THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW, SYDENHAM

England & Wales · Charity number 1133852

Details

Other names	ST BARTHOLOMEW'S PCC, SYDENHAM
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2010-01-28
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	7 Doctors Close London SE26 6DL
Phone	02087782768
Email	stbartstreasurer@hotmail.co.uk
Website	www.stbartschurchsydenham.org

Activities

Objects: Promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church.

Activities: Regular public worship open to all. The provision of sacred space for personal prayer and contemplation. Pastoral work, including visiting the sick and the bereaved. Teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups. Taking of religious assemblies in schools. Promotion of Christianity through the staging of events and meetings, and the distribution of literature.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

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Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL.
- Lewisham

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£139,093	£154,625	-	-
2023-12-31	£148,739	£133,894	-	-
2022-12-31	£131,007	£132,626	-	-
2021-12-31	£135,378	£105,258	-	-
2020-12-31	£147,161	£172,216	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Jim Marcus Perry	Chair	2019-10-31
Adaeze Onyekwelu Garaventa		2024-06-01
Charles John Trevor Jesus Edwards		2025-05-01
Claire Elizabeth Adams		2024-05-01
EDWARD PETER STUBBS		2016-04-26
Heidi Edwards		2025-04-27
Hilary-Anne Buckhurst		2018-04-29
Jayne Newman		2024-06-01
Kenlyn Fleary		2016-04-26
LESLEY KHATIBI		2012-10-17
Nigel Chalmondley Wolfe Ralph		2022-05-15
PADDY MOON		
Roland Harvey Bates		2016-04-26
Shireen Williams		2023-06-01
Sylvia Bisi Adedayo		2022-05-15
Winifred Leigh Roebuck MBE		2025-04-27

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THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW, SYDE

England & Wales - Charity number 1133852

Accounts

The Parish of Sydenham

St Bartholomew's Church

Annual Report

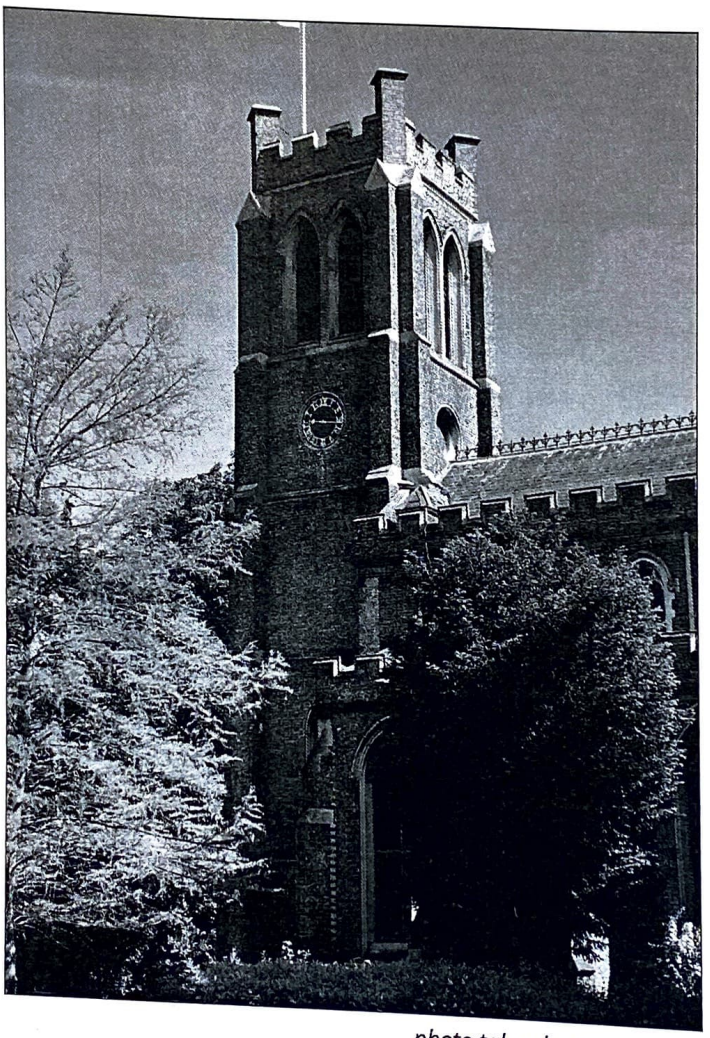

photo taken by Peter Stubbs

May 2024

St Bartholomew's Church
Westwood Hill, Sydenham

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

went on to visit friends in Yorkshire and then my youngest brother in Cheshire that we couldn't sleep properly because it was too quiet with out the sound of busy Westwood Hill traffic, sirens, buses – and foxes! Most importantly has been settling in to the spiritual home that is St Bartholomew's. This year has felt like the time that everything settled in to place after the difficult time of Covid, the unsettled time of meeting new people (I even get most people's names right these days!), of us each getting used to each other and the challenge of doing things a bit differently. And of course it's not really about me feeling at home – it is about us all, the whole St Bart's family, living, worshipping and serving God together in our Parish and it's communities. Doing our best to respond to Jesus words from today's Gospel reading: "...love one another as I have loved you."

I wrote this time last year about holding back from getting into the process of renewing our Mission Action Plan (MAP) as the time didn't feel quite right. Because of what I describe above the times does now feel right and that is what our upcoming vision day (June 16th) will be about. And it will be exciting to then welcome Bethany as Curate a couple of weeks later.

Crucial to the life of the church is our excellent Church Warden's, Lesley and Roland. I continue to be extremely thankful for them both. We are also served by a great treasurer, Peter and his team, PCC secretary Shireen, the sacristy team headed by Carol along with all those who decorate our church with flowers, prepare, edit and distribute Sydenham Life, help lead our worship as readers, intercessors and Eucharistic ministers, provide welcome and hospitality and so much more. And of course Dennis, our organist; we thank God for his health and continued service, as we prayed for him through his treatment. Thanks also to our choir and singers and to those who played the organ and piano when Dennis was unable to.

Music is an important part of our church life, both in our worship and in the concerts and events that take place here. It has been a delight to have our new piano and once again a huge thank you to all who donated towards it's purchase, and to those who researched and sourced a suitable instrument.

9 children were Baptised at St Bartholomew's during the year, 4 children were admitted to receive Holy Communion and 5 of our young people were Confirmed at our Deanery Confirmation service. We continue to ask God's blessing on all of them. And as we seek to make good on our commitment to help them grow in faith as part of Christ's Church we are grateful to Edward, Clare and Jo who responded to our 'resources fair' and agreed to start a monthly group for Children.

Week by week a large number of people come through our doors, for concerts, events, community groups, parties and more and I continue to meet and talk to a huge range of people from the wider community who come in to look around, pray, find a place of quiet or seek support and counsel, when the door is open during the week. Additionally it has been a joy to welcome classes from our school and on occasion the whole school for worship. I also continue to lead worship in school most Wednesdays and have increased opportunities to visit lessons. I was extremely impressed by the depth of biblical knowledge many pupils had when I visited classes in years 1, 3 and 4 at Easter. And we were able to hold the first Pet Service since I've been here; a great tradition and one we shall definitely continue this year.

In our national life the year saw the coronation of King Charles III and it was our privileged as part of the National Church of England to offer prayers on behalf of all people for the blessing and well-being of our Nation.

In our Diocese we were deeply saddened by the death of Karowei, Bishop of Woolwich, and his death is still being felt in our Diocesan life. But we look forward and pray for whoever his successor may be.

More locally we continue to work with our partners and friends at St Philip the Apostle and Grove Centre Baptist/URC Church, enjoying Holy Week and other seasonal services with them. We have also recently worked alongside Forest Hill Community Church to celebrate a wedding, and are pleased to host a Kenyan Pentecostal church each Sunday afternoon. Encouraging mutual flourishing by supporting one another, and sharing when we can, for the sake of the Gospel, is always a good thing.

CONTENTS

1.	Electoral Roll	3
2.	Vicar's Report	3
3.	PCC Secretary's Report	6
4.	Churchwarden's Report (including Buildings, Fabric & Lettings)	7
5.	Financial Summary for the year ended 31 December 2022	10
6.	Safeguarding	12
7.	Health & Safety	12
8.	Music	12
9.	Flowers	13
10.	St Bartholomew's School Governor's	13
11.	Sydenham Life	15
12.	Knit & Natter	16

1. Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll at present stands at 149 names. Over the last few years we have kept electoral roll numbers steady through what has been a difficult time for church congregations in general.

* There are 76 (51%) members who reside in the parish - Category A on the form.

* There are 66 (44%) who are officially resident outside the parish but have habitually taken part in worship within the parish prior to six months before enrolment ends - Category B on the form

* 7 (5%) members of another church which 'subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity as well as the church of England and habitually attends worship in this Parish' - Category C on the form

Martin Haines, Church Electoral Roll Officer

2. Vicar's Report

I write having recently returned from 12 days leave. And I am really happy to be back. Not that I didn't enjoy my time off – it was great! But it is also great to be home. While on leave I made a short visit to my previous Parish in Wolverhampton, the first time I have done so since leaving there. We met with the current Vicar and his wife, enjoyed catching up with many friends and parishioners, heard how the congregation and Parish had fared through Covid and since, and enjoyed walking across the still-but-not-quite familiar Pendeford square. It was a very enjoyable afternoon. But it wasn't 'home', not any more. 'Home' can of course mean different things to different people, but for me, as a Vicar, it means the house I live in alongside my family, the communities of the Parish I live alongside day-by-day, and the church family to whom I am called to minister. It can take a while to settle in this multi-faceted home and this was not helped by the Covid Pandemic and lock-downs that happened so soon after I moved here. But this past year has felt to me like we have finally settled in. We joked in Wolves and again as I

I look forward with anticipation to the rest of the year ahead and pray that we will continue to grow together, abiding in the love of God and bearing 'fruit that will last'.

Rev'd Jim
Easter 6, 2024.

3. PCC Secretary Report

The PCC has met 5 times this year. Meetings have been well attended.

The PCC discusses and makes decisions on a wide variety of topics and issues during the year, mainly prompted by the reports from its various sub committees. In addition, there was other business to discuss.

Below are some of the items discussed at PCC meetings

June	Resources for the Church Fayre were discussed Set up in church of a Summer Fayre stall which would show resources that the church needs – one half would be the finances – where does the money go and how it used – the other half would be the time, people and resources required for the running of the church – day to day and week to week – what can we do going forward that we are not doing now
Sep	Mission giving – it was proposed to support the following charities this year Local – Kelvin Grove Community Supermarket National – Eleanor's Mental Health Charity with equine therapy International - Christian Aid
Nov	The dates for the new Ecclesiastical year were announced and listed and it was decided that the plate collection from the Christingle service would go to the Children's Society. Approaching different people from the congregation and diocese to preach in the year to come was also discussed
Jan	Vision day on 16th June was discussed – it is to be publicised from April and the congregation will be invited to submit questions to a question box. The PCC would look at the questions before the day
March	The terms of some members of the PCC come to an end this year – would be inviting the nomination of 3 people – the need to encourage younger people to join the PCC was discussed Approval of the church accounts.

Shireen Williams, PCC Secretary

4. Churchwarden's Report including Buildings, Fabric and Lettings

During 2023, we continued to see healthy congregations at most of our services and although we were extremely sad to lose some much-loved regular members, such as Toyin and family, who moved out of the area, we also welcomed a number of new families, including several children, into our community.

Activities are on the increase, and we are delighted that this has included the re-establishment of a Sunday School, initially on a monthly basis. This has been made possible by several volunteers stepping forward to run it, which is brilliant, and we trust it will grow from here.

Of course, there are plenty of opportunities to volunteer at St Bart's. We are lucky to have a beautiful, listed building with some wonderful features, but it does take a great deal of looking after! For many years, Nigel Rushton has been our chief maintenance person, helping to keep our building standing, our gutters clear and our congregation dry. This year, Nigel has finally retired from his regular maintenance duties and although we know he will still give us the benefit of his advice, based on his love for and knowledge of the building, we need to replace his physical labour. We are currently trying to identify suitable local tradesmen who have the right experience to help maintain a building such as ours and expect to be taking on someone on a retainer. However, there are a multitude of jobs required to maintain the

church and we would be very grateful to anyone who feels they could take part, in however small a way, in this perpetual exercise.

We are already very grateful to people like Stuart, Bernard and Barrie, who take on tasks in the building or churchyard on a regular basis, but there is scope for many more; so whether your skills are DIY, leaf clearing, plumbing, carpentry or you have some serious listed buildings experience, your help would be so welcome, and we would love you to join our Buildings Issues Group (BIG), which meets every few months. Also, if you can recommend local tradesmen who you know to be reliable and skilled in the relevant areas, please pass on their details; just speak to Lesley, Roland or Rev Jim – please!

Details of our various projects/maintenance issues are as follows:

We have had a long-term issue with a leak in the water system running into the crypt and it has been frustrating waiting for the architect, water company and insurers to communicate so that we could decide on the best course of action and resolve the issue. We finally made a breakthrough and work has been done to divert the piping in the churchyard. However, there is still a leak in an area not yet accessed by the contractors and we are now waiting for the further work to be approved by the insurers – we hope to have final resolution very soon!

As reported last year, the nave roof will be in need of replacement in the near future. We have patched things up in the meantime and there are no current leaks, but this will be a major exercise for which funds will need to be raised over the next few years.

The heating is working as well as it can be, given that we had to isolate part of the system some time ago, due to the cost of identifying a leak underneath the stone floors. We are hoping that grants will be available at some point to help us to replace the system with something more environmentally friendly.

The fire alarm system has been serviced this month and all the batteries have been changed.

We have identified and had fixed a short circuit in the dishwasher, which was causing the electrical circuit in the kitchen to trip.

The clock has been reset and serviced, but we are waiting for permission to instal the BST adjuster.

A faculty application for the repair of the bell has been submitted and this will be done when the specialists have availability.

An application was made by our neighbours for removal of the two oak trees by the lychgate, due to damage caused to their property by the root system. The Diocese have been fighting this and we do not know the final decision as yet, but it is possible they may have to be removed, which would be a great shame.

Last year, we reported that we needed to raise funds for a new piano, to better serve our worship needs and to enable us to once again welcome high calibre pianists/ensembles. Due to some generous donations and various fundraising events, we were able to meet our target and are delighted that the piano is now in place and has been played for some excellent musical performances, to great acclaim. We are planning to hold a concert later in the year to formally launch the piano and thank the major donors.

Due to another kind donation, we are able to schedule the cleaning and restoration of our wonderful reredos. We are currently taking advice on this and hope to get the work done in the latter part of the year.

As choir members, we also note the laying of the stone for long-term chorister Dennis Harrington and his wife, Evelyn, both members of the congregation for very many years, in the memorial garden.

As we are about to welcome our new curate, Bethany, we are embarking on a refurbishment of the curate's flat, including redecoration and replacement of old equipment where required.

We look forward to our Mission Day on 16th June, which will be an opportunity for everyone to share their opinions and ideas for the future. We really want to hear everyone's views and we urge you to come along and take

part. The more we are all involved, the more likely we will be to have a church that is serving our needs and a real part of the community.

As always, we would like to acknowledge the great contribution made by regular volunteers, without whom we couldn't function. Whether you are involved in stewarding, reading, music, flowers, coffee rota, maintenance, delivering sacraments, looking after church linen, buying supplies, or as Treasurer, Sacristan or member of PCC or working party/committee; thank you all, and of course, a big thank you to Rev Jim for leading us all.

Lesley Khatibi & Roland Bates. May 2024

5. FINANCIAL SUMMARY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

1) General Fund

Most of our day-to-day income and running costs go through the General Fund.

Donated income showed healthy growth, as did the weekly collections. Non specific donations were down in 2023, but these one-off donations and legacies are unpredictable. Lettings income from the hall and crypt continued its healthy growth. We benefited from renting out the curate's flat for most of the year, and overall income was up by £4,000 to £130,000. Costs rose by about £5,000, due mainly to an increased Parish Pledge to the diocese for clergy costs, and higher energy costs. Overall, we had a deficit of £2,600 in the year (after transfers to other funds). When we again have a curate, we will lose the income from the flat (£17,000), so there is an ongoing challenge to encourage more regular giving, hire out the hall and crypt more, and have more fundraising activities.

Cash reserves in the General Fund would cover about 60% of our annual running costs. It is good practice to have reserves for at least three months expenses, and we are above that.

Overall, the balance sheet showed an increase in net current assets of £15k.

2) Buildings Fund

All costs relating to the maintenance of the church building are shown in The Buildings Fund. These costs were almost £8,000 in 2023 due to the regular repairs and maintenance. These costs were covered by a transfer from the General Fund, and donations received of £4,000. It is costly to maintain a building of this size and age, but money is well spent to avoid bigger problems in the future, and to maintain it at a good standard for worship.

Overall, we made a surplus of £11,000 in the fund (allowing for increased equity in the flat as we pay off the loan). This resulted in reserves for future building work standing at £33,000 at the end of the year. The equity in the curate's flat (the difference between the purchase price and the outstanding mortgage) now stands at £139,000. This is not available to spend unless the flat is sold.

3) SABRE Fund

Due to the Pandemic, the SABRE project to restore and improve the church was on hold. During 2023 the only movement was income of VAT reclaimed on earlier works, of £700. There is now £87,000 in the fund for further repairs, restoration, and improvements to the building.

4) Specific Projects Fund

This fund is used for the income and expenditure for causes and charities, funds accumulated over the years for the specific purpose of piano and organ restoration work, funds for youth work, and a small welfare fund. At the end of 2023 there was a surplus in this fund of £15,760, most of which is the donations towards the new piano, to be paid for in 2024.

Peter Stubbs, PCC treasurer

(The full accounts and financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2023 are available separately.)

6. Safeguarding

During the year Rev'd Jim has undertaken his required 3 year renewal of Safeguarding in Leadership training.

The volunteers for the new Sunday children's group have all had DBS checks and other church officers have had their DBS checks renewed as required.

7. Health & Safety

There have not been any incidents requiring recording in the accident book.

Having heard views from several congregation members, the PCC agreed to keep the manner of sharing the Peace in it's post-COVID form (the 'wave of peace'!)

One congregation member undertook first aid training, but more are required – please speak to the Warden's if you would be willing.

The Health and Safety Policy is due for a full review this year, which will be undertaken by the Wardens and Health & Safety group of the PCC.

8. Music Report

Music in our Sunday worship continues to be lead by our group of choristers and singers, with the second Sunday of each month focusing on the choristers, fourth Sunday on the singers and other weeks combined. For various reasons, including some people moving away, the numbers in the choir and singer have reduced over the past year, however the groups continue to give a good lead to our singing.

Rehearsals for choir and singers take place on Thursday evenings.

The organ continues to be tuned and maintained well by a reputable organ tuning and repair company. A new, concert-standard, piano has been bought thanks to generous donations from the congregation past and present and fund raising by friends of the church.

An organ recital was held to mark the Coronation of King Charles III by our organist Dennis Baugh.

Dennis had some time away from playing during the year for health reasons. We are grateful to Tim, Ken, Roland and Cathy who stepped in to play the organ and piano and to lead the choir in Dennis's absence. And we give thanks to God for Dennis return to health and to playing.

9. Flowers Report

Thank you to Jean, Colleen and Jayne, assisted by Anne, who prepare and arrange the flowers in church.

The absence of flowers during Advent and Lent, the the joy of their return at Christmas and Easter was remarked upon, highlighting that flowers are more than just decoration – they are a part of the way all of our senses are engaged in worship.

Thank you to members of the congregation who contributed to the cost of Easter flowers, which is often found an appropriate way to commemorate a loved one.

The team would love to hear from anyone who would like to join them – no previous experience is necessary.

10. St Bart's School Governors

As I write this Report, we are nearly halfway through the final term of yet another busy year for all those involved in our church school, St Bartholomew's Church of England Primary School.

The school's number on role is healthy with last September's intake being full. This is no mean feat as school roles are generally dropping in this present climate.

The staff still continue to cope with the challenges presented to them following the pandemic. Teachers, Teaching Assistants, Support Staff and

Ancillaries, maintain their teaching and care of all the children. All concerned are mindful that there is still much compensating to be done in order to make up for opportunities lost during Covid.

School trips and visits are once again very much an intrinsic part of the curriculum.

Rev Jim continues to visit fortnightly to take collective worship. The school also visits the church for acts of worship.

On a sober note with budget cutbacks and a rise in everyday running costs there has had to be a staff restructuring. With a great deal of care and negotiating this has now happened with the new structure in place.

The governors continue to play a part in maintaining their role as critical friends of the school The full governing body continues to meet twice a term and all governors sit one of the two main committees:

'Ressources' - The budget is regularly reviewed and monitored and Financial and Resources priorities are discussed.

'Curriculum and Learning' - The curriculum is reviewed, subject leaders regularly come to address meetings. Data and progress are monitored and new initiatives are explained.

All governors also sit on sub committees such as Well-Being and Marketing.

The role of Governor has been enhanced by being able to make regular visits to the school. Committees will often visit the school on a working day focusing on a particular area before meeting to discuss challenges and strengths, ever mindful of the school SIP (School Improvement Plan)

The School had their Ofsted Visit on the 3rd and 4th July 2023. The outcome an overall Grade of Good with Pupil's Personal Development being highlighted and awarded Outstanding.

It is only fitting that the hard work and dedication of David Roberts, a member of our congregation, and for many years a Governor of St Bartholomew's Church School, who passed away recently is acknowledged. Thank you David for the service you gave us.

Our role as Governors continues. So many skills and experiences are needed and always welcomed. Not only is it hugely important as we support the school that belongs to our church, but also as supporters of the wider community. With that final thought perhaps you might feel that you have something that you could offer. It really is a very rewarding role.

Hilary-Anne Buckhurst. Foundation Governor

11. Sydenham Life

Overview: Sydenham Life Magazine is the free Parish Magazine of St Bartholomew's Church, Westwood Hill, SE26 6QR and has been continually printed in different formats since 1st January 1868 (156 yrs). Copies are with The British Library. It is an important outreach magazine and is also used for Research Projects. It is published 10 times a year (July/Aug & Dec/Jan combined months).

Current versions are also published on the Parish page at A Church Near You and publicised on the Parish Facebook page.

An important outreach magazine with interesting articles. It informs and invites the local population of events and classes available in St Bartholomew's Church. It helps to promote St Bartholomew's Primary School, local Business and Social Enterprises such as Sydenham Community Supermarket and Lewisham + Bromley Credit Union. Advertisers have remained with us for years despite increases in advertising costs showing it is an important part of the community.

We welcome Nigel & Josie Ralph as new members of the Working Group. The Sydenham Life Working Group Team, Article Writers, Packers & Distributors from Church and Community contribute their time by writing articles and delivering the magazine. It is written, run, packed and hand delivered to 3,000 households by volunteers. We also welcome the new packers and distributors. Thank you to all new and old volunteers without which we simply could not continue.

The team always welcomes new volunteers for distribute magazines, writing articles, advertising or sponsorship. *Contact slifeads@hotmail.co.uk or any of the working group, Geoffery Cave, Jane Somers, Ope Otudeko, Yvonne Springer, Hal Bannister or The Rev Jim.*

Jane Somers April 2024

12. Knit & Natter

Throughout 2023, we have continued to meet on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month from 10.30am to 12.30pm (ish!) We mostly bring our own projects, drink tea & coffee, and chat about our week while we craft.

However, we have also taken part in several projects for St Bart's, using our crafting skills to raise church funds. At Easter we made chicks and bunnies crème egg covers and sold them at church for the Bishop's Lent Appeal, raising £270.75.

In August, we organised an outing to Rochester Cathedral to visit the 'Creation through Threads' exhibition by Jacqui Parkinson, a textile artist. Travelling by train together, we had a lovely day out and very much enjoyed the exhibition and the cathedral, lunch in the sun outside, and a wander through the high street. We hope this is the first of many excursions.

In September, at the request of Rev Jim, we started work on making 60 sheep and a new knitted nativity set to use in the Advent Posada. With some knitted and some crocheted, each sheep was unique, just like our group!

In early December we attended the arts & craft fair at Ignition Brewery selling small gifts and Christmas decorations. This raised over £50 for church funds and any items left over were sold at church on the remaining Sundays.

We are a small but friendly group of crafters who welcome all who wish to join us, whether you come along for the craft, or just the tea & chat. Why not come and join us?!

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF SAINT BARTHOLOMEW, SYDENHAM

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

Charity Commission Registration Number 1133852

CONTENTS

Page	2	Balance Sheet
	3	Statement of Financial Activities
	4 to 5	General Fund
	6	Buildings & SABRE Funds
	7	Specific Projects Fund
	8 to 10	Notes to the Accounts

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF SAINT BARTHOLOMEW, SYDENHAM

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

BALANCE SHEET AT 31ST DECEMBER 2024

	Note	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £	2023 £
Fixed assets:					
Tangible assets *(curate's flat at cost)*	2		183,131		*183,131*
Current assets:					
Debtors & accrued income *(Dec Parish Giving, curate subsidy energy account in credit)*		15,015		5,052	
Payments in advance *(insurance)*		4,680		4,572	
Balance at Natwest bank *(current account)*		89,296		85,592	
Balance at CAF bank *(current account)*		69,201		94,711	
Balance at CofE CBF (Central Board of Finance *(deposit account))*		25,064		23,801	
Balance on Church Equals debits cards		1,291		578	
Cash in church safe for event floats and petty cash		511		1,309	
		205,058		*215,615*	
Current liabilities:					
Loan amount payable within one year *(flat repayment)*	2	6,464		*6,464*	
Other creditors due within one year *(accruals)*		8,586		3,611	
- mainly fees due to the Diocese & Mission Giving					
		15,050		*10,075*	
Net current assets			190,008		*205,540*
Total assets minus current liabilities			373,139		*388,671*
Long term liability					
Diocesan loan for flat purchase - *payable after one year*	2	31,242		*37,706*	
			31,242		*37,706*
			341,897		*350,965*
Represented by:					
Unrestricted funds					
General fund			72,595		*75,875*
Restricted funds					
Buildings fund					
curate flat purchase cost	183,131				
curate flat outstanding mortgage	37,706				
equity in curate flat - not available to spend	145,425				
surplus in fund that can be spent on works	32,666				
total in Buildings Fund at end of year	178,091	178,091		*172,142*	
SABRE restoration fund		87,349		*87,186*	
Specific projects fund		3,862		*15,762*	
			269,302		*275,090*
	8		341,897		*350,964*

Rev. Jim Perry
Incumbent

Lesley Khatibi
Churchwarden

Roland Bates
Churchwarden

March 2025

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF SAINT BARTHOLOMEW, SYDENHAM

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

- summarising the three funds in SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice) format

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds			Total funds	Total funds
	General fund £	Building fund £	SABRE restoration fund £	Specific projects fund £	2024 £	2023 £
Incoming resources						
Incoming resources from generated funds						
Voluntary income	83,079	0	0	2,929	86,008	*103,346*
Activities for generating funds	37,559	14,600	0	0	52,159	*43,887*
Investment income	0	0	163	0	163	*247*
Incoming resources from charitable activities ie fees	763	0	0	0	763	*1,259*
Total incoming resources	121,401	14,600	163	2,929	139,093	*148,739*
Resources expended						
Costs of generating funds	0	0	0	0	0	*0*
Costs of running the church	122,517	17,279	0	14,829	154,625	*133,894*
Governance costs (examination of accounts)	0	0	0	0	0	*0*
Total resources expended	122,517	17,279	0	14,829	154,625	*133,894*
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers	-1,116	-2,679	163	-11,900	-15,532	*14,845*
reduction in flat loan liability - to Balance Sheet	0	6,464	0	0	6,464	*6,464*
Transfers between funds	-2,164	2,164	0	0	0	*0*
Net movement in funds	-3,280	5,949	163	-11,900	-9,068	*21,309*
Total funds as at 1 January 2024	75,875	172,142	87,186	15,762	350,965	*329,656*
Total funds as at 31 December 2024	72,595	178,091	87,349	3,862	341,897	*350,965*

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF SAINT BARTHOLOMEW, SYDENHAM

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

GENERAL FUND (UNRESTRICTED FUND)

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT AND FUND MOVEMENT

	Note	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £	2023 £
Incoming Resources					
Donated income					
Parish Giving Scheme - *regular giving*		57,089		62,895	
Tax (gift aid) - *reclaimed on donations*		13,420		15,323	
Weekly collections - *now including the credit card machine*		8,675		8,379	
Non-specific donations *(various donations)*		1,645		1,962	
Old Church Hall site *(ground rents from remaining freeholds)*		250		250	
Donations towards Sydenham Life costs		2,000		0	
Occasional collections *(at special services and events)*		0		200	
			83,079		*89,009*
Fees for weddings, funerals, banns			763		*1,259*
Investment income					
Interest on General Fund bank balance		0		*0*	
			0		*0*
Fund-raising activities					
Lettings - hall, crypt and church hire		22,933		22,596	
Sydenham Life advertising revenue		1,820		2,770	
Jumble sales (*donations and the October Sale)*		2,049		0	
Floodlighting		50		0	
Action Bibles donations		416		245	
Remembrance Book donations		500		0	
Rent from the curate's flat		2,850		13,956	
Curate training subsidy		4,300		0	
Sunday morning coffee, breakfasts, afternoon teas		424		247	
Christmas Fair - *receipts and donations*		1,771		0	
Knit and natter		446		73	
			37,559		*39,887*
Total general fund incoming resources			121,401		*130,155*

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF SAINT BARTHOLOMEW, SYDENHAM

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

GENERAL FUND (UNRESTRICTED FUND)

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT AND FUND MOVEMENT

	Note	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
Resources Expended					
On church objects					
Parish Pledge to Diocese - *for clergy salaries, housing and training*		65,545		64,260	
Sydenham Life printing and expenses		5,250		5,120	
Utilities - *water, gas, electricity*		11,725		15,999	
Bank charges		61		64	
Insurance - *for the building*		4,572		4,452	
Altar requisites - *wafers, wine, candles etc*		698		727	
Interest on loan to purchase the curate's flat		3,557		3,720	
Curate's flat service charge, council tax, repairs		12,450		4,534	
Cleaning - *includes consumables, rubbish removal, deep clean*		3,796		4,088	
Flower costs		420		0	
Staff expenses - travel, telephone etc	9	243		294	
Books & print		346		387	
Office expenses - photocopier etc		2,449		3,207	
Non fund-raising activities *(skip, moving new furniture etc)*		1,256		1,437	
Organist		3,935		4,060	
Choir & music - *church copyright licence, music books*		660		830	
Instrument maintenance		2,400		1,814	
Mission giving - *to local/national/international charities*	3	2,600		2,500	
Sunday morning coffee expenses		104		15	
Action Bible costs		450		777	
total normal costs			122,517		*118,285*
Inter-fund transfers etc:					
Transfer to Buildings Fund - capital repayments on flat	2	-6,464		*-6,464*	
Transer from Builidngs Fund - curate flat refurbishment		11,300		*0*	
Transfer to Buildings Fund - repairs and renewals		-7,000		*-8,000*	
Total Inter-fund transfers etc:			-2,164		*-14,464*
Total general fund resources expended			124,681		*132,749*
Net (Deficit)/Surplus in the General Fund in the year			-3,280		*-2,594*
Surplus/(deficit) from the previous year			75,875		*78,469*
Surplus/(deficit) carried forward to the ensuing year			72,595		*75,875*

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF SAINT BARTHOLOMEW, SYDENHAM

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

BUILDINGS FUND (RESTRICTED FUND)

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT AND FUND MOVEMENT

	Note	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £	2023 £
Incoming Resources					
Donated income for repairs *including a legacy*		14,600		*4,000*	
Total buildings fund incoming resources			14,600		*4,000*
Resources Expended					
Routine repairs & maintenance	4	10,815		7,796	
Capital paid off loan to purchase curate's flat	2	6,464		6,464	
Total buildings fund resources expended			17,279		*14,260*
Surplus/(deficit) for the year			(2,679)		*(10,260)*
Surplus from the previous year (inc equity in flat)			172,142		*161,474*
transfer from General Fund for flat capital repayment			6,464		*6,464*
transfer from General Fund for repairs & maintenance			7,000		*8,000*
transfer to General fund for curate flat refurbishment			-11,300		*0*
increase in Buildings Fund = reduction in loan liability on balance sheet			6,464		*6,464*
Surplus carried forward to the following year			178,091		*172,142*
Of this surplus, the amount available for works, excluding the equity in the flat, is:			32,666		

SABRE RESTORATION FUND (RESTRICTED FUND)

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT AND FUND MOVEMENT

	Note	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £	2023 £
Incoming Resources					
SABRE donations including gift aid		0		*13*	
grant income		0		*0*	
fundraising		0		*0*	
			0		*13*
Investment income					
Interest on balance with CBF (SABRE funds)		163		*247*	
			163		*247*
Total SABRE restoration fund incoming resources			163		*260*
Resources Expended					
SABRE restoration costs (VAT refund in 2023)	5	0		*-699*	
Total SABRE fund resources expended			0		*-699*
Surplus/(deficit) for the year			163		*959*
Surplus from the previous year			87,186		*86,227*
Surplus carried forward to the following year			87,349		*87,186*

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF SAINT BARTHOLOMEW, SYDENHAM

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

SPECIFIC PROJECTS FUND (RESTRICTED FUND)

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT AND FUND MOVEMENT

	Note	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £	2023 £
Incoming Resources					
Donations					
Bishop's Lent appeal - *for a range of charities*		197		325	
Poppy Appeal - *to Royal British Legion*					
Carol service - *to Embrace the Middle East*		231		233	
Piano and Organ donations		2,200		13,555	
Christingle service - *for The Children's Society*		221		211	
Christian Aid collections					
Community supermarket		80			
Total specific projects fund incoming resources			2,929		*14,323*
Resources Expended					
Expenditure on church objects					
Bishop's Lent call		197		325	
Sightsavers					
British Legion					
Embrace the Middle East donations sent		231		217	
Christian Aid				5	
Piano and Organ restoration and purchase		14,100		1,290	
The Children's Society (Christingle)		221		211	
Community supermarket		80		0	
Total specific projects fund resources expended			14,829		*2,047*
Transfer from General Fund - organ and pandemic response			0		*0*
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year			-11,900		*12,276*
Surplus from the previous year			15,762		*3,486*
Surplus carried forward to the ensuing year			3,862		*15,762*

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF SAINT BARTHOLOMEW, SYDENHAM

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2024

1) ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements are presented in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities Commission's revised Statement of Recommended Practice (the Charities SORP).

The accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention.

Funds

The General Fund represents the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use, and are available for its general purposes.
The Buildings Fund is a restricted fund deriving its income from legacies, donations and fund-raising activities to be used specifically for building work. It now holds the equity in the flat purchased for curates in training.
The Specific Projects Fund is a restricted fund reserved for the projects listed for which the incoming funds have been earmarked.

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law or over which the PCC exercises control.

Incoming Resources

Incoming resources are recognised in the following manner:

(i) Collections and planned giving when received.
(ii) Gift Aid recoverable on donations, when receivable.
(iii) Grants and legacies to the PCC, when received.
(iv) Income from fund-raising and similar activities, gross when received.
(v) Investment income and income receivable, when receivable. Tax recoverable on such income is recognised in the same year.

Resources Used

The Parish Pledge paid to the Diocese covers the cost of clergy, pensions, housing and central overheads. It is accounted for in the year during which payment is sought. Any unpaid contribution at 31st December is included in the balance sheet as a creditor (though not a legal liability).

Resources Expended

Expenditure is recognised on the accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes VAT which cannot be recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from these accounts.

Other property held for the church's use is shown at cost of acquisition (eg the curate's flat).

Other fixtures and fittings are depreciated on a straight line basis over 3 years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1,000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Current Assets

Amounts due to the PCC at 31 December 2024

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF SAINT BARTHOLOMEW, SYDENHAM

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2023

2) TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Office Equipment £	Long Leasehold £
Cost		
At 1st January 2024	2,792	183,130
Additions	0	0
At 31st December 2024	2,792	183,130
Depreciation		
At 1st January 2024	2,791	0
For the year	0	0
At 31st December 2024	2,791	0
Net Book Amounts		
At 31st December 2024	1	183,130
At 31st December 2024	1	183,130

The leasehold property was purchased on 10th August 2005 for the purpose of housing curates sent to the parish by the Diocese of Southwark for training. It consists of a flat at 1 Ashleigh Court, 81 Lawrie Park Road, London, SE26 6EX. In accordance with the law relating to property held by parishes, the legal owners of the property are the Southwark Diocesan Board of Finance and the South London Church Fund as Custodian Trustees for the parish. Any capital gain or loss on the property will accrue to the parish.
The flat was purchased for £183,130, and might now be worth more than that.
The loan of £150,000 from the Diocese is repayable over 25 years from 12th August 2005 by monthly instalments inclusive of interest currently at 3.5% above Bank Rate.
The lease has been extended to 990 years.

	£
balance of the loan outstanding at 31st December 2023	44,170
less repayments made in 2024	-10,021
plus interest costs added in 2024	3,557
balance of the loan outstanding at 31st December 2024	37,706
amount payable within one year	6,464
amount payable after one year	31,242
	37,706

Now included in the accounts is a transfer from the General Fund to the Buildings Fund equal to the capital repayments for the flat loan. Interest costs are an expense from the General Fund, but capital repayments result in an increase in the Buldings Fund as the loan liability reduces. Significant capital repayments are now being made, and the addition of this line makes clear the funding needs for these repayments. So the surplus or deficit in the General Fund shows the full position after both interest and capital repayments have been made.

3) MISSION GIVING

Mission giving is agreed at 3% of the church's donated income during the previous year and was used to support various causes by direct giving from the church's general income, rather than by specific fund-raising activities.

4) BUILDINGS FUND

The balance in this fund represents the funds donated for building works, and the equity in the curate's flat. A summary of the money available for building works is:

available for repairs works at 31/12/2023	£33,181
donations received for building works	£14,600
transferred from the General Fund - repairs & maintenance	£7,000
transfer to General Fund for curate flat refurbishment	-£11,300
spent on routine repairs and maintenance	-£10,815
available for repairs at 31/12/2024	**£32,666**
plus the equity in the curate's flat (not availble to spend)	£145,425
total carried forward in Buildings Fund at 31/12/24	£178,091

5) SABRE RESTORATION FUND

The Saint Barts Restoration Appeal (SABRE) was launched in 2014 to raise money for a comprehensive programme of repairs to and restoration of the building, along with improvements to benefit the congregation and community.

funds brought forward 1/1/2024	£87,186
funds raised in 2024	£0
Interest on balance with CBF (SABRE funds)	£163
income/spend in the year	£0
SABRE funds available at 31/12/2024	£87,349

This balance is held in the church accounts at NatWest, CAF bank and CBF (Church of England account).

The total raised so far since the appeal was launched is: £414,264

6) SPECIFIC PROJECTS FUND

The balance in this fund at 31/12/2024 breaks down as:

£1,048	Youth Work funds
£1,152	Welfare Fund, to be used at the discretion of the vicar for needy members of the congregation.
£1,662	available for organ restoration and repairs
£3,862	

7) PCC MEMBERS

No member of the PCC has received any remuneration from the PCC during the year.

8) ANALYSIS OF THE MAIN BALANCE SHEET HEADINGS BY FUND

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds			Total funds	Total funds
	General fund	Building fund	SABRE restoration fund	Specific projects fund	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	0	183,131	0	0	183,131	*183,131*
Current assets	81,181	32,666	87,349	3,862	205,058	*215,615*
Less Current liabilities	8,586	6,464	0	0	15,050	*10,075*
Less Long term liabilities	0	31,242	0	0	31,242	*37,706*
Total net assets	**72,595**	**178,091**	**87,349**	**3,862**	**341,897**	*350,965*

9) ANALYSIS OF TRAVEL AND ENTERTAINING EXPENSES PAID TO MEMBERS OF THE PCC DURING 2024

	Travel	Other	Total
	£	£	£
Rev Jim Perry	14	169	183
Mthr Bethany	11	48	59
Total	**25**	**217**	**242**

Report by the Independent Examiner on the accounts for St Bartholomew Church, Sydenham, 2024.

The accounts have been prepared on an accruals basis. An understanding of the PCC's organisation, accounting records, activities and nature of its assets, liabilities, income and expenditure was gained from a survey of the accounting records and discussions with the treasurer.

No major failures were identified in the accounting records. An analytical review of the financial statements was carried out to look for inconsistencies and unusual events in the year, and compared to previous years. No unexpected fluctuations were discovered in the financial statements.

St Bartholomew's utilises a General Fund for operating income and expenditure, together with three Reserved Funds; the Building Fund to meet ongoing maintenance; the SABRE fund, for major restoration of the church building and roof; and the Special Purposes Fund used for organ restoration, piano replacement and charitable appeals.

After transfers to other funds the General Fund had a deficit of £2,594. This reflects increased Parish Share contribution, and higher utility costs. Routine maintenance from the Building Fund was covered by transfer from the General Fund.

The SABRE project has been inactive since the pandemic - there is over £87,000 in the fund for repairs, restoration and building improvements. The Special Projects Fund main expenditure in 2024 was for a new piano.

St Bartholomew's took on a curate in 2024 – this means the loss of rental income form the curate's flat, this is partially offset by the Curate Training Subsidy from the Diocese.

A point to note is the monthly reconciliation with bank statements shows a difference of about £1,000, possibly due to delays in banking collections and cheques. This is not material to the overall accounts, and the Treasurer aims to resolve this issue in 2025.

Overall the financial position of St Bartholomew's remains secure with cash reserves in the General Fund covering 50% of annual running costs.

Simon Taylor
Treasurer, St George and St Michael & All Angels
30 March 2024

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW, SYDE

England & Wales - Charity number 1133852

Accounts

The Parish of Sydenham

St Bartholomew's Church

Annual Report

photo taken by Peter Stubbs

May 2024

CONTENTS

1.	Electoral Roll	3
2.	Vicar's Report	3
3.	PCC Secretary's Report	6
4.	Churchwarden's Report (including Buildings, Fabric & Lettings)	7
5.	Financial Summary for the year ended 31 December 2022	10
6.	Safeguarding	12
7.	Health & Safety	12
8.	Music	12
9.	Flowers	13
10.	St Bartholomew's School Governor's	13
11.	Sydenham Life	15
12.	Knit & Natter	16

1. Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll at present stands at 149 names. Over the last few years we have kept electoral roll numbers steady through what has been a difficult time for church congregations in general.

* There are 76 (51%) members who reside in the parish - Category A on the form.

* There are 66 (44%) who are officially resident outside the parish but have habitually taken part in worship within the parish prior to six months before enrolment ends - Category B on the form

* 7 (5%) members of another church which 'subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity as well as the church of England and habitually attends worship in this Parish' - Category C on the form

Martin Haines, Church Electoral Roll Officer

2. Vicar's Report

I write having recently returned from 12 days leave. And I am really happy to be back. Not that I didn't enjoy my time off – it was great! But it is also great to be home. While on leave I made a short visit to my previous Parish in Wolverhampton, the first time I have done so since leaving there. We met with the current Vicar and his wife, enjoyed catching up with many friends and parishioners, heard how the congregation and Parish had fared through Covid and since, and enjoyed walking across the still-but-not-quite familiar Pendeford square. It was a very enjoyable afternoon. But it wasn't 'home', not any more. 'Home' can of course mean different things to different people, but for me, as a Vicar, it means the house I live in alongside my family, the communities of the Parish I live alongside day-by-day, and the church family to whom I am called to minister. It can take a while to settle in this multi-faceted home and this was not helped by the Covid Pandemic and lock-downs that happened so soon after I moved here. But this past year has felt to me like we have finally settled in. We joked in Wolves and again as I

went on to visit friends in Yorkshire and then my youngest brother in Cheshire that we couldn't sleep properly because it was too quiet with out the sound of busy Westwood Hill traffic, sirens, buses – and foxes! Most importantly has been settling in to the spiritual home that is St Bartholomew's. This year has felt like the time that everything settled in to place after the difficult time of Covid, the unsettled time of meeting new people (I even get most people's names right these days!), of us each getting used to each other and the challenge of doing things a bit differently. And of course it's not really about me feeling at home – it is about us all, the whole St Bart's family, living, worshipping and serving God together in our Parish and it's communities. Doing our best to respond to Jesus words from today's Gospel reading: "…love one another as I have loved you."

I wrote this time last year about holding back from getting into the process of renewing our Mission Action Plan (MAP) as the time didn't feel quite right. Because of what I describe above the times does now feel right and that is what our upcoming vision day (June 16th) will be about. And it will be exciting to then welcome Bethany as Curate a couple of weeks later.

Crucial to the life of the church is our excellent Church Warden's, Lesley and Roland. I continue to be extremely thankful for them both. We are also served by a great treasurer, Peter and his team, PCC secretary Shireen, the sacristy team headed by Carol along with all those who decorate our church with flowers, prepare, edit and distribute Sydenham Life, help lead our worship as readers, intercessors and Eucharistic ministers, provide welcome and hospitality and so much more. And of course Dennis, our organist; we thank God for his health and continued service, as we prayed for him through his treatment. Thanks also to our choir and singers and to those who played the organ and piano when Dennis was unable to.

Music is an important part of our church life, both in our worship and in the concerts and events that take place here. It has been a delight to have our new piano and once again a huge thank you to all who donated towards it's purchase, and to those who researched and sourced a suitable instrument.

9 children were Baptised at St Bartholomew's during the year, 4 children were admitted to receive Holy Communion and 5 of our young people were Confirmed at our Deanery Confirmation service. We continue to ask God's blessing on all of them. And as we seek to make good on our commitment to help them grow in faith as part of Christ's Church we are grateful to Edward, Clare and Jo who responded to our 'resources fair' and agreed to start a monthly group for Children.

Week by week a large number of people come through our doors, for concerts, events, community groups, parties and more and I continue to meet and talk to a huge range of people from the wider community who come in to look around, pray, find a place of quiet or seek support and counsel, when the door is open during the week. Additionally it has been a joy to welcome classes from our school and on occasion the whole school for worship. I also continue to lead worship in school most Wednesdays and have increased opportunities to visit lessons. I was extremely impressed by the depth of biblical knowledge many pupils had when I visited classes in years 1, 3 and 4 at Easter. And we were able to hold the first Pet Service since I've been here; a great tradition and one we shall definitely continue this year.

In our national life the year saw the coronation of King Charles III and it was our privileged as part of the National Church of England to offer prayers on behalf of all people for the blessing and well-being of our Nation.

In our Diocese we were deeply saddened by the death of Karowei, Bishop of Woolwich, and his death is still being felt in our Diocesan life. But we look forward and pray for whoever his successor may be.

More locally we continue to work with our partners and friends at St Philip the Apostle and Grove Centre Baptist/URC Church, enjoying Holy Week and other seasonal services with them. We have also recently worked alongside Forest Hill Community Church to celebrate a wedding, and are pleased to host a Kenyan Pentecostal church each Sunday afternoon. Encouraging mutual flourishing by supporting one another, and sharing when we can, for the sake of the Gospel, is always a good thing.

I look forward with anticipation to the rest of the year ahead and pray that we will continue to grow together, abiding in the love of God and bearing 'fruit that will last'.

Rev'd Jim
Easter 6, 2024.

3. PCC Secretary Report

The PCC has met 5 times this year. Meetings have been well attended.

The PCC discusses and makes decisions on a wide variety of topics and issues during the year, mainly prompted by the reports from its various sub committees. In addition, there was other business to discuss.

Below are some of the items discussed at PCC meetings

June	Resources for the Church Fayre were discussed Set up in church of a Summer Fayre stall which would show resources that the church needs – one half would be the finances – where does the money go and how it used – the other half would be the time, people and resources required for the running of the church – day to day and week to week – what can we do going forward that we are not doing now
Sep	Mission giving – it was proposed to support the following charities this year Local – Kelvin Grove Community Supermarket National – Eleanor's Mental Health Charity with equine therapy International - Christian Aid
Nov	The dates for the new Ecclesiastical year were announced and listed and it was decided that the plate collection from the Christingle service would go to the Children's Society. Approaching different people from the congregation and diocese to preach in the year to come was also discussed

Jan	Vision day on 16th June was discussed – it is to be publicised from April and the congregation will be invited to submit questions to a question box. The PCC would look at the questions before the day
March	The terms of some members of the PCC come to an end this year – would be inviting the nomination of 3 people – the need to encourage younger people to join the PCC was discussed Approval of the church accounts.

Shireen Williams, PCC Secretary

4. Churchwarden's Report including Buildings, Fabric and Lettings

During 2023, we continued to see healthy congregations at most of our services and although we were extremely sad to lose some much-loved regular members, such as Toyin and family, who moved out of the area, we also welcomed a number of new families, including several children, into our community.

Activities are on the increase, and we are delighted that this has included the re-establishment of a Sunday School, initially on a monthly basis. This has been made possible by several volunteers stepping forward to run it, which is brilliant, and we trust it will grow from here.

Of course, there are plenty of opportunities to volunteer at St Bart's. We are lucky to have a beautiful, listed building with some wonderful features, but it does take a great deal of looking after! For many years, Nigel Rushton has been our chief maintenance person, helping to keep our building standing, our gutters clear and our congregation dry. This year, Nigel has finally retired from his regular maintenance duties and although we know he will still give us the benefit of his advice, based on his love for and knowledge of the building, we need to replace his physical labour. We are currently trying to identify suitable local tradesmen who have the right experience to help maintain a building such as ours and expect to be taking on someone on a retainer. However, there are a multitude of jobs required to maintain the

church and we would be very grateful to anyone who feels they could take part, in however small a way, in this perpetual exercise.

We are already very grateful to people like Stuart, Bernard and Barrie, who take on tasks in the building or churchyard on a regular basis, but there is scope for many more; so whether your skills are DIY, leaf clearing, plumbing, carpentry or you have some serious listed buildings experience, your help would be so welcome, and we would love you to join our Buildings Issues Group (BIG), which meets every few months. Also, if you can recommend local tradesmen who you know to be reliable and skilled in the relevant areas, please pass on their details; just speak to Lesley, Roland or Rev Jim – please!

Details of our various projects/maintenance issues are as follows:

We have had a long-term issue with a leak in the water system running into the crypt and it has been frustrating waiting for the architect, water company and insurers to communicate so that we could decide on the best course of action and resolve the issue. We finally made a breakthrough and work has been done to divert the piping in the churchyard. However, there is still a leak in an area not yet accessed by the contractors and we are now waiting for the further work to be approved by the insurers – we hope to have final resolution very soon!

As reported last year, the nave roof will be in need of replacement in the near future. We have patched things up in the meantime and there are no current leaks, but this will be a major exercise for which funds will need to be raised over the next few years.

The heating is working as well as it can be, given that we had to isolate part of the system some time ago, due to the cost of identifying a leak underneath the stone floors. We are hoping that grants will be available at some point to help us to replace the system with something more environmentally friendly.

The fire alarm system has been serviced this month and all the batteries have been changed.

We have identified and had fixed a short circuit in the dishwasher, which was causing the electrical circuit in the kitchen to trip.

The clock has been reset and serviced, but we are waiting for permission to instal the BST adjuster.

A faculty application for the repair of the bell has been submitted and this will be done when the specialists have availability.

An application was made by our neighbours for removal of the two oak trees by the lychgate, due to damage caused to their property by the root system. The Diocese have been fighting this and we do not know the final decision as yet, but it is possible they may have to be removed, which would be a great shame.

Last year, we reported that we needed to raise funds for a new piano, to better serve our worship needs and to enable us to once again welcome high calibre pianists/ensembles. Due to some generous donations and various fundraising events, we were able to meet our target and are delighted that the piano is now in place and has been played for some excellent musical performances, to great acclaim. We are planning to hold a concert later in the year to formally launch the piano and thank the major donors.

Due to another kind donation, we are able to schedule the cleaning and restoration of our wonderful reredos. We are currently taking advice on this and hope to get the work done in the latter part of the year.

As choir members, we also note the laying of the stone for long-term chorister Dennis Harrington and his wife, Evelyn, both members of the congregation for very many years, in the memorial garden.

As we are about to welcome our new curate, Bethany, we are embarking on a refurbishment of the curate's flat, including redecoration and replacement of old equipment where required.

We look forward to our Mission Day on 16th June, which will be an opportunity for everyone to share their opinions and ideas for the future. We really want to hear everyone's views and we urge you to come along and take

part. The more we are all involved, the more likely we will be to have a church that is serving our needs and a real part of the community.

As always, we would like to acknowledge the great contribution made by regular volunteers, without whom we couldn't function. Whether you are involved in stewarding, reading, music, flowers, coffee rota, maintenance, delivering sacraments, looking after church linen, buying supplies, or as Treasurer, Sacristan or member of PCC or working party/committee; thank you all, and of course, a big thank you to Rev Jim for leading us all.

Lesley Khatibi & Roland Bates. May 2024

5. FINANCIAL SUMMARY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

1) General Fund

Most of our day-to-day income and running costs go through the General Fund.

Donated income showed healthy growth, as did the weekly collections. Non specific donations were down in 2023, but these one-off donations and legacies are unpredictable. Lettings income from the hall and crypt continued its healthy growth. We benefited from renting out the curate's flat for most of the year, and overall income was up by £4,000 to £130,000. Costs rose by about £5,000, due mainly to an increased Parish Pledge to the diocese for clergy costs, and higher energy costs. Overall, we had a deficit of £2,600 in the year (after transfers to other funds). When we again have a curate, we will lose the income from the flat (£17,000), so there is an ongoing challenge to encourage more regular giving, hire out the hall and crypt more, and have more fundraising activities.

Cash reserves in the General Fund would cover about 60% of our annual running costs. It is good practice to have reserves for at least three months expenses, and we are above that.

Overall, the balance sheet showed an increase in net current assets of £15k.

2) Buildings Fund

All costs relating to the maintenance of the church building are shown in The Buildings Fund. These costs were almost £8,000 in 2023 due to the regular repairs and maintenance. These costs were covered by a transfer from the General Fund, and donations received of £4,000. It is costly to maintain a building of this size and age, but money is well spent to avoid bigger problems in the future, and to maintain it at a good standard for worship.

Overall, we made a surplus of £11,000 in the fund (allowing for increased equity in the flat as we pay off the loan). This resulted in reserves for future building work standing at £33,000 at the end of the year. The equity in the curate's flat (the difference between the purchase price and the outstanding mortgage) now stands at £139,000. This is not available to spend unless the flat is sold.

3) SABRE Fund

Due to the Pandemic, the SABRE project to restore and improve the church was on hold. During 2023 the only movement was income of VAT reclaimed on earlier works, of £700. There is now £87,000 in the fund for further repairs, restoration, and improvements to the building.

4) Specific Projects Fund

This fund is used for the income and expenditure for causes and charities, funds accumulated over the years for the specific purpose of piano and organ restoration work, funds for youth work, and a small welfare fund. At the end of 2023 there was a surplus in this fund of £15,760, most of which is the donations towards the new piano, to be paid for in 2024.

Peter Stubbs, PCC treasurer

(The full accounts and financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2023 are available separately.)

6. Safeguarding

During the year Rev'd Jim has undertaken his required 3 year renewal of Safeguarding in Leadership training.

The volunteers for the new Sunday children's group have all had DBS checks and other church officers have had their DBS checks renewed as required.

7. Health & Safety

There have not been any incidents requiring recording in the accident book.

Having heard views from several congregation members, the PCC agreed to keep the manner of sharing the Peace in it's post-COVID form (the 'wave of peace'!)

One congregation member undertook first aid training, but more are required – please speak to the Warden's if you would be willing.

The Health and Safety Policy is due for a full review this year, which will be undertaken by the Wardens and Health & Safety group of the PCC.

8. Music Report

Music in our Sunday worship continues to be lead by our group of choristers and singers, with the second Sunday of each month focusing on the choristers, fourth Sunday on the singers and other weeks combined. For various reasons, including some people moving away, the numbers in the choir and singer have reduced over the past year, however the groups continue to give a good lead to our singing.

Rehearsals for choir and singers take place on Thursday evenings.

The organ continues to be tuned and maintained well by a reputable organ tuning and repair company. A new, concert-standard, piano has been bought thanks to generous donations from the congregation past and present and fund raising by friends of the church.

An organ recital was held to mark the Coronation of King Charles III by our organist Dennis Baugh.

Dennis had some time away from playing during the year for health reasons. We are grateful to Tim, Ken, Roland and Cathy who stepped in to play the organ and piano and to lead the choir in Dennis's absence. And we give thanks to God for Dennis return to health and to playing.

9. Flowers Report

Thank you to Jean, Colleen and Jayne, assisted by Anne, who prepare and arrange the flowers in church.

The absence of flowers during Advent and Lent, the the joy of their return at Christmas and Easter was remarked upon, highlighting that flowers are more than just decoration – they are a part of the way all of our senses are engaged in worship.

Thank you to members of the congregation who contributed to the cost of Easter flowers, which is often found an appropriate way to commemorate a loved one.

The team would love to hear from anyone who would like to join them – no previous experience is necessary.

10. St Bart's School Governors

As I write this Report, we are nearly halfway through the final term of yet another busy year for all those involved in our church school, St Bartholomew's Church of England Primary School.

The school's number on role is healthy with last September's intake being full. This is no mean feat as school roles are generally dropping in this present climate.

The staff still continue to cope with the challenges presented to them following the pandemic. Teachers, Teaching Assistants, Support Staff and

Ancillaries, maintain their teaching and care of all the children. All concerned are mindful that there is still much compensating to be done in order to make up for opportunities lost during Covid.

School trips and visits are once again very much an intrinsic part of the curriculum.

Rev Jim continues to visit fortnightly to take collective worship. The school also visits the church for acts of worship.

On a sober note with budget cutbacks and a rise in everyday running costs there has had to be a staff restructuring. With a great deal of care and negotiating this has now happened with the new structure in place.

The governors continue to play a part in maintaining their role as critical friends of the school The full governing body continues to meet twice a term and all governors sit one of the two main committees:

'Ressources' - The budget is regularly reviewed and monitored and Financial and Resources priorities are discussed.

'Curriculum and Learning' - The curriculum is reviewed, subject leaders regularly come to address meetings. Data and progress are monitored and new initiatives are explained.

All governors also sit on sub committees such as Well-Being and Marketing.

The role of Governor has been enhanced by being able to make regular visits to the school. Committees will often visit the school on a working day focusing on a particular area before meeting to discuss challenges and strengths, ever mindful of the school SIP (School Improvement Plan)

The School had their Ofsted Visit on the 3rd and 4th July 2023. The outcome an overall Grade of Good with Pupil's Personal Development being highlighted and awarded Outstanding.

It is only fitting that the hard work and dedication of David Roberts, a member of our congregation, and for many years a Governor of St Bartholomew's Church School, who passed away recently is acknowledged. Thank you David for the service you gave us.

Our role as Governors continues. So many skills and experiences are needed and always welcomed. Not only is it hugely important as we support the school that belongs to our church, but also as supporters of the wider community. With that final thought perhaps you might feel that you have something that you could offer. It really is a very rewarding role.

Hilary-Anne Buckhurst. Foundation Governor

11. Sydenham Life

Overview: Sydenham Life Magazine is the free Parish Magazine of St Bartholomew's Church, Westwood Hill, SE26 6QR and has been continually printed in different formats since 1st January 1868 (156 yrs). Copies are with The British Library. It is an important outreach magazine and is also used for Research Projects. It is published 10 times a year (July/Aug & Dec/Jan combined months).

Current versions are also published on the Parish page at A Church Near You and publicised on the Parish Facebook page.

An important outreach magazine with interesting articles. It informs and invites the local population of events and classes available in St Bartholomew's Church. It helps to promote St Bartholomew's Primary School, local Business and Social Enterprises such as Sydenham Community Supermarket and Lewisham + Bromley Credit Union. Advertisers have remained with us for years despite increases in advertising costs showing it is an important part of the community.

We welcome Nigel & Josie Ralph as new members of the Working Group. The Sydenham Life Working Group Team, Article Writers, Packers & Distributors from Church and Community contribute their time by writing articles and delivering the magazine. It is written, run, packed and hand delivered to 3,000 households by volunteers. We also welcome the new packers and distributors. Thank you to all new and old volunteers without which we simply could not continue.

The team always welcomes new volunteers for distribute magazines, writing articles, advertising or sponsorship. *Contact slifeads@hotmail.co.uk or any of the working group, Geoffery Cave, Jane Somers, Ope Otudeko, Yvonne Springer, Hal Bannister or The Rev Jim.*

Jane Somers April 2024

12. Knit & Natter

Throughout 2023, we have continued to meet on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month from 10.30am to 12.30pm (ish!) We mostly bring our own projects, drink tea & coffee, and chat about our week while we craft.

However, we have also taken part in several projects for St Bart's, using our crafting skills to raise church funds. At Easter we made chicks and bunnies crème egg covers and sold them at church for the Bishop's Lent Appeal, raising £270.75.

In August, we organised an outing to Rochester Cathedral to visit the 'Creation through Threads' exhibition by Jacqui Parkinson, a textile artist. Travelling by train together, we had a lovely day out and very much enjoyed the exhibition and the cathedral, lunch in the sun outside, and a wander through the high street. We hope this is the first of many excursions.

In September, at the request of Rev Jim, we started work on making 60 sheep and a new knitted nativity set to use in the Advent Posada. With some knitted and some crocheted, each sheep was unique, just like our group!

In early December we attended the arts & craft fair at Ignition Brewery selling small gifts and Christmas decorations. This raised over £50 for church funds and any items left over were sold at church on the remaining Sundays.

We are a small but friendly group of crafters who welcome all who wish to join us, whether you come along for the craft, or just the tea & chat. Why not come and join us?!

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF SAINT BARTHOLOMEW, SYDENHAM

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

Charity Commission Registration Number 1133852

CONTENTS

Page	2	Balance Sheet
	3	Statement of Financial Activities
	4 to 5	General Fund
	6	Buildings & SABRE Funds
	7	Specific Projects Fund
	8 to 10	Notes to the Accounts

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF SAINT BARTHOLOMEW, SYDENHAM

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

BALANCE SHEET AT 31ST DECEMBER 2023

	Note	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets:					
Tangible assets *(curate's flat at cost)*	2		183,131		*183,131*
Current assets:					
Debtors & accrued income *(Dec Parish Giving Scheme)*		5,052		4,841	
Payments in advance *(insurance)*		4,572		4,452	
Balance at Natwest bank *(current account)*		85,592		30,974	
Balance at CAF bank *(current account)*		94,711		134,155	
Balance at CofE CBF (Central Board of Finance *(deposit account))*		23,801		23,061	
Balance on Church Equals debits cards		578		4,724	
Cash in church safe for event floats and petty cash		1,309		1,318	
		215,615		*203,525*	
Current liabilities:					
Loan amount payable within one year *(flat repayment)*	2	6,464		*6,464*	
Other creditors due within one year *(accruals)*		3,611		6,366	
- mainly fees due to the Diocese for 2022 & Mission Giving					
		10,075		*12,830*	
Net current assets			205,540		*190,695*
Total assets minus current liabilities			388,671		*373,826*
Long term liability					
Diocesan loan for flat purchase - *payable after one year*	2	37,706		*44,170*	
			37,706		*44,170*
			350,965		*329,656*
Represented by:					
Unrestricted funds					
General fund			75,875		*78,469*
Restricted funds					
Buildings fund					
curate flat purchase cost	183,131				
curate flat outstanding mortgage	44,170				
equity in curate flat - not available to spend	138,961				
surplus in fund that can be spent on works	33,181				
total in Buildings Fund at end of year	172,142	172,142		*161,474*	
SABRE restoration fund		87,186		*86,227*	
Specific projects fund		15,762		*3,486*	
			275,090		*251,187*
	8		350,965		*329,655*

Rev. Jim Perry
Incumbent

Lesley Khatibi
Churchwarden

Roland Bates
Churchwarden

March 2024

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF SAINT BARTHOLOMEW, SYDENHAM

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

- summarising the three funds in SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice) format

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds			Total funds	Total funds
	General fund £	Building fund £	SABRE restoration fund £	Specific projects fund £	2023 £	2022 £
Incoming resources						
Incoming resources from generated funds						
Voluntary income	89,009	0	13	14,324	103,346	*84,290*
Activities for generating funds	39,887	4,000	0	0	43,887	*45,539*
Investment income	0	0	247	0	247	*436*
Incoming resources from charitable activities ie fees	1,259	0	0	0	1,259	*742*
Total incoming resources	130,155	4,000	260	14,324	148,739	*131,007*
Resources expended						
Costs of generating funds	0	0	0	0	0	*0*
Costs of running the church	118,285	14,260	-699	2,048	133,894	*132,626*
Governance costs (examination of accounts)	0	0	0	0	0	*0*
Total resources expended	118,285	14,260	-699	2,048	133,894	*132,626*
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers	11,870	-10,260	959	12,276	14,845	*-1,619*
reduction in flat loan liability - to Balance Sheet	0	6,464	0	0	6,464	*6,464*
Transfers between funds	-14,464	14,464	0	0	0	*0*
Net movement in funds	-2,594	10,668	959	12,276	21,309	*4,845*
Total funds as at 1 January 2023	78,469	161,474	86,227	3,486	329,656	*324,811*
Total funds as at 31 December 2023	75,875	172,142	87,186	15,762	350,965	*329,656*

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF SAINT BARTHOLOMEW, SYDENHAM

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

GENERAL FUND (UNRESTRICTED FUND)

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT AND FUND MOVEMENT

	Note	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £
Incoming Resources					
Donated income					
Parish Giving Scheme - *regular giving*		62,895		57,394	
Tax (gift aid) - *reclaimed on donations*		15,323		14,992	
Weekly collections - *now included the credit card machine*		8,379		5,368	
Non-specific donations *(various donations, legacies etc)*		1,962		5,732	
Old Church Hall site *(ground rents from remaining freeholds)*		250		250	
Occasional collections *(at special services and events)*		200		135	
			89,009		*83,871*
Fees for weddings, funerals, banns			1,259		*742*
Investment income					
Interest on General Fund bank balance		0		*0*	
			0		*0*
Fund-raising activities					
Lettings - hall, crypt and church hire - *up after the pandemic*		22,596		20,283	
Sydenham Life advertising revenue		2,770		3,025	
Jumble sales (*donations and the October Sale)*		0		2,244	
Floodlighting		0		10	
Action Bibles donations		245		195	
Rent from the curate's flat		13,956		15,400	
Sunday morning coffee, breakfasts, afternoon teas		247		240	
Quiz evening		0		142	
Knit and natter		73		0	
			39,887		*41,539*
Total general fund incoming resources			130,155		*126,152*

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF SAINT BARTHOLOMEW, SYDENHAM

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

GENERAL FUND (UNRESTRICTED FUND)

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT AND FUND MOVEMENT

	Note	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £
Resources Expended					
On church objects					
Parish Pledge to Diocese - *for clergy salaries, housing and training*		64,260		63,000	
Sydenham Life printing and expenses		5,120		5,104	
Utilities - *water, gas, electricity*		15,999		11,733	
Bank charges		64		105	
Insurance - *for the building*		4,452		3,995	
Altar requisites - *wafers, wine, candles etc*		727		1,001	
Interest on loan to purchase the curate's flat		3,720		2,422	
Curate's flat service charge, council tax, repairs		4,534		5,372	
Cleaning - *includes consumables, rubbish removal, deep clean*		4,088		4,370	
Flower costs		0		0	
Staff expenses - travel, telephone etc	9	294		124	
Books & print		387		266	
Office expenses - photocopier etc		3,207		3,908	
Non fund-raising activities *(new altar cloths, DBS checks etc)*		1,437		1,546	
Organist		4,060		3,900	
Choir & music - church copyright licence, music books		830		477	
Instrument maintenance		1,814		1,859	
Mission giving - *to local/national/international charities*	3	2,500		2,700	
Sunday morning coffee expenses		15		63	
Action Bible costs		777		625	
total normal costs			118,285		*112,570*
Inter-fund transfers etc:					
Transfer to Buildings Fund - capital repayments on flat	2	-6,464		*-6,464*	
Transer to Specific Projects Fund - organ restoration		0		*0*	
Transfer to Buildings Fund - repairs and renewals		-8,000		*-8,000*	
Total Inter-fund transfers etc:			-14,464		*-14,464*
Total general fund resources expended			132,749		*127,034*
Net (Deficit)/Surplus in the General Fund in the year			-2,594		*-882*
Surplus/(deficit) from the previous year			78,469		*79,351*
Surplus/(deficit) carried forward to the ensuing year			75,875		*78,469*

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF SAINT BARTHOLOMEW, SYDENHAM

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

BUILDINGS FUND (RESTRICTED FUND)

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT AND FUND MOVEMENT

		2023		2022	
	Note	£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources					
Donated income for repairs		4,000		*4,000*	
Total buildings fund incoming resources			4,000		*4,000*
Resources Expended					
Routine repairs & maintenance	4	7,796		6,968	
Capital paid off loan to purchase curate's flat	2	6,464		6,464	
Total buildings fund resources expended			14,260		*13,432*
Surplus/(deficit) for the year			(10,260)		*(9,432)*
Surplus from the previous year (inc equity in flat)			161,474		*149,978*
transfer from General Fund for flat capital repayment			6,464		*6,464*
transfer from General Fund for repairs & maintenance			8,000		*8,000*
increase in Buildings Fund = reduction in loan liability on balance sheet			6,464		*6,464*
Surplus carried forward to the following year			172,142		*161,474*
Of this surplus, the amount available for works, excluding the equity in the flat, is:			33,181		

SABRE RESTORATION FUND (RESTRICTED FUND)

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT AND FUND MOVEMENT

		2023		2022	
	Note	£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources					
SABRE donations including gift aid		13		*0*	
grant income - from Church Care in 2021		0		*0*	
fundraising		0		*0*	
			13		*0*
Investment income					
Interest on balance with CBF (SABRE funds)		247		*436*	
			247		*436*
Total SABRE restoration fund incoming resources			260		*436*
Resources Expended					
SABRE restoration costs *(VAT refund)*	5	-699		*6,348*	
Total SABRE fund resources expended			-699		*6,348*
Surplus/(deficit) for the year			959		*(5,912)*
Surplus from the previous year			86,227		*92,139*
Surplus carried forward to the following year			87,186		*86,227*

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF SAINT BARTHOLOMEW, SYDENHAM

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

SPECIFIC PROJECTS FUND (RESTRICTED FUND)

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT AND FUND MOVEMENT

	Note	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £
Incoming Resources					
Donations					
Bishop's Lent appeal - *for a range of charities*		325		30	
Poppy Appeal - *to Royal British Legion*				0	
Carol service - *to Embrace the Middle East*		233		84	
Piano and Organ donations		13,555		143	
Christingle service - *for The Children's Society*		211		162	
Christian Aid collections				0	
Youth work income				0	
Total specific projects fund incoming resources			14,324		*418*
Resources Expended					
Expenditure on church objects					
Bishop's Lent call		325		30	
Sightsavers				0	
British Legion				0	
Embrace the Middle East donations sent		217		84	
Christian Aid		5		0	
Piano and Organ restoration and purchase		1,290		0	
The Children's Society (Christingle)		211		162	
Youth work costs				0	
Total specific projects fund resources expended			2,048		*275*
Transfer from General Fund - organ and pandemic response			0		*0*
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year			12,276		*143*
Surplus from the previous year			3,486		*3,343*
Surplus carried forward to the ensuing year			15,762		*3,486*

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF SAINT BARTHOLOMEW, SYDENHAM

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2023

1) ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements are presented in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities Commission's revised Statement of Recommended Practice (the Charities SORP).

The accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention.

Funds

The General Fund represents the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use, and are available for its general purposes.
The Buildings Fund is a restricted fund deriving its income from legacies, donations and fund-raising activities to be used specifically for building work. It now holds the equity in the flat purchased for curates in training.
The Specific Projects Fund is a restricted fund reserved for the projects listed for which the incoming funds have been earmarked.

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law or over which the PCC exercises control.

Incoming Resources

Incoming resources are recognised in the following manner:

(i) Collections and planned giving when received.
(ii) Gift Aid recoverable on donations, when receivable.
(iii) Grants and legacies to the PCC, when received.
(iv) Income from fund-raising and similar activities, gross when received.
(v) Investment income and income receivable, when receivable. Tax recoverable on such income is recognised in the same year.

Resources Used

The Parish Pledge paid to the Diocese covers the cost of clergy, pensions, housing and central overheads. It is accounted for in the year during which payment is sought. Any unpaid contribution at 31st December is included in the balance sheet as a creditor (though not a legal liability).

Resources Expended

Expenditure is recognised on the accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes VAT which cannot be recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from these accounts.

Other property held for the church's use is shown at cost of acquisition (eg the curate's flat).

Other fixtures and fittings are depreciated on a straight line basis over 3 years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1,000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Current Assets

Amounts due to the PCC at 31 December 2023

2) TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Office Equipment £	Long Leasehold £
Cost		
At 1st January 2023	2,792	183,130
Additions	0	0
At 31st December 2023	2,792	183,130
Depreciation		
At 1st January 2023	2,791	0
For the year	0	0
At 31st December 2023	2,791	0
Net Book Amounts		
At 31st December 2023	1	183,130
At 31st December 2023	1	183,130

The leasehold property was purchased on 10th August 2005 for the purpose of housing curates sent to the parish by the Diocese of Southwark for training. It consists of a flat at 1 Ashleigh Court, 81 Lawrie Park Road, London, SE26 6EX. In accordance with the law relating to property held by parishes, the legal owners of the property are the Southwark Diocesan Board of Finance and the South London Church Fund as Custodian Trustees for the parish. Any capital gain or loss on the property will accrue to the parish.
The flat was purchased for £183,130, and might now be worth more than that.
The loan of £150,000 from the Diocese is repayable over 25 years from 12th August 2005 by monthly instalments inclusive of interest currently at 3.5% above Bank Rate.
The lease has been extended to 990 years.

	£
balance of the loan outstanding at 31st December 2022	50,634
less repayments made in 2023	-10,184
plus interest costs added in 2023	3,720
balance of the loan outstanding at 31st December 2023	44,170
amount payable within one year	6,464
amount payable after one year	37,706
	44,170

Now included in the accounts is a transfer from the General Fund to the Buildings Fund equal to the capital repayments for the flat loan. Interest costs are an expense from the General Fund, but capital repayments result in an increase in the Buldings Fund as the loan liability reduces. Significant capital repayments are now being made, and the addition of this line makes clear the funding needs for these repayments. So the surplus or deficit in the General Fund shows the full position after both interest and capital repayments have been made.

3) MISSION GIVING

Mission giving is agreed at 3% of the church's donated income during the previous year and was used to support the following causes by direct giving from the church's general income, rather than by specific fund-raising activities:
Kelvin Grove Community Supermarket, Christian Aid and God Unlimited Outdoor Therapy.

4) BUILDINGS FUND

The balance in this fund represents the funds donated for building works, and the equity in the curate's flat. A summary of the money available for building works is:

available for repairs works at 31/12/2022	£28,977
donations received for building works	£4,000
transferred from the General Fund - repairs & maintenance	£8,000
major repairs in 2023	£0
spent on routine repairs and maintenance	-£7,796
available for repairs at 31/12/2022	**£33,181**
plus the equity in the curate's flat (not availble to spend)	£138,961
total carried forward in Buildings Fund at 31/12/23	£172,142

5) SABRE RESTORATION FUND

The Saint Barts Restoration Appeal (SABRE) was launched in 2014 to raise money for a comprehensive programme of repairs to and restoration of the building, along with improvements to benefit the congregation and community.

funds brought forward 1/1/2023	£86,227
funds raised in 2022	£13
Interest on balance with CBF (SABRE funds)	£247
income/spend in the year - VAT refund income	£699
SABRE funds available at 31/12/2023	£87,186

This balance is held in the church accounts at NatWest, CAF bank and CBF (Church of England account).
The total raised so far since the appeal was launched is: £414,361

6) SPECIFIC PROJECTS FUND

The balance in this fund at 31/12/2023 breaks down as:

£1,048	Youth Work funds
£1,152	Welfare Fund, to be used at the discretion of the vicar for needy members of the congregation.
£13,562	available for organ restoration and repairs
£15,762	

7) PCC MEMBERS

No member of the PCC has received any remuneration from the PCC during the year.

8) ANALYSIS OF THE MAIN BALANCE SHEET HEADINGS BY FUND

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds			Total funds	Total funds
	General fund	Building fund	SABRE restoration fund	Specific projects fund	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	0	183,131	0	0	183,131	*183,131*
Current assets	79,486	33,181	87,186	15,762	215,615	*203,525*
Less Current liabilities	3,611	6,464	0	0	10,075	*12,830*
Less Long term liabilities	0	37,706	0	0	37,706	*44,170*
Total net assets	**75,875**	**172,142**	**87,186**	**15,762**	**350,965**	*329,656*

9) ANALYSIS OF TRAVEL AND ENTERTAINING EXPENSES PAID TO MEMBERS OF THE PCC DURING 2023

	Travel	Entertaining	Total
	£	£	£
Rev Jim Perry		270	270
	0	0	0
Total	**0**	**270**	**270**

Report by the Independent Examiner on the accounts for St Bartholomew Church, Sydenham, 2023.

The accounts have been prepared on an accruals basis. An understanding of the PCC's organisation, accounting records, activities and nature of its assets, liabilities, income and expenditure was gained from a survey of the accounting records and discussions with the treasurer.

No major failures were identified in the accounting records. An analytical review of the financial statements was carried out to look for inconsistencies and unusual events in the year, and compared to previous years. No unexpected fluctuations were discovered in the financial statements.

No unexpected events were discovered in the financial statements for 2022. A positive development is that St Bartholomew's holds accounts with two banks (CAF Bank and Nat West), and they have spread credit balances across the banks so as to maximise the protection from the Financial Services Compensation Scheme.

In addition to the General Fund, there are three Reserved Funds, one being for the Building Fund to to meet ongoing maintenance; the SABRE fund, to progress the major restoration of the church building and roof; and the Special Purposes Fund used for organ restoration, piano replacement and charitable appeals.

After transfers to other funds the General Fund had a loss of £2,594. This reflects increased Parish Share contribution, and higher utility costs. Routine maintenance from the Building Fund was covered by transfer from the General Fund.

The SABRE appeal was largely on hold in 2023. There is £87,000 in the fund for repairs, restoration and building improvements. The Special Projects Fund benefitted from donations for a new piano which will be purchased in 2024.

Overall the financial position of St Bartholomew's remains secure. A curate is being appointed in 2024, meaning that most of the rental income from the curate's flat will be lost and will need replacing from elsewhere (for instance, increased lettings income).

Simon J Taylor

Simon Taylor
Treasurer, St George and St Michael & All Angels
15 March 2024

15th March 2024

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW, SYDE

England & Wales - Charity number 1133852

Accounts

delivered to 3,000 households by volunteers. Thank you to all new and old volunteers without which we simply could not continue. Prices of publication have increased considerably post COVID-19 pandemic. Advertisers have taken on the October 2022 advertising price increase having remained with us for years showing it is an important part of the community.

THE FUTURE OF SYDENHAM LIFE IS UNCERTAIN !

If you value Sydenham Life please consider letting us know and if possible helping with volunteering, writing articles, advertising or sponsorship.

We need more people distributing magazines in a road near where they live.

The cost of paper has dramatically increased and needs funding. Advertising prices have increased, but extra lines of funding have decreased eg Amazon Smile has closed down, so any help with Ideas or Sponsorship of Sydenham Life would be invaluable.

Please contact slifeads@hotmail.co.uk or any of the team/working group on the back page of the magazine, Geoffery Cave, Jane Somers, Alex Seton, Ope Otudeko, Yvonne Springer, Hal Bannister & The Rev Jim Perry.

The Parish of Sydenham

St Bartholomew's Church

Annual Report

April 2023

CONTENTS

1.	Electoral Roll	3
2.	Vicar's Report	3
3.	PCC Secretary's Report	5
4.	Churchwarden's Report (including Buildings, Fabric & Lettings)	6
5.	Financial Summary for the year ended 31 December 2022	9
6.	Safeguarding Report	11
7.	Health & Safety Report	11
8.	Music Report	12
9.	Flowers	13
10.	St Bartholomew's School Governor's Report	13
11.	Sydenham Life Report	15

1. Electoral Roll Report

The electoral roll at present stands at 148 names. Over the last two years we have kept electoral roll numbers steady through what has been a difficult time for church congregations . We have had four new people who have enrolled.

There are 73 members who reside in the parish.
There are 66 who are officially resident outside the parish but have habitually taken part in worship within the parish prior to six months before enrolment ends. 9 members of another church which 'subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity as well as the church of England and habitually attends worship in this Parish'.
Martin Haines, Church Electoral Roll Officer

2. Vicar's Report

Writing after our joyful Easter services, it's good to be able to report that all of our Lent, Holy Week and Easter services and groups saw an increase in attendance from last year, some modest, but others quite significant. This follows a trend for gently increasing attendance over the past year. As well as this increase in attendance has been an increase in activity; a few more social events, our first jumble sale in 4 years and growing numbers of people hiring our hall. We've had a good number of Christenings and admitted four of our young people to Holy Communion at Easter. Alongside this has been more people getting involved and 'having a go' at things.

The year's activities included marking the significant national occasions of Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee and later her death. These and a number of other occasions saw visits from our school to our church building, both for learning and for worship. Just recently this included years 1 to 6 coming in year groups to follow Stations of the Cross before the Easter school break, and then the whole school coming after the break to celebrate an Easter Eucharist. We give thanks to God for all of this and for the sense that we are moving in the right direction, as part of 'God's Pilgrim People'.

Of course we must be careful not to be complacent and continue to seek to grow in number, faith and service to our Parish and the wider world. Following Pentecost we will be giving particular attention to the resources we need, or may need, to grow our mission and Parish life further.

One feature of the past year for myself was becoming Area Dean. This has had it's demands and there have been occasions when it has required a bit more time than I initially expected, but I have so far really quite enjoyed the role and I have met some great people in the wider Diocese.

Perhaps one of the biggest lessons of recent years has been patience. There have been many occasions when it has been necessary to accept that things are going to take longer that I might have initially hoped or planned. In last year's Report I spoke of our Mission Action Plan (MAP), the need to renew it and the intention to do so last Autumn. This would have included giving attention to work with children and young people, which came to a halt during the pandemic. An important part of a MAP is that everyone, the whole church, 'owns' it as a driver for our collective church life, with all of us each having a sense of the part we can play in our mission and church life. My sense was that we were not yet ready for the MAP renewal process last year, that there is still need to rebuild and reaffirm some our activity and life together first. We may be ready to renew the MAP this year or it may be next year – I've learned not to be too fixed on a time! The appointment of Rev'd Chika as vicar of St Philip's was a joyful moment and was done so with an explicit commitment to even greater collaboration and partnership between our Parishes. So when we do renew our MAP, will need to reflect that partnership as well.

None of our church life would be possible without the hard work of a number of people. As always a huge thank you to Roland and Lesley, our Church Wardens who do a great deal, much of it unseen. Thank you too to our treasurer, Peter and those who assist him in keeping our finances in good order, and to our PCC and it's various working groups, the Sydenham Life team and our Deanery synod representatives. Thank you also to all

those who contribute to and enhance our worship; our organist Dennis, the choir and singers, those who serve, read and lead us in intercession, those who decorate the church with flowers and the Sacristy team who make sure we have all we need ready each Sunday.

We don't live in the easiest of times and it would be easy to dwell on challenges and difficulties. But I believe now is a time for being more hopeful and joyful, giving thanks for all that has been good over the past year and rejoicing in the signs of new life that we see. As we continue to seek to be faithful in listening for the voice of the Good Shepherd who goes ahead of us and watches over us, may we, like those early Christians have 'glad and generous hearts' and always be 'praising God', praying that 'day by day the Lord [will] add to our number'.

Rev'd Jim
Easter 3, 2023.

3. PCC Secretary Report

The PCC has met 5 times this year. Meetings have been well attended.
The PCC discusses and makes decisions on a wide variety of topics and issues during the year, mainly prompted by the reports from its various sub committees. In addition there was other business to discuss.

Below are some of the items discussed at PCC meetings in the past year.

July	Formation of working groups The following working groups were suggested: Mission Action Plan, Social, Pastoral, Building issues, Outreach, Engagement with other churches, Youth engagement, Children & families, Worship.
Sep	Discussion and presentation on the, 'Strengths, Challenges & Opportunities'

	It was agreed that the church is welcoming and that younger families are welcomed. And that Rev Jim is to be congratulated for involving everyone in a baptism and also for the introduction of a children's area in the pews. It was also felt that not all the members of the congregation mix together. The question was asked whether the congregation was reflective of the Sydenham community as we are an increasingly affluent parish. It was suggested that there could be National days, Open Days, Art exhibitions, Jumble Sale
Jan	Discussion and presentation, 'Encouraging Generosity and Resourcing the Future'. The presentation was by Gabby Parikh, Director of Giving & Parish Funding
Mar	Approval of the church accounts.

Shireen Williams, PCC Secretary

4. Churchwarden's Report including Buildings, Fabric and Lettings

2022 has continued to see a gradual return to a fuller programme of activities and services, and we have been delighted to welcome back more of the congregation as people started to feel more comfortable about participating in larger gatherings. We are very mindful of those we sadly lost during the pandemic, through Covid and other reasons, and miss them greatly.

What has been a source of joy, however, is the number of new members and family groups who have started to attend our services in the last year; they are extremely welcome in the St Bart's community and several of our new members have lost no time in getting involved with our activities, which is fantastic. Attendance at the Easter Sunday service was particularly encouraging, with the largest number at a service for some time, including a high percentage of children and young people; it was good to see the church so full!

Something that has been a feature of coming out of the pandemic is that, having had a forced break from involvement in activities, some of our volunteers have felt that it is time to step back from things. This is, of course, understandable, and we are extremely grateful to all the wonderful work that our volunteers have done and continue to do; we couldn't do it without you! A drop in the number of people willing to be involved with or to lead activities and initiatives does mean, however, that we can't necessarily offer all the activities or groups that we would like to, or which we feel would be welcomed by the congregation; for example Sunday School/youth activities, breakfasts, study groups.

We therefore warmly encourage you to have a word with the vicar or the wardens if you feel you would like to get involved in any way in the current activities of the church or if you have a great idea for something new and think you could help it happen!

The maintenance of our lovely building continues to be quite a time-consuming occupation, and a regular schedule of maintenance work is carried out to keep it sound and to prevent issues escalating. Many thanks to our regular maintenance angel, Nigel, for this, and to the Buildings Issues Group, who keep an eye on what needs doing and appoints contractors. We were sad to lose Nick Lloyd as Chair of this group this year, when he and Pauline moved to Tunbridge Wells, and we will shortly be losing another stalwart, Bernard Rice, when he and his family also move out of the area. We are lucky to have recently welcomed 2 new members to the group, but if you have any relevant experience and an interest in keeping the building standing, the BIG group would love to have you!

We have been doing short-term repair jobs to the nave roof to keep it waterproof (this is the only part of the roof not to have had significant work done on it in recent years), but it is apparent that we will need to do some fundraising in the near future to enable us to carry out a proper refurbishment in the next year or so. We will be seeking quotations for the work in due course.

We have had a long wait for repair work to be carried out on the clock (following a failure of an original part which we were not permitted to change as part of our restoration work), but I am hoping as I write this that this work has been done and the clock is now keeping correct time.

We are also still waiting for our place in the queue to come up at the craftsmen who are going to work on our bell and chime. Not too much longer now, we hope! We look forward to hearing the bell again, and the plan is that the clock will be causing the bell to chime at regular intervals!

We are waiting for various electrical jobs to be done, including replacement of some internal lighting currently operating on a non-standard system and adjustments to external lighting.

We are still waiting for architects to advise on the leak running underneath the churchyard which was notified to us by Thames Water, and we hope to resolve this soon.

As previously notified, our heating system is not working at full capacity, due to a leak which is potentially under the stonework of the floor. We have managed over the winter, although the church has been a little chilly at times, but we believe there will be some grants available for more environmentally friendly heating systems in the foreseeable future, so we will look at replacing the system rather than doing extensive work on an old system.

Our lettings income has risen as more activities have taken place and we have a new choir hiring regularly on a Monday evening, in addition to frequent ad-hoc bookings for parties and other events. We rented part of the crypt out to a music group a year around a year ago and this is providing an important contribution to our lettings income. We have also had serious talks with a new breakfast/pre-school and after-school group and hope that they may be using the hall premises from September 2023, which again will significantly contribute to our budget.

The loss of the wonderful Fazioli piano which we were lucky enough to have

on long-term loan for several years has meant that we are no longer able to attract some of the amazing professional musicians who have performed at St Bart's in recent years. Our current grand piano, which was kindly donated, is unfortunately no longer of a standard that properly supports our worship needs or piano students. We have therefore just launched a project to replace the piano with a good quality grand piano suitable for recitals and other professional performances, as well as for our own worship needs. Our first fundraising concert was yesterday evening, and we will be planning various other events over the year, applying for funding and trying to attract donations. We expect to spend between £15,000 and £25,000 and hope to have the new piano in place in time for our Christmas events – though sooner would be great too!

As usual, we would also like to acknowledge the huge contribution made to the running of the church by volunteers; stewards, readers, intercession leaders, altar assistants, singers, members of the tea & coffee and flower arrangement rotas and those who take on a specific role, such as treasurer, sacristan, church fund organiser, PCC or committee member.

Lesley Khatibi & Roland Bates. April 2023

5. FINANCIAL SUMMARY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

1) General Fund

Most of our day-to-day income and running costs go through the General Fund. Donated income and tax reclaimed were down due to some people moving away, and in the previous year we received several large donations which were not repeated in 2022. However, lettings income from the hall and crypt recovered very well after the pandemic and overall income rose by £3,000. We were helped by the curate's flat being rented out all year.

Costs rose by about £17,000, due mainly printing Sydenham Life for the whole year again, higher energy costs, new windows being installed at the curate's flat, and buying a new photocopier. Due to all these factors, we had a

deficit of £1,000, compared to a surplus of £15,000 in 2021. When we again have a curate we will lose the income from the flat (£17,000), so there is an ongoing challenge to encourage more regular giving and hire out the hall and crypt more. Cash reserves in the General Fund would cover about 60% of our annual running costs. It is good practice to have reserves for at least three months expenses, and we are above that.

2) Buildings Fund

All costs relating to the maintenance of the church building are shown in The Buildings Fund. These costs were almost £7,000 in 2022 due to the regular repairs and maintenance, and improving ladder access to parts of the roof. These costs were covered by a transfer from the General Fund, and donations received of £4,000. It is costly to maintain a building of this size and age, but money is well spent to avoid bigger problems in the future, and to maintain it at a good standard for worship.

Overall, we made a surplus of £5,000 in the fund, resulting in reserves for future building work standing at £29,000. The Buildings Fund also contains the equity in the curate's flat (the difference between the purchase price and the outstanding mortgage, £132,497). This is not available to spend unless the flat is sold.

3) SABRE Fund

Due to the Pandemic, the SABRE project to restore and improve the church was on hold. During 2022 costs were £6,000, consisting of repairs to the clock and the final costs of the tower repairs. There is now £86,000 in the fund for further repairs, restoration, and improvements to the building.

4) Specific Projects Fund This fund is used for the income and expenditure for causes and charities, funds accumulated over the years for the specific purpose of organ restoration work, funds for youth work, and a small welfare fund. At the end of 2022 there was a surplus in this fund of £3,486.

Peter Stubbs, PCC treasurer

(The full accounts and financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2022 are available separately.)

6. Safeguarding Report The Safeguarding committee currently has 8 members consisting of the 2 Safeguarding officers Lisa Fannon and Bernard Rice, Fr. Perry, Roland Bates, Lesley Khatibi, Hilary-Anne Buckhurst, Lesley Page and Kenlyn Fleary. Since the last APGM in 2022 the committee has again been reviewing the Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) certificates, with respect to volunteers and church officers to ensure that they are still valid, in addition to monitoring the applications for renewals or new volunteers. The lack of any children's church during & post COVID restrictions has led to several DBS checks expiring without the need for renewal at present. The committee is currently reviewing from scratch all current volunteers and staff to ensure that all have valid DBS certificates. In addition, we are preparing for when some form of Children's church begins again to ensure that the DBS process is as easy as possible for applicants. It is hoped that we will be able to arrange a Safeguarding training day run by the Diocese in 2023, which will be open to all members of the Deanery. *Bernard Rice 16th April 2023*

7. Health & Safety report

The last of the COVID restrictions were lifted during the year but there is the option of more distanced seating at the back for those who prefer it, as well as the choice not to receive the wine. There have not been any incidents requiring recording in the accident book. Fire Marshal training will be taking place later this year organised by the Deanery. This will be followed by a fire drill! The Deanery are also organising a First Aid training day for the Autumn, and we are looking for several people who would be willing to undertake this training and be our church first aiders – please let the Wardens know if you would be willing to do so. The Parish health and safety policy is in place and has not required any amendment in the year. As always, if you have any health and safety concerns please do report them to the wardens.

Roland Bates 28th April 2023

8. Music Report

In the last year the new arrangement for choir, singers to sing together on particular Sundays has proved successful. The two groups sing together at the Eucharist on the first and third Sundays of each month, the choir on the second Sunday and the singers on the fourth. We have seven children plus two mothers belonging to them who sing regularly, four of the children have joined in the last few months. We also have four new people in the choir. All these recent additions to the choir and singers have enhanced the quality of singing. Rehearsals for choir and singers take place on Thursday evenings. The children have occasionally sung solo in sections of the anthems. Red scarves are worn in place of robes when the two groups merge and the choir retains wearing robes when it is their Sunday to sing. The vicar and organist have had regular meetings to decide on hymns. There have been some new hymns introduced and the vicar has updated wording with some of the traditional hymns. The congregation have become familiar with the introduction of well known tunes to the Gloria, Sanctus and Benedictus and Agnus Dei. The organ has been used mainly to accompany hymns and anthems. Organ voluntaries have mainly been played at the beginning and end of services. There has been an increase in the use of piano accompaniment with some of the hymns. The piano has been played occasionally for the entire Eucharist. Flute accompaniment has also been used in some Services. Percussion instruments are played occasionally by the children. The organ continues to be tuned and maintained well by a reputable organ tuning and repair company. A piano fund has been set up to raise money for a new piano to replace the current piano which is extremely old. When this has been achieved there will inevitably be a return to more concerts performed in the church. As in the Jubilee celebrations last year, there will be an organ recital for the Coronation by Dennis Baugh the organist, preceded by a cream tea. A short Service with a couple of hymns will take place after the recital.

Dennis Baugh 25th April 2023

9. Flowers Report

The re-appearance of flowers at the Holy Saturday Vigil and on Easter Sunday adds to the joyful experience as we celebrate Our Lord's Resurrection. I would like to thank the members of the congregation who contributed the amazing sum of £213 towards the cost of the Easter flowers. People often find this an appropriate way to commemorate someone. The amount donated this year covered the cost of the Easter flowers and enabled us to have a large number of lilies. I am always pleased to hear from people who would like to make a donation for flowers to be placed in church to mark a special event or an anniversary during the year.

Thanks are due to Colleen and Jayne who have joined me in arranging the flowers and to Anne who has provided invaluable assistance. I would love to hear from anyone who would like to join us. No previous experience is necessary as we will provide support. Please come and talk to me if you are interested.

Jean Clark

10. Report from the Governors, St Bart's School

As I write this Report, we are starting the final term of yet another busy and challenging year for all those involved in our church school, St Bartholomew's Church of England Primary School .

Following the retirement of HeadTeacher, Mrs Davies. Mr Daniel Meyer was appointed the new Headteacher commencing 1st September 2022.

The staff continue to cope with all the challenges presented to them following the pandemic. Teachers, Teaching Assistants, Support Staff and Ancillaries, have maintained their teaching and care of all the children. All concerned are mindful that there is still much compensating to be done in order to make up for opportunities lost during Covid. New initiatives and enrichment are continually being put in place and reviewed. This includes well being along side the academic progress of each young person.

School trips and visits are once again very much an intrinsic part of the curriculum.The teachers' professional development has also been enhanced by every teacher being given responsibility for a main curriculum subject – and those subjects are then linked with other subjects in a seamless progressive way.

Rev Jim continues to visit fortnightly to take collective worship. The school also visits the church for acts of worship.

The school is truly blessed in having such dedicated staff and such motivated pupils who are clearly responding to the teaching and care being given to them. This is evidenced in the observed progress throughout the year.

And the governors too have played their part in maintaining their role as critical friends of the school The full governing body continues to meet twice a term and all governors sit one of the two main committees:

'Resources' The budget is regularly reviewed and monitored (so far the school has not gone into deficit although this may be a changing situation with government cuts in the offing and costs of eg energy rising exponentially) Financial and Resources priorities are discussed.

'Curriculum and Learning'
The curriculum is reviewed, subject leaders regularly come to address meetings. Data and progress are monitored and new initiatives are explained. All governors also sit on sub committees such as 'Well-Being' and 'Health and Safety'. All committees report back to the Full Governing Body meeting as a standing item. All governors make regular visits to the school to observe classes and how subjects are taught.

'Safeguarding ' rightly continues to be a very important priority for the school with the Safeguarding lead being very active in maintaining the safety of all pupils, ensuring child protection. The safeguarding governor meets with the Safeguarding lead twice a term and additionally when the need arises.

The school community had to deal with the death of a much loved teacher Florence Mugabi. The whole school family came together confident that they could share their feelings and emotions whilst showing respect and dignity and composure The children taking their lead from the staff and perhaps vice versa. Jim supported the whole school community and this tragic event certainly demonstrates the strong links between Church and School.

The school's number on role is healthy with predictions that the next September intake will be full. This is no mean feat as school roles are generally dropping in this present climate. So there is optimistic hope that all places will be filled at the start of Autumn Term 2023.
Hilary-Anne Buckhurst. Foundation Governor

11. Sydenham Life Report

Overview: Sydenham Life Magazine is the free Parish Magazine of St Bartholomew's Church, Westwood Hill, SE26 6QR and has been continually printed in different formats since 1st January 1868 (155 yrs).

The cover page has now been updated with a QR code and the website changed to www.achurchnearyou.com/church/836/page/63588/view and Facebook F.B.me/StBartholomewsChurchSydenham, then follow links.

An important outreach magazine with interesting articles. It informs and invites the local population of events and classes available in St Bartholomew's Church premises. It is online and the print version is a Recyclable paper magazine published 10 times a year (July/Aug & Dec/Jan combined months) with **copies sent to the British Library**. It is also used for Research Projects.

The Sydenham Life Working Group Team, Article Writers, Packers & Distributors **from Church and Community** contribute their time by writing articles and delivering the magazine. It is written, run, packed and hand

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF SAINT BARTHOLOMEW, SYDENHAM

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

Charity Commission Registration Number 1133852

CONTENTS

Page	2	Balance Sheet
	3	Statement of Financial Activities
	4 to 5	General Fund
	6	Buildings & SABRE Funds
	7	Specific Projects Fund
	8 to 10	Notes to the Accounts

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF SAINT BARTHOLOMEW, SYDENHAM

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

BALANCE SHEET AT 31ST DECEMBER 2022

	Note	2022 £	£	2021 £	£
Fixed assets:					
Tangible assets *(curate's flat at cost)*	2		183,131		*183,131*
Current assets:					
Debtors & accrued income *(Dec Parish Giving Scheme)*		4,841		*4,695*	
Payments in advance *(insurance)*		4,452		*3,995*	
Balance at Natwest bank *(current account)*		30,974		*23,932*	
Balance at CAF bank *(current account)*		134,155		*149,783*	
Balance at CofE CBF (Central Board of Finance *(deposit account))*		23,061		*22,760*	
Balance on Church Equals debits cards		4,724		*0*	
Cash in church safe for event floats and petty cash		1,318		*188*	
		203,525		*205,353*	
Current liabilities:					
Loan amount payable within one year *(flat repayment)*	2	6,464		*6,464*	
Other creditors due within one year *(accruals)*		6,366		*6,575*	
- mainly fees due to the Diocese for 2022 & Mission Giving					
		12,830		*13,039*	
Net current assets			190,695		*192,314*
Total assets minus current liabilities			373,826		*375,445*
Long term liability					
Diocesan loan for flat purchase - *payable after one year*	2	44,170		*50,634*	
			44,170		*50,634*
			329,656		*324,811*
Represented by:					
Unrestricted funds					
General fund			78,469		*79,351*
Restricted funds					
Buildings fund					
curate flat purchase cost	183,131				
curate flat outstanding mortgage	50,634				
equity in curate flat - not available to spend	132,497				
surplus in fund that can be spent on works	28,977				
total in Buildings Fund at end of year	161,474	161,474		*149,978*	
SABRE restoration fund		86,227		*92,139*	
Specific projects fund		3,486		*3,343*	
			251,187		*245,460*
	8		329,656		*324,810*

Rev. Jim Perry
Incumbent

Lesley Khatibi
Churchwarden

Roland Bates
Churchwarden

March 2023

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF SAINT BARTHOLOMEW, SYDENHAM

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

- summarising the three funds in SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice) format

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds			Total funds	Total funds
	General fund £	Building fund £	SABRE restoration fund £	Specific projects fund £	2022 £	2021 £
Incoming resources						
Incoming resources from generated funds						
Voluntary income	83,871	0	0	419	84,290	*103,099*
Activities for generating funds	41,539	4,000	0	0	45,539	*31,174*
Investment income	0	0	436	0	436	*10*
Incoming resources from charitable activities ie fees	742	0	0	0	742	*1,095*
Total incoming resources	126,152	4,000	436	419	131,007	*135,378*
Resources expended						
Costs of generating funds	0	0	0	0	0	*0*
Costs of running the church	112,570	13,432	6,348	276	132,626	*105,258*
Governance costs (examination of accounts)	0	0	0	0	0	*0*
Total resources expended	112,570	13,432	6,348	276	132,626	*105,258*
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers	13,582	-9,432	-5,912	143	-1,619	*30,120*
reduction in flat loan liability - to Balance Sheet	0	6,464	0	0	6,464	*6,464*
Transfers between funds	-14,464	14,464	0	0	0	*-1,000*
Net movement in funds	-882	11,496	-5,912	143	4,845	*35,584*
Total funds as at 1 January 2022	79,351	149,978	92,139	3,343	324,811	*289,227*
Total funds as at 31 December 2022	78,469	161,474	86,227	3,486	329,656	*324,811*

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF SAINT BARTHOLOMEW, SYDENHAM

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

GENERAL FUND (UNRESTRICTED FUND)

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT AND FUND MOVEMENT

	Note	2022 £	2022 £	2021 £	2021 £
Incoming Resources					
Donated income					
Parish Giving Scheme - *regular giving*		57,394		*60,495*	
Tax (gift aid) - *reclaimed on donations*		14,992		*17,448*	
Weekly collections - *now included the credit card machine*		5,368		*2,406*	
Non-specific donations *(various donations, legacies etc)*		5,732		*14,241*	
Old Church Hall site *(ground rents from remaining freeholds)*		250		*250*	
Occasional collections *(at special services and events)*		135			
			83,871		*94,840*
Fees for weddings, funerals, banns			742		*1,095*
Investment income					
Interest on General Fund bank balance		0		*0*	
			0		*0*
Fund-raising activities					
Lettings - hall, crypt and church hire - *up after the pandemic*		20,283		*8,809*	
Sydenham Life advertising revenue		3,025		*640*	
Jumble sales (*donations and the October Sale)*		2,244		*500*	
Floodlighting		10		*0*	
Action Bibles donations		195		*0*	
Rent from the curate's flat		15,400		*16,620*	
Sunday morning coffee, breakfasts, afternoon teas		240		*19*	
Quiz evening		142		*86*	
Christmas Fair income *(a donation in 2021 after cancellation)*		0		*500*	
Curate training subsidy - *from the Diocese when we have a curate*		0		*0*	
			41,539		*27,174*
Total general fund incoming resources			126,152		*123,109*

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF SAINT BARTHOLOMEW, SYDENHAM

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

GENERAL FUND (UNRESTRICTED FUND)

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT AND FUND MOVEMENT

	Note	2022 £	2022 £	2021 £	2021 £
Resources Expended					
On church objects					
Parish Pledge to Diocese - *for clergy salaries, housing and training*		63,000		*62,500*	
Sydenham Life printing and expenses		5,104		*1,795*	
Utilities - *water, gas, electricity*		11,733		*7,765*	
Bank charges		105		*125*	
Insurance - *for the building*		3,995		*3,454*	
Altar requisites - *wafers, wine, candles etc*		1,001		*545*	
Interest on loan to purchase the curate's flat		2,422		*2,592*	
Curate's flat service charge, council tax, repairs		5,372		*2,062*	
Cleaning - *includes consumables, rubbish removal, deep clean*		4,370		*4,593*	
Flower costs		0		*200*	
Staff expenses - travel, telephone etc	9	124		*405*	
Books & print		266		*418*	
Office expenses - photocopier etc		3,908		*718*	
Non fund-raising activities *(new altar cloths, DBS checks etc)*		1,546		*525*	
Organist		3,900		*3,713*	
Choir & music - *church copyright licence*		477		*592*	
Instrument maintenance		1,859		*916*	
Mission giving - *to local/national/international charities*	3	2,700		*2,469*	
Sunday morning coffee expenses		63		*12*	
Action Bible costs		625			
total normal costs			112,570		*95,399*
Inter-fund transfers etc:					
Transfer to Buildings Fund - capital repayments on flat	2	-6,464		*-6,464*	
Transer to Specific Projects Fund - organ restoration		0		*0*	
Transfer to Buildings Fund - repairs and renewals		-8,000		*-6,000*	
Total Inter-fund transfers etc:			-14,464		*-12,464*
Total general fund resources expended			127,034		*107,863*
Net (Deficit)/Surplus in the General Fund in the year			-882		*15,246*
Surplus/(deficit) from the previous year			79,351		*64,105*
Surplus/(deficit) carried forward to the ensuing year			78,469		*79,351*

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF SAINT BARTHOLOMEW, SYDENHAM

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

BUILDINGS FUND (RESTRICTED FUND)

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT AND FUND MOVEMENT

		2022		2021	
	Note	£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources					
Donated income for repairs		4,000		*4,000*	
Total buildings fund incoming resources			4,000		*4,000*
Resources Expended					
Routine repairs & maintenance	4	6,968		*8,878*	
Capital paid off loan to purchase curate's flat	2	6,464		*6,464*	
Total buildings fund resources expended			13,432		*15,342*
Surplus/(deficit) for the year			(9,432)		*(11,342)*
Surplus from the previous year (inc equity in flat)			149,978		*142,392*
transfer from General Fund for flat capital repayment			6,464		*6,464*
transfer from General Fund for repairs & maintenance			8,000		*6,000*
increase in Buildings Fund = reduction in loan liability on balance sheet			6,464		*6,464*
Surplus carried forward to the following year			161,474		*149,978*

SABRE RESTORATION FUND (RESTRICTED FUND)

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT AND FUND MOVEMENT

		2022		2021	
	Note	£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources					
SABRE donations including gift aid		0		*12*	
grant income - from Church Care in 2021		0		*5,200*	
fundraising		0		*0*	
			0		*5,212*
Investment income					
Interest on balance with CBF (SABRE funds)		436		*10*	
			436		*10*
Total SABRE restoration fund incoming resources			436		*5,222*
Resources Expended					
SABRE restoration costs *(clock and final tower costs)*	5	6,348		*-7,511*	
Total SABRE fund resources expended			6,348		*-7,511*
Surplus/(deficit) for the year			(5,912)		*12,733*
Surplus from the previous year			92,139		*79,406*
Surplus carried forward to the following year			86,227		*92,139*

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF SAINT BARTHOLOMEW, SYDENHAM

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

SPECIFIC PROJECTS FUND (RESTRICTED FUND)

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT AND FUND MOVEMENT

	Note	2022 £	2022 £	2021 £	2021 £
Incoming Resources					
Donations					
Bishop's Lent appeal - *for a range of charities*		30		*0*	
Poppy Appeal - *to Royal British Legion*		0		*59*	
Carol service - *to Embrace the Middle East*		84		*70*	
Organ restoration donations		143		*2,185*	
Christingle service - *for The Children's Society*		162		*0*	
Christian Aid collections		0		*209*	
Youth work income		0		*524*	
Total specific projects fund incoming resources			419		*3,046*
Resources Expended					
Expenditure on church objects					
Bishop's Lent call		30		*0*	
Sightsavers		0		*70*	
British Legion		0		*59*	
Embrace the Middle East donations sent		84		*0*	
Christian Aid		0		*209*	
Organ restorations expenses		0		*1,042*	
The Children's Society (Christingle)		162		*0*	
Youth work costs		0		*648*	
Total specific projects fund resources expended			276		*2,027*
Transfer from General Fund - organ and pandemic response			0		*-1,000*
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year			143		*19*
Surplus from the previous year			3,343		*3,324*
Surplus carried forward to the ensuing year			3,486		*3,343*

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF SAINT BARTHOLOMEW, SYDENHAM

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2022

1) ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements are presented in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities Commission's revised Statement of Recommended Practice (the Charities SORP).

The accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention.

Funds

The General Fund represents the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use, and are available for its general purposes.
The Buildings Fund is a restricted fund deriving its income from legacies, donations and fund-raising activities to be used specifically for building work. It now holds the equity in the flat purchased for curates in training.
The Specific Projects Fund is a restricted fund reserved for the projects listed for which the incoming funds have been earmarked.

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law or over which the PCC exercises control.

Incoming Resources

Incoming resources are recognised in the following manner:

(i) Collections and planned giving when received.
(ii) Gift Aid recoverable on donations, when receivable.
(iii) Grants and legacies to the PCC, when received.
(iv) Income from fund-raising and similar activities, gross when received.
(v) Investment income and income receivable, when receivable. Tax recoverable on such income is recognised in the same year.

Resources Used

The Parish Pledge paid to the Diocese covers the cost of clergy, pensions, housing and central overheads. It is accounted for in the year during which payment is sought. Any unpaid contribution at 31st December is included in the balance sheet as a creditor (though not a legal liability).

Resources Expended

Expenditure is recognised on the accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes VAT which cannot be recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from these accounts.

Other property held for the church's use is shown at cost of acquisition (eg the curate's flat).

Other fixtures and fittings are depreciated on a straight line basis over 3 years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1,000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Current Assets

Amounts due to the PCC at 31 December 2022

2) TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Office Equipment £	Long Leasehold £
Cost		
At 1st January 2022	2,792	183,130
Additions	0	0
At 31st December 2022	2,792	183,130
Depreciation		
At 1st January 2022	2,791	0
For the year	0	0
At 31st December 2022	2,791	0
Net Book Amounts		
At 31st December 2022	1	183,130
At 31st December 2022	1	183,130

The leasehold property was purchased on 10th August 2005 for the purpose of housing curates sent to the parish by the Diocese of Southwark for training. It consists of a flat at 1 Ashleigh Court, 81 Lawrie Park Road, London, SE26 6EX. In accordance with the law relating to property held by parishes, the legal owners of the property are the Southwark Diocesan Board of Finance and the South London Church Fund as Custodian Trustees for the parish. Any capital gain or loss on the property will accrue to the parish.
The flat was purchased for £183,130, and might now be worth more than that.
The loan of £150,000 from the Diocese is repayable over 25 years from 12th August 2005 by monthly instalments inclusive of interest currently at 3.5% above Bank Rate.
The lease has been extended to 990 years.

	£
balance of the loan outstanding at 31st December 2021	57,098
less repayments made in 2022	-8,886
plus interest costs added in 2022	2,422
balance of the loan outstanding at 31st December 2022	50,634
amount payable within one year	6,464
amount payable after one year	44,170
	50,634

Now included in the accounts is a transfer from the General Fund to the Buildings Fund equal to the capital repayments for the flat loan. Interest costs are an expense from the General Fund, but capital repayments result in an increase in the Buldings Fund as the loan liability reduces. Significant capital repayments are now being made, and the addition of this line makes clear the funding needs for these repayments. So the surplus or deficit in the General Fund shows the full position after both interest and capital repayments have been made.

3) MISSION GIVING

Mission giving is agreed at 3% of the church's donated income during the previous year and was used to support the following causes by direct giving from the church's general income, rather than by specific fund-raising activities:
St Christopher's Hospice, UNICEF and Streetlink charity for the homeless.
chosen Citizens UK - to support work during the pandemic

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF SAINT BARTHOLOMEW, SYDENHAM

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2022

4) BUILDINGS FUND

The balance in this fund represents the funds donated for building works, and the equity in the curate's flat. A summary of the money available for building works is:

available for repairs works at 31/12/2021	£23,945
donations received for building works	£4,000
transferred from the General Fund - repairs & maintenance	£8,000
major repairs in 2022	£0
spent on routine repairs and maintenance	-£6,968
available for repairs at 31/12/2022	**£28,977**
plus the equity in the curate's flat (not availble to spend)	£132,497
total carried forward in Buildings Fund at 31/12/22	£161,474

5) SABRE RESTORATION FUND

The Saint Barts Restoration Appeal (SABRE) was launched in 2014 to raise money for a comprehensive programme of repairs to and restoration of the building, along with improvements to benefit the congregation and community.

funds brought forward 1/1/2022	£92,139
funds raised in 2022	£0
Interest on balance with CBF (SABRE funds)	£436
spent in the year - clock and final tower costs	-£6,348
SABRE funds available at 31/12/2022	£86,227

This balance is held in the church accounts at NatWest, CAF bank and CBF (Church of England account).

The total raised so far since the appeal was launched is: £414,537

6) SPECIFIC PROJECTS FUND

The balance in this fund at 31/12/2022 breaks down as:

£1,048	Youth Work funds
£1,152	Welfare Fund, to be used at the discretion of the vicar for needy members of the congregation.
£1,286	availbale for organ restoration and repairs
£3,486	

7) PCC MEMBERS

No member of the PCC has received any remuneration from the PCC during the year.

8) ANALYSIS OF THE MAIN BALANCE SHEET HEADINGS BY FUND

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds			Total funds	Total funds
	General fund	Building fund	SABRE restoration fund	Specific projects fund	2022	2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	0	183,131	0	0	183,131	*183,131*
Current assets	84,835	28,977	86,227	3,486	203,525	*205,353*
Less Current liabilities	6,366	6,464	0	0	12,830	*13,039*
Less Long term liabilities	0	44,170	0	0	44,170	*50,634*
Total net assets	**78,469**	**161,474**	**86,227**	**3,486**	**329,656**	*324,811*

9) ANALYSIS OF TRAVEL AND ENTERTAINING EXPENSES PAID TO MEMBERS OF THE PCC DURING 2022

	Travel	Entertaining	Total
	£	£	£
Rev Jim Perry	20	15	35
	0	0	0
Total	**20**	**15**	**35**

Report by the Independent Examiner on the accounts for St Bartholomew Church, Sydenham, 2022.

The accounts have been prepared on an accruals basis. An understanding of the PCC's organisation, accounting records, activities and nature of its assets, liabilities, income and expenditure was gained from a survey of the accounting records and discussions with the treasurer.

No major failures were identified in the accounting records. An analytical review of the financial statements was carried out to look for inconsistencies and unusual events in the year, and compared to previous years. No unexpected fluctuations were discovered in the financial statements.

No unexpected events were discovered in the financial statements beyond the lingering impacts of the COVID19 pandemic (with St Bartholomew's gradually returning to more normal operations in 2022, e.g. the weekly collection reintroduced). Enquiries did not reveal any post balance sheet events, which would have significant impact on the financial statements for the year.

In addition to the General Fund, there are three Reserved Funds, one being for the Building Fund to to meet ongoing maintenance; the SABRE fund, to progress the major restoration of the church building and roof; and the Special Purposes Fund used for the organ fund and charitable appeals.

After transfers to other funds the General Fund had a small loss of just under £1,000. This reflects a reduced level of donations and tax reclaim compared to 2021, party offset by increased hall and lettings income. Routine maintenance from the Building Fund was covered by transfer from the General Fund.

The SABRE appeal to restore and improve the church building saw a modest reduction due to expenditure on clock repairs and final costs of the tower repairs. There is now £86,000 in the fund for continuing repairs, restoration and building improvements.

Overall the financial position of St Bartholomew's is sound, despite the impacts of the COVID19 pandemic over the last two years. I do note that if a curate is appointed, this will lead to the income from the curate's flat (circa £17,000pa) being lost and will need replacing from elsewhere. There will no doubt be further spending on SABRE.

Simon Taylor
Treasurer, St George and St Michael & All Angels
19 March 2023

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST BARTHOLOMEW, SYDENHAM

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2022 which are set out on pages 1 to 19.

Respective Responsibilities of the Trustees and the Independent Examiner

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independendent examination is required.

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes 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 management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence 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 give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
a) to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
b) to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records
have not been met; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accountsto be reached.

21st March 2023

Simon Taylor
Treasurer
St George and St Michael & All Angels
Sydenham

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW, SYDE

England & Wales - Charity number 1133852

Accounts

12. MUSIC REPORT

During the pandemic when rules of covid started to ease we had various small groups of people singing at the Eucharist with the organ. Then when services started to get back to normal the choir and St Barts Singers merged for singing together on two Sundays of the month. We have had a group of children joining them plus Toyin singing with them. This increase in the number of people singing from the choir stalls has enhanced the hymn singing and anthems and has given a stronger lead for hymn singing in the congregation. The choir and singers groups have each had one Sunday in the month for singing separately. Hymns and anthems have been chosen to suit the level of singing and type of service accordingly. Since services started again we have had two new singers - Agnes and Josie. The organ has been the main accompanying instrument but the piano has also been used for accompanying, sometimes played by Roland Bates. We have had occasional flute playing and accompanying from Eileen Smith. Occasionally piano music has been played by children before and after services from Faith, Israel, Megan and Sophie. Faith has also played the organ after the services with dexterous pedal playing! Children in the choir have been encouraged to play percussion instruments with some of the hymns. There are rehearsals on Thursday for combined choir and singers as well as the two groups rehearsing separately. A brief run down of the music has taken place before the Sunday Services. We have used different congregation-friendly settings to the Gloria, Sanctus and Agnus Dei.

Dennis Baugh, Music Director and Organist

Finance: 2021: Adverts income = £640 Costs = £1795

Expenses: Sydenham Life Magazine costs to individuals – none claimed at present.

Trading Standards recommendation: in each Sydenham Life publication

Editorial – Geoffrey Cave

A warm welcome to Aletha Clarke (Proof Reader) and grateful thanks to Molly Wickert for her invaluable support and best wishes for her move to be closer to her family.

Sydenham Life is the Parish Magazine for St Barts Church. It is a totally volunteer enterprise with a mission to educate and inform. Many thanks to all the people who have contributed towards the magazine. Sydenham life could not exist without the volunteers, church members and local community. If you or anyone you know would like to contribute, we would love to hear from you. This enables us to illustrate the different priorities, thoughts and views that affect people's lives.

Editorial Team - ***Church Representative***:*The Reverend Jim Perry*, ***Editor***:Geoffrey Cave, ***Advertising Manager***:Jane Somers, ***Distribution Manager***:Ope Otudeko, ***Assistant Distribution Manager***:*Yvonne Springer*. ***Design, Layout, Adverts & Media Pack***:*Hal Bannister*. ***Advertising Invoices***: Alexander Seton, ***Proof Reader***:Aletha Clarke.

Associates –***Website***:Gill Daly, ***Adverts for Church Events***:Lesley Khatibi, ***St Bartholomew's Church Treasurer***:Peter Stubbs, ***Floodlighting***:Claire Adams, ***Printer***s:Phillips Duplicators Ltd. Bromley. ***Packers*** & ***Distributers*** *and* ***Article Writers***: numerous volunteers from the congregation and wider public.

Advertising Manager Can you support the local community by helping them advertise their businesses?

Update the St Barts Treasurer with a monthly list of the cost of the advertiser's adverts chosen for each issue using tools like Microsoft Excel and Word.

You will be assisted by Hal who makes the adverts, Alex who sends out Invoices to the Advertisers and the St Barts Treasurer running the accounts. The income from the Adverts goes towards the printing of the magazine.

Distribution – Ope Otudeko

I would like to thank all colleagues involved in the Sydenham Life magazine.

I also thank all volunteers involved in packing and distributing the magazine without which we simply could not continue.

In the past year we have faced many challenges, primarily brought upon us by the Covid-19 pandemic which meant that we had to suspend packing and distribution in line with government guidelines and the magazine being available only on-line. Consequently life has changed for many of our distributors, in some cases have relocated from the area or are about to, work and life commitments and demands on their time. We cannot thank you enough for the help through volunteering over the years. We receive a lot of feedback from our readers that they still do like to receive physical copies of the magazine and we intend to continue to do so as long as we are able.

The operation is however fragile and in desperate need of new volunteers in order to ensure continuity. We especially need distributors for main artery roads in Sydenham like Kirkdale and Crystal Palace Park road and want to urge you to come forward and volunteer.

Since resuming distribution after Covid-19 we have transitioned to bundling the magazines with rubber bands and doing away with the recycled paper. This has reduced the packing time whilst creating the opportunity to re-use the rubber bands by depositing them in the return box which can be found at the back of the church where the magazine bundles are left.

We will also be emphasizing the importance of health and safety, and taking all reasonable precautions to keep safe whilst out volunteering to distribute. We intend to do this going forward with occasional leaflets on each magazine bundle with suggestions of reasonable ways to keep safe.

Thank you. Ope Otudeko otudek@yahoo.com 077 871 83229

Advertising & Costs- Jane Somers

A warm welcome to Alex Seton who joined the team doing the Advertiser Invoices and sending them with a copy of the magazine. Many thanks to everyone who advertises, Hal Bannister who makes the adverts, Gill Daly for putting the magazine on the church website and Peter Stubbs the St Barts Treasurer.

Adverts were free while the paper magazine was paused during COVID restrictions.

The price of printing is very volatile due to the economic situation.

Finance:
Expenses
Trading S
Editorial –
A warm w
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Sydenham
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Editorial
Manager:
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Associate
Treasurer:
Packers &
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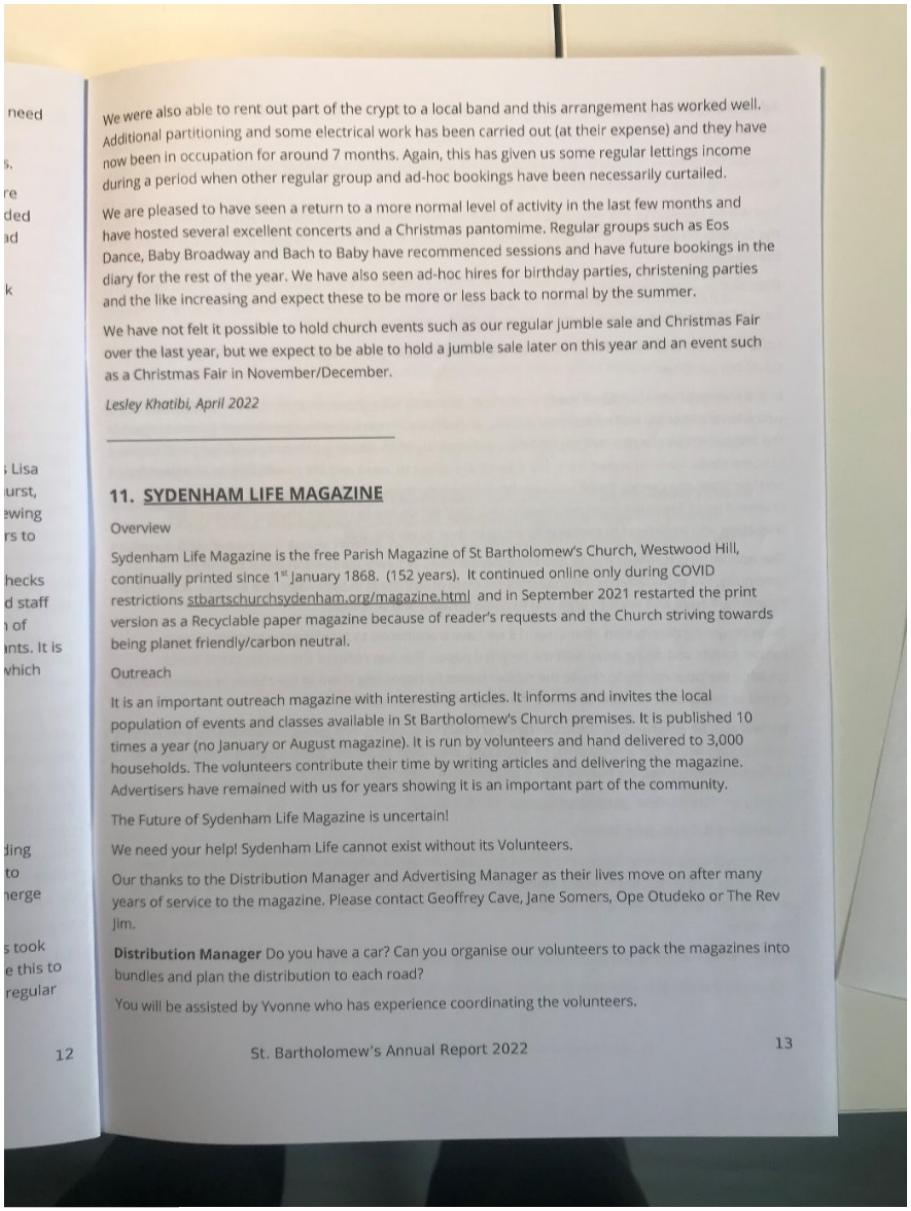

We were also able to rent out part of the crypt to a local band and this arrangement has worked well. Additional partitioning and some electrical work has been carried out (at their expense) and they have now been in occupation for around 7 months. Again, this has given us some regular lettings income during a period when other regular group and ad-hoc bookings have been necessarily curtailed.

We are pleased to have seen a return to a more normal level of activity in the last few months and have hosted several excellent concerts and a Christmas pantomime. Regular groups such as Eos Dance, Baby Broadway and Bach to Baby have recommenced sessions and have future bookings in the diary for the rest of the year. We have also seen ad-hoc hires for birthday parties, christening parties and the like increasing and expect these to be more or less back to normal by the summer.

We have not felt it possible to hold church events such as our regular jumble sale and Christmas Fair over the last year, but we expect to be able to hold a jumble sale later on this year and an event such as a Christmas Fair in November/December.

Lesley Khatibi, April 2022

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11. SYDENHAM LIFE MAGAZINE

Overview

Sydenham Life Magazine is the free Parish Magazine of St Bartholomew's Church, Westwood Hill, continually printed since 1st January 1868. (152 years). It continued online only during COVID restrictions stbartschurchsydenham.org/magazine.html and in September 2021 restarted the print version as a Recyclable paper magazine because of reader's requests and the Church striving towards being planet friendly/carbon neutral.

Outreach

It is an important outreach magazine with interesting articles. It informs and invites the local population of events and classes available in St Bartholomew's Church premises. It is published 10 times a year (no January or August magazine). It is run by volunteers and hand delivered to 3,000 households. The volunteers contribute their time by writing articles and delivering the magazine. Advertisers have remained with us for years showing it is an important part of the community.

The Future of Sydenham Life Magazine is uncertain!

We need your help! Sydenham Life cannot exist without its Volunteers.

Our thanks to the Distribution Manager and Advertising Manager as their lives move on after many years of service to the magazine. Please contact Geoffrey Cave, Jane Somers, Ope Otudeko or The Rev Jim.

Distribution Manager Do you have a car? Can you organise our volunteers to pack the magazines into bundles and plan the distribution to each road?

You will be assisted by Yvonne who has experience coordinating the volunteers.

safeguarding governor meet with the Safeguarding lead twice a term and additionally when the need arises.

So again, the school is blessed with having the input of such dedicated and motivated governors.

Finally, insofar as the challenges ahead are concerned, one sad-ish note – to impart is that we are saying good bye and a fond farewell to our HeadTeacher, Mrs Davies who announced her intended retirement at the end of this academic year - after so many years of dedicated teaching and Head leadership . We really will miss her but also wish her well for a long, happy and full future.

The challenge for us now is to recruit a new HeadTeacher to carry on and also enhance the work already in progress for the benefit of the pupils whom we are privileged to serve.

Pauline Lloyd (Diocesan Board Governor and safeguarding governor)

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9. SAFEGUARDING

The Safeguarding committee currently has 9 members consisting of the 2 Safeguarding officers Lisa Fannon and Bernard Rice, Fr. Perry, Roland Bates, Lesley Khatibi, Nick Lloyd, Hilary-Anne Buckhurst, Lesley Page and Kenlyn Fleary. Since the last APGM in 2021 the committee has again been reviewing the Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) certificates, with respect to volunteers and church officers to ensure that they are still valid, in addition to monitoring the applications for renewals or new volunteers. The lack of any children's church during COVID restrictions has led to several DBS checks becoming expired. The committee is currently reviewing from scratch all current volunteers and staff to ensure that all have valid DBS certificates. In addition, we are preparing for when some form of Children's church begins again to ensure that the DBS process is as easy as possible for applicants. It is hoped that we will be able to arrange a Safeguarding training day run by the Diocese in 2022, which will be open to all members of the Deanery.

Bernard Rice

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10. LETTINGS

The pandemic continued to have a big impact on lettings over 2021; Covid precautions precluding many activities from taking place for large chunks of the year. It also had an impact on efforts to replace the pre-school, which had provided us with regular income until they were forced to merge groups, reduced numbers making it unviable to operate multiple locations.

We did have interest from a potential breakfast and after-school club, and positive discussions took place with them. It has taken a considerable time for Ofsted to arrange an inspection to enable this to go forward, but it looks like this will be running by summer at the latest, providing a welcome regular income stream.

8. ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S SCHOOL GOVERNORS

As I write this Report, we are coming to the end of the Spring Term of an especially busy and challenging year for all those involved in our church school, St Bartholomew's Church of England Primary School .

The staff have not only coped with all the challenges presented to them by the pandemic with lock-down restrictions and most of the pupil cohort and many of the staff not in school but have gone above and beyond in providing 'Google learning' , maintaining contact with parents/carers and children, ensuring that children who are not in school are contacted on a daily basis to ensure their safety and well-being as well as being assured that they are able to continue their learning at home.

Coming out of the restrictions, the staff - teachers, teaching assistants, support staff and ancillaries - have maintained their teaching and care of all the children , notwithstanding that they are still having to battle with continuing illness and absences as have the children with, as at a couple of weeks ago, the Headteacher reporting to governors that 8 staff were off with illness as were over 70 pupils.

Nevertheless, the staff have also enhanced their teaching and care by providing eg additional sessions and tutoring in Years 5 and 6 with a view to extending into Year 3 and with the recommencement of enrichment clubs such as French, chess and Street Dance.

The teachers' professional development has also been enhanced by every teacher being given responsibility for a curriculum subject – and those subjects linked with other subjects in a seamless progressive way.

Rev Jim now visits fortnightly to take collective worship and the school visited the church for their Ash Wednesday service. After the Easter holidays there will be a visit by the school for a Eucharist service.

The school is almost at full capacity and there were 141 applications received and approved for Reception in September 2022 with the optimistic hope that all places will be filled at the start of that autumn term.

The school is truly blessed in having such dedicated staff and such motivated pupils who are clearly responding to the teaching and care being given to them evidenced in the observed progress throughout the year.

And the governors too have played their part in maintaining their role as critical friends of the school The full governing body continues to meet twice a term and all governors sit on the two main committees - 'Resources' (where the budget is regularly reviewed and monitored (and so far the school has not gone into deficit although this may be a changing situation with government cuts in the offing and costs of eg energy rising exponentially) - and 'Curriculum and Learning. All governors also sit on sub committees such as 'Well-Being' and 'Health and Safety'.

All governors make regular visits to the school to observe classes and how subjects are taught.

'Safeguarding ' rightly continues to be a very important priority for the school with the Safeguarding lead being very active in maintaining the safety of all pupils and ensuring child protection. The

We would also like to acknowledge the huge contribution made to the running of the church by volunteers; stewards, readers, intercession leaders, altar assistants, singers, members of the tea & coffee and flower arrangement rotas and those who take on a specific role, such as treasurer, sacristan, church fund organiser, PCC or committee member.

There is always more to do and if you feel you can take part in any capacity, however small, we would urge you to come forward and speak to Jim or the wardens.

To close, we would also like to express our sincere thanks to Jim and his family, who couldn't have envisaged, when they arrived in 2019 what their first few years would be like!

Lesley Khatibi & Roland Bates, April 2022

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7. HEALTH & SAFETY

The Health and Safety Committee met on 29th March 2022 after a considerable period when no meeting was possible.

The church's existing Health and Safety Policy from December 2020 was reviewed point by point. A few small changes will need to be made to produce a revised document, which is in preparation. The revised document will be made widely available as soon as it is completed.

The church's Fire Risk Assessment is due to be completed by September of this year.

Three points in particular are now of importance as the church begins and, we hope, continues its return to a "normal" level of activity, whether in worship or other events:

The committee would really welcome the attendance and advice at its meetings of more people whose expertise or competence lies within the field of Health and Safety. If you are such a person, or if you know somebody who could be of assistance, do please let Jim or the wardens know.

Additionally, we are at present in need of people willing to train as First Aiders. It would be great if any members of the congregation could step up for this, something which potentially helps us all. Once again, do please let Jim or the wardens know if you would be willing to help in this way.

We should alert you to the fact that our gradual return to church services means that, sooner or later, a Fire Drill will be necessary. It would defeat the object of the exercise to give you a precise date for this, but do be aware that it is on the horizon!

Finally, we ask that you report any concerns you may have about Health and Safety at St Bart's to Jim or to the wardens.

Roland Bates

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There is a similar issue with the awaited works on the bell and the chime, since the number of approved specialist companies is extremely small and consequently the waiting list to get work done is at least two years. We continue to wait patiently and hope that we will have progress by the time we write next year's report.

Last year, we reported that there had been a leak to the hall roof, which had resulted in water getting to the timbers of the hall floor and causing them to bow upwards. After allowing for time for the timbers to dry out, we brought in Pica Flooring, who took excess wood from around the edges of the hall and installed a more flexible border. The timbers are now lying flat again.

The new notice boards, containing updated information and with a colour theme linking to the restored clock, have now been installed and look fresh and bright; they also give us the scope to convey important information about services and events more effectively.

Another issue carried over from last year is the water leak discovered by Thames Water. It has been frustratingly slow to get architect advice on the best method of resolving this, since re-routing piping brought up other issues, but we believe we now know the preferred option and have architects liaising with insurers to bring this to a satisfactory conclusion.

After failure of the previous electricians to complete the electrical circuit testing, it was decided to appoint new electricians, who have now completed the work and issued the electrical certificates. The issue of the external lighting was resolved by Nigel, who managed to identify the fault and fix it himself.

Our heating system has also had issues over the last year. The engineers were called in to sort out a loss of pressure and they re-tightened a previous repair of about 5 years ago, which had become loose. However, the system continued to lose pressure and it has been identified that there is a leak under the flooring. This could be under stone and be difficult to access, necessitating a major repair job. In the meantime, part of the system has been isolated while a longer-term decision is made. We believe there may be funding available in the near future for greener heating solutions for churches and we will investigate whether this might enable us to replace the system with something more environmentally friendly.

Another longer-term issue is the state of the main roof, which has not been repaired for many years. Nigel has inspected the roof and given a report on its condition and we have obtained ballpark estimates for the work which will need to be done. This is significant but not urgent. We do expect to have to carry out this work over the next five years and additional funding may be necessary to assist with this.

As in previous years, we are immensely grateful to Nigel Rushton for his care, attention and considerable knowledge of the building. Nigel has carried out a range of tasks during his contracted maintenance days and has always kept us informed of any issues requiring our attention. Nigel would dearly love someone to be able to carry on his legacy of care when he eventually manages to retire and if anyone is interested in being involved in this or feels they can take on any routine maintenance tasks, we would be delighted to hear from them!

is hoped to have a repair to the Bell carried out and to examine the possibility of introducing chiming during some daylight hours.

1 Ashleigh Court: **Peter Stubbs** continues to have routine oversight of the Curate's Flat. Nothing urgent has emerged in the way of repairs etc, in the last year. We learnt recently that Rev. Jim has applied for a Curate with a good chance that the Diocese will agree to provide one in due course.

Quinquennial Review 2020: the report was received and acknowledged by the PCC and BIG has perused its contents with a view to tackling the urgent works recommended. It is a matter of some congratulation that, for the first time in thirty or forty years, St. Bartholomew's has made significant progress in ensuring that our building is sound and 'fit for purpose' –a fact that the Quinquennial acknowledges with a much reduced list of works needing to be undertaken!

Finally, my thanks to all who are members of the Committee for their conscientious devotion to duty and their expert advice and support.

Nick Lloyd April 2022

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6. REPORT ON THE GOODS, FABRIC AND ORNAMENTS OF THE CHURCH

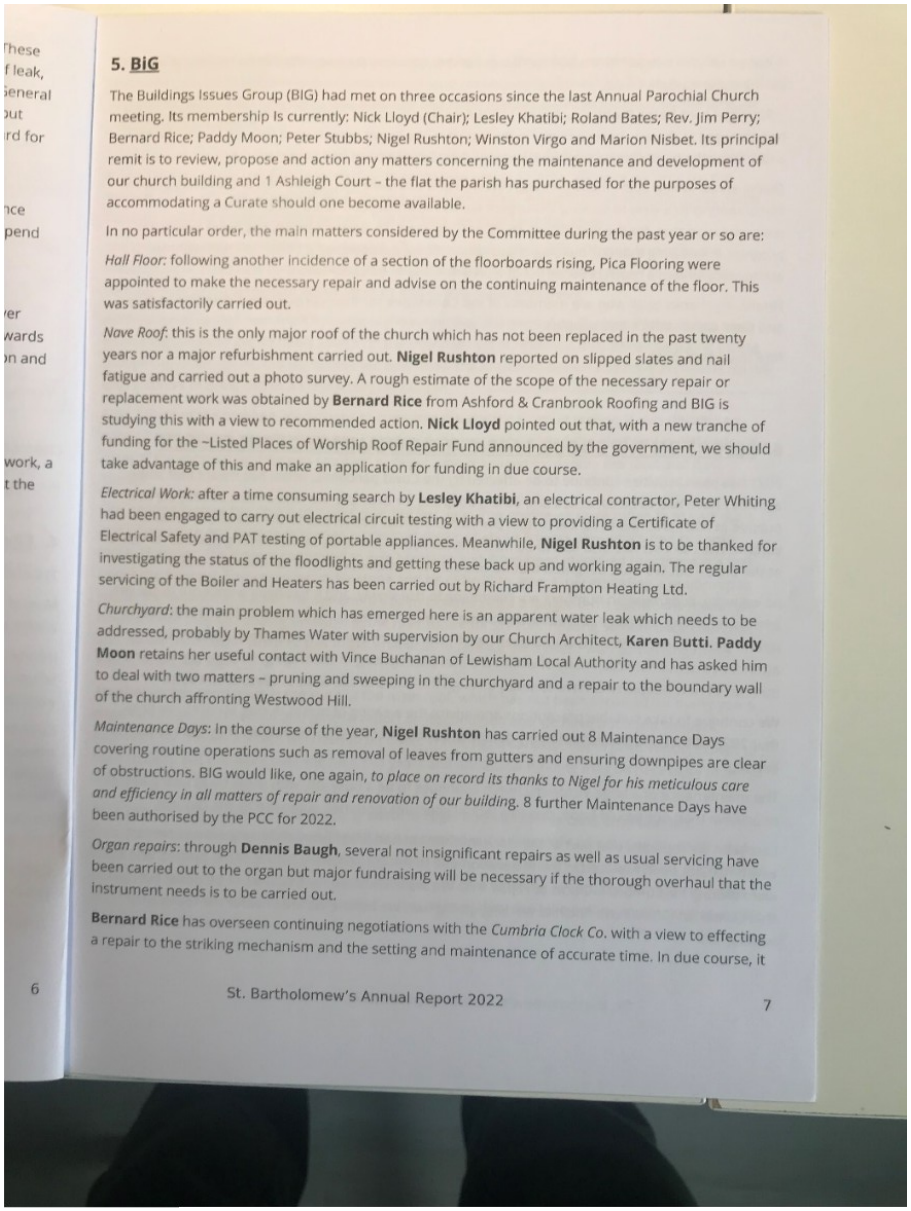
2021 has seen activities continue to be affected by the Covid pandemic, which has meant that some activities have had to be cancelled and others adapted; for example, we held a Palm Sunday service outside in 2021 and had to cancel certain planned Christmas events due to the rise of the Omicron variant. The carol service also had to be held without Father Jim, since he was testing positive for Covid at the time – but we were delighted that he was able to come back in time for midnight mass!

As we write, congregation numbers are continuing to rise slowly, and it has been wonderful to see old friends returning, although we realise that some members of the congregation still don't feel able to attend public services. We are encouraged also by the healthy number of children regularly in attendance at our services, many of whom are also participating in the singing, which is great, and the number of new people who have stepped through the doors to see what St Bart's is all about.

We continue to take suitable precautions and advise the wearing of masks during services; we pray that 2022 will see the pandemic largely defeated, although Covid is something we may have to learn to live with.

The maintenance of a large Victorian church continues to be a busy job, with some tasks taking longer to achieve than one would hope, due to a lack of specialist workmen approved by the Diocese.

Last year, we reported that part of the clock mechanism had failed (part of the original mechanism, which had not been replaced in the restoration due to the conservatory nature of the project) and we were waiting for Cumbrian Clocks to repair this. We are still waiting for this work to be done, but now that Cumbrian Clocks have finished working on Big Ben, we believe we area nearer the top of their waiting list!



5. BiG

The Buildings Issues Group (BIG) had met on three occasions since the last Annual Parochial Church meeting. Its membership is currently: Nick Lloyd (Chair); Lesley Khatibi; Roland Bates; Rev. Jim Perry; Bernard Rice; Paddy Moon; Peter Stubbs; Nigel Rushton; Winston Virgo and Marion Nisbet. Its principal remit is to review, propose and action any matters concerning the maintenance and development of our church building and 1 Ashleigh Court – the flat the parish has purchased for the purposes of accommodating a Curate should one become available.

In no particular order, the main matters considered by the Committee during the past year or so are:

Hall Floor: following another incidence of a section of the floorboards rising, Pica Flooring were appointed to make the necessary repair and advise on the continuing maintenance of the floor. This was satisfactorily carried out.

Nave Roof: this is the only major roof of the church which has not been replaced in the past twenty years nor a major refurbishment carried out. **Nigel Rushton** reported on slipped slates and nail fatigue and carried out a photo survey. A rough estimate of the scope of the necessary repair or replacement work was obtained by **Bernard Rice** from Ashford & Cranbrook Roofing and BIG is studying this with a view to recommended action. **Nick Lloyd** pointed out that, with a new tranche of funding for the ~Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Fund announced by the government, we should take advantage of this and make an application for funding in due course.

Electrical Work: after a time consuming search by **Lesley Khatibi**, an electrical contractor, Peter Whiting had been engaged to carry out electrical circuit testing with a view to providing a Certificate of Electrical Safety and PAT testing of portable appliances. Meanwhile, **Nigel Rushton** is to be thanked for investigating the status of the floodlights and getting these back up and working again. The regular servicing of the Boiler and Heaters has been carried out by Richard Frampton Heating Ltd.

Churchyard: the main problem which has emerged here is an apparent water leak which needs to be addressed, probably by Thames Water with supervision by our Church Architect, **Karen Butti**. **Paddy Moon** retains her useful contact with Vince Buchanan of Lewisham Local Authority and has asked him to deal with two matters – pruning and sweeping in the churchyard and a repair to the boundary wall of the church affronting Westwood Hill.

Maintenance Days: In the course of the year, **Nigel Rushton** has carried out 8 Maintenance Days covering routine operations such as removal of leaves from gutters and ensuring downpipes are clear of obstructions. BIG would like, one again, *to place on record its thanks to Nigel for his meticulous care and efficiency in all matters of repair and renovation of our building.* 8 further Maintenance Days have been authorised by the PCC for 2022.

Organ repairs: through **Dennis Baugh**, several not insignificant repairs as well as usual servicing have been carried out to the organ but major fundraising will be necessary if the thorough overhaul that the instrument needs is to be carried out.

Bernard Rice has overseen continuing negotiations with the *Cumbria Clock Co*. with a view to effecting a repair to the striking mechanism and the setting and maintenance of accurate time. In due course, it

All costs relating to the maintenance of the church building are shown in The Buildings Fund. These were almost £9,000 in 2021 due to the regular repairs and maintenance, repairing the hall roof leak, and installing the new signs outside church. These costs were covered by a transfer from the General Fund, and donations received of £4,000. It is costly to maintain a building of this size and age, but money is well spent to avoid bigger problems in the future, and to maintain it at a good standard for worship.

Overall, we made a surplus of £7,000 in the fund, resulting in reserves for future building work standing at £24,000. The Buildings Fund also contains the equity in the curate's flat (the difference between the purchase price and the outstanding mortgage, £126,033). This is not available to spend unless the flat is sold.

3) SABRE Fund

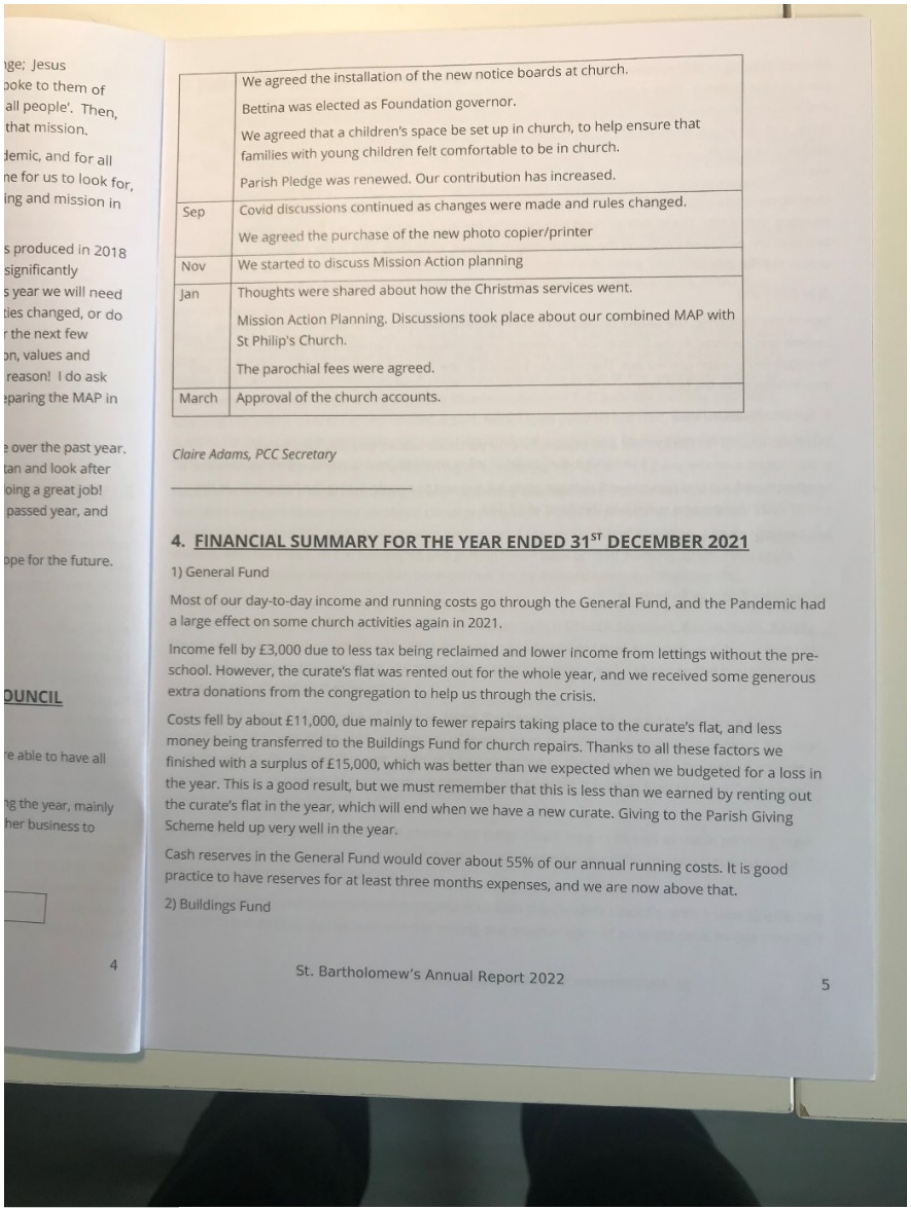
Due to the Pandemic, the SABRE project to restore and improve the church was on hold, however income was received in the form of VAT reclaimed on previous work carried out, and a grant towards the clock restoration carried out. There is now £92,000 in the fund for further repairs, restoration and improvements to the building.

3) Specific Projects Fund

This fund is used for the income and expenditure for particular causes and charities, funds accumulated over the years for the specific purpose of organ restoration work, funds for youth work, a small welfare fund and now some funds set aside for support to people during the Pandemic. At the end of 2021 there was a surplus in this fund of £3,343.

Peter Stubbs, PCC treasurer

See Separate Financial Statements



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	We agreed the installation of the new notice boards at church. Bettina was elected as Foundation governor. We agreed that a children's space be set up in church, to help ensure that families with young children felt comfortable to be in church. Parish Pledge was renewed. Our contribution has increased.
Sep	Covid discussions continued as changes were made and rules changed. We agreed the purchase of the new photo copier/printer
Nov	We started to discuss Mission Action planning
Jan	Thoughts were shared about how the Christmas services went. Mission Action Planning. Discussions took place about our combined MAP with St Philip's Church. The parochial fees were agreed.
March	Approval of the church accounts.

Claire Adams, PCC Secretary

4. FINANCIAL SUMMARY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

1) General Fund

Most of our day-to-day income and running costs go through the General Fund, and the Pandemic had a large effect on some church activities again in 2021.

Income fell by £3,000 due to less tax being reclaimed and lower income from lettings without the pre-school. However, the curate's flat was rented out for the whole year, and we received some generous extra donations from the congregation to help us through the crisis.

Costs fell by about £11,000, due mainly to fewer repairs taking place to the curate's flat, and less money being transferred to the Buildings Fund for church repairs. Thanks to all these factors we finished with a surplus of £15,000, which was better than we expected when we budgeted for a loss in the year. This is a good result, but we must remember that this is less than we earned by renting out the curate's flat in the year, which will end when we have a new curate. Giving to the Parish Giving Scheme held up very well in the year.

Cash reserves in the General Fund would cover about 55% of our annual running costs. It is good practice to have reserves for at least three months expenses, and we are now above that.

2) Buildings Fund

After Jesus' resurrection there was a time of recovery, reassurance and also challenge; Jesus encouraged the disciples, helped them to understand all that had happened and spoke to them of their calling and mission to take all that he had shown them and 'make disciples of all people'. Then, on the day of Pentecost, the disciples were energised and empowered to carry out that mission.

As we give thanks for all that we have managed over the past year despite the pandemic, and for all the positive signs we see reflected in the various reports included here, it is now time for us to look for, and pray for our Pentecost as a church family. Time to find new energy for our calling and mission in the communities of our Parish.

That mission is encapsulated in our Mission Action Plan (MAP), the last of which was produced in 2018 and covered the years to 2021 and informed the parish Profile. The pandemic has significantly changed our circumstances; as we prepare to produce a new MAP at the end of this year we will need to reflect on the previous MAP and ask ourselves have our vision, values and priorities changed, or do they need to? What should our vision, values and priorities be now, in 2022 and for the next few years? This needs to be something we do collectively – both deciding what our vision, values and priorities are and also making things happen – it's called a Mission *Action* Plan for a reason! I do ask that we all pray about this and do all we can to engage with both the process of preparing the MAP in the Autumn and in the various Actions that emerge from it.

Finally a huge 'thank you' to everyone who has made all that we have done possible over the past year. I'd like to especially mention Carol who a few months ago agreed to become Sacristan and look after the vessels and everything else that we need for Sunday Holy Communion. She's doing a great job! And also to our Wardens, Lesley and Roland, who have done a magnificent job this passed year, and even made sure the carol service went ahead when I had Covid.

Thanks be to God for the blessings of this passed year and for the bright signs of hope for the future.

Rev'd Jim
Easter 4, 2022

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3. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

The PCC has met 5 times this year. Meetings have been well attended.

In line with Covid restrictions being lifted we were pleased and grateful that we were able to have all our meetings together face to face.

The PCC discusses and makes decisions on a wide variety of topics and issues during the year, mainly prompted by the reports from its various sub committees. In addition there was other business to discuss.

Below are some of the items discussed at PCC meetings in the past year.

July	Discussions surrounding 'Covid' reopening and keeping people safe.

Sep	
Nov	
Jan	
March	

Claire Ada

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1. ELECTORAL ROLL

The electoral roll at present stands at 144 names. Over the last two years we have kept electoral roll numbers steady through what has been a difficult time for church congregations . We have had three new people who have enrolled but four members have either moved or past away The numbers this year have been difficult to gauge as members return from isolation or have just simply not returned back to church but still regard themselves as church members. However as it stands at present I am confident that the present roll represents the main body of those who consider themselves to be members of the congregation.

- There are 69(48%) members who reside in the parish - Category A on the form
- There are 66(46%) who are officially resident outside the parish but have habitually taken part in worship within the parish prior to six months before enrolment ends –Category B on the form
- 9(6%) members of another church which 'subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity as well as the church of England and habitually attends worship in this Parish' – Category C on the form

Martin Haines, Church Electoral Roll Officer

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2. VICAR'S REPORT

It really was a great joy to make the journey through Lent and Holy Week, and to celebrate Easter together without Covid stopping anything happening. I appreciated the comments made to myself and the wardens from people expressing what they had appreciated about various services throughout Lent, Holy Week and Easter. Holy Week services happened very much in partnership with our friends at St Philip's Church and, on Palm Sunday, Grove Centre Church. The future of the Church and it's mission is undoubtedly collaborative so it was good to see how well these services went.

I mention Easter because it felt like an important moment on our life together, and significant as a celebration of the resurrection. Times of change are always difficult, and the Covid pandemic forced a huge amount of change. It also happened shortly after my arrival with all the change that comes with having a new vicar, while making it much harder for us to get to know each other in the usual ways. Like most Parishes we have seen our congregation numbers drop considerably, many activities stop, including a significant drop in volunteers, and pressure put on our finances. However, since Christmas and maybe even before that we have seen Sunday attendance slowly increase both with people returning after the pandemic and with new people discovering the St Bartholomew's family. We've had a wedding or two and more Christenings being planned than have been at St Bart's for quite some time. Our finances have held reasonably strong thanks to the generosity of those who continue to faithfully give to the work of the church, and to careful management by our treasurer. Additionally our Quinquennial report noted that most urgent work had now been carried out. We have come through the pandemic as a church community; we may feel a bit battered and bruised, but the joy of Easter did feel like something of a time of resurrection, of new light and life.

CONTENTS

1. Electoral Roll	3
2. Vicar's Report	3
3. PCC Secretary's Report	4
4. Accounts – Financial Summary for the Year ended 31 December 2012	5
5. Buildings Issue Group	7
6. Church Wardens	8
7. Health & Safety	10
8. St. Bartholomew's School Governors	11
9. Safeguarding	12
10. Lettings	12
11. Sydenham Life	13
12. Music	16

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The Parish of
St Bartholomew Sydenham

ANNUAL REPORT

MAY 2022

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF SAINT BARTHOLOMEW, SYDEI

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

Charity Commission Registration Number 1133852

CONTENTS

Page	2	Balance Sheet
	3	Statement of Financial Acti
	4 to 5	General Fund
	6	Buildings & SABRE Funds
	7	Specific Projects Fund
	8 to 10	Notes to the Accounts

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF SAINT BARTHOLOMEW, SYDENHAM

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

BALANCE SHEET AT 31ST DECEMBER 2021

	Note	£
Fixed assets:		
Tangible assets *(curate's flat at cost)*	2	
Current assets:		
Debtors & accrued income *(Dec Parish Giving Scheme)*		4,695
Payments in advance *(insurance)*		3,995
Balance at Natwest bank *(current account)*		23,932
Balance at CAF bank *(current account)*		149,783
Balance with the CBF (Central Board of Finance *(deposit account))*		22,760
- CBF is part of the Church of England		
Cash in church safe for event floats and petty cash		188
		205,353
Current liabilities:		
Loan amount payable within one year *(flat repayment)*	2	6,464
Other creditors due within one year *(accruals)*		6,575
- mainly fees due to the Diocese for 2021 & Mission Giving		
		13,039
Net current assets		
Total assets minus current liabilities		
Long term liability		
Diocesan loan for flat purchase - *payable after one year*	2	50,234

Represented by:

Unrestricted funds

General fund

Restricted funds

Buildings fund		
curate flat purchase cost	183,131	
curate flat outstanding mortgage	56,698	
equity in curate flat - not available to spend	126,433	
surplus in fund that can be spent on works	23,545	
total in Buildings Fund at end of year	149,978	149,978

SABRE restoration fund	92,139
Specific projects fund	3,343

8

Rev. Jim Perry
Incumbent

Lesley Khatibi
Churchwarden

March 2022

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF SAINT BARTHOLOMEW, SYDENHAM

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

- summarising the three funds in SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice) format

	Unrestricted funds	R
	General fund £	**Building fund £**
Incoming resources		
Incoming resources from generated funds		
Voluntary income	94,840	0
Activities for generating funds	27,174	4,000
Investment income	0	0
Incoming resources from charitable activities ie fees	1,095	0
Total incoming resources	123,109	4,000
Resources expended		
Costs of generating funds	0	0
Costs of running the church	95,999	15,342
Governance costs (examination of accounts)	0	0
Total resources expended	95,999	15,342
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers	27,110	-11,342
reduction in flat loan liability - to Balance Sheet	0	6,464
Transfers between funds	-11,464	12,464
Net movement in funds	15,646	7,586
Total funds as at 1 January 2021	64,105	142,392

Total funds as at 31 December 2021	79,751	149,978

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF SAINT BARTHOLOMEW, SYDENHAM

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

GENERAL FUND (UNRESTRICTED FUND)

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT AND FUND MOVEMENT

	Note	£
Incoming Resources		
Donated income		
Parish Giving Scheme **-** *regular giving*		60,495
Tax (gift aid) - *reclaimed on donations*		17,448
Weekly collections **-** *now included the credit card machine*		2,406
Non-specific donations *(inc generous pandemic donations & a legacy)*		14,241
Old Church Hall site - *ground rents + sale of one freeholds*		250
Fees for weddings, funerals, banns		
Investment income		
Interest on General Fund bank balance		0
Fund-raising activities		
Lettings - hall, crypt and church hire **-** *hit by the pandemic*		8,809
Sydenham Life advertising revenue		640
Jumble sale March *(a donation because it was cancelled)*		500
Floodlighting		0
Hymn book sponsorship		0
Rent from the curate's flat		16,620
Sunday morning coffee, breakfasts, afternoon teas		19
Quiz evening		86
Christmas Fair income *(a donation because it was cancelled)*		500
Curate training subsidy **-** *from the Diocese, now finished*		0

Total general fund incoming resources

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF SAINT BARTHOLOMEW, SYDENHAM

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

GENERAL FUND (UNRESTRICTED FUND)

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT AND FUND MOVEMENT

	Note	£
Resources Expended		
On church objects		
Parish Pledge to Diocese - *for clergy salaries, housing and training*		62,500
Sydenham Life printing and expenses		1,795
Utilities - *water, gas, electricity*		7,765
Bank charges		125
Insurance - *for the building*		3,454
Altar requisites - *wafers, wine, candles etc*		545
Interest on loan to purchase the curate's flat		2,592
Curate's flat service charge, council tax, repairs		2,062
Cleaning - *includes consumables, rubbish removal, deep clean*		4,593
Flower costs		200
Staff expenses - travel, telephone etc	9	405
Books & print		418
Office expenses - photocopier etc		718
Non fund-raising activities - *skip hire etc*		525
Organist		3,713
Choir & music - *church copyright licence*		592
Instrument maintenance		916
Mission giving - *to local/national/international charities*	3	2,469
Sunday morning coffee expenses		12
balancing item		600
total normal costs		
Inter-fund transfers etc:		
Transfer to Buildings Fund - capital repayments on flat	2	-6,464
Transer from Specific Projects Fund - pandemic funds unused		1,000
Transfer to Buildings Fund - repairs and renewals		-6,000
Total Inter-fund transfers etc:		

Total general fund resources expended

Net (Deficit)/Surplus in the General Fund in the year

Surplus/(deficit) from the previous year

Surplus/(deficit) carried forward to the ensuing year

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF SAINT BARTHOLOMEW, SYDENHAM

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

BUILDINGS FUND (RESTRICTED FUND)

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT AND FUND MOVEMENT

	Note	£
Incoming Resources		
Donated income for repairs		4,000
Total buildings fund incoming resources		
Resources Expended		
Routine repairs - *new signs, hall floor repair etc*	4	8,878
Capital paid off loan to purchase curate's flat	2	6,464
Total buildings fund resources expended		
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		
Surplus from the previous year (inc equity in flat)		
transfer from General Fund for flat capital repayment		
transfer from General Fund for repairs & maintenance		
increase in Buildings Fund = reduction in loan liability on balance sheet		
Surplus carried forward to the following year		

SABRE RESTORATION FUND (RESTRICTED FUND)

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT AND FUND MOVEMENT

	Note	£
Incoming Resources		
SABRE donations including gift aid		12
grant income - from Church Care		5,200
fundraising - Taking Back Time events		0

Investment income		
Interest on balance with CBF (SABRE funds)		10
Total SABRE restoration fund incoming resources		
Resources Expended		
SABRE restoration costs **-** *VAT reclaimed from 2020*	5	-7,511
Total SABRE fund resources expended		
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		
Surplus from the previous year		
Surplus carried forward to the following year		

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF SAINT BARTHOLOMEW, SYDENHAM

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

SPECIFIC PROJECTS FUND (RESTRICTED FUND)

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT AND FUND MOVEMENT

	Note	£
Incoming Resources		
Donations		
Bishop's Lent appeal - *for a range of charities*		0
Star Service Sunday **-** *donated to Sightsavers*		0
Poppy Appeal **-** *to Royal British Legion*		59
Pandemic Support Fund ;and Citizens UK		0
Carol service **-** *to Sightsavers*		70
Organ restoration donations **-** *inc VAT reclaimed*		2,185
Christingle service **-** *for The Children's Society*		0
Lewisham Parochial Charities income - Welfare Fund		0
Carol concert - Sydenham School to Embrace		0
Christian Aid collections		209
Youth work income **-** *donations towards Action Bibles for school*		524
Total specific projects fund incoming resources		
Resources Expended		
Expenditure on church objects		
Bishop's Lent call		0
Sightsavers		70
British Legion		59
Pandemic costs and donations made/Citizens UK		0
Christian Aid		209
Organ restorations expenses		1,042
The Children's Society (Christingle)		0
Youth work costs **-** *purchase of Action Bibles for school*		648
Total specific projects fund resources expended		

Transfer back to General Fund - pandemic response unused

Surplus/(Deficit) for the year

Surplus from the previous year

Surplus carried forward to the ensuing year

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF SAINT BARTHOLOMEW, SYDENHAM

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2021

1) ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements are presented in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulati
together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities Commission's revised Stat
Practice (the Charities SORP).

The accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention.

Funds

The General Fund represents the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions re
available for its general purposes.
The Buildings Fund is a restricted fund deriving its income from legacies, donations and fur
be used specifically for building work. It now holds the equity in the flat purchased for cura
The Specific Projects Fund is a restricted fund reserved for the projects listed for which the
been earmarked.

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible
which the PCC exercises control.

Incoming Resources

Incoming resources are recognised in the following manner:

(i) Collections and planned giving when received.
(ii) Gift Aid recoverable on donations, when receivable.
(iii) Grants and legacies to the PCC, when received.
(iv) Income from fund-raising and similar activities, gross when received.
(v) Investment income and income receivable, when receivable. Tax recoverable on such incor
in the same year.

Resources Used

The Parish Pledge paid to the Diocese covers the cost of clergy, pensions, housing and cen
It is accounted for in the year during which payment is sought. Any unpaid contribution at
is included in the balance sheet as a creditor (though not a legal liability).

Resources Expended

Expenditure is recognised on the accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includ
cannot be recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from these accounts.

Other property held for the church's use is shown at cost of acquisition (eg the curate's flat

Other fixtures and fittings are depreciated on a straight line basis over 3 years. Individual i
with a purchase price of £1,000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Current Assets

Amounts due to the PCC at 31 December 2021

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF SAINT BARTHOLOMEW, SYDENHAM

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2021

2) TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Cost
At 1st January 2021
Additions
At 31st December 2021

Depreciation
At 1st January 2021
For the year
At 31st December 2021

Net Book Amounts
At 31st December 2021

At 31st December 2021

The leasehold property was purchased on 10th August 2005 for the purpose of housing cur
by the Diocese of Southwark for training. It consists of a flat at 1 Ashleigh Court, 81 Lawrie
SE26 6EX. In accordance with the law relating to property held by parishes, the legal owne
the Southwark Diocesan Board of Finance and the South London Church Fund as Custodian
Any capital gain or loss on the property will accrue to the parish.
The flat was purchased for £183,130, and might now be worth more than that.
The loan of £150,000 from the Diocese is repayable over 25 years from 12th August 2005 l
inclusive of interest currently at 3.5% above Bank Rate.
The lease has been extended to 990 years.

balance of the loan outstanding at 31st December 2020	
less	repayments made in 2021
plus	interest costs added in 2021
balance of the loan outstanding at 31st December 2021	
amount payable within one year	
amount payable after one year	

Now included in the accounts is a transfer from the General Fund to the Buildings Fund equ
loan. Interest costs are an expense from the General Fund, but capital repayments result in
loan liability reduces. Significant capital repayments are now being made, and the addition
needs for these repayments. So the surplus or deficit in the General Fund shows the full po
repayments have been made.

3) MISSION GIVING

Mission giving is agreed at 3% of the church's donated income during the previous year an
causes by direct giving from the church's general income, rather than by specific fund-raisi
The Giving for 2021 of £2,469 is being carried forward to 2022, and a mix local, national ar
chosen Citizens UK - to support work during the pandemic

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF SAINT BARTHOLOMEW, SYDENHAM

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2021

4) BUILDINGS FUND

The balance in this fund represents the funds donated for building works, and the equity in curate's flat. A summary of the money available for building works is:

available for repairs works at 31/12/2020	£22,423
donations received for building works	£4,000
transferred from the General Fund - repairs & maintenance	£6,000
spent on replacing part of the hall floor	£0
spent on routine repairs and maintenance	-£8,878
available for repairs at 31/12/2021	**£23,545**
plus the equity in the curate's flat (not availble to spend)	£126,433
total carried forward in Buildings Fund at 31/12/21	£149,978

5) SABRE RESTORATION FUND

The Saint Barts Restoration Appeal (SABRE) was launched in 2014 to raise money for a con of repairs to and restoration of the building, along with improvements to benefit the congre

funds brought forward 1/1/2021	£79,406
funds raised in 2021	£5,212
Interest on balance with CBF (SABRE funds)	£10
spent in the year - in 2021 this is VAT received back from earlier works	£7,511
SABRE funds available at 31/12/2021	£92,139

This balance is held in the church accounts at NatWest, CAF bank and CBF (Church of Engla

The total raised so far since the appeal was launched is: £419,323

6) SPECIFIC PROJECTS FUND

The balance in this fund at 31/12/2021 breaks down as:

£1,048	Youth Work funds
£712	Pandemic cupport & Citizens UK
£440	Welfare Fund, to be used at the discretion of the vicar for needy memb
£1,143	availbale for organ restoration and repairs
£3,343	

7) PCC MEMBERS

No member of the PCC has received any remuneration from the PCC during the year.

8) ANALYSIS OF THE MAIN BALANCE SHEET HEADINGS BY FUND

	Unrestricted funds	R
	General fund £	**Building fund £**
Tangible fixed assets	0	183,131
Current assets	86,326	23,545
Less Current liabilities	6,575	6,464
Less Long term liabilities	0	50,234
Total net assets	**79,751**	**149,978**

9) ANALYSIS OF TRAVEL AND ENTERTAINING EXPENSES PAID TO MEMBERS OF THE P

	Travel	Entertaini
	£	£
Rev Jim Perry	77	0
	0	0
Total	**77**	**0**

NHAM

vities

2021		2020	
£	£	£	
183,131		*183,131*	
	6,396		
	3,454		
	20,081		
	120,878		
	22,750		
	166		
	173,725		
	6,464		
	4,067		
	10,531		
192,314		*163,194*	
375,445		*346,325*	
	57,098		
50,234		*57,098*	
325,211		*289,227*	
79,751		*64,105*	
	142,393		

	79,406		
	3,324		
245,460		*225,123*	
325,211		*289,227*	

Roland Bates
Churchwarden

estricted funds		Total funds	Total funds
SABRE restoration fund	Specific projects fund	2021	2020
£	£	£	£
5,212	3,047	103,099	*114,028*
0	0	31,174	*32,878*
10	0	10	*96*
0	0	1,095	*159*
5,222	3,047	135,378	*147,161*
0	0	0	*0*
-7,511	2,028	105,858	*172,716*
0	0	0	*0*
-7,511	2,028	105,858	*172,716*
12,733	1,019	29,520	*-25,555*
0	0	6,464	*6,464*
0	-1,000	0	*0*
12,733	19	35,984	*-19,091*
79,406	3,324	289,227	*308,318*

92,139	3,343	325,211	*289,227*

2021		2020	
£	£	£	£
	60,084		
	20,273		
	2,701		
	11,063		
	2,959		
94,840		*97,080*	
1,095		*159*	
	0		
0		*0*	
	11,415		
	700		
	500		
	10		
	10		
	15,400		
	151		
	0		
	500		
	192		

27,174	*28,878*
123,109	*126,117*

2021		2020	
£	£	£	
	62,000		
	778		
	7,434		
	77		
	4,191		
	218		
	2,629		
	6,864		
	3,423		
	0		
	222		
	465		
	467		
	2,365		
	3,696		
	333		
	1,111		
	2,580		
	50		
95,999		*98,903*	
	-6,464		
	-1,195		
	-12,000		
-11,464		*-19,659*	

107,463	*118,562*
15,646	*7,555*
64,105	*56,550*
79,751	*64,105*

2021		2020
£	£	£
	4,000	
4,000		*4,000*
	11,736	
	6,464	
15,342		*18,200*
(11,342)		*(14,200)*
142,392		*131,664*
6,464		*6,464*
6,000		*12,000*
6,464		*6,464*
149,978		*142,392*

2021		2020
£	£	£
	51	
	10,000	
	0	

5,212		*10,051*
	96	
10		*96*
5,222		*10,147*
	47,295	
-7,511		*47,295*
12,733		*(37,148)*
79,406		*116,554*
92,139		*79,406*

2021		2020	
	£		£
	243		
	25		
	0		
	2,616		
	0		
	3,913		
	96		
	0		
	0		
	5		
	0		
3,047		*6,897*	
	268		
	25		
	904		
	5		
	7,021		
	96		
	0		
2,028		*8,318*	

-1,000	*1,195*
19	*-226*
3,324	*3,550*
3,343	*3,324*

ons 2006,
:ement of Recommended

egarding their use, and are

ıd-raising activities to
tes in training.
incoming funds have

: in law or over

me is recognised

tral overheads.
31st December

les VAT which

:).

tems of equipment

	Office Equipment	Long Leasehold
	£	£
	2,792	183,130
	0	0
	2,792	183,130
	2,791	0
	0	0
	2,791	0
	1	183,130
	1	183,130

ates sent to the parish
Park Road, London,
rs of the property are
Trustees for the parish.

by monthly instalments

£
63,162
-9,056
2,592
56,698
6,464
50,234
56,698

ıal to the capital repayments for the flat
ı an increase in the Buldings Fund as the
of this line makes clear the funding
sition after both interest and capital

d was used to support the following
ng activities:
nd international charities will be

the

nprehensive programme
egation and community.

and account).

bers of the congregation.

estricted funds		Total funds	Total funds
SABRE restoration fund	Specific projects fund	2021	2020
£	£	£	£
0	0	183,131	*183,131*
92,139	3,343	205,353	*173,725*
0	0	13,039	*10,531*
0	0	50,234	*57,098*
92,139	**3,343**	**325,211**	*289,227*

'CC DURING 2021

ing	**Total**
	£
	77
	0
	77

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST BARTHOLOMEW, SYDENHAM

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2021 which are set out on pages 1 to 19.

Respective Responsibilities of the Trustees and the Independent Examiner

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independendent examination is required.

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes 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 management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence 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 give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
a) to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
b) to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records
have not been met; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accountsto be reached.

Simon Taylor 21st March 2022

Simon Taylor
Treasurer
St George and St Michael & All Angels
Sydenham

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW, SYDE

England & Wales - Charity number 1133852

Accounts

The Parish of
St Bartholomew Sydenham

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

May 2021

page 2 Vicar's report

5 Church Warden's report

8 Electoral Roll report

Due to the limits on activity during the pandemic there are no other reports this year, though any relevant matters are covered in the above reports.

A financial report will be presented separately with the accounts.

Vicar's Report

The seven months since my last report have been mostly in the second lock-down, but with occasions of re-opening and special moments such as Christmas and Easter. Back in October when we held our last APCM we were hopeful that the pandemic was easing – we had been holding in-person worship for several weeks, had successfully trialled 'Cafe Church' and I was in the process of booking preachers for the new year to help guide our Mission Action Planning. But shortly after we were back in lock-down and wondering when it would all end.

The lock-down has forced us to do so many things differently and we've often had to improvise! But there have been some highlights – our Carol Service in the church yard was enjoyed by many as we were able to sing, accompanied by a brass ensemble and gathered around the decorated tree that many people had added baubles to (thanks to Jane for the tree). Attendance at the carol service and also Midnight Mass and Christmas Morning services was better than might have been expected, though other services around Christmas were much less well attended. Having learned from the Carol Service, we also held some out-door services in Holy Week & Easter. Good Friday Stations of the Cross, held around the outside of the building, had far more people turn up than I was expecting and prepared for but worked well. Easter morning saw us gather once again in the church yard in joyful celebration of the Resurrection; we even sang some hymns! Several people have said how effective the service was and noted that a number of passers-by stopped to watch, listen or join in. Thank you to everyone who helped with music, fires, readings and making sure everything went smoothly at all these services.

The Holy Week & Easter services also saw us joining with our friends at St Philip's. We had hoped to process between the two churches on Palm Sunday, but this was not permitted at the time. However we did still start the day's worship at St Phillips with the commemoration of the Lord's entry to Jerusalem and ended it with a reading of the Passion at St Bartholomew's, both parts again held outside. This worked well and we were able to join together again throughout the week and at our Easter morning service. Sharing in fellowship with fellow Christians is always a good thing and I look forward to future opportunities for our churches to work together.

While we were not able to meet on Sundays we have tried to offer some resources for prayer and worship and to keep everyone informed of what was happening. Several people have expressed their appreciation for the letters we have sent out with their

various accompaniments and must note that these have been very much a team effort; while I have produced much of the printed material, Jo has then folded, stapled and collated it all, Lesley has produced the lovely cards and Gill has sorted out the various gifts and addressed, stuffed and posted all the envelopes – thank you to them all!

Between the letters, on-line services and phone-in prayers I hope that there has been at least something to help everyone stay connected with St Bartholomew's and able to find ways to pray and worship during the lock-downs.

Having the building open for a couple of hours each day has been another way we have tried to resource people over the past year. It can go quite a few days without anyone coming in, but then someone will and it turns out that the church was open and available to them at just the time time they needed it. I have had a number of such conversations as well as a good few people saying that they had lived in the area for ages but not ever been into St Bart's. Ash Wednesday saw an especially high number of visitors and I spend most of the day in conversation with different people, about half of whom didn't even know it was Ash Wednesday and had just come in because the building was open. This certainly highlighted the value of having the doors open. Thank you to Anne and Coleen who have both been regular companions when the building has been open on Monday and Tuesday mornings.

In my report last October I noted four key pointers for our life and mission that I had picked up from the Parish Profile and Mission Action Plan. I believe these still hold, despite the pandemic, and I remain committed to them as a broad guide for the next few years. Indeed our work and activities over the past few months, despite the restrictions, were still very much in keeping with at least some of these:

- *Engaging more fully with the whole community*
- *Working better with children, families and young people*
- *Developing a more varied pattern of worship*
- *Further development of the buildings*

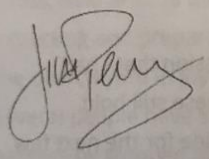
Last October's report has more detail of what all these might mean – there isn't space to reproduce that here, but do have a look if you can. The last year has forced plans to change and certainly the timescales have increased! But we pray that the current hopeful signs will continue and that new life will come soon.

As we do begin to worship together again I must note the 'gaps' in our congregations. Over the past year we have said final farewells to Robert Kio, John Ryall and Evelyn & Dennis Harrington. We rejoice that they rest in God's eternal care but acknowledge the pain and grief of their absence in our midst. In the months ahead we will have appropriate opportunity for memorial services to remember them and the many others we loved and lost during the pandemic.

A different kind of gap is left by Molly who has moved to be closer to her son. I am very aware that Molly has been a significant part of the life of St Bartholomew's for many years; she has been very helpful indeed in my first year here and a great source of knowledge about the church. There will be opportunity to thank Molly and say farewell properly in a month or so's time.

Lastly, my thanks to our new Church Wardens, Roland and Lesley. It's certainly an odd time to be taking up such posts in the life of the church, they have risen to the challenge and I am grateful for all they do.

All praise to God the most Holy and blessed Trinity to whom we give our thanks for all that has been possible and place our faith and hope for all the future holds.



Rev'd Jim
Trinity Sunday 2021

CHURCH REPORT ON THE GOODS, FABRIC AND ORNAMENTS OF THE CHURCH

We took up our positions as Wardens at the last APCM, which was delayed until October due to the pandemic. We have therefore only been in post for a short time and during a rather unusual period, where many church activities have been temporarily curtailed, so we have yet to experience the full remit of our roles. However, we are feeling our way and are very grateful to our predecessors, Nick and Paddy, for their continued assistance in knocking us into shape. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank them for their long and faithful service as Wardens and for all the work they continue to do for St. Bartholomew's.

The maintenance of the church building and interior is an ongoing task, and there have been several issues to deal with during the last year. We received the 2020 Quinquennial Review, which benefitted from all the excellent work achieved by Gill and the SABRE team to the clock and tower, amongst other areas. The recommendations of the Review will be considered at the next BIG meeting, to be organised shortly.

We were made aware of a leak in the hall roof in the latter part of the year and this had caused water ingress to the hall, causing the timbers beneath the floor to get wet and part of the floor to rise up. Repairs/replacement to the lead flashing and mortar work were carried out in January and we are waiting for the sub-floor timbers to fully dry out and the floor to settle as much as it is going to before assessing what further work might be necessary to the floor.

While we are on the subject of water, we were also advised by Thames Water that there was a leak in our water supply. This was investigated by a specialist appointed by our insurers and he confirmed a leak in the pipe running through the graves to the crypt. There were alternative solutions which involved capping the supply or rerouting and it was decided to consult the church architect for advice. We are currently awaiting this advice and hope to deal with the issue soon.

We are currently awaiting finalisation of electrical certification renewal, which has been affected by staff sickness at the company doing the circuit testing. Most of the work has been carried out, but we await recommendations of any remedial work necessary and the final certification. They are also investigating some issues with the external lighting.

As you are aware, the clock was beautifully restored last year, and it has been wonderful travelling down Lawrie Park Avenue and seeing its glowing blue and gold face. We were only permitted to do works which conserved the original, and this involved retaining the original parts, which are some 150 years old. The clock stopped working recently, and it was found that a bolt had sheared off the mechanism, due to suspected metal fatigue. Cumbrian Clocks were able to restart the clock movement but had to take several parts away for repair. Due to the small number of specialists in the field, this is taking a little while, but we hope to have the repaired parts reinstalled soon, at which point Cumbrian Clocks will also carry out a service.

This work will need to be done before we can progress with the planned reinstatement of the chimes, which we hope to have chiming on the hour in daylight hours, but conservation work will also need to be done to the bell. Again, there are very few bell specialists which are approved by the Diocese and their workload is great, made more so by the pandemic, so we are currently waiting for a date on which they are able to make a start.

The notice boards outside the church need updating with current information and we are giving them a facelift. A new design has been approved which will be blue and golden yellow, to reflect the colours of the church clock and the order has now been placed.

We remain exceedingly grateful to Nigel Rushton for his fastidious attention to the maintenance of the building, which is an ongoing challenge. Nigel is contracted to provide 8 maintenance days per year but always goes the extra mile due to his love of the building. Works undertaken by him in the recent year have included repairs to the main roof; decoration of the hall and window masonry; removal of tree branches, ivy and other foliage causing issues to the building; repair of the organ door; plumbing works including repairs to basin piping and replacement of taps and ongoing and continual work to clear downspouts, traps and gullies. We also have frequent fly tipping on the church grounds and Nigel heroically disposes of the rubbish for us. Again, we are grateful for his continued support.

We are delighted that services with an actual congregation in church have recommenced and we look forward to welcoming even more of our regular community back as regulations slowly ease. We plan to have lots of activities to bring people back into the church over the coming months and we really hope that everyone will be back taking part in some capacity – we also look forward to being able to have a good old catch up!

We are pleased that we have seen one or two new faces online or at recent services and it will be wonderful if they decide to become a regular part of our community. Of course, we cannot close off without remembering and making mention of the much-loved members of our congregation whom we have lost in the last year. We are very sad that we will not be seeing them again as we come out of the pandemic, but we hope that there will be some memorial services later in future months so that we can celebrate their lives and their part in the St Bart's family.

A couple of final mentions must go to a) Molly Wickert, who recently left SE London to move to Kent, and who will be sadly missed, both as a friend and as a very valuable member of the team, who capably undertook so many roles at the church, and b) Father Jim, who has managed to settle in so well despite only managing a few short months before we went into total lockdown! We hope you are feeling at home, Jim.

Lesley Khatibi & Roland Bates

May 2021

Electoral Roll Report

There have been no additions to the Electoral Roll.

4 people have been removed from the Electoral Roll having died.

Following the above changes, there are now 136 names on the Electoral Roll

Report by the Independent Examiner on the accounts for St Bartholomew Church, Sydenham, 2020.

The accounts have been prepared on an accruals basis. An understanding of the PCC's organisation, accounting records, activities and nature of its assets, liabilities, income and expenditure was gained from a survey of the accounting records and discussions with the treasurer.

No major failures were identified in the accounting records. An analytical review of the financial statements was carried out to look for inconsistencies and unusual events in the year, and compared to previous years. No unexpected fluctuations were discovered in the financial statements.

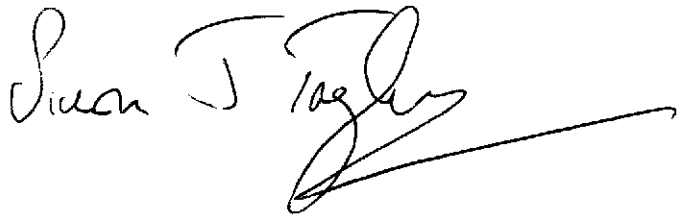
No unexpected events were discovered in the financial statements beyond those due to the COVID19 pandemic and related lockdowns. Enquiries did not reveal any post balance sheet events, which would have significant impact on the financial statements for the year.

In addition to the General Fund, there are three Reserved Funds, one being for the Building Fund to to meet ongoing maintenance; the SABRE fund, to progress the major restoration of the church building and roof; and the Special Purposes Fund used for the organ fund and charitable appeals.

Despite the pandemic, the General Fund actually improved by £7.5k which is a very good result in the circumstances. Although lettings income and service collections fell sharply, but this was more than offset by a year's rental income from the curates flat, donations, a legacy and reduction in expenditure. Routing maintenance from the Building Fund was covered by transfer from the General Fund.

The SABRE appeal to restore and improve the church continued with the completion of work to the tower and the clock as part of the "Taking Back Time" project. There is now £79,000 in the fund for continuing repairs, restoration and improvements to the building.

Overall the financial position of St Bartholomew's is stable, which is promising given the continuing challenges arising from the continuing impacts of the COVID19 pandemic.



Simon Taylor
Treasurer, St George and St Michael & All Angels
4 April 2021