

The Parish of Sydenham
St Bartholomew's Church
Annual Report



photo taken by Peter Stubbs

May 2024



The Diocese of
Southwark

St Bartholomew's Church
Westwood Hill, Sydenham



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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 without 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 its 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 its 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 16 th 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:

'Resources' - 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

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THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF SAINT BARTHOLOMEW, SYDENHAM

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

BALANCE SHEET AT 31ST DECEMBER 2023

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

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	1,259	0	0	0	1,259	742
ie fees						
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	2022
		£	£
Incoming Resources			
Donated income			
Parish Giving Scheme - <i>regular giving</i>		62,895	57,394
Tax (gift aid) - <i>reclaimed on donations</i>		15,323	14,992
Weekly collections - <i>now included the credit card machine</i>		8,379	5,368
Non-specific donations (<i>various donations, legacies etc</i>)		1,962	5,732
Old Church Hall site (<i>ground rents from remaining freeholds</i>)		250	250
Occasional collections (<i>at special services and events</i>)		200	135
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		89,009	83,871
Fees for weddings, funerals, banns		1,259	742
Investment income			
Interest on General Fund bank balance		<hr/> 0	<hr/> 0
		0	0
Fund-raising activities			
Lettings - hall, crypt and church hire - <i>up after the pandemic</i>		22,596	20,283
Sydenham Life advertising revenue		2,770	3,025
Jumble sales (<i>donations and the October Sale</i>)		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
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		39,887	41,539
Total general fund incoming resources		<hr/> 130,155	<hr/> 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	£	£	2022	£
<u>Resources Expended</u>							
On church objects							
Parish Pledge to Diocese - <i>for clergy salaries, housing and training</i>		64,260				63,000	
Sydenham Life printing and expenses		5,120				5,104	
Utilities - <i>water, gas, electricity</i>		15,999				11,733	
Bank charges		64				105	
Insurance - <i>for the building</i>		4,452				3,995	
Altar requisites - <i>wafers, wine, candles etc</i>		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 - <i>includes consumables, rubbish removal, deep clean</i>		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 (<i>new altar cloths, DBS checks etc</i>)		1,437				1,546	
Organist		4,060				3,900	
<i>Choir & music - church copyright licence, music books</i>		830				477	
Instrument maintenance		1,814				1,859	
Mission giving - <i>to local/national/international charities</i>	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	
Transfer 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	£	£	£	£
<u>Incoming Resources</u>					
Donated income for repairs		4,000		4,000	
Total buildings fund incoming resources			<u>4,000</u>		<u>4,000</u>
<u>Resources Expended</u>					
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			<u>14,260</u>		<u>13,432</u>
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			<u>172,142</u>		<u>161,474</u>
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	£	£	£	£
<u>Incoming Resources</u>					
SABRE donations including gift aid		13		0	
grant income - from Church Care in 2021		0		0	
fundraising		0		0	
			<u>13</u>		<u>0</u>
<u>Investment income</u>					
Interest on balance with CBF (SABRE funds)		247		436	
			247		436
Total SABRE restoration fund incoming resources			<u>260</u>		<u>436</u>
<u>Resources Expended</u>					
SABRE restoration costs (VAT refund)	5	-699		6,348	
Total SABRE fund resources expended			<u>-699</u>		<u>6,348</u>
Surplus/(deficit) for the year			959		(5,912)
Surplus from the previous year			86,227		92,139
Surplus carried forward to the following year			<u>87,186</u>		<u>86,227</u>

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	2022
		£	£
<u>Incoming Resources</u>			
Donations			
Bishop's Lent appeal - <i>for a range of charities</i>		325	30
Poppy Appeal - <i>to Royal British Legion</i>			0
Carol service - <i>to Embrace the Middle East</i>		233	84
Piano and Organ donations		13,555	143
Christingle service - <i>for The Children's Society</i>		211	162
Christian Aid collections			0
Youth work income			0
Total specific projects fund incoming resources		14,324	418
<u>Resources Expended</u>			
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

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

2) TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

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

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	<u>3,720</u>
balance of the loan outstanding at 31st December 2023	<u>44,170</u>
amount payable within one year	6,464
amount payable after one year	<u>37,706</u>
	<u>44,170</u>

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 Buildings 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.

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 31/12/2022	£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 available 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 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 Taylor
Treasurer, St George and St Michael & All Angels
15 March 2024

15 March 2024