

The Parish of Friern Barnet (St John and St James)

Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31 December 2023

Parish Office:

St John's Parish Centre
Friern Barnet Road
London
N11 3BS

Incumbent:

Rev. Dagmar Wilkinson
The Rectory
147 Friern Barnet Lane
London
N20 0NP

Bankers:

CAF Bank Ltd.
25 Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

Independent Examiner:

Roger Seaton

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The Parish of Friern Barnet (St John and St James) Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31 December 2023

Reference and Administrative information

St John the Evangelist Church is situated on Friern Barnet Road and St James' Church is situated on Friern Barnet Lane. The Parish is part of the Diocese of London within the Church of England. The correspondence address for both churches is St John's Parish Centre, Friern Barnet Road, London, N11 3BS.

The Parochial Church Council ("the PCC") is a charity registered with the Charity Commission under the registration number 1133984.

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the policies set out in Note 1.

PCC members who have served from 1 January 2023 until the date this report was approved are:

Incumbent

& Chairman of the PCC: Rev. Dagmar Wilkinson

Wardens:

John Kuti	(until 21 May 2023)
Helen Edwards	(until 21 May 2023)
Fiona Cochrane	(from 21 May 2023)
Alison Springett	(from 21 May 2023)

Deputy Wardens:

Fiona Cochrane	(until 21 May 2023)
Alison Springett	(until 21 May 2023)
John Kuti	(from 21 May 2023)

Representatives on the Deanery Synod:

Anthony Kuti
Joyce Brand

Elected members:

Joyce Brand	
Fiona Cochrane	(until 21 May 2023)
Lisa Coletta Hime	
Elvin Formosa	(from 21 May 2023)
Kevin Gujadhur	
Barry Hall	
Susie Hickman	
Frances Jones	(from 21 May 2023)
Carol Levy	
Christian Pinnigar	(until 21 May 2023)
Alison Springett	(until 21 May 2023)

The 2023 Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) was held on 21 May 2023.

The Parish website can be found at <https://stjohnschurchfriernbarnet.org>

1. Objectives and activities

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is the body which, with the incumbent, steers the life of the church and its mission, witness and service in the Parish. It supports the incumbent, and the Churchwardens in promoting the Church of England in the Parish of Friern Barnet and in a wider field the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelic, social and ecumenical. It is a charitable trust and PCC members are charitable trustees. All provisions of charity law apply to their corporate responsibilities, financial management and decision making.

It also has the responsibility for overseeing the maintenance of the Church buildings of St James in Friern Barnet Lane – which has been licenced for occupation by the Greek Orthodox Community of St Katherine, Barnet since 2009 – and for the proper stewardship of the financial and other resources of the Church.

The Annual Report, in addition to presenting the annual accounts to the wider Parish provides the means by which the PCC and Wardens can report on the way they have discharged their responsibilities to the Charity Commission, the Church of England and to the parishioners.

Mindful of their responsibilities and obligations members of the PCC and Wardens completed Safeguarding training and are in the process of drawing up several policy documents.

2. Ministry and Worship

During the course of 2023 a total of 73 services of various sorts were held in St John's – 59 Eucharist services (sung, solemn and all age), 5 services for our local church school and 12 special services/occasional offices.

Rev. Dagmar once again continued to invest time in establishing connections with parishioners, while exploring ways in which St John's Church can become more inclusive and embracing of the wider Friern Barnet Community. Having adopted an Inclusive Church Statement in 2022, St John's signed up to the Inclusive Church Network in 2023.

Live streaming of the 10am Sunday service has continued.

Over the year, Elvin, our Sacristan, has grown a young and enthusiastic team of servers to regularly assist at our Sunday worship.

At the beginning of July St John's welcomed the retired Bishop of Tewkesbury to officiate at a confirmation service for 7 young people and two adults, and in October we were privileged to welcome Bishop Dame Sarah to lead our Dedication Festival.

3. The Year in Brief

The parish electoral roll was presented with a total of 184 parishioners during the APCM on 21st May 2023.

Attendance at the weekly Sunday services gradually increased during 2023 - the average number of people attending church in person on a usual Sunday rose to 73 (62 over 16yrs and 11 under 16yrs). Junior Church was held regularly twice each month and a monthly All Age Eucharist was held, usually on the last Sunday of the month.

A Communion Survey was conducted in the Spring to gauge how the congregation felt about the communion arrangements. Of the 55 responses a majority of 31 indicated that they

wanted to continue to receive the intincted, consecrated bread from the Rector. 10 people indicated a preference to return to the way things had been done prior to the Covid Pandemic, whilst 12 indicated that they did not feel strongly either way.

The PCC discussed introducing communion to children and it was agreed that occasional All Age Parish Worship would be held as an inclusive family service with communion for all ages following CofE guidelines and an earlier BCP Eucharist.

The Lent discussion course was based upon chapters from the Book of Lamentation.

In May St John's hosted the Diocesan Common Fund Meeting after which the PCC approved a 4.5% increase in the Parish Common Fund contribution.

The King's Coronation was celebrated at the beginning of May with fun and games at the Scout Hut, and the Parish ran a stall at the St John's School Summer Fayre splitting the modest amount raised between the school and St John's. The Rector also held a late summer Garden Party at the Rectory.

In the Autumn the Parish hosted a presentation by our own Barry Hall following the publication of his book *The Palace of Westminster: Faith, Art and Architecture*. We also launched a monthly Drop in Café in St John's on Saturday mornings, after the first of the month Church cleaning session. It has been a bit of a slow start, but we are hopeful that interest will improve in the summer months when we can move tables outside and we can be a more visible presence outside the Church building.

Not all initiatives were successful and the plans for a weekly after school club did not convert into practice due to lack of volunteers.

Individuals were encouraged to hold their own fund-raising events to support Christian Aid week and over £1000 was raised. Also at various points during the year collections were held for items for the St Paul's New Southgate Food bank.

Christmas saw the return of a Christingle Service after many years, as well as a much increased attendance at the Crib Service and Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve, partly due to successful advertising of the Christmas Services in the roads and streets adjacent to the church.

Music and Choir

Music remains an important part of the worship at St John's and the choir continues to play a crucial role in supporting the services. Viv Bellos joined the team as Assistant Director of Music in the Autumn to rehearse the choir in the run up to the busy Christmas season, and a Youth Band was formed which has grown in confidence and now regularly swells the music in the monthly All Age Eucharist.

Community and Outreach

Tea and Coffee after the Sunday morning service continue to provide members of the congregation with an opportunity to catch up and chat with each other and to welcome new members and guests.

The twice monthly Lunch Club, which provides us with an opportunity to engage with the wider community of Friern Barnet, goes from strength to strength and the opening of a Drop in Café

in the church on the first Saturday of the month will hopefully enable us to welcome even more people into St John's.

During term time a lively Parish Playgroup meets in the Parish Centre once a week as well as a local Youth Group on a Friday evening. Indeed, the Parish Centre Halls are used by various community groups and the church building itself provides a popular venue for local choral groups and orchestras.

St John's School

We value our close relationship with St John's primary school and hope that this will continue to flourish and grow stronger in the years ahead. Rev. Dagmar leads weekly assemblies in school and occasional services in church each term. Graham Gunn retired at the end of 2023 and, when she came to St John's in October, Bishop Dame Sarah presented him with the St Mellitus Medal in recognition of his 44 years of teaching and 21 years as Head of St John's.

Children from Years 3 and 6 regularly help out at both the Parish Playgroup and the Lunch Club and we look forward to working with the new Head to strengthen the links between the two organisations and encourage greater participation in church life.

Church Building & Parish Centre

The ongoing maintenance work on the lower roof of St John's continued to take up much time and money. Attention moved from the North and East side to the Southside roof where, in addition to the replacement of rotten timbers and tiles, the buttresses were repointed. Fortunately, the damage to the Southside roof was not as extensive as that on the Northside. Additional roof maintenance work was carried out on the Parish Centre which celebrated its 30th birthday in the Autumn.

The urgent electrical and lighting repairs identified in the 2022 electrical survey were completed, along with replacement lights in the Parish Centre. Unfortunately, the comprehensive maintenance plan for both St John's and the Parish Centre scheduled for 2023 had to be deferred to 2024 as we struggle to find volunteers for the Fabric Committee. The Wardens and Rector took the lead in overseeing the necessary comprehensive refurbishment of 2 Hatley Close once the property became vacant in the Autumn.

The maintenance and upkeep of the fabric of the Church and the Parish Centre are essential not only as they are the hub of parish activities, but with Hatley Close, they are vital revenue generating sources of income for the Parish. The re-generation of the Fabric Committee will therefore be an essential task for 2024.

4. Financial Review

As in previous years the Parish Accounts and Financial Statements have been produced on a Receipts and Payments basis (R&P).

We remain indebted to Andy Beal who, despite having moved to Kent in December 2020, remains our Treasurer. His work pulling together the Parish Accounts is much appreciated.

Despite the increased costs associated with running the Church and Parish Centre – the cost of lighting and heating both buildings rose considerably in 2023, and there was a slight fall in

income from planned giving and cash receipts from the weekly collection - we ended the year with a slight surplus.

The most significant event as far as the Parish Finances were concerned was the successful application to the London Diocesan Fund (LDF) for a grant/loan to assist with the South side roof works and electrical repairs. The LDF reimbursed the Parish for the roof works with a grant of £12,129.50 and a matching loan of £12,129.5. The loan is non-interest bearing but, as from August 2024, must be repaid at the rate of £800 per month. A further tranche of £15,741 remains available (again in the form of a grant and matching loan) to cover the electrical works, but this must be drawn down before the end of July 2024. The Parish is grateful to the LDF for the generous assistance they have given us.

Due to the increased cost of lighting and heating, the hire fees for both St John's and the Parish Centre were reviewed and increased during the year. The object was to try to strike a balance between ensuring that we don't operate at a loss, but at the same time don't alienate our regular hirers.

Whilst income receipts were slightly down on Budget expectations despite the increase in St John's running costs, the expenditure against the Budget was also generally down. We failed to recruit a Parish Administrator or spend as much as we anticipated on Parish Activities. Whilst this may mean we have avoided a deficit, it also meant that the Rector and Wardens probably spent too much time dealing with administration and not enough time on outreach activities.

5. Reserves Policy

The PCC continued its policy of maintaining a balance of around £35,000 of unrestricted funds - the equivalent of around three months operating costs. This is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and as a contingency against emergencies.

It has also maintained its policy to set aside funds for the future maintenance of its properties. However, whilst it has not been deemed necessary to assign additional monies to the Rectory Redecoration Fund, it was realised during the Autumn of 2023 that significant renovation and redecoration costs needed to be expended on Hatley Close. It is anticipated that these will be clawed back from the increased rent which will be achieved once the works are completed.

Once again, the Rector's Discretionary Fund was used little in the year, so no top up was required.

Parish funds are held by CAF Bank in a current account (CAF Cash) and in a linked deposit account (CAF Gold). Other monies are held on deposit with CCLA in the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund and CBF Income Shares.

6. Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and where appropriate to stand for election to the PCC at the APCM. The PCC normally meets once every two months with the Standing Committee meeting in between to conduct essential business as and when necessary.

In previous years, in addition to the Standing Committee, the Parish had a Fabric Committee attending to the stewardship of all church buildings and their maintenance, a Social Committee which attended to matters which support and promotes the social life of the Parish, a Fund Raising Committee to assist with raising money to support both Charity and Parish projects and the Parish Centre Management Committee looking after the day-to-day management of the Parish Centre, its maintenance, upkeep and the management of its external hires. Whilst the committees themselves have all but vanished the work they carried out has been left in the hands of one or two people, to whom we are very grateful.

Governance

The PCC is governed by two pieces of Church of England legislation:

- The Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended ("the 1956 Measure"); and
- The Parish Governance Model Rules (Part 9) contained in the Church Representation and Ministers Measure 2019, Church Representation Rules 2022.

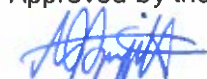
Safeguarding

The PCC confirms that it has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

Public Benefit

The Trustees (PCC members) confirm that in accordance with Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011, they have referred to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charity's aims and objectives and in planning their future activities.

Approved by the PCC at a meeting on 5 May 2024 and signed on its behalf by ALISON SPRINGETT



Churchwarden

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PAROCHIAL
CHURCH COUNCIL OF FRIERN BARNET (ST JOHN AND ST JAMES)**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 10 to 13.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Roger J Seaton FCA
23 Greenhill Park, Barnet, Herts EN5 1HQ

11 May 2024

Parochial Church Council of Friern Barnet
Receipts & Payments Accounts 2023

			Notes	Unrestricted General Fund 2023	Unrestricted Designated Funds 2023	Unrestricted Funds 2023	Restricted Funds 2023	Total 2023	Total 2022
RECEIPTS									
Voluntary Receipts	Planned Giving	Bank		38,397		38,397		38,397	40,427
		Gift Aid		9,675		9,675		9,675	8,137
	Collections at Services			2,773		2,773		2,773	2,769
	All Other Giving		4a	4,833		4,833	2,455	7,288	9,535
	Bequests	Gift Aid		2,217		2,217		2,217	1,171
					0	0		0	
Activities for Generating Funds	Gift Day	GA incl above		0		0		0	128
	St John's Roof & Drains		4c	0		0	27,403	27,403	32,566
							0	0	0
Investment Income	CAF Gold			1,255		1,255		1,255	230
	CBF			3,299		3,299		3,299	2,483
Church Activities	Fees			689		689		689	471
	Church Lettings			2,713		2,713		2,713	1,674
	Parish Centre			23,234		23,234	0	23,234	17,860
	GOC			33,790		33,790		33,790	25,816
	Clergy Property			15,708	0	15,708		15,708	21,900
	Other		4b	2,247		2,247	0	2,247	5,360
	Diocesan Fees						1,362	1,362	508
TOTAL RECEIPTS				140,829	0	140,829	31,220	172,049	171,036
PAYMENTS									
Church Activities	Common Fund			80,000		80,000		80,000	79,236
	Rectors Expenses			4,505		4,505		4,505	2,292
	St James Upkeep & Running			0		0	0	0	0
	St John's		4d	23,119	0	23,119	0	23,119	16,671
	St John's Roof & Drains			0	0	0	33,056	33,056	0
	Mission			0	36	36		36	18
	Charities					0	2,425	2,425	3,306
	Music & Sacristy		4e	8,965		8,965		8,965	6,978
	Parish Office			2,680		2,680		2,680	5,517
	Rectory maintenance				0	0		0	0
	Clergy Property			1,085	0	1,085		1,085	861
	Parish Centre			9,464	1,000	10,464	0	10,464	12,101
	Other		4g	2,794		2,794	0	2,794	5,779
	Diocesan Fees						607	607	274
TOTAL PAYMENTS				132,611	1,036	133,647	36,088	169,735	170,698
EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS				8,218	(1,036)	7,182	(4,868)	2,314	338
Cash at Bank and in Hand at 1 Jan				17,624	54,625	72,249	33,028	105,277	104,919
Cash at Bank and in Hand at 31 Dec				25,842	53,589	79,431	28,160	107,591	105,277

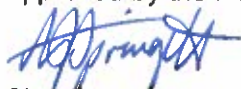
**Parochial Church Council of Friern Barnet
Statement of Assets and Liabilities 2023**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2023	Restricted Funds 2023	TOTAL 2023	TOTAL 2022
Cash Funds					
CAF Bank (CAF Cash+CAF Gold)		52,053	10,000	62,053	63,516
Barclays Bank		1,677	0	1,677	1,200
CBF of Church of England		25,701	18,160	43,861	40,562
		79,431	28,160	107,591	105,277
Other Monetary Assets					
Cash in Safe		288	187	475	126
Gift Aid Recoverable Oct-Dec23 (O-D 2022)		2,132	0	2,132	2,657
		2,420	187	2,607	2,783
Investment Assets					
Investment Fund Shares - current value (Hilda Heil Unrestricted Designated Fund)		72,304	0	72,304	66,037
Other Assets					
Clergy Property (valued Mar 2016)		675,000	0	675,000	675,000
		675,000	0	675,000	675,000
Total Assets		829,156	28,347	857,503	849,098
Liabilities					
Loan from LDF		12,129		12,129	0
Charities			187	187	174
Diocesan Fees		631		631	0
Visiting Clergy		50		50	0
Rectors Expenses				0	1,080
		12,810	187	12,997	1,254
NET ASSETS		816,346	28,160	844,506	847,844

Notes:

- The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using receipts and payments basis.
- The LDF agreed to make an interest free loan of £20,000 on 13 June 2023 to assist with the roof repairs and other remedial work. £12,129 of the loan has been drawn down during the year and the balance has to be drawn down by 31 July 2024. Repayments commence in August 2024, to be made over a period of up to 25 months.
- Related party transactions**
The PCC members are considered the key management personnel of the church. No remuneration was paid directly to key management personnel, although the church contributes to the diocesan fund and the incumbent, who has overall responsibility for promoting the whole mission of the church, is remunerated directly by the Diocese.
Income from donations includes £11,459 (2022 £8,416) received from PCC members.
- Any minor summation errors in the tables in this report are due to all the numbers having been rounded to the nearest pound with zero decimal places

Approved by the PCC at a meeting on 5 May 2024 and signed on its behalf by **ALISON SPRINGETT**


Churchwarden

3. Movement in Funds - General, Designated and Restricted Funds

Movements in Funds during the year were:

	2023 movements			
	Bal b/fwd	Receipts	Payments	Bal c/fwd
	£	£	£	
3a Unrestricted Funds				
3a(i) General Fund	17,624	140,829	132,611	25,842
3a(ii) Designated Funds				
Fabric	5,670	0	0	5,670
Miss Hilda Heil Fund	86,467	6,267	0	92,735
Rectory Redecoration	3,285	0	0	3,285
Bequest	23,159	0	1,000	22,159
Discretionary Fund	1,400	0	36	1,365
Clergy House	681	0	0	681
Total Designated Funds	120,662	6,267	1,036	125,893
Total Unrestricted Funds	138,286	147,096	133,647	151,736
3b Restricted Funds				
Scrivens Bequest	451	0	0	451
Holiday @ Home	609	0	0	609
St. John's N side project	17,501	0	0	17,501
Fundraising - Roof, Drains	9,902	27,403	33,056	4,249
Cedric Blaker Fund	2,387	0	0	2,387
Windows	1,521	0	0	1,521
Charities	381	2,455	2,425	411
Diocesan Fees	276	1,362	607	1,031
Total Restricted Funds	33,028	31,220	36,088	28,160
TOTAL FUNDS	171,315	178,316	169,735	179,896

4. Further Analysis of Receipts & Payments

		Unrestricted Funds 2023	Restricted Funds 2023	TOTAL 2023	TOTAL 2022
Receipts					
a)	All Other Giving				
	Bequest				
	Charities		2,455	2,455	2,925
	Sundry Donations	4,833		4,833	6,610
		4,833	2,455	7,288	9,535
b)	Church Activities - Other				
	Coffee	608		608	401
	Lunch Club	1,381		1,381	1,517
	Insurance Claim - roof	-		-	2,900
	General	257		257	541
		2,247	-	2,247	5,360
c)	Sr John's Roof & Drains etc				
	Donations / Fundraising / VAT refund		3,144		32,566
	Loan / Grant from LDF		24,259		
			27,403	27,403	32,566
d)	Payments - St John's				
	insurance	6,297		6,297	6,478
	gas : expenditure	8,768		8,768	6,274
	gas : grant from Diocese			0	2,641
	electric	4,787		4,787	1,525
	water	563		563	313
	servicing	722		722	328
	general repairs	743		743	2,756
	organ repairs				
	tree lopping				
	garden	1,240		1,240	764
	Sub Total	23,119		23,119	15,797
	From Funds				
	Fundraising: Roof, Drains	-	33,056	33,056	36,665
	St John's Total	23,119		56,176	52,462
e)	Payments - Charities				
	General Charities		2,425	2,425	3,306
			2,425	2,425	3,306
f)	Payments - Music & Sacristy				
	Music	8,030		8,030	6,627
	Sacristy	935		935	352
		8,965		8,965	6,978
g)	Payments - Other				
	Lunch Club	1,452		1,452	1,441
	General	1,343		1,343	2,338
		2,794	-	2,794	3,779

**Parochial Church Council of Friern Barnet
(St John & St James)**

Budget For the Year Ended 31 December 2024

GENERAL FUND

	2024 Budget	2023 Actual	2023 Budget
	£	£	£
Income			
Planned Giving - Bank	40,000	38,379	45,000
Planned Giving - Tax recoverable	10,000	11,892	8,000
Collections at services	2,500	2,773	2,000
Sundry donations	6,000	7,288	5,000
Bequests	1,000	0	
Church lettings	3,000	2,713	2000
Parish Activities	6,000	5,831	5,500
St John's Roof & Electrics Fundraising (now Restricted Fund)	20,000	0	
Interest receivable	4,000	4,554	3,000
Total Income	92,500	73,430	70,500
Expenditure			
Outreach & donations	200	0	1,000
Common Fund	83,600	80,000	79,992
Rectors Expenses	3,500	4,505	3,500
Hatley Close rennovation	35,000	0	0
St James' running costs	0	0	0
St John's running costs	25,000	23,119	18,000
Diocesan Loan Repayment	4,000	0	0
Music & Sacristy	9,000	8,965	8,000
Church activities	7,000	6,779	6,500
Parish Office	6,000	2,880	12,000
Rectory	2,000	0	2,000
Total Expenditure	175,300	126,248	130,992
Surplus/(Deficit) before other activities	-82,800	-52,818	-60,492
Income from other activities (net of costs)			
Parish Centre	15,000	13,770	10,000
St James (GOC)	33,790	33,790	33,790
Clergy property	17,500	15,708	21,000
Total Net Income from other activities	66,290	63,268	64,790
Surplus/(Deficit) after income from other activities	-16,510	10,450	4,298

Budget2024