



Annual Report 2023

Background

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of Christ Church Flackwell Heath has the responsibility, as stated in the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956, of co-operating with the Vicar, Revd James Dwyer, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church – pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church and Church Centre of Christ Church, Flackwell Heath. Christ Church is a Registered Charity, as required under Charity Law, with a Charity Registration number of 1132634.

Parochial Church Council

Membership

Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. In addition, members may be co-opted as necessary. During 2023 the following served as PCC members:

Ex officio members: *Chair:* Revd James Dwyer; *Curate:* Revd Gill Taylor (from July 2023); *Associate Minister:* Revd Martin Courtney; *Licensed Lay Ministers:* Sue Simpson (*Vice Chair*) and Debbie Fox-Webb; *Churchwardens:* Paul Churchouse (until March 2023), Karen Christie (from March 2023) and Phil Simpson; *Deanery Synod Representatives:* Neil Bourhill, Neil Favager, and Richard Chalmers (from March 2023), and Rebecca Hawes (elected Deanery Synod Representative Designate in March 2023, becoming full Deanery Synod Representative in September 2023).

Elected members: It was agreed in the APCM in 2004 that the PCC should consist of seven elected members in

addition to ex-officio and co-opted members and be elected on a three-year rolling retirement. During 2023 elected members were:

Reg Jaycock (from 2022 APCM), Meg Scullion (from 2021 APCM), Tim Franklin (from 2022 APCM), Denise Herschel (from 2021 APCM), Sammy Simpson (from 2023 APCM), Sylvia Bourhill (from 2021 APCM), and Phil Bellamy (from 2023 APCM 2020). James Wiseman remained co-opted by PCC following his co-option in November 2022 until September 2023.

PCC Committees

In 2023 the PCC had four committees:

1. The Standing Committee is required by law and has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council.
2. The Missions Committee coordinates links with the five mission partners that the Church supports. It advises the PCC on mission giving.
3. The Fabric Committee oversees the maintenance of the Church, Church Centre, and grounds.
4. The Finance Subcommittee was formed in 2023 in response to our financial situation with the remit of stabilising our giving and providing analysis and oversight of church finances.

The PCC met 6 times during 2023 and once for a PCC morning in April. PCC Members were commissioned on 23rd 2023 April and, apart from the normal business life of the church, there was a regular focus on Mission, and agenda items on Safeguarding and GDPR compliance.

Church Attendance in 2023

Church attendance returned to a stable pattern during 2023, following years of disruption following the coronavirus pandemic. The 9am service saw an average weekly attendance of around 40-45, the 10.30am of around 75-80 adults and 5-10 children and youth, and the 6.30pm a range of attendance, reflecting the varied service pattern. Average Sunday attendance across all three service is therefore around 130. There has been a considerable increase in attendance at Prayer for Everyone, the monthly church prayer meeting, and the monthly Holy Communion service has grown to around 15 people in attendance.

Numbers of Occasional Offices remained low, reflecting a concerning wider trend at a national level. In 2023 we held:

- 6 baptisms
- 1 wedding
- 20 funerals in which Christ Church clergy and LLMs were involved, either at Christ Church or local crematoriums

Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll declared at the Annual Meeting in 2023 was 197 people, an increase of five compared with that declared in 2022 (192). During 2023 6 people were removed (deceased). In February 2024 2 people were added. The Christ Church Electoral Roll stands, as of 27th February 2024, at 193 (127 residents and 66 non-residents).

(Jackie Chalmers, Electoral Roll Officer)

Review of the Year

2023 was a year where Christ Church rejoiced in seeing new growth, both numerical and spiritual, as we continued to think about what it means to grow deeper with God and with one another. The following is a snapshot of what took place – it by no means covers everything!

In January 2023 we started the year with a Prayer Week, providing us with space to reflect on and pray into the year ahead. We hosted the first Deanery Synod of the new year, welcoming friends from across the Deanery to put Jesus at the centre and pray into the future. A new Finance Subcommittee of the PCC began meeting to help stabilise our finances.

February saw the start of Lent, with our Lent Course looking at the Lectio Course produced by 24/7 Prayer. Our Messy Church family, now meeting monthly, continued to grow, with over 50 children enjoying homemade pancakes on Shrove Tuesday.

In March we took the chance to support local organisations, welcoming the Police to Coffee Stop, agreeing with our local NHS Social Prescribers to host a Talking Café each week, and attending the AGM of the Flackwell Heath Residents' Association. The APCM gave us a chance to give thanks for all God is doing, and look ahead with hope. Along with other local churches we participated in prayer meetings for the future of St Mark's in Bourne End.

April began with joyful Easter celebrations, including taking our worship outside at our Good Friday and Easter Day services. Towards the end of the month we hosted a concert by Jonathan Veria to raise money for Restored, the charity standing up against domestic abuse. Alpha Courses also started at the end of April, helping people explore the Christian faith. We worked through a three-week sermon series looking at giving as part of discipleship.

In May we joined the celebrations taking place throughout the country to mark the coronation of King Charles III. James, our Vicar, travelled to Nandyal Diocese in South India to spend ten days visiting the Diocese of Oxford's link there, coming

back with lots of stories. The Christian Aid Plant Sale was its usual success, welcoming many from the village community. On the last Sunday of the month we welcomed Paulin, our mission partner from Albania, to Christ Church, where he gave an update in our services and was present at a bring and share lunch to tell more stories. Thy Kingdom Come helped us pray with other churches across the world.

June brought with it the arrival of a new bench in the Quiet Garden, in memory of Sue Baldwin. A quieter month gave us a chance to take stock before the summer holidays, and make plans for Lighthouse kids club, taking place in the village, and the ongoing work of the Community Pantry, which by this point in the year had grown significantly to become a vital part of the village community. Helen Broadbent was welcomed as an LLM serving at Christ Church.

At the start of July our new Curate, Revd Gill Taylor, was ordained deacon at Christ Church Cathedral in Oxford. We enjoyed a lovely church lunch to welcome her and her two boys, Joel and Nathan, to Christ Church. Christ Church had a stall at Heath Fest again, supporting the FHRA. A prayer week was held in Bourne End to pray for St Mark's, while we hosted a Dementia Friendly Tea Dance to the delight of those who came.

In August we combined our morning services again, giving our congregations a chance to worship together. A group of around 30 went to New Wine in Kent, enjoying worship, talks, and time together (if not the weather!). We hosted Little Lighthouse at Christ Church while Lighthouse took place at Carrington Junior School, giving us the chance to engage with a number of our village children. School uniform supply packs were given out to 25 local families.

The new academic term started in September, and we marked it as a church with a sermon series looking at the priorities of Jesus. This was complemented by a Prayer Week in the Upper Room along the same theme, and with two joyful baptisms at the end of the month. Alpha Courses started again, kicked off by an Alpha Supper where James talked about his trip to India.

In October we celebrated Harvest with a collection for One Can Trust and the Community Pantry, welcoming Erica Holt from Wycombe Youth for Christ to come and speak. We hosted a Diocesan training day on funerals, and at the end of October hosted a superhero Messy Church as an alternative to Halloween.

In November we helped facilitate the village Remembrance Service as well as holding our annual Memorial Service at Christ Church. We hosted an art exhibition for Carrington Infant School and held another successful Charities Fayre, welcoming local charities to come and share their work.

December saw us hold many and various Christmas services, starting with Christmas on the Heath in association with the FHRA. Carols in the Car Park was a new service, and we had a significant increase in the number of attendees at our Christmas services. We engaged with over 800 children through school visits and assemblies.

Throughout the year, the church Safeguarding Policy was kept up to date and overseen by the Parish Safeguarding Officer.

The Fabric Committee: The Church and Centre continued to benefit from a small but dedicated team of volunteers, led by the churchwardens, particularly the monthly Grounds Working Party. Energy bills continued to be carefully monitored,

and the new bench was installed in the Quiet Garden in memory of Sue Baldwin. A church declutter began alongside continued work to keep the Church and Centre maintained and efficient. The Church and Centre continued to be cleaned to a high standard, professionally and by volunteers.

Worship: Christ Church is blessed by a talented team of musicians, singers, and technical support teams, complemented by Bible Readers, intercessors, and the flower team. In person services continue to be complemented by a livestream (10.30am only), managed by some superb volunteers. Services at Christ Church continue to offer a variety of styles, both traditional and modern. Communion returned to being offered from the common cup following the pandemic.

Discipleship: Growing deeper as disciples of Jesus continued to be a key part of Christ Church's mission.

- Sue Simpson continued to coordinate home groups at Christ Church, with groups encouraged to follow a church-wide teaching pattern of using the sermon series from September-Easter, and then choosing their own subjects
- Preaching continued to be a rich source of discipleship, led by Revd James Dwyer, Revd Gill Taylor (from July 2023), Revd Martin Courtney, Sue Simpson, Debbie Fox-Webb, as well as Sylvia Bourhill and Phil Bellamy (Authorised Preachers), and Cheryl Dwyer. Series included A Giving Church, Ezekiel, Revelation Priorities of Jesus, and the The Family Tree
- Sharon Howard and Bridget Wiseman continued to oversee Junior Church, supported by a fantastic team of volunteers. Engagement within schools was

grown throughout the year, with an increasing number of assemblies in school and visits to church by the children. Junior Church used the Urban Saints 'Energize' material as well as following sermon series

- Cheryl Dwyer continued to oversee Thrive, our youth group. Members of Thrive are involved across church life, including PCC, the coffee rota, All Age Worship, and more
- Messy Church grew during the year, meeting monthly and welcoming an average of 42 children and 22 carers each month for craft, games, Bible stories, and dinner. Messy Church is overseen by Cheryl Dwyer with support from a brilliant team

Prayer: Overseen by Jane Franklin, prayer continued to be a core value of Christ Church.

- Creative ways of praying were continued, including Prayer Weeks in January and September
- Daily Prayer (Mon-Fri) was held in the Rotunda, along with monthly parish prayers online and an emergency prayer chain and team of confidential intercessors
- Community Prayer regularly gathered leaders from nine local churches to pray for one another and our area
- Prayer takes place formally and informally during the week, in services, within prayer groups, and pastorally

Ministry:

- The Pastoral Team, under the leadership of Sue Hill, continued to provide excellent pastoral support and develop pastoral care at Christ Church. The Bereavement Visiting Team continued to minister to

those in the days after loss, and the Oasis self-help group kept in touch with many members when meeting together was not possible

- Prayer for Healing continued to be offered at the 9am service on third Sundays, and prayer ministry at the end of the 10.30am service remained a key point of prayer and support
- Fellowship (men's ministry) and Sister Act (women's ministry) met regularly throughout the year, welcoming a range of speakers from both within and outside the church

Outreach and Evangelism:

- The Flackwell Heath Community Pantry continued to be well resourced by donations from the church family and wider village. By the end of 2023 the Pantry had almost 100 families on its register, welcoming around 20-25 each week
- We again worked in partnership with St Peter's Loudwater to provide 25 School Starter Packs to families with children starting at Carrington Schools in September
- Coffee Stop continued as a registered Warm Space, providing a place of comfort for those struggling with the cost of living
- Play Café and You-Nique provided regular contact points for families in the wider community, and offered a safe space
- Alpha courses were run in partnership with Flackwell Heath Methodist Church
- Coffee Stop remained a key part of Christ Church's outreach in the community, running weekly during term time and on Wednesdays during school holidays (including the Christmas break)

- Christ Church members were involved with local ministries, including One Can Trust, Wycombe 24/7 Prayer, Wycombe Youth for Christ and Wycombe Homeless Connection. Christ Church continued to support Christian Aid through collection and the plant sale
- During 2023 Christ Church remained committed to five Mission Partners: Jubilee Society (Mongolia), the Albanian Christian Centre (with New Beginnings Children's Home), London City Mission, Wycombe Youth for Christ, and a ministry in East Africa. At the end of 2023 our partnership with London City Mission (Jean-Louis Kassis) came to an end owing to a change in Jean-Louis' role. It was agreed that we would prayerfully seek God's guidance for a fifth mission partner, and for the moment place the money that would have been sent to London City Mission into a discretionary mission fund. The mission noticeboard was maintained all year

Other community involvement:

Christ Church continued to be an active presence in the life of the community, including:

- Welcoming the parish in for occasional offices
- Holding events to mark the Coronation of King Charles III
- Holding the annual Memorial Service in November
- Holding a variety of Christmas services
- Leading the village Remembrance Service and turning on the lights at the Village Christmas Festival
- Being an active presence in village schools

- Welcoming the Girl Guides, Brownies, and Rainbows for their Christmas service, and hosting Girls Brigade events

Financial Review: With total incoming resources of £224,244 and expenditure of £174,881, the net financial result for the year was an receipts compared to an excess of payments. Our finances were a significant area of focus during 2023, with a sermon series, publicity, Finance Subcommittee, and regular updates forming part of the strategy. The major outgoings were the Diocesan Parish Share and the salary of the part-time Administrator. All general income was tithed and supported the work of our five mission partners.

Reserves Policy: In November 2023 the PCC reviewed the current level of reserves and were happy with the reserves held at around 82,000, which is designed to cover the equivalent of two months' general running costs and other anticipated expenses. Our reserves policy states our reserves must be no less than £40,000.

Revd James Dwyer
Chair of the Parochial Church Council
27th February 2024



Parochial Church Council of Christ Church, Flackwell Heath
Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ending 31 December **2023**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
				2023 £	2022 £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
<i>Incoming resources from donors</i>	2(a)	167,166	-	167,166	115,718
<i>Other voluntary incoming resources</i>	2(b)	5,003		5,003	3,628
<i>Incoming resources from operating activities:</i>					
to further the Council's objects	2(c)	16,237		16,237	9,378
to generate funds	2(d)	120		120	283
<i>Income from investment</i>	2(e)	1,511		1,511	320
<i>Other ordinary incoming resources</i>	2(f)	9,285	24,923	34,208	31,591
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		199,322	24,923	224,245	160,918
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
<i>Grants</i>	3(a)	18,070	1,638	19,708	20,413
<i>Activities relating to the work of the Church</i>	3(b)	127,870	9,370	137,240	167,118
<i>Church Management and Administration</i>	3(c)	17,933		17,933	14,601
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		163,873	11,008	174,881	202,132
NET MOVEMENTS IN FUNDS		35,449	13,915	49,364	-41,214
Balances brought forward at January 1		134,699	1,216	135,915	177,129
Balances carried forward at December 31		170,148	15,131	185,279	135,915

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31 December 2023

	2023 £	2022 £
<i>Monetary Assets</i>		
HSBC Current Account	-6,013	4,056
Barclays Account	1,175	33
HSBC Deposit Account	104,981	46,660
CAF 90 day account	85,000	85,000
Cash	136	166
	<u>185,279</u>	<u>135,915</u>

Debtors

There are no debtors.

Creditors

There are no creditors

Liabilities

There are no liabilities

Moveable Church Furnishings

Moveable church furnishings are valued at £0.00 for accounting purposes.

Non-Monetary Assets

Assorted gardening implements and shed – valued at £0.00 for accounting purposes.

The PCC owns assorted dvds, books and office equipment – valued at £0.00 for accounting purposes

<u>Funds Statement</u>	Balance
<u>Restricted Funds</u>	
Relief	490
Community Pantry	13,141
<u>Designated Funds</u>	
Hardship Fund	878
Oasis	3,995
General Fund	84,816
Development Fund	81,959
<u>Total</u>	<u>185,279</u>
<u>Represented by :-</u>	
HSBC Current Account	(6,013)
Barclays Account	1,175
CAF 90 day account	85,000
HSBC Deposit Account	104,981
Cash	136
<u>Total</u>	<u>185,279</u>

Parochial Church Council of Christ Church, Flackwell Heath
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2023

In previous years Designated and Restricted Funds were shown in a combined column.
As Designated Funds are unrestricted they are now shown in the Unrestricted column

2 INCOMING RESOURCES	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
			2023	2022
2(a) Incoming resources from donors				
Planned giving:				
Gift Aid donations	88,956		88,956	72,425
Other planned giving	8,200		8,200	4,132
Income tax recoverable	30,602		30,602	20,677
Loose plate collections	6,827		6,827	3,106
Other Gift Aid donations	25,263		25,263	10,238
Other donations	7,318		7,318	5,140
	<u>167,166</u>		<u>167,166</u>	<u>115,718</u>
2(b) Other voluntary incoming resources				
Donations to costs/expenses	1,003		1,003	1,628
One off Grants	-		-	2,000
Legacies	4,000		4,000	-
	<u>5,003</u>		<u>5,003</u>	<u>3,628</u>
2(c) Incoming resources from operating activities: to further the Council's objects				
Bible Notes & Events	6,145		6,145	2,064
Church Centre lettings	8,972		8,972	6,894
Fees for weddings etc	1,120		1,120	420
Other	-		-	-
	<u>16,237</u>		<u>16,237</u>	<u>9,378</u>
2(d) Incoming resources from operating activities: to generate funds				
Other funds generated	120		120	283
	<u>120</u>		<u>120</u>	<u>283</u>
2(e) Income from investment				
Bank and deposit account interest	1,511	-	1,511	320
	<u>1,511</u>		<u>1,511</u>	<u>320</u>
2(f) Other ordinary incoming resources				
Special collections	-	1,638	1,638	4,935
Community Pantry		23,285	23,285	819
Use of photocopier	198		198	175
Oasis	1,735		1,735	20,589
Cash Floats (eg. Coffee Stop)	7,352	-	7,352	5,073
	<u>9,285</u>	<u>24,923</u>	<u>34,208</u>	<u>31,591</u>
Total Incoming Resources	<u>199,322</u>	<u>24,923</u>	<u>224,245</u>	<u>160,918</u>

3 RESOURCES EXPENDED	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
			2023	2022
3(a) <i>Grants</i>				
Missionary societies	17,470	-	17,470	14,400
Relief and development	-	-	-	-
Home mission	600		600	600
Special collections	-	1,638	1,638	4,512
Other	-		-	901
	<u>18,070</u>	<u>1,638</u>	<u>19,708</u>	<u>20,413</u>
3(b) <i>Activities relating to the work of the Church</i>				
Ministry: Diocesan Parish Share	86,488		86,488	87,207
Clergy expenses	1,475		1,475	1,047
Sanctuary	345		345	102
Music	667		667	873
Junior Church/Youth	648		648	1,211
Materials/books/services	383		383	181
Church running expenses	8,904		8,904	3,365
Church repairs/maintenance	1,755		1,755	2,864
Church Centre costs	6,214		6,214	5,903
Bible Notes & Events	2,177		2,177	1,625
Cash Floats (eg. Coffee Stop)	6,179		6,179	2,972
Oasis	657		657	20,447
Community Pantry		9,370	9,370	93
Training	34		34	136
Families/Parenting	11,465		11,465	7,828
Improvements	479		479	31,264
	<u>127,870</u>	<u>9,370</u>	<u>137,240</u>	<u>167,118</u>
3(c) <i>Church Management and Administration</i>				
Printing and stationery	3,325		3,325	2,557
Administrator salary & related costs	13,373		13,373	10,676
Office/administration	1,235		1,235	1,368
	<u>17,933</u>		<u>17,933</u>	<u>14,601</u>
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	<u>163,873</u>	<u>11,008</u>	<u>174,881</u>	<u>202,132</u>

Independent examiner's report to the PCC of Christ Church, Flackwell Heath

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2022 which are set out on pages 1 to 4 is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Account Regulations 2006 ("the regulations") and section 43 of the Charities Act 1993 ("the act").

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the Independent Examiner

The PCC is responsible for the preparation of the accounts and considers that an audit is not required for this year and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the regulations

Basis of this Independent Examiner's Statement

This examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. It includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the PCC concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

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

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