



St.John's Church, Stratford, E15

APCM 2024

(ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING)

28th April 2024



(Community Event in May 2023)

**Incorporating the
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PCC AND AUDITED ACCOUNTS
For the Parish of St John with Christ Church Stratford**
(registered charity no.1132176)

For the year ended 31st December 2023

AGENDA | SERVICE ORDER

1. WELCOME
2. OPENING HYMN
 - Rejoice the Lord is King
3. OPENING PRAYER
4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 14TH MAY 2023
6. SONGS
 - Give thanks to the Lord, our God and King
 - Jesus' God's righteousness revealed
7. PRESENTATION & ELECTION
 - Election & Presentation of the Wardens
 - Presentation of the Church Electoral Roll
 - Presentation for Approval of Audited Accounts for the Year 2023 (attached)
 - Election & Presentation of P.C.C (Parochial Church Council) Members
 - Election & Presentation of Sidespersons
 - Election & Presentation of Deanery Synod Reps
 - Election of Auditor: Independent Examiner Mr. Peter Morley FCMA
8. A TIME FOR THANKSGIVING
9. SONG
 - Thank You, Jesus
10. REPORTS
 - Vicar's Report (attached)
 - Auditor's Report (attached)
 - Account Review for the year 2023 by Sandra Besson (Treasurer)
 - Churchwarden's Report during the sermon
11. BIBLE READINGS
 - 1 John 4:7-16, John 15:1-8
12. SERMON by Richard Aubrey
13. OFFERTORY HYMN
 - Holy Holy Holy
14. Q&A
15. FINAL HYMN
 - Guide me O thou Great Redeemer
16. CLOSING PRAYER
17. PROCESSIONAL SONG
 - These are the days of Elijah

- *Everyone is welcome to APCM. APCM gives us a space to celebrate what God has done at St John's over the year. Let us give thanks to the Lord.*
 - *Church Electoral Roll members and those who live in the parish are allowed to vote in the election of Parish Churchwardens if the election is necessary*
 - *Only Church Electoral Roll members are allowed to vote in other matters.*
 - *During Q & A, we may not be able to give you a complete answer to some questions straight away. In that case, we will come back to you soon another time.*

REVIEW OF 2023 [VICAR'S REPORT]

In the Gospel, according to Luke, we are reminded that Jesus 'grew in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man' (Luke 2:52). Reflecting on this verse during my sermon on New Year's Day in 2023, I emphasised the importance of communal growth in our spiritual journey, drawing parallels to how Jesus engaged with others to enhance his understanding and knowledge.

Likewise, I urge our congregation to seek spiritual enrichment through collective exploration of challenging questions alongside fellow believers at varying points in their own paths. As we endeavour to follow Christ's example together, let us assess our progress in wisdom and maturity throughout this year.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) provides an opportunity to evaluate our current position and discern the direction in which God is leading us. Below, I offer a brief overview of both our gratitude for the blessings received and areas requiring concerted prayer and support.

HIGHLIGHTS

Family: Lydia and Daniel have transitioned smoothly into their new academic settings, finding enjoyment in learning and forming new friendships. Maria, although initially feeling the absence of Lydia's company during her commute to school, has adapted well to her GCSE preparation. Additionally, Youjin finds fulfilment in her role within the primary school, and we are grateful for the convenient transportation links serving both our children and Youjin's workplace. Gratefully, my family's unwavering support and active involvement in various ministries have significantly enriched our church community. I am deeply thankful for their steadfast encouragement, which emboldens me to fulfil God's calling here in Stratford.

New Vision: Following a month of fervent prayer in September, we gathered words of encouragement and prophetic insights from the congregation to inform our church vision. Subsequently, in October 2023, our PCC and leadership team convened for a productive Away Day at Urswick School in Hackney. There, we collectively evaluated our ministry, discerned God's vision for St John's Church, and established our mission statements and priorities for the coming years. Details regarding our new vision can be found in the subsequent section.

CHALLENGES

Finance: Regrettably, we find ourselves in a deficit this year. The PCC has diligently endeavoured to

curtail unnecessary expenses while seeking avenues to augment our income, including initiatives such as Giving Sunday and grant applications. Consequently, we have been compelled to restructure our staffing, necessitating significant adjustments to our weekday operations.

Volunteers: While we rejoice in the emergence of new volunteers in 2023, further support is needed to fulfil God's mission in Stratford effectively. Central to our objectives is the cultivation of an ethos of participation, wherein each member engages in ministry at least once a month, fostering growth through service, as exemplified by Jesus.

Children & Young People: Elevating children and youth ministry to a priority in 2023, we gratefully welcomed Jill Duncan, the deanery youth champion, who has provided invaluable guidance and support over the past six months. Her efforts have notably enhanced our youth space, and it is incumbent upon us to sustain and build upon this momentum.

In addition to these highlighted challenges, we continue to face ongoing concerns such as building maintenance, heating, AV systems, and team development. Embracing the perspective that challenges present opportunities for advancement, I view our current financial constraints as a catalyst for progress, propelling us toward new horizons and promised blessings that await us in God's plan.

Therefore, I want to encourage you to keep seeking His Kingdom and His Righteousness first this coming year, and we will experience God's amazing miraculous provision for His Church and His Mission.

Reverend Young Lee, Vicar of St John's Church

OUR DIRECTION IN 2024

This can be found in the VISION DOCUMENT 2024-2034 on page 9 in this report.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE IN 2023

- Average Sunday morning attendance in 2023 is around 137 adults and 39 children
- By November 2023, we had run a monthly taster Sunday evening service called 'High Five'. Around 10 guests attended the service. Our ministry team will review and evaluate the service soon and make a strategic decision about its future.
- The electoral roll on the day of APCM is 266 (last year, 217).

LIFE EVENTS AT ST JOHN'S STRATFORD

- Baptism: We thank God for the gift of life through baptism. We had 12 baptisms in 2023.
- Confirmation: We had one confirmation service in November 2023. Nine candidates from St John's among others from different churches in the deanery were confirmed by the Bishop of Barking.
- Wedding/ blessings: we had no wedding in 2023
- Funerals: we conducted 7 funerals in the church building officiated by Rev. Young Lee.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL, MINISTRY TEAM AND SIDESPERSONS IN 2023
MINISTERS

Revd Young Lee (since July 2022)
 Nick Bryzak (Associate Minister)

CHURCH WARDENS

Tolu Babarinsa
 Corin Barton
 Richard Aubrey
 Bridget Richards

PCC MEMBERS

Chuks Asuoha, Chizoma Onwuka
 Hannah Thomas-Davies
 Justine Onu, Folu Fabikun
 Eon Wade (Evangelism Enabler)
 Jimi Peter , Lydia Quartey
 Ihinosen Jane Ajayi, Beverly Slingo
 Linda Ikenga , Sandra Besson (Treasurer)
 Ayodele Olunloyo (Deanery Synod Representative)
 Dolapo Ariyibi (Safeguarding Officer/ Deanery Synod Representative)

The followings are invited to be attendance at PCC meetings

Iris Bryzak (Lay Reader)
 Sheva Williams (Lay Reader)
 Dan Scott (Community minister at Christchurch Three Mills)

STAFF TEAM

Parish Administrator: Kay Garib
 Verger: Radcliff Facey

SIDESPERSIONS

Alister Probert, Ohi Bare, Grace Barnwell
 Sylvia Beckles, Millie Benjamin
 John Burman, Yvonne Edwards
 Mike Ibiayo, Daniel Ogbondah
 Blessing Ogbondah, Sarah Olemoh-Soyemi
 Justine Onu, Bunmi Opedare,
 Dola Peters, Jimi Peters
 Judy Quasie, Bridget Richards, Gideon Ugwu

PARISH CHURCH COUNCIL AGENDAS AND EVENTS MAY 2023 TO MARCH 2024

Report Date: 19th April 2024.

Prepared by: Sandra Ballentine, Parish Secretary.

Purpose of Report:

This report highlights the main agendas and issues discussed by PCC members during May 2023 to March 2024.

Recommendations:

That the Annual Parochial Church meeting consider and note the contents of this report.

Background:

The **Parish Church Council (PCC)** is made up of **22 church members who are elected annually**. The PCC has responsibility for a range of things including the care and maintenance of the church and its contents, responsibility for the conduct of the financial affairs of the church and functions in relation to church services and administration.

In performing their duties PCC members must act with integrity, honesty and openness and act in the best interests of the church at all times and ensure that the church's activities remain true to its mission and purpose .

1.Youth Work

St John's was blessed to have the services of Jill Duncan (Deanery Youth Champion) who provided support for 6 months and assisted with developing youth work with young church members. Jill's focus was to:

- build the spirituality of our youth including Teen Live and YPS,
- together with church members find ways to engage with young church members,
- consider how to get young people to return to church once they go off to university.

Jill also assisted with developing youth sessions and syllabus's and provided training to the youth volunteers.

1.1. Baby & Parent Group

This group was started to provide support to parents with young babies and although the numbers are small the group meet regularly and is going well.

1.2.Ignite Youth Club

A number of events were run by young church leaders which had an impact on a lot of young

people locally. The events were positive and went well.

1.3. The Youth Room

The youth room was redecorated to make it a better space for young people. The aim was for them to make the space their own, make it more welcoming and give them more ownership of their space. Funding was obtained from the dioceses to purchase new sofas, other furnishings such as lamps, bean bags and updated youth bibles were also obtained from church funds. The improvements made to the youth room have been a great success.

1.4 Youth Outing.

A trip to the Tower of London was a success.

2. St John's Building and Church House

- The church door was painted.
- The rental and repairs to 29 Maryland Road were completed.
- The Crypt has potential to be used and a review of its use was undertaken.
- The Church Yard. There was an issue with people putting up tents in the church yard who then become difficult to move on.
- External funding provided by the Police and Council will be used to put up lighting outside in the church yard to improve lighting the area as a safety measure and be of benefit to St John's. The lighting will be maintained by the council and is an opportunity to improve lighting in the external areas of the church building.
- New lighting for the Christ Church and St Stephen's rooms was provided following a contribution made by a donor.
- Improvement works continue to be made to the sound and visual system in the church. Tayo, one of our beloved sisters in Christ who sadly passed away resting in God's eternal peace, donated a new keyboard for our worship band and some financial contributions to improve our systems.
- The church website has also been reformed and improved.

3. Church Finances

Financially things were challenging during 2023 and remain so because income receipts were down, and rents were also down. Further the church insurance payments were increased year on year and also needed to be reviewed. Church finances also involved a review on restructuring staffing needs and resources.

Church finances will be kept tightly under review as we weather the effects of the cost-of-living crisis and

increased prices for food, gas, and electricity. It remains incumbent on PCC members to ensure we remain financially resilient and make best use of resources.

3.1. Room Rental Charges

The room rental charges had not been reviewed or increased for 5 years which meant the rooms were being rented at a loss. Following a review it was proposed that room rental charges were increased from January 2024.

3.2. Mission Giving

There was a review of donations given to organisation and charities some of whom are local, who rely on our support. Our mission giving of 10% represents our commitment to making a difference to people's lives. It is faith giving and one way where peoples giving can make a difference.

4. Mission Activities and Events.

4.1. PCC Away Day

This took place at Urswick School and provided an opportunity for PCC members to brainstorm, reflect and contribute to the new vision for St John's. The new vision incorporated listening, vision, discernment, and commitment.

4.2 PCC Breakfast.

This included an inspiring presentation by Charles Thomas-Davies, the chair of the building committee, on future works being considered.

4.3. The Bereavement Course.

This was held at St John's. It was well attended and went well.

4.4. The Marriage Course.

This was held at St John's for couples intending to get married. It was well attended and went well.

4.5. The Lent Course.

This was held online and was well received.

4.6. Future Courses.

St John's will host and facilitate the following course during 2024 designed to equip and build up the saints: The Pastoral Care. Part 1 and The Alpha course.

REPORT ENDS.

MINISTRY REPORT FOR 2023**12-16s BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION COURSE**

The 2023 Baptism and Confirmation Course for young people aged 12-16 took place again this year, culminating in the annual Confirmation Service in November with Bishop Lynn.

What happened over the year?

Eight young people completed the 10 week course and went forward for Confirmation. It was a privilege for myself and Richard Aubrey to guide them through their learning and reflection. We saw growth in the young people's spiritual development and personal relationship with God. They were able to explore themes such as the Christian faith, the Bible, Prayer, the Holy Spirit and the Church.

What do you want to celebrate?

The Confirmation Service was a celebration of a very significant milestone for the young people and a chance to welcome them, along with two adult candidates, into formal membership of the Church of England. The young people were able to choose some of the music and invite family and friends to support them in their profession of faith.

Following the service we were able to present all the candidates with a Bible funded from the profits of the Bookstall. We were also able to have some fun on a trip to the Tower of London. The November weather was very cold, but we warmed up with hot chocolate and a glimpse of the Crown Jewels!

What are the challenges?

As we prepare for this year's course, we are conscious of the need to develop our young people's Bible literacy in an age where reading trends are changing and young people increasingly live in a digital world. We also need to think about how to encourage the link between membership of the Church and opportunities for young people to serve and develop their unique gifts.

How can the church pray for your ministry?

Please pray for the leaders as we begin this year's course in a few months time. Please pray for any young people thinking about Baptism or Confirmation, that they will know God's calling on their life and be excited to develop their relationship with him.

Reported by Corin Barton (Churchwarden)

**BUILDINGS COMMITTEE REPORT – APRIL 2024**

The Buildings Committee exists to keep an eye for the PCC on the condition and performance of our buildings, and to ultimately ensure that we can safely and operationally use our building for mission and ministry, plus as an appropriate physical contributor to our local community.

In recent months, we have been considering to what extent the church building needs to better serve the needs of the church. At present the building and its context are tired, under-maintained, under-utilised (through the week) and falling short of their potential to become a net contributor to the positive life and finances of the church.

We are so blessed to have lots of space available in an exceptional location, but we are reviewing how as a church body need to make targeted interventions to leave a positive legacy to future generations of our community – at present we have a leaking roof, an unsustainable heating system, toilets in very poor condition, high vacancy rates and mediocre inclusivity within and around the building for those with additional needs (in the context of current best practice).

This bleak context presents an exciting opportunity – an opportunity to put together a comprehensive strategy to reposition the building as a heritage asset that is relevant to Stratford in 2024 and beyond, and secure third party (substantial) funding to help us achieve our ambitious objectives for the building, plus help us 'catch up' with maintenance that we can't afford to undertake without external support.

We are currently in the process of identifying potential partners and seeking to discern the appropriate interventions in order to move this forward. Over the coming years, we hope to identify a brief, develop a design, seek funding, and then implement the physical interventions required in a considered and prayerful way.

Prayer would be very welcome for:

- Great discussions that lead to direction and agreement of the level of ambition for maximum long term impact.
- Boldness to aim high – I believe St John's ought to be a beacon of life on Broadway – we need to make sure our local community can get a sense welcome and of what we

are about despite our big black railings and gates!

- Partners to work with us and support us to refresh our building and facilities to help everyone to encounter with Jesus, equip the saints and empower the community.
- Continued focus on Jesus and our vision as a church at the centre of this conversation – we are here for Him, and not to fundraise for a new roof!

In addition to the church building, The Buildings Committee keeps an eye on a house known as 29 Maryland Park which is currently leased to a tenant. It has historically been the home of curates training at St John's, but whilst we have no curate, it is providing financial support that is funding the day to day activities of the church – this isn't a sustainable position, as this property itself requires a substantial amount of maintenance. We have been very blessed that the tenant agreed to make investments into the condition of the building as part of the lease agreement.

Reported by Charles Thomas-Davies (Chair of the Building Committee)

BIBLE WITH BABY



[Photo shared with permission]

Bible with Baby started in October 2023. We read a Bible story to our children then read some of the verses in the Bible ourselves and discuss what the verses mean to us. We normally meet in the St. Stephen's room at church but have also had an outing together to the Maritime Museum in Greenwich. We've had some fantastic discussions about whether Pharaoh would give Joseph a job in a modern dictatorship, the status of women in the Bible and the importance of children. Meeting together in the week has meant that parents who

came to church occasionally are coming more regularly and we are building a community of young parents within the Sunday service. Parents really appreciate an opportunity to discuss deeper topics and create relationships with other parents within the congregation. We are looking forward to more parents joining our group now it is established.

Reported by Hannah Thomas-Davies (PCC)



FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

The fundraising committee is responsible for looking for external funding to cover various St John's projects. Last year we successfully applied and won a £10k grant, for fixing the roof of the extension. We are currently looking into our 2024 projects, which require external funding. We are also looking for innovative ways to raise funds. We are always on the lookout for others to join the fundraising team.

Reported by Folu Fabikun (PCC, Chair of Fundraising Committee)



FACEBOOK LIVE EVENING PRAYER

The vision of the FB evening prayer is to continue in daily fellowship through worship, prayer, and the word of God. The Purpose is to encourage parishioners to continue fellowship during the week, by praising God together, sharing the word of God, to be encouraged and grow in faith.

What happened over the year?

There was an increase in numbers of those who attended the evening prayer, as more people joined to pray.

What do you want to celebrate?

Ongoing prayers and fellowship to encourage our parishioners daily during the week

What are the challenges?

The challenges we faced were advertising and getting more people to attend the fellowship.

How can the church pray for your ministry?

Pray for hearts that want to join in to pray for others.

Pray for hearts to be drawn, changed, and transformed.

Pray for more volunteers for the evening prayer.

Pray for more grace and strength for the current team that lead the evening prayer.

Reported by Ayo (Licensed Lay Minister, PCC)



FAITH IN SCHOOLS

Purpose & Vision - Our aim is for every child and young person in Newham schools to have the opportunity to meet local Christians from nearby churches and find out what it means to be a Christian. Our vision is that children across their Key Stages, have the opportunity to encounter the gospel, experience a diverse range of Christian denomination perspectives. We also want to enable churches and schools to build relationships.

Celebrations – Christmas Journey and Easter Experience



In addition to these cross-church events, we are glad to say that despite the retirement of one of our schools' workers in August, we have prioritised school visits to St Johns on request. Since last report, these schools include: School 21, Stratford Manor, Hartley, Scott Wilkie and Mossbourne Riverside Academy.

Challenges -

- **Fundraising.** We are about 45% towards our target of regular giving for sustaining our work beyond August. We need another 163 people or churches to give £10 a month (or equivalent). Next steps - summer fundraiser by FIS team; more publicity for Firm Foundation campaign.
- **Volunteer recruitment** This is a perennial task due to turbulence of people coming but then also going through various reasons. Next steps – Continue to offer 121 or church-based training (online or in person). Keep this as a prayer point in all

prayer networks – especially being specific about the numbers of volunteers needed for each event – that worked well at EE. With church leaders overwhelmed with emails and whatsapps, do we need to ask them

to **delegate an admin contact**

person who can field our messages?

- **Areas where we have no designated worker (includes Stratford)** really relies on associate church ownership and varying levels of commitment. Volunteer and school liaison much slower going – since not building on regular school visits anymore. Next steps - some sessional liaison/admin support at the pinch points of CJ and EE.

Reported by Alice Probert (Schools Team Leader Faith in Schools Newham)



END OF MONTH NIGHT PRAYER

Vision – Our vision is to become a praying church and to raise intercessors (1 Tim 1:1-8).

Prayer is usually the backbone of the church and a house of prayer (Mark 11:17). The vision is to ensure that we raise intercessors that can pray and intercede on behalf of the church, families, community, nation, and world at large on a regular basis.

Purpose - The purpose of the end of month night prayer is for a time to m

What happened over the year?

Many prayers were answered during 2023, we had many testimonies of healing, protection, provision and we had more people praying and joining us in fellowship.

What do you want to celebrate?

Increased Boldness and Confidence of members
Great encouragement for more to participate in our fellowship. The Holy Spirit is constantly working in hearts and has given confidence to participate in the prayer group.
Increased Growth, increase in the number of intercessors.

What are the challenges?

We still need more of our church members to rise to the task of praying, Jesus prayed, and we should also pray without ceasing, so how can our other members join us?

We need to think of a way to encourage our members to join us in prayers.

How can the church pray for your ministry?

Pray for the Holy Spirit to continue to lead and direct us aright.

Pray for the zeal and desire to pray more within our congregation/members.

Pray for our current intercessors to be bold and encouraged in the Lord.

Pray for grace for current intercessors to stand strong in this ministry.

Reported by Ayo (Licensed Lay Minister, PCC)



GAZEBO TEAM

Evangelists for St. John's church since 2013 call to spread the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ outside the foundation walls of the church. Jesus has given us the great commission to "go therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you. The aim of our outreach team is to reach out to the public and spread the Gospel news.

It's good to celebrate that the Lord has given us the ability to come together in accord to spread good news and share our own testimony about how our Lord Jesus has changed our lives for the better. There are also many challenges we go through during our outreaches but God through our prayers always meets our needs to stay focused on our purpose in what we do in spreading the good news.

Reported by Eon Wade (Evangelism Enabler, PCC)



GRIME BUSTERS

The team consist of 5 people, namely Iris, Constance, Rose, Arnold and myself Lydia.

Our main ministry is to make sure the Church is clean for Sunday worship. We normally clean on Saturdays at 10:30 am for about an hour.

Sometimes we do get the chance to clean on Fridays from 3pm, which gives us a rest on Saturday. Normally we rotate monthly, which means we each take a turn to clean just 1 Saturday in a month with others, meaning 2 or 3 people. It involves vacuuming, dusting and wiping surfaces. Also cleaning the glass doors. We do enjoy cleaning the Church and a very satisfying thing to do.

I personally enjoy seeing people in Church on Sunday after I have cleaned it.

To GOD be the glory.

Come and join the ministry.

Give your time, only an hour every month.

GOD bless you all and give you HIS peace.

Reported by Lydia Quartey (PCC)



HEALING CAFÉ

This ministry is part of St. John's Church outreach, run mainly by myself and Iris also by other members of the prayer ministry team. We meet every Tuesday except after a bank holiday sometimes we may use those days for special occasions such as outings. The purpose of our meeting is to serve all people in the community and beyond through listening and befriending. We strive to extend God's love to all who come to us even if it is just for a cup of tea and a biscuit. We never judge anyone but treat everyone with kindness and respect.

During the year we continued to offer one to one prayer if requested, mini chair exercises, Bible reading with discussion, general prayers including those left on the church prayer board. We also played soft worship music and served a hot meal. Although this meal had to be reduced to fortnightly due to the inflation cost and also shortage of helpers with catering. Our away day to Southend was very enjoyable as was our fun day in the church yard.

I applied for a grant of £9,600 from Newham council through People Powered Places to promote the Healing Café. I was successful in getting it because many people saw our need to expand on the things we do for others and voted for our project. As a result we are now offering a hot meal weekly, a monthly mini massage, a trip to Southend seaside by train with lunch provided. Also a coach outing to the seaside in the summer, and a Christmas lunch followed by a walk to Stratford theatre to see the Pantomime Pinocchio, to round off the year.

We thank God for the grant, it is used to reduce the cost of these fun days to help people on low income who would not have been able to take part. Please pray for our ongoing communications with the Council to be successful and for more people to join the Healing café and to feel the love of God.

Reported by Sheva Williams (Healing Café Leader/Reader)



MISSION GIVING COMMITTEE (MGC)

In line with the Christian task of giving, St John's commits 10% of its budgeted offerings to mission giving, along with our support by building personal links and through prayer. It is part of our calling as the Church on earth to seek to bring God's hope and love to others in need and to fulfil Jesus's command to 'love our neighbour as ourselves'.

What happened over the year?

The MGC met several times throughout the year to pray for and discuss any changes and updates with our current regular giving and our emergency giving.

We started supporting a new charity Open Doors. We had interesting and informative visits from some of our charity groups, who gave presentations during the morning services of who they are and what they do.

What do you want to celebrate?

Celebrate that we can give support for local based, national, and international causes and projects.

Celebrate that we can assist missionaries to 'go and make disciples of all nations' (Matthew 28:19)

What are the challenges?

There is never enough money to be able to give to all the charities who request help from the church so we need to have discernment about who and how much to give.

We need people who are keen to be involved and would like to become members of the committee as current numbers are low.

How can the church pray for your ministry?

- Pray for the committee to be effective in their duties and decision making for the benefit of the charities, for the Glory of God.
- Pray for new people from the congregation to want to join the committee to help with its running as we need to replace members who have left the committee.

Reported by Sarah Turner (Chair of Mission Giving Committee)



PRAYER MINISTRY

The purpose of prayer ministry is to help ourselves and others to grow deeper in the faith and love of Christ by believing in His promises to hear and help us when we call on Him in Spirit and truth. Our vision is to see a powerful move of God's healing hand on every member in St John's church and for His love in us to be extended to the wider community.

I am happy to say that I believe the fear of being infected with coronavirus is now lifted. The dark cloud is removed, people are feeling safe to come forward to the prayer chapel for private prayer and to be touched.

During the year we have had two well attended sessions of refresher course. These courses are essential to bring prayer ministers together, one minister requested more time for prayer ministers to pray together. In these meetings we reviewed the rules and regulations on safeguarding and general guidelines. We read bible passages relating to the ministry and celebrated what God has done for us through the year. We also reflected on those who came forward to thank God for answering our prayers. Lastly, we prayed for each other with anointing and the laying on of hands.

We would appreciate your prayers for us and for more people to join this vital ministry. Also for the Spirit of God to move upon the hearts of those who would like to come forward for prayer but are reluctant because of the fear of being judged.

Reported by Sheva Williams (Prayer Ministry Leader/Reader)



PRAYER WALKS

Our monthly prayer walks, which cover St John's parish in eighteen months, have three purposes:

- to make people aware that St John's is their parish church and to give them information on our services, and invite them to join us,
- to tell them that we are always ready to pray for them and with them,
- and to make sure that Pat and I get our exercise, especially in the tall blocks!

We pray and listen as we walk, asking for the Holy Spirit to break through the barriers that

people erect, and praying that finding the cards might spark an interest in those who receive them. Over the years there have been some responses and we are always aware that we may be the only ones praying for these people. We pray for peace among the streets we visit and for God's kingdom to come in each place. Anyone is welcome to join, whenever they can.

Reported by Iris (Prayer Walks leader, Reader)

❖-----❖

PASTORAL CARE

There are some of our members who through sickness, disability or age, can no longer come to our services. Some are happy to catch up on line but others welcome a home visit. As Pat is now serving at Christchurch, Three Mills, it's been my privilege to visit these members to take them Holy Communion and spend time with them. Some are living with a family member, others in sheltered accommodation or residential care. Pat is available continue to share some of these visits and I'm grateful for that. All like to have someone to listen and to hear news of St John's. We read the Bible together, discuss the message, pray and share Communion. Numbers change: some have gone to glory and others have moved away to be nearer their families. New names have been added.

We have a large congregation and we aren't always aware that someone is no longer able to attend either temporarily or for the foreseeable future, and would like a visit. If you know someone in this situation, please let either Young or myself know and we will contact them to arrange a visit. We are the Lord's family and it's important that no-one feels forgotten or left out.

Reported by Iris (Prayer Walks leader, Reader)

❖-----❖

SUNDAY CLUB

We meet on Sundays during the morning service, we consist of four groups which are split into age groups.

The Ark: age 1-4 which include school nursery.
Kingdom Kids: reception and year 1,2,3
The J Team: school year: 4,5,6
Teen Live: school year: 7,8,9

Our purpose and Vision are to help our children to understand their journey, getting to know Jesus, each group has its own lesson plan, which includes bible reading and a range of activities to help them understand the bible reading.. the children enjoy the craft and role play activities.. we aim to provide stimulating activities for the children to keep them focused and interested, The children will let us know what they enjoy and don't, which is very useful.

We have a dedicated team of Leaders and Assistants Who run the groups, on behalf of myself and Richard we would like to say a big Thank You for your time and dedication to our children.. Please pray for us to recruit new volunteers for Sunday Club.

Bridget Richards (Sunday Club leader, Churchwarden)

❖-----❖

FINANCIAL REVIEW

During 2023, PCC income from direct giving was £115,597 which was £13,069 less than 2022 mainly due to a reduction in specified donations. Rental Income was £30,599, down £19,097 from 2022.

Running expenses fell from £183,644 to £159,440 with reduced parish share payments and efforts to contain costs.

During the year St John's donated a total of £10,525 to various organisations, in line with our Mission and Charity donations policy to allocate up to 10% of giving income to charitable and mission work.

We have now transferred all amounts due to Christ Church Three Mills. Transfers to other funds are shown in the full financial statements.

The net result for the year, in the general fund was a deficit of £22,736.

RESERVES POLICY:

Our policy is to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds, (if possible), which equates to approximately six months unrestricted payments. This policy is based on the following factors:

- Church membership is constantly changing within a community with a very transient population. Members' giving is therefore subject to fluctuation.
- Rents received for use of space in St John's church building are also subject to fluctuation because most users are community groups or

Local Government departments and are dependent on funding decisions for continued bookings.

- St. John's has significant liabilities for staff salaries and utilities, and upcoming heavy repair bills to the building, particularly the roof.

The balance in the St John's General Fund at the end of 2022 was completely wiped out by the deficit for 2023. The PCC must aim to restore the balance to our target level with increased fundraising throughout 2024 and beyond.

St. John's has a designated Capital Asset Fund totalling £62,000 to meet some expected costs for building fabric and equipment replacement.

Reported by Sandra Besson (Treasurer)

❖-----❖

SAFEGUARDING

We (the PCC) are committed to Safeguarding children, young people, victims/ perpetrators of domestic abuse and vulnerable adults. The PCC has adopted the Church of England's policies and best practice on safeguarding which may be found on the Church of England's website.

Our Parish Safeguarding Officer is Mrs Omodolapo Peters who may be contacted at church or by email at safeguarding@stjohnse15.org. No safeguarding issues were reported during 2023.

ST.JOHN'S VISION DOCUMENT 2024- 2034

Our Identity: Who We Are

- **We are gospel-centred:** St John's Church is a church built on the foundation of Jesus Christ. Jesus is central in how we make decisions, what we say and the actions we take. 1 Corinthians 3:11 "For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ."
- **We are a worshipping community:** We were created for a relationship with God and others. Our worship together is an expression of our relationship. Ephesians 5:19-20, "...instead, be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."
- **We are a diverse, loving community:** The salvation message of John 3:16 is a reminder that the gospel of Jesus Christ is for EVERYONE. St John's Church is diverse and offers the love of God to everyone in our community.

Our Value: What's Important to Us

- Be a gospel-centred church and not a political-centred church
- Every-Person Ministry: We grow by serving God and others. Therefore, we believe that everyone is called to a ministry of service.
- Growing the next generation in Christian faith and leadership is one of our best investments.
- We acknowledge that diversity is our blessing, and it strengthens the community.
- We believe that the local parish church is God's plan A for His mission. We are God's plan A for the transformation and thriving of our community in Stratford.

Vision Statement

Jesus said, "I came to give life – life in all its fullness." (John 10:10)

Therefore, we want to see

Lives Transformed and Communities Thrive by God's Love in Action.

Mission Statement

Our mission is to help **Everyone** to

- **Encounter with Jesus,**
- **Equip the saints** and

- **Empower the community** through the good news of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Our Priorities

• Encountering with Jesus

1. Building up weekday bible study/fellowship group
 - *Actions and timeframe required*
2. Promoting more prayers, both individual and corporate
 - Prayer course [during Lent 2024]
 - Introduce creative ways of corporate prayer during the service [occasionally]
3. Creating a seeker-friendly faith space
 - Run Alpha Course in 2024
 - Arrange a joint event with Through Faith Missions [after Easter 2024]
 - Producing 'Welcome Pack' for newcomers

• Equipping the saints

1. Growing Children & Youth Group
 - Promoting more volunteers [on Giving Sunday 2023]
 - Volunteers training [ongoing with Jill D]
 - YPF Room decoration [before Christmas 2023]
 - New curriculum [ongoing with Richard]
 - Social and outdoor activities [first trip to the Tower of London in November]
 - Change of our approach and attitude to the children and young people through teaching and learning – the culture of honour [constantly]
2. Every-Person Ministry
 - Giving Sunday [November 2023] for both financial and gift(skill) giving
 - Teaching and learning that **EVERYONE** is called to a ministry of service [constantly]
 - Creating 'Connect Card'
 - Structure the team ministry: identifying team leaders and members, drawing a ministry map [by the end of November 2023]
 - Rebuild Pastoral Care Team in 2024
 - Promoting the Culture of Honour: **EVERYONE** is valuable and has an inherent worth of God.[constantly] A new Teaching Series on Sunday [New year 2024]

• Empowering the community

1. Church buildings & technology for mission: How can we make the building best for the mission and to empower the community?
 - Launch the next 5 years Building Project *[Need to set timeframe]*
 - a) St John's Centre refurbishments: painting, floor, roof, toilet and security
 - b) Crypt refurbishments
 - c) Main church sound and visual system upgrade, including organ
 - Case Study: "A Creative Church for a Creative Community" project – St Mary's Walthamstow.
<https://www.stmaryswalthamstow.org/creativechurch/>
 - Music Hall project:
<https://www.stmaryswalthamstow.org/music-hall/>
 - New website and digital church management [by the end of November 2023]
 - ◇ New website design via Wix
 - ◇ New subscription to ChurchSuite for digital church management
2. Rebuild the partnership with Through Faith Mission and Stratford Churches Together.
 - Mission Week with TFM and Stratford Churches Together in 2024
 - Resume 'Love Stratford' event with Stratford churches together [summer 2024]
3. Ministry & space for University Students in partnership with Stratford BID
 - Welcome to Stratford Event [September 2024]
 - Monthly Students curry or culture night [Oct, Nov 2024]
 - ◇ A taster evening: Christmas meal for students [December 2023]

This vision document is organic. As our church grows, our vision grows. We will review our vision and priorities annually at the next Leadership Team Away Day in 2024.

Presented at the PCC meeting on 13th September 2023

By Revd. Young Lee

PARISH OF STRATFORD: ST JOHN'S
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER STATEMENT

Friday, 19 April 2024

I report to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St. John's Stratford (St. John's) on my examination of the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the PCC of St. John's you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

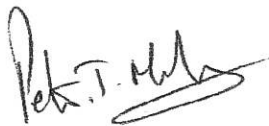
I report in respect of my examination of St John's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of St. John's as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the 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.



Peter Morley FCMA CGMA
51 Chalkwell Esplanade
Westcliff-on-Sea
Essex
SS0 8JH

PARISH OF STRATFORD: ST JOHN'S

MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

St Johns General Fund Income & Expenditure Account

Income	2023		2022	
	£	£	£	£
<u>Voluntary Income</u>				
Planned giving: Gift Aid donations	55,037.82		58,751.58	
Planned giving: Tax recovered	20,824.74		18,549.44	
Planned giving: Other	15,255.74		18,188.02	
Collections (open plate)	18,780.70		14,519.20	
Donations, appeals etc.	5,698.03		18,657.63	
		115,597.03		128,665.87
<u>Activities for Generating Funds</u>				
Donations for Heating	(320.00)		-	
		(320.00)		-
<u>Income from Investments</u>				
Dividends and interest including tax recoverable	1,263.50		683.49	
		1,263.50		683.49
<u>Church Activities</u>				
Contributions for use of Church & Hall	30,599.32		49,696.11	
Fees	565.40		1,342.00	
		31,164.72		51,038.11
<u>Other incoming resources</u>				
Other	2,025.23		562.64	
		2,025.23		562.64
<u>Transfers from other funds</u>				
Assigned from Housing Fund	-		-	
Assigned from Three Mills	-		2,594.42	
Assigned from Healing Café	-		210.00	
Assigned from Javelin Fund	-		435.35	
		-		3,239.77
Total Income		149,730.48		184,189.88

PARISH OF STRATFORD: ST JOHN'S

MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

St Johns General Fund Income & Expenditure Account

<i>Expenditure</i>	2023		2022	
	£	£	£	£
<u>Costs of generating voluntary income</u>				
Giving Envelopes	116.84		113.44	
		116.84		113.44
<u>Fund-raising and trading costs</u>				
	-		-	
<u>Church Activities</u>				
Missionary and charitable giving	-		-	
Ministry - Diocesan parish share	66,050.88		78,871.68	
Ministry - Expenses	1,562.40		4,476.69	
Church - running expenses	29,542.07		34,183.02	
Church maintenance	7,430.80		5,994.70	
Upkeep of services	627.66		646.71	
Support Costs	2,158.26		1,534.75	
Other PCC Property Upkeep (see Housing Fund)				
Major repairs (structure) (see separate Fabric Fund)				
Salaries/wages/honoraria	46,867.69		47,600.97	
Printing and stationery	1,077.84		1,973.27	
Administration	1,445.84		1,543.24	
Equipment	880.96		816.73	
Depreciation	(152.42)		4,303.72	
Sundry Expenditure	1,947.95		1,698.20	
		159,439.93		183,643.68
<u>Assigned to Other Funds</u>				
Assigned to Charities Fund [R]	10,300.00		10,438.00	
Assigned to Healing Café	210.00		-	
Assigned to Building Repair Fund [R]	-		635.05	
Assigned to Housing Fund [R]	-		925.08	
Assigned to Three Mills	2,400.00		-	
Assigned to Capital Asset Fund	-		7,500.00	
		12,910.00		19,498.13
Total Expenditure	172,466.77		203,255.25	
Deficit for year	(22,736.29)		(19,065.37)	
Opening net assets at 1 January	21,420.92		40,486.29	
Closing net assets at 31 December	(1,315.37)		21,420.92	

PARISH OF STRATFORD: ST JOHN'S

MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Three Mills Income & Expenditure Account - Restricted Fund

	2023		2022	
<i>Income</i>	£	£	£	£
<u>Voluntary Income</u>				
Planned giving: Gift Aid donations	-		9,935.00	
Planned giving: Tax recovered	-		-	
Planned giving: Other	-		-	
Collections (open plate)	(0.00)		1,663.04	
Donations, appeals etc.	0.00		33,259.04	
		0.00		44,857.08
Assigned from St Johns General Fund	2,400.00		-	
Grants	-		1,925.00	
		2,400.00		1,925.00
Total Receipts		2,400.00		46,782.08
<i>Payments</i>				
<u>Church Activities</u>				
Ministry - Expenses	-		331.95	
Church - running expenses	2,400.00		9,146.97	
Upkeep of services	-		1,191.61	
Support Costs	-		2,733.35	
Publicity	-		2,009.56	
Missions	-		5,358.66	
Administration	-		506.65	
Equipment	-		1,335.21	
Sundry Expenditure	0.00		2,210.62	
Extraordinary Expenditure	-		19,835.66	
		2,400.00		53,874.08
<u>Assigned to Other Funds</u>				
Assign to General Fund	-		2,594.42	
		-		2,594.42
Total Expenditure		2,400.00		56,468.50
Excess of Income over Expenditure		-		(9,686.42)
Opening net assets at 1 January		-		9,686.42
Closing net assets at 31 December		-		-

PARISH OF STRATFORD: ST JOHN'S

MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

St Johns Capital Asset Fund Income & Expenditure Account - Designated Fund				
	2023		2022	
<i>Income</i>	£	£	£	£
Assigned from St Johns General Fund	-		7,500.00	
Donations, appeals etc.	10,000.00			
		10,000.00		7,500.00
<i>Expenditure</i>				
Profit / Loss on disposal	-		-	
		-		-
Excess of Income over Expenditure		10,000.00		7,500.00
<i>Balance with General Fund & CBF</i>				
General Fund Holdings	6,650.82		49,480.02	
CBF	47,541.87			
		54,192.69		49,480.02
<i>Historic Costs, to be carried forward</i>				
Computer Equipment	4,041.09		3,154.18	
Kitchen	1,914.00		1,914.00	
Church (Heaters)	8,600.01		8,600.01	
Café	1,600.00		1,600.00	
Print Room	9,256.75		5,008.75	
Heater - Christchurch Room	7,018.86		7,018.86	
Television / Video	1,108.96		1,108.96	
Music Equipment	2,714.00		2,714.00	
Flat Roof	25,000.00		25,000.00	
		61,253.67		56,118.76
<i>Accumulated Depreciation, to be carried forward</i>				
Computer Equipment Depreciation	2,585.74		2,490.71	
Kitchen Depreciation	1,831.20		1,831.20	
Church (Heaters) Depreciation	8,137.06		8,309.81	
Café Depreciation	1,600.00		1,600.03	
Print Room Depreciation	5,009.26		5,008.75	
Heater - Christchurch Room Depreciation	5,581.87		5,581.87	
Television / Video Depreciation	987.20		987.20	
Music Equipment Depreciation	2,714.03		2,789.21	
Flat Roof Depreciation	25,000.00		25,000.00	
		53,446.36		53,598.78
Opening net assets at 1 January		52,000.00		44,500.00
Closing net assets at 31 December		62,000.00		52,000.00

PARISH OF STRATFORD: ST JOHN'S

MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

St Johns Charities Fund Income & Expenditure Account - Restricted Fund

	2023		2022	
<i>Income</i>	£	£	£	£
Charity Income	-	-	-	-
Assigned from St Johns General Fund	<u>10,300.00</u>	10,300.00	<u>10,438.00</u>	10,438.00
<i>Expenditure</i>				
Missionary and charitable giving	<u>10,525.00</u>	10,525.00	<u>9,395.00</u>	9,395.00
Deficit for year		(225.00)		1,043.00
Opening net assets at 1 January		2,217.32		1,174.32
Closing net assets at 31 December		1,992.32		2,217.32

PARISH OF STRATFORD: ST JOHN'S

MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

St Johns Javelin Fund Income & Expenditure Account - Designated Fund

	2023		2022	
<i>Income</i>	£	£	£	£
Donations, appeals etc.	4,500.00		-	
		4,500.00		-
<i>Expenditure</i>				
Missions	-		-	
Sundry Expenditure	-		-	
		-		-
<u>Assigned to Other Funds</u>				
Assign to General Fund	-		435.35	
		-		435.35
Excess of Income over Expenditure		4,500.00		(435.35)
Opening net assets at 1 January		-		435.35
Closing net assets at 31 December		4,500.00		-

PARISH OF STRATFORD: ST JOHN'S

MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

St Johns Bookstall Fund Income & Expenditure Account - Designated Fund

	2023		2022	
<i>Income</i>	£	£	£	£
Bookstall Income	200.00		-	
		200.00		-
<i>Expenditure</i>				
Bookstall Expenditure	124.40		-	
		124.40		-
<u>Assigned to Other Funds</u>				
Assign to General Fund	-		-	
		-		-
Excess of Income over Expenditure		75.60		-
Opening net assets at 1 January		1,183.50		1,183.50
Closing net assets at 31 December		1,259.10		1,183.50

Parish Housing Fund Income & Expenditure Account - Restricted Fund

	2023		2022	
<i>Income</i>	£	£	£	£
Rental Income	16,767.00		-	
Assigned from St Johns General Fund	-		925.08	
Assign from Housing Capital Fund [E]	-		-	
		16,767.00		925.08
<i>Expenditure</i>				
29 Maryland Park				
Insurance	400.01		373.63	
Water	68.86		379.45	
Repairs	400.00		220.00	
		868.87		973.08
<u>Assigned to Other Funds</u>				
Assign to General Fund	-		-	
		-		-
Excess of Income over Expenditure		15,898.13		(48.00)
Opening net assets at 1 January		(48.00)		-
Closing net assets at 31 December		15,850.13		(48.00)

PARISH OF STRATFORD: ST JOHN'S

MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

St Johns Building Repair Fund (formerly Fabric Fund) Income & Expenditure Account - Restricted Fund

	2023		2022	
<i>Income</i>	£	£	£	£
Collections in Church (boxes)	1,656.54		1,268.09	
Donations, appeals etc.	-		-	
Dividends and interest including tax recovered	1.07		0.72	
		1,657.61		1,903.86
<i>Expenditure</i>				
Major Repairs	-		12,160.94	
		-		12,160.94
Excess of Income over Expenditure		1,657.61		(10,257.08)
Opening net assets at 1 January		0.36		10,257.44
Closing net assets at 31 December		1,657.97		0.36

St Johns Organ Repair Fund Income & Expenditure Account - Restricted Fund

	2023		2022	
<i>Income</i>	£	£	£	£
Organ Recitals	-		-	
Dividends and interest including tax recovered	220.24		89.21	
Donations, appeals etc.	-		127.06	
		220.24		216.27
<i>Expenditure</i>				
Organ tuning etc.	-		-	
Publicity	-		-	
Organist Recital Fees	-		-	
		-		-
Excess of Income over Expenditure		220.24		216.27
Opening net assets at 1 January		7,568.57		7,352.30
Closing net assets at 31 December		7,788.81		7,568.57

PARISH OF STRATFORD: ST JOHN'S

MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Assistant Clergy Housing Capital - Endowment Fund

	2023		2022	
<i>Income</i>	£	£	£	£
Capital Receipts	-	-	-	-
Dividends and interest including tax recove	3,723.66	-	1,508.30	-
		3,723.66		1,508.30
<i>Expenditure</i>				
Capital Distribution	-	-	-	-
Assign to Housing Fund [R]	-	-	-	-
		-		-
Excess of Income over Expenditure		3,723.66		1,508.30
Opening net assets at 1 January		116,186.04		114,677.74
Closing net assets at 31 December		119,909.70		116,186.04

Men's Group - Designated Fund

	2023		2022	
<i>Income</i>	£	£	£	£
Donations, appeals etc.	60.00	-	60.00	-
		60.00		60.00
<i>Expenditure</i>				
Sundry Expenditure	50.00	-	-	-
		50.00		-
Excess of Income over Expenditure		10.00		60.00
Opening net assets at 1 January		3,213.75		3,153.75
Closing net assets at 31 December		3,223.75		3,213.75

Women's Group - Designated Fund

	2023		2022	
<i>Income</i>	£	£	£	£
Donations, appeals etc.	46.50	-	57.24	-
		46.50		57.24
<i>Expenditure</i>				
Sundry Expenditure	-	-	62.46	-
		-		62.46
Excess of Income over Expenditure		46.50		(5.22)
Opening net assets at 1 January		1,116.97		1,122.19
Closing net assets at 31 December		1,163.47		1,116.97

PARISH OF STRATFORD: ST JOHN'S

MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Healing Cafe Fund - Designated Fund

	2023		2022	
<i>Income</i>	£	£	£	£
Donations, appeals etc.	-		-	
Assigned from St Johns General Fund	210.00		-	
		210.00		-
<i>Expenditure</i>				
Sundry Expenditure	70.00		-	
		70.00		-
<u>Assigned to Other Funds</u>				
Assign to General Fund	-		210.00	
		-		210.00
Excess of Income over Expenditure		140.00		(210.00)
Opening net assets at 1 January		-		210.00
Closing net assets at 31 December		140.00		-

Gill Carter Fund - Designated Fund

	2023		2022	
<i>Income</i>	£	£	£	£
Donations, appeals etc.	-		-	
		-		-
<i>Expenditure</i>				
Sundry Expenditure	-		-	
		-		-
Excess of Income over Expenditure		-		-
Opening net assets at 1 January		21,821.19		21,821.19
Closing net assets at 31 December		21,821.19		21,821.19

PARISH OF STRATFORD: ST JOHN'S

MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Wither's Fund - Endowment Fund

	2023		2022	
<i>Income</i>	£	£	£	£
Dividends and interest including tax received	1,029.82		962.87	
			-	
		1,029.82		962.87
<i>Expenditure</i>				
Sundry Expenditure		-		-
		-		-
Excess of Income over Expenditure		1,029.82		962.87
Unrealised (gain)/loss on investment		(2,941.04)		4,211.43
Opening net assets at 1 January		37,061.89		40,310.45
Closing net assets at 31 December		41,032.75		37,061.89
		-		

Statement of Cash Balances and Assets and Liabilities at 31 December 2023

23

PARISH OF STRATFORD: ST JOHN'S
Statement of Financial Activities for Year Ended 31 December 2023
Registered Charity No: 1132176

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2023 £	TOTAL 2022 £
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Voluntary income	2a)	129,883.53	1,656.54	-	131,540.07	175,035.34
Activities for generating funds	2b)	200.00	-	-	200.00	-
Income from investments	2c)	1,263.50	221.31	4,753.48	6,238.29	3,244.59
Church activities	2d)	31,164.72	-	-	31,164.72	51,038.11
Other incoming resources	2e)	2,025.23	16,767.00	-	18,792.23	2,487.64
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		164,536.98	18,644.85	4,753.48	187,935.31	231,805.68
RESOURCES EXPENDED						
Cost of generating voluntary income	3b)	116.84	-	-	116.84	113.44
Fund-raising trading costs	3c)	124.40	-	-	124.40	-
Church activities	3a)	159,559.93	13,793.87	-	173,353.80	260,109.24
Governance Costs		-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		159,801.17	13,793.87	-	173,595.04	260,222.68
NET INCOMING RESOURCES BEFORE TRANSFERS		4,735.81	4,850.98	4,753.48	14,340.27	(28,417.00)
Gross transfers between funds		(12,700.00)	12,700.00	-	-	-
NET INCOMING RESOURCES BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES		(7,964.19)	17,550.98	4,753.48	14,340.27	(28,417.00)
Gains on investment assets: on disposal on revaluation	4a 4b	-	-	2,941.04	2,941.04	(4,211.43)
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(7,964.19)	17,550.98	7,694.52	17,281.31	(32,628.43)
Opening net assets at 1 January		100,756.33	9,738.25	153,247.93	263,742.51	296,370.94
Closing net assets at 31 December		92,792.14	27,289.23	160,942.45	281,023.82	263,742.51

PARISH OF STRATFORD: ST JOHN'S

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2023

Registered Charity No: 1132176

	Notes	2023	2022
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible	4a)	7,807.31	2,519.98
Investment	4b)	-	-
		7,807.31	2,519.98
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stock		-	-
Debtors	5	7,580.10	11,585.48
Short-term deposits		-	-
Cash at bank and in hand		275,954.49	274,011.30
		283,534.59	285,596.78
LIABILITIES			
Creditors - amounts falling due in less than one year	6	10,318.08	24,374.25
NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)		273,216.51	261,222.53
Total assets less current liabilities		281,023.82	263,742.51
TOTAL NET ASSETS		281,023.82	263,742.51
PARISH FUNDS			
Unrestricted		92,792.14	100,756.33
Restricted		27,289.23	9,738.25
Endowment		160,942.45	153,247.93
		281,023.82	263,742.51

PARISH OF STRATFORD: ST JOHN'S
NOTE 1 TO THE ACCOUNTS
2023

- 1) Accounting Policies adopted
 - a) The accounts are maintained using the accruals basis, where income and expenditure are recorded when they are due not when they are paid.
 - b) The accounts are split into separate funds (described below). These are either general, designated, unrestricted, restricted or endowment in nature.
- 2) Remuneration paid to related parties
 - a) Remuneration is paid for an Assistant Minister (Administration), Verger and Site Supervisors. One of the Site Supervisors, Beverley Slingo is a member of the PCC. She is paid only for the periods of time when she is on duty.
- 3) The cost to the PCC of employing staff
 - a) The Assistant Minister (Administration) is employed to handle the day-to-day administration of the church and hall.
 - b) The Verger is employed for taking care of the church building and hall.
 - c) The total cost (including taxes and national insurance) of employing staff during 2023 was £46,868 (2022 £47,601).
- 4) Description of any incoming resources that represent capital
 - a) The Council holds a capital fund for Assistant Clergy Housing which is for the purpose of future housing provision.
 - b) The capital in this fund was released in 2011 from the sale of 2 St. James Road, and part of the proceeds from the sale was distributed to settle the remaining balance on the Church Commissioner's shared equity mortgage for 29 Maryland Park.
 - c) The value of the property at 29 Maryland Park is not shown in these accounts. There are no immediate plans to dispose of this property.
- 5) Material movement between any restricted funds of the council
 - a) The following amounts were assigned from the General Fund to restricted funds during 2023:
 - i) An amount of £10,300 (2022 £10,438) was assigned to the Charities Fund, in accordance with an earlier PCC resolution to give a proportion of budgeted income to charities.
 - ii) An amount of £210 (2022 £0) was assigned to the Healing Café Fund to reflect the current balance.
 - iii) An amount of £2,400 (2022 £0) was assigned to Christchurch Three Mills Fund to clear the balance due to them.
- 6) Any institution or body corporate connected with the Council
 - a) There are no institutions or bodies corporate connected with the Council.
- 7) Any guarantee given by the Council
 - a) There are no guarantees given by the Council.
- 8) Loans outstanding
 - a) There are no loans outstanding.
- 9) Any fund in deficit
 - a) There are no funds in deficit.

PARISH OF STRATFORD: ST JOHN'S
NOTE 1 TO THE ACCOUNTS
2023

- 10) Remuneration paid to the Independent Examiner
- a) The Independent Examiner waives any remuneration for the work carried out on these accounts.
- 11) Grants made by the council to another institution
- a) There was no payment this year from the Building Repair Fund to the St. John's Fabric Trust as was done in earlier years up to 2017.
- 12) Ex-gratia payments made by the Council
- a) Small gifts to a total of £52 (2022 £120) were given to people during the year.
- 13) Fixed Assets
- a) 2003 was the first year in which the fixed assets were shown in the accounts. Their cost was estimated at their replacement cost. Subsequent assets have been added at their historic purchase cost.
 - b) The capital fund will maintain its value over time. The value charged to the general fund for depreciation each year is exchanged in equal measure for an allocation of cash from the general fund 'Balance with the General Fund'. This effectively earmarks cash to pay for the replacement of assets at the end of their lives.
 - c) Freehold Interest in land and buildings
 - i) The parish house at 29 Maryland Park is not valued in these accounts.
 - ii) The church extension is not valued in the accounts, other than the flat roof that is deemed to have a finite life of 25 years. Its replacement cost is estimated at £25,000 and its current net book value is £0 having been fully depreciated.
 - d) All remaining assets recognised are 'fixtures, fittings and equipment'. Their estimated replacement cost is approximately £36,000 with a net book value of £7,807 (2022 £5,406).
- 14) Debtors
- a) The debtors in the accounts for 2023 are £7,580 (2022 £11,585), which constitute outstanding hall rental.
- 15) Creditors
- i) The trade creditors are £5,818 (2022 £4,539). A further £4,500 represents advance receipts towards expenditure to be incurred in 2024.
- 16) Contingent Liabilities
- a) There are no recognised contingent liabilities.
- 17) Any other financial commitments
- a) There are no other known material financial commitments over and above those shown in the accounts or the notes to the accounts.

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL 2023	TOTAL 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
2 .INCOMING RESOURCES					
2a) Voluntary income					
Planned giving: Gift Aid donations	55,037.82	-	-	55,037.82	68,686.58
Planned giving: Gross of Tax	-	-	-	-	-
Planned giving: Tax recovered	20,824.74	-	-	20,824.74	18,549.44
Planned giving: Other	15,255.74	-	-	15,255.74	18,188.02
Collections (open plate)	18,780.70	(0.00)	-	18,780.70	16,182.24
Collections in Church (boxes)	-	1,656.54	-	1,656.54	1,268.09
Donations, appeals etc.	20,304.53	0.00	-	20,304.53	52,160.97
Donations for Heating	(320.00)	-	-	(320.00)	-
Missions income	-	-	-	-	-
Charity Income	-	-	-	-	-
	129,883.53	1,656.54	-	131,540.07	175,035.34
2b) Activities for generating funds					
Bookstall Income	200.00	-	-	200.00	-
Organ Recitals	-	-	-	-	-
Fund-raising (coffee mornings)	-	-	-	-	-
	200.00	-	-	200.00	-
2c) Income from investments					
Dividends and interest including tax recoverable	1,263.50	221.31	4,753.48	6,238.29	3,244.59
	1,263.50	221.31	4,753.48	6,238.29	3,244.59
2d) Income from Church activities					
Contributions for use of Church & Hall	30,599.32	-	-	30,599.32	49,696.11
Fees	565.40	-	-	565.40	1,342.00
	31,164.72	-	-	31,164.72	51,038.11
2e) Other incoming resources					
Insurance Claim Income	-	-	-	-	-
Other	2,025.23	-	-	2,025.23	562.64
Rental Income	-	16,767.00	-	16,767.00	-
Grants	-	-	-	-	1,925.00
Sundry Fees	-	-	-	-	-
	2,025.23	16,767.00	-	18,792.23	2,487.64
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	164,536.98	18,644.85	4,753.48	187,935.31	231,805.68

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2023 £	TOTAL 2022 £
3. RESOURCES EXPENDED					
3a) Church activities					
Missionary and charitable giving	-	10,525.00	-	10,525.00	9,395.00
Ministry - Diocesan parish share	66,050.88	-	-	66,050.88	78,871.68
Ministry - Expenses	1,562.40	-	-	1,562.40	4,808.64
Church - running expenses	29,542.07	2,400.00	-	31,942.07	43,329.99
Church maintenance	7,430.80	-	-	7,430.80	5,994.70
Major Repairs	-	-	-	-	12,160.94
Upkeep of services	627.66	-	-	627.66	1,838.32
Support Costs	2,158.26	-	-	2,158.26	4,268.10
Publicity	-	-	-	-	2,009.56
Salaries/wages/honoraria	46,867.69	-	-	46,867.69	56,814.81
Printing and stationery	1,077.84	-	-	1,077.84	1,973.27
Administration	1,445.84	-	-	1,445.84	2,049.89
Equipment	880.96	-	-	880.96	2,151.94
Depreciation	(152.42)	-	-	(152.42)	4,303.72
Disposal of fixed assets	-	-	-	-	-
Insurance claim costs	-	-	-	-	-
Missions	-	-	-	-	5,358.66
Organ tuning etc.	-	-	-	-	-
Sundry Expenditure	2,067.95	0.00	-	2,067.95	3,971.28
Extraordinary Expenditure	-	-	-	-	19,835.66
Payment to Fabric Trust	-	-	-	-	-
Extension Costs	-	-	-	-	-
Parish Housing Expenditure	-	868.87	-	868.87	973.08
Capital Distribution	-	-	-	-	-
	159,559.93	13,793.87	-	173,353.80	260,109.24
3b) Generation of voluntary income					
Giving Envelopes	116.84	-	-	116.84	113.44
-	-	-	-	-	-
	116.84	-	-	116.84	113.44
3c) Fund-raising costs					
Bookstall Expenditure	124.40	-	-	124.40	-
Organist Recital Fees	-	-	-	-	-
	124.40	-	-	124.40	-
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	159,801.17	13,793.87	-	173,595.04	260,222.68
Unrealised (gain)/loss on investment	-	-	(2,941.04)	(2,941.04)	4,211.43

4) FIXED ASSETS

(a) Tangible	(all unrestricted)	Freehold land & Church buildings			Church Equipment		Total	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£
ACTUAL/DEEMED COST	At 31 December 2022	25,000.00			31,118.76		56,118.76	
	Disposal							-
	Additions at cost	-			5,134.91		5,134.91	
	At 31 December 2023	25,000.00			36,253.67		61,253.67	
DEPRECIATION	At 31 December 2022	25,000.00			28,598.78		53,598.78	
	Withdrawn on deposits							-
	Charge for the year	-			(152.42)		(152.42)	
	At 31 December 2023	25,000.00			28,446.36		53,446.36	
(b) Investments		2023	2022					
		£	£					
	Market value at 31 December							
	Disposal at carrying value							
	Purchases at cost							
	Revaluation (gain)/loss (Withers Charity)	(2,941.04)	4,211.43					

5) DEBTORS (UNRESTRICTED FUNDS)

	2023	2022
	£	£
Prepayments and accrued interest	7,580.10	11,585.48
Other debtors	7,580.10	11,585.48

6) LIABILITIES

	2023	2022
	£	£
Amounts falling due in one year (<i>unrestricted funds</i>)		
Accruals for utility and other costs	10,318.08	24,374.25
Other creditors	10,318.08	24,374.25

Note: Creditors in 2022 includes £19,835.66 to settle Three Mills balance