



**St John's**  
**Brooklands**

Extending God's welcome to everyone

# **Annual Report**

# **2023**

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# St John's, Brooklands

*We believe that God is calling us to be the missional heart of our community as we invite everyone in Brooklands to hear God's invitation of a new relationship, belong to God's family, believe the good news about what Jesus has done for us, and experience the radical hospitality Jesus extends to everyone: an invitation to sit and eat in God's kingdom.*

## Our Vision

Extending God's welcome to everyone

## Our Mission

Welcoming you into God's family as we grow in Christ together

## Our Values

We are a **welcoming** church...

**Worship:** growing as disciples formed by God's word and Spirit

**Evangelism:** making disciples as we introduce people to Jesus

**Liturgical:** living lives shaped by God's story

**Community:** belonging to our church family

**Outward-looking:** going out beyond our four walls

**Missional:** serving God's purposes for the world

**Invitational:** inviting everyone to know Jesus for themselves

**Nurturing:** equipping everyone for ministry

**Generous:** excelling in the grace of giving

## Our Strategy

welcome to the family → grow in faith → share life together → serve in God's mission

# 2023 REPORTS AND MAIN AIMS FOR 2024

## VICAR'S REPORT

*he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new"*

These words, recorded by St John the Divine in Revelation 21:5a, are an apt description of the past twelve months as we continue to emerge from the pandemic which, although it seems a dim and distant memory, in fact we are still feeling its impact. Back in 2020 I wrote how encouraged I was to see signs of green shoots emerging and my belief that I remain convinced that there are plenty of green shoots at St John's, God is not done with us yet. This remains my conviction, and whilst there have been various changes at St John's these past twelve months God is still at work through us to make all things new.

During 2023 we enjoyed a full programme of **worship** and activities. It was encouraging to see good numbers of people attend our Christmas services, especially around 160 people at our Carols by Candlelight, 315 at our Crib and Christingle, and 97 at our Christmas Eve Communion. Whilst it is encouraging that these were higher than 2022, our Usual Sunday Attendance continues its downward trend. It is hoped that our worship review shall help us do some thinking around how to address this and explore how we can ensure our Sunday worship meets the spiritual needs of those living in our parish. There have also been some changes with our midweek services with our monthly Messy Vintage ceasing in April however our Thursday Communion continues with an average of 9 people attending weekly.

As part of reviewing our worship here at St John's we held a series of Alternative Worship Sundays during the year to help us experience different service formats. These included a contemporary Choral Matins, an all-age Mothering Sunday Parade Service, a reflective Contemplative Communion, a Creative Communion, and an Informal Communion. Everyone who attended were provided with a short questionnaire so that they could offer feedback and let the PCC know their thoughts. This feedback has been published as is available on the church website. Alongside this a small group of church members formed our Worship Review Group and met monthly during the year to think more deeply about worship. We had some good conversations and this group will feed into discussions in January and February 2024 prior to the PCC meeting in March at which we shall determine the best way forwards.

We have continued to provide much needed **pastoral care** to our community in a variety of ways, including the conducting of two weddings, twelve funerals, and twenty-three baptisms. We have also continued our support of the Wythenshawe

Foodbank with volunteers supporting the Foodbank at St Luke's, Benchill on a Saturday morning and the Foodbank at Sandilands Primary on a Thursday afternoon. This link with our local Foodbank was also reflected in our Harvest Appeal and our Toy Service in December. Volunteers have also been involved with the wider food ministry run within the Wythenshawe Team, including The Big Feed and Holiday Food Packs.

We have continued with our **community outreach** through our Summer and Winter Fairs, along with our weekly Thursday Café which seeks to alleviate social isolation. We have supported the needs of local families through our pay-as-you-can baby and toddler group (Little Blessings) on Friday mornings, and other events, e.g. our annual Pumpkin Party with 150 people attending.

As a parish we continue to be involved with our three local primary schools (Brooklands Primary, Heyes Lane Primary, and Sandilands Primary) and each of them visited us for their Christmas services. I am now serving my second term as a Co-opted Governor at Brooklands Primary School where I am Vice Chair of the Resources Committee and the Link Governor for English. This role includes three Full Governor Meetings each year (one per term) as well as visiting the school for termly Resource Committee meetings and visiting the English department. Looking ahead to next year I have been invited to contribute to RE lessons in Key Stage 1.





One area of parish life that I especially enjoy is providing space for spiritual conversations. I particularly enjoyed leading our Summer Reading Group and Advent Course. During the summer seven of us met on Thursday afternoons for a soup lunch and to discuss *Unbelievable* by John Shelby Spong's book which provoked some interesting conversations. Then during Advent six of us met on Tuesday mornings to explore apocalyptic literature.

During the first half of the year we saw some **leadership changes**. At Easter we said goodbye to Lee Wood as he headed to pastures new as interim priest of St Agnes, Longsight and St Chrysostom, Victoria Park. Then in July we said goodbye to Enock Mayanja who began the next phase of his ministry as curate at All Saints, Stretford having been ordained Deacon at Manchester Cathedral. In September we welcomed John Muyita, an Ordinand at Emmanuel Theological College, who began his placement with us for the duration of his studies and who will be ordained in July 2025. In November we welcomed Sarah Barberis who has taken on the role of Parish Administrator. She works 7.5 hours each week assisting with general administrative tasks and next year she will begin assisting the treasurer with day-to-day financial administration.

Looking ahead to 2024 there will also be some changes at a governance level with the parish. PCC members can serve a maximum of two three-year terms and

churchwardens can serve a maximum of six consecutive years. This means that in 2024 several PCC members will come to the end of their term limits. At St John's we are blessed by having so many people who are committed to volunteering their time and energy to parish life and these vacancies will offer more opportunities for church members to get more involved with the life of the parish.

In the second half of the year we began to **focus on the future** and so on 16<sup>th</sup> September we held an open meeting to discuss our parish priorities for 2024-2025. The following four were identified as our priority areas:

-  Worship
-  Pastoral Care
-  Community Outreach
-  Communications

In addition to these priority areas, we will look to identify and appoint a focal leader during 2024. This reflects the recent Diocesan move to create Mission Communities in which the leadership team will comprise of a Mission Community Leader along with Focal Leaders from each parish. It will take time for these arrangements to be put in place, but this is the direction of travel.

During 2023 several issues have arisen relating to the fabric of the church. In addition to plans for replacing the hall roof which I hope will be completed in 2024, we arranged an asbestos survey which has resulted in the hut and cellar being closed for general access. I hope that asbestos in the cellar shall be removed next year, however we shall need to have a bigger conversation about what to do with the hut. In October we also received a quote for works to maintain the organ which total £51,774 so there will be conversations to be had next year about how best to proceed.

Returning to those words from Jesus I quoted earlier. There is so much to celebrate and be thankful for. There are green shoots emerging in many and various places, sometimes quite unexpectedly. At the same time there is also much still to do, and as we step into 2024 we do so with the conviction that God is with us and working through us to make all things new as we seek to become the missional heart of our community.

## Crafty Chat Report

In April 2024 Crafty Chat will be celebrating its 10th Anniversary and we are hoping to mark the occasion with an afternoon tea.

The meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month in the church hall. We are a friendly group and you can bring your own craft or join in with the latest project.

The chat is just as important as we have a few ladies who come for the social side alone although if they wanted, could learn to knit or crochet.

Over the past year we were still involved in making things for the Snowdrop and Special care baby units at Wythenshawe hospital and raised over £300. At Little Blessings in November we sold items to help raise money for Children in Need. As usual we had a stall at the Summer and Winter Fair which were very popular.

Quite a few members became involved in making knitted or crocheted pumpkins which Richard asked if we could do for the annual pumpkin party. This was a successful project as more people than usual became involved and I believe they were very popular at the party.

We had a new member this year who was involved in making the Post-box toppers in Sale Moor. A few members were encouraged to make things for the Christmas Postbox in the

village. The end result was great. This gave a few of us the idea of doing a Remembrance topper for a post-box closer to St John's followed by a Nativity scene at Christmas. We had lots of lovely comments and are hoping to have one ready for Easter.

In December 2023 members plus 2 husbands enjoyed a delicious Christmas dinner at The Quarry Bank in Timperley.




We are hoping 2024 will be just as successful with even more members getting involved with the different projects.






Chris Padbury

## Eco Report

St John's Eco Church team consists of Nicola and Rob Ashton.

Our main activities in 2023 have been:

-  We made our first formal application for Eco Church status and were awarded a Silver award by A Rocha UK, who run the scheme.
-  We arranged for a speaker from Rocha UK to deliver a talk to the congregation on Eco Church, which was very inspiring for all.
-  We installed recycling bins in the Church Hall and Hut. Since installation, this has been a team effort and we thank all those who regularly take out the recycling.

-  We created an Eco Church noticeboard with some hints and tips for the congregation and visitors on how to be more eco-friendly. The children also designed posters for the board.
-  There was a team effort in tidying the Church garden grounds.
-  We made enquiries to check that the Church was using a "green" energy supplier. We were!
-  At Messy Church we taught the children how to make homemade bird feeders out of toilet roll, lard and seeds!
-  We began making enquiries about grants for installing bike racks on the church ground.

We are looking forward to what we can achieve in 2024. If anyone would like to join us and become part of the Eco Church project, they would be very much welcome.

Nicola and Rob Ashton

## Flower Guild Report

We have had another busy and enjoyable year arranging flowers in the church.

There are seven ladies in the Flower Guild and we have a rota for the year which we organise in January. We arrange flowers on the altar and around the candle near the font. Two ladies from the team offer to do the flowers every two weeks. All the team attend for the main festivals of Easter, Harvest and Christmas and we all attend to remove the decorations, wilted flowers and greenery and to generally tidy up after the festivals. We do not have flowers in church during Lent or Advent, with the exception of Mothering Sunday which falls during Lent, when we place flowers on the altar.

We no longer decorate the church for weddings but we ensure there are fresh flowers around the candle for Baptisms.

Looking ahead to 2024 we have decided to alternate fresh and artificial flowers to save money and time. It has been agreed fresh flowers will be used for the festivals.

### *The Flower Guild*

Ruth Shaw	Lilian Swann
Lynda Tattersall	Hilary Hamblett
Marcela Payne	Susan Wildman
Judith Horwood	

## Little Blessings Report

We celebrated the one year anniversary of Little Blessings starting in September, 2023! Within our first year we ran 38 sessions. We are currently still running on Fridays (term-time) 10am until 12noon. In November 2023, Little Blessings Benchill started too - this is led by Lousia from Wythenshawe CofE Team. It is fantastic that the group has spread to Wythenshawe, through the vision shared by myself, Rev'd Ian Fellows and Louisa to provide



a free to access group. Pre-booking to attend is still necessary due to high demand. We have had to transition over to using Ticket Source as our platform due to Eventbrite bringing in fees.

We have two/three volunteers in the kitchen; they prepare snacks for the children and also provide hot drinks to adults as and when requested. Each week snack consists of a breaded item like toast and then a variety of fruit. This is purchased before the session fresh. With the current living costs rising, ensuring we have a good and varied selection of fruit available is important for providing the children with nourishment whilst with us at the group but also provides the opportunity to try new things too. Trying to promote not only a healthy but also a varied diet to the children. Cakes are baked by volunteers on a weekly basis and are donated for use at the group. We aim to provide this to parents/carers. Asda have donated items of fruit on occasion and also donated drinks and crisps for the Christmas Party.

Our aim is to create a safe place for parents/carers to come with their children – without financial expectation. The idea is that parents/carers can meet others, create new relationships and feel welcomed; all whilst the children play in a fun, engaging and safe environment. Our online registration form asks parents/carers if they would like to receive information regarding Baptism and other church services; however, since we have had no clergy link since April 2023 and no one visible, it means that attendance at Little Blessings does not increase attendance at regular services. That being said, however, at the Pumpkin Party there were a lot of families there who also attend Little Blessings; which was lovely to see them in a different context. Sessions include a theme and we try to incorporate God and what it is to be Christian into them. There are also Early Years Foundation Stage resources available to help promote personal, social and emotional development; physical development; communication and language; literacy; expressive art; mathematics; and children's understanding of the world. We have found that the group now has its own community of parents/carers. They all intermingle and seem to look forward to seeing one another each week at the group. It also appears to have become a space where parents/carers can and are supporting each other.

We are still donation based and there is no set fee for attending the group. It is also not monitored as to who donates and who doesn't as to us it's not what matters. If anyone wanted to leave a donation towards the group running costs they can do via our donation points that are out during the group. We use a box for coin/cash donations and also have an electronic card reader available for card donations. We find both are regularly used.

During the Summer holidays we ran two sessions for families. On 4th August we had 46 children attend and on the 25th August we had 45. We all shared pasta in sauce for lunch which went down well! The Christmas party he held on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December and we had 50 children attend. Each child received a Nativity Sticker Book from Santa. We also had individual lunch boxes prepared for the children.

We currently have a Facebook page (social media) for Little Blessings that has over 300 followers. We also have a WhatsApp group that has over 70 members – this is used for information regarding the group and it has provided a way for parents/carers to

communicate. The parents/carers have also been giving away items to each other in the group too. Parents/carers are given the option to be added to the group on the online registration form. We have recently joined Tik-Tok too!

Sophie Wood

## Thursday Café Report

The Thursday Community café has continued successfully over the last 12 months, thanks to a group of dedicated volunteers who work on a rota to provide a weekly space to enjoy companionship and refreshments.

The café is open from 10 -12am, when you can get hot drinks, cake, biscuits and toast, all on a donation basis. It is open all year round to provide a consistent space for all ages to enjoy and meet their friends and new people.

In the last year, it has made £2336, thanks to the various activities run and this enables it to be an inclusive donation-based café. The café welcomes regular and occasional attenders and new faces and provides a warm and friendly place to chat, gain new information, and get refreshments. In addition, there is a valued book and jigsaw area, there are often raffles or a tabletop sale thanks to Carole Herd and background piano music, thanks to Angela Muirhead. Those who wish, can attend communion in the church at 9.30am prior to a drink and a chat.

We asked the community who attend the Thursday morning café to describe what the café brought to them personally and these responses reinforce why this community ministry opportunity is so important to so many.

Attendees described it as: welcoming, friendly, helpful, sociable and informative. They described the benefits as: a place they could comfortably attend on their own, a place they felt a part of, giving routine to the week, open all year around for consistent company, a listening space. They talked of the opportunities it gave: to take weekly communion, to create valuable links, to get local information and to be able to volunteer. They were very grateful for the: refreshments served with a smile, the raffle and table top sales, the piano music, the book and jigsaw swap.

Thank you to every one of the volunteers on the rota who set up the room, make and serve refreshments, wash up and clear away and provide the extras to the café that make it special to all. Only with this consistent commitment of this group can we continue to grow in this community ministry.

## Women's Fellowship Report

Women's Fellowship continues to meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month from 2-4pm. Although, not surprisingly, we do not have the number of members we had in the past, we still have twenty regular members, which is good, after fifty years, and we have recently welcomed two new members.

We have had another enjoyable year with a variety of activities in addition to our quizzes, bingo and games afternoons. We had a video of Garden Parties in the 70s and 80s which were good fun, trying to recognise church members from thirty and forty years ago -men with hair and women with mini-skirts! One month Lee gave us a wonderful, interesting talk on how he came to join the ministry. Other meetings have included a Keep Fit session, a Coronation Tea, and a very interesting and informative talk about The Blood Bikes charity. We had our Summer Supper as usual in July at the Boathouse, carol singing, mince pies and Christmas cake for Christmas and our annual Christmas meal at Mersey Farm. All enjoyed by everyone.

Women's Fellowship is open to anyone, not just church members, and the meetings are always pleasurable and very friendly. We could love to welcome new members in 2024.

Carole Herd

## Buildings Report

Whilst amounts spent on the fabric of the Church have been confined to some roof repairs at a cost of £1,536, we continue to experience some minor debris falling from the roof at regular intervals, especially in the transept areas. In addition, no major costs have been incurred on the hall or hut in the year.

Several potholes were repaired in the driveway and some step approaches levelled in September at a cost of £3,120 and these have made both less hazardous to cars and pedestrians. Some tree work has been undertaken to trim certain trees and more is planned for next year.

A large amount of expenditure has been incurred on 39 Dalebrook Road, being new windows and door at a cost of £11,640 (to replace items some 30 years old) and a new boiler at £2,200. This has brought the house up to date somewhat and made it much warmer and heat efficient.

Sadly, recent asbestos investigation reports have yielded bad news. The hut has been mothballed and is out of action until a decision has been taken as to its future. It is likely that the costs to remove the asbestos and refit/upgrade the hut will far outweigh any income benefit to be gained, even in the medium to long term. Asbestos has been found in the cellar and this will be removed shortly. This is a costly exercise.

Indicative costings for the repair of the nave roof should be available this year, though the priority is the hall roof, which is at the DAC approval of plans stage. It is hoped and expected that this work will be completed this year. Some survey costs have been incurred on this. A maintenance report on the organ has led to the receipt of a large quote for recommended repairs. An alternative quote is being sought. A separate specialist interest committee has been set up to progress this and report back to the PCC.

### **OTHER FUTURE WORKS**

1. Safety railing to cellar steps
2. External lighting to north side of church
3. Re-carpeting of church or re-stretching of existing carpet
4. Refit of hall toilets and kitchen after roof repair
5. General redecoration / repurposing (?) of hall after roof repair

A good number of orange hymn books are now in need of some running repairs, though we have plenty for most occasions. The other goods and ornaments of the church appear sound and the wardens are not aware of any missing items, though a full check will be made before the APCM.

Apart from the expenditure on Dalebrook Road, overall costs incurred have been rather minimal this year. It is 2024 when cost challenges will be felt most, with the asbestos removal, hall roof repair and perhaps organ repair or replacement costs likely to be incurred before the end of the year.

Phil Dykes  
Church Warden

## Finance Report

2023 has been a positive year for St. John's, with Church groups and events coming back strongly in what was a first full financial year free of COVID-19 related restrictions. Funds generated from such events grew by 127% as the Parish welcomed guests to the summer and winter fairs, and the Thursday Café and Little Blessings continued to be popular.

Our normal community outreach events and church groups have been well-attended throughout the year and particular thanks is owed to those organising Thursday Café, Little Blessings, Messy Church, and the Pumpkin Party.

There was evidence to suggest footfall had fallen during the year and the pressure on individuals incomes may have been evident in a 14% reduction in voluntary giving. There were no bequests recognised in the 2023 financial statements. The PCC is incredibly grateful to those who continue to visit St. John's and those who are able to make donations when possible.

Income from life events and rent of our extended premises held up, although we may see a reduction in the 2024 financial year due to essential repairs and maintenance required and quoted for to keep the Church Hut in operation.

In 2019, the PCC agreed to partner with other local churches to support Christians against Poverty with the setting up of a local operation and we committed to paying £1,500 per year for 3 years. The final contribution was made last year and the PCC formally agreed to support food ministry within the local area. Funds were donated to this end during the 2023 calendar year.

Church Fabric expenses includes the cost of repairing potholes on the Church grounds as well as essential electrical work. Other maintenance costs incurred in the year included for work to the area surrounding the Church and an essential upgrade to the property at Dalebrook Road, which has been capitalised.

Our other costs have remained reasonably level overall against last year, with an uplift in utilities expenditure being expected and budgeted for in the 2023 PCC Budget. It is hoped that this pressure may ease into the 2024 calendar year.

Overall, various items of essential but non-recurring expenditure have been suffered in the 2023 year which has moved the accounts to a net expenditure position from a position of net income in 2022. The PCC expect to incur costs during 2024 in relation to the hall roof, for which a faculty is expected to be sought.

James Merryweather  
**Treasurer**

## Facts & Figures

### Electoral Roll

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
211	207	199	208	120*	130	133	137	124	113

*\* A new Electoral Roll was completed in 2019 and the next one is due in 2025.*

### Usual Sunday Attendance

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2022	2023
<b>Adults</b>	111	103	98	76	82	56	48
<b>Children</b>	7	5	6	11	9	5	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>54</b>

### Occasional Offices

	'15	'16	'17	'18	'19	'20	'21	'22	'23
<b>Baptisms</b>	55	70	56	26	8	3	7	14	23
<b>Weddings</b>	14	7	8	5	5	1	2	8	2
<b>Funerals</b>	22	20	14	14	12	3	6	29	12

## PCC LEADERSHIP AND MAKE UP 2023

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a Registered Charity. The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules.

### Aim and purposes

St John's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has a shared responsibility in promoting the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

### Objectives and activities




At the heart of our church life is the worship of God, everything else comes from that worship. We seek to reach upwards to God in worship and adoration, inward to one another in fellowship and outwards to the community and the world in witness and service. The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at St John's.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular the PCC is committed to promoting the work of the church in the following areas:

- **Worship, prayer and spirituality:** the maintenance and provision of regular Sunday and weekday worship, celebration of festivals, preparation for baptism, weddings and funerals and the nurture and teaching of faith
- **Social and Community Outreach:** opening the church building to the people of the parish for social and community events, social and fundraising events, the support and involvement in community activities
- **Pastoral:** visiting the sick and the housebound, support for those in need, prayer with and for those in need
- **Mission and Evangelism:** financial, prayerful and active support of world and national mission agencies, concern and involvement in local needs
- **The wider church:** the deanery, diocese and wider Church of England, ecumenical relationships







### Main things PCC did in 2023

There have been four full meetings of the PCC in February, March, June, and November, with extended meetings in January and February (open to the wider congregation) to take forward our review of worship. Items on the agenda for approval at our main PCC meetings this year included:

-  Annual Report and Accounts 2022
-  Safeguarding Policy (annually) and monitoring its implementation (ongoing)
-  Eucharistic Assistants

We also had active discussions on the following:

-  Parish priorities for growing, nurturing and serving

-  Forming links with the St Luke's Foodbank
-  A review of events across the year and how they might be organised
-  Use of the chalice at Communion
-  Focal leadership
-  Becoming an Eco Church
-  Review of worship (to take place during 2023)

At every meeting this year we have discussed our church buildings and the work needed to keep them safe, from replacing the roof to mending potholes. Looking after a listed building involves specialist contractors and requires discussion with – and permission from – the diocese before any major repairs can be undertaken.

### Membership 2023

Vicar:	Richard Sherratt
Curate:	Lee Wood ( <i>until April 2023</i> )
Churchwarden:	Phil Dykes (Vice Chair)
Churchwarden:	Janet Hunter
Deanery Synod representatives:	1 Vacancy
	2 Vacancy
	3 Vacancy
<b><i>Elected members (until 2024):</i></b>	Adele Lane
	Phil Makins
	Angela Mather ( <i>until October 2023</i> )
	Nwabugo Ubochi
	Susan Wildman (PCC Secretary)
	Caroline Windle (Assistant Warden)
<b><i>Elected members (until 2025):</i></b>	Nicola Ashton (Eco Champion)
	Kirstie Lea
	James Merryweather (Treasurer)
	Rod Tattersall
<b><i>Elected members (until 2026):</i></b>	Wilfred Darlington

### Other PCC committees/groups

The PCC at St John's has a Standing Committee. Membership of this committee along with its duties and is defined by law in the Church Representation Rules, abbreviated to CRR (**CRR M31(6)**).

#### ***Standing Committee members:***

- Richard Sherratt
- Phil Dykes
- Janet Hunter
- James Merryweather
- Susan Wildman



**Administrative Information**

St John's is situated in Brooklands, Sale. It is part of the Diocese of Manchester within the Church of England and is in the Deanery of Stretford and Manchester South in the Archdeaconry of Manchester.

The correspondence address is The Vicarage, 186 Brooklands Road, Sale, M33 3PB.

Registered charity number: 1132141

The address of the Parish website is [www.stjohnsbrooklands.org.uk](http://www.stjohnsbrooklands.org.uk)

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE DIVINE,  
BROOKLANDS**

**(REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1132141)**

**ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

## **PAROCHIAL CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE DIVINE, BROOKLANDS INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT**

I report to the members of PCC St John the Divine, Brooklands on my examination of the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES AND BASIS OF REPORT**

As members of the PCC, 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 Parochial Church'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.

### **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT**

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

- The accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- The accounts did not accord with those records; or
- The accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a "true and fair view" which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

E Armstrong FCCA

31 March 2024

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	Note	2023 Restricted funds £	2023 Unrestricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>					
Voluntary giving	1	-	45,747	45,747	53,013
Church groups and events	2	-	7,262	7,262	3,197
General income	3	-	23,516	23,516	23,696
Other income	4	591	4,531	5,122	7,485
		591	81,056	81,647	87,391
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>					
Parish share	5	-	36,000	36,000	30,000
Clergy expenses	6	-	5,631	5,631	3,509
Worship	7	230	5,463	5,693	5,070
Charitable and other donations	8	-	830	830	1,500
Church groups and events	9	-	1,262	1,262	1,643
Church fabric	10	-	24,773	24,773	10,541
Premises fabric	11	-	12,603	12,603	6,838
Property fabric	12	-	2,482	2,482	472
Other parochial expenses	13	-	7,996	7,996	6,648
		230	97,040	97,270	66,221
<b>Net income before investment gains or losses</b>		361	(15,984)	(15,623)	21,170
Gains/(losses) on investments					
Flower fund	15	-	(45)	(45)	(111)
<b>NET INCOME/EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>361</b>	<b>(16,029)</b>	<b>(15,668)</b>	<b>21,059</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD</b>		<b>12,379</b>	<b>408,123</b>	<b>420,502</b>	<b>399,443</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<b>12,740</b>	<b>392,094</b>	<b>404,834</b>	<b>420,502</b>

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
Property – Curate’s House, 39 Dalebrook Road	14	211,640	200,000
Investments – flower fund	15	1,851	1,896
		<b>213,491</b>	<b>201,896</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Debtors	16	2,276	6,005
Deposit accounts at CBF	17	146,789	142,231
Deposit accounts at bank		523	519
Current accounts at bank		46,719	85,356
Cash in hand		1,393	5
		<b>197,700</b>	<b>234,116</b>
<b>LIABILITIES – FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR</b>			
Creditors	18	5,357	14,510
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>192,343</b>	<b>219,606</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>405,834</b>	<b>421,502</b>
<b>LIABILITIES – FALLING DUE AFTER ONE YEAR</b>			
Provisions	18	1,000	1,000
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>404,834</b>	<b>420,502</b>
<b>PARISH FUNDS</b>			
Unrestricted		392,094	408,123
Restricted		12,740	12,379
		<b>404,834</b>	<b>420,502</b>

Approved by the PCC on 13 March 2024

## **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

### **ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

#### **Basis of preparation**

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCCs, and with the Regulations' "true and fair view" provisions, together with FRS 102 (2016) as the applicable accounting standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at fair value.

#### **Incoming Resources**

Planned giving, collections and all other donations are accounted for when received. Gift Aid tax claims are included in the SOFA at the same time as the cash donations to which they relate.

Funds raised by the Summer Fair, Winter Fair and similar events and activities are accounted for gross, as are sales of magazines and books.

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

Investment income is included in the accounts when receivable.

Investment gains and losses includes any gain or loss on the sale of investments and any gain or loss resulting from revaluing investments to market value at the end of the year.

#### **Expenditure and Liabilities**

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation and settlement is probable and quantifiable. Provisions are shown at best estimate of the amount required.

#### **Assets**

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 and such assets are excluded from the accounts. The Hall and Hut are similarly excluded from the accounts, being regarded equally as inalienable property of the Church.

No value is placed on church furnishings held by the Church Wardens on behalf of the PCC, and which require a Faculty for disposal. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings and moveable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off during the year.

All other equipment belonging to the PCC is written off at the time of purchase.

The curate's house is included in the accounts at its carrying value as at 1 January 2015, plus improvements made to the property in order to protect its future value. No depreciation is provided on the curate's house, as the currently estimated residual value is not less than its carrying value and the remaining useful life of this property is such that any depreciation charges would be immaterial.

Investments are valued at market value at the year end.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note	2023 Restricted funds £	2023 Unrestricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
<b>1. Voluntary giving</b>				
Planned giving	-	30,998	30,998	37,561
Income tax recovered	-	10,470	10,470	9,377
Giving at services	-	2,329	2,329	3,341
Other donations	-	1,950	1,950	2,734
	-	<b>45,747</b>	<b>45,747</b>	<b>53,013</b>
<b>2. Church groups and events</b>				
Community fairs	-	4,115	4,115	2,127
Thursday Café sales	-	835	835	969
Little Blessings	-	1,007	1,007	43
Bumps and Babies	-	-	-	58
Thursday Café donations	-	1,305	1,305	-
	-	<b>7,262</b>	<b>7,262</b>	<b>3,197</b>
<b>3. General income</b>				
Life events	-	2,137	2,137	3,607
Premises rent – hall	-	8,035	8,035	4,104
Premises rent – hut	-	1,944	1,944	4,569
Property rent	-	11,400	11,400	11,416
	-	<b>23,516</b>	<b>23,516</b>	<b>23,696</b>
<b>4. Other income</b>				
Bequests	-	-	-	5,500
Interest on deposits	361	4,201	4,562	1,894
Flower fund dividend	110	-	110	91
Donations for flowers	120	-	120	-
C-19 Job Retention Scheme	-	-	-	-
Sundry income	-	330	330	-
	<b>591</b>	<b>4,531</b>	<b>5,122</b>	<b>7,485</b>
<b>5. Parish share</b>				
Paid during the year	-	36,000	36,000	30,000
	-	<b>36,000</b>	<b>36,000</b>	<b>30,000</b>
<b>6. Clergy expenses</b>				
Vicar expenses of office	-	1,058	1,058	38
Curate expenses of office	-	1,197	1,197	48
Council tax, water charges	-	3,376	3,376	3,423
	-	<b>5,631</b>	<b>5,631</b>	<b>3,509</b>
<b>7. Worship</b>				
Altar and choir requisites etc.	230	2,414	2,644	1,781
Staff (choir, vergers)	-	3,049	3,049	2,436
Welcome ministry	-	-	-	711
Children's ministry	-	-	-	142
	<b>230</b>	<b>5,463</b>	<b>5,693</b>	<b>5,070</b>
<b>8. Donations</b>				
Mission partners –				
Christians Against Poverty	-	-	-	1,500
Food Ministry –				
Local food bank initiative	-	830	830	-
	-	<b>830</b>	<b>830</b>	<b>1,500</b>
<b>9. Church groups and events</b>				
Winter fair	-	205	205	490
Children's groups	-	248	248	13

	Pumpkin party	-	179	179	135
	Other community events	-	630	630	1,005
		-	<b>1,262</b>	<b>1,262</b>	<b>1,643</b>
<b>10.</b>	<b>Church Fabric</b>				
	Gas and electricity	-	5,292	5,292	4,512
	Cleaning, insurance etc.	-	5,317	5,317	4,769
	Maintenance and repair	-	7,388	7,388	349
	Organ maintenance and repair	-	878	878	580
	Roof repairs	-	-	-	-
	Maintenance of grounds	-	5,898	5,898	331
		-	<b>24,773</b>	<b>24,773</b>	<b>10,541</b>
<b>11.</b>	<b>Premises fabric</b>				
	Hall				
	Gas, electricity, water, cleaning	-	3,085	3,085	2,874
	Maintenance and repair	-	7,457	7,457	887
		-	<b>10,542</b>	<b>10,542</b>	<b>3,761</b>
	Hut				
	Electricity, water, cleaning	-	1,811	1,811	2,476
	Maintenance and repair	-	250	250	601
		-	<b>2,061</b>	<b>2,061</b>	<b>3,077</b>
	Total premises fabric	-	<b>12,603</b>	<b>12,603</b>	<b>6,838</b>
<b>12.</b>	<b>Property (Dalebrook Road)</b>				
	Maintenance, repairs, insurance etc.	-	2,482	2,482	472
	Management commission and fees	-	-	-	-
		-	<b>2,482</b>	<b>2,482</b>	<b>472</b>
<b>13.</b>	<b>Other parochial expenses</b>				
	Stewardship expenses	-	155	155	90
	Parish administration	-	6,140	6,140	3,672
	Parish communications	-	656	656	1,808
	Hospitality	-	737	737	806
	Training, nurture, pastoral expenses	-	80	80	95
	Children's outreach	-	52	52	-
	Sundry expenses	-	176	176	177
		-	<b>7,996</b>	<b>7,996</b>	<b>6,648</b>
<b>14.</b>	<b>Property</b>				
	<u>Cost</u>				
	At 1 January 2023				200,000
	Additions				11,640
	At 31 December 2023				<b>211,640</b>
	<u>Depreciation</u>				
	At 1 January 2023				-
	Charge for the year				-
	At 31 December 2023				-
	<u>Net book value</u>				
	At 31 December 2023				<b>211,640</b>
	At 31 December 2022				200,000

The property required new windows during the period to maintain its future value.



<b>15. Flower fund</b>		
M&G Equities Fund for Charities:		
Market value at 1 January 2023	1,896	2,007
Gain/(loss) in the year	(45)	(111)
Market value at 31 December 2023	<b>1,851</b>	<b>1,896</b>

The flower fund was established to provide regular funds for flowers in church.

<b>16. Debtors</b>		
Tax recoverable	2,276	6,078
Hall and hut rents due	-	(73)
	<b>2,276</b>	<b>6,005</b>

<b>17. Deposit accounts at CBF</b>		
Fabric Fund		
Opening balance	109,698	108,273
Interest	3,515	1,425
Closing balance	<b>113,213</b>	<b>109,698</b>
Organ fund		
Opening balance	913	902
Interest	30	11
Closing balance	<b>943</b>	<b>913</b>
New roof fund		
Opening balance	11,248	11,102
Interest	361	146
Closing balance	<b>11,609</b>	<b>11,248</b>
New fabric fund		
Opening balance	5,010	4,944
Interest	160	66
Closing balance	<b>5,170</b>	<b>5,010</b>
General legacy fund		
Opening balance	15,362	15,163
Interest	492	199
Closing balance	<b>15,854</b>	<b>15,362</b>
Total deposits at 31 December	<b>146,789</b>	<b>142,231</b>

<b>18. Creditors</b>		
Falling due within one year		
Parish share	-	-
Accrual for utilities and other costs	5,357	14,510
Income received in advance	-	-
	<b>5,357</b>	<b>14,510</b>
Falling due after one year		
Provision for hall floor resurfacing	<b>1,000</b>	<b>1,000</b>

<b>19. Movement in restricted funds</b>		
New roof fund		
Opening balance	11,248	11,102
Incoming resources	361	146
Closing balance	<b>11,609</b>	<b>11,248</b>

The fund is invested in the New Roof Deposit Fund at CBF. The purpose of the New Roof Fund is to build up a fund for the eventual renewal of the church roof and the money retained in this fund was given for this specific purpose.

Hall refurbishment fund

Opening balance	1,131	1,131
Incoming resources	-	-
Closing balance	<b>1,131</b>	<b>1,131</b>
Total restricted funds at 31 December	<b>12,740</b>	<b>12,379</b>

All other restricted income received in the year was expended in the year.

## 20. Designated funds

During the year, the following amounts were allocated to designated funds from the general fund:

General legacy – to fund equipment/special expenditure	-	5,500
Children and families leader – build up to enable recruitment	-	5,000
Hall redevelopment – funding for future plans	-	-
Hut replacement – funding for future plans	-	-
Church refurbishment – funding for future plans	-	-
Gardens – funding for future plans	-	-
Contingency – reserves	-	-
	-	<b>10,500</b>

During the year interest was received on deposits relating to the following designated funds:

Fabric fund – to maintain the fabric of the church buildings	3,515	1,425
New fabric fund - to maintain the fabric of the church buildings	160	66
Organ fund – repair or maintenance of the organ	30	11
General legacy – to fund equipment or special projects	492	199

### Balances on designated funds at the year-end:

Fabric fund	113,213	109,698
New fabric fund	5,170	5,010
Organ fund	943	913
General legacy fund	29,354	28,862
Children and families leader	25,000	25,000
Hall redevelopment	2,500	2,500
Hut replacement	250	250
Church refurbishment	1,000	1,000
Gardens	250	250
Contingency	1,000	1,000

## 21. Staff salaries

Total	<b>5,184</b>	<b>5,908</b>
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The average number of staff employed during the year was 2.