



Church Street, Watford, WD18 0EG
Registered Charity Number: 1132880

**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
for the year ended 31st December 2023**

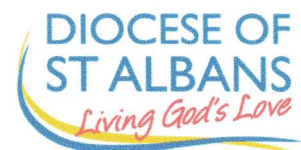


Vicar:

The Revd Tony Rindl, The Vicarage
14 Cassiobury Drive, Watford, WD17 3AB

Bankers:

Barclays Bank plc, PO Box 104, St Albans, AL1 3AN
Lloyds Bank plc, Intu Shopping Centre, Watford, WD17 2UB



Introduction

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended and is registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales. The primary objective of the PCC is the promotion of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. The PCC's (Powers) Measure 1956 states that the PCC "is to co-operate with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical". The PCC is responsible for the upkeep of the church building and the adjoining Church Centre and also for assets including a house and an office. St Mary's Church is located in the town centre of Watford, with only about 8,000 people living within its parish, but with many commercial and shopping premises that bring in a daily influx of workers and shoppers to the area.

Purpose of the Church

As a church we believe that God the Father created the world. Because humans have disobeyed God's law, Jesus, God's own Son, came to earth, was born of a virgin, lived without sin, was crucified, died and rose again from the dead. Through His sacrifice, our wrongdoings are forgiven. He will return in glory to the earth. We believe in the Holy Spirit, sent to help us to live to God's glory. We accept the Bible as God's Word and rejoice in our ability to talk with God in prayer. We aim to share our beliefs by worshipping together, by carrying them into our work, our leisure and our family life and by sharing our faith with others.

Our Vision Statement

"We believe that God is calling St Mary's to be a growing Town Centre Evangelical Anglican Church."

Public Benefit

The PCC has paid due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in all aspects of the activities undertaken by the church.

Vicar's Report

In presenting the annual report for 2023 it has been very much a year of consolidation. Priority has been given to reinforcing areas of leadership and governance which will increase the church's potential to offer effective mission and ministry in the future with the resources that are available. Like many other churches, community groups and businesses St. Mary's continues to be affected by the aftermath of the pandemic and the subsequent economic downturn. That said St. Mary's continues to offer a high standard of worship week by week and provides a strong presence in the centre of Watford.

Our high standard of worship is not only attributed to our excellent choir, musical director and organist, but to those who volunteer to lead both our Worship For All and Encounter services providing much imagination and creativity to be attractive to people of all ages and backgrounds. I am also grateful to those who preach and to all others who participate in the worship including the those who act as stewards and those who operate the AV system. The new AV system offers greater flexibility and more scope for the more creative elements of worship.

Post pandemic it is very pleasing to see St. Mary's firmly established as a community hub, which is very much in keeping with what was envisaged during the development of the major refurbishment of the church. It is good to see the church building combining with the church centre in offering numerous activities during the week, but especially the Watford and Three Rivers Refugee Partnership Drop-in and Social Hub, and the Sunflower Club that supports specifically Ukrainian refugees.

It is also good to see the reintroduction of lunchtime concerts, and for the Hayden Chapel to be used as a community warm space for people to drop in during the week with 'Knit and Natter' on Fridays. Wednesday Fellowship, Tuesday Toddlers and the Preschool are other examples of how the church facilities are being used throughout the week. We are extremely grateful to Liz Allen our facilities manager.

As the main town centre and civic church for Watford St. Mary's continues to be the venue important religious services and events. For the second year there has been a parade on Remembrance Sunday which begins at St. Mary's. In the autumn there was a special anniversary celebration service for One YMCA. St. Mary's also continues to be an attractive venue for various concerts and community events throughout the year.

As St. Mary's builds for the future a significant amount of time and thought has been given to the church's response to the climate emergency. In the autumn a Sunday was devoted to this subject with the MP and other significant community leaders in attendance. The evening Encounter service also drew in members of other churches as we listened to various expert views on this subject. It was also very pleasing to celebrate the church being awarded the Eco Church silver award, which is a notable achievement. Another notable Encounter service was devoted to the subject of Artificial Intelligence, which undoubtedly impact on the future development of the church.

As we look to the future, I am very grateful to all those who serve on the PCC but especially Peter Dean and Eileen Roby our churchwardens. Eileen was elected at the APCM and has contributed significantly filling the gap created by previously only having the one churchwarden. Similarly, it was very pleasing to see both Anthony Wilson and Richard Watson taking on new roles in overseeing the finances and adding significantly to the finance committee. As Peter Dean steps down as churchwarden at the APCM his tremendous contribution to many aspects of church life is worthy of special mention and our enormous gratitude.

Marcus Jones as PCC secretary, together with Lesley Gray as Parish Safeguarding Officer and Jenny Whittick as Safeguarding Administrator have been diligent in updating policies and ensuring the church is compliant with DBS checks and all other Safeguarding requirements. There are many more who contribute significantly to the inner workings of the church and a special thank you to Pam Rastall for all the administrative support she provides.

Whilst the financial situation remains a concern, I trust with measures that have been taken to address this and with a wonderful team of dedicated volunteers all bodes well for the future.

The Revd Tony Rindl

Parochial Church Council

The appointment of PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules. Most members of the PCC are elected, but Churchwardens, Deanery and Diocesan Synod members are ex officio. All elected PCC members are volunteers. New members of the PCC appointed at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) are required to complete a Trustee registration form. All members of the PCC are required to undergo on-line safeguarding training.

The following people served for all or part of 2023:

Vicar

The Revd Tony Rindl

Churchwardens (Ex Officio)

Eileen Roby (Vice-Chair)	to 2024 APCM
Peter Dean	to 2024 APCM

Deanery Synod (2023-2026) (Ex Officio)

Peter Dean	to 2026 APCM
Tilly Elliott	to 2026 APCM

Diocesan Synod (2021-24) (Ex Officio)

Cathy Honeyman	to 2024 APCM
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Elected Members

Abieuwa Idris	to 2023 APCM
Clinton Dan Jumbo	to 2023 APCM
Joanna Cooper	to 2024 APCM
Margaret Greenstreet	to 2024 APCM
Anniefrida Kadzura	to 2024 APCM
Dave King	to 2025 APCM
Lesley Gray	to 2025 APCM
Gill Watson	to 2025 APCM
Marcus Jones	to 2025 APCM
Daniella Clinton	to 2026 APCM
Roger Courtney	to 2026 APCM
Martin Whittick	to 2026 APCM

Co-opted Member

Anthony Wilson	from November 2023
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Marcus Jones was appointed as PCC Secretary with Pam Rastall providing support. With effect from 1st December, Anthony Wilson and Richard Watson were appointed as Joint Treasurers. The PCC met monthly, except in August, with some members attending by Zoom. The full minutes of meetings are posted to St Mary's website, once approved. Summaries are also written following each meeting for

inclusion in St Mary's News. Sub-committees met between PCC meetings and presented information for consideration and decision by the full PCC.

During the year, Dave King, Anniefrida Kadzura and Joanna Cooper resigned.

Attendance was as follows: the Revd Tony Rindl - 10; Peter Dean - 11; Eileen Roby - 11; Daniella Clinton (from June) - 2; Joanna Cooper (to November) - 0; Roger Courtney - 9; Clinton Dan Jumbo (to May APCM) - 0; Tilly Elliott - 10; Lesley Gray - 7; Margaret Greenstreet - 11; Cathy Honeyman - 10; Abie Idris (to May APCM) - 3; Marcus Jones - 11; Anniefrida Kadzura (to May APCM) - 0; Dave King (to May APCM) - 5; Gill Watson - 9; Martin Whittick (from June) - 5; Anthony Wilson (from November) - 1

Policies

The PCC has developed policies covering areas of Health & Safety, Safeguarding, Bullying and Harassment, Lone Working, Conflict of Interest, Financial Procedures, Grievance & Disciplinary, Equal Opportunities, Data Protection and Video Conferencing. The Safeguarding Policy is updated annually; most other policies are updated bi-annually.

PCC Committees

A significant proportion of the PCC's work is delegated to the sub-committees listed below. They meet regularly and report back to the PCC at its monthly meetings.

Standing Committee

Met monthly from June, in line with best practice, to discuss the handling of PCC agendas; and also dealt with PCC business between meetings of the PCC as necessary. There were seven meetings during the year which focussed mainly on finance, staff matters and policies.

Finance Committee

Monitored St Mary's income and expenditure, proposed financial policies and presented draft accounts and budgets for PCC examination and approval.

Buildings Committee

Oversaw and managed the inspection, maintenance, changes, improvements and repairs of the fabric and plant in the church, the Church Centre, the house for which the PCC is responsible and the Cloisters Office.

Pre-School Committee

Managed the Pre-School, handling finance and staff matters under delegated powers.

Climate Emergency Committee

Oversaw the work of the Climate Action Group created in 2022, especially in achieving the A Rocha Eco Church Bronze and Silver awards; and embedding awareness of and good practice in climate change in St Mary's worship and teaching, its buildings and in individual lifestyles.

Marcus Jones
PCC Secretary

Church Management

St. Mary's is guided by and responsible to the Synods of the Church of England and to its appointed Bishops and their officers.

The Vicar of St. Mary's is the Revd Tony Rindl. Lay members of the congregation take an active part in our services and assist with the Sunday School activities for children. There is also a part-time Director of Music, Anthony Wilson, who is responsible for training the choir for specific services. A small team form a worship group who lead us in a more contemporary style. We are grateful to those who assist in preparation for Communion Services and also to the bell ringers.

Peter Dean was re-elected as Churchwarden in May. Eileen Roby was elected as Churchwarden.

St Mary's takes safeguarding very seriously. Lesley Gray is Parish Safeguarding Officer, ably supported by Jenny Whittick.

Jacky Faria retired as Administrator in June leaving Pam Rastall as our sole Administrator. Liz Allan, our Facilities Manager, worked throughout the year.

The Vicar, a Churchwarden and two members of the St. Mary's congregation sit on the Board of the Longland Trust, which provides financial support for the ordained ministry at St. Mary's. The Church Lands Trust, which supports the repair and enhancement of church buildings within the ancient Parish of Watford, is also made up of both Churchwardens and three members of St. Mary's congregation.

Peter Dean & Eileen Roby
Churchwardens

Electoral Roll, Church Attendance and Life Events

The Electoral Roll stands at 142 (137 at the APCM in 2023). The worshipping community at the end of 2023 was estimated to be 156 (187 in 2022). There was 1 baptism in 2023 (7 in 2022). 4 funerals were taken in 2023 by clergy from or on behalf of St Mary's either in church or at the crematorium (6 in 2022). There were 14 confirmation candidates in St Mary's in 2023 (0 in 2022). There was 0 marriages in St Mary's in 2023 (1 in 2022).

Finance

The General fund shortfall for the year was slightly less than expected largely due to a one-off donation. Rental income during the year increased considerably. Expenditure on our buildings and energy was, however, above forecast. At the end of the year, with its property in Brightwell Road vacated by tenants, the PCC resolved to sell it and invest the proceeds to generate an income to replace the rental income. High costs to bring the property up to modern standards resulted in the decision to sell 'as is'.

Peter Dean
Chair, Finance Committee

Buildings

The Quinquennial Inspection of the church, conducted in early 2023, found that it was overall in good order. Some matters relating to gutters and roofing maintenance were subsequently addressed.

A detailed study of means of access to the flat roofs of the church office and Church Centre made recommendations for improving safety which are being implemented.

The ground-level floodlights on the north side of the nave were renewed with the aid of a grant from Watford Borough Council.

The church's AV system was upgraded, the cost being met by funds from the reordering of the church that had been set aside for the purpose.

Towards the end of the year, the PCC decided to sell the house on Brightwell Rd that had been tenanted for many years. The sale process was instigated.

Routine maintenance and servicing tasks were undertaken.

Roger Courtney
Chair, Buildings Committee

Missions

St. Mary's Church has a strong tradition of supporting mission both locally and overseas. The congregation is given the opportunity to pledge donations to any of the organisations or individuals on our list. Distribution of funds is the responsibility of the church Finance Committee. Prayers for our mission partners are included during church services. Individuals we support overseas visit us whenever they are in the UK and are invited to up-date us about their work during church services. We also receive regular newsletters. Currently the church supports nine missions: 3 in Watford (New Hope, Town Centre Chaplaincy, Schools Trust); 4 international partners (Middle East, Sri Lanka, Argentina, Brazil); 2 organisations (Tear Fund, Church Pastoral Aid Society). This list is reviewed regularly and submitted for approval to the PCC.

Alison Saunders

Music

Music continues to be a strength at St Mary's, and has expanded quite dramatically over the course of 2023. In a new pattern of services, the choir continues to provide music for all communion services on the second, fourth (and occasionally, where relevant, fifth) Sundays of the month, as well as at all the major festivals and events that come over the church year. Again, both the Easter services and the Festival of Lessons and Carols were very well-received by the congregation, but the choir are a much-valued part of the worship at St Mary's on ferial days as much as festival days. Their work behind the scenes in learning harmonies and practicing at home allows a wide range of anthems to be performed at a very high standard.

On the third Sunday of each month, the new venture that is the music group has been leading the musical part of the worship. They bring a different style of music to the congregation, delighting in their close-knit harmonies and improvisatory style, which has been much appreciated. They have kept to a small number of pieces this year, to allow the congregation to learn them and begin to join in but will undoubtedly expand their repertoire as time goes on.

Lunchtime concerts have also recommenced, with some very talented performances, often from Ukrainian refugees who have relocated to Watford. These have been much appreciated, although greater attendance at them would always be welcome.

My thanks go to everyone who participates in the musical life of the church, but especially to the wonderful Richard Watson who plays for the services every week and supports all the music in the church so marvelously.

Anthony Wilson
Choir Director

Visits & Concerts

Both Watford Girls Grammar and Watford Boys Grammar Schools made visits to the church with the Girls Grammar also performing a concert in the church. School visits were made including Holywell Primary. The Purcell School performed two concerts in the church; Chorleywood Choir performed, as did the Phoenix Choir and South Oxhey Community Choir. The Lunchtime Concerts continued over the year.

Children and Young People

The year began with three small groups meeting regularly on Sunday mornings for ages 3–18 years, however a shortage of suitably qualified leaders who had completed their safeguarding training and had the time to commit to leading groups meant that this was reduced to one group in September (for ages 3–12-year-olds). Nine children from five families have regularly attended groups throughout the year, with other children visiting occasionally or for a few weeks before moving on. Despite the small numbers the children have been active and visible members of our congregation, beginning each service in church and often sharing what they have been doing at other times. One highlight for the children was participating in the Eco Church Creationtide service in September, following work done in their group thinking about our responsibility as Christians to care for the world created by God. Christmas was also a busy time as the children learnt a song to sing at the Christmas Worship for All service and ran a stall at the Christmas fair, selling crafts they had made in advance.

Margaret Greenstreet

Weekday Activities

Six Connect Groups continued to meet throughout the year, weekly, fortnightly or monthly, either interest-based or area-based; some in homes, some still occasionally by Zoom and one in the church. All members, plus other church members, are invited to come together on the first Wednesday evening of each month for CAKE (Come And Know Everything).

Wednesday Fellowship continued to meet fortnightly under the leadership of Val Bordley. She has organised many trips over the year as well as interesting talks.

St Mary's Runners and Walkers

Meet@TheMoon is a monthly event after the Sunday Evening worship.

Bell Ringers, although small in numbers, they continued to meet weekly for practice sessions.

Local Outreach and Co-operation with Other Local Churches

St. Mary's seeks to work in **partnership with a number of local charities and community groups**. Most noticeably Watford Town Centre Chaplaincy, and Watford and Three Rivers Refugee Partnership, where St. Mary's is happy to host the drop in and a number of church members volunteer and some clients regularly attend church services. Other key partnerships include New Hope, One YMCA, Watford Schools Trust, Shaw Trust, Citizens Advice, The Sunflower Social club, The Samaritans, and the local Fairtrade Group. The latter is important not only through personal links with members of our congregation, but because our emerging Climate Change group seeks to link up with Fairtrade and other churches and community groups that share a common concern for the environment.

St Mary's Church continues to be an active member of **Christians Across Watford**. St. Mary's also takes an active part in **Churches Together in Watford** which met seven times throughout the year. Jackie and Brian Mee are our appointed representatives.

Deanery Synod met twice during the year and a new deanery plan is currently being developed as part of the response to the Growing Younger and More Diverse initiative. At the February meeting Johnny Stevens from Soul Survivor spoke about Living in Love and Faith. In October Canon Tim Bull and Mrs Hilary Knight from the Abbey spoke and led discussion on the Cathedral's re-imagination of its mission.

The Revd Tony Rindl

Climate Emergency

It has been a busy year as St Mary's successfully completed all the actions necessary to reach the Ecochurch Bronze and Silver standards by August. The awards were presented by the St Albans Environment Officer Rachel Johnston and the Deputy Mayor of Watford Aga Dychton at a special Creationtide Service in September, followed by lunch with our MP Dean Russell and an Encounter service with experts, NGOs and local politicians devoted to climate action which was attended by 65 people.

To get the awards we have:

- included climate in our worship, prayers and teaching;
- offered advice, info and tips to encourage each other to take action;
- lobbied and engaged with politicians and government;
- started building a programme to assess and reduce individual climate footprints under the CreationCare scheme;
- saved energy where we can;
- started swapping things and sharing surplus garden produce;
- reduced paper use and sourced recycled photocopying paper and installed bike racks.

We are now planning to reach the more demanding Ecochurch Gold. We have also formed a Green Heart of Watford group with four NGOs and the council to restore nature around St Mary's. We have started the Watford Green Christian email group and established links with other local green groups.

Andy Roby

Safeguarding

The PCC is able to report that it has complied with its duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. Lesley Gray continues in her role as Parish Safeguarding Officer and Jenny Whittick has taken on the role of managing DBS checks, training and references, as a volunteer. She has worked tirelessly to get the church up to date with all the admin and we are now in a good position, most people in leadership positions having completed all the relevant paperwork by the end of the year. All the policies relevant to safeguarding have been updated and safeguarding remains a standing item on all PCC agendas. Some safeguarding referrals were made this year, to the diocese, with other concerns being kept internally on record. The Parish Dashboard is being updated and all previously outstanding risk assessments are now completed.

Lesley Gray
Parish Safeguarding Officer

Pre-School

2023 was a successful year for the Pre-school. Anita Wenham joined the staff team in January and took on the role of Deputy Manager by Easter. This created a strong, more qualified team who were able to offer more places. There are now 24 places for children aged 2 - 4 years. Adriana Aitkaci Komarova continued as manager and completed her Special Educational Needs training, enabling children with additional needs to be better supported. The hard work and commitment of all the staff was recognised by OFSTED who carried out an inspection in April and graded the pre-school 'Good' in all areas. In May, the 21st birthday of the pre-school was celebrated with parents and committee members when the children sang songs and food was shared. The pre-school committee made up of members of St Mary's Church continued to meet regularly and play an active role in supporting the staff team.

Margaret Greenstreet

**Independent Examiner's Report to
The Parochial Church Council, St Mary's Watford**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of St Mary's Church Watford (charity no. 1132880) for the year ended 31 December 2023 which are set out on pages 11 to 23.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity, 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 charity'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.

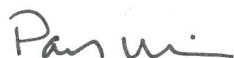
Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

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 the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records.

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.



Paul Windmill FCA

dated: 14 May 2024

Myers Clark
Statutory Auditor and Chartered Accountants
Egale 1, 80 St Albans Road
Watford
Hertfordshire
WD17 1DL

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY'S, WATFORD
ANNUAL REPORT 2023

SOFA 2023

		Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total Funds	
		Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds	2023	2022
	Note	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	2(a)	124,964	-	58,396	-	183,360	210,013
Income from charitable activities	2(b)	2,154	80,725	-	-	82,879	50,005
Other trading activities	2(c)	42,734	-	-	-	42,734	37,603
Investments	2(d)	23,186	-	87	368	23,641	22,022
Other income	2(e)	-	-	-	-	-	20
TOTAL Income		193,038	80,725	58,483	368	332,614	319,663
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	3(a)	6,541	-	-	-	6,541	8,512
Expenditure on charitable activities	3(b)	194,233	70,262	89,662	-	354,157	294,600
Other expenditure	3(c)	-	-	-	-	-	5,710
TOTAL Expenditure		200,774	70,262	89,662	-	360,698	308,822
Net income/expenditure before transfers		(7,736)	10,463	(31,179)	368	(28,084)	10,841
Transfers							
Gross transfers between funds - in		-	-	-	-	-	4,991
Gross transfers between funds - out		-	-	-	-	-	(4,991)
Net income/expenditure before other gains/losses		(7,736)	10,463	(31,179)	368	(28,084)	10,841
Gains/losses on investment assets		-	1,912	-	1,111	3,023	(57,209)
Net movement in funds		(7,736)	12,375	(31,179)	1,479	(25,061)	(46,368)
Balances brought forward at 1 January 2023		602,882	36,633	49,832	16,309	705,656	752,024
Balances carried forward at 31 December 2023		595,146	49,008	18,653	17,788	680,595	705,656

BALANCE SHEET

		2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
	Note				
Fixed Assets					
Tangible fixed assets	5		101,203		101,534
Investments					
Church Board of Finance share accounts	6		29,837		26,814
63 Brightwell Road	6		376,000		376,000
Current Assets					
Debtors	7	10,997		11,860	
Investments		4,959		4,591	
Short term deposits		113,707		110,175	
Cash at bank and in hand		73,773		105,524	
		203,436		232,150	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	-	9,262	(10,223)	
Net Current Assets			194,174		221,927
Total Assets less Current Liabilities			701,214		726,275
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	8		(20,619)	(20,619)	
Net Assets			680,595		705,656
Funds					
Unrestricted & Designated	9		644,154		639,515
Restricted	10		18,653		49,832
Endowment	11		17,788		16,309
			680,595		705,656

These accounts were approved by the PCC on 12th May 24 and signed on their behalf by



Rev Tony Rindl
Chair



Peter Dean
Church Warden

Notes to the financial statement for the year ended 31 December 2023

Accounting Policies

1.1 *Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern*

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 1 January 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The charity has taken advantage of the exemption not to prepare a cash flow statement.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

1.2 *Accounting Conventions*

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these accounts.

1.3 *Funds structure*

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application in the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.

Restricted Funds represent monies given by a donor with a specific restriction on their future use. The purpose of any restricted fund is noted in the accounts.

It is the policy of the PCC that no fund should be in deficit and that if this seems likely to occur then expenditure will be reduced as necessary.

It is the policy of the church to hold reserves the equivalent to 2 months' general running costs and additional one month's salary costs/ It is also our policy to hold the amount for anticipated major expenses (including likely building work).

The policy will be reviewed annually at the October PCC meeting or whenever financial circumstances change significantly.

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

1.4 *Income Recognition*

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, there is sufficient certainty or receipt and so it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

i) *Voluntary income and capital sources*

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC

Planned giving receivables under covenant is only recognised when received

Income tax and transitional relief recoverable under Gift Aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement and the amount due.

Fund raised by serving of coffee and lunches and other fund raising events are accounted for gross.

Sales of books, magazines and other publication form the church bookstall/shop are accounted for gross.

- ii) *Other ordinary income*
Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised when the rental is due.
- iii) *Income from investments*
Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable. Tax recoverable on such income is in the same accounting year.
- iv) *Gains and losses on investments*
Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31 December.

1.5 **Expenditure Recognition**

Liabilities are recognised as an expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accrual basis.

- i) *Grants*
Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.
- ii) *Activities directly relating to the work of the church*
The Diocesan Parish Share is accounted for when payable. Any amount unpaid at 31 December is provided for in these accounts as an operational (although not legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the balance sheet except where donors have indicated otherwise.

1.6 **Fixed Assets**

- i) *Consecrated land and buildings and moveable church furnishings*
Consecrated and beneficial property is excluded from the accounts by s.102(2)© of the Charities Act 2011.
No value is placed on moveable church furnishings held by the Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a Faculty for disposal since the PCC considers these to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or beneficial buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities and separately disclosed.
- ii) *Other land and buildings*
Other land and buildings held on behalf of the PCC for its own purposes are included at market value assessed on an annual basis. No depreciation is charged against such properties because the net realisable value is similar to the re-valued amount and therefore any depreciation would be immaterial. Expenditure on maintenance is written off as incurred, impairment reviews are performed on an annual basis.
- iii) *Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment*
Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight line basis over 5 years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1,000 or less are written off in the period in which the asset is acquired.
- iv) *Motor Vehicles*
The minibus (and any other vehicle owned by the PCC) is depreciated on a straight line basis over 5 years and is currently assessed at having zero value.
- v) *Grand Piano*
The grand piano is depreciated on a straight line basis over 5 years and is currently assessed at having zero value.

1.7 Stock

The cost of goods purchased for resale in the shop/bookstall is written off as incurred. No value is attached to any stocks of consumables held e.g. stationary, office supplies, cleaning materials.

1.8 Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December

1.9 Current Assets

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.

Short term deposits include cash held on deposit either with CBF Church of England Funds or at the bank.

1.10 Risk Management

The PCC guards against risks through:

- a) Taking out adequate insurance cover against fire, theft, and other insurable risks;
- b) Seeking out professional guidance on church security and other matters;
- c) Having and following a clear policy on child protection;
- d) Having and following clear procedures for authorising expenditure and making payments.

1.11 Related Parties

Under the SORP FRS102 (effective 1 January 2019), related party transactions are required to be reported. Related parties for St. Mary's include the members of the PCC and their immediate family plus those with management responsibility within the Church organisation, the Vicar and Church wardens. At present there are no related parties by virtue of land donations, interest bearing loans, or organisations that are related parties through association with related parties.

Donations from Related Parties are reported in aggregate form, unless there are conditions attached to the use of that donation subject to SORP 2019 reporting requirements. Reimbursement of expenses to an unrelated third party are excluded from the reporting.

2. Income and endowments**from:**

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds	
	£	£	£	£	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
2(a) Donations and legacies						
Planned giving	82,203	-	9,065	-	91,268	96,447
Income tax recoverable on giving	21,247	-	1,610	-	22,857	20,109
Collections at services	12,811	-	-	-	12,811	7,405
Gift days	-	-	-	-	-	-
Income tax recoverable on gift days	-	-	-	-	-	2,626
Sundry donations	6,903	-	6,571	-	13,474	7,775
Restricted donations	-	-	150	-	150	-
Income tax recoverable on restricted donations	-	-	-	-	-	651
Grants	1,500	-	41,000	-	42,500	15,000
Donations to development fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
Income tax recoverable on devpt fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
Donations to Church Centre refurbishment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Income tax recoverable on Church Centre refurbishment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Legacies	300	-	-	-	300	60,000
	<u>124,964</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>58,396</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>183,360</u>	<u>210,013</u>
2(b) Income from charitable activities						
Coffee & lunches served	-	-	-	-	-	-
Income from Youth Group activities	-	-	-	-	-	188
Income from social/outreach events	-	-	-	-	-	695
Literature sales & concerts receipts	-	-	-	-	-	36
Fees	2,154	-	-	-	2,154	1,278
Vacancy income	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pre-School fees/funding/donations	-	80,725	-	-	80,725	47,808
	<u>2,154</u>	<u>80,725</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>82,879</u>	<u>50,005</u>
2(c) Other trading activities						
Church Centre lettings	42,734	-	-	-	42,734	37,603
Fundraising for development fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>42,734</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>42,734</u>	<u>37,603</u>
2(d) Investments						
Interest & dividends	5,556	-	87	368	6,011	2,042
63 Brightwell Road rental	11,630	-	-	-	11,630	13,980
Cloisters Office occupancy	6,000	-	-	-	6,000	6,000
	<u>23,186</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>87</u>	<u>368</u>	<u>23,641</u>	<u>22,022</u>
2(e) Other income						
Government JRS grant income	-	-	-	-	-	-
Payments for personal photocopying	-	-	-	-	-	20
Insurance claims	-	-	-	-	-	-
Contra Account	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20</u>
TOTAL Income and Endowments	<u>193,038</u>	<u>80,725</u>	<u>58,483</u>	<u>368</u>	<u>332,614</u>	<u>319,663</u>

3. Expenditure on:

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds	
	£	£	£	£	2023 £	2022 £
3(a) Raising funds						
Salary cost (admin)	2,985	-	-	-	2,985	5,128
Salary cost (Caretaker)	2,308	-	-	-	2,308	2,105
Card Reader	409	-	-	-	409	-
Printing, stationery, postage, etc	-	-	-	-	-	-
Costs of fundraising events	-	-	-	-	-	-
Letting Agency	839	-	-	-	839	1,279
	<u>6,541</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,541</u>	<u>8,512</u>
3(b) Expenditure on charitable activities						
Giving to overseas missions	-	-	18,206	-	18,206	3,560
Giving to relief/development agencies	-	-	-	-	-	-
Giving to UK missions	-	-	20,597	-	20,597	2,058
PCC Tithe from rental income	-	-	-	-	-	-
Parish Share	88,490	-	-	-	88,490	100,566
Clergy expenses	1,571	-	-	-	1,571	1,475
Other ministry costs	1,303	-	2,033	-	3,336	1,275
Music	3,416	-	-	-	3,416	3,561
Staff training	36	-	-	-	36	-
Youth Club and Sunday School	116	-	-	-	116	60
Pre-School	-	70,262	-	-	70,262	42,848
Church and Church Centre:	-	-	-	-	-	-
Running expenses	60,775	-	-	-	60,775	46,759
Routine inspections and maintenance	5,461	-	-	-	5,461	366
Major maintenance and planned improvements:	381	-	46,000	-	46,381	-
Church Centre Roof / Refurbishment Project	-	-	-	-	-	32,285
Unplanned maintenance and repairs	9,606	-	40	-	9,646	3,339
Quinquennial inspection fee	-	-	-	-	-	-
Furniture, fixtures & fittings purchased	18	-	-	-	18	1,310
Houses: maintenance, insurance, etc	3,733	-	-	-	3,733	5,598
Administration and office costs	5,810	-	-	-	5,810	16,888
Salary costs re Governance (admin & fm)	8,954	-	-	-	8,954	-
Printing, stationery, postage, etc	-	-	-	-	-	2,640
Advertising	-	-	-	-	-	380
Children & Youth Work	-	-	-	-	-	11,288
Lead Chaplain	-	-	-	-	-	6,059
Literature & concerts expenditure	274	-	-	-	274	60
Mission and evangelism activities	-	-	-	-	-	-
Minibus running costs	-	-	2,455	-	2,455	4,259
Coffee & lunches, provisions purchased	59	-	-	-	59	31
Miscellaneous expenditure	510	-	-	-	510	44
Asset depreciation	-	-	331	-	331	331
PCC training	-	-	-	-	-	-
Audit fees & related costs	3,720	-	-	-	3,720	7,560
Contra Account	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>194,233</u>	<u>70,262</u>	<u>89,662</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>354,157</u>	<u>294,600</u>

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3. Expenditure on:
(Continued)

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds	
	£	£	£	£	2023	2022
					£	£
3(c) Other expenditure						
Legal advice	-	-	-	-	-	-
Development Project	-	-	-	-	-	5,710
	-	-	-	-	-	5,710
TOTAL Expenditure	200,774	70,262	89,662	-	360,698	308,822

4. STAFF COSTS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages & Salaries	76,886	76,531
National Insurance - Employer	0	4,970
Pensions - Employer	2,023	2,247
	78,909	83,748

The PCC employed two part time Administrators (one Administrator 1/2 funded by WTCC), Facilities Manager, and Pre-School staff; none earned £40,000 p.a. or more in 2023.

5. FIXED ASSETS FOR USE BY THE PCC

	Leasehold	Cooker	TOTAL
	£	£	£
Gross Book Value			
At 1 January 2023	100,540	1,656	102,196
Additions	-	-	0
Transfer to investment			0
At 31 December 2023	<u>100,540</u>	<u>1,656</u>	<u>102,196</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 January 2023		662	662
Charge for 2023		331	331
At 31 December 2023	<u>0</u>	<u>993</u>	<u>993</u>
Net Book Value			
At 31 December 2022	100,540	994	101,534
Disposals			
At 31 December 2023	<u>100,540</u>	<u>663</u>	<u>101,203</u>

The cooker was purchased in 2021 and is being depreciated in accordance with Accounting Policy 1.6

The last full valuation of the leasehold property at The Cloisters was carried out in 2017. The next valuation is expected to be carried out as at 31 December 2024.

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6. INVESTMENTS

	63 Brightwell Road	Chancel Fund	Church Hall Site Old Free School ^(see Note 12)	Old Free School Recoupment Loan ^(see Note 12)	Old Free School Recoupment Loan ^(see Note 12)	Ian Youngman Prize Fund	Total
Brought forward at 1 January 2023	376,000	7,309	2,386	3,671	11,425	2,023	402,814
Transfer from fixed assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Movement in value	-	693	226	465	1,447	192	3,023
Carried forward at 31 December 2023	376,000	8,002	2,612	4,136	12,872	2,215	405,837

Post balance sheet events

Following the end of the charity's financial year, the charity sold the property at 63 Brightwell Road, Watford, which is held as an investment property within investments, for the gross amount of £376,000.

7. DEBTORS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Income tax recoverable (Gift Aid)	7,003	11,860
Dorothy Longland Trust for curate	-	-
The Lawton Trust	-	-
Church Centre lettings fees due	-	-
Pre-School fees due	-	-
Rent	2,469	-
Prepayments	-	-
Accrued interest	1,525	-
Other	-	-
	10,997	11,860

8. CREDITORS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year		
Accrual for independent examination fee	7,560	7,560
Agency Collections ¹⁶	1,258	1,966
Other accruals and creditors ¹⁷	444	697
	9,262	10,223
Amounts falling due after one year		
Old Free School loans (repayable in 2041 and 2053) ^(see Note 13)	20,619	20,619
	20,619	20,619

¹⁶ Overpayment of room lettings, Legal Fees, Holy Land Trip payments, St Albans Fees

¹⁷ CMF(O) funds & PCC Tithe not yet distributed, HMRC PAYE, VAT Reclaim, Energy Bills, Cleaning contract, Staff Costs (pension) WTRRP Donation

9. UNRESTRICTED AND DESIGNATED FUNDS

	Balance at 01/01/2023	Movements in Resources			Balance at 31/12/2023
	£	Incoming £	Transfers £	Outgoing £	£
General Fund	602,882	193,038	-	(200,774)	595,146
Children and Youth Worker	-	-	-	-	-
Pre-School Fund	21,536	80,725	-	(70,262)	31,999
Development Fund	-	-	-	-	-
Church Centre Refurbishment (incl. roof)	-	-	-	-	-
Kitchen Fund	-	-	-	-	-
OFS Recoupment Fund	15,097	1,912	-	-	17,009
	639,515	275,675	-	(271,036)	644,154

The Pre-School Fund represents funds generated by the Pre-School which are being accumulated to cover any potential capital expenditure or operating losses in the future. The PCC reviews this periodically and any funds considered to be in excess of requirements will be transferred to the General Fund.

10. RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance at 01/01/2023	Movements in Resources			Balance at 31/12/2023
	£	Incoming £	Transfers £	Outgoing £	£
External Giving Fund ¹⁸	33,779	10,675	-	(38,803)	5,651
Legacies Funds ¹⁹	1,490	87	-	-	1,577
Restricted donations and grants	12,121	7,721	-	(10,488)	9,354
Youth Fund	750	-	-	-	750
Sunday School Fund	547	-	-	-	547
Kitchen Fund (cooker)	1,145	-	-	(371)	774
Development Fund	-	-	-	-	-
Church Centre Refurbishment (incl. roof)	-	40,000	-	(40,000)	-
	49,832	58,483	-	(89,662)	18,653

¹⁸ External Giving Fund receives monies specifically donated for support of the worldwide mission of the Church; these are distributed in accordance with the donors' wishes or, if these are not specified, they are distributed to missions in line with a formula approved by the PCC.

¹⁹ Legacies Funds contain monies donated or bequeathed for specific purposes; the balance is restricted to the purposes shown below:

	Balance at 01/01/2023	Interest	Other income	Use of funds	Balance at 31/12/2023
Purposes	£	£	£	£	£
The Poor	407	24	-	-	431
Outreach	767	45	-	-	812
Vicar's Discretionary	289	16	-	-	305
Church lending library	27	2	-	-	29
	1,490	87	-	-	1,577

11. ENDOWMENT FUNDS

	Balance at 31/12/2022	Movements in Resources		Balance at 31/12/2023
	£	Incoming £	Outgoing £	£
Chancel Fund				
CBF Investment Account (354 shares)	7,309	693	-	8,002
CBF Deposit Account	4,591	368	-	4,959
Old Free School Fund				
CBF Investment Account (115.56 shares) ²¹	2,386	226	-	2,612
Ian Youngman Prize Fund (98 shares) ²²	2,023	192	-	2,215
	16,309	1,479	-	17,788

²¹Dividend for general use £71.41 (£71.02 in 2022).

²²Dividend for Sunday School prize £60.55 (£60.21 in 2022).

12. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds	
	£	£	£	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed Assets	100,540	663	-	101,203	101,534
Investments (Shares)	393,008	-	12,829	405,837	402,814
Cash at Bank	169,490	17,990	4,959	192,439	220,290
Other Net Current Assets	1,735	-	-	1,735	1,637
Liabilities over one year	(20,619)	-	-	(20,619)	(20,619)
	644,154	18,653	17,788	680,595	705,656

13. OLD FREE SCHOOL RECOUPMENT LOANS

In 1981 the Charity Commission approved a loan to the PCC of £4,500 out of the residual proceeds from the sale of the lease of the Old Free School and an associated right of way; this loan was to meet the cost of repairs to the church roof; and in order to achieve recoupment over the agreed term of 60 years an investment was made in the CBF Investment Fund, the value of which at 31 December 2023 was £4,135.78 (2022: £3,671.35).

A similar loan to the PCC of £16,119 over 60 years was agreed in 1993 in order to meet the cost of repairs to the church centre; at 31 December 2023 the value of this recoupment investment in the CBF Investment Fund was £12,870.79 (2022: £11,425.23).

Following drawdown of the 1981 loan detailed above, a small residue from the available sale proceeds created an endowment fund, the use of which is restricted to capital projects within the church; this is invested in the CBF Investment Fund and the value at 31 December 2023 was £2,612.27 (2021: £2,385.84).

14. INCOME RECEIVED FROM AND AMOUNTS PAID TO TRUSTEES (and their related parties)

	2023	2022
Donations without restrictions 23	32,681	30,261
Reportable payments	151	353

The Revd Tony Rindl, a Trustee of the Charity, is also a Trustee of Watford Town Centre Chaplaincy. The Charity received rental income totalling £1,012 from this entity during the year.

The Revd Tony Rindl, a Trustee of the Charity, is also a Trustee of Watford and Three Rivers Refugee Partnership. The Charity received rental income totalling £7,546 from this entity during the year.

Peter Dean and Eileen Roby, Trustees of the Charity, and Caroline Jones, the wife of a Trustee of the Charity, are also Trustees of the Church Lands Trust. The Charity received a grant of £40,000 from this entity during the year.

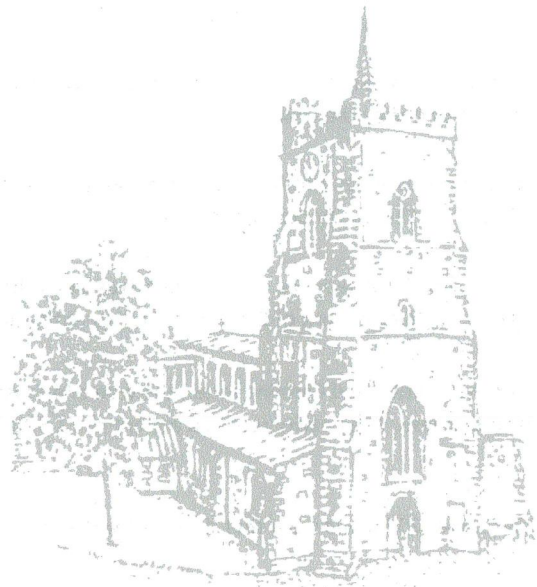
The Revd Tony Rindl and Eileen Roby, Trustees of the Charity, and Caroline Jones, the wife of a Trustee of the Charity, are also Trustees of the Dorothy Longland Bequest. The Charity received a grant of £1,500 from this entity during the year.

Anthony Wilson was appointed to the PCC in December 2023, and from that date received a total of £180 in respect of his services as Music Director.

23 Trustees include serving members of the PCC and those in positions of management of the charity and their families.

15. PLANNED MAJOR WORK

There was no authorised capital expenditure as at 31 December 2023.



Retaining our rich evangelical heritage, we want to be a church community which is rooted in the scriptures, filled with the Spirit and one which lives out a credible Christian faith. The church building needs to continue to be a sacred space and place of sanctuary in the heart of Watford. As a church community we naturally long to see spiritual and numerical growth in line with the diocesan initiative, Living God's Love, and to be a vibrant community attractive to others, and in partnership with other churches serve our local community well.