

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF
ST PHILIP & ST JAMES, ODD DOWN, BATH & WELLS
Charity No: 1131533**

**TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT
For the year ended 31 December 2023**



St Philips
BEHOLD. BELONG. BECOME.

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VICAR'S REPORT

Aims and purposes

Our vision:

“To pursue God until heaven overflows through us.”

This year has been marked by an increasing imperative to **minister unto the Lord**: that we would learn to behold the Lamb and pour the oil of our affection and devotion onto His feet.

We desire to offer Him worship that is unhindered, undivided and unpolluted, knowing that His presence rests on a people who are wholly devoted to the One who is worthy. We remain convinced that His presence is the answer to every human need. So, we have continued to pursue intimacy with Him, sought fresh ways to worship Him; renewed our commitment to revival prayer; honoured His precious Word; and equipped our people to minister in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Another important feature of the year has been our awareness that the Lord has spoken the word **‘family’** over us. This word has carried an anointing that has been seen in the pace that new people have felt fully welcomed; the unity of our PCC; the admirable and encouraging way in which we are navigating the choppy waters of the Anglican Church at this time; and in the incredible pastoral support that exists at St Philip’s – seen particularly in the care of those who have welcomed new babies this year, those who have been ill and those who have been bereaved. I am grateful for the love that binds us together.

It is always impossible to cover everything in this report, but I hope the following pages give a sense of what God has been doing in and through us during what has been another encouraging year of expansion and momentum.

As always, I thank the Lord for the fellowship that we all share as a family at St Philip’s. I am more grateful than ever for your partnership as we continue to grow together to be a church that gives Jesus what He wants.

Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth and forever. From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the LORD is to be praised with awe-inspired reverence. Psalm 113:2-3 (AMP)

Achievements and performance:

Allow me to say again this year that the title of this section is dictated by the Charity Commission. I measure what we do for Jesus in neither achievement nor performance! Rather, I am just grateful to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us. To Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever. Amen!

This report is for the delight of Jesus. May we posture our hearts to gratitude as it ascribes to Him all the glory.



SOME PERSONAL HIGHLIGHTS, FOR WHICH I AM THANKFUL:

The Glory increases again

I believe we have seen another increase in the presence of God this year. Through greater liberty in worship; increased expectancy in prayer; the ministry of the Spirit; and the preaching of the Word, we have experienced: a greater measure of the glory; the ministry of angels; moments of awe-filled silence; physical healings; and an increase in new song writing.

We are here for the presence and I am so grateful and excited that the Lord continues to turn His face towards us.

Revival Prayer

Our weekly Revival Prayer Meeting has continued to meet throughout the year to contend for revival in our church and awakening in our neighbourhood. It remains a key source of some of the most significant prophetic input that we experience at St Philip's.

St Martin's Garden Prayer Evening

On 19th October, members of the congregation gathered in the Manna House to pray for St Martin's Garden Primary School and the surrounding area. The evening involved listening to the Lord and taking authority over the spiritual atmosphere in and around the school. Since then, we have seen significant shifts, including the strengthening of our relationship with the new Head Teacher, the first St Martin's Garden Christmas Service at St Philip's and an encouraging expansion of Andy Stammers' role as school chaplain.

A fourth year of growth

Numbers are not important, but they are a sign of hunger, deepening discipleship and life in the Spirit. The Lord builds His church; it's our job to worship Him. Four years ago, an angel manifested in my living room. He was wrapped in flames and I watched him move from our living room to take up a standing position above the church door. Then the Lord said: "Like moths to a flame". From that moment, I have honoured the ministry of that angel – called Simeon (which means 'he who listens') – in bringing to St Philip's those who are hungry for the Lord. We finish this year celebrating the arrival of new families, new friendships, growing ministries, new ministry partnerships...and a problem with lack of space!

Financial Provision

We have been so blessed by the generosity of the congregation this year with a significant increase in planned giving and a remarkable response to our annual Giving Sunday. This saw the church respond in such a way that we are now able to increase the size of our staff team to meet the growing needs of the congregation. Thank you St Philip's and thank you, Jesus!

We are a family

As I mentioned above, seemingly more than ever, the Lord has spoken over us the narrative that we are a family. This has been so important to us as we have said goodbye to loved ones who have gone to be with the Lord; as we have worked out how to retain intimacy in a season of growth; and as we have begun to navigate recent changes in the Church of England. The bond of love between us is stronger than ever.



THANK YOU

I am so grateful for all of you. What an awesome group of people to go on this adventure with! Thank you for your love and support throughout this year. Jules and I genuinely love you.

In no particular order, my deepest thanks to our **staff team**, whose tireless devotion and commitment to St Philip's enables us to be a place that honours the presence of the Lord; our **clergy team**, who contribute so much, serve so selflessly and love Jules and me so deeply; our **wardens**, for their friendship, care and spiritual and practical support; our **Kids & Youth team**, who give their time, love and commitment to the vision for our young people; the **'Friends' team**, for their love of our older generation; **Kathryn, Jay and Beth** for continuing to invest in our Students & Young Adults; **Graham Pearson** – PCC Secretary, fundraiser and relentless supporter; our **Treasurers and Finance Team** for their time, expertise and support of the vision; **PCC** and Standing Committee – a united and wonderful group of people who are so much fun to work with; our **Safeguarding Team** – for their help, advice and accountability; and all our **key volunteers**, not limited to but including: **Worship & Production team** - wow; **Home Team** and **assistant wardens** – culture carriers; **Mark Ryder** – servant-hearted; **Ian Bleakley, Bran Munro and the Christmas Choir** – such a blessing again this Christmas; **Yvonne Conroy** – lovingly holding the huge undertaking of the Drama Group; **Ali Mottram** – supporting the staff team one day a week and giving so much personal time to organise events and support the ministry; **Prayer Ministry Team** – loving the congregation and the Holy Spirit; **Revival Prayer Meeting** – your Kingdom partnership and faithful intercession; **MATT22 volunteers** – loving your neighbourhood in the Food Bank, Pantry, Warm Space and other contexts; and all our **Home Group Leaders** – nurturing, discipling, pastoring, welcoming and feeding. Thank you all!





OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The reports that follow give a snapshot of some of the activity and focus of the ministry, mission and worshipping life of St Philip's this year. In line with our overall vision *to pursue God until Heaven overflows through us*, the reports fall under our "3 B's": **Behold, Belong, Become.**



REPORTS: BEHOLD

These reports reflect our desire to pursue the presence of the Lord and minister first unto Him. In our pursuit of Him, and in our growing awareness of the precious manifest presence of the Holy Spirit, St Philip's is a discipleship environment. We believe that the most important thing is that God is honoured and the saints equipped through the baptism, and continuous in-filling, of the Holy Spirit - so that we can release heaven outside the walls of the church. Mission flows from intimacy with the Holy Spirit. *PF*

Worship – Jay Cook

This year has been especially significant for worship at St Philip's. As the team has continued to grow, we have seen the Lord do amazing things: new measures of His glory; new sides to His face; and deeper, more tangible encounter than ever before.

I feel the main reason for this upgrade has been our shift in focus to the Lamb. We have longed to give Jesus what He wants in our times of worship and this has completely changed our approach - from song choice, heart posture during the week, honouring His presence and desiring that Jesus enjoys our worship as a pleasing and fragrant offering.

As part of this shift, we have revised our song list to reflect a greater focus on pursuing the Lamb. We have also switched around the position of the worship leaders and musicians at the front of church. Before, the worship team faced the congregation with the leader standing at the centre; now, the whole team faces inwards, allowing everyone to focus on the cross, with the worship leader no longer central. To quote Amanda Cook "We want to make Jesus the centre point of the church again".

Our desire with this new layout is that the congregation is able to focus on Jesus and not on the worship leaders, and the worship leaders are able to focus on Jesus and not the congregation. We believe that the job of the worship team is NOT to lead people in worship; it is to WORSHIP and we believe that if we honour Jesus and give Him a place to rest His head (Presence), then He will come in His glory and He will draw all people to Himself.

This year, we issued a new document to the whole worship team called "St Philip's Worship Team Culture and Values". It outlines the things that we value and the culture we hold as worship team. This included topics like Pursuit of the Presence, Hunger, Sonship, Holiness, Humility and Honour.

We have continued to write and lead St Philip's original songs throughout this year, a few of which have become some regular songs that we sing on Sundays and throughout the week



as part of worship. This was one of the things that was massively on our hearts as we began to dream and speak to the Lord about His heart for the team when Paul arrived 3 years ago. We felt the Lord saying that we would be a worship team that would write our own songs and resource the local church, and we are now beginning to see this come to fruition. Rather than these songs coming out of writing sessions, instead they have flowed prophetically during church services and secret place encounters. As we have pressed into heaven's song as a team and as a church, we have heard the songs of heaven and then released them on the earth.

Due to the uprise in original songs coming out of our worship team and congregation, we have begun to create an in-house recording studio in which we hope to (in the future) record some of the original songs during services. None of this is for outside exposure, it is simply to resource our congregation with recordings that they will be able to worship to during the week. The songs that we are writing have been, and will continue to be, released under the name Fragrance Worship Collective. The reason for this name is because we put high value on our worship being a fragrant offering to the Lord.

With all this said, our goal over this year and on to next year remains: **'To pursue God until heaven flows through us'**. That's it. No fancy plan. No mind-blowing strategy. Just a posture of the heart to hunger and humility with no other purpose than to spend time with the most beautiful Daddy ever. So that is going to continue to be our pursuit over the next year and we are really expectant and excited for what He wants to do.

I would like to give a special acknowledgement to Alex Hills for providing us with a massive upgrade in our front of house speakers and to thank him for all of his love and support to the sound team, both in training and in personal advice on how to become better sound engineers. We want to lift him up in prayer as he heads off to pastures new in his new job! We will miss you because of who you are, not just because of what you do! You are welcome back any time, the doors are open here as your home whenever you need it!

And, of course, I would like to end by thanking every member of our brilliant team of musicians and production technicians - for your dedication, sacrifice and shared pursuit of Jesus in worship.





Prayer – Paul Ferguson

Prayer sits alongside worship at St Philip's. We always want to pray in an atmosphere of worship and out of an encounter with the Holy Spirit. We therefore seek to create as many opportunities as possible for the congregation to encounter the presence of God, grow in prophetic intercession and learn how to pray in the power of the Spirit.

Highlights this year have included:

Tuesday Morning Revival Prayer meetings – we have now been praying consistently for revival since March 2021. These meetings are frequently amongst the most powerful moments of the week and this year has seen another increase in the presence of God and the ministry of heaven in our midst. I am delighted that new church members have also joined the meeting, bringing fresh fervour for the things of heaven.

24-7 Prayer Room – the prayer room returned this Lent with an increased sense of commission to ensure that it is our David's Tent at St Phillip's. The room continues to provide an important opportunity for us to practice the presence of God and minister unto Him as glory priests. Thank you to all who took the opportunity to pray. You have made a huge difference.

Prayer Ministry Course - The Prayer Ministry Course returned this year with, by far, the biggest attendance to date. Over 50 people received 5 weeks of teaching, equipping and activations. A fresh anointing for words of knowledge was released and there was a measure of healing. It was also deeply encouraging to see 100% of attendees impacted with relevant and accurate prophetic words during one session. Since the completion of the course, new members have been added to the prayer ministry team and three new team leaders have been appointed to oversee prayer ministry on Sundays: Richard & Louise Corrie and Jae Munro. Our desire is that everyone is filled with the Spirit and equipped to minister in His power. This course is part of a wider strategy to make St Philip's a place where miracles are common.





Preaching – Paul Ferguson

The goal of our preaching at St Philip's is not head knowledge but revelation. We aim to preach out of anointing obtained in the secret place because we believe that this is what causes the Word to transform our lives. This is why our preaching always aims to move into a time of prophetic ministry, in which our leaders and preachers seek to submit to the Holy Spirit and encourage the congregation to step forward for the laying on of hands and an encounter with the power of God.

As with our worship, our preaching this year has been impacted by our focus on the Lamb. There has been a shift in anointing and the Word has opened up to us in important ways.

Notable preaching series this year have included:

- 'Core' - a series that lasted for 30 weeks and spoke into the culture and priorities of God's call on St Philip's as a church.
- 'One Found Worthy' - our curate, Matt Vaine, took us through 7 weeks in Revelation that blew our minds to the awesomeness of Jesus.
- 'Unto Him' - a 6-week series in which we discovered the riches and significance of our calling as priests whose primary role is to minister unto the Lord.
- Evening sermons - in addition to the above, sermons from our evening series have continued to take us higher and deeper with topics such as: Delighting in His Presence, the Dew of Heaven and the Blood of the Bridegroom.

All our preaching series are available on our website, some this year with study notes.

My thanks to those who have preached: Liza Wortelhock, Matt Vaine, Chris White, Jae Munro, Jay Cook, Debs Ross, Matt Orr, Jules Ferguson and Emma Allen. I am so grateful for the significant time dedicated to pursuing God in the secret place so that you can overflow for His glory on a Sunday morning.





REPORTS: BELONG

The following reports reflect that we are family at St Philip's – a theme of particular significance this year. Our bond runs deeper than doctrinal agreement; it is the bond of love in the Spirit that exists between sisters and brothers in Christ, daughters and sons of our Father who loves us perfectly and completely.

Belonging is reflected in many aspects of the life of St Philip's, from activities that keep members of the congregation connected and encouraged in their faith; to initiatives that reflect our place of belonging in this neighbourhood and city.

I am particularly grateful for the many ways in which you look out for each other at St Philip's. Very often unseen, your love for each other is a great strength to our church family.
PF

Pastoral Ministry – Liza Wortelhock

Pastoral Ministry at St Philip's is a key part of who we are as family. It is the place of learning to love each other well, to walk with each other, and bring a timely word from the Lord to encourage and strengthen one another.

I have seen first-hand the love and consistency of care that so many of our church family have given to those who have needed the ministry of God's presence during times of extended illness, the arrival of a new baby, bereavement or a request to give time to meet up to pray and listen when life feels overwhelming. There is a small army of people who continue to faithfully visit and pray – you know who you are! Thank you.

This year we have seen the continuation of a regular service being provided at Rush Hill Mews Care Home by a team lead by Johan Allen.

We have provided basic training around Memory loss, to enable us to continue to love each other well.

One2One Sunday lunches for those who would otherwise eat alone continue to be a wonderful place of fellowship and encouragement, all are welcome. Mobile meals are still delivered to those who are unable to attend the One2One gatherings.

The 'Hearty Meals' ministry, led by Catherine Garrett, supports the church family by arranging the delivery of hot meals to those who have recently had a baby or are in times of trauma or loss when cooking can be a bridge too far.

Finally, I want to give a huge THANK YOU to all those who faithfully love, pray with and walk alongside family to lift their heads and keep their eyes fixed on Jesus.

It is always a joy to see people emerging from challenging circumstances with a deeper and stronger awareness of God's faithfulness and provision. He is Good!





St Philip's and St Martin's Garden Primary Schools – Paul Ferguson

This year has brought changes to our engagement with both primary schools in our Parish – St Philip's and St Martin's Garden.

St Philip's Primary

Our relationship with St Philip's Primary remains very good, with lots of contact and input from the church. Due to other pulls on my time, I have had to step back from fortnightly collective worship but Matt Vaine has been incredibly helpful in stepping in, for which I am so grateful. It is hoped that a new Kids & Family Pastor will be able to take on this role in the future. I continue to contribute to school services in the church at Harvest, Christmas and Easter, as well as the year 6 leaving service. I remain on the Ethos Team.

As in previous years, St Philip's Church continues to provide bibles for years 2 and 6; and a gift bag to every child at Christmas and Easter - which contains chocolates; a craft; a Bible Society Book; and an invitation to St Philip's Church seasonal services and events.

The PCC continues to have a degree of input, which includes several of St Philip's congregation members holding foundation governor roles. My thanks to Jack Wiggins and Kirsty Mokebo for their presence on the board and their dedication to the school.

St Martin's Garden Primary

The greatest change this year concerns Andy Stammers' ministry at St Martin's Garden Primary School. After several years of very dedicated and patient work, primarily in the Food Pantry and the playground, but also by providing a link between the school and Grow for Life, Andy's role – and our connection with the school – as suddenly expanded. This is great news and largely down to the arrival of a new Christian interim Head Teacher who has been keen to strengthen the relationship with the church – not to mention a good amount of prayer as well!

The result has been the first ever St Martin's Garden Primary Christmas Service at St Philip's – a significant milestone. Andy gave a short talk and the Pantry team (made up of St Philip's and Combe Hay Church volunteers) were there to welcome families and hand out Christmas gift bags.

I am so grateful to Andy for his patient and dedicated presence at the school, which has been the key to the door that has opened to us.

Drama Group – Yvonne Conroy

The Drama Group have continuously been supporting each other through another year of changes and challenges. After our successful pantomime, Cinderella, we hit the ground running with a clear up of the stage. Buying new boxes meant that we could use our storage space more effectively and update our costume catalogue.

Monday night meetings remained a more sociable aspect, creating space and time for people to build on their social skills and feel supported and celebrating achievements. Meeting regularly has allowed us to become a more supportive group. We have seen God move in



people's personal lives, through prayer, healings and His unfailing love being shown through group members.

In July we performed our first Summer Showcase, a cabaret style showcase of talent interspersed with interviews. The inspiration and theme of the evening was a poem called Unashamed written by Harry Baker. Members of the group chose a short act to perform, giving opportunity to really play to their strengths. After each individual act, the performers had an informal interview where they shared how and why they joined the group. This was the perfect platform for members to share their glory stories of God's unconditional love shown through the group. There were tears and laughter as they spoke about their journey, being brave, honest and open about their testimonies and it was a time to thank God and give Him praise.

Following the showcase, we had a summer break, then September we were back into rehearsal for the Pantomime, Jack and the Beanstalk. This year we welcomed a surge of young talent on stage, backstage and learning new roles on the technical team, bringing in fresh new ideas. During rehearsals we continued to pray for members who were ill, and we witnessed some amazing speedy recoveries. By show week we had a full cast healthy and raring to perform to a sold-out audience. It's a great pleasure to watch members grow and develop from the first auditions right up to performing show week.

The opening night's ticket sales went to local charities, Dorothy House and Southmead Hospital ICU, along with donations made during other performances. Both charities were grateful for the generous donations and our contribution has enabled Southmead Hospital to purchase the Synaptive Modus X robotic microscope (a state-of-the-art robot which supports brain surgery).

The Drama Group's motto is 'Everyone is Welcome. Everyone is valued. Everyone can shine'. Over this last year it certainly has achieved that, welcoming new members, giving them a sense of value and allowing moments to shine. We continually thank God for His love, grace and mercy enabling all our members to grow in faith.

A quote from one of our reviewers: "This group continues to never fail to spread joy within the community, I hope you all feel the love behind those spotlights. For a few hours I forgot about the stresses of life and had a good hard giggle".

Community Minibus – Suzanne Stammers

We are grateful for the provision of the minibus, which helps St Philip's outreach and support in our local community. This year's bookings have begun to bounce back since the Covid dip; we have seen both new drivers and user groups.

The minibus aims to support groups which facilitate the gathering of individuals to reduce isolation and loneliness and to enable individuals to participate in activities they would otherwise struggle to access.

We currently have 11 church-member drivers and 6 external drivers and support 35 different group activities, ranging from youth activities to older generation groups, enabling us to engage with a diverse range of individuals.

The minibus has been maintained and serviced by local garage, Genuine Car Services, for which we are very grateful. We have secured grant funding towards the upkeep of the minibus and running of the project from West of England Combined Authority (WECA) until March



2024, which, with reduced donations this year due to the pandemic, has been received with great thanks.

Electoral Roll – Jenny Morrish

The Electoral Roll approved at the 2023 Annual Church Meeting contained 169 names and we thank God for each person. For St Philip's Church, Odd Down, Bath, these names represent not merely an official list of church members, but of people who have chosen to belong to a church family eagerly seeking to grow into our inheritance as "the people of God" (1 Peter 2:10). As we worship Jesus together in the power of the Holy Spirit and pray, we expect that he will show us how our personal and corporate gifts can be used to build up the church family and take his love and life to people in Odd Down and beyond.

The 2023 Electoral Roll showed that 17 names had been removed during the year. We were saddened that these included five precious members who had died. We miss them greatly but are so grateful for the gift they were to the church family, and thankful that they are now with their Lord. To those that moved on we give our blessing and our thanks for the gift of their time at St Philip's.

It was a joy and encouragement to welcome the 35 new members whose names had been added to the Electoral Roll. We pray for the Lord to draw us ever closer to himself and to each other as the body of Christ in this place, empowering us to become "a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light" (1 Peter 2:9).



Deanery Synod Report – John Garrett

The Synod is made up of representatives from all the Anglican churches in Bath and surrounding areas. Synod generally meets 3 or 4 times per year, and the meetings are for worship, prayer, providing information, and discussions of issues that affect all the churches in the Deanery. St Philip's has 3 representatives on Synod, who are Caroline Gay, Graham Pearson and myself.

The first Synod meeting of 2023 focussed on the financial position of the Diocese, showing that the Parish share just about covers the cost of the Stipendiary Ministers, but that means



that all other expenditure must be covered from other income. They are selling some of the assets that are easily disposed, but that is a short-term solution. However, there is a 5-year plan in place under which the Diocese aims to have returned to the pre-Covid financial position.

The meeting in May 2023 had 2 presentations. The first was entitled “Tackling poverty in the city and region” and was given by the director of St John’s Foundation. The Foundation has 2 functions, the first of which is as an Alms-house provider. The second function is to provide assistance to children who do not meet the educational level needed to transition from primary to secondary school. St John’s provides support to children from birth to 12 years old to help them flourish.

The second presentation was about Bath Abbey’s Footprint project. This is now complete, and the Abbey aims to ‘Live and tell the good news of Jesus’, with six Ts: ‘Thanksgiving, Telling, Teaching, Tending, Transforming, Treasuring’ whilst managing the two purposes of the Abbey: to be a living church and at the same time a visitor attraction. Whilst the Abbey has recently started to charge for entry, they emphasised that Bath residents, and those who come to worship or to pray, light a candle, or receive pastoral care, will continue to be able to enter the Abbey without paying for a ticket.

The meeting in September 2023 was held here in St Philip’s. The main issue throughout the year was the Deanery Plan 2022-2027. The plan seeks to address the issue of diminishing resources within the Church of England. This was discussed at some length at this meeting, and various proposals were put forward, which were to be voted on at the following meeting.

This was duly discussed at the following meeting in November 2023, but with many reservations and suggestions that the proposals were not correct. After a lengthy process, the proposals and recommendations were voted on.

There was also a presentation about new worshipping communities. Among the points made were that we start new Christian communities for people who find, for whatever reason, that the existing church is out of reach. The Q&A was wide-ranging and included discussion of the terminology of worship and eucharist.

There was a recent Synod in February 2024, and the Deanery Plan was again discussed. One idea is for there to be Lay Leadership, and to that effect a Lay Ministry Pathway has been launched. A review of a new way of calculating the Parish Share paid by each Church is being done, and should be completed by early Autumn, and when the details are known, a further review of the Deanery Plan will be made, as the financial position may have changed.

Each meeting starts with worship led by the host Church, and also includes a report from the host Church and it is always encouraging to hear how the Holy Spirit is moving across our city.

Safeguarding – Paul Ferguson

Each year, we aim to review our Safeguarding Policy and procedures so that we are operating as safely as we can. I have continued to work with Jenny Barker, our Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO), and the Safeguarding Team to ensure that St Philip’s has a vigilant and healthy safeguarding culture; our training and DBS responsibilities are up-to-date; our policies and protocols are as robust as they can be; that our ministry leaders and volunteers are clear on how to respond to safeguarding disclosures if and when they might arise; and that I am supported and accountable. My sincere thanks for their time and expertise.



This upcoming APCM will see Jenny Barker stand down as PSO. I am deeply grateful for her contribution over many years and her support of me since I arrived in 2019. She has done a huge amount of work to make sure that our DBS checks and training are up-to-date.

The safeguarding landscape is a constantly shifting one and it is clear that the current Diocesan Safeguarding Team is seeking to ensure that every church in Bath & Wells satisfies the Church of England's requirements as fully as is absolutely possible. This has meant that the role of PSO and the responsibilities of every church has (rightly) increased. In response to this, we plan to allocate the PSO role to our new Operations Assistant who will work closely with the Safeguarding Team and Senior Leadership Team. Once they are in post, we will ask them to undertake a detailed piece of work to upgrade our current safeguarding provision, including training, DBS checks and our Diocesan Safeguarding Dashboard.

We continue to give thanks to God for enabling, guiding and leading us in our safeguarding responsibilities within our church. Also, for the willingness of the Diocesan team to advise from their experience and expertise. We look forward to continuing developments within our Safeguarding Team and the new Operations Assistant.





REPORTS: BECOME

This section reflects our belief that we become what we behold. We expect to be transformed by God's presence. He does not leave us as orphans but has given us His Spirit that we would be transformed more and more into His likeness, authority and power.

The following reports touch on areas in which 'becoming' is reflected: from the discipleship environments of our Home Groups to our Rising Gen. ministries; from prayer ministry to the development of the fabric of the church buildings as we seek to position our physical assets for God's expanding ministry here in Odd Down.

This section also includes some highlights from MATT22. Everything about MATT22 is rooted in the Father's heart for the poor, the vulnerable and the abused. Our desire to be transformed through the presence of God overflows into our desire that those in our community, who are most in need and do not know the Lord, also experience the same transformation. We can only influence what we love, and we seek to love through MATT22.

Home Groups – Paul Ferguson

Home Groups are at the heart of St Philip's. They provide an essential context, not just for fellowship and discipleship, but also pastoral care. The vision for Home Groups at St Philip's is that – within a culture of encounter – we grow in intimacy with God and with one another.

So, rather than simply being social gatherings, Home Groups exist so that our people can grow in a knowledge of the Word and the Spirit; practice the presence of God; learn to walk in the spiritual gifts; and be envisioned, equipped and empowered to go out and do the stuff of the Kingdom in our neighbourhood and city.

Here is a selection of comments from some of our Home Group leaders:

- *"Several members have said how much they value home group as a place where they can feel safe to share emotional and physical needs. Others value home group as an opportunity to touch the presence of God in worship, stillness and meditation."*
- *"Social activities this year, e.g coffees, meals and a Summer barbecue, have helped to develop deep friendships leading to care and support for each other outside of the home group meeting."*
- *"I love the way the Lord is leading us all. I love hearing stories of fresh joy, raising faith, pressing into our first love and retuning our hearts to Him and His incredible, overwhelming love - even in the midst of all that this world can throw at us."*
- *"We love our Home Group's openness to the Spirit and hunger to spend time in His presence. Worship is where we start, sitting in adoration and gratitude."*
- *"We have gone deeper with the Lord and each other this year, sharing deeply, and celebrating His goodness together. Love our little family!"*



- *“We love our Home Group! This year we have grown so much closer to one another and enjoyed sweet times of worship and prophecy. We’ve welcomed new people and released others to a new Home Group plant.”*

And a report from Rob Hendra, who attends the Jones’ Home Group:

“The current family of St. Philips has its roots in the life stories of so many amazing people. Some of these families have been attending St. Philips since the early 1970’s. Over the last 50 years they and many others have been totally faithful to St. Philips in their prayers, time and commitment. Some years ago, when the Church was in a time of flux I said to them “Isn’t it time to try a new Church?” “Not yet,” They replied, “God hasn’t yet called us on.”

I have the honour of sharing a home group where one of these amazing families are regular attendees. I love being part of their story and I respect their wisdom and their passion for St. Philips. I am constantly encouraged by them and their love for St. Philips people and of a real God who is so active today.

Alongside this legacy I also sit with new families who are just starting out on their journey at St. Philips. It is also wonderful to hear of their stories and experiences. My home group is a place of sharing, spiritual wisdom, love and excitement that God will pour out his blessings anew. We are young and old, families and singles.

Listening to God in the hard times is just as important as listening to God in the good times and being part of a home group that actively encourages this is vitally important. We build up people in friendship, prayer and in relationship. We study the bible and sermons alike. We love each other unconditionally and when one of us hurts we all hurt.

This is our life, this is our family, this is our story.

It has been so encouraging to see the number of people in Home Groups greatly increase this year, with 24 new people welcomed into groups, and I am so grateful to all our Home Group leaders for opening their homes, cooking meals and providing a context for us all to grow in intimacy with God and with one another. Thank you!

Mum’s Group – Emma Allen & Tori Wiggins

Mum’s group is a ministry which provides community, support and friendship for families with young children who are pre-school age and under.

We meet every other week, either in a family home or the Church Institute depending on numbers. We’ve seen a huge growth in young families attending St Philip’s recently and it’s been a joy to be able to extend invitations to them to join the group.

We have a WhatsApp group which everyone is welcome to join and we usually have between 4 and 7 families meeting together, varying each week depending on who is available.

It’s been a blessing to be able to get to know each other outside of Church and to build friendships and pray for each other. Sunday mornings can go by in a flash so having the time to connect properly is really important. Also sharing our experiences of parenthood, encouraging each other and generally building community has been really special.



We look forward to seeing what the Lord does with this group in the coming year!

Rising Gen: Kids@StPhilips – Jules Ferguson

It's been another encouraging year for Kids@StPhilips across both our Starfish group (ages 3-7) and Swordfish group (ages 8-11). We're continuing to see growth in the number of children attending - particularly at the younger end where it's not unusual to have 15-20 children in Starfish on Sunday mornings. The family room is also pretty full with lots of new babies and toddlers!

As the number of young families has grown, we've also been delighted to welcome some new helpers to the teams and are so thankful for the support and dedication of all the Kids team leaders and helpers.

We've covered lots of different topics in our groups this year – from digging deeper into our St Philip's Culture Creators and Vital Values to the Fruit of the Spirit, God is Good and God speaks! Whilst we explore lots of different themes, our focus each week is to enable the children to become familiar with God's presence through His Holy Spirit. Our Encounter Times are the focal point of every session and we are learning to chat to God and catch what He is saying back to us.

During 2023, we welcomed St Philip's Primary School to church for several festival services – but were delighted to also welcome St Martin's Garden Primary School for their first ever Christmas Service at St Philip's. All 500 children at the schools were also invited to join us at two kids' events - the first was our Easter Trail around the neighbourhood where children filled in missing words in the Easter story to solve a puzzle. It was a beautiful day and there was a great buzz at church when everyone arrived back to collect their prizes and enjoy some well-earned refreshments.

The Light Party on 31st October was also very popular and this year featured a bouncy castle and inflatable games! There was an amazing spiritual atmosphere following a really powerful prayer meeting that morning. The children enjoyed making different crafts, a delicious meal, a narrated story video filmed by Helena and of course - a disco!

Then to finish out the year, we had some special and precious moments with the children at our Christingle service and Crib service on Christmas Eve.

We have been so encouraged by the church's response to Giving Sunday which has enabled us to advertise for a dedicated Kids & Families Pastor in 2024 and we're looking forward to seeing how he /she will be able to grow and develop this ministry.

We are so thankful to God for the amazing children and families who are part of the St Philip's family. We love the life and energy that they bring and take great delight in watching them grow in their relationships with Jesus!



Rising Gen: Youth@StPhilips – Matt Vaine

2023 was a jam-packed year with our young people, full of various ways in which we grew closer in our love and life with Jesus. We gathered each Sunday morning with both the older and younger youth to explore:

- St Philip's 'Culture Creators' (the cultural DNA of our kids and youth groups)
- 24-7 Origins Prayer Course in the prayer room over Lent
- a series called 'Everyday Saints' with special guests from the church (Emma Allen, Kev Clark, Matt Orr and Beth Cook) joining us to share their testimonies
- Spiritual Gifts
- the 'Vital Values' (the core values of our kids and youth groups)
- the book 'Mountainside Secrets' by Tim Rudge, youth pastor of Life Church
- and finally, the Fruits of the Spirit.

The discipleship of our young people has been supplemented by evening sessions for the older youth in Rob and Sarah Hendra's Yurt, Movement (a Diocesan youth worship event), and A2 (a city-wide youth worship event), and the One Faith Podcast where we heard the testimony of some of the leaders in the church. These gatherings have caused us to behold the goodness and love of the Lord in our lives.

We have also developed a closer sense of belonging together through these times and especially through our youth social event called Cave. Sam Davis, our SWYM youth student, helped kick this initiative off and we've had a blast together going bowling, engaging in a Nerf War, Tobogganing, Taskmaster, Crazy Golf, Panto, Curling, Xbox, table tennis, badminton, and much more. One of our 'Culture Creators' for the kids and youth is that a life with Jesus is fun. Whilst Cave certainly does not explore the full dimensions of this reality, it is a regular reminder and experience that life together with Jesus, in God's world, is meant to be full of laughter, joy and playfulness. Praise the Lord!

Lastly, we have continued the journey of becoming — of growing more into the image of Jesus who perfectly reflects the goodness of the Father. We have had challenges from time to time with behaviour and have explored how best to serve our young people through these



occasions, but throughout the year we have seen a shift into a way of being that honours each other for the group to flourish.

I want to express my deep gratitude to the leaders who have so faithfully supported and discipled our young people at various points this year: Vicki Atkinson, Rach and Dan Jones, Tony Cook, Sam Davis, Kathy and Tim Beadle, Meg Tucker, Chloe Robinson, Bran Munro, and Andrew Ross. I want to thank Sam Davis for his creative and diligent work with us as a SWYM youth student. I personally had a lot of fun supporting and working alongside Sam — we miss him in the team and his crazy antics in the office.

We must especially thank Vicki who, after 20+ years of leading, will now conclude her time in the youth group. Vicki has been a remarkably faithful servant to our young people over this time, and we pray and bless her for the next part of her service in the Kingdom of God, whatever it may be!



Rising Gen: Students & Young Adults – Kathryn Todd, Jay Cook & Beth Cook

For the S&YA group, 2023 has been a year of morphing and growing, leaving and staying, highs and lows.

We have seen the group take on quite a different shape to previous years. We were sad, but also encouraged, to see a large cohort of people fly the nest to go on to the things that the Lord is calling them to! It was an honour and a privilege to bless them as they left, and we continue to pray for each person as they take up their new jobs.

With their departure came a lovely arrival of some wonderful new people! It has been an exciting year getting to know them as we have grown together in our faith.

We partnered with the Prayer Ministry Course this year in order to grow in praying for people and in the prophetic. It has been amazing to see how people have jumped in feet first and are beginning to really hone their prophetic gifts and bless people with their prayers, both in the group and on Sundays.

The most recent development in the S&YA has been our decision to move towards being a Home Group, rather than a “ministry”. This is because we felt that the group reflects a mutual



dynamic of all of us helping each other to grow – rather than being a ministry with leaders who are discipling the people in the group. Although there will still be “leadership” over the group, our posture towards being a Home Group will allow people to feel that they can bring and share things that the Lord is speaking to them about. We are excited to see what the Lord is going to do through using the S&YA as His mouthpiece.

We want to give a huge acknowledgement to the incredible Kathryn Todd for her leadership of the group over the past couple of years. Kathryn will be getting married in the summer and, as a result, will be leaving St Philip's. She has been such a blessing to this church in many ways, particularly as one of the leaders of our S&YA group!

Kathryn, we want you to know that St Philip's will always be a place that you can call home and we are all praying for you as you head into this new exciting adventure of marriage!

'Friends' – Chris White

Friends are an amazing group of people of the older generation with a wealth of experience and wisdom. Many have served the Lord for most of their lives and are an inspiration in their love for Jesus and his family.

We meet fortnightly in the church hall. As we have grown in numbers, we have seen new members contributing their own stories of faith, poems, sketches, and songs. Some are from our own church and some from other churches. Some come from no church at all, maybe hearing about the love of Jesus for the first time.

Speakers have varied from those in our own congregation, with many giving their personal testimony, as well as talks - for example about the police, Bath City Pastors, and visits to Uganda.

We seek to encourage, love, and support one another, sharing prayer, worship, and a great deal of fun - such as enjoying meals out together, quizzes, games, and of course, home-made tea to end each afternoon! Friends gives above all a real sense of belonging to Jesus, His church and to each other. It has been so encouraging to see an increasing depth of fellowship and new joy in our worship and times together.

Sadly, we have experienced some losses of dear Friends amongst us, and we continue to pray for others who are more vulnerable as they are getting older and are experiencing loss of health, capacity, and their home. The leadership team and other members have formed a strong pastoral framework to ensure loving support.

I would like to give a special thanks to our wonderful leadership team who continually work so hard serving these precious people.



MATT22 – Paul Ferguson with Andy Stammers

MATT22 exists for Kingdom Transformation in Odd Down. It is St Philip's vehicle for loving our neighbours and for releasing our congregation into compassion ministry. Through MATT22, we seek to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, look after widows and orphans; and bring people to freedom in the name of Jesus and through the power of the Spirit.

The way I see it, everything we do that opens the doors of the church to the community or touches the community outside the walls of the church falls under MATT22 – from One2One and the St Martin's Garden Pantry to our Warm Space and the Food Bank.

I still think there is more to come. There are still plans for debt advice, courses and employability schemes but we will pursue these when the Lord makes it clear that the time is right.

Here is a summary of some of the activities this year:

One2One

One2One is a monthly ministry outreach which provides a 'Sunday roast' for those who otherwise would be eating alone. It sits under MATT22 and reaches into the community. Its aim is to offer Christian fellowship and in doing so bring the hope of Jesus to those who could feel isolated.

One2One has declined in attendance slightly this year with some of our members becoming housebound or going to be with the Lord. Unfortunately, new members have not replaced those who have gone. We also lost the beloved Linda Wills this year who was such an amazing coordinator /administrator and maybe we have lost some momentum in regrowing the group. We have two challenges: communicating that the group is not just for the older generation and secondly publicising the group to the community where there is such need for companionship and the need for the love of Christ that One2One can offer. We have a great team of volunteers led by myself and Sarah Moxham-Hendra, who hosts on alternate months. We are always in need of volunteer minibus drivers who facilitate bringing guest to the church. This is such a lifeline for so many. We also continue to be blessed by members



of the congregation who deliver meals to local members who are unable to be present in person. Please pop your head around the kitchen door to see if you can do a delivery (straight after service)!

We really feel that One2One is becoming an extension of the morning service. Members of the church (all ages) are encouraged to come and serve and eat with those attending, again adding to the feeling of inclusivity, and helping members to feel a sense of connection and belonging to the church. For many, this may have been their only contact with others. We are thankful to be serving our community at this time of great need.

Food Bank

The Food Bank, in partnership with Genesis Trust, has continued to run this year, with a dedicated team of volunteers from St Philip's and elsewhere. Twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays, the church opens to those in the community who are most vulnerable.

The most recent development is that Citizens Advice is now present on Tuesdays at St Philip's in partnership with the Food Bank.

Contact with the community has increased this year, but numbers have remained lower than we would like. We know that the need is there, but we agree with Genesis' assessment that there are particular barriers to local people feeling able to use a Food Bank in Odd Down. We anticipate some changes in the coming year as Genesis seeks to address this.

Community Pantry

January marked our third anniversary of the Food Pantry, having established it in 2020 in partnership with St Martin's Garden Primary School and 'Sporting Family Change', as part of our ministry to help those in food poverty in Odd Down.

Unlike a food bank model, the Pantry stocks high quality, in-date products and aims to be a consistent and affordable option for sustained provision of food in the community, providing dry food, frozen, fridge, fresh provisions and household goods. The model does not work on donations of products but seeks financial donations to purchase the products required.

Qualifying members make a £5 donation to allow them to choose 20 items (approx. £30 value). The aim of this approach is to bestow dignity and honour on our members, allowing them to make their own choices, just as they would in a regular shop rather than being 'given a charity handout'. We don't want them to feel they are only worth out of date food or 'leftovers' as they themselves are priceless in the eyes of God. The Pantry supports school families but is also open to qualifying members of the community.

Through the Pantry, we are building strong relationships with our members, providing love and support. We offer to pray with members, and this has been welcomed. A few of our members have come to church events.

Warm Space Café

This year saw the Institute transformed into a warm space, providing a place where people from the community, St Philip's Primary School and the church can gather. A café-style atmosphere has proved successful and popular and allowed us an opportunity to undertake some "market research" as we continue to plan for possible café developments. Huge thanks to our team of volunteers and all those who have baked for us!



Building Plans

This year has seen a significant amount of work on a feasibility study to explore works to our building facilities that will allow an expansion of ministry at St Philip's, including MATT22.

This process has explored created new spaces for MATT22 partnerships, youth discipleship and a café that would be open throughout the week. We are motivated to explore an ambitious project that will release MATT22's capacity to impact Odd Down and allow St Philip's to show our community that we think they are worth investing in. Watch this space!

I am deeply thankful for the congregation's generous support of MATT22 over the last year – especially those who have given their time to volunteer at the Food Bank, Pantry, One2One and the Warm Space. I am looking forward to this coming year as St Philip's continues to grow in compassion and love for the people of our neighbourhood.



Fabric Report – Paul Schaerer with Tim Conroy

Part of our emphasis on 'becoming' includes the development of the church facilities to enhance the depth and reach of the ministry and mission of St Philip's. Over this last year we continued to develop our rebooted approach to facilities management, development and maintenance. We have established a new 'Facilities Team' made up of Paul Schaerer (Facilities Warden), Tony Cook, Paul Ferguson and Tim Conroy. The team oversees any work carried out by professional companies and organises smaller works to be done by volunteers.

We have put in place quarterly 'Church Maintenance Days' where the team meets with volunteers from the Church to conduct routine maintenance. Prior to this day, the team meets up to discuss priorities and establish a plan for the day, then reaches out to the wider church for volunteers. This serves the dual purpose of encouraging a community feel within the church, helping to develop a sense of collective ownership for the building and ground, and also utilising skills from the congregation. We have had regular volunteers and the general feeling has been incredibly positive towards this new approach.



This year, we have overseen the following works:

- annual maintenance of the flat felt roof, repairs of the skylight
- painting and redecoration works, including renovating the rails leading to the Manna House
- replacing light bulbs in the main church hall
- fixing the curtain rail in the Institute

We also had contractors addressing issues raised in the Quinquennial survey. For a month in the summer, we had scaffold around our bell tower in order to fix the roof, replace the gutters and down pipes, fix and paint the wooden louvres and re-point much of the stonework. This should keep the tower in a good state for quite a few years to come. There was further roof work on the main roof, with gutters at the back realigned and lead flashing refixed.

Remaining high on the agenda is the need for more space to disciple our children and youth on Sunday mornings; the development of the flat above the church and works to upgrade our buildings and facilities to align with our aspirations for MATT22.

We are so grateful to the Lord that His ministry amongst us is causing us to seek ways to expand our numerical capacity and the ability of our buildings and facilities to keep up with the pace of the Holy Spirit.

Many thanks to all those who have given their time and expertise to maintaining the facilities of St Philip's





Structure, Governance and Management - Graham Pearson

Our Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England within the Diocese of Bath & Wells and is a registered charity (1131533). The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure and complies with the Church Representation Rules 2020. Four of the twelve lay members are elected for 3 years at the APCM/AGM, which was held in 2023 on 17th May. Our Churchwardens are elected annually. All church members are encouraged to register on the electoral roll of the Church and stand for election to the PCC following the Church Representation Rules. PCC members, who are also Trustees, are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the church including deciding on how the funds of the Church are to be allocated and spent.

When planning and undertaking our activities for the year, we have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, and in particular the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. This report shows how we have sought to deliver public benefit to our congregation, our community, our city and abroad in 2023 and planned positively for the future.

The PCC met four times during 2022 and after the APCM. Our Finance Team met every 2 months (approx.) to manage our finances in a particularly challenging year with rising fuel prices and rising inflation. PCC activities and responsibilities are supported by special Teams, which also include other members of the church. These are the Finance Team, Matt 22 Projects, Mission Support Team, Rising Generation Team, Safeguarding and Maintenance Teams. A Pastoral Support team was created at the end of the year. Reports are also received from groups that oversee restricted funds for our Community Minibus and Drama Group. A weekly newsletter was circulated by email and paper copy to help communicate with all church members and those joining our on-line services.

Administrative information

The Church is situated on Frome Road, Odd Down, Bath, and is part of the Diocese of Bath & Wells within the Church of England. The correspondence address is 35, Frome Road, Odd Down, Bath BA2 2QF. Registered charity number 1131533.

email: office@stphilipstjames.org

web: www.stphilipstjames.org



PCC Membership during 2023

Elections at APCM 17th May 2023.

Clergy

Reverend Paul Ferguson
Reverend Liza Wortelhock
Reverend Matthew Vaine

Churchwardens

Jo Bleakley
Deborah Ross (co-opted)
Paul Schaerer
Matt Kent-Lemon ('til May 23)

PCC members

Dave Atkinson
Jenny Barker (Safeguarding)
Karen Noad
Ali Mottram
Helena Midgley
Kathryn Todd
Emma Allen (from May 23)
Jae Munro (from May 23)
Rachael Jones (from May 23)
Vicki Atkinson (from May 23)
Graham White ('til May 23)
Joe Mokebo ('til May 23)
Lucy Hall ('til May 23)
Tilly Platten ('til May 23)

Deanery Synod

John Garrett
Graham Pearson (PCC Secretary)
Caroline Gay (from May 23)
Jenny Morrish ('til May 23)

Co-opted

Richard Corrie (Treasurer)

Non-voting staff member

Tim Conroy (Church Administrator)



FINANCIAL REVIEW

In the period to the end of December 2023, St Philip's raised a total income of £245k (2022: £207k) against expenditure of £220k (2022: £201k). Unrestricted and designated funds received totalled £227k (2022: £194k).

Restricted funds received totalled £18k (2022 £13k) with a balance of £28k (2022 £20k) on restricted funds carried forward into 2024.

For the details behind these figures see the financial statements that follow this report.

RESERVES POLICY

It is the aim of the PCC that the free reserves (unrestricted and not represented by fixed assets) held by the charity should cover 3 months of unrestricted expenditure. This equates to approximately £52k. At this level the trustees feel that they would be able to continue the current activities of the charity in the event of a significant drop in funding.

At the end of 2023, the church had free reserves (including designated) of 5 ½ months of unrestricted expenditure

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on..... 22 April 2024

And signed on it's behalf by:

Name..... P. Fyfe

Date..... 2/5/24



Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of St Philip & St James, Odd Down, Bath & Wells

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023 that are set out on pages 30 to 39

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and Independent Examiner

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

Having satisfied myself that the church is not subject to audit and is eligible for independent examination it is my responsibility to:

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

This report, including my statement, has been prepared for and only for the PCC as a body. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the PCC those matters that I am required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to any other than the church and the PCC as a body for my examination work, for this report or for the statements that I have made.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the church and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you the trustees, concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention:

1. which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
 - to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Derek Rodwell', written over a light blue rectangular background.

Date: 8th May 2024

Derek Rodwell FCCA

Impact The Future Ltd, Bennett Verby, 7 St Petersgate, Stockport, Cheshire, SK1 1EB

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF
ST PHILIP & ST JAMES, ODD DOWN, BATH & WELLS**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
For the year ended 31st December 2023**

	Note	2023 Unrestricted Funds	2023 Designated Funds	2023 Restricted Funds	2023 Total	2022 Unrestricted Funds	2022 Designated Funds	2022 Restricted Funds	2022 Total
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:									
Donations and legacies	2a	182,393	1,000	10,828	194,221	130,966	19,457	7,140	157,563
Other trading activities	2b	8,508	0	6,550	15,059	8,467	0	5,038	13,505
Investments	2c	917	0	0	917	3,919	0	0	3,919
Charitable activities	2d	17,658	16,477	494	34,627	20,021	10,868	1,365	32,254
TOTAL INCOME		209,476	17,477	17,872	244,825	163,373	30,325	13,543	207,241
EXPENDITURE ON:									
Charitable activities	3a	178,088	30,866	6,573	215,528	172,465	12,903	12,488	197,856
Raising funds	3b	675	0	3,533	4,208	257	14	2,855	3,126
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		178,763	30,866	10,106	219,735	172,722	12,917	15,343	200,982
NET BEFORE TRANSFERS		30,713	(13,389)	7,766	25,090	(9,349)	17,408	(1,800)	6,259
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS		(32,654)	32,654	0	0	(504)	504	0	0
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(1,941)	19,265	7,766	25,090	(9,853)	17,912	(1,800)	6,259
TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD		119,811	35,067	20,095	174,973	129,664	17,155	21,895	168,714
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	7	117,870	54,332	27,861	200,063	119,811	35,067	20,095	174,973

The notes on pages 32 to 39 form part of these financial statements.

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF
ST PHILIP & ST JAMES, ODD DOWN, BATH & WELLS**

**BALANCE SHEET
As at 31 December 2023**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Designated Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Designated Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
FIXED ASSETS									
Tangible	4	75,648	0	338	75,986	82,735	0	507	83,242
CURRENT ASSETS									
Debtors and prepayments	5	34,472	0	0	34,472	27,947	0	0	27,947
Cash at bank and in hand		10,917	54,761	27,523	93,201	10,901	35,067	19,588	65,555
		45,389	54,761	27,523	127,673	38,848	35,067	19,588	93,502
LIABILITIES									
Creditors - amounts falling due within one year	6	(3,167)	(429)	0	(3,596)	(1,772)	0	0	(1,772)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		42,222	54,332	27,523	124,077	37,076	35,067	19,588	91,730
TOTAL NET ASSETS		117,870	54,332	27,861	200,063	119,811	35,067	20,095	174,973
PARISH FUNDS									
Unrestricted Funds		117,870	0	0	117,870	119,811	0	0	119,811
Designated Funds		0	54,332	0	54,332	0	35,067	0	35,067
Restricted Funds		0	0	27,861	27,861	0	0	20,095	20,095
	7	117,870	54,332	27,861	200,063	119,811	35,067	20,095	174,973

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 22 April 2024

and signed on its behalf by:


Revd Paul Ferguson
Vicar


Mr Richard Corrie
Treasurer

The notes on pages 32 to 39 form part of these financial statements.

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF
ST PHILIP & ST JAMES, ODD DOWN, BATH & WELLS**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31st December 2023**

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparation

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCC's, and with the Regulations' "true and fair view" provisions, together with FRS102 (effective January 2019) as the applicable accounting standards and the 2019 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP (FRS102)).

Budgets have been prepared for the period to the end of 2024 and these indicate that St Philips will be able to continue as a going concern for the next 12 months. The trustees will be reviewing these forecasts on a regular basis throughout 2024. Therefore the trustees believe that it is appropriate to prepare the accounts as a going concern.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention.

Recognition of Income

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when:

- i) The PCC becomes legally entitled to the use of the resources; and
- ii) the inflow of economic benefit is probable; and
- iii) the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Fundraising costs - funds raised from events and trading activities (e.g. fete, garden party or sales of books and magazines) are reported gross in the SOFA - i.e. before any related costs that may have been deducted from the gross proceeds.

Grants and donations - grants and donations are included in the SOFA when any pre conditions preventing their use by the PCC have been met. For collections and planned giving this is when the funds are received.

Gift Aid Tax claims on cash donations - Gift Aid and other tax claims are included in the SOFA at the same time as the cash donation to which they relate.

Gifts in kind - gifts in kind are accounted for at a reasonable estimate of their fair value at the time of the gift, if feasible, or else at the amount actually realised from their disposal. Gifts in kind for sale to fund the PCC are included in the accounts at their estimated fair value at the date of gift, if feasible - or else recognised when sold by the charity. Gifts in kind for the PCC's own use are included in the SOFA as incoming resources at their fair value when receivable, and expensed as and when consumed in use. Gifts of fixed assets, if material, are included in the balance sheet at their fair value and expenses over the asset's useful economic life.

Donated services and facilities - these are included in income (and at the same time in resources expended) at the estimated fair value to the PCC of the service or facility received.

Volunteer help - The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

Rental income - Rental income from the letting of the Church is recognised when the rental is due.

Investment income - This is included in the accounts when receivable.

Expenditure and liabilities

Liability recognition - Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation and settlement is probable and quantifiable.

Governance costs - include costs of the preparation and examination of statutory accounts, the costs of trustee meetings and cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

Pensions - The PCC contributes to the Church of England Pension Builder Scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from the PCC in an independently administered fund. Contributions are charged to the statement of financial activities as they fall due in accordance with the scheme rules.

Assets

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

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

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

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

Buildings	25 years straight line
Motor vehicles	5 years straight line
Equipment	3 and 5 years straight line

Funds

Unrestricted funds - these represent the remaining income funds of the PCC that are available for spending on the general purposes of the PCC.

Designated Funds - these are part of the unrestricted funds which the PCC has earmarked for a particular project, without restricting or committing the funds legally. The designation may be cancelled by the PCC if they later decide that the Church should not proceed or continue with the project for which the funds were designated.

Restricted funds - these are income funds that must be spent on restricted purposes and details of the funds held and restrictions provided are shown in the notes to the accounts.

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF
ST PHILIP & ST JAMES, ODD DOWN, BATH & WELLS**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ending 31st December 2023**

	2023 Unrestricted Funds	2023 Designated Funds	2023 Restricted Funds	2023 Total	2022 Unrestricted Funds	2022 Designated Funds	2022 Restricted Funds	2022 Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
2 INCOME								
2a Donations & legacies								
Planned giving								
Gift aid donations	126,648			126,648	101,176	11,907		113,083
Tax recoverable	33,115			33,115	26,783			26,783
Collections	2,869		491	3,360	1,166		10	1,176
One-off gifts	19,761			19,761	1,841		0	1,841
Grants	0		10,337	10,337	0		4,225	4,225
Legacies	0	0		0	0	2,000		2,000
Donations, appeals etc	0	1,000	0	1,000	0	5,550	2,905	8,455
	182,393	1,000	10,828	194,221	130,966	19,457	7,140	157,563
2b Other trading income								
Electric feed in tariff	8,508			8,508	8,467	0		8,467
Minibus income	0		6,550	6,550	0		5,038	5,038
	8,508	0	6,550	15,058	8,467	0	5,038	13,504
2c Income from investments								
Flat rent	0	0	0	0	3,880	0	0	3,880
Interest received	917	0	0	917	39	0	0	39
	917	0	0	917	3,919	0	0	3,919
2d Charitable activities								
Weddings and funerals	0	1,846	0	1,846	0	1,732		1,732
Church hall lettings	16,353			16,353	17,855			17,855
Photocopying and printing	388			388	708			708
Drama group income	0	10,440	0	10,440	0	7,810		7,810
Youth & student income	0	130	494	624	0		1,365	1,365
One-to-one & friends	0	3,501		3,501	0	1,326		1,326
Other income	917			917	1,101			1,101
Church events	0	559	0	559	356			356
	17,658	16,477	494	34,628	20,021	10,868	1,365	32,255
Total incoming resources	209,476	17,477	17,872	244,825	163,373	30,325	13,543	207,241

3 RESOURCES EXPENDED

	2023 Unrestricted Funds	2023 Designated Funds	2023 Restricted Funds	2023 Total	2022 Unrestricted Funds	2022 Designated Funds	2022 Restricted Funds	2022 Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
3a Charitable activities								
Mission and charitable giving	6,362	2,510	805	9,677	7,566	275	2,365	10,205
Ministry								
Parish share	66,988			66,988	67,843			67,843
Clergy expenses	437			437	439			439
Lay readers and other staff costs	225			225	732			732
Weddings and funerals	0	1,676		1,676	0	1,670		1,670
Performing rights and music	986			986	982			982
Children and youth	451		886	1,337	577		1,310	1,887
3c								

Students	703			703	305			305
Student youth worker		4,123	337	4,460		45	3,030	3,075
Friends & One to One expenses	0	2,820		2,820	0	2,447		2,447
Services	1,054			1,054	963		43	1,006
Catering	2,966			2,966	3,312		27	3,339
Church events	1,925	811		2,736	120			120
Gifts and hospitality	250	230		480	462			462
Church running expenses and upkeep								
Heat and light	7,333			7,333	3,331		1,250	4,581
Water	178			178	103			103
Cleaning	1,134			1,134	893			893
Insurance	1,224			1,224	1,056			1,056
Maintenance and equipment	8,166	12,362		20,528	9,715	2,000	250	11,965
Depreciation	7,087		169	7,256	7,087		169	7,256
Office costs								
Stationery, printing and other	1,652			1,652	2,125			2,125
Telephone & broadband	692			692	1,072			1,072
Accountancy fees	1,350			1,350	1,250			1,250
Other office costs	3,057			3,057	2,394			2,394
Drama Group	0	6,334		6,334	0	5,536		5,536
Salaries	63,867		4,376	68,242	60,138	930	4,043	65,112
	178,088	30,866	6,573	215,528	172,465	12,903	12,488	197,855
3b Raising funds								
Minibus expenses	0		3,533	3,533	0	14	2,855	2,869
Flat upkeep	675			675	257			257
	675	0	3,533	4,208	257	14	2,855	3,126
Total resources expended	178,763	30,866	10,106	219,735	172,722	12,917	15,343	200,981

3c Mission giving analysis

	2023 Unrestricted Funds	2023 Designated Funds	2023 Restricted Funds	2023 Total	2022 Unrestricted Funds	2022 Designated Funds	2022 Restricted Funds	2022 Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Bath Tech College Chaplain	200			200	200			200
BYFC	750			750	1,050			1,050
Carol Bus				0	132			132
Community Carols Service	232			232	199			199
Combe Hay Church- gift for rural chaplain	500			500	1,600	0		1,600
Easter Outreach/trail etc	223		58	281	227			227
Emma Greves Trust				0		275		275
Genesis	1,004			1,004	504			504
Grow for Life Mission	250			250				
Light Party	923			923	490			490
Matt 22			196	196			1,863	1,863
Open Christmas Mission	500			500	200			200
Other			37	37	66			66
Primary School Christmas Gift Bags	553			553	549			549
Primary School Easter Gift Bags	261			261	215			215
Primary School Assembly props	77			77				
Simeons Trustees	100			100	100			100
St Martins Advent calendars			49	49				0
St Martins Garden Pantry			290	290	500			500
St Philips Primary School Bibles	238			238	235	0		235
Street Pastors				0	300			300
Tearfund	550		37	587	0			0
Ukraine- Red Cross				0	1,000		502	1,502
Winter Walk In			138	138				
	6,362	0	805	7,167	7,566	275	2,365	10,205
Giving from Drama group:								
Freedom from Torture Charity		250		250				
Huntingdons Disease Charity		250		250				
Off The Record				0	750			750

RUH NICU	1,005		1,005				
Save The Children			0	750			750
The Life Project	1,005		1,005				
	0	2,510	0	2,510	1,500	0	0
							1,500
Total mission giving	6,362	2,510	805	9,677	9,066	275	2,365
							11,705

3d Staff Costs

	2023 £	2022 £
Gross salaries	64,236	61,761
Employers national insurance contributions (net of employment allowance)	143	0
Employers pension contributions	4,215	4,485
	68,594	66,246

The average number of staff employed during the year were:

Full time	1	1
Part time	5	6
	6	7

In terms of FTE the average throughout the year was 2.3 (2022 was 2.3).

No member of staff earned more than £60,000 pa.

3e Related party transactions

In 2023 no members of the PCC or related parties were employed by the church or received any benefits from the church.

During 2023 no expenses incurred in performing the duties of being a PCC member were reimbursed. The only expenses repaid related to the ongoing activities of the church.

During the year gifts of £28,890 (2022 £24,863) were given by PCC members to the church.

4 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

		Buildings £	Motor Vehicles £	Equipment £	Total £
Cost	At 1 January 2023	172,607	35,000	47,787	255,394
	Additions	0	0	0	0
	Disposals	0	0	(1,616)	(1,616)
	At 31 December 2023	172,607	35,000	46,171	253,778
Depreciation	At 1 January 2023	90,419	35,000	46,733	172,152
	Disposals	0	0	(1,616)	(1,616)
	Charge for year	6,904	0	352	7,256
	At 31 December 2023	97,323	35,000	45,469	177,792
Net book value	At 31 December 2023	75,284	0	702	75,986
	At 31 December 2022	82,188	0	1,054	83,242

5 DEBTORS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Tax recoverable	33,115	0	0	33,115	26,783
Other debtors	1,357	0	0	1,357	1,165
	34,472	0	0	34,472	27,948

6 CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

Accruals	1,350	0	0	1,350	1,250
Sundry creditors	1,817	429	0	2,246	522
	3,167	429	0	3,596	1,772

7a FUNDS IN 2023

		Balance b/fwd 2023 £	Income 2023 £	Expenditure 2023 £	Transfers 2023 £	Balance c/fwd 2023 £
Unrestricted funds						
General fund		119,811	209,476	(178,764)	(32,654)	117,869
Designated funds						
Drama group fund		5,854	10,440	(8,844)	0	7,450
Church projects						
	Friends (Previously Good companions)	269	1,164	(1,070)	0	363
	Equipment reserve fund	0	0	0	0	0
	Legacy Fund	2,000	0	0	0	2,000
	Bus fund	9,053	0	0	0	9,053
	Annual Outing	500	0	(351)	0	149
	SWYM Student fund	3,993	130	(4,123)	0	(0)
	Capital Development	11,907	1,000	(12,362)	32,884	33,429
	Events & projects fund	(0)	559	(459)	0	100
	One to One Fund	138	2,337	(1,750)	0	725
	Weddings & Funerals	60	1,846	(1,676)	(230)	0
	Parents & toddlers	295	0	0	0	295
	Solar Panel Funding towards staff role	(0)	0	0	0	(0)
Mission projects	MATT22 Hardship Fund	1,000	0	(230)	0	770
Total designated funds		35,067	17,476	(30,866)	32,654	54,331
Restricted funds						
Church projects						
	Minibus	8,570	6,550	(7,909)	0	7,211
	Funeral donations to charities	0	0	0	0	0
	SWYM Student fund	(0)	337	(337)	0	(0)
	Bath Quays memorial fund	2,866	0	0	0	2,866
	Grant for warm space boiler	0	10,000	0	0	10,000
	Diocesan Energy grant	0	0	0	0	0
	Youth evangelism	850	494	(886)	0	458
Mission fund						
	Easter Outreach	0	58	(58)	0	0
	Christmas Card Donations	0	37	(37)	0	0
	MATT22	7,010	396	(420)	0	6,986
	Ukraine Crisis	0	0	0	0	0
	St Martins Pantry	290	0	(290)	0	0
		19,588	17,872	(9,937)	0	27,523
Restricted funds in fixed assets- sound desk		507	0	(169)	0	338
Total of restricted funds		20,095	17,872	(10,106)	0	27,861
Total funds		174,973	244,824	(219,736)	0	200,061

7b FUNDS IN 2022

		Balance b/fwd 2022 £	Income 2022 £	Expenditure 2022 £	Transfers 2022 £	Balance c/fwd 2022 £
Unrestricted funds						
General fund		129,664	163,373	(172,722)	(504)	119,811

Designated funds

Drama group fund		3,579	7,810	(5,536)	0	5,854
Church projects						
	Friends (Previously Good companions)	932	0	(663)	0	269
	Equipment reserve fund	2,000	0	(2,000)	0	0
	Legacy Fund	0	2,000	0	0	2,000
	Bus fund	9,053	0	0	0	9,053
	Annual Outing	0	500	0	0	500
	SWYM Student fund	0	4,050	(57)	0	3,993
	Capital Development	0	11,907	0	0	11,907
	Other designated funds	661	3,058	(3,731)	11	(0)
	One to One Fund	0	0	0	138	138
	Weddings & Funerals	0	0	0	60	60
	Parents & toddlers	0	0	0	295	295
	Solar Panel Funding towards staff role	930	0	(930)	0	(0)
Mission projects	MATT22 Hardship Fund	0	1,000	0	0	1,000
Total designated funds		17,155	30,326	(12,917)	504	35,067
Restricted funds						
Church projects						
	Minibus	10,432	5,038	(6,898)	0	8,570
	AV updates	249	0	(249)	0	0
	SWYM Student fund	(0)	2,975	(2,975)	0	(0)
	Bath Quays memorial fund	2,866	0	0	0	2,866
	Diocesan Energy grant	0	1,250	(1,250)	0	0
	Youth evangelism	850	1,365	(1,365)	0	850
Mission fund						
	Easter Outreach	0	70	(70)	0	0
	MATT22	6,531	2,343	(1,864)	0	7,010
	Ukraine Crisis	0	502	(502)	0	0
	St Martins Pantry	290	0	0	0	290
		21,219	13,543	(15,174)	0	19,588
Restricted funds in fixed assets- sound desk		676	0	(169)	0	507
Total of restricted funds		21,895	13,543	(15,343)	0	20,095
Total funds		168,714	207,241	(200,982)	0	174,973

Notes re funds**Designated funds**

Friends: A fund for the purpose of enabling a regular gathering for older members of the parish community

Equipment Reserve: Funds set aside to replace and maintain church equipment

Legacy Fund: Funds left to the church in a will.

Bus fund: Funds set aside from the sale of a previous minibus for a future replacement

Annual Outing: Funds set aside to support those who might otherwise be unable to attend a church weekend away

SWYM Student Fund: Funds set aside to cover the costs of our SWYM student in 2022 and 2023

Capital development: Funds set aside for capital expenditure on buildings and equipment

Events and Projects Fund: Funds received and spent in relation to church events and projects

Solar Panel funding towards staff role: Funds set aside for the employment of a team member (previously referred to as the Evangelist Fund)

MATT22 Hardship Fund: Funds designated to provide support to those in financial distress

Other designated funds: This represents the b/fwd figure, of the following three categories, which at the end of 2022 have been split out.

One to One Fund: Funds set aside for the purpose of hosting a monthly Sunday lunch for those who would otherwise be eating alone

Weddings & Funerals: Funds received and spent in relation to occasional offices

Parents & toddlers: Funds set aside for supporting those with preschool age children

Restricted funds

Minibus: Funds raised towards the running costs of the minibus

Funeral Donations to charities: Funds collected at funerals on behalf of other charities

AV Update: Funds raised for upgrading the PA system

SWYM Student Fund: Funds received specifically towards the cost of our SWYM student in 2022 and 2023

Bath Quays memorial fund: Funds raised historically to have a memorial for those who have died in the river

Grant for warm space: Funds spent from a grant towards running a warm space and replacing the gas boiler.

Diocesan Energy grant: Funds received from the diocese to contribute to increased energy costs

Youth evangelism: Funds received for youth work activities and equipment

Easter Outreach: Funds raised and spent for our Easter Trail event

Christmas Card donations: Funds collected for our Christmas Card appeal

MATT22: Donations received towards our Kingdom transformation ministry started in response to the Covid pandemic.

Ukraine Crisis: Donations received to support the work of the Red Cross in Ukraine

St Martins Pantry: Funds for the development of a 'pantry' providing low cost food to local families based at St Martin's Garden School

8 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds 2023	Designated funds 2023	Restricted funds 2023	Total funds 2023	Unrestricted funds 2022	Designated funds 2022	Restricted funds 2022	Total funds 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	75,648	0	338	75,986	82,735	0	507	83,242
Current assets	45,389	54,761	27,523	127,674	38,848	35,067	19,588	93,503
Creditors due within one year	(3,167)	(429)	0	(3,596)	(1,772)	0	0	(1,772)
NET ASSETS	117,870	54,332	27,861	200,063	119,811	35,067	20,095	174,973

9 INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION FEES

Included in the above costs are the fees for the preparation and independent examination of the accounts of £1,350.