part of a formal meeting. We hope that by planting the seed of Christianity that when they feel ready to make their own commitment in faith they will reflect back on their time at Outburst and want to continue with their journey with God.

Carolyn Smith

See and Know

See and Know has been running now for over 20 years. For people new to St Stephen's we are an unashamedly Christian Toddler group. Our aim is to introduce young children and their parents/carers gently to the Christian Faith using puppets and songs. We want the children to know that they are special and that they are loved by God. Our numbers fluctuate each week but we welcome new families when they come. Every year we have a Christmas party with a visit from Father Christmas and a leavers party in July with a bouncy castle.

We open on Thursday mornings from 10am-11.45.
If anyone would like to visit us and see what we do they would be most welcome.

Blessings from Sue Humphrey and the See and Know Team.

Knit and Natter 2023

We continue to have a regular attendance of12-15 members. We have lost our friend Bobbie Tucker but a new member has joined us.

We have had a stall at the summer fete and Christmas bazaar. We continue to knit for local nursing homes and make hats and gloves for the homeless. We also keep Lisa supplied with teddy bears to give to the children being baptised. This year we also gave items to Cossham hospital for sale in their shop and made donations to the national Send a Box appeal at Christmas.

We meet in the church room on Tuesday afternoons from 1.30 -3.30. If you would like to join us you would be very welcome. We do a lot of knitting and nattering.

Jan Brookshaw

Financial Overview Year ending 31st December 2023

The Parochial Church funds at the end of this financial year stand at £150,329. This shows a slight decrease of about £56 on the 2022 figure. The main features of 2023 were continuing improvement to the security of the Church and improved lighting in and around the Church premises. As always, the Church has greatly benefited from the generosity of the community.

Investments
Some of the Church reserve funds are invested with the Central Board of Finance and are managed by the Central Board of Finance. Other funds are lodged with the Church's bankers. The total interest received during the year was £3,249.97.

Unrestricted Funds
The unrestricted general fund reserve has increased in the year from £42,344 to £51,910, and is held partly in accounts with Lloyds Bank and in an account with the Central Board of Finance. In addition, the designated funds have decreased from £107,017 to £97,309. This is mainly due to roof maintenance work highlighted in the 2019 Quinquennial report, and to a lesser extent the on-going security improvements, comprising gates, bars and an alarm system. These are all part of the designated Fabric funds that are required to cover the day to day maintenance and upkeep of the Church building. This year, Church Hall lettings fees have covered all the regular outgoings and the general maintenance of the Hall. There have been no major contributions to the Next Generation Fund this year. This Fund was established in 2021 with a view to building resources for major improvement to the Church in years to come.

Restricted Funds
Restricted Funds within the Church accounts arise from gifts given to the Church to be forwarded to specified Charities. Our relationship with Fairtrade has finally come to a close during this year.

Income & Expenditure
Church income is generated mainly from the generosity of Church members, together with some well supported fund-raising fayres and events. Planned giving income increased by 10% compared with the previous year. Gift Aid continues to make a significant contribution to the income of the Church.

The Parish Share contribution for 2023 was increased to £66,140. This represents the Parish contribution to the diocese's costs in providing ministers' stipends and housing as well as a further contribution to diocesan and national services costs.

The Church has an agreed policy of giving around 10% of its Voluntary Income to a number of Charities which have become known as our "Mission Partners" because of their ongoing relationship with members of the Church. These include:-

The Bristol Soup Run
The One25 Project, Bristol
Emmaus, Bristol
Sisters of the Church
Diocesan Uganda Fund
Christian Aid
Beloved
Bristol Schools Connection
Harvest for the Hungry
The Children's Society

During the year, Church maintenance has included additional security measures and an alarm, lead replacement and further routine roof repairs.

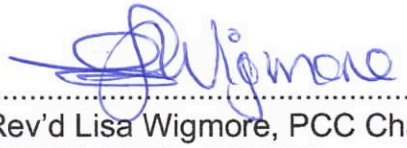
With the help of community generosity, the Church Hall floor has been resurfaced, and some additional chairs have been purchased to replace those suffering from the wear and tear of continual use.

During the year, many Church members have continued to give through the Parish Giving Scheme. It has also benefited us by the monthly tax reclaim system and also by the ways those on the scheme are prompted to review the level of their giving annually.

Many other Church members have continued filling their weekly giving envelopes and ensure they have found their way into Church funds.

With rising costs all around us, we are struggling to make ends meet and sadly we are facing a deficit budget for 2024. But the faithful generosity of those who support us financially (and in many other ways) is cause for continuing gratitude. We may not be rich in our bank balances here in Soundwell, but we are rich in care and love… which has been evident in our 'giving' as well as in the way we follow Jesus in other aspects of our lives.

Approved by the PCC on 12th March 2024 and signed on their behalf by



.....

Rev'd Lisa Wigmore, PCC Chair
CHARITY NO. 1131503

St. Stephen's Church Soundwell

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st December 2023

				2023				2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
	General	Designated	Restricted	**Total**	General	Designated	Restricted	**Total**
Incoming Resources (Note 1)								
Donations	97,287.40	1,602.00	3,543.63	**102,433.03**	88,477.75	25,450.00	2,310.90	**116,238.65**
Other voluntary Income	-	-	-	**-**	-	-	45,725.79	**45,725.79**
Trading	6,690.71	15,691.24	-	**22,381.95**	7,837.59	27,394.45	53.88	**35,285.92**
Investment Income	3,249.97	-	-	**3,249.97**	78.61	-	-	**78.61**
Total Incoming Resources	**107,228.08**	**17,293.24**	**3,543.63**	**128,064.95**	**96,393.95**	**52,844.45**	**48,090.57**	**197,328.97**
Resources Used (Note 2)								
Grants	-	-	12,456.14	**12,456.14**	-	-	11,310.90	**11,310.90**
Church Activities	76,485.33	-	-	**76,485.33**	75,491.20	-	-	**75,491.20**
Fundraising & publicity	-	-	-	**-**	-	-	53.88	**53.88**
Church management & Admin	9,177.27	30,002.30	-	**39,179.57**	6,335.47	22,490.07	58,914.79	**87,740.33**
Total Resources used	**85,662.60**	**30,002.30**	**12,456.14**	**128,121.04**	**81,826.67**	**22,490.07**	**70,279.57**	**174,596.31**
Net incoming (outgoing) resources	21,565.48	(12,709.06)	(8,912.51)	(56.09)	14,567.28	30,354.38	(22,189.00)	22,732.66
Transfers between Funds	(12,000.00)	3,000.00	9,000.00	**-**	(9,000.00)	-	9,000.00	**-**
Movement for the year	9,565.48	(9,709.06)	87.49	(56.09)	5,567.28	30,354.38	(13,189.00)	22,732.66
Opening Funds	42,344.40	107,017.65	1,023.96	150,386.01	36,777.12	76,663.27	14,212.96	127,653.35
Balance Carried Fwd	**51,909.88**	**97,308.59**	**1,111.45**	**150,329.92**	**42,344.40**	**107,017.65**	**1,023.96**	**150,386.01**

St. Stephen's Church Soundwell

Year ended 31st December 2023

Balance Sheet		£	**31/12/2023** £	£	**31/12/2022** £
Current Assets					
Stock		-		-	
Debtors	Note 4	5,397.14		5,058.19	
Central Board of Finance		92,203.11		5,342.01	
Cash at Bank and in hand		55,159.55		143,387.99	
Cash in hand		201.87		8.51	
			152,961.67		**153,796.70**
Current Liabilities					
Sundry Creditors	Note 4	2,631.75		2,526.69	
Organisation Deposits					
Outburst		-		287.71	
Flower Fund		-		(5.94)	
Holiday Club		-		270.70	
Choir Fund		-		331.53	
			2,631.75		**3,410.69**
Net Assets			**150,329.92**		**150,386.01**
Statement of Funds					
Unrestricted - General	Note 3	51,909.88		42,344.40	
			51,909.88		42,344.40
Designated	Note 3				
Designated - Fabric		2,387.04		14,085.75	
Designated - Fabric Special Projects		3,167.46		2,615.46	
Designated - Next Generation Fund		85,331.67		85,000.00	
Designated - Hall		6,422.42		5,316.44	
			97,308.59		107,017.65
Restricted	Note 3				
Mission		1,111.45		1,015.45	
Fairtrade		-		8.51	
Spire Fund		-		-	
			1,111.45		1,023.96
Total Funds		-	**150,329.92**		**150,386.01**

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 12th March 2024 and signed on their behalf by

Reverend Lisa Wigmore, Vicar .....

Lorraine Sanderson, Treasurer .....

Notes to the Financial Statements

1 Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the accruals basis
The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Funds

General 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. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Incoming Resources

Voluntary income and capital sources
* 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 donations are received.
* Funds raised by the fete, garden party and similar events are accounted for gross.

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

Income from investments
Dividends and interest are accounted for when received. Tax recoverable on such income is recognised in the same accounting year.

Resources used

*Grant*s
Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

Activities directly relating to the work of the Church
The diocesan quota or parish share is accounted for when payable. Any quota unpaid at 31 December is provided for in these accounts as an operational (though not a legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the Balance Sheet.

Creditors are recognised on the basis of goods and services received and measured at the settlement amount.

Fixed assets

Consecrated land and buildings and movable church furnishings
* Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993.
* Movable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's inventory which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For inalienable property acquired prior to 31st December 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the accounts. Items acquired since 1st January 2001 have been capitalised and depreciated in the accounts over their currently anticipated useful economic life (initially over 4 years) on a straight line basis.
* All expenditure on consecrated or beneficed buildings, individual items under £2,500, or the repair of moveable church furnishings acquired before 31st December 2000 is written off.

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 the asset is acquired.

Current assets
* Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectible.
* Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Funds or at the bank

2. Trustee Remuneration, Related parties Transactions and Staff Costs

* Two Trustees received expenses in performance of their duties totalling £1,038.93.
* Mrs L.M. Cooper who is a Trustee received £1,500 for her work as Musical Director plus £875 for Wedding and Funeral services.
* Mr G. Harris who is a Trustee received £315 for his duties as verger
* Mr P. Sanderson who is the husband of a trustee received £3,220.90 for his duties as Hall Cleaner
* The trustee payments are in accordance with S7A of the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956.
* There is one other member of staff, our Church's Promotions Officer.

St. Stephen's Church Soundwell
Year ended 31st December 2023
MOVEMENT OF FUNDS STATEMENT PART 1

Note 1 Incoming Resources

	TOTAL 2023	GENERAL	DESIGNATED FUNDS					RESTRICTED FUNDS				TOTAL 2022
			Total	Fabric	Fabric Special	Next Generation	Hall Account	Toal	Mission Fund	Fair-trade	Spire Fund	Break in Fund	
Donations	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Gift Aided Donations	59,447.67	59,447.67	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	56,386.12
Income Tax Recovered	20,748.68	20,748.68	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16,708.36
Non Gift Aided Donations	2,162.00	1,762.00	400.00	200.00	-	-	200.00	-	-	-	-	-	1,394.92
Open Plate Offering	6,095.32	6,095.32	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,992.44
Other Gifts	13,479.36	9,233.73	702.00	-	552.00	150.00	-	3,543.63	3,543.63	-	-	-	37,756.81
Legacies	500.00	-	500.00	-	-	500.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Donations	**102,433.03**	**97,287.40**	**1,602.00**	200.00	552.00	650.00	200.00	**3,543.63**	3,543.63	-	-		**116,238.65**
Other Voluntary Inccome													
Grants and Gifts	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	45,725.79
Total Other Voluntary Income	**-**	**-**	**-**	-	-	-	-	**-**	-	-	-	-	**45,725.79**
Trading													
Fees	4,335.00	4,335.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,933.00
Fetes, Bazaars & Fundraising	4,061.64	-	4,061.64	4,061.64	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,301.93
Hall Lettings	11,629.60	-	11,629.60	-	-	-	11,629.60	-	-	-	-	-	10,791.75
Sundry	2,345.71	2,345.71	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,370.59
Cards & Calendars	10.00	10.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	534.00
Insurance Claims	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13,300.77
Fairtrade Sales	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	53.88
Total Trading	**22,381.95**	**6,690.71**	**15,691.24**	4,061.64	-	-	11,629.60	**-**	-	-	-	-	**35,285.92**
Investment Income													
Interest Received	**3,249.97**	**3,249.97**	**-**	-	-	-	-	**-**	-	-	-	-	**78.61**
Total Incoming Resources	**128,064.95**	**107,228.08**	**17,293.24**	4,261.64	552.00	650.00	11,829.60	**3,543.63**	3,543.63	-	-	-	**197,328.97**

St. Stephen's Church Soundwell
Year ended 31st December 2023
MOVEMENT OF FUNDS STATEMENT PART 2 **Note 2**

Note 2 Resoures Used

	TOTAL 2023	GENERAL	DESIGNATED FUNDS					RESTRICTED FUNDS				TOTAL 2022
			Total	Fabric	Fabric Special	Next Generation	Hall Account	Total	Mission Fund	Fair-trade	Spire Fund	Break in Fund	
Grants (Note 6)	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Specific Grants	9,000.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,000.00	9,000.00	-	-	-	9,000.00
Donations from Collections	3,456.14	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,456.14	3,447.63	8.51	-	-	2,310.90
Total Grants	**12,456.14**	**-**	**-**	-	-	-	-	**12,456.14**	12,447.63	8.51	-	-	**11,310.90**
Church Activities													
Ministry Parish Pledge	66,140.00	66,140.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	65,651.00
Clergy Expenses	1,038.93	1,038.93	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,159.89
Sundry	490.29	490.29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	231.20
Church Insurance, Light and Heat	5,350.55	5,350.55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,093.17
Music Provision	2,293.28	2,293.28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,248.17
Communion and Service Costs	1,172.28	1,172.28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,107.77
Total Church Activities	**76,485.33**	**76,485.33**	**-**	-	-	-	-	**-**	-	-	-	-	**75,491.20**
Fundraising and Publicity													
Sales	**-**	**-**	**-**	-	-	-	-	**-**	-	-	-	-	**53.88**
Church Management and Administration													
Printing, Stationery and Envelopes	2,107.95	1,789.62	318.33	-	-	318.33	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,677.02
Salaries	3,320.54	3,320.54	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,859.25
Subscriptions and Sundry	4,067.11	4,067.11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,600.20
Cards and Calendars	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	199.00
Church Maintenance	14,862.35	-	14,862.35	14,862.35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,533.65
Spire Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	63,904.07
Break in Costs / Security	4,098.00	-	4,098.00	4,098.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,333.69
Hall Running Costs	5,806.71	-	5,806.71	-	-	-	5,806.71	-	-	-	-	-	552.31
Hall Wages	3,220.90	-	3,220.90	-	-	-	3,220.90	-	-	-	-	-	3,057.60
Hall Water Rates	342.87	-	342.87	-	-	-	342.87	-	-	-	-	-	242.19
Hall Light and Heat	1,353.14	-	1,353.14	-	-	-	1,353.14	-	-	-	-	-	3,781.35
Total Management and Admin	**39,179.57**	**9,177.27**	**30,002.30**	18,960.35	-	318.33	10,723.62	**-**	-	-	-	-	**87,740.33**
Total Resources Used	**128,121.04**	**85,662.60**	**30,002.30**	18,960.35	-	318.33	10,723.62	**12,456.14**	12,447.63	8.51	-	-	**174,596.31**

St. Stephen's Church Soundwell
Year ended 31st December 2023

Note 3 Funds Reconciliation

	Year to 31st Dcember 2023				
	Opening Balance	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Closing Balances
	£	£	£	£	£
GENERAL	**42,344.40**	107,228.08	(85,662.60)	(12,000.00)	**51,909.88**
DESIGNATED FUNDS					
Fabric Fund	14,085.75	4,261.64	(18,960.35)	3,000.00	2,387.04
Fabric Special Projects	2,615.46	552.00	-	-	3,167.46
Next Generation Fund	85,000.00	650.00	(318.33)	-	85,331.67
Hall Account	5,316.44	11,829.60	(10,723.62)	-	6,422.42
	107,017.65	17,293.24	(30,002.30)	3,000.00	**97,308.59**
RESTRICTED FUNDS					
Mission Fund	1,015.45	3,543.63	(12,447.63)	9,000.00	1,111.45
Fairtrade	8.51	-	(8.51)	-	-
Spire Fund	-	-	-	-	-
Break In Fund	-	-	-	-	-
	1,023.96	3,543.63	(12,456.14)	9,000.00	**1,111.45**
Totals	**150,386.01**	128,064.95	(128,121.04)	-	**150,329.92**

	Year to 31st Dcember 2022				
	Opening Balance	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Closing Balances
	£	£	£	£	£
GENERAL	**36,777.12**	96,393.95	(81,826.67)	(9,000.00)	**42,344.40**
DESIGNATED FUNDS					
Fabric Fund	12,339.67	16,602.70	(14,856.62)	-	14,085.75
Fabric Special Projects	2,165.46	450.00	-	-	2,615.46
Next Generation Fund	60,000.00	25,000.00	-	-	85,000.00
Hall Account	2,158.14	10,791.75	(7,633.45)	-	5,316.44
	76,663.27	52,844.45	(22,490.07)	-	**107,017.65**
RESTRICTED FUNDS					
Mission Fund	1,015.45	2,310.90	(11,310.90)	9,000.00	1,015.45
Fairtrade	8.51	53.88	(53.88)	-	8.51
Spire Fund	13,189.00	42,120.60	(55,309.60)	-	-
Break In Fund	-	3,605.19	(3,605.19)	-	-
	14,212.96	48,090.57	(70,279.57)	9,000.00	**1,023.96**
Totals	**127,653.35**	197,328.97	(174,596.31)	-	**150,386.01**

St. Stephen's Church Soundwell
Year ended 31st December 2023

Note 4 Net Assets per Fund

	Total	2023 General Total	2023 Designated Total	2023 Restricted Total	2023 Designated - Detail					2023 Restricted - Detail				
					Total	Fabric	Next Generation	Special	Hall	Total	Spire	Mission	Fairtrade	Break in
Current Assets	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Stock	**-**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Debtors	**5,397.14**	2,463.54	2,933.60	-	2,933.60	-	-	-	2,933.60	-	-	-	-	-
Central Board	**92,203.11**	316.94	91,886.17	-	91,886.17	3,387.04	85,331.67	3,167.46	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bank	**55,159.55**	49,759.28	4,218.82	1,181.45	4,218.82	500.00	-	-	3,718.82	1,181.45	-	1,181.45	-	
Cash	**201.87**	201.87	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	152,961.67	52,741.63	99,038.59	1,181.45	99,038.59	3,887.04	85,331.67	3,167.46	6,652.42	1,181.45	-	1,181.45	-	-
Current Liabilities														
Creditors	**2,631.75**	831.75	1,730.00	70.00	1,730.00	1,500.00	-	-	230.00	70.00	-	70.00	-	-
Outburst	**-**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Flower Fund	**-**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Holiday Club	**-**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Choir Fund	**-**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2,631.75	831.75	1,730.00	70.00	1,730.00	1,500.00	-	-	230.00	70.00	-	70.00	-	-
Net Assets	**150,329.92**	51,909.88	97,308.59	1,111.45	97,308.59	2,387.04	85,331.67	3,167.46	6,422.42	1,111.45	-	1,111.45	-	-
Funds	**150,329.92**	51,909.88	97,308.59	1,111.45	97,308.59	2,387.04	85,331.67	3,167.46	6,422.42	1,111.45	-	1,111.45	-	-
Difference	**-**	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-

	Total	2022 General Total	2022 Designated Total	2022 Restricted Total	2022 Designated - Detail					2022 Restricted - Detail				
					Total	Fabric	Next Generation	Special	Hall	Total	Spire	Mission	Fairtrade	Break in
Current Assets	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Stock	**-**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Debtors	**5,058.19**	1,455.44	3,602.75	-	3,602.75	500.00	-	-	3,102.75	-	-	-	-	-
Central Board	**5,342.01**	5,342.01	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bank	**143,387.99**	36,983.43	105,389.11	1,015.45	105,389.11	14,989.67	85,000.00	2,615.46	2,783.98	1,015.45	-	1,015.45	-	
Cash	**8.51**	-	-	8.51	-	-	-	-	-	8.51	-	-	8.51	-
	153,796.70	43,780.88	108,991.86	1,023.96	108,991.86	15,489.67	85,000.00	2,615.46	5,886.73	1,023.96	-	1,015.45	8.51	-
Current Liabilities														
Creditors	**2,526.69**	552.48	1,974.21	-	1,974.21	1,403.92	-	-	570.29	-	-	-	-	-
Outburst	**287.71**	287.71	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Flower Fund	**(5.94)**	(5.94)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Holiday Club	**270.70**	270.70	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Choir Fund	**331.53**	331.53	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	3,410.69	1,436.48	1,974.21	-	1,974.21	1,403.92	-	-	570.29	-	-	-	-	-
Net Assets	**150,386.01**	42,344.40	107,017.65	1,023.96	107,017.65	14,085.75	85,000.00	2,615.46	5,316.44	1,023.96	-	1,015.45	8.51	-
Funds	**150,386.01**	42,344.40	107,017.65	1,023.96	107,017.65	14,085.75	85,000.00	2,615.46	5,316.44	1,023.96	-	1,015.45	8.51	-
Difference	**-**	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-

St. Stephen's Church Soundwell
Year ended 31st December 2023

Note 5 List of Funds

General Fund for the operation of the Church

Designated Funds

Fabric Fund which covers the maintenance of the fabric of the Church building
Fabric Special Projects which covers altar linen and similar fabric projects
Next Generation Fund is money set aside by the PCC for the longer term maintenance and development of the Church Buildings
Hall Account covers the operation and maintenance of the Church Hall

Restricted Funds

Mission Fund covers monies given or allocated for Charity work beyond the PCC control
Fairtrade covers the acquisition and sale of Fairtrade items and produce
Spire Fund covers monies given to the Church for the restoration of the Church Spire (Completed 2022)
Break In Fund covers monies specifically given to make repairs following the break into the Church (2022 only)

Note 6 Details of Charity Donations

	2023		2022	
	£		£	
Expenditure - Grants				
Bristol Soup run	1,200.00		1,200.00	
One25 Project	1,200.00		1,200.00	
Emmaus	1,200.00		1,200.00	
Sisters of the Church	1,500.00		1,500.00	
Diocese Uganda fund (19 & 20)	500.00		500.00	
Christian Aid	1,200.00		1,200.00	
Beloved	1,200.00		1,200.00	
Bristol Schools Connections	500.00		500.00	
Harvest for the Hungry	500.00		500.00	
		9,000.00		9,000.00
Donations from collections				
Harvest for the Hungry	476.68		572.75	
Sisters of the Church	1,672.21		1,534.45	
Children's Society	1,042.74		203.70	
Sundry Donations	256.00		-	
		3,447.63		2,310.90

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of St Stephen's Church, Soundwell

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 15 to 23.

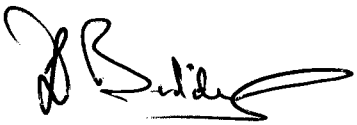
As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

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

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

* the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
* the accounts did not accord with the accounting records or
* the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of the accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirements 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 order to a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



David Biddel FCA
12 The Newlands
Frenchay
Bristol
BS16 1NQ

15 April 2024

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. STEPHEN, SOUNDWE

England & Wales - Charity number 1131503

Accounts

ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH, SOUNDWELL, BRISTOL
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Legal and Administrative Information

St Stephen's Church, Soundwell, Bristol, is part of the Diocese of Bristol within the Church of England. We have charitable status under the Charities Act, registered No. 1131503. PCC members are trustees of that charity by virtue of their membership.

Church Address
St Stephen's Church
Church Road
Soundwell
Bristol
BS16 4RH

Chair of PCC
Rev. Lisa Wigmore
52 Gladstone Street
Staple Hill
Bristol
BS16 4RF

Churchwarden
Mrs Gill Mayo
122 Burley Grove
Downend
Bristol
BS16 5QG

Bankers
Lloyds Bank
697 Fishponds Rd,
Fishponds,
Bristol BS16 3UJ

Independent Examiner
David Biddell
12 The Newlands
Frenchay
BS16 1NQ

Churchwarden

PCC members who have served from 1 January 2022 until the date of this report are:

Vicar :	Rev Lisa Wigmore	Chair	Ex Officio
Clergy	Rev Sandy Cooper		Ex Officio
	Rev Regan Meares		Ex Officio
Lay Ministers:	Mr Peter Robbins	Safeguarding Officer	Ex Officio
Wardens:	Mrs Gill Mayo	Vice Chair	Ex Officio
Representatives on The Deanery Synod	Mr Bill Bishop	Vice Chair	Ex Officio
Elected Members			
	Mrs Lin Cooper		Elected 2020
	Mrs Carolyn Smith		Elected 2020
	Mrs Sarah Fry		Elected 2020
	Mrs Carolyn Hawkins	Secretary	Elected 2021
	Mrs Julia Merrifield	ER Officer	Elected 2021
	Mrs Trish Phipps		Elected 2021
	Mrs Sue Clements		Until May 2022
	Mr Geoff Harris		Elected 2022
	Mrs Nicola Read		Elected 2022
	Mrs Sue Humphrey		Elected 2022
	Mrs Lorraine Sanderson	Treasurer	Elected 2022
	Ms Linda Krause		Elected 2022

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 method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. The person to whom day-to-day management is delegated is the Vicar, Rev Lisa Wigmore. The PCC adopts the appropriate training procedures for the wide range of matters affecting the parish, specifically Safeguarding. The PCC has access to training courses arranged by the diocese and deanery.

There are several committees and groups which report to the PCC. Some committees meet on a regular basis whilst others on an ad-hoc basis. All major initiatives, events, proposals and requests are reported to the PCC when it meets every other month. The PCC agenda will always include provision for reports from the following committees:

Ministry Team	Finance	Admin Team	Warm Space
Sacristy Team	Safeguarding Team	Prayer Teams	Youth Church
Choir	Friday Night Live Team	Outburst Youth Group	
See & Know	Knit & Natter	Ladies Group	
Men's Group	Pensioners Group	House Groups	
Café Central Team	Marriage Prep	Baptism Prep	
Bereavement Team	Pastoral Care Team	Flower Persons	
Cleaning Guild	Greeters & Sides People		

The major risks to which the PCC is exposed, as identified by the PCC members, have been reviewed and systems or procedures have been established to manage such risks.

The PCC considers that it has, to the best of its knowledge, taken all reasonable steps to comply with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016. It confirms that there have been no incidents since the previous APCM.

An annual budget is prepared to ensure short term viability. Actual results compared with budget are reported regularly to the PCC. The PCC has approved internal controls for annual accounts, cash and cheques handling. All assets are insured and levels reviewed annually and approved by the PCC.

The PCC met eight times in 2022 and all meetings were in person.

Objectives and Aims – our reason for being!

The PCC of St Stephen's, Soundwell, has the responsibility of cooperating with the Priest-in-Charge, Rev Lisa Wigmore, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical – in short, focusing on what Jesus wants us to do. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church and the Church Hall.

The PCC continued with a number of specific aims for 2022, as we worked towards agreeing a new vision and mission statement for the future. The continuing aims were; connecting with God; connecting with each other; and connecting with the community in order that we will be a 'Beacon of Light & Hope to the community'. In addition, the PCC strives to fulfil our financial and physical responsibilities, both within the Church and to the Diocese. The new vision and mission statements are outlined in the Vicar's Report.

Activities and Achievements – review of the year.

Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll now stands at 112 people, an increase of one from last year. Four names have been removed and five added.

Ministry Overview

Vicar

Although Covid-19 didn't affect our services throughout 2022, it still impacted our lives at times, when one or more of us contracted the virus and had to 'isolate' in order to best care for those around us. Behind the scenes and across the life of the church, Covid Risk Assessments continued throughout the year on a monthly basis. But no matter what, we continued to find ways of connecting with God and each other – thank the Lord for the telephone calls, video chats, Dial and Click-a-Sermons, as well as worship in church!

Although most people have resumed worship with one another in church… for some that hasn't been possible and they rely on Open Space, receiving Holy Communion and listening to sermons at home, and keeping in touch with one another in various ways and times.

Sadly, the year began with lead theft from our roof, which resulted in leaks and damage. This was on top of the already extensive works needed to repair our 'wobbly' Spire, and the general repairs to the building that the 2018 Quinquennial Inspection suggested. Then there was the break-in, which really did pull the rug from under us for a while – it felt wrong and disheartening, to say the least. Yet… the people of our church community were amazing!! With mops and buckets, cleaning fluid and cloths, we gathered to put right the awful mess that was caused. People from the parish sent messages and financial donations of support, and St Stephen's Infant and Junior Schools sold doughnuts and had colouring competitions to raise funds for the repairs and demonstrate how important their church is to them. Sadness turned to joy and we got stuck into the repairs.

I can't express how much work it took to repair the Spire; apply for grants to raise the funds needed; supply information and obtain quotes; deal with architects and contractors; be there to open and close the church; worry about how long it was taking. Then, similarly for the lead theft, quinquennial repairs and the break-in (except sadly grant funding isn't available for those sorts of things). It was a huge weight on a small number of us that were involved – but **I am thankful and grateful to this team for all they did**! The finishing works will tip over into 2023, when the additional security measures, suggested by The Crime Prevention Officer of Avon and Somerset Police, begins.

But none of this stopped us worshipping the Lord and continuing to follow Jesus. We gathered as a Church Community through Lent to explore Living in Love and Faith – a Bible study and discussion around the themes of relationships, sexuality and living together as a church community from a wide range of backgrounds. Youth Church chose to make changes to how it meets and worships together, to make it more relevant and open to all who might wish to come and grow together with Jesus. A bumper number of six couples were married in church in 2022 and one couple renewed their marriage vows. Three sessions of Baptism Preparation meant that fourteen children were Baptised at St Stephen's. Thirteen Funerals were conducted in Church, with a further sixteen at local Crematoriums and two Memorial services enabled people to gather in church to remember their loved ones. 2022 was the year we celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and also the year we said our goodbyes to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second.

Our Mission Outreach Groups; Ladies Group, Men's Group, Pensioners Group, See & Know, Outburst, Knit and Natter, continued to meet throughout 2022. Some building up from a new start, others welcoming old members back and lots of new ones as well. What joy! They continue to be ways in which the love of Jesus is shared within our community.

The links with the 5 Schools in the parish continue to grow, with increased visits to church, RE lessons taught by ministers on both school and church premises, Collective Worship led in school and regular services in church throughout the year. Two of us are members of St Stephen's Junior School and Soundwell Academy Governing Bodies where lots of vital work takes place. We continue to explore how we might share the story of Jesus in imaginative and interactive ways in our local schools.

In June 2022 we began a coffee morning in in The Turnpike, which has been a hugely popular, attracting both folk who regularly come to church AND those who don't. It's a great way of showing ourselves in the community and can lead to opportunities of sharing Jesus with others – loving God and our neighbour!

The Summer and Christmas Fayres were both a huge success in the way that the community wanted to come to their church. Many didn't seem to want to leave and there were some fabulous conversations as well as lots of goodies changing hands. Both these events, along with the very first and hugely successful 'Plant Sale', and the wonderful concert which brought together 'Storm Force 10' Sea Shanty Band and the 'Old Crocks' band, made St Stephen's a fun place to be, as well as raising much needed funds to keep the mission and ministry of our church alive.

In time honoured tradition, I am saving the best 'til last… July was an extra special month as it brought Reverend Regan Meares to St Stephen's as our Assistant Curate. What a delight and joy it has been for us all to have Regan with us, as part of our church family. This marked the start of a minimum 3, and maximum 4 year stay with us in Soundwell as he continues to learn and grow in the ministry to which God is calling him.

But what next??

Throughout 2022 and for some time before that, your PCC has been daring to look ahead. Part of that included looking back, and out of that came the St Stephen's Story video, which also encouraged us to leave a legacy to our church as well as 'knowing Jesus and making Jesus known', which has become our Vision Statement. Part of this looking back helped us to think through who we are, and we agreed the following Mission Statement, so that all we do might come from, or be checked through this…

SSS Mission Statement

We exist to share the love of God, which we see most clearly in Jesus. Our Mission as Christians in Soundwell is to enable everyone to get to know Jesus and to deepen their relationship with Him.

We aim to do this by being the Church family for the whole community; journeying together through the good times, tough times, and also the everyday, ordinary times; nurturing faith, having fun, serving our neighbourhood and working in partnership with those around us.

St Stephen's Church is a place of prayer and worship where everyone is welcome; everyone is valued; everyone is important, to us, and to God. This is because life, love and death does not make sense without Jesus.

Vision Statement

St Stephen's… knowing Jesus and making Jesus known.

Our Diocese continues to look at our collective focus and priorities for the years ahead and we look forward to working together towards those new objectives. Despite all the expense of the building repairs we have overcome this year, and despite the very real crisis in our economy, we know we have to lift our eyes and look towards the future of our church building, so we can pass on what we have been freely given, to the generations to come.

This is not a quick process, because none of us want to rush anything so important. Which is why your PCC began with reminding ourselves who we are as a church, and our reason for being – as outlined in the above statements. Next will come consultations with the members of our church, our Mission Outreach Groups and the wider folk of our Parish. St Stephen's is the church for the whole parish, the whole community and we want to hear from everyone.

The reason is outlined in this next statement, but in a nutshell, it's because we know we have to ensure our buildings remain 'fit for purpose' for the next 120 years, whatever wonderful purposes God has planned for them.

Re-ordering Mission Statement

St Stephen's Church, Soundwell, is well-worn, because it's been well used. We want to make our church a multifunctional facility which is hospitable, fit for purpose and serving the needs of our local community.

St Stephen's… knowing Jesus and making Jesus known.

As I write this in March 2023, the groundwork of who we are and the demographic of the parish we serve has all been recorded. A questionnaire is in the early stages of being created, and as soon as we are ready to share this more widely, it will be with you. Nothing is being hidden, and all will be shared… but we can't share what we haven't yet prepared. Please pray for your PCC as we take this forward with you and with our community.

Revd Lisa Wigmore
Vicar

Churchwarden

2022 began with the problems involving the Church Tower still hanging over us. However, at that time we were anticipating the repair work would start in the February, but there were a few problems. Eventually it was started in May and completed early September, and while the scaffolding was in place Dawson Steeplejacks fitted the new lightening conductor.
Some tiles were unavoidably damaged due to the scaffolding but were later repaired.

Just prior to Covid we had a builder lined up to do the outstanding quinquennial roof work, but unfortunately he was then unable to take on the work, so this necessitated our getting three more quotes from other builders. As a result of this we received a very acceptable quote from Ellis & Co. (who were doing the Tower work) and it was agreed they would do the work.

Another roof problem which had occurred just before Christmas 2021, was the theft of lead from the Church Room roof, so it was felt appropriate to ask Ellis & Co. to take on this work as well. Unfortunately, at a point where the lead was missing rain water filtered through to the Robing Room and caused more damage.

It was mid-January when the Church was broken into and the perpetrators left behind a trail of destruction, as a result of this there was an inordinate amount of work to be done both by Church Members and professional tradesmen.

All the roof work, plus the theft and break-in involved constant contact with our Insurance Company giving them updates of what was happening or going to happen.
Again, there was regular contact with the Diocese and completion of necessary forms gaining permissions etc. that would allow us to go ahead with various works.
One job that had to be done was the repair of the Vestry floor, so that proved a good time to get the Church Hall floor repaired. Although this floor had been refurbished comparatively recently, there were several areas where unfortunately it had suffered damage.
Throughout the year we had the usual annual checks such as the boiler servicing, P.A.T testing to ensure our electrical appliances were safe, and the fire extinguisher/ blankets tested to ensure they were in good working order.

Although it was just at the start of 2023, we finally had the quinquennial work and the lead replacement completed. It was hoped that we could have had an alternative to lead, but the builder advised us that this product was not suitable.
We now look forward to a much quieter 2023.

Gill Mayo - Church Warden

Ministry Team

The ministry team continues to be made up of Lisa Wigmore, (Vicar), Sandy and Lin Cooper (Associate Priest and Director of Music), Peter Robbins (Licensed Lay Minister), Gill Mayo (Church Warden), Lorraine Sanderson (Treasurer), and Regan Meares (Assistant Curate), who joined us part way through the year. As your Vicar, I know how hard these folk work for our Church and for the glory of God. They are each fabulous and fantastic and use their God-given gifts and skills in everything they do…. often doing so in a sacrificial manner. I praise & thank God for them!

This has been Gill's fifth year as Church Warden and she has been supported by a fantastic team of seven Assistant Church Wardens; Geoff Harris, Jan Brookshaw, Bill Brookshaw, Carolyn Hawkins,

Tim Parker, Matt Gait and Wayne Topps. Special thanks for Tim and Matt for continuing with necessary maintenance work over this difficult year.

Supporting the Ministry Team and often being the first point of contact for the community, are a team who keep the Church office open and active four mornings a week; Jan Brookshaw, Jenny Bishop, Bill Bishop, and Bill Brookshaw, with David Packe keeping us connected through advertising, the website, our weekly slides and Open Space.

Thank you to the Sacristy Team for their continuing help in supporting the presiding priest at services of Holy Communion.

Particular thanks to the PCC for being an active part in the Governance and Mission of St Stephen's.

Services

St Stephen's Community Worship is a great place to be at 10am each Sunday. The Youth Church team, led by Peter Robbins, has grown in its leadership and style and come through a time of change and renewal. The young people are the future of our church, so we must encourage them with our prayers, smiles and considerations.

We have valued teams of people leading Ante-Communion (the first part of the service), Intercessions and readings from the Bible.

A small but committed congregation meet at 8am on the first and third Sundays of the month for BCP Holy Communion. There continues to be another committed congregation at 10am each Wednesday to share Holy Communion together.

The new monthly Coffee, Chat and Company at the Turnpike Pub, has been a thriving success, and often has around 22 people meeting up.

During 2022, a small team of church members offered their time and received training to take Holy Communion to around fourteen of our 'At Home Members'. This number can grow when folk are housebound by illness for short periods of time.

Friday Night Live, at 6.30pm on the third Friday of each month, is a service that allows people to explore God's word in ways that suit their own learning style. It is relaxed and open to people of all ages and experiences and has a committed team to plan and lead the worship.

Services at Deerhurst Care Home are held regularly, some with Holy Communion, others without. Some more prayerful for just a few people and others for everyone. All these are received and valued by residents, staff and carers alike.

The planning teams for the all age community services, which happen at Harvest, Remembrance, Christmas Eve, Mothering Sunday, Good Friday and on our Church's birthday (Dedication), continued to grow in number, confidence and ideas. They are a team of people who are passionate about enabling the young families of our community get to know and follow Jesus. This team continue to create the Experience Easter Trail in the Church garden, which has been a huge success across our community over the last few years, with many people coming to Experience Easter during Holy Week.

All the usual Christian festivals have been celebrated, with Palm Sunday seeing a donkey called 'Barney' visiting us to remind us of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Easter Day saw the Easter Story told in chocolate. And Jesus… the light in the darkness shone throughout all our Christmas Services.

Ministry in our local schools is growing, through assemblies and visits to them, this in turn encourages significant numbers of children, parents and carers to attend their Christmas services in Church. Carols by Candlelight saw our Church bursting at the seams again, with the 37th Kingswood Alumni Scout band continuing to be a valued part of the worship and fun times at St Stephen's. The Christmas Eve Family Fun Christingle Services and Christmas Morning Family Service were very well attended, as was Midnight Holy Communion.

We have a fabulous team of people who ensure those who have lost loved ones are invited to our Memorial Services, and that they are cared for and welcomed when they do. There are also a small but

committed team of people who support Baptism Families both at the Baptism itself and during the preparation sessions.

Our main Sunday Services, festivals and occasional offices were enhanced by our Parish Church Choir, led by Lin Cooper. And Tim Parker has shared with her the leading of our sung worship week by week.

Care and Prayer

Pastoral Care 2022

Pastoral Care continued to be a particular focus of the Church during the year. This included home visits, hospital visits, home communions and care home visits and services.

Visits were also offered to the newly bereaved, and Memorial Services were held in May and November, for anyone who wished to attend. The love, prayer and reading of the names of those gone to glory was much appreciated by those that came to these special services. There is also a Book of Remembrance in Church.

Jenny Bishop is our Pastoral Care Co-Ordinator, and she supports Lisa and the Ministry Team in caring for the people of our Parish. She phones and visits folk as an ambassador of our church… as do many of the congregation. Jenny, along with Jan Brookshaw, Carolyn Hawkins, Lorraine Sanderson, Gill Mayo, Regan and Lisa, take Home Communion regularly to around 15 people – a number that often increases as a short-time need arises for some.

The love, care and concern shown by so many of our congregation to each other, especially those who aren't always able to join us in regular worship, is the whole basis of **Care Connections**. If a member of the congregation notices an empty seat where there is usually a familiar face, they let one of the ministers or the Care Connections team know about it as soon as possible.

Specific needs are prayed for immediately by a team of people known as our **Prayer Chain**. They pray for those whose people who have asked Lisa or any of us for prayer, and would like us as the 'church' to be praying for them or the particular situation. E-mails are sent to the team to request them to pray immediately. These prayers continue, and also include the names of our home members and those who are to be baptised or married during the year.

Fourteen baptisms took place during 2022, as well as six weddings and one marriage blessing on a special anniversary. Twenty-nine funerals were conducted either in Church or at other locations, and there were three interment of ashes at other cemeteries.

Using the Cycle of Prayer and the diary from Open Space, all church members, but especially those in the Prayer Chain are able to pray for the life of St. Stephen's. Our Cycle of Prayer, from which we pray for our organisations, individuals, and those living or working in streets in our parish, provides a platform from which specific prayer needs flow.

All requests for prayer are treated as confidential. St Stephens truly is a praying Church!

Safeguarding Report

The PCC were delighted to be able to appoint Sarah Fry to the voluntary post of Assistant Parish Safeguarding Officer in the Autumn. Sarah will be a great asset to the Safeguarding work in the Parish and provide an additional contact point for those seeking support with any aspect of Safeguarding.

During the year Peter, Sarah and the Ministry Team have received training from the Diocese to keep their Safeguarding training requirements current.

Due to a change in the Church of England guidelines, the year started with an unexpected demand for most of our Disclosure and Barring certificates to be renewed, which was completed in just a few weeks. Our DBS disclosures are now fully up-to-date, any changes will now be reported to the PCC as required by National Church.

During the year our Safeguarding policies and administration have been reviewed and brought in line with the latest procedural guidelines.

Training and education has been provided to PCC members about their Safeguarding responsibilities as Trustees, along with regular reports by the Safeguarding Officers on developments in this aspect of the work of the Parish.

Peter Robbins - Parish Safeguarding Officer

Community

The Church membership are involved in many unseen individual acts of care, service and generosity to those in particular need. In addition, the following community orientated activities have been taking place in and around the Church: -

Church Outreach Groups:

St Stephen's Ladies Group 2022

The Ladies Group last year changed their meetings to an afternoon which is on a Thursday every two weeks. It is one of the best things we could have done, resulting in a lot of new members.

We hold our Birthday and Carol service in the church. Lisa, our Vicar, is also our President. We have a varied programme. We hold a Bring and Buy Sale in aid of our project, which this year is the church. We had a visit from the Old Crocks Music Group for which we sold tickets, with the money raised from this also going to the church.

We welcome any new members who wish to join us.

Jean Hulbert, Chairman

Outburst Youth Group

During 2022 we have continued to welcome new members to Outburst, with many children joining us from the local primary schools. Unfortunately following our return after the summer holidays our numbers decreased and we are actively advertising our group to the local community in the hope that numbers will rise.

During the year we have covered many subjects including Mothering Sunday, Easter, New Life, God's Creatures, Fairtrade, Remembrance, Advent and the meaning of Christmas to name just a few. These sessions have taken the form of film nights, crafts, discussions, treasure hunts using the bibles, quizzes and the installation of a new planter in the church grounds.

Our aim is to show the young people who attend that meeting together in a Christian based group can be fun and enjoyable and doesn't necessarily have to be part of a formal meeting. We hope that by planting the seed of Christianity that when they feel ready to make their own commitment in faith they will reflect back on their time at Outburst and want to continue with their journey with God.

Carolyn Smith

Knit & Natter

I am pleased to say we are still meeting, even though our numbers have reduced due to illness and sadly the loss of our friend Bobbie Tucker. However, there is group of 10 to 12 regular members.

We continue to support our 2 local nursing homes providing blankets and twiddle muffs and sometimes soft toys. Members also make hats for the homeless and other charities which they support personally.

We meet on Tuesday afternoons 1.30 - 3.30 and would welcome any new members.

Jan Brookshaw

See and Know

See and Know, for those who don't know about us, is a Parent and Toddler Group that runs on Thursday morning during school term time. We have been running now for 20 years and are now at full capacity with 27 children on the register.

Each week we have a theme which includes a craft activity and a singing session relevant to that theme. We want the children and their families to learn about the Christian Faith in a friendly and caring way and know that Jesus is our friend.

We had a party in July with a bouncy castle and party food when we said goodbye to the children leaving to go to school. We also had a Christmas party with Father Christmas in attendance and a good time was had by all.

It is hard to believe that we have been open now for 20 years and most of the team have been together since we first started. Needless to say, we are all getting older and would really love to welcome some new help. If anyone is interested please see me or any of the team.

Sue Humphrey and the See and Know Team.

Senior Citizens Group

We are so fortunate to be able to meet every other Friday. Our Group continues to flourish, more so now since the Pandemic. We are frequently welcoming new members.

As usual we had our favourite entertainers, held bingo sessions, quizzes and fund-raising afternoons. Our chosen charity was the Great Western Air Ambulance. Our Christmas Carol Service was well supported and we have to thank Lisa, our Vicar, for giving up her day off to be there to support us. Our outings were fully supported and included trips to Weymouth, Torquay and Worcester. Our Christmas meal at the Players Club was really good, although despite being an extremely cold day and the room being cold, the meals were piping hot and very enjoyable.

Sadly, we bade farewell to several members and our thoughts and prayers go out to their family and friends.

Our grateful thanks must go to Mary for her fantastic leadership when, under very difficult and sad times, she continued to encourage us all.

Thank you so much. Mary Britton, Chairperson.

Men's Group

2022 was a year of mixed blessings – our meetings were, as usual, full of interest and good social interaction, but as with most organisations "Post Covid", our numbers were affected. However, we rose to the challenge and, at our AGM, decided to change our meeting times from Thursday evenings to afternoon, opening our door at 1.30 for refreshments prior to starting our programme at 2pm. Almost immediately, our numbers rose to a more viable level. Whilst natural reductions still are and always will be a fact of life, we are confident that, with the spirit of friendship and unity of purpose coupled with meetings of interest and entertainment, we will flourish and grow ever stronger! A genuine and heartfelt welcome awaits all newcomers, so if any of you are thinking about joining us, ponder no longer – we look forward to seeing you.

On a special note, our sincere thanks and gratitude go to Ken Fox who, in his 90th year, has decided to step down as our Vice Chairman. Over many years of membership, Ken has served on every position of our Committee. Thank you, Ken – we look forward to your continuing fellowship with us.

Brian Brown, Chairman

Financial Overview Year ending 31st December 2022

The Parochial Church funds at the end of this financial year stand at £150,386. This shows an increase of about £22,733 on the 2021 figure. The main features of 2022 being the completion of repairs to the Spire, the on-going repairs following both a break into the Church's premises and the theft of lead from the roof. The Church has greatly benefitted from the generosity of the community and grant giving charities. In addition, the Church has received a gift allocated to the Church's Next Generation Fund.

Investments

Some of the Church reserve funds are invested with the Central Board of Finance and are managed by the Central Board of Finance. Other funds are lodged with the Church's bankers and the interest received during the year was £78.61.

Unrestricted Funds

The unrestricted general fund reserve has increased in the year from £36,777 to £42,344, and is held partly in accounts with Lloyds Bank and in an account with the Central Board of Finance. In addition, the designated funds have increased from £76,663 to £107,017. This is mainly due to improved Hall lettings, insurance payments for repairs as yet incomplete and the gift allocated to make provision for improvements to the Church Fabric for the Next Generation – a new Fund in 2021. The designated Fabric funds are required to cover the day to day maintenance and upkeep of the building. The Church Hall fund includes income from the use of the Church Hall. These premises are normally used by a wide range of local community organisations as well as for Church based activities. The use of the Hall has greatly improved following the easing of the Covid – 19 restrictions.

Restricted Funds

Restricted Funds within the Church accounts arise from gifts given to the Church to be forwarded to specified Charities, and from Fairtrade goods sold within the Church. A small sum of Fairtrade cash and monies awaiting allocation to the appropriate Charity remain at the close of the year. Grant funds held at the beginning of the year for the Spire have been used totally during the year. Grants and gifts given specifically to assist with repairs following the break-in have been fully spent during the year.

Income & Expenditure

Church income is generated mainly from the generosity of Church members, together with, in normal years, some well supported fund-raising fayres and events. Planned giving income increased by 4.5% compared with the previous year. Gift Aid continues to make a significant contribution to the income of the Church.

The Parish Share contribution for 2022 was increased to £65,651. This represents the Parish contribution to the diocese's costs in providing ministers' stipends and housing as well as a further contribution to diocesan and national services costs.

The Church has an agreed policy of giving around 10% of its Voluntary Income to a number of Charities which have become known as our "Mission Partners" because of their ongoing relationship with members of the Church. These include: -

The Bristol Soup Run
The One25 Project, Bristol
Emmaus, Bristol
Sisters of the Church
Diocesan Uganda Fund
Christian Aid
Beloved
Bristol Schools Connection
Harvest for the Hungry

There have been some significant items of Church maintenance during the year, including repairs to the spire, repairs and making good following considerable damage during a break-in at the Church premises, and the commissioning of lead replacement following theft. Works expected early in 2023 include additional security measures and an alarm, lead replacement and further routine roof repairs.

With the help of community generosity and Charitable Trust grants, the Church Hall has been able to begin to rebuild reserves and set aside resources for work to make the premises fit for the Next Generation.

During the year, many Church members have continued to give through the Parish Giving Scheme. It has also benefitted us by the monthly tax reclaim system and also by the ways those on the scheme are prompted to review their level of their giving annually.

Many other Church members have continued filling their weekly giving envelopes and ensure they have found their way into Church funds.

Offerings and Hall lettings have been gradually improving following the reductions during the Covid times. We continue to be blessed by the faithful generosity of the church community. Many people have made donations which are over and above their normal giving, especially as a result of the break-in. The people of the parish also gave spontaneously and generously in response, to help put right, the damage that had been made in their church. We may not be rich in our bank balances here in Soundwell, but we are rich in care and love… and this has been evident in our 'giving' as well as in the way we follow Jesus in other aspects of our lives. May we always and continually declare in our hearts, from our lips, and through our actions, that We Follow Jesus!

Approved by the PCC on 14th March 2023 and signed on their behalf by



Rev'd Lisa Wigmore, PCC Chair
CHARITY NO. 1131503

St. Stephen's Church Soundwell

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st December 2022

	2022				2021			
	£ General	£ Designated	£ Restricted	£ Total	£ General	£ Designated	£ Restricted	£ Total
Incoming Resources								
Incoming resources from donors	£ 88,477.75	£ 25,450.00	£ 2,310.90	**£ 116,238.65**	£ 82,929.13	£ 10,150.00	£ 2,221.03	**£ 95,300.16**
Other voluntary incoming resouces	£ -	£ 13,300.77	£ 45,725.79	**£ 59,026.56**	£ -	£ 50,000.00	£ 13,189.00	**£ 63,189.00**
Income from ancillary trading	£ 7,837.59	£ 14,093.68	£ 53.88	**£ 21,985.15**	£ 4,286.75	£ 6,740.05	£ 246.60	**£ 11,273.40**
Income from Investments	£ 78.61	£ -	£ -	**£ 78.61**	£ 4.54	£ -	£ -	**£ 4.54**
Total Incoming Resources	**£ 96,393.95**	**£ 52,844.45**	**£ 48,090.57**	**£ 197,328.97**	**£ 87,220.42**	**£ 66,890.05**	**£ 15,656.63**	**£ 169,767.10**
Resources Used								
Grants	£ -	£ -	£ 11,310.90	**£ 11,310.90**	£ -	£ -	£ 11,721.03	**£ 11,721.03**
Church Activities	£ 75,491.20	£ -	£ -	**£ 75,491.20**	£ 71,008.35	£ -	£ -	**£ 71,008.35**
Fundraising & publicity	£ -	£ -	£ 53.88	**£ 53.88**	£ -	£ 126.80	£ 161.06	**£ 287.86**
Church mangement & Admin	£ 6,335.47	£ 22,490.07	£ 58,914.79	**£ 87,740.33**	£ 8,300.34	£ 18,735.24	£ -	**£ 27,035.58**
Total Resources used	**£ 81,826.67**	**£ 22,490.07**	**£ 70,279.57**	**£ 174,596.31**	**£ 79,308.69**	**£ 18,862.04**	**£ 11,882.09**	**£ 110,052.82**
Net incoming resouces	£ 14,567.28	£ 30,354.38	-£ 22,189.00	£ 22,732.66	£ 7,911.73	£ 48,028.01	£ 3,774.54	£ 59,714.28
Transfers between Funds	-£ 9,000.00	£ -	£ 9,000.00	£ -	-£ 12,500.00	£ 3,000.00	£ 9,500.00	£ -
Balance Brought Fwd	£ 36,777.12	£ 76,663.27	£ 14,212.96	£ 127,653.35	£ 41,365.39	£ 25,635.26	£ 938.42	£ 67,939.07
Balance Carried Fwd	**£ 42,344.40**	**£ 107,017.65**	**£ 1,023.96**	**£ 150,386.01**	**£ 36,777.12**	**£ 76,663.27**	**£ 14,212.96**	**£ 127,653.35**

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St. Stephen's Church Soundwell

Year ended 31st December 2022

Balance Sheet				**31/12/2022**			**31/12/2021**
Current Assets							
Stock		£	-		£	-	
Debtors	Note 3	£	5,058.19		£	1,852.27	
Central Board of Finance		£	5,342.01		£	5,272.67	
Cash at Bank and in hand		£	143,387.99		£	122,834.02	
Cash in hand		£	8.51		£	8.51	
				£ 153,796.70			**£ 129,967.47**
Current Liabilities							
Sundry Creditors	Note 3		£2,526.69			£1,430.12	
Organisation Deposits							
Outburst		£	287.71		£	287.71	
Flower Fund		-£	5.94		-£	5.94	
Holiday Club		£	270.70		£	270.70	
Choir Fund		£	331.53		£	331.53	
				£ 3,410.69			**£ 2,314.12**
Net Assets				**£ 150,386.01**			**£ 127,653.35**
Statement of Funds							
Unrestricted - General	Note 4	£	42,344.40		£	36,777.12	
				£ 42,344.40			£ 36,777.12
Designated	Note 5						
Designated - Fabric		£	14,085.75		£	12,339.67	
Designated - Fabric Special Projects		£	2,615.46		£	2,165.46	
Designated - Next Generation Fund		£	85,000.00		£	60,000.00	
Designated - Hall		£	5,316.44		£	2,158.14	
				£ 107,017.65			£ 76,663.27
Restricted	Note 6						
Mission		£	1,015.45		£	1,015.45	
Fairtrade		£	8.51		£	8.51	
Spire Fund		£	-		£	13,189.00	
Uganda Fund		£	-		£	-	
Job Help		£	-		£	-	
				£ 1,023.96			£ 14,212.96
Total Funds				**£ 150,386.01**			**£ 127,653.35**

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 14th March 2023 and signed on their behalf by

Reverend Lisa Wigmore, Vicar ..... L Wigmore .....

Lorraine Sanderson, Treasurer ..... L Sanderson .....

St Stephens Church, Soundwell
Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2022

Notes to the Financial Statements

1 Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the accruals basis
The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Funds

General 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. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Incoming Resources

Voluntary income and capital sources

* 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 donations are received.
* Funds raised by the fete, garden party and similar events are accounted for gross.

Other ordinary income

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

Income from investments

Dividends and interest are accounted for when received. Tax recoverable on such income is recognised in the same accounting year.

Resources used

Grants

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

Activities directly relating to the work of the Church

The diocesan quota or parish share is accounted for when payable. Any quota unpaid at 31 December is provided for in these accounts as an operational (though not a legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the Balance Sheet.

Creditors are recognised on the basis of goods and services received and measured at the settlement amount.

Fixed assets

Consecrated land and buildings and movable church furnishings

* Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993.
* Movable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's inventory which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For inalienable property acquired prior to 31st December 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the accounts. Items acquired since 1st January 2001 have been capitalised and depreciated in the accounts over their currently anticipated useful economic life (initially over 4 years) on a straight line basis.
* All expenditure on consecrated or beneficed buildings, individual items under £2,500, or the repair of moveable church furnishings acquired before 31st December 2000 is written off.

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 the asset is acquired.

Current assets

* Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectible.
· Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Funds or at the bank

2. Trustee Remuneration, Related parties Transactions and Staff Costs

* Two Trustees received expenses in performance of their duties totalling £1,159.89.
* Mrs L.M. Cooper who is a Trustee received £1,500 for her work as Musical Director plus £1,305 for Wedding and Funeral services.
* Mr G. Harris who is a Trustee received £440 for his duties as verger
* Mr P. Sanderson who is the husband of a trustee received £2,446.20 for his duties as Hall Cleaner
* There is one other member of staff, our Church's Promotions Officer

St. Stephen's Church Soundwell

Note 3

Year ended 31st December 2022

NET ASSETS PER FUND

	Total	General	Designated	Restricted	Memo Designated				Memo Restricted			
					Total	Fabric	Next Generation	Special	Hall	Total	Spire	Mission	Fair trade
Current Assets													
Stock	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Debtors	5,058.19	1,455.44	3,602.75	-	3,602.75	500.00	-	-	3,102.75	-	-	-	-
Central Board	5,342.01	5,342.01	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bank	143,387.99	36,983.43	105,389.11	1,015.45	105,389.11	14,989.67	85,000.00	2,615.46	2,783.98	1,015.45	-	1,015.45	-
Cash	8.51	-	-	8.51	-	-	-	-	-	8.51	-	-	8.51
	153,796.70	43,780.88	108,991.86	1,023.96	108,991.86	15,489.67	85,000.00	2,615.46	5,886.73	1,023.96	-	1,015.45	8.51
Current Liabilities													
Creditors	2,526.69	552.48	1,974.21	-	1,974.21	1,403.92	-	-	570.29	-	-	-	-
2020 Creditor	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Outburst	287.71	287.71	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Flower Fund	(5.94)	(5.94)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Holiday Club	270.70	270.70	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Choir Fund	331.53	331.53	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	3,410.69	1,436.48	1,974.21	-	1,974.21	1,403.92	-	-	570.29	-	-	-	-
Net Assets	150,386.01	42,344.40	107,017.65	1,023.96	107,017.65	14,085.75	85,000.00	2,615.46	5,316.44	1,023.96	-	1,015.45	8.51
Funds	150,386.01	42,344.40	107,017.65	1,023.96	107,017.65	14,085.75	85,000.00	2,615.46	5,316.44	1,023.96	-	1,015.45	8.51
Difference	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-

St. Stephen's Church Soundwell **Note 4**
Year ended 31st December 2022
Detailed Income and Expenditure Account

			2022			2021
General Fund Income						
Incoming resources from donors						
Offerings and donations "Gift Aided"	£	56,386.12		£	54,490.55	
Income Tax recovered from "Gift Aid"	£	16,708.36		£	15,507.96	
Offering envelopes not "Gift Aided"	£	1,394.92		£	1,419.71	
Open plate offering	£	3,992.44		£	2,718.59	
Sundry donations	£	9,995.91		£	8,792.32	
			£ 88,477.75			£ 82,929.13
Incoming resources from charitable and ancilliary trading						
Fees	£	5,933.00		£	2,808.00	
Sundry	£	1,370.59		£	555.75	
Cards & Calendars	£	534.00		£	923.00	
			£ 7,837.59			£ 4,286.75
Income from investments						
Interest received			£ 78.61			£ 4.54
Total incoming resources			**£ 96,393.95**			**£ 87,220.42**
General Fund Expenditure						
Activities directly relating to work of the Church						
Ministry - Parish pledge	£	65,651.00		£	64,050.00	
- Clergy expenses	£	1,159.89		£	705.85	
- Sundry	£	231.20		£	429.21	
Church Insurance, Light and Heat	£	5,093.17		£	4,395.44	
Music provision	£	2,248.17		£	930.00	
Communion and other service costs	£	1,107.77		£	497.85	
			£ 75,491.20			£ 71,008.35
Church management and administration						
Printing, stationery and envelopes	£	1,677.02		£	1,990.75	
Equipment purchased	£	-		£	-	
Salaries	£	2,859.25		£	3,089.64	
Subscriptions and Admin Sundries	£	1,600.20		£	2,583.95	
Cards & Calendars	£	199.00		£	636.00	
			£ 6,335.47			£ 8,300.34
Total resources used			**£ 81,826.67**			**£ 79,308.69**
Net incoming resource			**£ 14,567.28**			**£ 7,911.73**
Transfer between funds (To Mission)			£ 9,000.00			£ 9,500.00
Transfer between funds (To Hall Fund)			£ -			£ 3,000.00
Balance brought/fwd 1st January 2022			£ 36,777.12			£ 41,365.39
Balance carried/fwd 31st December 2022			**£ 42,344.40**			**£ 36,777.12**

St. Stephen's Church Soundwell
Year ended 31st December 2022
Detailed Income and Expenditure Account

		2022		2021
Designated Funds				
Fabric Fund				
Legacies & Sundry Donations	£ -		£ -	
Insurance claims	£ 13,300.77			
Fetes, Bazaars and Fund raising	£ 3,301.93		£ 2,288.05	
Total incoming resource		**£ 16,602.70**		**£ 2,288.05**
Church maintenance	£ 3,533.65		£ 4,204.75	
Spire Costs after restricted funds	£ 8,594.47		£ 6,075.02	
Break-in costs after Restricted funds	£ 2,728.50			
Costs of Fetes, Bazaars and Fund raising	£ -		£ 126.80	
Total Expenditure		**£ 14,856.62**		**£ 10,406.57**
Net Incoming(Outgoing) resources		**£ 1,746.08**		**-£ 8,118.52**
Balance brought/fwd 1st January		£ 12,339.67		£ 20,458.19
Balance carried/fwd 31st December 2022		**£ 14,085.75**		**£ 12,339.67**
Fabric Special Projects				
Donations for Church projects	£ 450.00		£ 150.00	
Total incoming resource		**£ 450.00**		**£ 150.00**
Church projects	£ -		£ -	
Total Expenditure		**£ -**		**£ -**
Net Incoming(Outgoing) resources		**£ 450.00**		**£ 150.00**
Balance brought/fwd 1st January		£ 2,165.46		£ 2,015.46
Balance carried/fwd 31st December 2022		**£ 2,615.46**		**£ 2,165.46**
Next Generation Fund				
Legacies	£ -		£ 50,000.00	
Donations	£ 25,000.00		£ 10,000.00	
Total incoming resource		£ 25,000.00		£ 60,000.00
Church projects	£ -		£ -	
Total Expenditure		**£ -**		**£ -**
Balance brought/fwd 1st January		£ 60,000.00		
Balance carried/fwd 31st December 2022		**£ 85,000.00**		**£ 60,000.00**
Hall Account				
Hall Lettings	£ 10,791.75		£ 4,452.00	
Church Organisations	£ -		£ -	
Transfer from General Fund	£ -		£ 3,000.00	
Total incoming resources		**£ 10,791.75**		**£ 7,452.00**
Hall running costs	£ 552.31		£ 4,653.19	
Wages	£ 3,057.60		£ 1,758.64	
Water rates	£ 242.19		-£ 97.15	
Light and Heat	£ 3,781.35		£ 2,140.79	
Total Expenditure		**£ 7,633.45**		**£ 8,455.47**
Net incoming/outgoing resources		**£ 3,158.30**		**-£ 1,003.47**
Balance brought/fwd 1st January		£ 2,158.14		£ 3,161.61
Balance carried/fwd 31st December 2022		**£ 5,316.44**		**£ 2,158.14**

St. Stephen's Church Soundwell
Year ended 31st December 2022
Detailed Income and Expenditure Account

Note 6

Restricted Funds			**2022**			**2021**
Mission Fund						
Sundry donations and collections	£ 2,310.90			£ 2,221.03		
		£	2,310.90		£	2,221.03
Transfer between Funds (from General)		£	9,000.00		£	9,500.00
Total incoming resource		**£**	**11,310.90**		**£**	**11,721.03**
Expenditure - Grants						
Bristol Soup run	£ 1,200.00			£ 1,300.00		
One25 Project	£ 1,200.00			£ 1,300.00		
Emmaus	£ 1,200.00			£ 1,300.00		
Sisters of the Church	£ 1,500.00			£ 1,500.00		
Diocese Uganda fund (19 & 20)	£ 500.00			£ 500.00		
Christian Aid	£ 1,200.00			£ 1,300.00		
Beloved	£ 1,200.00			£ 1,300.00		
Bristol Schools Connections	£ 500.00			£ 1,000.00		
Harvest for the Hungry	£ 500.00			£ -		
Donations from collections						
Harvest for the Hungry	£ 572.75			£ 320.00		
Help for Heroes	£ -			£ -		
Sisters of the Church	£ 1,534.45			£ 1,802.77		
Children's Society	£ 203.70			£ 98.26		
Sundry Donations	£ -			£ -		
Total Expenditure		**£**	**11,310.90**		**£**	**11,721.03**
Net Incoming(Outgoing) resources		**-£**	**0.00**		**-£**	**0.00**
Balance brought/fwd 1st January		£	1,015.45		£	1,015.45
Balance carried/fwd 31st December 2022		**£**	**1,015.45**		**£**	**1,015.45**
Fairtrade						
Income from charitable and ancillary trading						
Sales	£ 53.88			£ 246.60		
Stock writeoff	£ -			£ -		
Less Cost of sales	£ 53.88			£ 161.06		
Net incoming resources		**£**	**-**		**£**	**85.54**
Balance brought/fwd 1st January		£	8.51		-£	77.03
Balance carried/fwd 31st December 2022		**£**	**8.51**		**£**	**8.51**
Spire Fund						
Grants & Gifts for Spire Repairs	£ 42,120.60			£ 13,189.00		
Net incoming resources		£	42,120.60		£	13,189.00
Spire Expenditure		£	55,309.60			
Balance brought/fwd 1st January		£	13,189.00		£	-
Balance carried/fwd 31st December 2022		**£**	**-**		**£**	**13,189.00**
Break-in Fund						
Grants & Gifts for Break-in		£	3,605.19			
Net incoming resources						
Break-in expenditure		£	3,605.19			
Balance carried/fwd 31st December 2022		**£**	**-**			
Net incoming resources						
Restricted Balance		**£**	**1,023.96**		**£**	**14,212.96**

St Stephens Church, Soundwell
Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2022

Independent Examiner's Report
to the PCC of St Stephen's Church, Soundwell

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31st December 2022, which are set out on pages 12 to 18.

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").
I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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

* the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
* the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
* the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of the accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirements 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.

David Biddel
12 The Newands
Frenchay
Bristol
BS16 1NQ

25 March 2023

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. STEPHEN, SOUNDWE

England & Wales - Charity number 1131503

Accounts

ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH, SOUNDWELL, BRISTOL
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Legal and Administrative Information

St Stephen's Church, Soundwell, Bristol, is part of the Diocese of Bristol within the Church of England. We have charitable status under the Charities Act, registered No. 1131503. PCC members are trustees of that charity by virtue of their membership.

Church Address
St Stephen's Church
Church Road
Soundwell
Bristol
BS16 4RH

Chair of PCC
Rev. Lisa Wigmore
52 Gladstone Street
Staple Hill
Bristol
BS16 4RF

Churchwarden
Mrs Gill Mayo
122 Burley Grove
Downend
Bristol
BS16 5QG

Bankers
Lloyds Bank
697 Fishponds Rd,
Fishponds,
Bristol BS16 3UJ

Independent Examiner
David Biddell
12 The Newlands
Frenchay
BS16 1NQ

Churchwarden

PCC members who have served from 1 January 2021 until the date of this report are:

Vicar :	Rev Lisa Wigmore	Chair	Ex Officio
Clergy	Rev Sandy Cooper		Ex Officio
Lay Ministers:	Mr Peter Robbins	Safeguarding Officer	Ex Officio
Wardens:	Mrs Gill Mayo	Vice Chair	Ex Officio
Representatives on	Mr Bill Bishop	Vice Chair	Ex Officio
The Deanery Synod	Mr Bill Brookshaw		Ex Officio (resigned March 2021)
Elected Members			
	Mrs Lin Cooper		Elected 2020
	Mrs Carolyn Smith		Elected 2020
	Mrs Sarah Fry		Elected 2020
	Mrs Carolyn Hawkins	Secretary	Elected 2021
	Mrs Julia Merrifield	ER Officer	Elected 2021
	Mrs Trish Phipps		Elected 2021
	Mr Geoff Harris		Elected 2019
	Mrs Nicola Read		Elected 2019
	Mrs Sue Clements		Elected 2019
	Mrs Sue Humphrey		Elected 2019
	Mrs Lorraine Sanderson	Treasurer	Elected 2019

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 method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. The person to whom day-to-day management is delegated is the Vicar, Rev Lisa Wigmore. The PCC adopts the appropriate training procedures for the wide range of matters affecting the parish, specifically Safeguarding. The PCC has access to training courses arranged by the diocese and deanery.

There are several committees and groups which report to the PCC. Some committees meet on a regular basis whilst others on an ad-hoc basis. All major initiatives, events, proposals and requests are reported to the PCC when it meets every other month. The PCC agenda will always include provision for reports from the following committees:

Ministry Team	Finance	Admin Team
Sacristy Team	Safeguarding Team	Prayer Teams
Choir	Friday Night Live Team	Outburst Youth Group
See & Know	Knit & Natter	Ladies Group
Men's Group	Pensioners Group	House Groups
Café Central Team	Marriage Prep	Baptism Prep
Bereavement Team	Pastoral Care Teams	Flower Persons
Cleaning Guild	Welcomers & Sides People	

The major risks to which the PCC is exposed, as identified by the PCC members, have been reviewed and systems or procedures have been established to manage such risks.

The PCC considers that it has, to the best of its knowledge, taken all reasonable steps to comply with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016. It confirms that there has been one incident since the previous APCM.

An annual budget is prepared to ensure short term viability. Actual results compared with budget are reported regularly to the PCC. The PCC has approved internal controls for annual accounts, cash and cheques handling. All assets are insured and levels reviewed annually and approved by the PCC.

The PCC has met nine times in 2021, some meetings in person, but many online via Zoom.

Objectives and Aims – our reason for being!

The PCC of St Stephen's, Soundwell, has the responsibility of cooperating with the Vicar, Rev Lisa Wigmore, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical – in short, focusing on what Jesus wants us to do. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church and the Church Hall.

The PCC, in line with Diocesan objectives, continued with a number of specific aims for 2021; connecting with God; connecting with each other; and connecting with the community in order that we will be a 'Beacon of Light & Hope to the community'. In addition, the PCC strives to fulfil our financial and physical responsibilities, both within the Church and to the Diocese

Activities and Achievements – review of the year.

Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll now stands at 111 people, a decrease of 7 from last year. Nine names have been removed and two added.

Ministry Overview

Vicar

We hoped that 2021 would see us emerging from Covid-19, and all the restrictions associated with it, but sadly the year began with another period of lock-down and our beloved Church closed. However, we continued to find ways of connecting with God, each other, our community and constantly following Jesus!

Following the first venture into 'online' services for Christmas 2020 (which was viewed 371 times to date), I then began creating these services each Sunday. As video editing skills increased, so did the number of people taking an active part in these services, enabling us to see one another in ministry again. Video creating skills didn't stop there… school assemblies continued in this way for most of the year, the newly opened Soundwell Academy also got on board with this, I ventured into telling bedtime stories for St Stephen's Infant School, and even South Gloucestershire Council invited me to create a video to promote Covid testing locally.

We were able to resume Baptisms in August and it was a delight to baptise 14 children and adults from then. Baptism Preparation was delivered in a simpler but still successful way. Sadly, all weddings for 2021 were postponed with the continuing uncertainty that the evolving virus brought.

Funerals in Church were possible again in 2021 and a total of 5 were conducted in church, with a further 14 at local Crematoriums.

Care-5 Groups, set up in 2020 to contact and support one another, continued through 2021. Some of these groups naturally came to an end when lockdown restrictions eased again, and others continue to flourish to this day. As in 2020, 'packs' of information continued to be hand delivered or posted until the Autumn of 2021. Also at this point, the need for booking a seat to come to Church finished. This was also when the highly hilarious time of Tea and Talk on Zoom had its final session – what fun was had on Sunday afternoons!

Covid Risk Assessments have been re-assessed, tweaked if necessary and implemented following each monthly Ministry Team meeting. Thank you to Gill, Sandy, Peter, Lorraine & Lin for being such a supportive team with me in this.

The links with all 4 Primary Schools have again been more challenging due to Covid. Some interaction has been solely by providing video assemblies or visits online through Zoom, and most of the continuing Governing Body meetings have taken place via video link. However, it was a blessing for me to be able to go into St Stephen's Junior School to present Easter-in-a-Box and Christmas-in-a-Box, which are initiatives shared with us by Bristol School Connections, telling the story of Jesus in imaginative and interactive ways.

The Parish Giving Scheme has been the bedrock in us staying afloat financially during the pandemic, because we could count on your donations to meet most of our bills. The lack of hall bookings also had a significant negative impact on our finances. Thank you to those who continued to fill giving envelopes through the year and dropped them to me, or others, even when you weren't in church – which is of course the whole idea of the envelope scheme. Special thanks to those of you who have given extra donations, over and above your 'usual' giving because you realise your Church has been struggling financially.

I was licensed as your Vicar, having formerly been your Priest-in-Charge, in September. It was a delightful service led by Bishop Viv, and I was encouraged that so many folk were able to come along. We had refreshments in the hall afterwards with cake in a bag… the things we have (necessarily) succumbed to during Covid!!

Our Mission Outreach Groups; Ladies Group, Men's Group, Pensioners Group, See & Know, Outburst, Knit and Natter, reformed again in September. Some starting from scratch with new members, and some welcoming old members back and lots of new ones as well. What joy!

The Christmas Fayre was a huge success and being there together, with lots of people from our community, and the 'Old Crocks' band playing carols, it really felt like a family homecoming. Many people told me they enjoyed having Church Christmas Cards and Calendars again, to use and share as the year came to an end.

But what next??

If this year has taught us anything, it is to be adaptable and to be willing to change, often at short notice. But it has also stressed the need for us to remain connected with God, each other and our community. With that in mind, our priorities continue to be;

making disciples…encouraging greater commitment to following Jesus and sharing Him with others;

from our many teams, growing leaders & ministers of all ages to step out in faith and love and;

engaging with and making disciples of younger generations, helping us to pass on the baton of faith to the children and families in our community, so they begin to follow Jesus.

Our Diocese has been looking at our collective focus and priorities in the years ahead and we look forward to working together towards those new objectives. Despite expensive ongoing building repairs, your PCC is beginning to look towards the future of our church building, so we can pass on what we have been freely given, to the generations to come. Future-proof the building if you like, so it is 'fit for purpose' for the next 120 years. Currently we are in the infancy stage of thinking, praying and fact-finding. We will be seeking your thoughts and ideas in due course and at the right time.

Churchwarden

Yet again a very strange, and confused year, starting with booking Church seats and following appropriate Covid rules.

Despite all this, the problems with the Church building and maintenance continued, and all the annual checks and servicing was carried out.

In the final stages of 2020, we were made aware of a problem with the Church Spire. After investigation it was established that there was a need for some expensive work to be done.

As a result of this, we started 2021 in the knowledge that we would have to raise a phenomenal amount of money to pay for this work, which would involve both the Architect and the appointed Contractor. We were soon able to establish that the cost for this is approx. £60,000. In view of the amount required, we sought the help of someone who had already helped many other Churches in obtaining financial grants. As a result of this we did manage to acquire approximately 50% of the total amount that was required, but this has left us with a lot of work to do to reach our goal.

Sadly, it seems that most of these lovely people who do offer financial help, prefer to give to organisations who are starting up something new, rather than repairs. Also the fact that our Church isn't a listed building is not helpful.

Prior to 'lockdown' we were due to have some other repairs done on the roof, (as advised in the most recent Quinquennial report), but the contractor who was organised to start the work, was no longer able to take it on. So, the PCC agreed it made sense to get a quote from the Contractor who was going to repair the Tower. The cost for this is £7,181.

Toward the end of the year it was discovered that there had been lead stolen from the flat roof over the Church room and surrounding areas. This caused rainwater to leak through the ceiling below.
The cost for this is £3,464. Ecclesiastical Insurance will help with this, but we do have at least one £250 excess to pay, but this may well become two. The police and the Diocese were advised of this theft.
One good thing that came from Covid was, a specialist company came and serviced our Church windows. Now they are all able to be opened, thus allowing a good flow of fresh air which helps to keep the virus at bay. We also have a smart new pole to open/ shut the windows.

As in the lock down time in 2020, our fantastic cleaner/ handyman, Paul Sanderson, continued with the decorating. This time it was the kitchen, which he deep cleaned and decorated, the result was amazing. Importantly, all Paul's work in our Church Hall and facilities, means that it will be very much more attractive to people who are looking to book somewhere for a special event.

Some other work that has continued throughout the year, is the gardening, so thank you to all those involved. The garden and the pots have all looked really beautiful, which I am sure brought 'very much needed' joy to all who passed by.

December arrived and Covid was at a point where we could hold our VERY successful Christmas Fayre, which was supported by many people from the area, thus giving us a substantial remuneration.
We look forward to a much more positive new year when hopefully all our repairs and structural work will be completed.

Gill Mayo: Church Warden

Ministry Team

The ministry team continues to be made up of Lisa Wigmore, (Vicar), Sandy and Lin Cooper (Associate Priest and Director of Music), Peter Robbins (Licensed Lay Minister), Gill Mayo (Church Warden), and Lorraine Sanderson (Treasurer).

As your Vicar, I know how hard these folk work for our Church and for the glory of God. They are each fabulous and fantastic and use their God-given gifts and skills in everything they do…. often doing so in a sacrificial manner. I praise & thank God for them!

This has been Gill's fourth year as Church Warden and she has been supported by a fantastic team of six Assistant Church Wardens; Geoff Harris, Jan Brookshaw, Bill Brookshaw, Tim Parker and Matt Gait. Brian Brown stepped down from this team in 2021, and Wayne Topps has joined in – so thank you both. Special thanks for Tim and Matt for continuing with necessary maintenance work over this difficult year.

While the Admin Office was closed for most of the year, the office volunteers continued to support the Ministry Team from home and in other ways. David has continued to print Open Space and help prepare the 'packs' referred to above.

Nick Topps joined the Sacristy Team, who support the presiding priest at services of Holy Communion. Thank you to Trish Phipps and Tony Weare for their continuing help and to Gill Ogborne for her help in the team before she had to step back.

Particular thanks to the PCC for being an active part in the Governance and Mission of St Stephen's – and for being so flexible in attending meetings online or in person!

Services

Services at St Stephen's began in 2021 'online' or 'at home' using the 'packs' for regularly refreshed worship resources. A special service for Good Friday was viewed 76 times online and was available on DVD for those who could not access it online.

The Experience Easter Trail in the Church garden was a huge success across our community. Despite the restricted access due to repairs to the Spire, hordes of people came to think about Jesus and the true meaning of Easter. We came back together as a community at 10am on Easter morning 2021.

For much of the year, places in Church had to be booked due to limited spaces because of social distancing. Thankfully this was eased at the end of the summer and we were also able to sing again in Church!! Names and contact details were still required, to comply with the suggested Track and Trace services and although legal requirements changed throughout the year, masks continued to be recommended and expected to be worn.

A video hymn was introduced at all services to enable our flourishing Church pianist, Tim, to learn new music each week, but not to be overwhelmed by this. After a considerable time away, and desperately

missed by us all, our Director of Music, Lin, returned to lead our worship and choir. Lin and Tim have now become a 'double act', and this partnership not only brings joy to each of them, but blesses the whole Church. The wording for the entire 10am service each Sunday is now on our screens, with books and service sheets available for those who want to use them.

A very small (often just one person joining the priest), but committed congregation resumed meeting at 8am on the first and third Sundays of each month in September, for BCP Holy Communion. There continued to be another committed congregation, now at 10am on Wednesdays to share Holy Communion together.

Friday Night Live resumed in October at 6.30pm on the third Friday of each month. This service allows people to explore God's word in ways that suit their own learning style and is relaxed and open to people of all ages and experiences. It has its own team to plan and lead the worship.

The All-Age Services planning teams have done amazingly in the ways they have had to meet to prepare… sometimes at great distance from each other and wearing masks made communication a challenge… but they rose to each occasion with ideas and laughter. This led to some inspired all age worship throughout 2021. We welcomed back our local uniformed organisations to these services on Remembrance Sunday, and it was a joy to be all together again.

Youth Church continued on Zoom on Saturday mornings until September. During this time Teresa Cooper and Katy North stepped out in faith as Youth Church leaders and continue to do that alongside Peter and myself. Peter is now leading the Youth Church team and has recruited a fabulous team of Youth Church helpers who support the leader week by week. They are Sue Humphrey, Lorraine Sanderson, Julia Merrifield, Sarah Fry. Maggie Cook and Andrea Monks.

Dial-a-Sermon continues to be refreshed with the sermon of the week, EVERY week! Anyone choosing to ring a local rate telephone number can hear a weekly sermon from Lisa, Sandy or Peter. This has been enhanced by Click-a-Sermon, for those with online access, who can hear the sermon through their computer or phone – this way, you can even pause it to make a cuppa!

The average Sunday attendance has been steadily growing as restrictions change. We are not yet close to the numbers of people attending during 2019 or at the start of 2020, but habits have changed throughout the pandemic, as have our ages. God brings new people regularly to our services, so please let us all be as welcoming as we have always been.

This year has been, yet again, a challenge for us all, but God has been with us and I know that we are able to say in both our hearts and with our voices, We Follow Jesus!

Care and Prayer

Pastoral Care 2021

As the Covid pandemic continued into 2021, Pastoral Care continued to be a particular focus of the Church. Many were confined to their homes once again and for part of the year home visits, home communions and care home visits and services were cancelled.

The Care 5 groups set up in 2020 continued to be an important lifeline for some, but as is natural, once people were able to meet up, and worship resumed, other groups came to an end. Many new friendships came to fruition from these groups as support, love and prayer was offered to all who needed it.

The monthly packs that were created in 2020 continued to be produced, and delivered to church members, until August of this year.

Visits to the newly bereaved were adapted, taking place outside, by electronic means or by telephone when face to face visiting wasn't permitted. Two Memorial Services were able to take place. The first in August, with some restrictions to adhere to government guidelines and the second in November, with no

restrictions. The love, prayer and reading of the names of those gone to glory was much appreciated by those that attended. There is also a Book of Remembrance in Church.

The love, care and concern shown by so many of our congregation to each other, especially those who aren't always able to join us in regular worship, is the whole basis of **Care Connections**. Under normal circumstances, if a member of the congregation notices an empty seat where there is usually a familiar face, they let one of the ministers or the Care Connections team know about it as soon as possible.

The **Prayer Warriors** pray for those whose names are written on our Prayer Board. This has continued in its new form of emails being sent to the team, and their prayers include the names of our home members and those who are to be baptised or married during the year. Sadly, due to the continuing pandemic, the restrictions regarding the organising of baptisms and weddings meant there were far fewer than normal. Fourteen baptisms were able to take place, but no weddings. Nineteen funerals were conducted either in Church or at other locations, and there were three interment of ashes at other cemeteries. Using the Cycle of Prayer and the diary from Open Space, the Prayer Warriors pray too for the life of St. Stephen's and for the Ministry Team. Our Cycle of Prayer, from which we pray for our organisations, individuals and those living or working in streets in our parish, provides a platform from which specific prayer needs flow.

Specific needs are prayed for immediately by a team of people known as our **Prayer Chain.** The **Prayer Warriors** and **Prayer Chain** merged and grew in number during 2020, and they have continued emailing and phoning one another with prayer requests.

All requests are treated as confidential. St Stephens truly is a praying Church!

Safeguarding Report

As with most of our church activities over the past year our Safeguarding work has been affected by the pandemic.

There have been substantial periods when we were not holding services or other activities with children or vulnerable adults in person, so our focus could be on more background work such as our policies and procedures.

We received an unexpected instruction from National Church in the autumn that all Disclosure and Barring clearances for those in key roles should be renewed every three years, rather than five as before. This meant that all our DBS certificates needed to be renewed immediately! We were able to do this remarkably quickly and 15 people in the parish received their new certificates by the end of February 2022!

There have been a number of other initiatives which were disrupted by the pandemic that we have been able to engage with as the situation eases.

The Parish Dashboards is an administrative tool from National Church to help us navigate the increasingly complex requirements of Safeguarding in our various activities and should prove to be helpful as we move forward.

Our priority for the immediate future is updating our training as we have slipped behind on our targets for this over the last couple of years, mainly due to the pandemic.

My thanks are due to the many individuals who have continued to contribute to the work of the parish with our more vulnerable members, often in particularly challenging circumstances. Over the past year we have had to adapt to many changes in how we operate, often at short notice, and by working together we have been able to continue to serve our Lord and each other well.

Peter Robbins - Parish Safeguarding Officer

Community

The Church membership are involved in many unseen individual acts of care, service and generosity to those in particular need. In addition, the following community orientated activities have been taking place in and around the Church: -

Church Outreach Groups:

Ladies Group

Ladies Group met in February 2020 for the last time before the Covid lock-down. We returned to our meetings in September 2021. However in this lock-down period we kept in touch with most of our members and in July 2021 the Committee held a Meeting at which it was unanimously decided to change our meeting times from Thursday evening to Thursday afternoon as many of our members felt unsure of returning home late on winter nights.

We returned to our meetings on 16th September to a social celebration afternoon and were delighted to welcome nearly 60 ladies, some returning after not attending for some considerable time and also several completely new members. We met regularly through September and October and into November when we managed to have an early Christmas outing including a Christmas Lunch.

We also managed to have a Bring and Share Christmas Lunch Party, but unfortunately the Covid situation meant we had to cancel our Carol Service.

Due to the Covid situation we have not held an AGM for 2 years, we now intend to have our AGM for 2022 in March as would be normal. At this meeting I will be stepping down as Chairman after 19 years. I will miss the responsibilities and "worries" but will look forward to attending meetings with no responsibilities!! I am delighted that it is proposed that my Vice Chairman, Jean Hulbert, will take over as Chairman at the AGM. Cathy Waddell has been our Treasurer for over thirty years, however due to her mobility problems she is having to resign from this post. Cathy has kept the Ladies Group accounts in such impeccable order, she will be a hard act to follow. We will miss her greatly.

We are delighted to be back and looking forward to our regular celebrations, our Birthday/Anniversary 28th April and our Project Evening raising funds for The Blood Bikes on the 9th June both to be held in our Church.

Jenny Bishop

Outburst Youth Group

2021 saw Outburst re-open in October following the pandemic. We re-opened our doors and welcomed new members to Outburst, with many children joining us from St Stephens Junior School. The re-opening of Outburst has allowed us to review the age group and we decided to only open to children aged between 10 – 13 years old. This would allow us to bridge the changeover from junior to secondary school.

Although we have only had a few meetings in 2021 they have been spent getting to know our new group and understanding the things they like. The year ahead of us is looking fun and we have lots of exciting plans. These sessions will take the form of film nights, crafts, discussions, treasure hunts using bibles and quizzes.

Our aim is to show the young people who attend, that meeting together in a Christian based group can be fun and enjoyable and doesn't necessarily have to be part of a formal meeting. We hope that by planting the seed of Christianity, that when they then feel ready to make their own commitment in faith, they will reflect back on their time at Outburst and want to continue their journey with God.

Carolyn Smith

Knit & Natter

The Group started meeting again at the beginning of September after a long break due to Covid. Most of our ladies returned and we have about 12 - 15 members. We meet weekly and our ladies continue to knit or crochet lovely things, blankets, twiddle muffs and toys etc.

Trish Phipps

See and Know

We returned to See and Know on 16th September after the long break due to Covid. It was really good to be back and we welcomed both new and old families.

We now only run one session on Thursday morning from 10am -11.45. We have had to make some small adjustments to the sessions but on the whole this all seems to work well for us all. We had our usual Christmas party with Father Christmas giving out presents to all the children. It is with sadness that Father Christmas is retiring but we are very grateful for all the years he has been with us. We look forward to the future and to introducing more families and their children to the love of Jesus.

Sue Humphrey

Pensioners Group

It's almost two years since our last report - such strange and unprecedented times. At the beginning of 2020 we had no idea that our lives would be suddenly changed due to the pandemic.

In August 2021, we sent out individual letters to every member, explaining certain 'rules' we had to follow, to make sure everyone gave their name and telephone contact and wore a mask.

Finally, we held our first meeting on 24th September. Fortunately, our meetings continued on a fortnightly basis, including our favourite entertainers - Les and Gina, Classic FM, Dave Cheesley and a bingo session. Our Christmas treat was a visit to Shepton Mallet for a fish and chip lunch, followed by a trip to the local garden centre. Everyone was so pleased to meet up again.

Mary Britton - Chairman

Men’s Group

How life has changed! When I look back to our last, pre-pandemic report, and see where we are now, the full effect of a, hitherto unknown virus, really comes home! We were at that time riding high and looking forward to a celebration of our 25th Anniversary which was, in fact, a memorable occasion for all of us and our guests. New life always appears in the Spring, so, we are first of all, so grateful that up to Christmas 2021 were able to enjoy some meetings together culminating in a fantastic Christmas Meal at the Langley Arms.

Then, along came January and once again everything stopped! But, at last, we are now gingerly moving forward with a full, high quality programme for 2022. There is some cause for concern however in that our numbers are at their most critical as normal shrinkage is not being offset with new membership, so, our plea goes out to all men in our Church, and outside of it, aged between 19 and 99...come along and join us please. We are a vibrant group with a great sense of belonging with each other, so why not come along one Thursday evening to the Church Room and see for yourself. We would love to welcome you, as our guest. If you would like to know more about our programme and dates then please, have a word with us. You can be assured of a very warm welcome.

Brian Brown

Financial Overview Year ending 31st December 2021

The Parochial Church funds at the end of this financial year stand at £127,653. This shows an increase of about £59,714 on the 2020 figure, due to the exceptional factors of a £50,000 legacy and grants and provisions towards the costs of repairing the Spire. Once again, the generosity of the Church community is noteworthy.

Investments
Some of the Church reserve funds are invested with the Central Board of Finance and are managed by the Central Board of Finance. The fund yielded £4.50 during 2021.

Unrestricted Funds
The unrestricted general fund reserve has reduced in the year from £41,365 to £36,777, and is held partly in accounts with Lloyds Bank and in an account with the Central Board of Finance. In addition, the designated funds have increased from £25,635 to £76,663, mainly due to the use of a legacy to begin to make provision for improvements to the Church Fabric for the Next Generation – a new Fund. The designated Fabric funds are required to cover the day to day maintenance and the upkeep of the building. The Church Hall fund includes income from the use of the Church Hall. These premises are normally used by a wide range of local community organisations as well as for Church based activities, however the facilities have been largely unused in 2021 due to Covid - 19 restrictions.

Restricted Funds
Restricted Funds within the Church accounts arise from gifts given to the Church to be forwarded to specified Charities, grants and gifts specifically for the Spire repairs, and from Fairtrade goods sold within the Church. Funds remaining in the Restricted fund at the end of the year consist of the build-up of funds for the Spire repairs in 2022, a small sum of Fairtrade cash and monies awaiting allocation to the appropriate Charity.

Income & Expenditure
Church income is generated mainly from the generosity of Church members, together with, in normal years, some well supported fund-raising fayres and events. Planned giving income decreased by 4.5% compared with the previous year. Gift Aid continues to make a significant contribution to the income of the Church.

The Parish Share contribution for 2021 was unchanged from 2020 at £64,050. This represents the Parish contribution to the diocese's costs in providing ministers' stipends and housing as well as a further contribution to diocesan and national services costs.

The Church has an agreed policy of giving around 10% of its Voluntary Income to a number of Charities which have become known as our "Mission Partners" because of their ongoing relationship with members of the Church. These include:-

The Bristol Soup Run
The One25 Project, Bristol
Emmaus, Bristol
Sisters of the Church
Diocesan Uganda Fund
Christian Aid
Beloved
Bristol Schools Connection
Harvest for the Hungry
The Children's Society

There have been some items of Church maintenance during the year, but there are some significant items of repair expected in the coming months including work to the roof and repair of the spire.

The Church Hall has not been able to be self-financing during the year, and a subsidy has been required from Church funds. Repair and resurfacing of the Hall floor was required following ingress of damp during long periods of non-use without heating. A heating program was instituted through the later months of the year to keep the Hall in good order. Volunteer effort has enabled more areas in the Hall to be redecorated during this year, and a programme of continued work will be required to maintain the standard of the building.

During the year, the Church has received a generous legacy of £50,000. This legacy has been earmarked as a provision for the development of the Church premises for the Next Generation.

Building repairs will be undertaken during the year requiring significant funding. Some generous grants have been received, but the Trustees remain cautious about the financial position of the Church. So, whilst there has been some small increase in voluntary income, the Trustees will monitor the financial situation very closely. In addition, the Trustees are very mindful of beginning to make provision for developing the Church premises for the Next Generation.

During the year, many Church members have continued to give through the Parish Giving Scheme. This has been a financial lifeline for St Stephen's in a year when our Church doors had to be closed. It has also benefitted us by the monthly tax reclaim system and the ways those on the scheme are prompted to review their level of their giving annually.

Many other Church members have continued filling their weekly giving envelopes and ensure they have found their way into Church funds.

Naturally the offerings through plate donations at services has been reduced - particularly at festival times and though the lack of baptisms in Church. Income from Hall lettings has again been reduced and as we have been unable to hold the Summer Fayre, this has also adversely affected Church income.

BUT... there have also been other wonderful financial gifts from a number of people, recognising the financial implications that Covid-19 restrictions have meant for Church, and therefore have made donations which are over and above their normal giving. We are grateful and thankful to God for this sacrificial giving, as it has meant Church funds are not as dire as they might have been.

The faithful generosity of those who support us financially (and in many other ways) is cause for continuing gratitude. We thank God for you all as We Follow Jesus together.

Approved by the PCC on ..... and signed on their behalf by

1ST MAY 2022

.....
Rev'd Lisa Wigmore, PCC Chair
CHARITY NO. 1131503

St. Stephen's Church Soundwell

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st December 2021

	£ General	£ Designated	£ Restricted	2021 £ Total	£ General	£ Designated	£ Restricted	2020 £ Total
Incoming Resources								
Incoming resources from donors	£ 82,929.13	£ 10,150.00	£ 2,221.03	**£ 95,300.16**	£ 86,633.28	£ 205.50	£ 1,692.25	**£ 88,531.03**
Other voluntary incoming resouces	£ -	£ 50,000.00	£ 13,189.00	**£ 63,189.00**	£ -	£ -	£ -	**£ -**
Income from ancillary trading	£ 4,286.75	£ 6,740.05	£ 246.60	**£ 11,273.40**	£ 6,550.10	£ 3,434.63	£ 86.77	**£ 10,071.50**
Income from Investments	£ 4.54	£ -	£ -	**£ 4.54**	£ 28.97	£ -	£ -	**£ 28.97**
Total Incoming Resources	**£ 87,220.42**	**£ 66,890.05**	**£ 15,656.63**	**£ 169,767.10**	**£ 93,212.35**	**£ 3,640.13**	**£ 1,779.02**	**£ 98,631.50**
Resources Used								
Grants	£ -	£ -	£ 11,721.03	**£ 11,721.03**	£ -	£ -	£ 12,415.25	**£ 12,415.25**
Church Activities	£ 71,008.35	£ -	£ -	**£ 71,008.35**	£ 70,943.20	£ -	£ -	**£ 70,943.20**
Fundraising & publicity	£ -	£ 126.80	£ 161.06	**£ 287.86**	£ -	£ -	£ 264.37	**£ 264.37**
Church mangement & Admin	£ 8,300.34	£ 18,735.24	£ -	**£ 27,035.58**	£ 7,887.94	£ 5,628.99	£ -	**£ 13,516.93**
Total Resources used	**£ 79,308.69**	**£ 18,862.04**	**£ 11,882.09**	**£ 110,052.82**	**£ 78,831.14**	**£ 5,628.99**	**£ 12,679.62**	**£ 97,139.75**
Net incoming resouces	£ 7,911.73	£ 48,028.01	£ 3,774.54	£ 59,714.28	£ 14,381.21	-£ 1,988.86	-£ 10,900.60	£ 1,491.75
Transfers between Funds	-£ 12,500.00	£ 3,000.00	£ 9,500.00	**£ -**	-£ 8,500.00	£ -	£ 8,500.00	**£ -**
Balance Brought Fwd	£ 41,365.39	£ 25,635.26	£ 938.42	£ 67,939.07	£ 35,484.18	£ 27,624.12	£ 3,339.02	£ 66,447.32
Balance Carried Fwd	**£ 36,777.12**	**£ 76,663.27**	**£ 14,212.96**	**£ 127,653.35**	**£ 41,365.39**	**£ 25,635.26**	**£ 938.42**	**£ 67,939.07**

St. Stephen's Church Soundwell

Year ended 31st December 2021

Balance Sheet				**31/12/2021**		**31/12/2020**
Current Assets						
Stock		£	-		£ 343.95	
Debtors	Note 3	£	1,852.27		£ 3,260.97	
Central Board of Finance		£	5,272.67		£ 5,269.92	
Cash at Bank and in hand		£	122,834.02		£ 61,490.42	
Cash in hand		£	8.51		£ 139.57	
				£ 129,967.47		**£ 70,504.83**
Current Liabilities						
Sundry Creditors	Note 3		£1,430.12		£1,681.76	
Organisation Deposits						
Outburst		£	287.71		£ 287.71	
Flower Fund		-£	5.94		-£ 5.94	
Holiday Club		£	270.70		£ 270.70	
Choir Fund		£	331.53		£ 331.53	
				£ 2,314.12		**£ 2,565.76**
Net Assets				**£ 127,653.35**		**£ 67,939.07**
Statement of Funds						
Unrestricted - General	Note 4	£	36,777.12		£ 41,365.39	
				£ 36,777.12		£ 41,365.39
Designated	Note 5					
Designated - Fabric		£	12,339.67		£ 20,458.19	
Designated - Fabric Special Projects		£	2,165.46		£ 2,015.46	
Designated - Next Generation Fund		£	60,000.00		£ -	
Designated - Hall		£	2,158.14		£ 3,161.61	
				£ 76,663.27		£ 25,635.26
Restricted	Note 6					
Mission		£	1,015.45		£ 1,015.45	
Fairtrade		£	8.51		-£ 77.03	
Spire Fund		£	13,189.00			
Uganda Fund		£	-		£ -	
Job Help		£	-		£ -	
				£ 14,212.96		£ 938.42
Total Funds				**£ 127,653.35**		**£ 67,939.07**

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 1st May 2022 and signed on their behalf by

Reverend Lisa Wigmore, Vicar .....

Lorraine Sanderson, Treasurer .....

St Stephens Church, Soundwell
Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2021

Notes to the Financial Statements

1 Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the accruals basis
The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Funds

General 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. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Incoming Resources

Voluntary income and capital sources
* 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 donations are received.
* Funds raised by the fete, garden party and similar events are accounted for gross.

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

Income from investments
Dividends and interest are accounted for when received. Tax recoverable on such income is recognised in the same accounting year.

Resources used

Grants
Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

Activities directly relating to the work of the Church
The diocesan quota or parish share is accounted for when payable. Any quota unpaid at 31 December is provided for in these accounts as an operational (though not a legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the Balance Sheet.

Creditors are recognised on the basis of goods and services received and measured at the settlement amount.

Fixed assets

Consecrated land and buildings and movable church furnishings
* Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993.
* Movable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's inventory which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For inalienable property acquired prior to 31st December 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the accounts. Items acquired since 1st January 2001 have been capitalised and depreciated in the accounts over their currently anticipated useful economic life (initially over 4 years) on a straight line basis.
* All expenditure on consecrated or beneficed buildings, individual items under £2,500, or the repair of moveable church furnishings acquired before 31st December 2000 is written off.

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 the asset is acquired.

Current assets
* Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectible.
* Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Funds or at the bank

2. Trustee Remuneration, Related parties Transactions and Staff Costs

* Two Trustees received expenses in performance of their duties totalling £705.85.
* Mrs L.M. Cooper who is a Trustee received £750 for her work as Musical Director plus £120 for Wedding and Funeral services.
* Mr G. Harris who is a Trustee received £70 for his duties as verger
* Mrs J. Brookshaw who is the wife of a Trustee received £35 for her duties as verger.
* Mr P. Sanderson who is the husband of a trustee received £2,371.20 for his duties as Hall Cleaner
* There is one other member of staff, our Church's Promotions Officer

St. Stephen's Church Soundwell

Note 3

Year ended 31st December 2021

NET ASSETS PER FUND

	Total	General	Designated	Restricted	Memo Designated				Memo Restricted			
					Total	Fabric	Next Generation	Special	Hall	Total	Spire	Mission	Fair trade
Current Assets													
Stock	**-**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Debtors	**1,852.27**	1,562.27	290.00	-	290.00	-	-	-	290.00	-	-	-	-
Central Board	**5,272.67**	5,272.67	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bank	**122,834.02**	31,875.76	76,753.81	14,204.45	76,753.81	12,339.67	60,000.00	2,165.46	2,248.68	14,204.45	13,189.00	1,015.45	-
Cash	**8.51**	-	-	8.51	-	-	-	-	-	8.51	-	-	8.51
	129,967.47	38,710.70	77,043.81	14,212.96	77,043.81	12,339.67	60,000.00	2,165.46	2,538.68	14,212.96	13,189.00	1,015.45	8.51
Current Liabilities													
Creditors	**1,410.12**	1,049.58	380.54	-	380.54	-	-	-	380.54	-	-	-	-
2020 Creditor	**20.00**	20.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Outburst	**287.71**	287.71	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Flower Fund	**(5.94)**	(5.94)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Holiday Club	**270.70**	270.70	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Choir Fund	**331.53**	331.53	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2,314.12	1,953.58	380.54	-	380.54	-	-	-	380.54	-	-	-	-
Net Assets	**127,653.35**	36,757.12	76,663.27	14,212.96	76,663.27	12,339.67	60,000.00	2,165.46	2,158.14	14,212.96	13,189.00	1,015.45	8.51
Funds	**127,653.35**	36,777.12	76,663.27	14,212.96	76,663.27	12,339.67	60,000.00	2,165.46	2,158.14	14,212.96	13,189.00	1,015.45	8.51
Difference	**-**	(20.00)	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	0.00

St. Stephen's Church Soundwell **Note 4**
Year ended 31st December 2021
Detailed Income and Expenditure Account

			2021			2020
General Fund Income						
Incoming resources from donors						
Offerings and donations "Gift Aided"	£	54,490.55		£	56,387.46	
Income Tax recovered from "Gift Aid"	£	15,507.96		£	16,891.28	
Offering envelopes not "Gift Aided"	£	1,419.71		£	1,462.46	
Open plate offering	£	2,718.59		£	2,158.83	
Sundry donations	£	8,792.32		£	9,733.25	
			£ 82,929.13			£ 86,633.28
Incoming resources from charitable and ancilliary trading						
Fees	£	2,808.00		£	4,683.00	
Sundry	£	555.75		£	397.60	
Cards & Calendars	£	923.00		£	1,469.50	
			£ 4,286.75			£ 6,550.10
Income from investments						
Interest received			£ 4.54			£ 28.97
Total incoming resources			**£ 87,220.42**			**£ 93,212.35**
General Fund Expenditure						
Activities directly relating to work of the Church						
Ministry - Parish pledge	£	64,050.00		£	64,050.00	
- Clergy expenses	£	705.85		£	1,583.19	
- Sundry	£	429.21		£	147.06	
Church Insurance, Light and Heat	£	4,395.44		£	3,966.74	
Music provision	£	930.00		£	840.00	
Communion and other service costs	£	497.85		£	356.21	
			£ 71,008.35			£ 70,943.20
Church management and administration						
Printing, stationery and envelopes	£	1,990.75		£	2,540.16	
Equipment purchased	£	-		£	-	
Salaries	£	3,089.64		£	2,675.01	
Subscriptions and Admin Sundries	£	2,583.95		£	1,948.57	
Cards & Calendars	£	636.00		£	724.20	
			£ 8,300.34			£ 7,887.94
Total resources used			**£ 79,308.69**			**£ 78,831.14**
Net incoming resource			**£ 7,911.73**			**£ 14,381.21**
Transfer between funds (To Mission)			£ 9,500.00			£ 8,500.00
Transfer between funds (To Hall Fund)			£ 3,000.00			£ -
Balance brought/fwd 1st January 2021			£ 41,365.39			£ 35,484.18
Balance carried/fwd 31st December 2021			**£ 36,777.12**			**£ 41,365.39**

St. Stephen's Church Soundwell **Note 5**
Year ended 31st December 2021
Detailed Income and Expenditure Account

		2021		2020
Designated Funds				
Fabric Fund				
Legacies & Sundry Donations	£ -		£ -	
Spire Grants	£ -			
Fetes, Bazaars and Fund raising	£ 2,288.05		£ -	
Total incoming resource		**£ 2,288.05**		**£ -**
Church maintenance	£ 4,204.75		£ 3,127.56	
Spire Costs	£ 6,075.02			
Costs of Fetes, Bazaars and Fund raising	£ 126.80		£ -	
Total Expenditure		**£ 10,406.57**		**£ 3,127.56**
Net Incoming(Outgoing) resources		**-£ 8,118.52**		**-£ 3,127.56**
Balance brought/fwd 1st January		£ 20,458.19		£ 23,585.75
Balance carried/fwd 31st December 2021		**£ 12,339.67**		**£ 20,458.19**
Fabric Special Projects				
Donations for Church projects	£ 150.00		£ 205.50	
Total incoming resource		**£ 150.00**		**£ 205.50**
Church projects	£ -		£ -	
Total Expenditure		**£ -**		**£ -**
Net Incoming(Outgoing) resources		**£ 150.00**		**£ 205.50**
Balance brought/fwd 1st January		£ 2,015.46		£ 1,809.96
Balance carried/fwd 31st December 2021		**£ 2,165.46**		**£ 2,015.46**
Next Generation Fund				
Legacies	£ 50,000.00		£ -	
Donations	£ 10,000.00		£ -	
Total incoming resource		£ 60,000.00		**£ -**
Church projects	£ -		£ -	
Total Expenditure		**£ -**		**£ -**
Balance brought/fwd 1st January				
Balance carried/fwd 31st December 2021		**£ 60,000.00**		**£ -**
Hall Account				
Hall Lettings	£ 4,452.00		£ 3,434.63	
Church Organisations	£ -		£ -	
Transfer from General Fund	£ 3,000.00		£ -	
Total incoming resources		**£ 7,452.00**		**£ 3,434.63**
Hall running costs	£ 4,653.19		£ 324.49	
Wages	£ 1,758.64		£ 1,441.52	
Water rates	-£ 97.15		£ 391.20	
Light and Heat	£ 2,140.79		£ 344.22	
Total Expenditure		**£ 8,455.47**		**£ 2,501.43**
Net incoming/outgoing resources		**-£ 1,003.47**		**£ 933.20**
Balance brought/fwd 1.1.21		£ 3,161.61		£ 2,228.41
Balance carried/fwd 31st December 2021		**£ 2,158.14**		**£ 3,161.61**

St. Stephen's Church Soundwell **Note 6**
Year ended 31st December 2021
Detailed Income and Expenditure Account

Restricted Funds		**2021**		**2020**
Mission Fund				
Sundry donations and collections	£ 2,221.03		£ 1,692.25	
		£ 2,221.03		£ 1,692.25
Transfer between Funds (from General)		£ 9,500.00		£ 8,500.00
Total incoming resource		**£ 11,721.03**		**£ 10,192.25**
Expenditure - Grants				
Bristol Soup run	£ 1,300.00		£ 1,500.00	
One25 Project	£ 1,300.00		£ 1,500.00	
Emmaus	£ 1,300.00		£ 1,500.00	
Sisters of the Church	£ 1,500.00		£ 1,500.00	
Diocese Uganda fund (19 & 20)	£ 500.00		£ 1,723.00	
Christian Aid	£ 1,300.00		£ 1,500.00	
Beloved	£ 1,300.00		£ 1,500.00	
Bristol Schools Connections	£ 1,000.00		£ -	
Donations from collections				
Harvest for the Hungry	£ 320.00		£ -	
Help for Heroes	£ -		£ -	
Sisters of the Church	£ 1,802.77		£ 1,692.25	
Children's Society	£ 98.26		£ -	
Sundry Donations	£ -		£ -	
Total Expenditure		**£ 11,721.03**		**£ 12,415.25**
Net Incoming(Outgoing) resources		**-£ 0.00**		**-£ 2,223.00**
Balance brought/fwd 1st January 2021		£ 1,015.45		£ 3,238.45
Balance carried/fwd 31st December, 2021		**£ 1,015.45**		**£ 1,015.45**
Fairtrade				
Income from charitable and ancillary trading				
Sales	£ 246.60		£ 86.77	
Stock writeoff	£ -			
Less Cost of sales	£ 161.06		£ 264.37	
Net incoming resources		**£ 85.54**		**-£ 177.60**
Add: Balance brought/fwd 1.1.21		-£ 77.03		£ 100.57
Balance carried/fwd		**£ 8.51**		**-£ 77.03**
Spire Fund				
Grants for Spire Repairs	£ 13,189.00		£ -	
Net incoming resources		£ 13,189.00		
Balance brought/fwd 1st January 2021		£ -		£ -
Balance carried/fwd 31st December, 2021		**£ 13,189.00**		**£ -**
Restricted Balance		**£ 14,212.96**		**£ 938.42**

St Stephens Church, Soundwell
Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2021

Independent Examiner's Report
to the PCC of St Stephen's Church, Soundwell

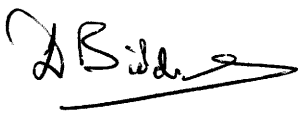
I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31st December 2021, which are set out on pages 12 to 18.

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").
I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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

* the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
* the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
* the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of the accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirements 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.



David Biddel
12 The Newands
Frenchay
Bristol
BS16 1NQ

3 May 2022

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. STEPHEN, SOUNDWE

England & Wales - Charity number 1131503

Accounts

ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH, SOUNDWELL, BRISTOL
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Legal and Administrative Information

St Stephen's Church, Soundwell, Bristol, is part of the Diocese of Bristol within the Church of England. We have charitable status under the Charities Act, registered No. 1131503. PCC members are trustees of that charity by virtue of their membership.

Church Address
St Stephen's Church
Church Road
Soundwell
Bristol
BS16 4RH

Chair of PCC
Rev. Lisa Wigmore
52 Gladstone Street
Staple Hill
Bristol
BS16 4RF

Churchwarden
Mrs Gill Mayo
122 Burley Grove
Downend
Bristol
BS16 5QG

Bankers
Lloyds Bank
697 Fishponds Rd,
Fishponds,
Bristol BS16 3UJ

Independent Examiner
David Biddell
12 The Newlands
Frenchay
BS16 1NQ

Churchwarden

PCC members who have served from 1 January 2020 until the date of this report are:

Priest-in-Charge:	Rev Lisa Wigmore	Chair	Ex Officio
Clergy	Rev Sandy Cooper		Ex Officio
Lay Ministers:	Mr Peter Robbins	Safeguarding Officer	Ex Officio
Wardens:	Mrs Gill Mayo	Vice Chair	Ex Officio
Representatives on	Mr Bill Bishop	Vice Chair	Ex Officio
The Deanery Synod	Mr Bill Brookshaw		Ex Officio (until October 2020)
Elected Members			
	Mrs Lin Cooper		Elected 2020
	Mrs Carolyn Smith		Elected 2020
	Mrs Carolyn Hawkins	Secretary	Elected 2018
	Mrs Julia Merrifield	ER Officer	Elected 2018
	Mrs Trish Phipps		Elected 2018
	Mrs Bron Kucharski		Elected 2018 (until August 2020)
	Mr Geoff Harris		Elected 2019
	Mrs Nicola Read		Elected 2019
	Mrs Sue Clements		Elected 2019
	Mrs Sue Humphrey		Elected 2019
	Mrs Lorraine Sanderson	Treasurer	Elected 2019
	Mr Bill Brookshaw		Co-opted 2020

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 method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. The person to whom day-to-day management is delegated is the Priest-in-Charge, Rev Lisa Wigmore. The PCC adopts the appropriate training procedures for the wide range of matters affecting the parish, specifically Safeguarding. The PCC has access to training courses arranged by the diocese and deanery.

There are several committees and groups which report to the PCC. Some committees meet on a regular basis whilst others on an ad-hoc basis. All major initiatives, events, proposals and requests are reported to the PCC when it meets every other month. The PCC agenda will always include provision for reports from the following committees:

Ministry Team	Finance	Admin Team
Sacristy Team	Safeguarding Team	Prayer Teams
Choir	Friday Night Live Team	Outburst Youth Group
See & Know	Dad & Me	Knit & Natter
Ladies Group	Men's Group	Pensioners Group
House Groups	Café Central Team	Marriage Prep
Baptism Prep	Bereavement Team	Pastoral Care Teams
Flower Persons	Cleaning Guild	Welcomers & Sides People

The major risks to which the PCC is exposed, as identified by the PCC members, have been reviewed and systems or procedures have been established to manage such risks.

The PCC considers that it has, to the best of its knowledge, taken all reasonable steps to comply with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016. It confirms that there have been no incidents since the previous APCM.

An annual budget is prepared to ensure short term viability. Actual results compared with budget are reported regularly to the PCC. The PCC has approved internal controls for annual accounts, cash and cheques handling. All assets are insured and levels reviewed annually and approved by the PCC.

The PCC has met four times in 2020

Objectives and Aims – our reason for being!

The PCC of St Stephen's, Soundwell, has the responsibility of cooperating with the Priest-in-Charge, Rev Lisa Wigmore, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical – in short, focusing on what Jesus wants us to do. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church and the Church Hall.

The PCC, in line with Diocesan objectives, continued with a number of specific aims for 2020; connecting with God; connecting with each other; and connecting with the community in order that we will be a 'Beacon of Light & Hope to the community'. In addition, the PCC strives to fulfil our financial and physical responsibilities, both within the Church and to the Diocese.

Activities and Achievements – review of the year.

Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll now stands at 118 people, a decrease of 3 from last year, which should have been reported as 121. Three names have been removed – 2 deceased and 1 moved away.

Ministry Overview

Priest-in-Charge

Well 2020 sure has been a different kind of year.... but whatever Covid-19, and all the restrictions associated with that have thrown at us, we have continued to find ways of connecting with God, each other, our community and constantly following Jesus!

This report will be a different kind of report... instead of keeping it just factual, as the charity commission requires its reports to be, for this year only, I am merging this report with my verbal report intended for the APCM, so it is available for everyone to see and read.

We began the year with Baptism Preparation and we had 7 wonderful Baptisms in the early part of the year. There was also a wedding just before 'lockdown' and later in the year celebration prayers in a garden and in Church for Wayne and Nick who married in the summer. Sadly, Baptisms and Weddings have been postponed for everyone else, because of the necessary restrictions around numbers, but we have remained in touch with all these people so they know they are not forgotten.

Although there have been the same number of funerals conducted throughout 2020 as the previous year (34), the majority of them this year have been held at Crematoriums. This is because most of these services have been for people living in or who have links with our Parish, rather than them being for Church members. However, because of Covid related restrictions, planning and preparation for them has been much more difficult, and often heart-breaking. In a 10-day period in April, I conducted 9 funerals.

We began the annual Lent Course in early March, called 'Talking Jesus', which built on the thoughts and ideas that came from both the previous year's course, and the way we have been hearing and sharing our stories of Following Jesus with one another. It's such good 'stuff' that we may we re-start this another time.

One of the last things a team of us achieved together in Church was a 'Spring Clean' of the building – so thank you to everyone who got stuck in on that day and found and cleared dirt and grime that had been accruing for quite some time.

When the first lockdown began, I heard about it on the BBC News like everyone else. And throughout the Pandemic, this is how we heard about changes that effect our Church, and then often a week later, the Church of England would update us with its requirements. As time went on, the CofE requirements reduced and we were left to seek guidance from Government websites. This was at times, very challenging. Again, like everyone else we have not training for, or have prior knowledge of what to do in these circumstances, so the pressure to do the right thing that will work for and be best for everyone, has been immense. The ministry team met in person when it was safe to, but then most often throughout the year via Zoom. Together we planned:

- the Care-5 Groups and set them up and running for all who wanted to join in. This was to keep us connected to and supporting one another. Thank you to all the Care-5 Group co-ordinators for connecting their members to each other. Thank you, each and every one of you for loving and supporting each other through 2020 in the many different ways that you have.
- the idea of packs of information to be posted or hand-delivered when permitted to 135 households of Church members.
  - There have been 3 different Prayer Booklets, with service ideas to worship at home.

- Many encouraging items have been included, like crosses, stars, bookmarks, ribbons, cards, other worship booklets etc., as well as Open Space (which has grown in size over the year), a letter and the occasional CD.
- Many of you have written your intercessions weeks in advance (no mean feat) to enable us to print and send them out to everyone. Thank you!!!

A huge thank you to the small but fit and eager team of you that took over the hand delivering of our packs, a) to keep Church costs down and b) to alleviate Lisa of this – it continues to be greatly appreciated by everyone at St Stephen's.

Then when we were allowed in law to open, initially for Private Prayer and then for main Sunday Services, there was lots to prepare:

- Creating and updating Risk Assessments became a familiar practice, as guidance evolved and changed. Then preparing the premises for the different eventualities, moving pews and taping off areas (thank you Sandy for helping me with that!!), cleaning and more cleaning using specialist cleaning fluid, ensuring we had stands to offer hand sanitiser, etc etc.
- There were huge changes that involved; how we enter and exit the building; the need to book a place to come to Church to avoid turning people away on the door; the need for marshals to ensure people felt safe, welcome and informed, as well confirming details for Public Health England's Track and Trace purposes. Thank you to the wonderful team of Marshal's who stood outside in all weathers to service and greet you! Thank you to Lin who set up a system for this and took bookings beautifully. Then later to Jenny and Bill who took this on with great aplomb.
- Tweaking our services to adhere to requirements but keeping a flow and sense of journey within the liturgy.
- Supporting the Church Groups, and the non-Church Groups who use the Church Hall was necessary as we 'locked down' and as we/they decided when or if the time was right to resume. Huge thanks to the small but capable group from the PCC who thought through the prospect of the Church Hall re-opening, prepared the premises, and updated the hall users.
- Huge thanks to the generosity of Paul Sanderson, and his son and grandson, for giving so much of their time, talents and materials in decorating the Church Hall and its toilets while the hall was closed.
- Special thanks to Tim for seamlessly standing in for Lin and playing music fulltime for us in Church during the latter part of the year.

At Christmas, each family, as well as our Baptism families, received a hand-delivered 'Advent in a Bag' for each child, which contained a baby Jesus, a crib and enough straw to add one piece every day, as well as a specially written booklet for them to enjoy the Christmas story on their own or with their family.

Thank you for your generous giving throughout this Pandemic. Whilst the Church had to close its doors physically, those of you that give through the Parish Giving Scheme via your Bank have continued to give to God through your Church. Thank you! Many of you who use envelopes have continued to fill them with your financial gifts and drop them through the doors of your ministry team. Thank you! Some of you have made small or sizeable donations to your Church which are over and above your usual 'giving to God through your Church', as you realise that, like many other charities, your Church had reduced income and increased outgoings, during this most unusual of years. Thank you!

Concerned about the reduction in Hall rents, lack of income from Fayres, and giving through the Church plate, especially at special and occasional services which weren't taking place in the usual way, a new plan was hatched. Thank you, Mark Walker, aka Stroller, for all your help and encouragement as we produced St Stephen's Church Christmas Cards and 2021 Calendars to sell. We raised around £750!! Thank you also to the talented team that created a variety of Christmas wreaths and to those of you who make and sell cards for special occasions – all raising funds to support the ongoing ministry and mission of your Church.

The links with the 4 Primary Schools in the Parish has been another challenge in how we keep them strong and growing. Besides Collective Worship (previously known as 'assemblies') which I will mention in the "Services" section of this report, I have attended many Zoom online school events at the majority of the schools, and I've popped by with cards and gifts for the staff to encourage them. At Christmas I gave each of the 62 members of staff at St Stephen's Junior School a wrapped tube of intensive hand

cream – inviting them to care for themselves and to know that we and God cares about them. I have continued in my role as a Governor at the Junior School, along with Nicola Read, and we have cared for and challenged the school, both in appropriate ways, throughout the ups and downs of 2020. When restrictions were lessened we even managed a good number of RE lessons in Church, thank you to Paul Sanderson who cleaned the Church before and after these visits to keep any risks to a minimum. The Tynings was so grateful for our relationship with them that, with our help to adhere to data protection, they sent 35 handmade Christmas Cards to some of our members. Your Church really is the Church of and for its community!

I miss the familiar rhythms of life, as I know many of you do. I miss being in Church and worshipping our Lord and Saviour together. I miss sharing The Peace with you and hearing us all delight in saying together, 'We Follow Jesus!' I miss hearing about the fabulous work of our Mission Outreach Groups; See & Know, Ladies Group, Men's Group, Outburst, Knit & Natter and Pensioners Group. I miss singing in Church. I miss hugs and closeness. But most of all I miss YOU!!

But what next??

If this year has taught us anything, it is to be adaptable and to be willing to change, often at short notice. But it has also stressed the need for us to remain connected with God, each other and our community. With that in mind, our priorities continue to be;
making disciples…encouraging greater commitment to following Jesus and sharing Him with others;
from our many teams, growing leaders & ministers of all ages to step out in faith and love and;
engaging with and making disciples of younger generations, helping us to pass on the baton of faith to the children and families in our community, so they begin to follow Jesus.

Some of the things we used to do, or the way we used to do them, may change or not start up again. Others will resume as if there has been no change… but we will all have been changed by this year, so perhaps we must continue to embrace the need for change in Church, as well as in other aspects of our lives.

In early July, we will be joined by the Revd Regan Meares, who will be joining us as an Assistant Curate. He will be Ordained Deacon at Bristol Cathedral on Sunday 4th July, with further details to be announced in due course. It is hoped he will live in the Parish, and nearer to his start date with us, the Diocese, with our help, will be looking for suitable accommodation for him.
What joy this will be for us, as individuals, as a Church and for our community! As together, We Follow Jesus!

I conclude in prayer…. please do make it your own.

Father God
My church is composed of people like me - **I help make it what it is.**
It will be friendly - **if I am.**
Its pews will be filled - **if I help fill them.**
It will do great work - **if I work.**
It will make generous gifts - **if I am a generous giver.**
It will bring other people into its worship and fellowship - **if I invite and bring them in.**
It will be a church of love and faith - **if I, who make it what it is, am filled with these same things. Therefore, with the help of God, I will dedicate myself to the task of being all the things I want my church to be. Amen**

Churchwarden

This year started as most other years, and very soon we were planning for the months to come including Spring cleaning the Church in early March and something special for each week during Lent. We also had the completion of the security lighting along the outside of the Church.

However it was in early March everything came to a halt. Aware that this 'lock down' meant that a lot of our Church members, particularly those who lived alone, were being confined to their homes and potentially would be quite lonely. For this reason, as a Ministry team we set up a system where one volunteer had the names and contact details of four other people whom they would call on a regular basis, and they would also encourage the group to contact each other. This proved very successful.

The situation continued until June when plans and risk assessments were being done with a view to opening the Church for private prayer and then later for Services with a limited congregation and strict COVID safe arrangements.

While the Church was shut our cleaner was furloughed, but on a voluntary basis he, with a little help from his family, redecorated our Church Hall, toilets etc.
This was also an opportune time to replace the badly worn carpet in the hall foyer and the flooring in the disabled toilet.

Just weeks before Christmas the Steeplejacks came to replace a part that had come off of the Church lightning conductor which is atop the wooden spire. Unfortunately they found that the wooden part of the steeple was moving and thus was possibly unsafe, so were unable to proceed with the job.
In view of the unknown risk created by this moving spire the area was put 'out of bounds' .
Following discussions with the Diocese Office and the Ecclesiastical Insurance Office, the Church Architect was called to do a preliminary inspection and to manage the further inspection and necessary repairs to the spire.
This work is still in progress having been carried over to 2021.
Gill Mayo

Ministry Team

The ministry team continues to be made up of Lisa Wigmore, (Priest-in-Charge), Sandy and Lin Cooper (Associate Priest and Director of Music respectively), Peter Robbins (Licensed Lay Minister), Gill Mayo (Church Warden), and at the beginning of 2020 Lorraine Sanderson (Treasurer) joined the team.
As the Priest-in-Charge, I know how hard these folk work for our Church and for the glory of God. They are each fabulous and fantastic and use their God-given gifts and skills in everything they do.... often doing so in a sacrificial manner. I praise & thank God for them!

This has been Gill's third year as Church Warden and she has been supported by a fantastic team of six Assistant Church Wardens; Geoff Harris, Jan Brookshaw, Bill Brookshaw, Brian Brown, Tim Parker and Matt Gait. Special thanks for Tim and Matt for continuing with necessary maintenance work over this difficult year, and for Tim and the gardening team who have tended the grounds so beautifully all year. Thank you also, to all those who donated daffodil bulbs for the Church garden – what a rush of bright colour they bring.

Supporting the Ministry Team and often being the first point of contact for the community, are a six-strong team who began 2020 keeping the Church office open and active four mornings a week; Bill Brookshaw, Jenny Bishop, Jan Brookshaw, Bill Bishop, David Packe and Margaret Dodge. Sadly, this stopped during the first 'lockdown' of 2020. David was able to resume printing in late summer, after Lisa had started the printing and delivering of what became our monthly 'packs' to approximately 135 households. Around the same time, both Bills were able to do some admin tasks from home which was greatly appreciated by Lisa. Thank you all of you!

Services

Services at St Stephen's began in 2020 as a thriving and growing place to be at 10am each Sunday. All ages coming together to praise and worship, with Youth Church having its own special time and space alongside the main service. The teams involved in leading parts of the main worship grew again, with more people coming forward to lead Ante-Communion (the first part of the service), read from the Bible

and lead intercessions. There is a whole plethora of support which make our services and the community the joyful and supportive place it is, including; the Choir with our Director of Music and supporting musicians; the sacristy team; the welcomers and sides-people; the flower arrangers; those who clean the Church; the Café Central team; those who tend the gardens and the buildings; all who help us see and hear during the services, particularly David; the team of prayer ministers; those who get out chairs etc. and put them away again. You, along with many others, make St Stephen's what it is!!

A very small (often just one person joining the priest), but committed congregation meet at 8am each Sunday for BCP Holy Communion. There continued to be another committed congregation at 10.15am on Wednesday to share Holy Communion together, which followed a time of quiet prayer for some.

Friday Night Live, continued at 6.30pm on the third Friday of each month. This service allows people to explore God's word in ways that suit their own learning style and is relaxed and open to people of all ages and experiences, and has its own team to plan and lead.

The monthly Sunday afternoon Tea-Service was having its winter break at the start of 2020 when the Covid-19 Pandemic hit. The All-Age Services planning team had done a great job in planning the Mothering Sunday Service for 22nd March 2020, but sadly we had to halt services as the country went into 'lockdown'.

Ways to help us stay connected to God and to one another during this time has been mentioned in the Priest-in-Charge's overview.

Tea & Talk on Zoom was launched at 11am on 7th June – a way to see one another online and benefit from fellowship with one another after our Worship at Home. This later moved to 4pm when church services resumed and this became its regular Sunday slot for the rest of the year.

We were able to open the Church for Private Prayer twice a week from 16th June – and a fabulous team of Private Prayer Ministers came forward to ensure everyone who came into Church to pray knew where to sit etc., and they were also on hand to clean the pews and doors after people had come into Church to pray, so the next person was kept safe.

Dial-a-Sermon was launched in July, so anyone choosing to ring a local rate telephone number could hear a weekly sermon from Lisa, Sandy or Peter. Again, this continued throughout the year, even when in person church services were able to be held.

Church re-opened for a time on 9th July. Sadly, the Covid-safe restrictions meant we could not sing, we had to remain 2m apart from one another, wear face coverings and receive Holy Communion in the one kind… but we made it work. The services were thought through carefully and were different, but they became our 'new normal'. These services were repeated each Wednesday morning, enabling more people to worship during that week.

Worship at home continued for many people, who we resourced with the previously mentioned 'packs' and goodies each month, along with weekly emails and uploads to Facebook and the Church Website. Along with Dial-a-Sermon, all this continued while church services were being held in-person.

Much thoughtful planning, involving a team of people, ensured we celebrated Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas in new and fresh ways. Special thanks to Julia Merrifield for creating thought provoking and carefully constructed centre pieces for us to use in Church. A Memorial Service wasn't possible this year, but we helped people to remember their loved ones with respect and love and care, by either coming to Church to pray, or by tying a yellow ribbon to Church gates, or both. Special thanks to Tim and his girls for putting up the Christmas Tree in Church; Wayne for hanging the stars from the rafters; and Trish & Gwen for ensuring the Church Advent Wreath was prepared for us to light each week. Not only were we able to hold 4 identical Christmas Services in Church, enabling all those who wanted to come along to be in Church at Christmas, but there were 359 views registered on Facebook by those households who had logged in online. We were also at capacity for a service of Holy Communion on Christmas Day!

Throughout the year, your Priest-in-Charge was also regularly creating, videoing and editing Collective Worship for St Stephen's Junior School, St Stephen's Infant School and The Tynings, as well as extra services for the festivals. Online worship of this kind, and later our own Church services, take a *huge* amount of time (and all done from a place of no prior knowledge or experience)... but have been well received.

Youth Church on Zoom began in July and has been a delightful way for the families with young children to stay connected and continue to have fun getting to know Jesus through this new (for us) online medium. Thank you to the new team that lead those sessions – they are awesome!

This year has been a challenge for us all, but God has been with us and I know that we are able to say that, We Follow Jesus! And praise him, he has brought new people to our Church throughout the year!

Care and Prayer

Pastoral Care 2020

Pastoral Care has been a particular focus of the Church during this year when the pandemic meant that many were confined to their homes for a large part of the year. From the middle of March home visits, home communions and care home visits and services were cancelled.

During this extraordinary year, a new initiative was set up called Care Five Groups – St Stephen's "Phone" Church. As gathering in church was not permitted for many weeks, it was a way of us keeping in touch with one another, to share friendship, fellowship and prayer over the phone. The church community was split into groups of five, with each Care Five Group having a leader/coordinator. Some chose to set up their five participants as a What's App Group, which meant that quizzes, photographs, visual prayers, videos, lockdown creative projects and so much more could also be shared with other. Each group chose their own frequency of making contact with each other, but everyone knew that there was support, love and prayer whenever it was needed. We were all caring for one another, doing as Jesus commands – "to love one another, as I have loved you". The setting up of the Care Five groups meant more people have become involved in the prayer life of the church, and the Ministry Team kept in touch by phone or email when visits weren't permitted.

Pastoral care was not only restricted to that given by the Care Five Groups, it came in all manner of ways. Offering lifts when we were able, shopping for the vulnerable, making face coverings, doorstep deliveries of home baked cakes, cards sent offering words of encouragement, meeting outside at a distance, when permitted, to offer support and a listening ear and a way of us all knowing that there was a gesture of hope and love in every gesture, big or small.
"We are a family, we encourage, pray and are there for each other, and with God's help we will get through this."

From April (and on into 2021) a monthly "pack" has been delivered to all church members, containing Open Space, prayer booklets, intercessions, ideas and occasional gifts, helping us all to stay connected to God and each other as followers of Jesus.
Visits to the newly bereaved were adapted, taking place outside, by electronic means or by telephone. A Memorial Service was able to take place in November, within government guidelines. Whilst it was very different from the kind of memorial service that would normally happen, the love, prayer and reading of the names of those gone to glory was much appreciated by those that attended. There is also a Book of Remembrance in Church.

The love, care and concern shown by so many of our congregation to each other, especially those who aren't always able to join us in regular worship, is the whole basis of **Care Connections**. Under normal circumstances, if a member of the congregation notices an empty seat where there is usually a familiar face, they let one of the ministers or the Care Connections team know about it as soon as possible.

The **Prayer Warriors** pray for those whose names are written on our Prayer Board which includes the names of our home members and includes those who are to be baptised or married during the year. Sadly, due to the pandemic, the restrictions regarding the organising of baptisms and weddings meant there were far fewer than normal. Seven baptisms were able to take place, at the start of the year and there was one wedding and a service of prayer and dedication after a civil marriage. Using the Cycle of Prayer and the diary from Open Space, the Prayer Warriors pray too for the life of St. Stephen's and for the Ministry Team. Our Cycle of Prayer, from which we pray for our organisations, individuals and those living or working in streets in our parish, provides a platform from which specific prayer needs flow. Specific needs are prayed for immediately by a team of people known as our **Prayer Chain.** The **Prayer Warriors** and **Prayer Chain** have merged and grown in number throughout this year, as they have been emailing and phoning one another with prayer requests.
All requests are treated as confidential. St Stephens truly is a praying Church!

Safeguarding Report

Of course last year was far from routine and not what anyone was expecting! Our operations at St Stephens, just like everywhere else, were greatly impacted by the two lockdowns and the adoption of very different ways of being church in order to keep everyone safe.
The Safeguarding measures we needed to discuss and put in place very quickly focused on keeping us physically safe from infection in addition to the more usual arrangements to protect our children and the more vulnerable members of our community. Much of this involved keeping up-to-date with and implementing rapidly-changing guidelines and legislation to make sure we were following the latest advice and working within the law.
This was a far cry from our usual safeguarding concerns which involve looking at how we work respectfully with each other during services and activities, which for much of the year did not happen in person.
Our children's ministry moved online with Youth Church happening via Zoom at 9.00 every Saturday morning. This was a wonderful opportunity to work with families in their own homes, which we would not normally be able to do; so we needed to adapt our safeguarding policy to take this into account.
The basic Safeguarding awareness training proposed for our congregation during 2000 was unable to happen. However the need is still there so with the assistance of Bristol Diocese we are looking at how this might be done during 2021. This continues to be available online for those who are comfortable accessing this kind of training.
I have continued to attend the online Parish Safeguarding Officers' Forum organised by the Diocesan Safeguarding Team. This has been invaluable in helping us to keep up with all the many changes that affect parishes and which we all need to respond to in ways that are appropriate to our own particular setting.
Peter Robbins
Parish Safeguarding Officer

Financial Overview Year ending 31st December 2020

The Parochial Church funds at the end of this financial year stand at £67,939. This shows an increase of about £1,492 on the 2019 figure, due to the generosity of the Church community.

Investments
Some of the Church reserve funds are invested with the Central Board of Finance and are managed by the Central Board of Finance. The fund yielded £29 during 2020.

Unrestricted Funds
The unrestricted general fund reserve has increased in the year from £35,484 to £41,365, and is held partly in accounts with Lloyds Bank and in an account with the Central Board of Finance. In addition, the designated funds have decreased from £27,624 to £25,635, partly due to the lack of fundraising events due to Covid - 19. The designated funds include the fabric fund which covers the maintenance and upkeep of the building, and the Church Hall fund which includes income from the use of the Church Hall. These premises are normally used by a wide range of local community organisations as well as for Church based activities, however the facilities have been largely unused in 2020 due to Covid – 19 restrictions.

Restricted Funds
Restricted Funds within the Church accounts arise from gifts given to the Church to be forwarded to specified Charities and from Fairtrade goods sold within the Church. Funds remaining in the Restricted fund at the end of the year consist of Fairtrade stock and monies awaiting allocation to the appropriate Charity.

Income & Expenditure
Church income is generated mainly from the generosity of Church members, together with, in normal years, some well supported fund-raising fayres and events. Planned giving income decreased by 4.9% compared with the previous year. Gift Aid continues to make a significant contribution to the income of the Church. We are grateful to note that there were some very generous gifts late on in the year which made up for the reduction in planned giving.

The Parish Share contribution for 2019 was £63,357, and the PCC increased this figure to £64,050 in 2020. This represents the Parish contribution to the diocese's costs in providing ministers' stipends and housing as well as a further contribution to diocesan and national services costs.

The Church has an agreed policy of giving around 10% of its Voluntary Income to a number Charities which have become known as our "Mission Partners" because of their ongoing relationship with members of the Church. These include:-
Christian Aid
Emmaus, Bristol
Sisters of the Church
Diocesan Uganda Fund
The Children's Society
The Bristol Soup Run
The One25 Project, Bristol
Beloved

There have been some items of Church maintenance during the year, but there are some significant items of repair expected in the coming months.

Even with limited activities, the Church Hall has been broadly self-financing during the year. Volunteer effort has enabled the Hall to be redecorated during this year of closure and lockdown, and the foyer has been re-carpeted. However, it is anticipated that additional work will be required soon to maintain the standard of the building.

During the year, the Church has received no legacies.

The Trustees remain cautious about the financial position of the Church. Whilst there has been some small increase in voluntary income, and a continuing close and careful approach with our finances, there remains a significant requirement for Quinquennial and other repairs to be carried out over the next year or two and some general maintenance. This will leave little in the fabric fund for unforeseen eventualities.

During the year, many Church members have continued to give through the Parish Giving Scheme. This has been a financial lifeline for St Stephen's in a year when our Church doors have had to close for many months. It has also benefitted us by the monthly tax reclaim system and the ways those on the scheme are prompted to review their level of their giving annually.

Many other Church members have continued filling their weekly giving envelopes and ensure they have found their way into Church funds. It is hoped that others who use this way of regular giving will have been using the envelopes throughout their time away from Church and will bring them on their return.

Naturally the offerings through plate donations at services has been reduced - particularly at festival times and though the lack of baptisms in Church. Income from Hall lettings has again been reduced and as we have been unable to hold Summer and Christmas Fayres, this has also adversely affected Church income.

BUT… there have also been other wonderful financial gifts from a number of people, recognising the financial implications that Covid-19 restrictions have meant for Church, and therefore have made donations which are over and above their normal giving. We are grateful and thankful to God for this sacrificial giving, as it has meant Church funds are not as dire as they might have been.

The faithful generosity of those who support us financially (and in many other ways) is cause for continuing gratitude. We thank God for you all as We Follow Jesus together.

Approved by the PCC on 9th March 2021 and signed on their behalf by

.....
Rev'd Lisa Wigmore, PCC Chair
CHARITY NO. 1131503

St. Stephen's Church Soundwell

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st December 2020

	£ General	£ Designated	£ Restricted	2020 £ Total	£ General	£ Designated	£ Restricted	2019 £ Total
Incoming Resources								
Incoming resources from donors	£ 86,633.28	£ 205.50	£ 1,692.25	**£ 88,531.03**	£ 86,246.74	£ 842.10	£ 5,493.71	**£ 92,582.55**
Other voluntary incoming resouces	£ -	£ -	£ -	**£ -**	£ -	£ -	£ -	**£ -**
Income from ancillary trading	£ 6,550.10	£ 3,434.63	£ 86.77	**£ 10,071.50**	£ 7,685.43	£ 12,568.24	£ 987.77	**£ 21,241.44**
Income from Investments	£ 28.97	£ -	£ -	**£ 28.97**	£ 48.63	£ -	£ -	**£ 48.63**
Total Incoming Resources	**£ 93,212.35**	**£ 3,640.13**	**£ 1,779.02**	**£ 98,631.50**	**£ 93,980.80**	**£ 13,410.34**	**£ 6,481.48**	**£ 113,872.62**
Resources Used								
Grants	£ -	£ -	£ 12,415.25	**£ 12,415.25**	£ -	£ -	£ 20,093.71	**£ 20,093.71**
Church Activities	£ 70,943.20	£ -	£ -	**£ 70,943.20**	£ 72,294.74	£ -	£ -	**£ 72,294.74**
Fundraising & publicity	£ -	£ -	£ 264.37	**£ 264.37**	£ -	£ 260.00	£ 1,028.13	**£ 1,288.13**
Church mangement & Admin	£ 7,887.94	£ 5,628.99	£ -	**£ 13,516.93**	£ 6,101.19	£ 10,069.15	£ -	**£ 16,170.34**
Total Resources used	**£ 78,831.14**	**£ 5,628.99**	**£ 12,679.62**	**£ 97,139.75**	**£ 78,395.93**	**£ 10,329.15**	**£ 21,121.84**	**£ 109,846.92**
Net incoming resouces	£ 14,381.21	-£ 1,988.86	-£ 10,900.60	£ 1,491.75	£ 15,584.87	£ 3,081.19	-£ 14,640.36	£ 4,025.70
Transfers between Funds	-£ 8,500.00	£ -	£ 8,500.00	**£ -**	-£ 8,000.00	£ -	£ 8,000.00	**£ -**
Balance Brought Fwd	£ 35,484.18	£ 27,624.12	£ 3,339.02	£ 66,447.32	£ 27,899.31	£ 24,542.93	£ 9,979.38	£ 62,421.62
Balance Carried Fwd	**£ 41,365.39**	**£ 25,635.26**	**£ 938.42**	**£ 67,939.07**	**£ 35,484.18**	**£ 27,624.12**	**£ 3,339.02**	**£ 66,447.32**

St. Stephen's Church Soundwell

Year ended 31st December 2020

Balance Sheet			**31/12/2020**		**31/12/2019**
Current Assets					
Stock		£ 343.95		£ 608.32	
Debtors	Note 2	£ 3,260.97		£ 4,462.19	
Central Board of Finance		£ 5,269.92		£ 5,247.65	
Cash at Bank and in hand		£ 61,490.42		£ 60,074.00	
Cash in hand		£ 139.57		£ 52.80	
			£ 70,504.83		**£ 70,444.96**
Current Liabilities					
Sundry Creditors	Note 3	£1,681.76		£3,113.64	
Organisation Deposits					
Outburst		£ 287.71		£ 287.71	
Flower Fund		-£ 5.94		-£ 5.94	
Holiday Club		£ 270.70		£ 270.70	
Choir Fund		£ 331.53		£ 331.53	
			£ 2,565.76		**£ 3,997.64**
Net Assets			**£ 67,939.07**		**£ 66,447.32**
Statement of Funds					
Unrestricted - General	Note 4	£ 41,365.39		£ 35,484.18	
			£ 41,365.39		£ 35,484.18
Designated	Note 5				
Designated - Fabric		£ 20,458.19		£ 23,585.75	
Designated - Fabric Special Projects		£ 2,015.46		£ 1,809.96	
Designated - Kitchen		£ -		£ -	
Designated - Hall		£ 3,161.61		£ 2,228.41	
			£ 25,635.26		£ 27,624.12
Restricted	Note 6				
Mission		£ 1,015.45		£ 3,238.45	
Fairtrade		-£ 77.03		£ 100.57	
Uganda Fund		£ -		£ -	
Job Help		£ -		£ -	
			£ 938.42		£ 3,339.02
Total Funds			**£ 67,939.07**		**£ 66,447.32**

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 9th March 2021 and signed on their behalf by

Reverend Lisa Wigmore, Priest in Charge .....

Lorraine Sanderson, Treasurer .....

Notes to the Financial Statements

1 Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the accruals basis
The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Funds

General 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. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Incoming Resources

Voluntary income and capital sources
* 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 donations are received.
* Funds raised by the fete, garden party and similar events are accounted for gross.

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

Income from investments
Dividends and interest are accounted for when received. Tax recoverable on such income is recognised in the same accounting year.

Resources used

Grants
Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

Activities directly relating to the work of the Church
The diocesan quota or parish share is accounted for when payable. Any quota unpaid at 31 December is provided for in these accounts as an operational (though not a legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the Balance Sheet.

Creditors are recognised on the basis of goods and services received and measured at the settlement amount.

Fixed assets

Consecrated land and buildings and movable church furnishings
* Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993.
* Movable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's inventory which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For inalienable property acquired prior to 31st December 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the accounts. Items acquired since 1st January 2001 have been capitalised and depreciated in the accounts over their currently anticipated useful economic life (initially over 4 years) on a straight line basis.
* All expenditure on consecrated or beneficed buildings, individual items under £2,500, or the repair of moveable church furnishings acquired before 31st December 2000 is written off.

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 the asset is acquired.

Current assets
* Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectible.
* Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Funds or at the bank

2. Trustee Remuneration, Relate parties Transactions and Staff Costs

* Two Trustees received expenses in performance of their duties totalling £1,583.19.
* Mrs L.M. Cooper who is a Trustee received £750 for her work as Musical Director plus £320 for wedding and funeral services.
* Mr G. Harris who is a Trustee received £70 for his duties as verger.
* Mrs J. Brookshaw who is the wife of a Trustee received £105 for her duties as verger.
* Mr P. Sanderson who is the husband of a Trustee received £864.52 for his duties as Hall Cleaner.
* There is one other member of staff, our Church's Promotions Officer.

St. Stephen's Church Soundwell

Note 3

Year ended 31st December 2020

NET ASSETS PER FUND

	Total	General	Designated	Restricted	Memo Designated Total	Fabric	Special	Hall	Memo Restricted Total	Mission	Fair trade
Current Assets											
Stock	**343.95**	-	-	343.95	-	-	-	-	343.95	-	343.95
Debtors	**3,260.97**	2,211.41	1,049.56	-	1,049.56	-	-	1,049.56	-	-	-
Central Board	**5,269.92**	5,269.92	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bank	**61,490.42**	36,303.04	24,712.48	474.90	24,712.48	20,458.19	2,015.46	2,238.83	474.90	1,035.45	(560.55)
Cash	**139.57**	-	-	139.57	-	-	-	-	139.57	-	139.57
	70,504.83	43,784.37	25,762.04	958.42	25,762.04	20,458.19	2,015.46	3,288.39	958.42	1,035.45	(77.03)
Current Liabilities											
Creditors	**1,681.76**	1,534.98	126.78	20.00	126.78	-	-	126.78	20.00	20.00	-
Outburst	**287.71**	287.71	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Flower Fund	**(5.94)**	(5.94)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Holiday Club	**270.70**	270.70	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Choir Fund	**331.53**	331.53	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2,565.76	2,418.98	126.78	20.00	126.78	-	-	126.78	20.00	20.00	-
Net Assets	**67,939.07**	41,365.39	25,635.26	938.42	25,635.26	20,458.19	2,015.46	3,161.61	938.42	1,015.45	(77.03)
Funds	**67,939.07**	41,365.39	25,635.26	938.42	25,635.26	20,458.19	2,015.46	3,161.61	938.42	1,015.45	(77.03)
Difference	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

St. Stephen's Church Soundwell **Note 4**
Year ended 31st December 2020
Detailed Income and Expenditure Account

			2020		2019
General Fund Income					
Incoming resources from donors					
Offerings and donations "Gift Aided"	£ 56,387.46		£ 58,185.89		
Income Tax recovered from "Gift Aid"	£ 16,891.28		£ 17,948.28		
Offering envelopes not "Gift Aided"	£ 1,462.46		£ 2,487.42		
Open plate offering	£ 2,158.83		£ 5,315.84		
Sundry donations	£ 9,733.25		£ 2,309.31		
		£ 86,633.28		£	86,246.74
Incoming resources from charitable and ancilliary trading					
Fees	£ 4,683.00		£ 5,675.00		
Sundry	£ 397.60		£ 2,010.43		
Cards & Calendars	£ 1,469.50				
		£ 6,550.10		£	7,685.43
Income from investments					
Interest received		£ 28.97		£	48.63
Total incoming resources		**£ 93,212.35**		**£**	**93,980.80**
General Fund Expenditure					
Activities directly relating to work of the Church					
Ministry - Parish pledge	£ 64,050.00		£ 63,357.00		
- Clergy expenses	£ 1,583.19		£ 1,273.44		
- Sundry	£ 147.06		£ 621.25		
Church Insurance, Light and Heat	£ 3,966.74		£ 4,858.01		
Music provision	£ 840.00		£ 1,770.00		
Communion and other service costs	£ 356.21		£ 415.04		
		£ 70,943.20		£	72,294.74
Church management and administration					
Printing, stationery and envelopes	£ 2,540.16		£ 1,619.02		
Equipment purchased	£ -		£ -		
Salaries	£ 2,675.01		£ 2,637.80		
Subscriptions and Admin Sundries	£ 1,948.57		£ 1,844.37		
Cards & Calendars	£ 724.20		£ -		
		£ 7,887.94		£	6,101.19
Total resources used		**£ 78,831.14**		**£**	**78,395.93**
Net incoming resource		**£ 14,381.21**		**£**	**15,584.87**
Transfer between funds (To Mission)		£ 8,500.00		£	8,000.00
Balance brought/fwd 1st January 2020		£ 35,484.18		£	27,899.31
Balance carried/fwd 31st December 2020		**£ 41,365.39**		**£**	**35,484.18**

St. Stephen's Church Soundwell **Note 5**
Year ended 31st December 2020
Detailed Income and Expenditure Account

		2020		2019
Designated Funds				
Fabric Fund				
Legacies & Sundry Donations	£ -		£ -	
Fetes, Bazaars and Fund raising	£ -		£ 3,921.24	
Total incoming resource		**£ -**		**£ 3,921.24**
Church maintenance	£ 3,127.56		£ 2,117.68	
Costs of Fetes, Bazaars and Fund raising	£ -		£ 260.00	
Total Expenditure		**£ 3,127.56**		**£ 2,377.68**
Net Incoming(Outgoing) resources		**-£ 3,127.56**		**£ 1,543.56**
Balance brought/fwd 1st January		£ 23,585.75		£ 22,042.19
Balance carried/fwd 31st December 2020		**£ 20,458.19**		**£ 23,585.75**
Fabric Special Projects				
Donations for Church projects	£ 205.50		£ 842.10	
Total incoming resource		**£ 205.50**		**£ 842.10**
Church projects	£ -		£ -	
Total Expenditure		**£ -**		**£ -**
Net Incoming(Outgoing) resources		**£ 205.50**		**£ 842.10**
Balance brought/fwd 1st January		£ 1,809.96		£ 967.86
Balance carried/fwd 31st December 2020		**£ 2,015.46**		**£ 1,809.96**
Hall Account				
Hall Lettings	£ 3,434.63		£ 8,647.00	
Church Organisations	£ -		£ -	
Transfer from Kitchen Fund	£ -		£ -	
Total incoming resources		**£ 3,434.63**		**£ 8,647.00**
Hall running costs	£ 324.49		£ 868.49	
Wages	£ 1,441.52		£ 4,172.27	
Water rates	£ 391.20		£ 489.29	
Light and Heat	£ 344.22		£ 2,421.42	
Total Expenditure		**£ 2,501.43**		**£ 7,951.47**
Net incoming/outgoing resources		**£ 933.20**		**£ 695.53**
Balance brought/fwd 1.1.20		£ 2,228.41		£ 1,532.88
Balance carried/fwd 31st December 2020		**£ 3,161.61**		**£ 2,228.41**

St. Stephen's Church Soundwell **Note 6**
Year ended 31st December 2020
Detailed Income and Expenditure Account

Restricted Funds		**2020**		**2019**
Mission Fund				
Sundry donations and collections	£ 1,692.25		£ 1,531.09	
		£ 1,692.25		£ 1,531.09
Transfer between Funds (from General)		£ 8,500.00		£ 8,000.00
Total incoming resource		**£ 10,192.25**		**£ 9,531.09**
Expenditure - Grants				
Bristol Soup run	£ 1,500.00		£ 2,400.00	
One25 Project	£ 1,500.00		£ 2,400.00	
Emmaus	£ 1,500.00		£ 2,400.00	
Sisters of the Church	£ 1,500.00		£ 2,400.00	
Diocese Uganda fund (19 & 20)	£ 1,723.00		£ 1,000.00	
Christian Aid	£ 1,500.00		£ 3,000.00	
Beloved	£ 1,500.00			
Bristol Noise	£ -		£ 1,000.00	
Donations from collections				
Harvest for the Hungry	£ -		£ -	
Help for Heroes	£ -		£ -	
Sisters of the Church	£ 1,692.25		£ 905.26	
Children's Society	£ -		£ 625.83	
Sundry Donations	£ -		£ -	
Total Expenditure		**£ 12,415.25**		**£ 16,131.09**
Net Incoming(Outgoing) resources		**-£ 2,223.00**		**-£ 6,600.00**
Balance brought/fwd 1st January 2020		£ 3,238.45		£ 9,838.45
Balance carried/fwd 31st December, 2020		**£ 1,015.45**		**£ 3,238.45**
Fairtrade				
Income from charitable and ancillary trading				
Sales	£ 86.77		£ 987.77	
Cost of sales	£ 264.37		£ 1,028.13	
Net incoming resourcres		**-£ 177.60**		**-£ 40.36**
Add: Balance brought/fwd 1.1.20		£ 100.57		£ 140.93
Balance carried/fwd		**-£ 77.03**		**£ 100.57**
Uganda Fund				
Incoming resources				
Gifts	£ -		£ 3,535.62	
GA Refund	£ -	£ -	£ 427.00	£ 3,962.62
Expenditure				
Uganda Project		£ -		£ 3,962.62
Chilli Children		£ -		£ -
Balance brought/fwd		£ -		£ -
Balance carried/fwd		**£ -**		**£ -**
Restricted Balance		**£ 938.42**		**£ 3,339.02**

St Stephens Church, Soundwell
Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2020

Independent Examiner's Report
to the PCC of St Stephen's Church, Soundwell

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31st December 2020, which are set out on pages 12 to 18.

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").
I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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

* the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
* the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
* the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of the accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirements 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.

D Biddel

David Biddel
12 The Newands
Frenchay
Bristol
BS16 1NQ

6 April 2021