THE PAROCHIAL COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ASHFORD ST. HILDA DIOCESE OF LONDON

England & Wales · Charity number 1134119

Details

Other names	ST. HILDA'S PCC ASHFORD
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2010-02-05
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	St. Hildas Church Hall Stanwell Road Ashford TW15 3QL
Phone	01784 245712
Email	sthildaoffice@btinternet.com
Website	www.sthilda.org

Activities

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

Activities: Regular worship open to all;provision of sacred space for personal prayer and contemplation;pastoral work, incl. visiting sick and bereaved; teaching Christianity through sermons and small groups; taking religious assemblies in schools; promotion of Christianity through staging events and meetings; promoting the mission of the Church through activities for all age groups and needs.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

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Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL.
- Surrey
- Throughout London

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£205,768	£223,743	-	-
2023-12-31	£128,980	£149,608	-	-
2022-12-31	£144,632	£134,679	-	-
2021-12-31	£147,450	£153,207	-	-
2020-12-31	£110,979	£130,234	-	-

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Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Alison Garner		2023-04-30
Ann Bilias		2025-04-27
CHRISTINE MAKRIEL		2017-04-23
Christopher Maddock		2019-04-28
Deborah Elizabeth Brian		2022-05-29
Elizabeth Ann Bate		2017-04-23
Frances Forsbrey		2025-04-27
John Lawrence Swaffield		2022-11-15
Jubin George Jacob		2025-04-27
Margaret Elizabeth Dobbie		2023-04-30
Nicholas Gething		2023-04-30
PAULA GETHING		2017-04-23
ROSEMARY GREENWOOD		2022-05-29
Rev Onyekachi Julius Anozie		2024-12-16
Stuart Godfrey Young		2024-04-28
Tyler James Pannone		2025-04-27
Valerie Scott		2023-04-30

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THE PAROCHIAL COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ASHFORD ST. HILDA DIOCESE OF L

England & Wales - Charity number 1134119

Accounts

St Hilda's APCM 2025

St Hilda's Ashford

JOINT VESTRY AND PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING OF ST HILDA'S CHURCH, ASHFORD, MIDDLESEX TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY 27th APRIL, 2025

AGENDAS

ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING OF PARISHONERS

The Chairman reads the Convening Notice

1. Prayers and welcome
2. Minutes of the Vestry Meeting held Sunday 28th April, 2024
3. Election of Church Wardens: Adjudicators to be nominated by the Chairman (if needed for voting purposes)

ANNUAL PAROCIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held Sunday 28th April, 2024
3. Matters arising
4. Report from the Electoral Roll Officer
5. Election of Representatives:
   To the Parochial Church Council – 3 vacancies for 3 years and 4 to be re-elected if they wish.
   To the Deanery Synod – 3 places already elected for 3 years until 2026 in-line with Synod election rules.
   Adjudicators to be appointed by the Church Wardens if needed for voting purposes
   Appointment of the Independent Financial Examiner
6. Vicar's Reflection
7. Church Wardens' Reports
8. PCC's Annual Report for 2024
9. Treasurer's Report and Presentation of Church Accounts
10. Deanery Synod Report
11. Reports of Church Groups
12. Any Other Business
    (Must be notified in writing to the PCC Secretary 72 hours prior to the meeting).
13. Date of next year's Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Closing Prayers

MINUTES OF A MEETING FOR THE ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS
HELD ON SUNDAY 28TH APRIL, 2024
AT ST HILDA'S CHURCH, ASHFORD

PRESENT	Licensed Lay Minister and Chair	Rosalyn Young
	Lay Chair	Elizabeth Bate
	Church Warden	Paula Gething
	Secretary	Liz Brian

And 42 other attendees

Apologies Patsy Holmes, Marianne Tank, Pauline Milton and Khardijah

Convening Notice
Rosalyn Young began the meeting with a prayer and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. **Minutes of the Meeting for Election of Churchwardens held on 30th April, 2023.**
   That the minutes be accepted was proposed by Nick Gething and seconded by Christine Davenport.

2. **Election of Churchwardens**
   There were 2 nominees for 2 posts:

Name	Proposer	Seconder
Paula Gething	Anita Reynolds	Rosalyn Young
Stuart Young	Andrew Rickson	Deborah Elizabeth Brian

   There being no other nominations, Paula Gething and Stuart Young were duly elected as Churchwardens for the coming year and were thanked for putting their names forward.

   Rosalyn expressed especial thanks to Paula for the commitment she had shown to the role of Church Warden over the past year and that she was continuing to stand for another year. A unanimous vote of thanks was given to Paula.

   That concluded the meeting for the election of Churchwardens.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING OF ST HILDA'S ASHFORD HELD ON SUNDAY 28TH APRIL, 2024

PRESENT: As for the Meeting for the Election of Churchwardens
Elizabeth Bate chaired the meeting.

1. **Apologies for absence** – as for the Meeting for the Election of Churchwardens.

2. **Minutes:**
   That the minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Sunday 30th April be accepted was agreed by Christopher Maddock and seconded by Christine Davenport.

3. **Matters Arising** – there were none.

4. **Report of the Electoral Roll Officer : Jane Dobbie**
   A full copy can be found in the booklet – Reports for 2024 meeting. Sadly, 4 people have died and 1 person has left the area. There have been 11 new additions – so the new roll stands at 163 members, of whom 69 live outside the Parish.

5. **Election of Representatives** to serve on the St Hilda's Church Parochial Church Council. There are 3 vacancies and 2 nominees

Name	Proposer	Seconder
Sara Lee	Deborah E Brian	Christopher Maddock
Rosalyn Young	Frances Forsbrey	Sara Lee

   Both were elected as Lay Representatives for the period 2024 – 2027 and were thanked for stepping forward.

   Appointment of Independent Financial Examiner – Recommendation that Mr Peter Connolly continue as our Independent Financial Examiner. Agreed by Bobbie Bedford and seconded by Christine Davenport.

6. **Church Warden's Report – Paula Gething** – a copy of the full report can be found in the booklet –"Reports for 2024 meeting". Thanks were expressed to Bobby Bedford, Frances Forsbrey and Elizabeth Bate.

7. **Financial Report** – notes on the draft financial statement for 2023 were submitted – copy now with the booklet – report for 2024 meeting. Rosalyn Young expressed thanks for the hard work that had gone into unravelling the finances and getting to grips with the systems. Elizabeth Bate expressed thanks to Khadijah who has spent many hours trying to get our finances sorted.

8. The other reports can be found in the booklet – "Report for 2024 Meeting" but other comments that were made:-
   - Junior Church – had 19 children for the last Messy Church Sunday
   - Weekly Bible Study – now growing in numbers
   - The Choir also is increasing
   - There was a beautiful display of lilies in Church over Eastertide.

All the reports were accepted – proposed by June and seconded by Christine Taylor

9. There was no any other business
10. Date of Next Meeting – Sunday 27th April, 2025 at 11 am.

The meeting ended with The Grace.

REPORTS FOR 2025 MEETING

ST HILDA'S CHURCH

ASHFORD, MIDDLESEX

ANNUAL REPORT and FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31st December, 2024

Incumbent

Rev Father Julius Anozie

Bank

Nat West Bank
Ashford Middlesex Branch
5 Woodthorpe Road Ashford
Middlesex TW152RN

Independent Examiner

Mr Peter Connolly
33, Carlyle Road
Staines
Middlesex TW18

The Parochial Church Council of St Hilda Ashford
Charity Number 1134119

Saint Hilda's Church, Ashford, Middlesex

Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council

for the year ended 31 December 2024

Saint Hilda's Church, Ashford, which is part of the Diocese of London within the Church of England, works with the minister in promoting the mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church, Church Hall, Vicarage and 34, Woodthorpe Road, Ashford, Middlesex TW15 2RU.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity, the Charity Number being 1134119

Incumbent	Rev Father Julius Anozie
Licenced Lay Ministers	**Rosalyn Young**

Report of the Electoral Roll Officer

The Electoral Roll for St Hilda's Church, Ashford, Middlesex for 2024 to 2025 stands at 136 members, of whom 66 are resident within the Parish and 70 are non-resident in the Parish.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL 2024

Appointments are for 3 years in the first instance with the option of serving for a second term of 3 years. After a total of 6 years members must come off the PCC but can be re-elected to serve again for 3 years after a break of one year.

Appointed for			**Due for re-election**
APCM 2021 – 2024 (2023 – 2024 – Ex-officio member as Church Warden)	Paula Gething	2nd Term	APCM 2025
APCM 2022 – 2025	Christine Davenport	1st Term	APCM 2025
	Christopher Brown	1st Term	APCM 2025
	Liz Brian	1st Term	APCM 2025
	Rosemary Greenwood	1st Term	APCM 2025
Year 2022	Nick Gething	Co-opted	

Elected by PCC members – due for re-election in 2023.

October 2022	John Swaffield
January 2023	Frances Forsbrey

APCM 2023 – 2026	Jane Dobbie	1st Term	APCM 2026
	Alison Garner	1st Term	APCM 2026
	Nicholas Gething	1st Term	APCM 2026
	Joyce Rouse	1st Term	APCM 2026
	Valerie Scott	1st Term	APCM 2026
	John Swaffield	1st Term	APCM 2026

APCM 2024 – 2027	Sara Lee	1st Term	APCM 2027
	Rosalyn Young	1st Term	APCM 2027

Three **Deanery Synod representatives** are elected for three year terms.

Appointed for		**Due for re-election**
APCM 2023	Elizabeth Bate	2026
APCM 2023	Christopher Maddock	2026
APCM 2023	Christine Makriel	2026

Two **Churchwardens**: Churchwardens are elected annually up to a total of 4 years.

Elected at the Vestry Meeting

Assistant to the Churchwardens

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance within the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. During the year, the Council met 10 times. The PCC operates through the Standing Committee.

Standing Committee

This is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact business of the PCC between PCC meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council. The Standing Committee oversees the finances of the PCC. The committee includes the Churchwardens, Deputy Churchwarden, Treasurer, Secretary and Vice Chairperson.

Church Attendance – for 2024

Average Sunday attendance (Sundays 10 am) for 2023 was Adults 74 and children 10

Average midweek service (11 am Wednesday) was adults 21

Those watching Sunday morning services via video link:-		142
Christmas Special Services	Schools and Lodge Brothers	952
Christmas Eve and Christmas Day (84 communicants over both days)		137
Baptisms		1 Adult 1 Child
Weddings		1
Funerals 2 – Funeral services in church, 3 – Funeral service at crematorium/cemetery		5 in total

Reflection from Rev Fr Onyekachi Julius Anozie : Vicar of St Hilda's, Ashford

Introduction

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is with a heart full of gratitude and joy that I write this report for our Annual Parish Church Meeting 2025. This past year has been a remarkable journey of growth, faith, and community, and I am deeply thankful to each of you for making my time at St Hilda's such a blessing. Your warmth and support have been extraordinary, and I look forward to all that God has in store for us in the coming year.

Gratitude and Welcome

First and foremost, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to all of you for the overwhelming welcome you extended to me. Your kindness and hospitality have truly made St Hilda's feel like home.

I owe a special debt of gratitude to Chris Maddock and Elizabeth Bate, who have been instruments of God's grace in my transition here. Thank you for painting the house so beautifully and for your unbounded welcome and hospitality. Your invitations to share food and meaningful conversations have been a source of great joy and comfort. I am deeply blessed by your friendship and care.

I must also thank everyone involved in organizing and participating in the most beautiful licensing service I have ever experienced. It was a moment of great spiritual significance and celebration. My deepest thanks to Bishop Emma, the Venerable Frank (Middlesex Archdeacon), and Revd Carole (our Area Dean) for their prayers, leadership, and presence. Thank you to the choir for their stunning repertoire of music, which elevated the service to heavenly heights, and to the music committee for their impeccable selection of hymns and anthems.

Ministry and Worship Teams

A heartfelt thank-you goes to our servers for their diligence and unwavering presence. You serve with humility and gentleness, reflecting the heart of Christ in your ministry. To our side persons, thank you for your cheerful dedication and the way you create a welcoming atmosphere for everyone who walks through our doors.

I also want to commend our Junior Church leaders for their commitment to nurturing the faith of our young ones. Your teaching and love are planting seeds of faith that will flourish in the years to come. To those who organize our parish breakfasts, your work goes beyond providing food; you create a space for fellowship and connection. Thank you for this invaluable ministry.

Special thanks go to Chris Davenport for her outstanding management of our hall bookings. Your meticulous work ensures that this vital resource serves both our church and the wider community effectively.

Financial Health

As we reflect on our finances, I want to acknowledge the challenges we face and the progress we are making. Moving away from a deficit budget toward a thriving account balance is a collective effort, and I thank each of you for your stewardship and generosity. I encourage everyone to

prayerfully consider their giving as we work together to ensure the financial sustainability of our parish.

Growing Our Church

Growth is a key focus for us as a parish. We are actively exploring ways to expand our community outreach, particularly through stronger partnerships with local schools and agencies. By working together, we can bring about positive changes that reflect God's love and care for our neighbors. I invite you to join in these efforts and share your ideas for how we can grow and thrive as a church family.

The Marapula Project

We have received wonderful news that the funds for the Marapula Project have been cleared and sent to the church. We eagerly await updates, including photos and messages, about how the project is progressing. This initiative reminds us of our global connections and our call to support our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world.

Building and Maintenance

Our work to maintain and improve our church buildings continues. I want to extend special thanks to our church warden, Stuart, for his leadership in spearheading projects like the tree removals and other essential maintenance tasks. Your dedication ensures that our church remains a welcoming and functional space for worship and ministry.

Moving Forward: Sola Christus

As we look ahead to a new PCC year, I encourage us to centre our efforts on the principle of *Sola Christus* – Christ alone. This foundation reminds us that everything we do as a church is for His glory and through His grace. Let us carry this truth into our decision-making, ministries, and relationships as we seek to build a church that reflects His love and truth.

Thanks to Our Leaders

I want to express my deep gratitude to Paula Gething for her tireless work as church warden. Your leadership and service are an inspiration to us all. To the PCC, both outgoing and incoming members, thank you for your dedication to the mission and governance of our parish. Your contributions are vital to the life of our church.

Referencing Other Reports

Finally, I encourage everyone to read the reports from various ministries and committees included in this meeting. These reports provide a fuller picture of the incredible work being done across our parish and the many ways in which God is moving among us.

Conclusion

As we embark on another year together, I am filled with hope and excitement for all that lies ahead. Let us continue to support one another, serve our community, and grow in faith as we seek to glorify God in all that we do.
Thank you, and may God bless us all abundantly.
In Christ,
Rev Fr Onyekachi Julius Anozie : Vicar of St Hilda's, Ashford

Church Warden Report 2024 – Paula Gething

I confirm that in accordance with the law governing the Office of Churchwardens during the last year I have:

- Carried out duties assigned by the Bishop or Archdeacon.
- Maintained in good order and safe keeping the plate, ornaments and other articles committed to our charge.
- Kept the church records in the in the same good order and safe keeping.
- All offerings and collections have been recorded and paid into the relevant bank.
- The bread and wine have been provided for the Holy Communion as we are bound and directed.
- The seating and good order of the congregation have been maintained.

We continue to live-stream our Sunday service for those who are unable to attend church in person, hopefully making them feel still very much part of our church family. Thanks to Chris Maddock, Rosemary Greenwood and Nick Gething for keeping this going.

We have been supported during the vacancy by Fr Steve Brian and Mother Pamela, together with Rosalyn Young. Services have also been led by Rev Leslie Lawrence, Rev David Vanstone, Rev Simon Douglas Lane and Rev Janet Franck. Our church attendance for the Sunday services continue to grow in numbers with almost everyone staying behind to enjoy coffee and fellowship. I should like, once again to particularly thank Rosalyn Young, who has gone above and beyond to maintain pastoral support to the congregation and beyond. Conducting home visits, planning services as well as preaching when asked by visiting clergy and generally being available for advice.

It was wonderful in December, to welcome Father Julius Anozie as our new Incumbent. The Induction and Collation service was beautiful and joyful, supported by the Bishop Emma, the Area Dean and some of Father Julius's family and friends who travelled to Ashford especially.

MISSION

Despite not having an Incumbent to take the lead during the vacancy Elizabeth, Bobbie and I have supported the project at St Hilda's House. Grateful thanks to John Swaffield for his support with some of the house challenges. My nephew Lukas Winter, together with Farhad & Khadijeh, Jon and Elizabeth have kept the grass at the vicarage and church gardens mowed and Elizabeth oversaw the completion of significant works at the vicarage after it was vacated.

The Wednesday Eucharist service is very well attended and we now have around 30 staying for lunch each week, with thanks and appreciation to Bobbie and her team for their hard work and warm welcome. The weekly food deliveries from Surplus to Supper is most welcome, with very little waste.

We open the church daily during the week with the support of a dedicated group of key-holders. Two local schools held their Carol Services here and Lodge Brothers hold an annual service of remembrance.

Our monthly breakfast, was held most months with interesting speakers and has been very well attended. Our bar license was renewed so we can sell alcohol during concerts and evening events in both the church and the church hall. Huge thanks to the catering team for the wonderful breakfasts and lunches enjoyed by congregation and local community alike.

Thanks also to the welcomers and those who faithfully greet people on arrival to church and provide the weekly refreshments.
Despite rising costs, our flower team continue to create beautiful displays of both real and silk flowers with the seasons, including the annual lilies at Easter, and Chris Maddock, his music team and choir continue to enhance services with their wonderful music.

CHURCH HALL ROOF
During the Easter Holidays, we saw the culmination of a huge project to replace the church hall roof and install solar panels. The panels now generate electricity for the church hall and a small amount of surplus is sold on to the National Grid. Thanks to Spelthorne Borough Council for a very generous grant towards the cost of this and to the Islamic Prayer Group and St Hilda's Entertainers for donations.

FUNDRAISING
Our jumble sales, locally famous were successful as were Spring Fair and the Frost Fayre and were all held in church. This makes great use of the additional space in church, with external sellers paying a fee to rent a table to sell from. These activities enable people who would not otherwise cross the threshold of a church outside of a major life event, come through the doors in a comfortable setting as well as contributing significant hundreds of pounds to our funds.

We have had several very enjoyable brass concerts here during the year and in November we held a curry evening. The food was supplied by a member of the congregation, followed by singing/karaoke it was a great use of this wonderful building.

In October we held our second all-day wedding celebration. The marriage ceremony was followed by a three-course meal, prepared in the church hall but served in church, followed by dancing. The bride, groom and guests all enjoyed the beautiful space and plans are in place for further weddings in the future which will bring in much-needed income by making use of the building. We can offer a traditional religious ceremony with the atmosphere of a country house reception, in one location and at a fraction of the cost.

THANKS
It was a huge relief to have Khadijeh in the role of Treasurer and Stuart as the second Warden this year. The Standing Committee and PCC work very hard to keep everything ticking over and much work is also done by people who don't hold office and don't get recognised or personally thanked. I know I haven't managed to name everyone but my heartfelt thanks goes to everyone who has supported St Hilda's this year through some very challenging days.
I am stepping back from the role of Church Warden this year, but once again I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who helps to keep the church in good order, an enormous amount of work goes on behind the scenes, it may be invisible – but it doesn't just happen. We are very fortunate to have a small but very dedicated group of people who ensure that we can enjoy our services in a clean, well-ordered church. I wish the new wardens every success in the next year.

Church Property Report (Fabric) : Stuart Young

Church Hall
Last year 2024 saw our hall continue to function at full capacity with Chris Davenport managing the high demand of requests from hirers both regular and one off. Chris has continued as hall Booking Secretary, keeping precise records, which has enabled us to maintain much needed income revenue.
Following planning applications and finding suitable financial investment, a major development for the replacement of a new hall roof, new gutter work to prevent water

ingress and the installation of a new roof mounted solar panel system which will provide a free means of generating electricity was carried out by Maguire Brothers Limited.
The old asbestos boiler flue has also been removed by them, with necessary remedial works to the building and painting of the main hall internal ceiling areas being carried out by members of St Hilda's Entertainers.
Holes in the surface of the car park have been filled with tarmac finish, again thanks to the efforts by members of St Hilda's Entertainers.
Due to problems with the surface of the outside children's play area, this has been completely resurfaced with a special child friendly finish by a specialist contractor M& B Surfaces Limited. Some problems with the hall rainwater system meant that we employed Dynorod Limited to carry out drain pipework clearance as well as employing JM Groundworks Limited to expose part of the buried rainwater pipe system then reinstate the ground under the old children's play area.
During the year various service visits were arranged and carried out, MHL inspected and serviced the gas boiler, 3MG inspected and serviced our portable fire appliances and fire blankets, Kingsmead Testing Services Limited carried out the PAT testing of our portable appliances, weekly cleaning services to the entire Hall continue to be provided Monday to Thursday and twice on Friday by LSR Cleaning Services Limited.
In addition to these usual maintenance activities, repairs were needed to external window frames and, replacement rainwater guttering and facia by Jon Bate, along with repairs to timberwork around emergency exit doors by Mike Smith.

Church

The gardening team led by Rosemary Greenwood and Andrew Rickson have continued to clear weeds and tend to the various flower beds and shrubs around the church grounds.
Annual servicing of the church boilers have been carried out by MHL, the church organ was tuned by BC Shepherd & Son, the organ amplifier and blower were serviced by Watkins & Watson Limited, our grand piano was tuned by Max Evans, our fire extinguishers and fire blankets were serviced by 3MG Fire Protection, PAT testing was carried out by Kingsmead Testing Limited and the Lightning Conductor was tested by Bacon Lightning Protection Limited. Repairs to part of the Lady Chapel Roof were carried out during May by Maguire Brothers Limited, Fullers carried out cleaning of the church gutters and rainwater pipe system, remedial work to part of the perimeter wall was carried out by Ian Fleming Design and Build. The church Maintenance file has been kept up to date.
The Church Log Book has been kept up to date and copies of relevant documents including photographs of the church gutters cleaning have been filed into the folder.
A complete review of the last Quinquennial Report received has been carried out by our Church Warden which has been presented to the PCC and these comments have been sent to Bob Wilson the appointed Architect for his consideration, a response is still awaited.
The weekly cleaning of the church continues to be carried out by members of the congregation which is highly appreciated.

Vicarage

Prior to the arrival of our new vicar members of the congregation completely repainted every room in the Vicarage. Thanks must go to Jon Bate for all his work, whilst the Diocesan contractors Fitzpatrick Limited installed heating to the new room created from the garage, they also maintained the rainwater system on the Vicarage, so the services of Fullers were not needed this year.

St Hilda's House

The boiler service and gas check was carried out by British Gas, and new smoke detectors were added to the installed system by Allinson Reynolds to ensure compliance with our obligation to Hope in Action. Up to December 2024 the house is occupied by a single tenant.

PCC Report – Liz Brian

A summary of the PCC meetings held from January to December 2024, capturing actions, recommendations and information not captured in other reports.

January 2024

- Discussions taking place with the contractors to do the work on the Church Hall roof during the Easter holidays. Need for signage and communication with hall renters and the public regarding the works.
- Agreement for a Parish Giving Month in February and a designated group to oversee this.
- We have a new tenant at St Hilda's House. After Parish Breakfast on Saturday 17th February, there was a talk about the St Hilda's House Project and the video made by the Diocese was shown.
- Ashford C of E Primary School issued details of a consultation for new admission arrangements for the 2025/2026 academic year.

February 2024

- The financial accounts for January 2024 were presented.
- Parish Giving Month had started and more information about this will be put on the website and in the weekly newsletter.
- As Parish Safeguarding Officer Nick Gething will talk at the Parish Breakfast and put something in the weekly newsletter asking volunteers to be part of a safeguarding team.
- Plans are in place for Red Hot Strings to play a concert in church in April. Nick Gething will renew the bar license.

March 2024

- A financial team will be set up to oversee financial matters including claiming back previous Gift Aid subscriptions.
- Priorities from the Quinquennial Report – Stuart Young is updating the terrier (logbook) from March 2023. The building firm undertaking work on the Church Hall will be asked for a quote to include work on the roof of the Lady Chapel.
- Information from Churches Together – there will be a Good Friday procession in Ashford Church Road for the Walk of Witness.
- There are two tenants in St Hilda's House and there is a new befriender. Anonymous donation of a TV.

April 2024

- Financial group has been set up to bring finances together. More people have taken up the Parish Giving scheme since it was highlighted in February.
- There were over 100 people in church on Easter Sunday.
- Now one tenant in St Hilda's House, work being done on the aerial and a new befriender has completed her training and met the remaining tenant.
- The Parish Hall has a new roof although work will continue for some time.
- We have been offered help with gardening.

Following the APCM on Sunday 28th April, 2024 there was a short meeting of the new PCC to elect the following:-

Lay Chair	Elizabeth Bate
Treasurer	Khadijeh (as Guest)
Secretary	Liz Brian
Deputy Church Warden	Alison Garner

May 2024

- New members, Stuart Young and Sara Lee were welcomed onto the PCC.
- The new Standing Committee will be – Paula Gething, Stuart Young, Liz Brian, Elizabeth Bate, Chris Maddock and Alison Garner.
- Future fund raising events include Spelthorne Orchestra and Staines Lammas Band, a quiz night and the Summer Fair.

June 2024

- The accounts for 2023 were presented alongside the Financial Review of 2023 and were approved by the PCC to be sent to the diocese.
- Request from the diocese to pay £66,000 for the Common Fund in 2025. Agreed to offer £4,500 per month but to review this if our heating costs rise.
- We have been registered as a Fairtrade church.
- License agreement with Happy Tots group has been agreed.

July 2024

- Interviews have taken place for a new Incumbent.
- Work is being done on the vicarage.
- Collections for the food bank at the Salvation Army are being taken weekly.
- Future fund-raising events – Jumble Sale and Harvest Supper

There was no meeting in August.

September 2024

- Work on the perimeter wall to start on 12th September, 2024
- Sara Lee has left the PCC due to her move to Dorset.
- We have now received the grant from Spelthorne Borough Council for the Church Hall roof.
- An Empowerment Worker has been appointed but currently undergoing checks and training.

October 2024

- Elizabeth Bate has heard that we will receive £8,657.50 from Gift Aid for 2022.
- Accounts for 2023 need to be prepared, independently reviewed and agreed by PCC and at a special APCM in order to be sent to the Charity Commissioners by 31st October, 2024.
- Clare Marland was re-elected as Foundation Governor at Ashford C of E Junior School where she was also appointed as Vice-Chair.
- We have been asked to support St Peter's, Staines who are collecting warm winter coats for Iranian refugees.
- St Hilda's Entertainers will fill in some of the potholes in the car park.

There was a short special APCM held on Sunday 27th October, 2024 to agree the 2023 Accounts which were presented by previous Treasurer, Darren Buttigieg, and have been independently reviewed and approved by Mr Peter Connolly.

November 2024

- Stuart Young reported that we have received £10,705.00 for reclaimed VAT.
- The appointment of our new Incumbent, Father Julius Anozie was announced during the Sunday service and arrangements for the licensing service were discussed.

- It was agreed to co-opt Frances Forsbrey to the PCC.
- We have been asked by the chaplaincy team at Bronzefield Prison to contribute socks to give to the prisoners on Christmas morning.

There was no meeting in December 2024.

Financial Report – see prepared accounts as Appendix A

Parish Giving Scheme report – Pauline Milton

At the beginning of the year there were 21 members of the St Hilda's family utilising the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS). During the year, there was a small amount of movement of people joining and leaving which means that we ended the year with 21 members.
It would help enormously if we could increase that number significantly. It is the most efficient way of helping to keep our lovely church in good order for us and the whole community to use and enjoy.
If you are thinking of signing up and have questions I will do my best to answer them and if I can't there is help available by phone or e-mail to the administrators of the scheme.
There are a couple of points I would like to make clear; if you wish to remain anonymous to everyone at St Hilda's you can be. You can set up your giving the PGS and even I will not know who you are. Your donation will be listed as an anonymous donation on all correspondence.
You are in complete control of your donations. You can suspend, reduce or increase them at any time. There may be exceptional circumstances where this may not be possible if for instance, a donation or gift aid claim is in process but this is the exception not the norm.
You can contact the PGS in writing, by phone or email.

Spelthorne Deanery Report - Area Dean – Rev Carole George Lay Chair – Mr Norman Head

Spelthorne Deanery Synod met three times to consider current matters within the Anglican Church. Meetings also provide opportunities for sharing news and enjoying fellowship with clergy and lay representatives from the eleven churches in the Spelthorne Deanery. The current three year term began on 1st July 2023. We have been reminded that there is a lot of advice and support available from the Diocese of London.

Clergy moves within the Deanery – Rev Michael Burley, vicar of Christ Church Staines, retired on 31st March. Fr Julius Anozie was inducted as vicar of St Hilda's Ashford on 16th December. Rev Johnny Lawes completed his curacy at All Saints, Laleham and has been appointed as an Associate Vicar for a term of two years.

Annual Finance meetings were hosted by Archdeacon Richard Frank & Rev Mary Spredbury (Diocesan Finance Officer).

During the year reports were given by Nick Wood-Dow on issues discussed at the London Diocesan Synod.

The speakers and themes of the three meetings during 2024 were:
Oliver Home, recently appointed as General Secretary for the Diocese of London, described his role which includes acting as Chief Executive of the London Diocesan Fund, serving as secretary to the Diocesan Synod and responsibility for supporting the Vision of the Diocese of London, overseeing the teams working on each strategy and managing 100 staff.
Tina English from the charity "Embracing Age" based in Richmond, gave an interesting and lively presentation to the June meeting and described how rewarding ministry to the older generation can be. She mentioned that there are 11 care homes in Spelthorne and 22

churches of all denominations and her charity aims to encourage and equip churches to adopt a local care home – to care for both its residents and staff.

At the October meeting Mrs Mirjam Ngoy-Verhage, London Diocese Discipleship Enabler spoke on the subject “Deepening Discipleship within our Church Communities”. Her role ties in with the Vision 2030 and the encouragement of Confident Disciples. She provided some very helpful material for parish use and recommended us to refer to: *https://www.london.anglican.org/church-and-parish-support/confident-disciples.*

WORSHIP AND LEARNING

House of Bishops’ Policy Statements

St Hilda’s PCC ensure that we comply with the duty under Section 5 of the Safeguarding & Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, in relation to having due regard to House of Bishops’ guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

Child Protection Nick Gething (Safeguarding Officer)

The Church of England, in all aspects of its life, is committed to and will champion the protection of children and young people both in society as a whole and in its own community.

It fully accepts, endorses and will implement the principle enshrined in the Children Act 1989, that the welfare of the child is paramount. The Church of England will foster and encourage best practice within its community by setting standards for working with children and young people and by supporting parents in the care of their children.

It will work with statutory bodies, voluntary agencies and other faith communities to promote the safety and well-being of children and young people. It is committed to acting promptly whenever a concern is raised about a child or young person or about the behaviour of an adult, and will work with the appropriate statutory bodies when an investigation into child abuse is necessary.

The Church of England is committed to encouraging an environment where all people and especially those who may be vulnerable for any reason are able to worship and pursue their faith journey with encouragement and in safety. Everyone, whether they see themselves as vulnerable or not, will receive respectful pastoral ministry recognising any power imbalance within such a relationship.

In line with the Church of England’s policies we continue to require that all those responsible for the care of children under the auspices of St Hilda’s Church have clear DBS checks that that the leadership of Junior Church have completed the appropriate safeguarding training.

Safeguarding Adults - Nick Gething

All church workers involved in any pastoral ministry will be recruited with care including the use of the Criminal Records Bureau disclosure service when legal or appropriate. Workers and volunteers will receive training and continuing support.

Any allegations of mistreatment, abuse, harassment or bullying will be responded to without delay. Whether or not the matter involves the church there will be cooperation with the police and local authority in any investigation.

Sensitive and informed pastoral care will be offered to anyone who has suffered abuse, including

support to make a complaint if so desired. Help to find appropriate specialist care either from the church or secular agencies will be offered.

Congregations may include people who have offended in a way that means they are a continuing risk to vulnerable people. The risks will be managed sensitively with the protection of adults and children in mind.

Nick Gething retains the role of Safeguarding Officer while Elizabeth Bate continues as the Children's Champion. Since the induction of Fr Julius, there has been a review of our safeguarding action plan, and we continue to seek members to strengthen the safeguarding team to support minority groups within the congregation.

Fire, Health & Safety Report – Christine Makriel

A recovery plan is in place to assist the local community in the event of a disaster, and further work will be carried out on risk management issues as required. Christine Makriel continued as Fire, Health and Safety Officer.

We have had no accidents or issues over the last year. The fire extinguishers have had their annual service, with recommendations to have them all placed on stands. These were ordered and put in place.

Junior Church – Christine Taylor

We have continued our established children's programme throughout this year. Messy Church on the first Sunday of the month where parents are very welcome whilst on the remaining Sundays during term time, we leave church after the welcome and return at the beginning of the Eucharist. We mainly follow Roots on the Web as our main teaching resource as this follows the Lectionary and therefore the same readings as in church. We are still desperately short of leaders – we have three and require at least two at each session. We have been able to call on Pauline Milton, Alison Garner and two or three parents who have volunteered to support us on occasion. It is also lovely when our Junior Church graduates join us and help the younger children. At the end of 2024 we had over 40 children on roll and another 9 children who attended at least once.

Some of the activities we have completed this year included the making of seed bombs of wildflowers -which sadly seemed to go the way of all seed bombs. At Lent we made a large road to Easter poster which we coloured in each week. On Easter Sunday we had a fairer Easter Egg hunt where the children had to find plastic eggs then help the younger children to find the rest. Once all the plastic eggs were found you could then swop them for the edible variety. The Autumn term began with the traditional blessing of the school bags, each child received a tag with John Wesley's rule written on it to attach to their bag or pencil case. The older children held a sponsored silence raising over £100 for Murrapaula. Whilst they kept beautifully silent, they wrote a letter to one of the eighty children in their Junior Church, which we then emailed to avoid delays with the postal system.

We had our own Harvest Festival in the October Messy Church and the Junior Church gifts were added to those from the congregation. In November, the children made a fabulous poppy wreath using not only red poppies but white, black, and purple poppies to represent peace and all the people and animals that have died in war. In Advent we made our own Nativity scene from small bottles and jars which was on display in the children's area. We also held our Christingle service where Rosalyn was turned into a walking, talking Christingle raising funds for the Children's Society and the children bravely did the readings and prayers. We ended the year with a joyous Crib service with everyone entering into the story by wearing headdresses representing the biblical characters.

Bible Study Group (Rosemary Greenwood)

The group has continued to meet weekly on Wednesday evenings in church in the Lady Chapel. Leadership of the study is rotated but there is no pressure to take a turn if you do not wish to; similarly there is no pressure to read aloud or share an opinion if members do not wish to do so.
We begin and end with prayer. We work from Small Group Study books from various publishers. The subjects studied are chosen after group discussion and this year have included *The Kingdom* (mainly from Matthew's gospel), the prophet Hosea, and John's gospel. At the start of the year we completed the study *From Advent to Epiphany*, and during Lent we used the study book *Approaching Jesus* which looked at how different people responded to Jesus in his last days on earth.
We usually have 5 to 8 people at each meeting, although this has reduced during the year for various personal reasons. We were sorry to lose Sara when she moved to Dorset, but were glad to welcome Sue visiting from Dorset, The group keeps in touch with absent and previous members through an optional WhatsApp group.
We do not expect everyone to come every week. We enjoy many lively discussions (not always on topic), and appreciate the fellowship we share.
We welcome visitors and those who would like to see what goes on each week.

Feed My Sheep – Rosalyn Young

In 2024 Feed My Sheep has met 10 times.
The topics considered have been:- Bishops of London, St Hilda's Church Window part 1 and 2, Jerusalem in the Time of Jesus, The Wesleys, Non Canonical Gospels, Jargon Busting, Celtic Spirituality, St Andrew and Christmas Carols.
Any money left from our £1 donation for tea and cake has been used to buy items for the food bank.

Ambling Through Acts – Rev Stephen Brian

We have continued our unhurried but close reading of the book of Acts, following Luke's account of the beginnings of the church. The characters, the politics, the controversies of the time can all find their equivalents today, and we have some good discussions. Sometimes we go off at tangents, which is also fine. Each session finishes with the short, said service of compline, followed by coffee/tea and decent biscuits. We usually have between eight and a dozen or so people at a session, with about fifteen or sixteen overall. Newcomers are always welcome - no previous knowledge required. We meet at 7:30pm on the first Thursday in the month, in church.

Choir and Music Report - Chris Maddock, Paula Gething, Rosemary Greenwood, Jane Dobbie

St Hilda's church choir continues to provide musical accompaniment for the main services during the course of the year. We continue to practise in the church each Friday from 7pm and whilst we still manage four-part harmony, it would be nice to have a few more voices—particularly basses.

The music for services is based on the lectionary readings and carefully selected by the team listed above. Efforts are made to include both well loved, traditional items alongside some contemporary music. We prepare a Taizé chant most weeks. This year has seen more great progress in our unity of sound, plainsong and polyphony.

In addition to singing at the weekly family Eucharist and festival days, the choir also led a choral devotion from *The Cross of Christ* on Good Friday, supported on Easter Saturday, several funerals, and weddings, Lodge Brothers *Candles of Remembrance* service in December and our Christmas Carol Service. In October, we worked hard on our Welsh—collectively and individually—to lead a hearty rendition of *Calon Lân* at Will and Vicky Gething's wedding. In December, we had the pleasure of welcoming Fr Julius musically—at his Collation, Induction and Installation as our Vicar, and at choir practice. He is a keen musician and singer himself and we look forward to growing this area of our liturgy together. We continue to rely heavily on recorded accompaniments, but huge thanks to Jeremy Rouse and Peter Pritchard for supporting us with organ accompaniments live on occasion, and Melvyn Rouse who has continued to provide beautiful recorded accompaniments.

Altar Servers' Report – Alan Sloan

Altar servers fulfil a very important function within the church. Their role dates back to the early days of the church, when priests were accompanied by an acolyte on their travels.

St Hilda's Church currently has a team of seven altar servers, as listed below, who are always willing to help with any task to keep our services in Church running smoothly. Primarily they assist at the 10 o'clock, Sunday services but they also assist with the Wednesday morning 11 o'clock service and other special services e.g. confirmation, candles of remembrance, St Hilda's day, Easter Eve and Midnight Mass.

During the last twelve-month period, the number of available altar servers increased by one when we welcomed Sara Lee to the team in April. However, subsequently, Sara secured a new teaching post in Dorset so left at the end of October.

Prior to Covid-19 there was a team of 12 servers but for a variety of reasons there are now only seven. At the beginning of November 2023 Alan Sloan spoke to the congregation and asked for volunteers to come forward to supplement the current team. This request for volunteers was repeated in subsequent Service Sheets but only produced one volunteer, as above, who subsequently moved away from the area. Fr Julius may wish to review the situation in 2025.

Alan Sloan is currently the Head Server/serving team liaison representative and acts as the focal point between the servers and the vicar. This entails:

Updating altar servers about any changes in process/procedure
Completion of the end of year report
Production of both the server's and chalice duty rotas.

As indicated above we would always welcome new members to the team and would give the support and training to undertake this role. If interested please contact either me, another Server or a Churchwarden in the first instance.

List of servers:
Frances Forsbrey*, Sally Goulden*, Chris Holliday, Christine Makriel*, Peter Makriel*, Alan Sloan*, Barbara Warne

An asterisk signifies where a server has additionally been appointed by the Bishop of Kensington to assist with Holy Communion.*

St Hilda's Mothers' Union – Christine Davenport

Our AGM in March, followed by afternoon tea and our Lady Day Service, was attended by 30 members and two guests.

Six Long Service Awards were presented.

We continue to hold our monthly Mothers' Union Corporate Communion Services.

We have all enjoyed our lunchtime meetings:

January	We had a very interesting discussion about Shops in Ashford. We reminisced through the last 60 years or so, including some very funny stories.
February	Shrove Tuesday. An interesting talk, 'Traditions of Lent,' led by Rosalyn Young, our Lay Reader, was followed by pancakes, which were enjoyed by all.
March	Reflections for Lent, led by Rosalyn Young, our Lay Reader, was based on the Stations of the Cross of Julian of Norwich, and how the women were affected by Jesus' death.
April	Two of our members led the meeting with readings from David Kosoff's book 'Book of Witnesses', which was very thought provoking.
May	One of our members talked about Middlesex, including how the boundaries changed. Middlesex Day is celebrated on 16th May, and the Middlesex flag was displayed.
June	One of our members, who has been involved in the world of entertainment from a very early age talked on the theme 'There's No Business Like Show Business'. She brought back many happy memories.
July	Fundraising for the Summer of Hope, MU Project, when £200 was raised. We also enjoyed scones, jam, cream and fresh fruit.
September	We held our Wave of Prayer Service, led by Rosalyn Young, our Lay Reader. One of our members, Beryl Rickson, was presented with her Long Service Certificate.
October	A visit by Sharon Fergus, Kensington Area Vice President, who gave us information about the MU Rise Up against domestic abuse campaign
November	One of our members gave us an interesting talk about Local Heroes in the St Hilda's, Ashford, Parish.
December	Carols and Christmas Music with mince pies.

Our programme gave us another very successful year of meetings of St Hilda's Mothers' Union, which our members continue to attend and enjoy.

St. Hilda's Flower Team - Pauline Milton, Alison Garner and the wonderful members of the Flower Team

The Flower Team continued to create floral displays throughout the remaining Interregnum and concluded the year with the Church filled with displays for Fr. Julius's Licencing, which we are pleased to say bought praise all the way from Nigeria!

Pauline, Alison and the Flower Team have done their best to create wonderful displays throughout the year, especially with the lilies at Easter and the pedestals and column decorations at Christmas.

They continue to do their best to give value for money with the displays, thoughtful of the continuing rise in the cost of fresh flowers, using Fleurametz and Longachres for their quality and long lasting blooms.

They will continue to use the silk display on occasion to help spread the costs each month and will have a Spring/Summer colourway created soon to contrast with the Autumnal shades.

They do enjoy creating displays for weddings and were very pleased to be asked to create displays for Will and Vicky Gething's Wedding.

The new Church Year will see a new rota for the Flower Team and a Memorial sign up chart for members of St. Hilda's and the Parish to request memorials for their loved one's anniversaries.
We are always looking for new members to join the team and if that is you, please contact Alison, or Pauline for further details, training will be beginning soon.

Community

Outreach

St Hilda's House – Paula Gething and Elizabeth Bate

A new tenant moved in on 9th January 2024. We had high hopes that a second tenant would following March but this didn't happen.

Monthly inspections and minor repairs were carried out during the year and we are grateful for the donation of a television and lawnmower during the year. When winter arrived, a grant was provided to the tenant to keep the pre payment meters topped up. Further evidence that the house is too much for one person to manage.

The garden had become very overgrown so a group from St Hilda's attended on a number of weekends to clear it so the tenant could maintain it herself.

Initially she was working and until the autumn all was well. Unfortunately circumstances changed and no rent was received from October onwards. This means unfortunately we have had to make the difficult decision to ask her to leave and to support her in finding alternative accommodation.

At the year end and when Fr Julius joined us, Hope into Action, Bronzefield and St Hilda's are seriously considering whether the partnership and the project has run their course and should be dissolve when the franchise comes up for renewal in the new year.

Activities/Social Report – Bobbie Bedford

I'll begin with the Wednesday 11am service and the community lunch that follows. When we tentatively began the lunches 4 or so years ago, we maybe had around 15 people attend the service and around 12 staying for lunch.
Now I'm pleased to say for both the service and those staying for soup have grown in numbers. We consistently have upwards of 20 at the service and most weeks we prepare 18 to 24 hot soup and rolls. In addition Surplus to Supper deliver surplus foods from local supermarkets, this is well received by all who attend the lunches, either for themselves or in many cases to share with neighbours. The Wednesday lunches are a great way to catch up with old friends and to make new friends. A brilliant outreach for the Church.

There have been the usual Brass Band concerts in church, always very much enjoyed and well attended. We are also fortunate to have our own 'Nicks Bar' as we now have a liquor license - a service very much appreciated.

Another very popular event held in church are our Jumble sales. We are one of the few venues for these sales and we always have a huge number of people queuing waiting for us to open. These sales are all well organised and run by Chris Davenport and are a great money raiser for St Hilda's.

Another popular event is our parish breakfasts, again the numbers are growing and there are always really interesting speakers. Our thanks go to all those who cook the food - good food and good company. During the year our Speakers have included – Sue Pinfold on in-flight entertainment, Chris Maddock on Life in the Chapel Royal, Peter Manns a maths teacher and watercolour artist, Paula Gething on the Water Disinfection World and Long Haul Business Travel and also Nick Gething on Safeguarding. We also had an update on the project at St Hilda's House from Elizabeth Bate and watched the video the Diocese had produced.

There are two occasions at church where we have Bring and Share foods, they are the Harvest Supper and St Hilda's day. Always very enjoyable as we have some great cooks at our church. We always stress that to attend you do not have to sign up to provide any food, there is always more than enough for everyone.

During the summer we have our Summer Fayre, and at the end of the year the Frost Fayre. Again two of our biggest fundraisers. We invite people outside of the church to hire a table to sell their own goods, this makes for a good variety of stalls and also brings into our church lots of new people.

During 2024 we have enjoyed Red Hot Strings, two ladies playing fantastic music on electric violins. St Hilda's has great acoustics which lends beautifully to this kind of music.

In November we held a Curry by candlelight evening, the food and entertainment was provided by one of our parishioners Sam and his family, needless to say we enjoyed a great evening and our thanks go to Sam and his family for their generosity.

In January 2024 we held our Burns Night - good food, good entertainment and overall a good laugh. We can't wait until next year.

St Hilda's Entertainers' – Mike Davenport

President: Fr Julius Anozie
Chairman: Sue Pinfold
Secretary: Mike Davenport

St Hilda's Entertainers were delighted when, having become the Vicar of St Hilda's Church, Fr Julius accepted our invitation to become the Entertainers' President.

In 2024, our Play was performed a month later than usual, in June. This allowed the hall roof, which had been very badly leaking for many years, to be replaced during the Easter holidays.

The Play, 'The Midnight Raiders', written by Bettine Manktelow and directed by Steve Smith, was something very different for us. It was a gritty, historical drama, set in a coastal inn in 1817. It told a chilling story of ships being wrecked on the Goodwin Sands, and how smugglers and wreckers caused many of the ships to run aground, to be plundered. The director, actors and backstage crew were all congratulated by our NODA (National Operatic and Dramatic

Association) representative. The scenery, sound and lighting effects, props and, of course the costumes, were all very appropriate for the era.

Our pantomime continued our theme of innovation. 'Scrooge, the Panto', written by Dave Crump, was directed with much inspiration by Laura Allen. A cast of 23 meant the stage was always busy. The audiences were with us from start to finish, laughing, cheering, booing, clapping and singing, as appropriate. Again, the cast were fully supported by the backstage crew. Scenery, and scenery changes, were just perfect, as were the lighting, sound effects, props and costumes. As always, our audiences were thoroughly entertained, from start to finish.
Of all the many highlights, one of the most memorable was 'The Twelve Days of Christmas', which delivered a very lively and hilarious opening to Act 2.

We have become members of Spelthorne Arts Forum, which could prove to be a source of useful advice. Immediately, members of a local youth group offered to make some of the props for our pantomime, and their offer was gratefully accepted.

This year we laid a wreath at Ashford War Memorial during the Remembrance Ceremony, and will continue to do so in future years.

From our funds, donations of £650 each were made to Shooting Star Trust, The White Lodge Centre and the Alzheimer's Society.

Long Service Awards were presented, with warm congratulations, to Jim Henley (5 years), Jack Jeakins (10 years), Amy Broomfield (25 years), Luke Pulfer (30 years), Neale Winter (40 years) and Sue Pinfold (50 years).

We have already auditioned and cast our next Play, Noël Coward's 'Blithe Spirit', directed by Sue Pinfold. It has seven characters, so we will be welcoming back to the stage Kim Cooper, Neale Winter, Anwen Fuller, Sophie Gane, Steve Smith, Laura Allen and Rachel Barnes.

We look forward to another year of achieving our main aim, entertaining members of St Hilda's Church, their families and friends, and other members of the local community.

3rd Ashford Rainbows, Brownies and Guides – Chris Davenport (Guide Guider)

The girls of 3rd Ashford Rainbows, Brownies and Guides, their Guiders and Young Leaders meet each week at St Hilda's Church Hall.

All the Units have been working on their Theme Awards of Know Myself, Express Myself, Be Well, Have Adventures, Take Action and Skills For My Future. All these challenges are gauged for the abilities of the various age groups from 5 years to 14 years. With the girls keen to earn such a variety of badges, some of them have been able to complete Girlguiding Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards.

During the year, the Guides take part in service in the community. In 2024 it included Helping with the Civic Awards Ceremony at the Mayor's Parlour in April, and running the Tombola stall at St Hilda's Frost Fair, raising £100 for Church funds. They also helped with Front of House duties for the two weekends of St Hilda's Entertainers' pantomime, Scrooge, The Panto.

The Brownies enjoyed a Mini-Golf evening at Lammas Park, Staines, Wall Climbing at Walton and Bowling at Feltham. These events were subsidised for the girls from a fundraising evening in June.

As the months go by, we are pleased to see how the girls grow in confidence and rise to the various challenges as they progress from Rainbows, to Brownies and Guides. It is not only rewarding for the girls, but also for their Guiders, who give their time voluntarily. They encourage and guide the girls and boost their self-confidence in their efforts by organising and running exciting activities for the girls.

Taking the next step up from Guides, four of our girls have become Young Leaders with Units in Ashford District.

We are thankful that St Hilda's Church Hall continues to provide us with a much-appreciated safe environment in which our 85 girls can come together for the fun and friendship of weekly meetings.

Chris Davenport
Guide Guider

APPENDIX A
Parochial Council of St Hilda's Church, Ashford, Middlesex
For year ending 31/12/2024

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	RESTRICTED FUNDS	TOTAL 2024	TOTAL 2023
	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Voluntary income	**66203**	**48,000**	114,023	53,217
Activities for generating funds	59,570		59,570	60,355
Income from investments	11,259		11,259	11,290
Church activties	1,261		1,261	4,118
Other incoming resources	**19,653**		**19,653**	
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	**157768**	**48,000**	**205,768**	**128,980**
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Cost of generating voluntary income	-		-	-
Fundraising costs	2,627		2,627	3,020
Church activities	**166,245**	**48,000**	214,245	142,280
Investment management costs	6,870		6,870	4,308
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	**175,743**	**48,000**	**223,743**	**149,608**
NET INCOMING RESOURCES	**-17947**		**-17,947**	**-20,628**
Gains & Losses on investments				0
Transfers between funds				0
				0
Accounting adjustments				
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	**-17,947**		-17,947	-20,628
BALANCE B/F AT 1 JANUARY 2024	**1,214,885**	**22,003**	1,236,888	1,257,516
BALANCE C/F AT 31 DECEMBER 2024	**1,196,938**	**22,003**	**1,218,941**	**1,236,888**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared under the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 in accordance with the applicable accounting standards and the current Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2005).
The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for investment assets, which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all the transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings.

FUNDS

Restricted funds comprise (a) revenue donations or grants for a specific PCC activity intended by the donor and (b) monies set aside for a specific purpose as agreed by the PCC. Where the funds have unspent balances, interest on their pooled investment is
Unrestricted funds are income funds which are to be spent on the PCC's general purpose.

INCOMING RESOURCES

Voluntary Income

Planned giving, collections and similar donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds, unless otherwise stated are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is entitled to the use of the resources, their ultimate receipt is considered reasonably certain and the amounts are reliabily quantifiable. Dividends are accounted for when declared receivable, interest as and when accrued by the payer. All incoming resources are accounted gross.

Other income

Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised when rental is due.

Gains and losses on investments

Realised gains and losses are recognised when the investments are sold.

RESOURCES USED

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over or when awarded, if that award creates a binding constructive obligations on the PCC. The diocesan parish share expected to be paid over is accounted when due.

FIXED ASSETS

Consecrated property and moveable church furnishings

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011.
Movable church furnishings held by the vicar and the Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. Subsequently no individual item has cost more than £1,000 so all such expenditure has been written off when incurred.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment

Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1,000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31st December.

2. INCOMING RESOURCES

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	RESTRICTED FUNDS	TOTAL 2024	TOTAL 2023
2(a) Voluntary income				
Planned giving - gift aid donations	29,932		29,932	32,650
Tax recovered on planned giving	4,338		4,338	3,451
Planned giving - other	-		-	-
Loose plate	6,853		6,853	6,847
Sundry donations	1,155		1,155	-
Other tax recovered	-		-	-
Donations, appeals, etc	12,631		12,631	8,541
Grant income		48,000	48,000	1,100
Legacies	10,000		10,000	-
Memorial book	105		105	68
Flowers	**1,007**		**1,007**	**560**
Specials	**-**		**-**	**-**
	66,023	**48,000**	**114,023**	**53,217**
2(b) Activities for generating funds				
Fetes, bazaars & other fund raising events	11,521		11,521	10,515
Church hall lettings / fund raising	45,849		45,849	49,840
church lettings/ fund raising	2,200		2,200	-
PV Income				
Misc				-
	59,570		**59,570**	**60,355**
2 **(c) Income from investments**				
Interest	2,066		2,066	1,969
Rent	9,192		9,192	9,321
2 (d) **Income from Church activities**				
Weddings	54		54	1,070
Funerals	1,207		1,207	3,048
Baptism / confirmation	-		-	-
Other	-		-	-
	1,261		**1,261**	**4,118**
2 **(e) Other ordinary incoming resources**				
Insurance claims	**-**		**-**	**-**
Gift Aid Recovered	8,947		8,947	
VAT Refund	10,705		10,705	
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	**157,768**	**48,000**	**205,768**	**128,980**

3. RESOURCES EXPENDED

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS £	RESTRICTED FUNDS £	TOTAL 2024 £	TOTAL 2023 £
3 (a) Church activities				
Missionary giving			-	-
Flowers	1,039		1,039	521
Insurance Church & Hall	11025		11,025	10,519
Junior Church	237		237	128
Maintenance church & church hall	45,542	48,000	93,542	9,146
Purchases church & church hall	1484		1484	4,245
Memorial book				175
Ministry Clergy expenses				3,006
Ministry Common Fund	43,010		43,010	54,000
Ministry other clergy expenses				451
Ministry wedding fees				7,000
Organist & choir costs	1,014		1,014	-
Running cost church	6,615		6,615	3,278
Running cost hall	610		610	2,688
Sundry	109		109	700
Utilities - electric	5,058		5,058	3,574
Utilities - gas	16,563		16,563	20,154
Utilities - other	3,143		3,143	550
Administration	12,585		12,585	9,306
People / cleaning costs	18,204		18,204	12,840
	166,245	**48,000**	**214,245**	**1,42,3280**
Cost of appeals		-	-	-
3 (c) Fund raising event costs				
Fetes / bazaars etc	2,627		2,627	3,020
	2,627		**2,627**	**3,020**
3 (d) Investment Management costs				
Insurance St Hilda's House	-		-	-
Maintenance costs St Hilda's House	1,317		1,317	556
Running costs St Hilda's House	5,012		5,012	2885
Admin cost St Hilda's House	540		540	580
Running costs grounds				287
	6,870		**6,870**	**4,308**
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	**175,743**	**48,000**	**223,743**	**149,608**

BALANCE SHEET

	Note	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	RESTRICTED FUNDS	TOTAL 2024	TOTAL 2023
FIXED ASSETS					
Functional property		850,000		850,000	850,000
Investment Property		325,000		325,000	325,000
	5	**1,175,000**	**0**	**1,175,000**	**1,175,000**
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors & prepayments		615		614	662
Cash in hand and bank		22,691	22,003	44,694	61,826
	6	**23,306**	**22,003**	**45,308**	**62,488**
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Creditors		190		190	600
Accrual		830		830	
Tax & National Insurance		374		374	
	7	**1,394**		**1,394**	**600**
Net assets less current liabilities	8	**1,196,911**	**22,003**	**1,218,914**	**1,236,888**
Creditors - amounts falling due after 1 year		-	-	-	-
TOTAL NET ASSETS		**1,196,911**	**22,003**	**1,218,914**	**1,236,888**
Funds					
Unrestricted		1,196,911		1,96,911	1,214,885
Restricted			22,003	22,003	22,003
	9	**1,196,911**	**22,003**	**1,218,914**	**1,236,888**

PCC declaration

The PCC acknowledged and accept their collective responsibility for ensuring adequate financial controls are maintained and proper books and records kept. This financial statements were approved by the PCC on 21st January 2025

Paula Gething
Church Warden
On behalf of St Hilda's PCC

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

4. People costs

During the year the PCC used the services of part time cleaners for the Church Hall and an administration assistant for the parish office but no payments were large enough to attract social security payments.

No other payments or expenses were paid to any other PCC member, persons closely related to them or related parties, other than for professional services rendered.

5. Fixed Assets

£	Church Hall	St Hilda's House	Total
Opening Balance	850,000	325,000	1,175,000
Additions			-
Gains & losses in the year			-
Closing Balance	**850,000**	**325,000**	**1,175,000**

St Hilda's Church Hall in Stanwell Road, Ashford was brought onto the balance sheet in 2007 in order to comply with the statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) for charities as revised 2005 and the Church Accounting Regulations 2006. The initial valuation was based on its current value to the PCC. The PCC believes that the residual value of the property exceeds its current use value and therefore has decided to adopt a policy of doing annual impairment review rather than depreciating its value over its useful life. The property known as St Hilda's House, being 34 Woodthorpe Road, Ashford, is held for investment purposes and is shown in the accounts at market value. The last valuation was 31st December 2011 and was carried out by The Frost Partnership, Ashford, Middlesex.

6. Debtors and prepayments

	2024	2023
Receivables Church	614	662
Receivables Hall		
Total	**615**	**662**

7. Creditors

	2024	2023
Creditors & accruals – Church	191	600
Creditors & accruals – Hall		
Total	**191**	**600**

8. Long term Creditors

There are no long term creditors

9. Restricted Funds Held

The breakdown and movement of restricted funds are:

	Alford	St Hilda's House	Total
Balance at 1 January 2024	10,052	11,501	22,003
Incoming resources		-	
Resources expended		-	
Moved from general fund		-	
Interest allocated		-	
Balance at 31 December 2024	**10,052**	**11,501**	**22,003**

9a Non Restricted held by CBF

General reserves held in the CBF account are £25,271

Accounts 2024 - Comments

1. Quickbooks software was used during 2024, there were a number of rules created by the previous treasurer which no longer work and a number of adjustments had to be made to ensure that money has been correctly allocated. The balances from Nat-west and Quickbooks align.

2. The Charity Commission reports as detailed in the Schedule of Financial Activities (SOFA) have been recreated linking all relevant inputs.

3. The resulting outcome is that St Hilda's Church made a large deficit of £17,936 in the year ending 31 December 2024 and this is reflected in the SOFA.

4. a) Income in 2024 is reported as £29,932, a decrease of £2,718 against 2023, but the amount of Gift Aid donated has increased which reflects the increase in taxpayers using Parish Giving. This remains the most efficient and generous way of giving as each year an inflationary increase is suggested to donors with an opt out option. A Grant of £48,000 from Spelthorne Borough Council towards the church hall roof was received and supplemented by generous donations from St Hilda's Entertainers and Spelthorne Islamic group who use the hall. Income from events has increased for a second consecutive year by £1000.
   b) Gift Aid from 2023 of £8,657 and VAT of 10,705 were also recovered in the year.
   c) St Hilda's House generated rent for just 10 months and the three way partnership with Hope Into Action and Bronzefield will be reviewed in 2025 as the financial impact on St Hilda's is significant, with the last two years generating less than half of the expected amount.
   d) Church Hall lettings were down in the year primarily due to the hall being closed in April while the roof was replaced, but this is offset by Church Lettings of £2,200

5. Resources expended is reported as £223,705, an increase of £74,097. £72,000 was the replacement church hall roof, installation of solar panels and repair to the lady chapel roof carried out by Maguire Brothers. The heating costs for the winter months are £4,500 less than 2023, partially due to the additional insulation provided by the new roof.
   a) Common fund giving was reduced from £54,000 to £43,010. Increased fuel costs hit hard at the end of 2023 and no payments were made for 2 months.
   b) Additional significant expenses in the year were replacing a section of the perimeter wall, drainage work following the roof works and replacing the children's play area to the side of the church hall.

APPENDIX A
Parochial Council of St Hilda's Church, Ashford, Middlesex
For year ending 31/12/2024

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	RESTRICTED FUNDS	TOTAL 2024	TOTAL 2023
	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Voluntary income	**66203**	**48,000**	114,023	53,217
Activities for generating funds	59,570		59,570	60,355
Income from investments	11,259		11,259	11,290
Church activties	1,261		1,261	4,118
Other incoming resources	**19,653**		**19,653**	
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	**157768**	**48,000**	**205,768**	**128,980**
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Cost of generating voluntary income	-		-	-
Fundraising costs	2,627		2,627	3,020
Church activities	**166,245**	**48,000**	214,245	142,280
Investment management costs	6,870		6,870	4,308
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	**175,743**	**48,000**	**223,743**	**149,608**
NET INCOMING RESOURCES	**-17947**		**-17,947**	**-20,628**
Gains & Losses on investments				0
Transfers between funds				0
				0
Accounting adjustments				
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	**-17,947**		-17,947	-20,628
BALANCE B/F AT 1 JANUARY 2024	**1,214,885**	**22,003**	1,236,888	1,257,516
BALANCE C/F AT 31 DECEMBER 2024	**1,196,938**	**22,003**	**1,218,941**	**1,236,888**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared under the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 in accordance with the applicable accounting standards and the current Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2005).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for investment assets, which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all the transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings.

FUNDS

Restricted funds comprise (a) revenue donations or grants for a specific PCC activity intended by the donor and (b) monies set aside for a specific purpose as agreed by the PCC. Where the funds have unspent balances, interest on their pooled investment is

Unrestricted funds are income funds which are to be spent on the PCC's general purpose.

INCOMING RESOURCES

Voluntary Income

Planned giving, collections and similar donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds, unless otherwise stated are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is entitled to the use of the resources, their ultimate receipt is considered reasonably certain and the amounts are reliabily quantifiable. Dividends are accounted for when declared receivable, interest as and when accrued by the payer. All incoming resources are accounted gross.

Other income

Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised when rental is due.

Gains and losses on investments

Realised gains and losses are recognised when the investments are sold.

RESOURCES USED

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over or when awarded, if that award creates a binding constructive obligations on the PCC. The diocesan parish share expected to be paid over is accounted when due.

FIXED ASSETS

Consecrated property and moveable church furnishings

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishings held by the vicar and the Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. Subsequently no individual item has cost more than £1,000 so all such expenditure has been written off when incurred.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment

Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1,000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31st December.

2. INCOMING RESOURCES

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	RESTRICTED FUNDS	TOTAL 2024	TOTAL 2023
2(a) Voluntary income				
Planned giving - gift aid donations	29,932		29,932	32,650
Tax recovered on planned giving	4,338		4,338	3,451
Planned giving - other	-		-	-
Loose plate	6,853		6,853	6,847
Sundry donations	1,155		1,155	-
Other tax recovered	-		-	-
Donations, appeals, etc	12,631		12,631	8,541
Grant income		48,000	48,000	1,100
Legacies	10,000		10,000	-
Memorial book	105		105	68
Flowers	**1,007**		**1,007**	**560**
Specials	-		-	-
	66,023	**48,000**	**114,023**	**53,217**
2(b) Activities for generating funds				
Fetes, bazaars & other fund raising events	11,521		11,521	10,515
Church hall lettings / fund raising	45,849		45,849	49,840
church lettings/ fund raising	2,200		2,200	-
PV Income				
Misc				-
	59,570		**59,570**	**60,355**
2 (c) Income from investments				
Interest	2,066		2,066	1,969
Rent	9,192		9,192	9,321
2 (d) Income from Church activities				
Weddings	54		54	1,070
Funerals	1,207		1,207	3,048
Baptism / confirmation	-		-	-
Other	-		-	-
	1,261		**1,261**	**4,118**
2 (e) Other ordinary incoming resources				
Insurance claims	-		-	-
Gift Aid Recovered	8,947		8,947	
VAT Refund	10,705		10,705	
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	**157,768**	**48,000**	**205,768**	**128,980**

3. RESOURCES EXPENDED

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On behalf of St Hilda's PCC

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   b) Additional significant expenses in the year were replacing a section of the perimeter wall, drainage work following the roof works and replacing the children's play area to the side of the church hall.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Members of the Parochial Church Council ('PCC') of St Hilda's Church, Ashford, Middlesex

I report to the members of the PCC on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024 as set out on the attached pages.

This report is made solely to the members of the PCC in accordance with Sections 145 of the Charities Act 2011. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the PCC members those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the members of the PCC for my examination work.

Respective responsibilities of PPC Members and Examiner

The PPC members are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year (under Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Charities Act')) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under Section 145 of the Charities Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under Section 145 (5) (b) of the Charities Act); and
- to 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 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 members of the PCC concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no view is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

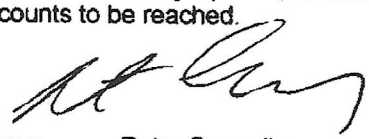
Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
   - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the Charities Act ;and
   - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act

   have not been met; or

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



Name: Peter Connolly

Address: 33 Carlyle Road, Staines, TW18 2PU

Date 19 April 2025

THE PAROCHIAL COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ASHFORD ST. HILDA DIOCESE OF L

England & Wales - Charity number 1134119

Accounts

JOINT VESTRY AND PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING OF ST HILDA'S CHURCH, ASHFORD, MIDDLESEX TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY 28th April, 2024

AGENDAS

ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING OF PARISHONERS

The Chairman reads the Convening Notice

1. Prayers and welcome
2. Minutes of the Vestry Meeting held Sunday 30th April, 2023
3. Election of Church Wardens: Adjudicators to be nominated by the Chairman (if needed for voting purposes)

ANNUAL PAROCIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held Sunday 30th April, 2023
3. Matters arising
4. Report from the Electoral Roll Officer
5. Election of Representatives:
   To the Parochial Church Council - 3 **people for 3 years**
   To the Deanery Synod – 3 places already elected for 3 years until 2026 in-line with Synod election rules.
   Adjudicators to be appointed by the Church Wardens if needed for voting purposes
   Appointment of the Independent Financial Examiner
6. PCC's Annual Report for 2023
7. Deanery Synod Report
8. Reports of Church Groups
9. Treasurer's Report and presentation of Church Accounts
10. Church Warden's Reports
11. Any Other Business **(Must be notified in writing to the PCC Secretary 72 hours prior to the meeting)**.
12. Date of next year's Annual Parochial Church Meeting

CLOSING PRAYERS

MINUTES OF A MEETING FOR THE ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS HELD ON SUNDAY 30TH APRIL, 2023 AT ST HILDA'S CHURCH, ASHFORD

PRESENT:	Chairman	Fr Joseph Fernandes
	Licensed Lay Minister	Rosalyn Young
	Church Warden	Bobbie Bedford
	Treasurer	Chris Brown
	Secretary	Liz Brian

And 42 other people

Apologies were received from Gordon and Carolyn Clark, Melvyn Rouse, Pauline Milton and Rebecca Fernandes.

1. **Convening Notice**

Fr Joseph Fernandes began the meeting with a prayer and welcomed everyone to the meeting and stated that these Annual Meetings were about celebrating the life of the Parish and to point us towards God.

2. **Minutes of the Meeting for the Election of Churchwardens held on 25th April, 2022**
   That the minutes be accepted was proposed by Rosalyn Young, seconded by Nick Gething and agreed.

3. **Election of Churchwardens**
   There were two nominees:

Name	Proposer	Seconder
Christopher Brown	Liz Brian	Paula Gething
Paula Gething	Chris Maddock	Liz Brian

There being no other nominations, Christopher Brown and Paula Gething were duly elected as Churchwardens for the coming year and were thanked for putting their names forward.
A thank you was extended to Bobbie Bedford who as a Church Warden had seen in Fr Joseph as the new Vicar and almost saw him out as Church Warden. Fr Joseph expressed how grateful he was for all her hard work. Equal thanks went to Frances Forsbrey for her help and support to Bobbie and they made a great team together.
That concluded the Meeting for the Election of Churchwardens.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING OF ST HILDA, ASHFORD
HELD ON SUNDAY 30TH APRIL, 2023

PRESENT: As for the Meeting for the Election of Churchwardens

1. **Apologies for absence –** as for Meeting for the Election of Churchwardens

2. **Minutes:**
   That the Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Sunday 25th April, 2022 be accepted was proposed by Stuart Young and seconded by Alison Garner and agreed.

3. **Matters Arising:** None

4. **Report of the Electoral Roll Officer – Jane Dobbie**
   At the last APCM there were 175 names on the Roll. This year we have sadly lost 12 much loved members of our congregation who were on the Electoral Roll and 5 have moved away. We have also had 6 new additions and the Electoral Roll now stands at 164, of whom 66 members are not resident in the Parish.

5. **Election of Representatives** to serve on the St Hilda's Church Parochial Church Council. There are 7 vacancies in all and 6 nominees:-

Name	Proposer	Seconder
Jane Dobbie	Nick Gething	Joyce Rouse
Alison Garner	Paula Gething	Liz Brian
Nicholas Gething	Elizabeth Bate	Christine Makriel
Joyce Rouse	Valerie Scott	Gordon Clark
Valerie Scott	Rosemary Greenwood	Chris Maddock
John Swaffield	Patsy Holmes	Bernice Ross

All were elected as Lay Representatives for the period 2023 – 2026 and were thanked for stepping forward.

Election to the Deanery Synod

Name	Proposer	Seconder
Elizabeth Bate	Paula Gething	Rosemary Greenwood
Christine Makriel	Chris Maddock	Jane Dobbie
Chris Maddock	Rosemary Greenwood	Paula Gething

All agreed

Appointment of the Independent Financial Examiner: Chris Brown recommended that Mr Peter Connolly be appointed. This was agreed.

6. **Vicar's Reflection –** copies of this can be found in the booklet – Reports for 2023 meeting.
   At the meeting Fr Joseph said it was challenging to acknowledge everyone by name and apologies to anyone missed as all members were valuable.

Thanks to Mariane and also to Rosemary Greenwood. Thinking about the upcoming vacancy he leaves with a sense that the Parish is in a good place and we should be pleased about what God has achieved here. Fr Joseph stated that he feels that God's plan is for us to prosper with exciting things coming our way. We have much to celebrate now and in the future and should give thanks for all that we have achieved.

7. **Church Warden Report –** copies of the full report can be found in the booklet – Reports for 2023 meeting

   Church Property Report – copies of the full report can be found in the booklet

8. **Financial Report –** see the report in the booklet – Report for 2023 meeting.

9. **Stewardship Report –** see report in the booklet

10. **PCC Report** – See report in the booklet

11. **Deanery Synod Report** – see report in the booklet

12. **Reports of Church Groups** – the following reports are contained in the booklet
    Child Protection
    Safeguarding Adults
    Junior Church – Christine Taylor
    Weekly Bible Study – Carolyn Clark
    Feed My Sheep – Rosalyn Young
    Ambling Through Acts – Father Steve Brian
    Choir and Music Report – Chris Maddock, Paula Gething, Rosemary Greenwood and Carolyn Clark
    Altar Server's Report – Alan Sloan
    St Hilda's Mothers' Union – Chris Davenport
    St Hilda's Flower Team – Alison Garner and Pauline Milton
    Outreach – Father Joseph Fernandes
    St Hilda's House – Simeon Sturney
    Activities/Social Report – Bobbie Bedford
    St Hilda's Entertainers' Annual Report – Mike Davenport
    3rd Ashford Rainbows, Brownies and Guides – Christine Davenport.

13. **Any Other Business –** there was no other business.
    Thanks were expressed to Father Joseph for his leadership, support and the contribution he has made during his time at St Hilda's.
14. **Date of the Next Annual Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting**
    To be held on Sunday 28th April, 2024.

REPORTS FOR 2024 MEETING

ST HILDA'S CHURCH

ASHFORD, MIDDLESEX

ANNUAL REPORT and FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31st December, 2023

Incumbent

Vacancy

Bank

Nat West Bank
Ashford Middlesex Branch
5 Woodthorpe Road Ashford
Middlesex TW152RN

Independent Examiner

Mr Peter Connolly
33, Carlyle Road
Staines
Middlesex TW18

The Parochial Church Council of St Hilda Ashford
Charity Number 1134119

Saint Hilda's Church, Ashford, Middlesex

Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council

for the year ended 31 December 2023

Saint Hilda's Church, Ashford, which is part of the Diocese of London within the Church of England, works with the minister in promoting the mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church, Church Hall, Vicarage and 34, Woodthorpe Road, Ashford, Middlesex TW15 2RU.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity, the Charity Number being 1134119

Incumbent	Vacancy
Licenced Lay Ministers	**Rosalyn Young**

Report of the Electoral Roll Officer

The Electoral Roll for St Hilda's Church, Ashford, Middlesex for 2023 to 2024 stands at 163 members, of whom 69 are non-resident in the Parish.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL 2023

Appointments are for 3 years in the first instance with the option of serving for a second term of 3 years. After a total of 6 years members must come off the PCC but can be re-elected to serve again for 3 years after a break of one year.

Appointed for			**Due for re-election**
APCM 2021 – 2024	Paula Gething	2nd Term	APCM 2025
(2023 – 2024 – Ex-officio member as Church Warden)			
APCM 2022 – 2025	Christine Davenport	1st Term	APCM 2025
	Christopher Brown	1st Term	APCM 2025
	Liz Brian	1st Term	APCM 2025
	Rosemary Greenwood	1st Term	APCM 2025
Year 2022	Nick Gething	Co-opted	

Elected by PCC members – due for re-election in 2023.

October 2022	John Swaffield		
January 2023	Frances Forsbrey		
APCM 2023 – 2026	Jane Dobbie	1st Term	APCM 2026

Alison Garner	1st Term	APCM 2026
Nicholas Gething	1st Term	APCM 2026
Joyce Rouse	1st Term	APCM 2026
Valerie Scott	1st Term	APCM 2026
John Swaffield	1st Term	APCM 2026

Three **Deanery Synod representatives** are elected for three year terms.

Appointed for		**Due for re-election**
APCM 2023	Elizabeth Bate	2026
APCM 2023	Christopher Maddock	2026
APCM 2023	Christine Makriel	2026

Two **Churchwardens**: Churchwardens are elected annually up to a total of 4 years.

Elected at the Vestry Meeting

Assistant to the Churchwardens

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance within the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. During the year, the Council met 8 times. The PCC operates through a number of committees.

Standing Committee

This is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact business of the PCC between PCC meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council. The Standing Committee oversees the finances of the PCC. The committee includes the Churchwardens, Treasurer, Secretary and Vice Chairperson.

Church Attendance – for 2023

Average Sunday attendance (Sundays 10 am) for 2023 was Adults 84 and children 15

Average midweek service (11 am Wednesday) was adults 26

Those watching Sunday morning services via video link - 45

Christmas Special Services Schools and Lodge Brothers 945

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day 117
(84 communicants over both days)

Baptisms	21
Weddings	3
Funerals 6 – Funeral services in church, 1 – Funeral service at crematorium/cemetery	7 in total

Church Warden Report – Paula Gething

I confirm that in accordance with the law governing the Office of Churchwardens during the last year I have:

- Carried out duties assigned by the Bishop or Archdeacon.
- Maintained in good order and safe keeping the plate, ornaments and other articles committed to our charge.
- Kept the church records in the in the same good order and safe keeping
- All offerings and collections have been recorded and paid into the relevant bank.
- The bread and wine have been provided for the Holy Communion as we are bound and directed.
- The seating and good order of the congregation have been maintained.

Firstly a huge thank you to Frances Forsbrey and Bobbie Bedford for a supported handover of all the tasks they had faithfully undertaken for many years. Also, to both of them for continuing to undertake some of these tasks into the next year. I am also truly grateful to Elizabeth Bate and to all those who stepped up to support when our Warden and Treasurer left in August.

We continue to live-stream our Sunday service for those who are unable to attend church in person, hopefully making them feel still very much part of our church family. We also beat the bounds on Rogation Sunday, this wonderful tradition re-instated by Fr Joseph is always fun, especially in years like this when we were dodging the rain. It is about 9 kilometers and we use the opportunity to share music and prayer with members of the congregation who live en route.

We had a fright in November to discover our website needed to be updated. Mariane Tank, Kelly Ingram and Lisa Richardson stepped in to ensure we had a format that would continue to be supported. This is a work in progress and is currently also supported by Laura Goodman our parish coordinator.

We were sad to say goodbye to a number of people who moved on in the first half of the year. Helen Calner, our curate was ordained and moved to her new parish; Lay Reader, Carolyn Clark together with husband Gordon, moved out of the parish and Father Joseph and his family moved to a new parish in Acton. They all go with our love, best wishes and prayers.

We have been supported during the vacancy by Fr Steve Brian and Mother Pamela, together with Rosalyn Young. Services have also been led by Rev Leslie Lawrence, Rev David Vanstone, Rev Simon Douglas Lane and Rev Janet Franck. We were lucky enough to have the Bishop of Kensington lead us on St Hilda’s Day and at

Midnight on Christmas Eve. Our church attendance for the Sunday services continue to grow in numbers with almost everyone staying behind to enjoy coffee and fellowship. I should like to particularly thank Rosalyn Young, who has gone above and beyond to maintain pastoral support to the congregation and beyond. Conducting home visits, planning services as well as preaching more often in support of visiting clergy and generally being available for advice.

Despite the vacancy Elizabeth, Bobbie and I have continued to support the project at St Hilda's House. We welcomed a new befriender, but have had significant financial challenges to contend with. Grateful thanks to John Swaffield for his support with some of the house challenges. My nephew Lukas Winter has kept the grass at the vicarage and church gardens mowed and Elizabeth oversaw significant works at the vicarage after it was vacated, which at the time of writing remains incomplete and the subject of further visits from the diocese contractors.

The Wednesday Eucharist service is very well attended and we now have around 20 staying for lunch each week. The weekly food deliveries from Surplus to Supper is most welcome, with very little waste.
Our aim to open the church to the local community is going well. The church is opened daily during the week. Two local schools hold their Carol Services here and Lodge Brothers hold an annual service of remembrance. We have had several very enjoyable brass concerts here during the spring and in December we had a Greek Themed dinner, with Greek food followed by carols; it was a great use of this wonderful building.
Due to the large open space, we now hold our jumble sales in church. Our successful Spring Fair was held in church due to bad weather and the Frost Fayre has become a local landmark event; making use of the additional space in church, with external sellers paying a fee to rent a table to sell from. These activities enable people who would not otherwise cross the threshold of a church outside of a major life event, come through the doors in a comfortable setting.

In July we held our first all-day wedding celebration. The marriage ceremony was followed by a three course meal, prepared in the church hall but served in church, followed by dancing. The bride, groom and guests all enjoyed the beautiful space and plans are in place for further weddings in the future which will bring in much-needed income by making use of the building. We can offer a traditional religious ceremony with the atmosphere of a country house reception, in one location and at a fraction of the cost.

We now have a new refreshment area with enough power points to support the fridge, freezer, microwaves, urns, toasters and other items needed to provide our monthly breakfast, weekly lunches, post-service refreshments and refreshments for events. We hold a bar license so we can sell alcohol during concerts and evening events in both the church and the church hall. Huge thanks to the catering team for the wonderful breakfasts and lunches. Also to the welcomers and those who faithfully provide the weekly refreshments.

Once again thank you to everyone who helps to keep the church in good order, an enormous amount of work goes on behind the scenes, it may be invisible – but it doesn't just happen. We are very fortunate to have a small but very dedicated group

of people who ensure that we can enjoy our services in a clean, well-ordered church. We have asked for additional help many times, thank you for those who already came forward, but there are many opportunities for YOU to get involved.
Despite rising costs, our flower team continue to create beautiful displays of both real and silk flowers with the seasons, including the annual lilies at Easter, and Chris Maddock, his music team and choir continue to enhance services with their wonderful music.

We wrote our Parish Profile and at the time of writing, we are about to interview new incumbent candidates. Thanks to Elizabeth Bate and Chris Maddock for leading this challenging task.

The Standing Committee and PCC work very hard to keep everything ticking over, but much work is also done by people who don't hold office and don't get recognised or personally thanked. I would particularly like to thank Vicky Palmer, Pauline Milton and Khadijeh, who have been instrumental in ensuring we had access to our bank accounts and a set of accounts to review at our APCM, despite having no official treasurer. I know I haven't managed to name everyone but my heartfelt thanks goes to everyone who has supported St Hilda's this year through some very challenging days.

CHURCH PROPERTY REPORT (FABRIC) – Paula Gething

Church Hall
Last year, 2023, we saw our church hall continuing to function at full capacity with Chris Davenport managing the high demand of requests for hire from both our regular and one-off hirers. Chris continues as hall Booking Secretary, keeping precise records of who, when and for how long. Chris always gives an excellent service to us and our hirers drawing in much needed revenue, thank you so much Chris.
The church hall continues to suffer from water ingress from the roof and gutters. A grant has been secured and plans are in place to replace the roof in 2024, installing both a new composite roof, insulation and solar panels to generate our own electricity and sell the surplus to the grid.
Inside the church hall and the car park both require investment and planning for this needs to take place in 2024. The holes in the car park were filled with post crete as per previous years but this only lasts a few months.

During the year all the required checks/inspections were carried out. Namely, British Gas inspected and serviced the boiler and gas meter; 3MG inspected and tested the fire extinguishers and fire blankets, Kingsmead Testing Services Ltd the PAT Testing on all the portable electric appliances; Oakmoor Heating Ltd carried out electrical repairs and Fullers Builders Ltd cleaned all the outside gutters (providing photographs of before & after). With all having passed certificates were issued with copies placed in both the Maintenance Inspection File and the Church Log Book, likewise a set of the gutter photographs were also placed in each of the files. We continued with LSR Cleaning Services Ltd cleaning the entire premises daily Monday to Thursday and twice on Friday.
In addition to this maintenance tasks were carried out for example dealing with repairs to the disabled toilet and the hot water supply. Again, we have Jon Bate,

Michael Smith, Steve Smith and John Swaffield to thank, always there, giving their time and expertise whatever the problem, gentlemen thank you so much.

Church
Our gardening team led by Rosemary Greenwoood and Andrew Rickson continue to clear the weeds and maintain the shrubs. Our meadow area at the East end of the church was left until the end of the year, then mowed and sowed with seed bombs created by children from Junior Church. We hope the flowers will both look nice and create a habitat for the bees and other insects. As with all the jobs, many hands make lighter work and we would welcome more gardeners plus it's a good way of getting to know each other more and sharing gardening tips.

A new set of kitchen units was installed by Jon Bate, funded partially by a legacy and the number of power points was increased to facilitate increased demand due to the lunches and breakfasts. Whilst the units are free standing, the whole space enables the safe and comfortable provision of after-church refreshments, hot food at breakfast and lunch and a bar area for functions. A food hygiene certificate has been obtained from Spelthorne Borough Council.

The necessary annual checks were carried out. Namely, British Gas tested/serviced the two boilers; B C Shepherd & Sons tuned and serviced the church organ, 3MG tested/serviced the fire extinguishers and fire blanket; Watson & Watkins Ltd serviced the organ blower and humidifier; Kingsmead Testing Services Ltd carried out the PAT Testing on all the portable electrical appliances (January 2024) and Fullers Builders Ltd cleaned all the gutters.
With all having passed certificates were issued with copies placed in both the Maintenance Inspection File and Church Log Book, likewise a set of photographs in respect of the gutter cleaning.
The weekly team continued cleaning the church. Come and join us if you have a spare hour on a Thursday morning we arrive at 10.30am. As in most years there were other little jobs that just got done without any fuss or bother, a big thank you to all concerned, you know who you are.

The Quinquennial Inspection of the church was carried out in November, by Bob Wilson our architect. At the time of writing, the report has been received and is being reviewed by the PCC.

Vicarage
The annual gutter maintenance was carried out by Fullers Builders Ltd in October (a set of photographs were supplied and copies placed in both Maintenance File and Church Log Book). After Fr Joseph and his family moved out, work was carried out by the diocese to convert the garage into another room. At the time of writing this work has only just been completed.

St Hilda's House
The gas safety check was carried out and monthly inspections of the property. Thanks to Lukas Winter for help with the lawns. The property is currently occupied by one tenant.

Health & Safety Report – Christine Makriel (Health, Safety & Fire Officer)

Although the PCC is not required to report on its risk management policy, the PCC takes it very seriously and receives regular reports from the Health, Safety & Fire Officer. A recovery plan is in place to assist the local community in the event of a disaster, and further work will be carried out on risk management issues as required. Christine Makriel continued as Health, Safety & Fire Officer.

Annual fire extinguisher maintenance checks were completed and Surrey Fire Service carried out a fire survey to ensure we are compliant with safety regulations.

Financial Report – to follow

PCC Report – Liz Brian (PCC Secretary)

A summary of the PCC meetings held from January 2023 until December 2023 capturing actions, recommendations and information not captured in other reports.

January 2023 – we welcomed Frances Forsbrey onto the PCC. Christine Taylor spoke about a new proposal for Junior Church to have a Messy Church on the first Sunday of the month and continue as usual for the rest of the month during term times. Parents and Church volunteers are welcome to help with Junior Church activities and parents will be with their children for the Messy Church sessions. It was agreed to keep the time of the main Sunday service at 10 am whilst we are in a vacancy. A meeting will be set up with Rev Jonathan Rust (Area Director of Mission) to discuss the vacancy. The London Diocese will be making a video about St Hilda's House and the new Bishop of Kensington will be visiting the house when she comes to Spelthorne Deanery in February, 2023.

February 2023 – The PCC meeting was preceded by a meeting with Rev Jonathan Rust to discuss the vacancy and the Parish Profile. At the PCC meeting the following were discussed - An alcohol licence to allow us to sell alcohol, fence panels have been replaced and our new Mission Action Plan was distributed and will be widely displayed. All PCC members to ensure they have completed the basic level safeguarding training.

March 2023 – Simeon Sturney gave PCC members an update regarding St Hilda's House and there was a discussion around the future of the project. The agreement was that it should continue. Simeon was thanked for his work on the project. New rental agreements have been written for use of the Church Hall – Paula was thanked for her work on this and thanks to Chris Davenport for all the work she does for the Church Hall. There has been severe flooding in the area around our twin parish of Holy Cross, Murrupula. It was agreed to send money from our collections on both Sunday and Wednesday from the previous Sunday until Easter. As this was the last meeting before the APCM in April thanks were conveyed to Bobbie Bedford for her time as Church Warden and to Carolyn and Gordon Clark who will be moving to Chertsey. Also to Frances Forsbrey who was no longer standing on the PCC but who would continue to support members behind the scenes.

May 2023 – at the first meeting of the newly formed PCC we welcomed Jane Dobbie, Alison Garner, Nick Gething, Joyce Rouse, Valerie Scott and John Swaffield. All elected for 3 years. The following officers were elected – PCC Lay Chair – Elizabeth Bate, PCC Secretary – Liz Brian and as PCC Treasurer Kieran Stevens, Chris Brown's step-son who would support him as he was working towards his Accountancy exams. Parish Safeguarding Officer – Nick Gething. We were pleased to hear that we had achieved our Bronze Award for Eco Church and thanked Rosemary Greenwood for her work on this. A new contract was being drawn up regarding the use of the Church Hall by the Happy Tots Playgroup. The Church has purchased a home communion set so that Rosalyn and Mother Pamela can offer communion at home when requested.

June 2023 – we have received a quote for work on the Church Hall roof and waiting to hear from Spelthorne Borough Council regarding a grant. There is a new church hall booking form as it continues to be used regularly by the community. It is hoped that the Church might also be used as a venue for events such as whole wedding packages in the future. Meetings have taken place with Jonathan Rust to discuss the Parish Profile. We raised £685.00 at a recent Jumble Sale.

July 2023 – The Parish Representatives for the recruitment of a new Incumbent were elected. Discussion around how we welcome newcomers and the pastoral support we offer to one another. Agreed to have photographs of PCC members in the Church porch and to have words of welcome in the weekly service sheet. People will be informed to contact our Licenced Lay Minister, Rosalyn Young if someone was in need of prayer and support. Rosemary Greenwood suggested a second hand bookstall at the back of church. The Mother's Union banner will be professionally cleaned before being fixed in a new place in the Lady Chapel.

There was no meeting in August 2023

September 2023 – further wording to the Parish Profile was discussed. The PCC then considered the consequences of the resignation of Chris Brown as Treasurer and Church Warden. It was agreed that Elizabeth Bate as Lay Chair of the PCC write to Bishop Emma in response to Chris' letter of resignation. Chris has liaised with Laura Parish Administrator and given her papers and IT passwords and Paula will meet with Laura to get this information. Regarding Chris' responsibilities – Jane Dobbie agreed to take on the booking of priests during the vacancy, Rosemary to write to Kieran to ask if he would be continuing as Treasurer, Chris Maddock agreed to become Parish Representative alongside Elizabeth. Paula reported that we have a Grant from Spelthorne Borough Council for the work on the Church Hall roof and thanked Chris Davenport and the hirers for their help in securing this. Chris Maddock proposed that other forms of liturgy could be explored for future services especially if we have not been able to find a Priest to take a communion service. There were also two extra PCC meetings in September. These were convened to discuss the priorities for the PCC in the light of the resignation of Chris Brown as Church Warden and Treasurer. At the first of these meetings it was agreed that Paula and Bobbie Bedford would visit Nat West Bank to sort out how to process payments; to request that someone comes forward for the Church Treasurer role; to inform the Diocese of the new Parish Representative and to ensure that we are still underway with the rental agreement for the Church Hall. At the second meeting

Paula proposed Vicky Palmer as Treasurer with her support. Nick Gething agreed to take on the rental agreement with Happy Tots.

October 2023 – Vicky Palmer was introduced to members as the new interim treasurer. Jane Dobbie said that we have a priest for all the services from now until the end of the year. As there have been recent incidents of COVID and flu it was agreed to encourage the congregation to use the hand sanitisers for the service. Due to increase in numbers in the congregation we need to increase the number of service sheets to 80.

November 2023 – Thanks to Rosalyn Young for the recent Confirmation Service. Positive responses were received from Bishop Emma and the Church Warden of St Nicholas, Shepperton. There is a possibility of a new tenant for St Hilda's House to move in after January. Work has been done on the Vicarage. There were no suitable candidates for the post of Incumbent so it will be advertised again in the New Year.

There was no meeting in December.

Throughout the year members of the PCC have also been involved in various aspects of Church life including Fundraising and Social Events.
Thanks to all members who were willing to give their time and energy and especially for Paula and Elizabeth who had to take on further responsibilities during the year.

Spelthorne Deanery Report

Spelthorne Deanery Synod met three times to consider current matters within the Anglican Church; meetings also provide opportunities for sharing news and enjoying fellowship with clergy and lay representatives from the eleven churches in the Spelthorne Deanery. The current three year term began on 1st July 2023.

Clergy moves within the Deanery –Rev Carole George, rector of St Nicholas Shepperton, was appointed as Area Dean in succession to Fr Joseph Fernandes who was appointed a Prebendary of St Paul's and took up a new appointment as vicar of St Mary's Acton after serving as Area Dean of Spelthorne and incumbent of St Hilda's Ashford.

Rt Rev Dr Emma Ineson who had just taken up the appointment of Bishop of Kensington joined the February meeting. During a Q&A session she introduced herself, described some of her past experience, particularly her recent role as assistant to Archbishop Justin Welby during 2022/23 when King Charles' coronation and the late Queen's funeral took place. She spoke on the content of her book "Failure – what Jesus said about sin, mistakes and messing stuff up". She also said that Spelthorne was a valued and important area in the diocese and challenged us to examine how we can contribute to Christian mission in the Diocese of London.

Rev John Beauchamp, the London Diocese Disability Ministry Enabler spoke at the June meeting and stimulated all PCCs to consider how inclusive their churches are. We need to ensure that all people can feel welcome and able to participate in activities bearing in mind that disabilities include not just physical and sensory

disabilities but mental health issues and learning disabilities, as well as ”hidden” disabilities such as epilepsy, diabetes, arthritis, autism, and various conditions which may cause chronic pain. He drew attention to the wide range of material and support available from the Diocese.

The October meeting was addressed by Emma Thompson of the St Alban’s Diocese who spoke passionately about the mission of “Save the Parish”. This was founded in 2021 and is run by volunteers, to give a voice to parishes who felt the strategy of the leadership of the Church of England to amalgamate parishes and reduce the number of clergy in those parishes, was wrong and counterproductive. She mentioned that the parish church forms an important part of many communities even if attendance at services is low. Although the Diocese of London has priests in most parishes and finances are better than other parts of the country, there are no grounds for complacency.

Annual Finance meetings were hosted by Archdeacon Richard Frank & Rev Mary Spredbury (Diocesan Finance Officer)

During the year reports were given by Nick Wood-Dow on issues discussed at the London Diocesan Synod.

WORSHIP AND LEARNING

House of Bishops’ Policy Statements

St Hilda’s PCC ensure that we comply with the duty under Section 5 of the Safeguarding & Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, in relation to having due regard to House of Bishops’ guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

Child Protection Nick Gething (Safeguarding Officer)

The Church of England, in all aspects of its life, is committed to and will champion the protection of children and young people both in society as a whole and in its own community.

It fully accepts, endorses and will implement the principle enshrined in the Children Act 1989, that the welfare of the child is paramount. The Church of England will foster and encourage best practice within its community by setting standards for working with children and young people and by supporting parents in the care of their children.

It will work with statutory bodies, voluntary agencies and other faith communities to promote the safety and well-being of children and young people. It is committed to acting promptly whenever a concern is raised about a child or young person or about the behaviour of an adult, and will work with the appropriate statutory bodies when an investigation into child abuse is necessary.

The Church of England is committed to encouraging an environment where all people and especially those who may be vulnerable for any reason are able to worship and pursue their faith journey with encouragement and in safety. Everyone,

whether they see themselves as vulnerable or not, will receive respectful pastoral ministry recognising any power imbalance within such a relationship.

Safeguarding Adults - Nick Gething

All church workers involved in any pastoral ministry will be recruited with care including the use of the Criminal Records Bureau disclosure service when legal or appropriate. Workers will receive training and continuing support.

Any allegations of mistreatment, abuse, harassment or bullying will be responded to without delay. Whether or not the matter involves the church there will be cooperation with the police and local authority in any investigation.

Sensitive and informed pastoral care will be offered to anyone who has suffered abuse, including support to make a complaint if so desired. Help to find appropriate specialist care either from the church or secular agencies will be offered.

Congregations will often include people who have offended in a way that means they are a continuing risk to vulnerable people. The risks will be managed sensitively with the protection of adults and children in mind.

Nick Gething took over as Safeguarding Officer from Gordon Clark during the summer of 2023, and has completed the diocese training course at Leadership level. He also spoke at the February Saturday Breakfast. Elizabeth Bate continues as the Children's Champion.

Junior Church – Christine Taylor

In January 2022 it was lovely to welcome Rosalyn Young back to the team after her sabbatical. Rosalyn's absence prompted us to compile a handbook which we can offer to prospective new leaders.

In early January, we had a Godly Play session on Baptism which was well attended by a large age range, however everyone seemed to enjoy the activity.

In February three members of the team were able to attend a Deanery Youth training at Saviours. It was a really worthwhile and inspirational experience.

We held our Good Friday workshop with a small group of children. We told the Easter story, studied the stations of the cross, completed lots of Easter craft, made Easter rock cakes and finished with a noisy act of worship.

Sadly we had to discontinue the monthly all-age worship sessions organised by Simon Shutt of FACT (Family Awareness and Children's Trust) due to poor attendance despite circulating the dates, advertising in the weekly notes and direct approaches to parents.

Concerned about retaining our older children we decided to trial a system whereby we would split the group and leaders would prepare for either

younger or older children with age appropriate activities. Unfortunately due to inconsistent group size and varying age profiles it hasn't really succeeded.

We continue to use Roots on the Web as our main teaching resource, although we no longer print off the activity sheets. We also decided that when the leader felt the material inappropriate we would explore some of the Old Testament stories, which we did in the Summer Term.

In the Autumn we held a small Light Party using Scripture Union resources. We held a Christingle service at the beginning of December – my thanks go to ladies of the Mothers Union who helped prepare the Christingles and to Rosalyn who helped conduct the service. Our year ended with the Crib Service on Christmas Eve however the idea of dressing as a Nativity scene character was not very successful but the musical instruments were!

I would like to thank all the members of the team, Rosalyn Young, Gordon Clark, Elizabeth Bate, Beryl Rickson and Elisabeth Santos who give their time so willingly.

Bible Study Group - Rosemary Greenwood

The group has continued to meet weekly on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm in church in the Lady Chapel. Leadership of the study is rotated but there is no pressure to take a turn if you do not wish to. In the same way there is no pressure to read aloud or share an opinion if members do not wish to do so.

We begin and end with prayer. We work from Small Group Study books from various publishers. The subjects studied are chosen after group discussion and this year have included *Old Testament Characters*, *Christian Community* and some of the Psalms. During Lent and Advent we used study books *At the Cross* and *Coming of the Saviour* which looked at Jesus' crucifixion and birth from the perspective of various people in the story.

We usually have 5 to 8 people at each meeting, including several who have joined us for the first time this year. The total number of members is higher than this as we do not expect everyone to come every week. We enjoy many lively discussions (not always on topic), and appreciate the fellowship we share.

We welcome visitors and those who would like to see what goes on each week.

Feed My Sheep - Rosalyn Young

Feed My Sheep study group has met 10 times in 2023, with numbers up to 14, enjoying a cup of tea and coffee.

Topics included - Wine Stories, Hymn Writers, Tyndale and the English Bible, Names for Jesus, A further look at Popes, The Sunday School Movement and St Francis of Assisi. We also did Pick and Mix, looking at short topics and Jargon Busting exploring those difficult theological words and church expressions etc. From the tea fund we were able to donate to the Murrupula appeal.

Ambling Through Acts - Steve Brian

We have continued our unhurried but close reading of the book of Acts, following Luke's account of the beginnings of the church. The characters, the politics, the controversies of the time can all find their equivalents today, and we have some good discussions. Sometimes we go off at tangents, which is also fine. Each session finishes with the short, said service of compline, followed by coffee/tea and decent biscuits. We usually have between eight and a dozen or so people at a session, with about fifteen or sixteen overall. Newcomers are always welcome - no previous knowledge required. We meet at 7:30pm on the first Thursday in the month, in church.

CHOIR AND MUSIC REPORT 2023 - Chris Maddock / Paula Gething / Rosemary Greenwood, Jane Dobbie

St Hilda's church choir continues to provide musical accompaniment for the main services during the course of the year. We continue to practise in the church each Friday from 7pm and whilst we still manage four-part harmony, it would be nice to have a few more voices – particularly basses.

The music for services is based on the lectionary readings and carefully selected by the team listed above. Efforts are made to include both well loved, traditional items alongside some contemporary music. We prepare a Taizé chant most weeks. This year has seen some great progress in our unity of sound, and we have begun to make some forays into plainsong and polyphony.

In addition to singing at the weekly family Eucharist and festival days, the choir also led a choral devotion from *The Cross of Christ* on Good Friday, supported on Easter Saturday, several funerals, and weddings, Lodge Brothers *Candles of Remembrance* service in December and our Christmas Carol Service – even fielding an impromptu vocal group for the *Merry Meze* fundraiser. We sang farewell to Mother Helen in Swedish and to Fr Joseph in Portuguese.

We continue to rely heavily on recorded accompaniments, but huge thanks to Jeremy Rouse and Peter Pritchard for supporting us with organ accompaniments live on occasion, and Melvyn Rouse who continues to provide beautiful recorded accompaniments.

Altar Servers' Report - Alan Sloan

Altar servers fulfil a very important function within the church. Their role dates back to the early days of the church, when priests were accompanied by an acolyte on their travels. Today altar servers' roles in the church are usually as listed below albeit, as a result of Covid-19 and lack of numbers, there have been some variations to duties.

The **Crucifer** is the person who carries the big processional cross. We have different crosses for different times in the year. Normally we have a large, decorated cross but in Advent and Lent a small wooden cross is used to reflect the mood of the season.

The **Acolytes** work in pairs and they both carry candles. In the olden days, when churches weren't lit quite so brightly, they had a very important role ensuring that when the Gospel procession went down into the body of the church there was enough light on the Gospel book for the priest or deacon to be able to read it. They also fulfil other roles at the altar, such as bringing the vessels to the altar so that it can be laid up for mass and helping the priest wash his or her hands.

St Hilda's Church currently has a team of 7 altar servers, as listed below, who are always willing to help with any task to keep our services in Church running smoothly. Primarily they assist at the 10 o'clock, Sunday services but they also assist with the Wednesday morning 11 o'clock service and other special services e.g. confirmation, candles of remembrance, St Hilda's day, Easter Eve and Midnight Mass.

During the last twelve-month period the number of available altar servers reduced by one as David Saville decided to stand down as a server and we thank David for his many years of service.

Prior to Covid-19 there was a team of 12 servers but for a variety of reasons this has now reduced to only 7 and so at the beginning of November Alan Sloan asked for volunteers to come forward to supplement the current team. A prominent notice concerning same was also included in the weekly Service Sheet throughout November.

Alan Sloan is the Head Server/serving team liaison representative and acts as the focal point between the servers and the vicar. This entails:

Updating altar servers about any changes in process/procedure
Completion of the end of year report
Production of both the server's and chalice duty rotas.

As indicated above we would always welcome new members to the team and would give the support and training to undertake this role. If interested please contact either myself, another Server or a Churchwarden in the first instance.

List of servers:
Frances Forsbrey*
Sally Goulden*
Chris Holliday
Christine Makriel*
Peter Makriel*
Alan Sloan*
Barbara Warne

An asterisk* signifies where a server has additionally been appointed by the Bishop of Kensington to assist with Holy Communion.

St Hilda's Mothers' Union - Chris Davenport

Our AGM in March, followed by afternoon tea, was attended by 23 members. Four Long Service Awards were presented.

We continue to hold our monthly Mothers' Union Corporate Communion Services.

We have all enjoyed our lunchtime meetings:

January	Winter Memories of long ago, when we all shared our special thoughts about past winters.
February	We remembered St Valentine, the patron saint of engaged couples and happy marriages and learned more about St Valentine's history.
March	Reflections for Lent, led by Rosalyn Young, our Lay Reader, who gave us all a prayer circle for meditation.
April	Thoughts for Easter with poems and readings.
May	One of our Church members played recordings of Coronation Music and explained about the different composers.
June	An enjoyable meeting, when two of our members enlightened us by reading some of Pam Ayres' poetry.
July	Fundraising for the Summer of Hope, when £150 was raised. We also enjoyed scones, jam and cream.
September	A really interesting meeting, when members reminisced about holidays that they have enjoyed, including cruises, seaside holidays and camping.
October	We held our Wave of Prayer Service, led by Rosalyn Young, our Lay Reader.
November	This was an interesting talk by one of our Church members who enjoys country walks and has covered many miles of beautiful countryside in her travels around the United Kingdom.
December	Carols and Christmas Music with mince pies.

In all, another very successful year for St Hilda's Mothers' Union.

St Hilda's Flower Team - Alison Garner, Pauline Milton and members of the Flower Team

The Flower Team continues to do their best to create floral displays throughout the Church's calendar year with an eye on the purse strings. We are fortunate to have funding via a bequest and generous donations for memorial displays which help enormously. Fresh flowers have risen a lot in price over the past three years and we try to choose flowers which have longevity. We were made aware of a local wholesaler who provided the lilies – Fleurametz, London. Longacres provided a good selection on price and quality for our other arrangements. We will continue to use the silk display on occasion to help spread the costs each month. We plan to have a Spring/Summer colourway created soon to contrast with the Autumnal shades.

Pauline, Alison and the Flower Team have done their best to create wonderful displays each Sunday and the celebrations throughout the year, especially with the lilies at Easter and the pedestals and column decorations at Christmas.

We have had several weddings which have not been too arduous this year as most brides have their florists create their church flowers and then take them to their reception. All we ask is that the Flower Team are made aware of the wedding dates

and colour choices so we can co-ordinate the church's pedestal to the bride's colour scheme.

Now that we have returned to normality, we plan to arrange classes for those interested in joining the team but feel unsure and would like lessons. We are always looking for new members to join the team and if that is you, please contact Alison, or Pauline for further details.

COMMUNITY

Outreach

St Hilda's House

During 2023 we housed 3 residents in St Hilda's House, one who remained for the whole of the year. All residents have been supported by members of the church congregation especially Paula Gething and Elizabeth Bate. In November 2022 a video was commissioned which was available from April 2023 telling the "beautiful story of St Hilda's Church in Ashford, Spelthorne Surrey, housing women coming out of prison who would otherwise be homeless. They do this through a three- way partnership between the church, the local prison, and the charity Hope Into Action. Not only the significance of providing a home for the women coming out of prison, but also how they as a church community have been transformed in the process." We have a blue clothes recycling bin in church and monies raised from this are put towards St Hilda's House.

We have continued our links with Ashford Church of England Primary School with our two Foundation Governors. Rosalyn Young led half termly assemblies and also engaged with some of the class lessons. Palm crosses were distributed to the pupils. The school also held their Carol Service in Church. St James School also had a Christmas Service in Church.

The gifts from the Harvest Festival went to the local food bank, based at the Salvation Army, which continues to provide a lifeline to local families who are struggling financially. People also leave food gifts in the wooden box at the back of church and these are then taken to the Salvation Army.

Activities/Social Report - Bobbie Bedford

Well this has been a year of two halves. The first half with Fr. Joseph and the second without an incumbent, having said that things went on pretty much as usual and without a hitch.

We began the year with a very successful Burns night, with an abundance of food and drink, music and dancing. Everyone had such a good time that I quickly booked the caller for 2024.

We carried on in February with the first of our Jumble Sales, they are always well attended and people come from far and wide, thanks to our ad on Radio Jackie. The

Jumbles are one of our biggest fund raisers, superbly organised by Chris Davenport, however, help is always needed as it takes time to sort and organise all the donations, man the stalls and clear away.

February we also enjoyed the first of our Parish Breakfasts, these have proved to be very, very popular, good food, good company and we also enjoyed speakers on various subjects. These included our Foundation Governors from Ashford C of E Primary School talking about the school and their roles. Father Joseph told us about his visit to Murrupula and Mother Helen quizzed us about all things Swedish (not just ABBA). Paula updated us on the church hall roof. We also had visitors from the Independent Custody Visiting Scheme telling us about their involvement with those in custody. Another time the video made for St Hilda's House was also shown and Elizabeth Bate updated us about the project.

We also began our daily 'Open Church' and warm space. Many people just pop in for a look around, whilst for others it a quiet place to sit a while to find comfort or pray.

We continued our services followed by lunch of soup and crusty bread. 'Surplus to Supper' make a delivery each Wednesday of food that otherwise would end up in land fill. What they bring varies from week to week, sometimes we have an abundance of flowers, there are sandwiches, fruit, cakes (they always go down well) bread, rolls, milk and sometimes vegetables. Everyone is welcome to take the food away and if we have anything that could be used by the nursery they are always grateful to receive it. When we began the lunches, there used to be around 12 or so people, now up to 20 - 30 people attend our service and we serve around 20 lunches. A time enjoyed by all and a great ministry for the church.

On Fr. Josephs last day we enjoyed a bring and share lunch. We were very sorry to see him go and many of us went to see him installed in his new church of St Marys Acton.

We have had several weddings this year and a couple of them even had their reception in the church, showing what a great venue we have.

One thing we always enjoy is a shared lunch. We have some great cooks at St Hilda's. Harvest Supper and St Hilda's day are just two examples. There is always more than enough to go round, with some very tasty desserts.

We held our Frost Fayre in Church in November, again a very successful event. We began holding events in church just after the Covid lockdown, mainly because it is a bigger space than the Church Hall and also for people coming into church for the first time. It is not uncomfortable for them and sometimes leads them to come into church for a service. Church should not be used only on Sundays and St Hilda's is a welcoming place no matter what we use it for.

The day after the Frost Fair, we were lucky enough to have Bishop Emma take the confirmation service at St Hilda's, it was a wonderful occasion with a great party in the Hall afterwards. The Bishop was very impressed with the confirmation cake.

On the 16th December we held a Merry Meze in church, a Greek food night. It was fantastic. Great food cooked by lovely people, we are looking forward to the next special food night.

The Carol service the day after was celebrated with Mulled Wine and Mince Pies.

We look forward to what 2024 brings.

St Hilda's Entertainers' Annual Report for 2023 - Mike Davenport – Secretary and Sue Pinfold – Chairman

Firstly, a big "Thank You" to everyone, including our audiences, who were involved in any way in either one or both of our 2023 Productions. As always, our excellent actors were backed up by our hard-working backstage crew who make, paint and work the scenery and curtains, provide props, sound and lights, music, costumes and songs. Then there's the reassuring Prompt and our busy Front of House Manager and her team.

Our May Play was 'Murder in Play', written by Simon Brett and directed by Sue Pinfold. It was a play within a play, giving most of the actors the task of playing two, if not three parts. All rose spectacularly to the occasion. As can be expected, the script called for the challenge of special effects. These included a pistol to be heard to fire on cue, and a glass decanter to be shattered into pieces by a stray shot, again on cue. Both props worked to perfection, on the night. Our band of experienced actors was joined for the first time by Jess Shore, who fitted in admirably.

Actors joining us for the first time also featured very successfully in our Pantomime, 'Jack and the Beanstalk', written by Alan Frayn and directed by Mike Davenport. Tyler Pannone was a wow as our Dame, as also were Kath Shore and Leah Dent as our Principal Boy and Principal Girl, and Rina Sachdeva as a Villager and Minion. Throughout the rehearsals it was heartening to see our newcomers being greatly helped and encouraged by our experienced actors to develop their characters and to make their parts their own.

Our president, Father Joseph Fernandes, left St Hilda's at the end of May. After the Friday performance of our May Play he came backstage to be presented with a card, a hamper and a 5 year long service certificate. We wish him well in his new Parish.

We joined in with the other groups who use St Hilda's Hall by supporting St Hilda's application for a grant from the Spelthorne Borough Council Community Infrastructure Levy Fund. This was to help pay for the replacement of the Main Hall Roof and involved us sending a letter, in support of the application, to all Spelthorne Borough Councillors. The application was successful, and a grant of £50,000 was awarded.

At the NODA South East AGM we were presented with two Awards for Neale Winter's Play 'Wife in the Fast Lane' – one an Accolade of Dramatic Excellence and the other a Highly Commended for Best New Show.

From our funds, donations were made to Crohns & Colitis UK (£360), Shooting Star Trust (£430) and White Lodge (£400).

Long Service Awards were presented with warm congratulations, to Maisie Jeakins (5 years), Steve Wyatt (5 years), Sarah Poore (10 years), Lilly Poore (10 years) and Rachel Barnes (20 years).

Finally, St Hilda's Entertainers feel they can be confident that they continue to achieve their aim of providing fantastic entertainment for all their audiences.

3rd Ashford Rainbows, Brownies and Guides – 2023 – Chris Davenport – Guide Guider

The girls of 3rd Ashford Rainbows, Brownies and Guides, their Guiders and Young Leaders meet each week at St Hilda's Church Hall.

All the Units have been working on their Theme Awards of Know Myself, Express Myself, Be Well, Have Adventures, Take Action and Skills For My Future. All these challenges are gauged for the abilities of the various age groups from 5 years to 14 years. With the girls keen to earn such a variety of badges, some of them have been able to complete Girlguiding Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards.

During the year, the Guides take part in service in the community. This year it included Helping with the Civic Awards Ceremony at the Mayor's Parlour and running the Tombola stall at St Hilda's Christmas Bazaar, raising £132 for Church funds. They also helped with Front of House duties for the two weekends of St Hilda's Entertainers' pantomime, Jack and the Beanstalk.

The Brownies enjoyed a day at PACCAR, the Scout Activity Site, where they were able to join in a variety of adventurous activities.

The Guides had the experience of a two-night camp at 'Paxmead', Shepperton, at the beginning of August. The girls enjoyed pitching tents, cooking their meals on camp fires and a sports afternoon. Unfortunately, we were unable to go canoeing on the nearby River Thames, due to unusually heavy rain and the fast-flowing high water level.

As the months go by, we are pleased to see how the girls grow in confidence and rise to the various challenges as they progress from Rainbows, to Brownies and Guides. It is not only rewarding for the girls, but also for their Guiders, who give their time voluntarily. They encourage and guide the girls and boost their self-confidence in their efforts by organising and running exciting activities for the girls.

St Hilda's Church Hall provides a much-appreciated safe environment in which our 80 girls can come together for the fun and friendship of weekly meetings.

APPENDIX A

PAROCHIAL COUNCIL OF ST. HILDA'S, ASHFORD, MIDDLESEX

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ending 31st December 2023

	NOTE	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS £	RESTRICTED FUNDS £	TOTAL 2023 £	TOTAL 2022 £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Voluntary Income	2(a)	53,217	-	53,217	81,172
Activities for generating funds	2(b)	60,355	-	60,355	46,779
Income from investments	2(c)	11,290	-	11,290	13,680
Church Activities	2(d)	4,118	-	4,118	3,001
Other incoming resources	2(e)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		**128,980**	**-**	**128,980**	**144,632**
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Cost of generating voluntary Income	3(b)	-	-	-	-
Fund raising costs	3(c)	3,020	-	3,020	546
Church Activities	3(a)	142,280	-	142,280	119,212
Investment management costs	3(d)	4,308	-	4,308	14,922
Bronzefield		-	-	-	-
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		**149,608**	**-**	**149,608**	**134,680**
NET INCOMING RESOURCES		**(20,628)**	**0**	**(20,628)**	**9,952**
Gains & Losses On Investments		-	-	-	0
Transfers Between Funds		-	-	-	0
Accounting Adjustments		-	-	-	0
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		**(20,628)**	**0**	**(20,628)**	**9,952**
BALANCE B/F AT 1ST JANUARY 2023		1,235,513	22,003	1,257,516	1,247,564
BALANCE C/F AT 31ST DECEMBER 2023		**1,214,885**	**22,003**	**1,236,888**	**1,257,516**

These financial statements were approved by the PCC on 25th October 2024

APPENDIX A

PAROCHIAL COUNCIL OF ST. HILDA'S, ASHFORD, MIDDLESEX

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ending 31st December 2023

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared under the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 in accordance with the applicable accounting standards and the current Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2005).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for investment assets, which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all the transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gathering

FUNDS

Restricted funds comprise (a) revenue donations or grants for a specific PCC activity intended by the donor and (b) monies set aside for a specific purpose as agreed by the PCC. Where the funds have unspent balances, interest on their pooled investment is

Unrestricted funds are income funds which are to be spent on the PCC's general purpose.

INCOMING RESOURCES

Voluntary Income

Planned giving, collections and similar donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is entitled to the use of the resources, their ultimate receipt is considered reasonably certain and the amounts due are reliably quantifiable. Dividends are accounted for when declared receivable, interest as and when accrued by the payer. All incoming resources are accounted gross.

Other Income

Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised when rental is due.

Gains and losses on investments

Realized gains and losses are recognised when the investments are sold.

RESOURCES USED

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share expected to be paid over is accounted when due.

FIXED ASSETS

Consecrated property and moveable church furnishings

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charites Act 2011.

Movable church furnishings held by the vicar and the Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. Subsequently no individual item has cost more that £1,000 so all such expenditure has been written off when incurred.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment

Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1,000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31st December.

APPENDIX A

PAROCHIAL COUNCIL OF ST. HILDA'S, ASHFORD, MIDDLESEX

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ending 31st December 2023

2. INCOMING RESOURCES

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS £	RESTRICTED FUNDS £	TOTAL 2023 £	TOTAL 2022 £
2(a) Voluntary Income				
Planned giving - gift aid donations	32,650		32,650	39,977
Tax recovered on planned giving	3,451		3,451	-
Planned giving - other			-	-
Loose plate	6,847		6,847	7,462
Sundry donations			-	388
Other tax recovered			-	-
Donations, appeals, etc.	8,541		8,541	29,980
Grant income	1,100		1,100	-
Legacies			-	3,000
Memorial Book	68		68	365
Flowers	560		560	-
Specials			-	-
	53,217	-	**53,217**	**81,172**
2(b) Activities for generating funds				
Fetes, bazaars & other fund raising events	10,515		10,515	2,781
Church Hall lettings/ Fund raising	49,840		49,840	43,998
PV Income			-	-
Misc.			-	-
	60,355	-	**60,355**	**46,779**
2(c) Income from investments				
Interest	1,969		1,969	758
Rent	9,321		9,321	12,922
	11,290	-	**11,290**	**13,680**
2(d) Income from church activities				
Weddings	1,070		1,070	- 122
Funerals	3,048		3,048	2,596
Baptism/ Confirmation			-	-
Other			-	527
	4,118	-	**4,118**	**3,001**
2(e) Other ordinary incoming resources				
Insurance claims			-	
Bronzefield			-	
	-	-	-	-
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	**128,980**	-	**128,980**	**144,632**

APPENDIX A

PAROCHIAL COUNCIL OF ST. HILDA'S, ASHFORD, MIDDLESEX

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ending 31st December 2023

3. RESOURCES EXPENDED

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS £	RESTRICTED FUNDS £	TOTAL 2023 £	TOTAL 2022 £
3(a) Church activities				
Missionary giving	-		-	1,120
Flowers	521		521	1,398
Insurance - Church	10,519		10,519	9,264
Insurance - Hall	-		-	859
Junior Church	128		128	352
Maintenance - Church & Church Hall	9,146		9,146	7,514
Purchases - Church & Church Hall	4,245		4,245	7,861
Memorial Book	175		175	-
Ministry - Clergy expenses	3,006		3,006	2,562
Ministry - Common Fund	54,000		54,000	25,930
Ministry - Other clergy expenses	451		451	4,598
Ministry - Wedding Fees	7,000		7,000	2,466
Organist & choir costs	-		-	-
Running cost - Church	3,278		3,278	5,960
Running cost - Hall	2,688		2,688	5,024
Sundry	700		700	1,334
Utilities - Electric	3,574		3,574	971
Utilities - Gas	20,154		20,154	25,540
Utilities - Other	550		550	909
Administration	9,306		9,306	7,210
People/ cleaning costs	12,840		12,840	8,340
	142,280	-	**142,280**	**119,212**
3(b) Cost of generating voluntary income				
Costs of appeals	-		-	-
	-	-	-	-
3(c) Fundraising/ Event costs				
Fetes, Bazaars, etc.	3,020		3,020	546
	3,020	-	**3,020**	**546**
3(d) Investment Management Costs				
Insurance - St Hilda's House	-		-	-
Maintenance Costs - St Hilda's House	556		556	9,248
Running Costs - St Hilda's House	2,885		2,885	5,324
Admin Costs - St Hilda's House	580		580	350
Running costs grounds	287		287	-
	4,308	-	**4,308**	**14,922**
3(e) Other				
Bronzefield	-		-	-
	-	-	-	-
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	**149,608**	-	**149,608**	**134,680**

APPENDIX A

PAROCHIAL COUNCIL OF ST. HILDA'S, ASHFORD, MIDDLESEX

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ending 31st December 2023

4. People Costs

During the year the PCC used the services of part time cleaners for the Church Hall and an administration assistant for the parish office but no payments were large enough to attract social security costs.

A small immaterial portion of the expenses paid to the incumbent may have related to his services as chairman of the PCC. Payments for office administration totalled £6,240 for the year.

No other payments or expenses were paid to any other PCC member, persons closely related to them or related parties, other than for professional services rendered.

5. Fixed Assets

£	Church Hall	St Hilda's House	Total
Opening Balance	850,000	325,000	1,175,000
Additions			-
Gains & Losses in the year			-
Closing Balance	**850,000**	**325,000**	**1,175,000**

St Hilda's Church Hall in Stanwell Road, Ashford, was brought onto the balance sheet in 2007 in order to comply with the statement of Recommended Practise (SORP) for Charities as revised 2005 and the Church Accounting Regulations 2006. The initial valuation was based on its current value to the PCC. The PCC believes that the residual value of the property exceeds its current use value and therefore has decided to adopt a policy of doing annual impairment review rather than depreciating its value over its useful life.

The property known as St Hilda's House, being 34 Woodthorpe Road, Ashford, Middlesex is held for investment purposes and is shown in the accounts at market value. The last valuation was 31st December 2011 and was carried out by The Frost Partnership, Ashford, Middlesex.

6. Debtors and prepayments

	2023	2022
Receivables Church	662	20,900
Receivables Hall		168
Total	**662**	**21,068**

7. Creditors

	2023	2022
Creditors and accruals - Church	600	6,204
Creditors and accruals - Hall		
Total	**600**	**6,204**

All amounts are due within one year.

8. Long Term Creditors

There are no long term creditors.

9. Restricted Funds Held

The Breakdown and movement of restricted funds are:

£	Alford	St Hilda's House	Total
Balance at 1st January 2023	10,502	11501	22,003
Incoming resources			-
Resources expended			-
Moved from general fund			-
Interest allocated			-
Balance at 31st December 2023	**10,502**	**11,501**	**22,003**

9a Non Restricted held by CBF

General reserves held in the CBF account are £35529

APPENDIX A

PAROCHIAL COUNCIL OF ST. HILDA'S, ASHFORD, MIDDLESEX

BALANCE SHEET

As at 31st December 2023

	NOTE	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	RESTRICTED FUNDS	TOTAL 2023	TOTAL 2022
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Functional Property	5	850,000	-	850,000	850,000
Investment Property	5	325,000		325,000	325,000
		1,175,000	**-**	**1,175,000**	**1,175,000**
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors and Prepayments	6	662	-	662	21,068
Cash in Hand and Bank		39,822	22,003	61,825	67,652
		40,484	**22,003**	**62,487**	**88,720**
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Creditors	7	600	-	600	6,204
		600	**-**	**600**	**6,204**
Net Assets less Current Liabilities		**1,214,885**	**22,003**	**1,236,888**	**1,257,516**
Creditors - amounts falling due after one year	8	-	-	-	-
TOTAL NET ASSETS		**1,214,885**	**22,003**	**1,236,888**	**1,257,516**
Funds					
Unrestricted		1,214,885	-	1,214,885	1,235,513
Restricted	9		22,003	22,003	22,003
		1,214,885	**22,003**	**1,236,888**	**1,257,516**

PCC Declaration

The PCC acknowledge and accept their collective responsibility for ensuring adequate financial controls are maintained and proper books and records kept.

These financial statements were approved by the PCC on 25th October 2024

S.G. Young

Stuart Young, Church Warden
On behalf of St Hilda's PCC

Independent Examiner's Report to the Members of the Parochial Church Council ('PCC') of St Hilda's Church, Ashford, Middlesex

I report to the members of the PCC on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023 as set out on the attached pages.

This report is made solely to the members of the PCC in accordance with Sections 145 of the Charities Act 2011. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the PCC members those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the members of the PCC for my examination work.

Respective responsibilities of PPC Members and Examiner

The PPC members are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year (under Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Charities Act')) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under Section 145 of the Charities Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under Section 145 (5) (b) of the Charities Act); and
- to 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 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 members of the PCC concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no view is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

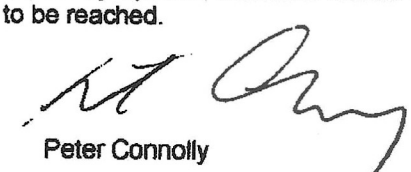
Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
   - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the Charities Act ;and
   - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act

   have not been met; or

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



Name: Peter Connolly

Address: 33 Carlyle Road, Staines, TW18 2PU

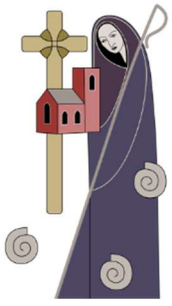
Date 26 October 2024

THE PAROCHIAL COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ASHFORD ST. HILDA DIOCESE OF L

England & Wales - Charity number 1134119

Accounts

St Hilda's APCM 2023



St Hilda's Ashford

ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS AND PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING OF ST HILDA'S CHURCH, ASHFORD, MIDDLESEX TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY 30th April, 2023

AGENDAS

ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

The Chairman reads the Convening Notice

1. Prayers and welcome
2. Minutes of the Vestry Meeting held Sunday 29th May 2022.
3. Election of Church Wardens: Adjudicators to be nominated by the Chairman

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held Sunday 29th May 2022
3. Matters arising
4. Report of the Electoral Roll Officer
5. Election of Representatives:
   To the Parochial Church Council - **4 people for 3 years**
   3 people for 1 year
   To the Deanery Synod – 3 places for re-election in-line with Synod election rules.
   Adjudicators to be appointed by the Church Wardens
   Appointment of the Independent Financial Examiner
6. Vicar's Reflection
7. Church Warden's Report
8. Treasurer's Report and presentation of Church Accounts
9. Stewardship Report
10. PCC's Annual Report for 2022
11. Deanery Synod Report
12. Reports of Church Groups
13. Any Other Business **(Must be notified in writing to the PCC Secretary 72 hours prior to the meeting)**.
14. Date of next year's Annual Parochial Church Meeting

CLOSING PRAYERS

MINUTES OF A JOINT MEETING OF THE VESTRY AND THE PERSONS WHOSE NAMES ARE ON THE ELECTORAL ROLL OF THE PARISH OF ST. HILDA, ASHFORD HELD ON SUNDAY 29th May 2022

Present:	Chairman	Fr. Joseph Fernandes
	Licensed Lay Ministers	Carolyn Clark
		Rosalyn Young
	Churchwardens	Roberta Bedford
		Frances Forsbrey
	Treasurer:	Darran Buttigieg
	Secretary:	Elizabeth Bate (for APCM)
	Electoral Roll Officer:	Jane Dobbie

and 34 people supporting the meeting in the Church

Apologies were received from Christine Makriel, Linda Bishop, Rebecca Fernandes, John Hunt, Betty Hunt, Melvyn Rouse, Chris Brown, Gordon Clark, Jane Dobbie, Robert Dobbie

Vestry Meeting

1. **Convening Notice**.
   Fr. Joseph led the meeting with prayer and welcomed everyone.

2. **Minutes of the Vestry Meeting held on 25th April 2021 via Zoom**:
   That the Minutes be accepted was proposed by Rosalyn Young, seconded by Rosemary Greenwood, and agreed unanimously.

3. **Election of Churchwardens**:
   There were one nominee:

Name	*Proposer*	*Seconder*
Mrs Roberta Bedford	*Mariane Tank*	*Paula Gething*

   There being no other nominations, **Roberta Bedford** was duly elected as Churchwarden for the coming year. Roberta was thanked for agreeing to continue and Frances Forsbrey for her service and support over the previous years.

4. **Report of Electoral Roll Officer**:

   Jane Dobbie had supplied her report and this confirmed that the number on our New Electoral Roll is 175. Of the total number, 64 are non-resident in the parish. We had 5 roll members who we had lost and 5 new to the roll, hence remaining the same total as previous year.

   Jane was re-appointed as Electoral Roll Officer.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING OF THE PARISH OF ST. HILDA, ASHFORD
HELD ON SUNDAY 29th May 2022

Present: As for Vestry Meeting,

1. Apologies for absence were received from Christine Makriel, Linda Bishop, Rebecca Fernandes, John Hunt, Betty Hunt, Melvyn Rouse, Chris Brown, Gordon Clark, Jane Dobbie, Robert Dobbie

2. Minutes:
That the Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 25 April 2021 be accepted was proposed by Frances Forsbrey seconded by Alison Garner and agreed unanimously.

3. Matters Arising: none.

4a. Election of Lay Representatives to serve on the St. Hilda's Church Parochial Church Council: there are four vacancies for a three-year period.

There were 5 nominees:

Name	*Proposer*	*Seconder*
Mariane Tank	Roberta Bedford	Elizabeth Bate
Rosemary Greenwood	Paula Gething	Linda Bishop
Liz Brian	Jane Dobbie	Robert Dobbie
Chris Brown	Chris Maddock	Roberta Bedford
Chris Davenport	Andrew Rickson	Alison Garner

There being no other nominations, Mariane, Rosemary, Liz, Chris Brown and Chris Davenport were elected as Lay Representatives for the period 2022-2024 and were thanked for stepping forward.

Expression of thanks is recorded Frances, Christine, Darran and Denise for the support they have provided.

. **4b. Election of Deanery Synod Representatives:** there is one vacancy for a two year period.

Name	*Proposer*	*Seconder*
Chris Maddock	Rosemary Greenwood	Alison Garner

Chris was thanked for stepping forward.

4c. Independent Financial examiner:
Darran Buttigieg thanked Peter Connolly who had undertaken this role. With Darran moving away, the new Treasurer and Independent Financial examiner will need to be appointed.

5. PCC Annual Report for 2022 - This was circulated in advance of the meeting and displayed in church.

6. Deanery Synod Report - This was produced for all parishes in the deanery by the Area Dean.

7. Reports of Church Groups and Committees – A booklet containing all reports had been circulated to all members of the Electoral Roll prior to the meeting by either email or by post. It had also been on display in St Hilda's.

Rosalyn Young explained that Feed My Sheep had not met, hence no report had been supplied.

8. Treasurer's Report and presentation of Church Accounts - see the Financial Statement.

Darran Buttigieg reported: As Treasurer, I have prepared the financial statements under the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the current Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2005). The financial statements were audited by Peter Connolly in his capacity of Independent Examiner on 25th April 2022 and his report is included in the financial statements.

I' m not going to go through the detailed accounts as normal, they are presented in the documents as just mentioned.

St Hilda's Church endured another difficult year on the back of COVID 19, the accounts reflect a loss of £5,757 for the year, however, this masks the true financial performance for several reasons.

- In 2021, we were asked to maintain and pay out against grants that Bronzefield received towards several projects in relation to their mission. We ended the year with a holding £4,700 in our reserves on their behalf.
- St Hilda's House (formerly referred to as 34 Woodthorpe Road), several grants were received during the year towards the development of the property and its mission, at the end of the year we held £11,500 of grants not yet utilized.
- Finally, as you will be aware we held a very successful 'Sponsor a Chair' campaign and together with the proceeds from the sale of the old chairs were able to replace them. At the end of 2021 we had purchased the first batch of chairs and trolley leaving a remaining fund of £3,224 for purchases that was used in 2022.

If you discount the items I have mentioned, the impact of which means St Hilda's Church made an operating loss of £24,321 in 2021.

As you can see from the accounts, we ended the year still maintaining our reserves, which I will come back to shortly.

Before I do so, I would like to say a few thank you's to those who have helped me during the year with the maintenance and keeping of the financial records

- The banking team of Chris Rosemary who managed the weekly banking of Church receipts
- Chris Davenport who collects, banks and provides details of the Church Hall income, which incidentally is back on the increase
- Bobbie and Denise in claiming back VAT from the tax man
- Jim and the Stewardship team who manage the gift aid claim from the government. The Parish Giving Scheme has been taken up by a few additional people, I would like to encourage more to do so, as this is an efficient way of planned giving, as they claim the gift aid back in the same month which helps cashflow
- Denise in one of her many roles as Parish Administrator, for ensuring the bills were paid promptly as well as sourcing provisions efficiently and ensuring best use of the church funds.
- Bobbie, Frances together with the Standing Committee and PCC for their support.
- And finally, to everyone who generously gives to the church each year.

As I have mentioned over the 7 years that I have been Treasurer, the Church really needs to pull together and develop a robust fund raising strategy and hold regular events for all age groups across the parish, not only to raise funds but also to bring new members of the parish through the church doors.

This is more critical than ever, as following a mistimed decision to exit from the Parish Buying scheme for gas late last year, coupled with the current energy crisis has resulted in a significant increase of gas costs, we have now entered a new fixed term contract but the rate exceeds what we were paying previously. This rate is not sustainable for a long period of time and a creative fundraising approach is an absolute necessity to help us weather this storm in the short term.

Finally, as I mentioned I am stepping down as Treasurer of St Hilda's after 7 years in the role, however, you may not be aware that Denise and I made a life changing decision last September and have decided to relocate down to Hampshire with all going well we will be on the move with the family sometime in July.

We will be sorry to leave the parish as we have many fond memories and made many friends over the 20+ years we have been part of this church. It sounds like we are moving far, but in fact it is only 60 or so miles away, and if anybody is in the local vicinity you are more than welcome to pop in for a cuppa and a slice of cake. We will also be sure to pop in as we will still have family in Spelthorne.

Thank you everybody from the bottom of our hearts for the friendship, love and support you have all given us and the family over the years, we will miss you.

There were no questions on the account.

Darran was thanked by Father Joseph for his role as Treasurer, Denise for her role as Parish Administrator and for their faithful service at St Hilda.

The date of next PCC meeting was proposed and accepted as Tuesday 7th June 2022 at 19:00.

9. Churchwarden's Reports

We confirm that in accordance with the law governing the Office of Church wardens during the last year we have

- Carried out the duties assigned by the Bishop or Archdeacon
- Maintained in good order and safe keeping, the plate, ornaments and other articles committed to our charge.
- Kept the church records in the same good order and safe-keeping.
- All offerings and collections have been recorded and paid into the relevant bank.
- The bread and wine have been provided for the Holy Communion as we are bound and directed.
- The seating and good order of the congregation have been maintained and as lay officers of the Bishop we have not found it necessary to report to him or the Archdeacon any neglect or default upon any one person in the discharge of their duties.

Thanks were expressed to Frances, Christine, Darran and Denise for their support to our Church.

Fabric of Building Report (Stuart Young)

Church Works during 2020

The defective sump pump in the Crypt area was repaired by a local electrician (Dr Sparky).

Following receipt of a Faculty the external brickwork joints to the Baptistry were resealed and the defective plaster to the ceiling above the Font was also repaired and following which the ceiling of the Baptistery area was repainted all by a specialist contractor with inspections being carried out by the Diocesan Architects.
Areas of the floor finish around the Font were tested by a specialist contractor who confirmed that they contained asbestos. A specialist contractor was therefore employed (Amstech Limited) to remove and seal these areas, they also carried a comprehensive inspection/testing of all of the joints in the carpeted flooring in the church, and the joints were subsequently sealed.
Sealing of the joint between the carpet and the West end wall of the church was also carried out.

Church and Church Hall
During October 2020 repair works were carried out to defective external light fittings some of the fitting had to be replaced as well as replacement lamps fitted.

Activities Report (Roberta Bedford)

Do you remember that TV programme "that was the week that was"? Well, I think we can say 2020 was that was the year that was.
It started off quite normal, we had a fantastic Burns night with an even bigger uptake on tickets than last year, there was lots of laughter and dancing and I hope I can say a good time was had by all.
Burns night was followed by Shrove Tuesday when we cooked pancakes in church on various small hot plates, there were lots of different toppings and they were delicious, a few people from other churches joined us and they were made to feel very welcome.
The very last event we had in our normal start to the year was a jumble sale, as it was already advertised, we went ahead with it, however, we were already hearing about this Covid 19 virus that was beginning to spread, so we wore protective aprons and gloves to sort the goods and serve and Mike Davenport sat in the entrance of the hall and sprayed everyone who wanted to come inside, despite all of this we made a good profit.
Sadly, a week later we were in lock-down and it would be many weeks until we would be back in our church.
Due to the lockdown a few volunteered to ring round to the more vulnerable members of the congregation to have a chat and ensure all was well with them. Darran and Denise set up a weekly newsletter to let everyone know what was going on and keep everyone in touch.
But where there's a will there's a way, Fr Joseph ever resilient began to stream the Sunday services from his study via his mobile phone and ably assisted by Elisabeth, Rebecca and Gabriel and sometimes a little glimpse of Bella the dog. Those of us fortunate to have internet could watch the service on Face Book or U-tube. This form of our Sunday worship went on for several weeks, until Fr Joseph was allowed to stream the services from the Church.
At this time Chris Maddock was a great help sorting out the filming and between Chris and Fr Joseph we settled into a pattern of Sunday services. During this time, it was heartening to see many names popping up as watching the service that we didn't recognise. It seemed that we were attracting a new congregation all be it on line.
As the choir were not allowed back into church, Chris and Paula decided to record the choir so that the recordings could be used during the service.
The first rehearsal took place safely distanced in Paula's back garden – I hope the neighbours enjoyed it as much as we did. Then Chris began to e-mail both music and words of the hymns and we recorded them in our homes, we either e-mailed or WhatsApp the recording to Chris and he very cleverly blended the individual voices and made them sound amazing.
During the year we mastered Zoom and after a few false starts for some of us we held our PCC and standing committee meetings via this app, with many a shout of you're on mute, when someone was speaking and had forgotten to put their sound on.
Later in the year we were allowed back into church, however, a safe distancing risk assessment had to be put in place and seats had to be booked via the parish office. A team led by Paula spent couple of Saturday afternoons thoroughly cleaning the church, marking the floor with arrows

showing the one-way system in and out of the church and with the aid of a 2-metre stick, safe distanced the seating. Eventually we had to remove the static wooden seats to give greater flexibility to the seating and enable more people to take part in the service.
To keep us all safe and sanitised, there are hands free sanitisers that Alison set up and everyone is given a sanitiser to use before communion.
We were at last able to have a choir in church, however, sadly no other singing was allowed. It was all very different to what we were used to and what with face masks and long lockdown hair, it was sometimes hard to recognise people. Our live streaming took on a very professional touch with the Lovely Ozzy setting up his equipment every Sunday a filming the service and we were the envy of many.
Our APCM along with other churches was held in October again via live stream. Stuart decided to stand down as church warden and Frances kindly stood and was voted in to replace him. My thanks go to Stuart for all the hard work he has carried out to keep the church building standing.
Just before Christmas we went into another lockdown and church once again was closed and services once again were live streamed curtesy of Ozzy and Chris.

So, despite the country being in lockdown St Hilda's was still going strong. Everyone has played a part in this, however, there are a few thank you's I must give.
First to Fr Joseph for always being there for all of us and keeping St Hilda's very much in the forefront. His promotion to Area Dean is well deserved. To Darran and Denise for producing the brilliant weekly newsletter and organising delivery to those who are without Wi-Fi. To all who help deliver and keep in touch with the more vulnerable members of our church family.
Paula for her rigorous risk assessment to keep the church safe to use and for her collaboration with Chris in choosing hymns and music and keeping us all in tune. Chris Maddock for his hard work in first setting up the recording of the services and doing a brilliant job in recording the music and hymns, thanks to Melvin Rouse for recording some of the music, Frances and Rosemary for cleaning and sanitising the church every Wednesday after the service to make it ready for Sunday worship. Christine Makriel who served at the Altar most Sundays and finally to all the readers and intercessors and do you like me try to guess who is reading each week.
As always there is so much done behind the scenes to keep the church running smoothly that we do not see, and my thanks to all of you for all your hard work and commitment. It has been my privilege and pleasure to serve as your church warden.

11. Resolution to enable postal voting at Future Annual Parochial Church Meetings:
These have been on display in church, and were included in the documentation issued before the meeting.

12. Benefice's Reflection
One of the purposes of this year's APCM is to reflect on church life from the previous year of 2020, and, of course, of all that still applies. If we look at all the things that changed since the first lockdown in March and all that is currently lacking in or church community compared to what was before. When all is stripped away and all pared back to a Facebook broadcast, then that is tough, very tough. Although, there is some hope in that, as I will mention in a moment.
But looking back to what church life was like before COVID should be a source of encouragement. It reminds us that we capable of so much more and that when restrictions are lifted, then we know that we can re-build our worshipping community.
But we should not underestimate the challenges which lie ahead in rebuilding our church community. There is no doubt that COVID has increased the financial pressures and put on hold many of our more social outreach activities. Things improved between the first and second lockdown, and we were able to worship together for a while, before we had to close down our doors again just before Christmas, but with the hope of the vaccine programme being rolled out.
The reason to be hopeful also originates for reasons which I will explain. Firstly, because stripped back of all the extras which go with church life, the social functions, coffee morning, the boot sales, the concerts, and going back to basics is not the worst thing in the world. If we are to look for good in the situation then there are some parallels, albeit of course not the same, with the early church. They prayed together and shared communion before they put together a social calendar.

Whilst only priests are required by Canon Law to celebrate the daily offices, our church community was encouraged to be united in prayer every day at home.

My hope and prayer are that having been stripped back to the basics of our Christian life and worship, that we have the people and the spirit amongst us to put some things back together. But as we do that, I would also urge a spirit of discernment. The task of 2021 is not to re-create the church of 2019, 1919 or 1819. The task that lies ahead of us is to discern what we can do with the resources we have, what we need to do given the community we inhabit and, most importantly, what God calls us to do in this place. If we want St Hilda Ashford to have a spiritual heart, then we are not to use COVID as an excuse to back off and let other people get on with it, because if everyone does that, then I can show you what has happened to many churches throughout the Kensington area and the Diocese of London, who either are facing closure or have become church plants. Sisters and brothers in Christ, no matter how long you have been here and no matter what roles or jobs you have done for this parish before, you are not the past of St Hilda, you are its present and its future. You are called to pray, to evangelise, to worship and to play our role in the life of this parish, whatever that may be. Because everyone has a role in God's economy.

In 2020, despite the pandemic, outreach still took place. We strengthened our partnership with HMP Bronzefield, through the ongoing collaboration with chaplaincy and the art department. In terms of chaplaincy, a joint project looking at ways to reintegrate women into the local community upon release from prison, as well as supporting Simeon in his 'Through the Door' ministry. He was duly Co-Opted to the PCC at the November meeting, as a link person between the prison and the parish. In terms of the art department, the women decorated a fabric Christmas tree, which was then displayed at church, as visual sign of the existing close relationship between prison and parish.

We continued with the Foundation Governorship of Ashford Church of England Primary School, with Donna Hester as governor. After several years as governor, Lisa Richardson stepped down as a foundation governor for St Hilda, for which we are deeply grateful. As a result of the vacancy, Clare Marland, was appointed as foundation governor in November, and we welcomed her to the role. We look forward to a closer relationship with the school.

There is also a connection with Bishop Wand, through my role as Foundation Governor, and taking collective worship.

Since becoming the Area Dean for Spelthorne in March, it has meant an increase in my workload, but at the same time a bigger involvement with the life of the Diocese and a stronger connection with other parishes in the Deanery.

The gifts from the Harvest Festival went to the local food bank at the Salvation Army, which has become a lifeline throughout the pandemic for many families who are struggling financially.

As were not able to meet up in person during the lockdowns, and there were many people who did not have access to the internet, it was important to find a way to stay in touch. With this in mind, the idea of a weekly newsletter was born, which Denise and Darran took upon themselves to put together and distribute. It has contributions from across the community and has been well received and much appreciated.

The Ministry Team has not been able to operate in the same way throughout the pandemic. With Rosalyn on sabbatical, Carolyn carried on reading the Gospel, and preaching, when possible, as well as keeping an eye on the Facebook page. Later on the year, she took over facilitating the Tea & Chat after the Sunday service. Denise also facilitated Tea & Chat on a Tuesday morning. Both have provided much needed opportunities for those attending to have social interaction via Zoom. We also welcomed Fr Steve, who has retired, and his wife Liz to the parish. We look forward to their involvement in the worship life at St Hilda.

A big thank you to all the readers for keeping this invaluable ministry going, and to Frances for overseeing it. Also, thank you to Frances for all the behind the scenes work as a sacristan, and to Alan Sloan for organising the crucifer rota. I particularly would like to thank Christine Makriel for all the quiet but most appreciated help.

Junior Church tried to meet best possible in between lockdowns, and we are grateful for Christine Taylor's oversight, in collaboration with Elizabeth Bate, Chris Davenport, Elisabeth Santos and Gordon Clark. Thank you for holding it together under trialing circumstances.

Rosemary Greenwood, together with the editorial and collating teams, faithfully carried on producing Crossroads. However, with the number of contributions drying up and no one to take

over from Rosemary, with a heavy heart it was decided to stop it for now. A big thank you goes to Rosemary and the rest of the team, namely Val Scott, Mike Davenport, Terry Rickson and Chris Holliday, for all their hard work, and to those who advertise in it for their sponsorship.
The Hall Committee, namely Steve Smith, Val Scott, Elizabeth Bate, Chris Davenport, and Jenny Cayley, after many years of commitment and service to the parish, by overseeing the day to day run of the Church Hall, agreed to bring it to a close, as their oversight was transferred to the newly created Church Fabric Committee, composed by Steve Smith, Elizabeth Bate and Stuart Young, with the involvement of both Church Wardens, in order to centralise and streamline ongoing maintenance of both church and church hall.
Part of the function of the APCM is to acknowledge all the areas of church life and those who contribute to them. to them. This event is a reminder that church is not something done in isolation, but it is only possible using the different silks and callings of many people from this church. Whilst I can't thank everyone in this reflection by name, there are some people that I must thank personally, not only on my own behalf but on behalf of us all.
Firstly, everyone should know that this church and this parish simply could not function without all the hard work of Denise, our parish administrator, my PA, supporting me in my role as Area Dean, and PCC Secretary! Unless you have seen behind the scenes of how the parish works you probably have no idea of how much there is to do but the newsletters, orders of services, admin work, photocopying, and many other tasks, plus trying to get any sense out of the vicar is a massive job. All this on top of being the PCC secretary. Thank you, Denise!
A huge thanks to Stuart who stepped down as a Churchwarden at the 2019 APCM, and to our current Churchwardens Bobbie and Frances, and Stuart. They have been hugely supportive and hardworking. Unless you have been a churchwarden it is hard to imagine just how much goes into the job but, a bit like being a vicar. I truly appreciate all they do.
Huge thanks also to Darran who has done a magnificent job as treasurer, and supported Denise in her varied roles.
Of course, we also need to thank the PCC and Deanery Synod members who give up evenings throughout the year to help guide the life of the church. Huge thanks to everyone who has served in that capacity and to those who have put themselves forward for the new PCC. I would also like to acknowledge the hard work of the Standing Committee, overseeing the day-to-day business of the parish. One important undertaking was to plan the return to church after the first lockdown, for which I am grateful to Paula, Elizabeth and Christine Makriel.
One of our chief characteristics in this church is the high standard of our music and our choir. I must therefore offer huge thanks to Chris Maddock for keeping the choir going throughout the pandemic, making full use of technology in unprecedented ways. Also, huge thank you to Paula for supporting Chris, and the members of the choir, for augmenting our worship so beautifully every week.
One essential part of the corporate worship in absence over the least year has been the live streaming of the services. We are deeply grateful to Chris Maddock for overseeing it and Ozzy Etis for recording it without ever asking for anything in return, as a way to serve the local community.
Thank you to those who contributed to the cleaning of the church when open, namely Bobbie, Frances, Rosemary and Chris Holliday.
What comes next for St Hilda's over the coming year? As already flagged up, we do face a number of challenges in the year ahead and, whilst celebrating our blessings, we need to face the future realistically. So, there are challenges ahead, but there are also opportunities. I think that the biggest growth opportunity for the church comes from learning how to be of service to those around us. We are surrounded by endless need, whether our eyes are open to it or not, and if we seek to serve that need in the name of Christ then that is the best possible witness to the effect that being Christians has had on our lives. To serve others out of love, to be open with them about why we do it and to help them to find ways into making a response of their own is, in my view, far more powerful than only fiddling with our worship and hoping that people will come. We need to be such good Christians out there that people will be clamouring to know what goes on in here. We also need to increase our fellowship and discipleship, particularly to those who have joined the parish recently.

This is a good place, filled with good people, and there is no doubt that God is at work in this community. We must treasure that and not take it or each other for granted.

13. Any other business:

Fr Joseph explained that Lay Ministers are ex-officio members of the PCC and a vote was requested to appoint them as voting members. This was agreed unanimously.

Joyce & Melvyn Rouse proposed a vote of thanks to Chris Maddock for his work with the choir,music and livestreaming of the services.

14. The date of the next APCM is **Sunday 30th April 2023**.

The meeting closed at 12.20pm with a prayer.

REPORTS FOR 2023 MEETING

ST HILDA'S CHURCH

ASHFORD, MIDDLESEX

ANNUAL REPORT and FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31st December, 2022

Incumbent

The Reverend Joseph Fernandes
8 Station Crescent
Ashford
Middlesex

Bank

Nat West Bank
Ashford Middlesex Branch
5 Woodthorpe Road Ashford
Middlesex TW152RN

Independent Examiner

Mr Peter Connolly
33, Carlyle Road
Staines
Middlesex TW18

The Parochial Church Council of St Hilda Ashford
Charity Number 113411

Saint Hilda's Church, Ashford, Middlesex

Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council

for the year ended 31 December 2022

Saint Hilda's Church, Ashford, which is part of the Diocese of London within the Church of England, has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, The Reverend Joseph Fernandes, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church, Church Hall, Vicarage and 34, Woodthorpe Road, Ashford, Middlesex TW15 2RU.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity, the Charity Number being 1134119

Incumbent	**The Reverend Joseph Fernandes**
Licenced Lay Ministers	**Carolyn Clark**
	[Ex-officio & Deanery voting member]
	Rosalyn Young
	[Ex-officio voting member]

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL 2022

Appointments are for 3 years in the first instance with the option of serving for a second term of 3 years. After a total of 6 years members must come off the PCC but can be re-elected to serve again for 3 years after a break of one year.

Appointed for			**Due for re-election**
APCM 2020 – 2023	Christine Makriel	2nd Term	To end 2023
APCM 2021 – 2024	Gordon Clark	1st Term	APCM 2024
	Paula Gething	2nd Term	APCM 2024
Year 2021	The Reverend Stephen Brian		Co-opted
APCM 2022 – 2025	Christine Davenport	1st Term	APCM 2025
	Christopher Brown	1st Term	APCM 2025
	Liz Brian	1st Term	APCM 2025
	Rosemary Greenwood	1st Term	APCM 2025
Year 2022	Nick Gething	Co-opted	

Elected by PCC members – due for re-election in 2023.

October 2022	John Swaffield
January 2023	Frances Forsbrey

Three **Deanery Synod representatives** are elected for three year terms.

Appointed for			**Due for re-election**
APCM 2020 – 2023	Elizabeth Bate	2nd Term	APCM 2023
	Carolyn Clark	1st Term	APCM 2023
APCM 2022 – 2023	Christopher Maddock	1st Term	APCM 2023

Two **Churchwardens**: Churchwardens are elected annually up to a total of 4 years.

To be decided at Vestry Meeting

Assistant to the Churchwardens

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance within the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. During the year, the Council met 12 times. The PCC operates through a number of committees.

Standing Committee

This is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact business of the PCC between PCC meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council. The Standing Committee oversees the finances of the PCC. The committee includes the Vicar, Churchwardens, Treasurer, Secretary and Vice Chairperson.

Stewardship Committee

The Stewardship Committee deals with giving to the Church through the Stewardship Scheme and with encouraging members of the congregation to organize their planned giving. They ensure that tax is reclaimed on donations where applicable.

Church Attendance

On 29th May, 2022 there were 175 names on the Church Electoral Roll. Of the total number 64 were non-resident in the parish. The average Sunday attendance counted over a 4 week period during October, was 71 adults and 10 children. (Figures for 2021 were 59 and 17 respectively). Additionally, Church at Home (Facebook) 85 (2021 – 226). This reflects that more have returned to worship in their own churches since COVID. The figure for 2021 was also down on the previous year 2020 – 327. At Christmas 244 people attended special services for the congregation and local

community (2021 – 172). Those attending schools Christmas Services was 600 (2021 – 550).

129 people attended Christmas Eve and Christmas Day (2021 – 127).

Vicar's Reflection for 2022 (Father Joseph Fernandes)

Part of the function of the APCM is to acknowledge all the areas of church life in the previous year and those who contribute to them. This annual event is a reminder that church is not something done in isolation, but it is only possible using the different skills and callings of many people. I would like to affirm all who are involved in different areas of the life of the parish. It is rooted in *agape*, an expression of faith and commitment to serve one another and ultimately God.

The Ministry Team is a blessing to the life of the parish, through the ministry of Fr Stephen, Mother Pamela, Rosalyn, Carolyn and Mother Helen Calner. Mother Helen continued her second year placement at St Hilda's. Her ministry has been very much valued, and she has made a very positive contribution to the life of the parish. After a fruitful and memorable time at St Hilda's, she is leaving in the summer to start her curacy in London, subject to finding a parish. Equally, we await to hear if she will be ordained priest in the summer.

A big thank you to all the readers for keeping this invaluable ministry going, and to Frances for overseeing it. Also, thank you to Frances for all the behind the scenes work as a sacristan and to Alan Sloan for organising the server's rota.

Junior Church has been working hard to reconnect with the younger families. We are grateful for Christine Taylor's oversight, alongside the Junior Church leaders. Thank you for holding it together as we navigate the post-pandemic.

I would like to acknowledge the contribution made by Laura, the new parish administrator. She had a steep learning curve dealing with all the loose ends and catching up with all the different elements of the role, but I am pleased to say she is doing an extremely efficient job.

Liz Brian has also excelled as PCC Secretary and brings fresh insight and knowledge to a role, which is not always fully appreciated in its complexity.

Bobbie Bedford was re-elected as Church Warden at the APCM. Alongside Frances Forsbrey, in a supporting role, they have been incredibly hard working. Huge gratitude to both. Without them, the church could not function properly. On behalf of the parish and at a personal level, I would like to offer my deepest gratitude for all they have done over the past year, sacrificially at times.

The PCC has been outstanding in commitment and contribution to the life of the parish. I would also like to acknowledge the hard work of the Standing Committee, overseeing the day-to-day business of the parish, particularly the invaluable contribution made by Paula Gething and Elizabeth Bate, who amongst several things have been directly involved with the ongoing logistics surrounding St Hilda's House. I would also like to thank Deanery Synod members who give up evenings throughout the year to contribute to the life of the parish and the deanery. Chris Brown has worked tirelessly as treasurer, which turned out to be a more complicated task than originally envisaged, after Darran and Denise Buttigieg moved house in the summer. They were committed members of St Hilda's for many years and will be missed.

One of our main contributors to the liturgy in this church is the choir. I must therefore offer my gratitude to Chris Maddock for his knowledgeable and gentle leadership, with the help of Paula, Rosemary and Carolyn.

One essential part of the corporate worship absence has been the live streaming of the services. We are deeply grateful to Chris Maddock for overseeing it and Ozzy Etis for providing the equipment. It has provided an invaluable lifeline to those who are not able to attend the services in person. The sides people and those looking after the refreshments at the end of the service are very much appreciated. Thank you to all who contribute.

Thank you to those who contribute to the cleaning of the church, under the guidance of Frances, for such an important role in keeping the church looking beautiful. Alison Garner and Pauline Milton's beautiful flower arrangements have also contributed to the latter, although it has been challenging to procure affordable flowers, due to the increase in the cost of living.

A special mention to Chris Davenport, for her invaluable contribution in looking after the church hall with the bookings and ensuring everything runs smoothly. Thank you to Mike Davenport for supporting Chris.

In 2023, we commended to God our beloved Queen Elizabeth II, who died in September. The church was opened for those who wanted to write a message in the book of condolence and pay their respects. We also mourned the death of long-standing, faithful and committed members of the church family. We remember with much fondness, Jo Wood, Jenny Granger, Penny Pinfold, Peter Wilson and Terry Rickson. They will be greatly missed, and our consolation is that they are now in Glory.

In December 2022, it was announced that I would be leaving St Hilda's at the end of May 2023 to become the Rector of St Mary's with All Saints Acton, in the Willesden Episcopal Area. It was a very difficult decision to make, based on family and ministerial reasons and by no means a consequence of any disappointment with the parish, on the contrary. It will be sad to say goodbye and I thank you for making us feel so welcome during our time here. It will always be part of my journey in ministry.

The parish is in a very good place to navigate the vacancy and I pray for the season ahead at St Hilda's. Together, St Hilda's is stronger.

What comes next for St Hilda's over the coming year? The vacancy will bring several challenges. Notwithstanding, it is important to celebrate the blessings God has given to St Hilda's. Yes, there are challenges ahead, but there are also opportunities. I think that the biggest growth opportunity for St Hilda's comes from learning how to be of service to the wider community. We are surrounded by endless need, whether our eyes are open to it or not, and if we seek to serve that need in the name of Christ then that is the best possible witness to the effect that being Christians has had on our lives. To serve others out of love, to be open with them about why we do it and to help them to find ways into making a response of their own is far more powerful than only fiddling with our worship and hoping that people will come. We need to bear witness to the Christian faith in the public square and invite others to come along. We also need to find ways to increase fellowship and discipleship, particularly for those who have joined the parish recently.

St Hilda's is a good place, filled with good people, and there is no doubt that God is at work in this church community, albeit this is not an excuse to be complacent or to take each other for granted.

The challenge of 2023 is to avoid recreating the pre-pandemic model of being a church. If St Hilda's is to find the spiritual heart of this parish, it needs to discern further what God is calling the church to be, and to do in Ashford. It is paramount to be good stewards of existing resources.

No matter how long people have been in the parish, all are part of the present and its future. All are called to pray, evangelise, worship and play a role in the life of this church community, whatever that may be. Everyone has a role to play in God's economy. Everyone is valued, recognised and loved by God.

Church Warden Report (Roberta Bedford)

I confirm that in accordance with the law governing the Office of Churchwardens during the last year we have

- Carried out duties assigned by the Bishop or Archdeacon.
- Maintained in good order and safe keeping the plate, ornaments and other articles committed to our charge.
- Kept the church records in the same good order and safe keeping
- All offerings and collections have been recorded and paid into the relevant bank.
- The bread and wine have been provided for the Holy Communion as we are bound and directed.
- The seating and good order of the congregation have been maintained and as lay officers of the Bishop we have not found it necessary to report to him or the Archdeacon any neglect or default upon any one person in the discharge of their duties.

Once again, a huge thank you to Frances Forsbrey for taking on the role of a second church warden in all but name. Frances has played a major part in negotiating with many building contractors in order to keep the church and hall in good order.
Over the past year things have been back to normal, still ensuring the church is cleaned weekly to minimise the risk of spreading the COVID virus acknowledging the fact that it is still out there in the community, also providing hand sanitisers to use before communion.
We continue to live stream our Sunday service for those who are unable to attend church in person, hopefully making them feel still very much part of our church family.
Our church attendance for the Sunday services is growing in numbers with almost everyone staying behind to have coffee and fellowship.
The Wednesday Eucharist service is very well attended and we now have around 20 staying for lunch each week and the weekly food deliveries from Surplus to Supper are most welcome, with very little waste.
Of course, our surge in numbers is mainly due to the warm welcome we give at St Hilda's also to our ministry team. Fr Joseph, Fr Steve, Mother Helen, Mother

Pamela, Carolyn and Rosalyn. We have enjoyed some wonderful sermons from them all over the past year and look forward to many more.
Our aim to open the church to the local community is going well. The local schools hold their Carol Services here and Fr Joseph and I were privileged to welcome 90 5 year-olds from Ashford Park School talking about Christmas and singing their Christmas songs, they also for the second year provided us with decorations they had made for our Christmas tree.
Due to the large open space, we have begun to hold our jumble sales here in church, also our Christmas fayre. We have had several very enjoyable euphonium concerts here during the spring and in December we had a Turkiye and Tinsel meal, a great use of this wonderful space.
We now have some lovely new seats in church, thanks to the sponsor a chair campaign. Gone are the old cumbersome uncomfortable wooden chairs replaced by lovely light grey padded seats. Our thanks go out to everyone who sponsored the chairs.
Once again thank you to everyone who helps to keep the church in good order, a lot of work goes on behind the scenes, so that we can enjoy our services in a clean, well-ordered church. We have a great Standing Committee and PCC, who keep everything ticking over and wonderful music thanks to the leadership of Chris Maddock.
This is my last year as your Warden, it has been a real privilege. I would like to thank you all for your fantastic support. I really couldn't have done it without you.

Church Property Report: (Fabric) – Frances Forsbrey

Church Hall
Last year, 2022, we saw our church hall functioning at full capacity with Chris Davenport managing the high demand of requests for hire from both our regular and one-off hirers.
Throughout the year all the required checks/inspections were carried out namely, British Gas inspected and serviced the boiler and gas meter, Chubb Fire & Security inspected and tested the fire extinguishers and fire blankets, Kingsmead Testing Services Ltd the PAT testing on all the portable electric appliances, Doctor Sparky Ltd carried out electrical repairs, Fullers Builders Ltd cleaned all the outside gutters (providing photographs of before & after) and Infinity Electrical Innovations Ltd the 5 year Fixed Wire Testing survey carrying out remedial work where necessary. With all having passed certificates were issued with copies placed in both the Maintenance Inspection File and the Church Log Book, likewise a set of the gutter photographs were also placed in each of the files. We continued with LSR Cleaning Services Ltd cleaning the entire premises daily Monday to Thursday and twice on Friday.
In addition to this, maintenance tasks were carried out sometimes more than once, for example dealing with repairs to both the ladies and gentlemen's toilets, strip lights replaced where necessary and drip bars replaced on the exterior of the fire exit doors opening on to the passageway from the main hall and checking the main hall's 'false' ceiling. A new dishwasher was purchased and plumbed in, and drains cleared of falling debris from trees. Again, we have Jon Bate, Michael Smith, Steve Smith and Jon Swaffield to thank, I don't know what I would have done without them, always there giving their time whatever the problem, gentlemen thank you so much.

Chris Davenport continued as hall Booking Secretary, keeping precise records of who, when and for how long. Chris always gives an excellent service to us and our hirers drawing in much needed revenue, thank you so much Chris.

Church

In February last year we said 'goodbye' to the old Eucalyptus tree that was in the far-left hand corner of the car park, what a difference that made, thank you Paula for managing this. Our gardening team beavered away through the year clearing the overgrown flower beds and pruning the shrubs. I don't doubt all comers are welcome, many hands make lighter work plus it's a good way of getting to know each other more and sharing gardening tips.

The necessary annual checks were carried out, British Gas tested / serviced the two boilers, B C Shepherd & Sons tuned and serviced the church organ, Chubb Fire & Security tested/serviced the fire extinguishers and fire blanket, Watson & Watkins Ltd serviced the organ blower and humidifier, Kingsmead Testing Services Ltd carried out the PAT Testing on all the portable electrical appliances, Fullers Builders Ltd cleaned all the gutters.

Bacon Protection Management inspected/tested our lightening conductor and Infinity Electrical Innovations Ltd the required 5 Year Fixed Wire Testing carrying out remedial work where necessary. With all having passed, certificates were issued with copies placed in both the Maintenance Inspection File and Church Log Book, likewise a set of photographs in respect of the gutter cleaning. The weekly team continued cleaning the church, come and join us if you have a spare hour on a Thursday morning we arrive at 10.30am. As in most years there were other little jobs that just got done without any fuss or bother, a big thank you to all concerned, you know who you are.

Dyno Rod attended to the church drains, BT London installed a new router and three wi-fi booster units, 50 more grey chairs were purchased together with 2 more stacking trolleys, Abeera Technology installed CCTV to both the interior and exterior of the building, Lodge Brothers Funeral Directors installed a wooden bench in the Millennium Garden, Jon Bate repainted the signs in the parking for disabled bays and J M Groundworks Ltd replaced a manhole cover in the car park.

Vicarage

The annual gutter maintenance was carried out by Fullers Builders Ltd in October (a set of photographs were supplied copies placed in both Maintenance File and Church Log Book) and during the year a new kitchen tap was fitted. Whilst there is provision in our budget for redecoration of one room per year, on checking with Fr Joseph and his family they did not consider there was a need.

Health and Safety Risk Management Policy (Christine Makriel)

Although the PCC is not required to report on its risk management policy, the PCC takes it very seriously and receives regular reports from the Health and Safety officer. A recovery plan is in place to assist the local community in the event of a disaster, and further work will be carried out on risk management issues as required. Christine Makriel continued as Health and Safety Office.

Financial Review (Christopher Brown – Treasurer)

Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Corinthians 9:7)

Total receipts on unrestricted funds were £137,262 of which £73,802 was unrestricted voluntary donations, a further £8,700 was from Gift Aid. Restricted donations of £7,370 were also received as shown in the Financial Statements. Tax totalling £3,037 has been recovered under Gift Aid on donations received via Parish Giving Scheme (PGS), however a further £6,189 needs to be claimed from HMRC against the following Gift Aid Receipts, which includes ad hoc donations given under the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS).

Source	Amount	Giftaid Claimed	Total	Giftaid Unclaimed
Parish Giving Scheme	13601	3037	16638	
Stewardship	16755		16755	4189
Looseplate	7462		7462	1866
GASDS Donations	538		538	135
				6189

Voluntary income has decreased slightly year-on-year however once the tax has been recovered there will be a net gain of £4,532, a 5.5% increase. May we continue to give to the Lord what he has gifted us.
Fund raising activities improved in 2022 from £36,720 : 2021 to £46,799 : 2022, the PCC would like to thank all those who gave their time and support in making these events so successful.

Fetes, bazaars & other fund raising events:	Amount
Hope Into Action - Clothing bank clothing	70
Summer Jumble Sale	607
Christmas Bazaar	1,149
Turkiye & Tinsel	955
Events Total	2,781
Church & Hall Lettings	43,988
	46,769

The freehold house at 34 Woodthorpe Road continues to be let under short term tenancies under the Hope into Action housing scheme, St Hilda's Church primary mission within the community, working in partnership with Bronzefield and Spelthorne BC.

We were grateful for a pecuniary legacy of £3,000 from the Hornby Lonsdale Estate. £1,120 was spent from unrestricted funds to support the Christian ministry of our brothers and sisters of the Holy Cross, Murrupula, Mozambique.

Notwithstanding the cost of repairs and maintenance - the Church and Church Hall cost £1001 per week to run - we further have a duty to contribute to the Dioceses of London Common Fund to support our ministry and wider infrastructure.

St Hilda's PCC originally committed £61,000 the Common Fund for 2022, however in May it emerged that the Church & Hall gas bills had been based on an estimated reading for over 30 months and we were presented with backdated charges totalling £13,645.

At this time the Church's funds were under severe pressure following the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and therefore the PCC suspended payments to the Common Fund whilst the PCC negotiated a settlement with Total Energies which was successfully concluded with a reduction of £5,561.

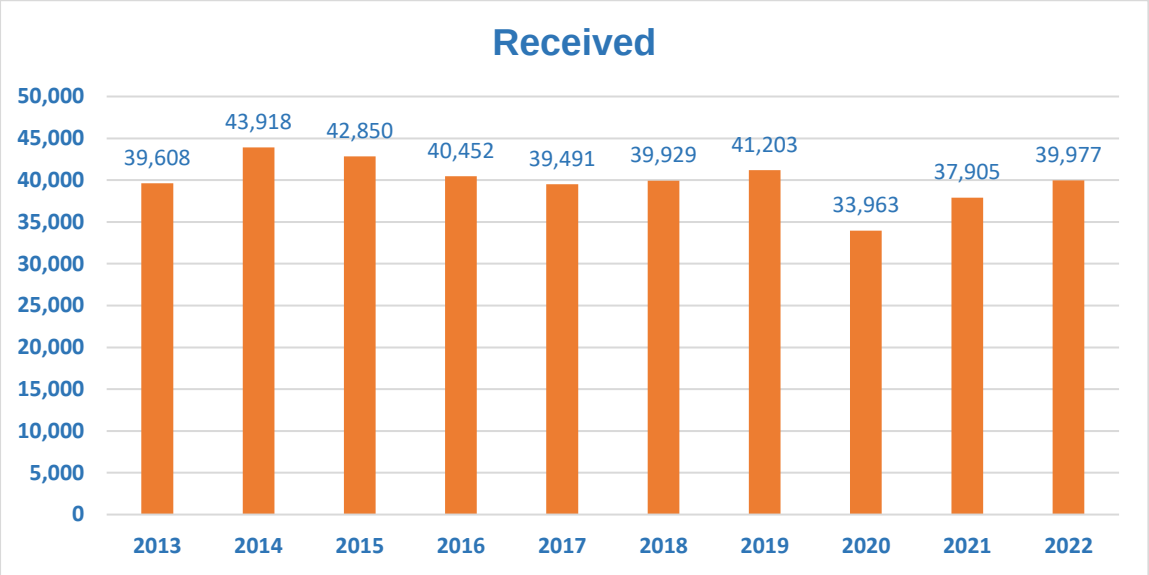
Reduced payments to the Common Fund were resumed in the last quarter of the year resulting in a total of £25,930 contribution to the Common Fund 2022. St Hilda's PCC is grateful to the Diocese of London for their support and understanding. The Diocese of London has suggested a target contribution of £87,775 from each parish to meet their annual administration costs and having stabilised our financial position the PCC has the confidence to commit £45,000 to the Common Fund.
The PCC is further committed to maintaining general (unrestricted) reserves which equate to 3 months running costs including the Common Fund. We can report that at 31 December 2022 this objective was fulfilled having a credit balance of £11,844 in our bank current account and £29,402 our CBF Church of England Deposit Fund. Our restricted reserves, monies held for specific use, at 31 December 2022 were in credit balance at £22,003.
In closing, we are pleased to report that overall, 2022 ended on a positive footing enabling the family of St Hilda to continue with our Christ-based mission in Ashford and the wider community.

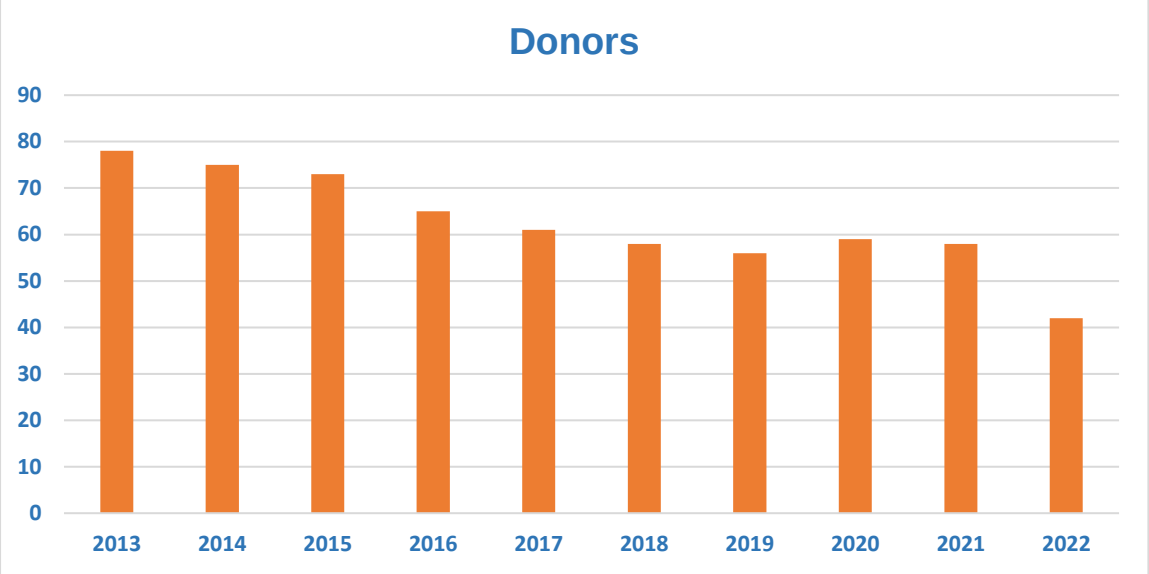
St Hilda's Stewardship Report for 2022 (Christopher Brown)

Planned giving, (Stewardship) during 2022 amounted to a total of £39,977, an increase of
£2,072 on the previous year. This total was made up of three categories of giving:

- Parish Giving Scheme PGS - 18
- Church Stewardship (Standing Order) - 23
- Church Stewardship (Envelope) - 1

The amounts given, Gift Aid claimed from HMRC, and number of donors for each of the last 10
years are shown in the following table:





The total number of contributors to Stewardship in 2022 was 42, down 16 on 2021, which explains the drop in Stewardship income, however this was offset by other income sources.

£8,215 was donated during 2021 for other miscellaneous categories such as baptisms, Easter lilies, loose plate collections, various events, innovative fund-raising initiatives, with a further non-GASDS contributions totalling £29,980 via legacies, Charities Aid Foundation, St James Senior Boys School, DCMS Scheme and not forgetting our Parish Lunches and Breakfasts.

These donations were generously provided by not only those under stewardship, but also those in the wider congregation and parish.

Finally, we are still looking for a volunteer who can take on the leadership of the Stewardship Team
for 2023 and beyond. Whoever takes on the role will continue to be ably assisted by Pauline Milton
and Chris Brown, who will continue to manage the administration of collecting Gift aid from HMRC.

PCC Report (Liz Brian – Secretary)

A summary of the PCC meetings held from the APCM in 2022 until December 2022 capturing actions and recommendations and information not captured in other reports.

June 2022 - Our newly elected PCC met for the first time on Tuesday 7th June, 2022. The following officers were presented – Mariane Tank, PCC Secretary, Christopher Brown, Treasurer along with those remaining as officers and new members. A list of sidespersons was read out and agreed. The following were also co-opted onto the PCC – Fr Steve Brian, Nick Gething and Simeon Sturney who would be invited as a guest. There was much discussion regarding our finances as the increase in gas prices, reduced income and only one tenant at St Hilda's House had left us with a large deficit and a payment plan was drawn up. Interviews were in place to find a Parish Administrator and the job description was discussed. Bronzefield Prison was helping us to find a new tenant for St Hilda's House and had also requested using the Church for training purposes. The kitchen area in Church has been improved with a fridge and freezer from the late Peggy Pinfold. Plans were in hand for our Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

July 2022 – The PCC welcomed Mary Spredbury – Kensington Area Finance Adviser. We are in a better place financially than previously but there were still outstanding costs and we are negotiating with the energy company regarding previous payments. It was agreed to suspend our contribution to the Common Fund (monies we send to the Diocese) until our financial situation has been further resolved but we expect to recommence with a payment in August, 2022. Discussion regarding Stewardship including a Stewardship presentation prepared by Jim Iddiols who was the current Stewardship Officer. PCC was informed about the Parish Giving Scheme as it helps the Church to plan finances more effectively. Christopher Brown will take over the Stewardship programme as Jim Iddiols plans to step down from the role. A vote was taken regarding the change of time from 9.30 am – 10 am and it was agreed this to be trialed from the beginning of September, 2022. Agreed that Bronzefield can have use of the Church for training purposes from August to December, 2022. CCTV equipment to be installed in the Church and grounds prior to the Church being open during the day.

September 2022 – The meeting started with Compline remembering her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Finances – we had a surplus in July and August and were able to contribute to the Common Fund in July and August. PCC agreed to increase the amount and to review again in the New Year. We have saved money by changing our energy supplier. Rosalyn asked for permission to officiate and this was agreed by the PCC. Happy Tots (Playgroup using the Church Hall on a regular basis) has changed to a new owner and PCC are drawing up new agreements as advised by the Diocese. The Church will be open during the mourning period for the late Queen and there will be a book of Condolence for signing. Discussion around the Mission Action Plan especially a strapline that can be used. We have employed a new Parish Administrator who has recently started work.

October 2022 – Liz Brian has taken the role of Secretary of the PCC. Simeon Sturney informed us of current and former tenants of St Hilda's House and plans for the next tenant. Bobbie has been given the Shalom Award from HOPE into ACTION for her services as a member of the Friendship Group. Our finances have improved due to the reintroduction of the weekly collections at the main service. Update on

Happy Tots and the need to have a formal evaluation for the rental charge we should be making. The Playgroup has a new manager who is keen to welcome Father Joseph to talk to the children and would like a Nativity Service in Church.
November 2022 – John Swaffield was welcomed as a new member having been voted in electronically by the existing members. Simeon Sturney gave us an update on St Hilda's House and efforts to secure a new tenant for the property. Bronzefield Prison have agreed to fund a key/empowerment worker to support the tenants and to link with us. Formal valuation regarding renting the Church Hall has been carried out. Further discussion on our Mission Action Plan and changes will be made and presented to the PCC meeting in January, 2023. Recommendation that it would be good to walk as a whole to the Memorial for the Remembrance Day Service rather than as individuals or in smaller groups. Forthcoming events – Turkiye and Tinsel in the Church on 17th December.

Spelthorne Deanery Report (Father Joseph Fernandes)

With the lifting of restrictions, Synod was once again able to meet in person rather than by zoom in February, June & October. Synod meetings provide an opportunity for sharing news and enjoying friendship with the clergy and lay representatives from the eleven churches within the Spelthorne Deanery.
Clergy moves within the Deanery – there were no appointments, retirements or resignations this year.
The February meeting featured a presentation by The Reverend Jonathan Rust Director Of Mission for Kensington Area on "Living in Love & Faith"(LLF) which is one of the pillars of the London Diocese Capital Vision 2030. His talk, illustrated with slides, acknowledged that human sexuality, relationships and marriage can be a difficult subject to discuss for those of the "baby boom" generation and that the Church has often appeared to be out of touch with modern society and not welcoming to all people in our communities.
Fr Robert Thompson (a member of General Synod) spoke and led a discussion on The Parish System at our June meeting. Amongst items discussed were: What animates us about Jesus? What do we feel about Church Plants?' How do we offer a welcome to those from a different cultural background? Also, how do we ensure that by "growing younger" we do not alienate older members of our congregations?
Our final meeting in October heard from Alison Tsang, from the Diocese, who spoke on Compassionate Communities & Modern Slavery. Her talk highlighted key areas: Caring for God's creation; Mental Health & Isolation; Refugees, Asylum Seekers & Modern Slavery; Money, Debt & Food Insecurity; Safer Communities for all young people and Housing & Homelessness.
Annual Finance meetings were hosted by Archdeacon Richard Franks & The Reverend Mary Spredbury (Diocesan Finance Officer).
During the year reports were given by Nick Wood-Dow and Carolyn Clark on issues discussed at the London Diocesan Synod.
At the October meeting synod approved the appointment of Mrs Jayne Brownlow as Deanery Representative on the Board of Governors of Laleham CE School.
Finally the following were elected to serve on the Standing Committee of the Deanery Synod: Fr Joseph Fernandes (Area Dean); The Reverend Simon Douglas Lane & Fr Stuart King as Clergy representatives. Norman Head (current Lay Chair); Deborah Bull and Jo Child were elected as Lay representatives.

WORSHIP AND LEARNING

House of Bishops' Policy Statements

St Hilda's PCC ensure that we comply with the duty under Section 5 of the Safeguarding & Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, in relation to having due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults (as below).

House of Bishop's Policy Statements

St. Hilda's PCC ensure that we comply with our duty under Section 5 of the Safeguarding & Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, in relation to having due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

Child Protection

The Church of England, in all aspects of its life, is committed to and will champion the protection of children and young people both in society as a whole and in its own community.

It fully accepts, endorses and will implement the principle enshrined in the Children Act 1989, that the welfare of the child is paramount. The Church of England will foster and encourage best practice within its community by setting standards for working with children and young people and by supporting parents in the care of their children.

It will work with statutory bodies, voluntary agencies and other faith communities to promote the safety and well-being of children and young people. It is committed to acting promptly whenever a concern is raised about a child or young person or about the behaviour of an adult, and will work with the appropriate statutory bodies when an investigation into child abuse is necessary.

The Church of England is committed to encouraging an environment where all people and especially those who may be vulnerable for any reason are able to worship and pursue their faith journey with encouragement and in safety. Everyone, whether they see themselves as vulnerable or not, will receive respectful pastoral ministry recognising any power imbalance within such a relationship.

Safeguarding Adults

All church workers involved in any pastoral ministry will be recruited with care including the use of the Disclosure and Barring Service when legal or appropriate. Workers will receive training and continuing support.

Any allegations of mistreatment, abuse, harassment or bullying will be responded to without delay. Whether or not the matter involves the church there will be cooperation with the police and local authority in any investigation.

Sensitive and informed pastoral care will be offered to anyone who has suffered

abuse, including support to make a complaint if so desired. Help to find appropriate specialist care either from the church or secular agencies will be offered.

Congregations will often include people who have offended in a way that means they are a continuing risk to vulnerable people. The risks will be managed sensitively with the protection of adults and children in mind.
Gordon Clark and Elizabeth Bate continue as Parish Safeguarding Officer and Children's Champion respectively.

Junior Church (Christine Taylor)

In January 2022 it was lovely to welcome Rosalyn Young back to the team after her sabbatical. Rosalyn's absence prompted us to compile a handbook which we can offer to prospective new leaders.

In early January, we had a Godly Play session on Baptism, which was well attended by an unusually large age range; however everyone seemed to enjoy the activity.
In February three members of the team were able to attend a Deanery Youth training at Saviours. It was a really worthwhile and inspirational experience.
We held our Good Friday workshop with a small group of children. We told the Easter story, studied the Stations of the Cross, completed lots of Easter craft, made Easter rock cakes and finished with a noisy act of worship.

Sadly, we had to discontinue the monthly all-age worship sessions organised by Simon Shutt of FACT (Family Awareness and Children's Trust) due to poor attendance despite circulating the dates, advertising in the weekly notes and direct approaches to parents.

Concerned about retaining our older children we decided to trial a system whereby we would split the group, and leaders would prepare for either younger or older children with age appropriate activities. Unfortunately, due to inconsistent group size and varying age profiles it has not really succeeded.

We continue to use Roots on the Web as our main teaching resource, although we no longer print off the activity sheets. We also decided that when the leader felt the material inappropriate we would explore some of the Old Testament stories, which we did in the Summer Term.

In the Autumn we held a small Light Party using Scripture Union resources. We held a Christingle service at the beginning of December – my thanks go to ladies of the Mothers' Union who helped prepare the Christingles and to Rosalyn who helped conduct the service. Our year ended with the Crib Service on Christmas Eve however, the idea of dressing as a Nativity scene character was not very successful but the musical instruments were!

I would like to thank all the members of the team, Rosalyn Young, Gordon Clark, Elizabeth Bate, Beryl Rickson and Elisabeth Santos who give their time so willingly.

Weekly Bible Study (Carolyn Clark)

This group has been meeting weekly on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm having recommenced after lockdown. Meetings often include a chat over tea or coffee and take place at church in the Lady Chapel. Leadership of the weekly studies is rotated but there is no pressure to take a turn if you do not wish to; in the same way there is no pressure to read aloud or share an opinion if members do not wish to do so. We begin and end with prayer, including relevant local or personal situations at request. The subjects studied are chosen after group discussion and have included James, Isaiah, Ruth, Titus and Philemon as well as one or two of the psalms; a relevant series is usually chosen for Lent and Advent. This Advent our topic was 'Long Expected', based on the Christmas carol 'Come Thou Long Expected Jesus'. We usually have 5 or 6 members attending, but others drop in as and when they are able. Indeed, we welcome visitors and those who would like to see what goes on each week.

Feed My Sheep (Rosalyn Young)

We had 10 sessions with friends old and new. Amongst the topics considered were The Dead Sea Scrolls, writing of the books which now make up the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures placing them in an historical context: with a look at the language used. We looked at two strong and influential Mediaeval women: St Hildegaard of Bingen including listening to her music and our patron Saint, Hilda . We have looked at the history of some of the Popes – a topic to which we shall return at a future date. There was also a look at the Book of Common Prayer, where we ended with saying BCP evening prayer and Occupations in the Bible

We have shared knowledge and insight, and laughter and friendship fuelled by a cup of tea and a slice of cake. With money from the tea and cake fund we were able to donate £50 worth of goods to the food bank box at the back of the church.

Ambling Through Acts (Father Steve Brian)

How did the church begin? What was it like to be part of that early group of apostles? Since February 2022 a group has been meeting to explore the origins of the church as seen through the eyes of St Luke and recorded in the Acts of the Apostles. We have been getting to grips with the issues they faced and making connections with our own experience of the church in the twenty-first century. We meet on the first Thursday of every month in church at 7:30pm for about an hour and a half, finishing with Compline (Night Prayer) and coffee. The sessions are open to everyone and new joiners are always welcome. No previous knowledge necessary!

Choir and Music Report (Chris Maddock, Paula Gething, Rosemary Greenwood, Carolyn Clark)

St Hilda's church choir continued to provide musical accompaniment for the main services during the course of the year. 2022 saw the return of members who had shielded throughout the pandemic and in addition we welcomed several new ladies to the choir. We continue to practise in the church each Friday from 7pm and have

been working well to enhance our ensemble and intonation. Whilst we still manage four-part harmony, it would be nice to have a few more voices – particularly in the lower ranges (i.e. men!)
During the year we introduced some new hymns, familiarising the congregation by playing the tune before and after the service during the preceding weeks. The music for services is based on the lectionary readings and carefully selected by the team listed above. Efforts are made to include both well loved, traditional items alongside some contemporary music. We prepare a Taizé chant most weeks – although it is not always used.
We rely heavily on recorded music, and huge thanks to Peter Pritchard who supported us with live organ accompaniments on occasion, and Melvyn Rouse who has provided some beautiful recorded accompaniments and a selection of recorded organ voluntaries. The "eagle eared" of you may also have spotted a couple of accompaniments that Chris himself produced totally electronically on his computer.
In addition to singing at the weekly family Eucharist and festival days, the choir also led a Taizé service in Lent, a choral devotion from *The Cross of Christ* on Good Friday, supported Easter Saturday, several funerals, The Nativity Festival, Lodge Brothers' Candles of Remembrance service in December and our Christmas Carol Service. At Christmas, we celebrated the Feast of St Lucy in Swedish, and thank you to Helen for her patient coaching with the Swedish pronunciation. We even fielded an impromptu vocal group for the Türkiye and Tinsel fundraiser.

Altar Servers' Report (Alan Sloan)

Altar servers fulfil a very important function within the church. Their role dates back to the early days of the church, when priests were accompanied by an acolyte on their travels.
Today altar servers' roles in the church are usually as listed below albeit, as a result of COVID-19, there have been some variations as we gradually move forward to a new normal.

The **Crucifer** is the person who carries the big processional cross. We have different crosses for different times in the year. Normally we have a large, decorated cross but in Advent and Lent a small wooden cross is used to reflect the mood of the season.

The **Acolytes** work in pairs and they both carry candles. In the olden days, when churches weren't lit quite so brightly, they had a very important role ensuring that when the Gospel procession went down into the body of the church there was enough light on the Gospel book for the priest or deacon to be able to read it. They also fulfil other roles at the altar, such as bringing the vessels to the altar so that it can be laid up for mass and helping the priest wash his or her hands.

St Hilda's Church currently has a team of 8 altar servers, as listed below, who are always willing to help with any task to keep our services in Church running smoothly. Primarily they assist at the 9.30, now 10 o'clock, Sunday services but they also assist with the Wednesday morning 11 o'clock service and other special services e.g. confirmation, candles of remembrance, St Hilda's day, Easter Eve and Midnight Mass.

During the last twelve-month period the number of available servers reduced by two. First, in July, Darran Buttigieg and his family moved to Sarisbury Green in Hampshire and we thank both Darran and his wife Denise for their contribution to St Hilda's. Second, following a period of reflection, Emma Wrightson decided to stand down as a server in August and we thank Emma for her many years of service.

As mentioned above COVID-19 had a significant impact on all our lives including the roles of servers, which were initially severely limited, although, following the successful immunisation programme(s), a number of changes have gradually been introduced to reflect the improved situation e.g. The Crucifer now leads the reader for the Gospel reading and with effect from the beginning of Advent was accompanied once again by both Acolytes. By the end of the year the servers had resumed the majority of their duties including assisting with Holy Communion and also receiving the collection from the congregation.

Alan Sloan is the Head Server/serving team liaison representative and acts as the focal point between the servers and Father Joseph. This entails:

Updating altar servers about any changes in process/procedure
Completion of the end of year report
Production of both the servers' and chalice duty rotas.

We would always welcome new members to the team and would give the support and training to undertake this role. If interested please contact a Churchwarden in the first instance.

List of servers:
Frances Forsbrey*
Sally Goulden*
Chris Holliday
Christine Makriel*
Peter Makriel*
David Saville*
Alan Sloan*
Barbara Warne

An asterisk* signifies where a server has additionally been appointed by the Bishop of Kensington to assist with Holy Communion.

St Hilda's Mothers' Union, Report for 2022 (Chris Davenport)

Our AGM in March, followed by afternoon tea, was attended by 23 members. Twelve Long Service Awards were presented.

We continue to hold our monthly Mothers' Union Corporate Communion Services.

We have all enjoyed our lunchtime meetings:
January A talk by our Ordinand in Training, Helen, on her life before joining the Ministry team at St Hilda's.

February	A talk by Fr Steve Brian, a firm supporter of the Mothers' Union, who has recently retired and returned to Ashford, joining our Ministry team.
March	A talk by Rosalyn Young, one of our Lay Readers, about Flowers in the Bible.
April	Thoughts for Easter with poems and readings.
May	Memories of the Queen and Royal Family, with pictures, souvenirs and photographs.
June	After hearing an interesting talk by two of our members, on flower arranging, and a demonstration, the 25 members at the meeting made their own table decoration.
July	The Wave of Prayer Service followed by tea and scones.
September	Summer Memories of holidays and places visited during this year and in the past.
October	A talk led by one of our members on the History of Ashford, with many contributions from other members on the changes they have seen over the years.
November	The theme - Remembrance. We shared our family reminiscences with poems, photographs, medals, other memorabilia and prayers.
December	Carols and Christmas Music with mince pies.

In all, a very successful year for St Hilda's Mothers' Union.

St Hilda's Flower Team (Alison Garner)

This year has been interesting thanks to the cost-of-living crisis which has caused the cost of fresh flowers to increase yet again. This may be a small thing in the scheme of general living, but to the Church's budget it can be rather expensive. The hiring of the church to Bronzefield Prison, which has helped the church's funds and therefore difficult to complain about, was an issue for the Flower Team. Access to the Church and at certain times access to the tap for water made the team's work testing at times.

Pauline, Alison and the Flower Team have done their best to create wonderful displays each Sunday and the celebrations throughout the year, especially with the lilies at Easter and the pedestals and column decorations at Christmas.

Weddings have not been too arduous this year as most brides have their florists create their church flowers and then take them for the reception. All we ask is that the Flower Team are made aware of the wedding dates and colour choices so we can co-ordinate the church's pedestal to the bride's colour scheme.

At the end of the year, it was agreed that two silk floral displays will be created and to be used on a regular basis in conjunction with fresh flowers to help save money yet celebrate the wonders of God's creation within the Church.

The Flower Team was fortunate to receive a very generous bequest from a Church Member's family at the end of the year, this will help to continue the floral displays throughout 2023, we will continue to use the silk displays to help the donation last longer.

We are always looking for new members to join the team, we are planning to hold lessons for those who would like to learn. These will be held on a Saturday morning during 2023.

The Flower Team
Pauline Milton, Alison Garner and the wonderful members of the Flower Team

COMMUNITY

Outreach (Father Joseph Fernandes)

In 2022, St Hilda's House went through further developments. In March, I attended the Hope Into Action annual conference in Peterborough and was the speaker in one of the workshops. It was an opportunity to share with others about the St Hilda's House project. We ended the year with one tenant in the House and the good news of a second one joining in January 2023. The project has placed considerable strain on both our finances and people's resources, but we remained determined to see it through, as a key part of our missional engagement within the local community. Simeon Sturney has been an outstanding Empowerment Worker and we could not have made it this far without his involvement. The befrienders have also proved invaluable in their interaction with the tenants.

We continued with the Foundation Governorship of Ashford Church of England Primary School, through our two foundation governors, and I took collective worship once a month. There is also a connection with Bishop Wand, through my role as Foundation Governor, as well as taking collective worship. The connection with Ashford Park has gone from strength to strength and we hosted learning visits from the children, including Christmas.

The gifts from the Harvest Festival went to the local food bank, based at the Salvation Army, which continues to provide a lifeline throughout the pandemic for many families who are struggling financially.

St Hilda's House Report (Simon Sturney)

Five women in 2022 called SHH 'home' supported by seven befrienders (volunteers) and a further small group of support volunteers who have assisted with inspecting the house, form filling and general assistance.
St. Hilda's Church has been extremely faithful in providing for the tenants and supporting me in the day-to-day running of the house, even at great cost to themselves. Hope Into Action requires that mattresses have to be replaced each time a tenant leaves and the requirement to pay for fuel via a pre-payment meter, on the most expensive tariff means the tenants have struggled during the cold weather. The money from the sale of clothing donated through the "blue bins" in the church and the hall brings less than £50 per quarter and more fundraising is needed both to maintain the house and to provide incidentals for the befrienders, like funding a cup of coffee in a café with the tenants or fuel if they use their own car to drive them somewhere.

The windows were replaced by UPVC double glazing in January thanks to a grant and various minor repairs were carried out as necessary inside the house. Grateful thanks go to Jon Bate for his hard work.
The ministry of St. Hilda's House is known in the local and Diocesan community, Bronzefield and the wider Ministry of Justice sector, by supporters of Hope Into Action, the local council and the local Churches Together groups. The local council has offered to consider assisting with the financial shortfall from the house and conversations are taking place.
Regrettably, we were not able to have more than one tenant in occupancy for most of the year and consequently have struggled to find appropriate tenants to fill the 'voids' and who will get on with each other. There is a significant workload associated with applying for housing benefits to cover the rent and dealing with adjustments when a tenant leaves.
I will be stepping down from the role of Empowerment Work in February and a new person will have to be appointed. YI Bronzefield is looking into it.
As we approach 2023, there is optimism about the future of the house.

Activities/Social Report (Roberta Bedford)

We have had a good year as far as the social events that have taken place this past year. It began in January with the first of the Euphonium concerts, they have all been well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by all.
In February we began our Parish Breakfasts with compliments to the chefs, they provide a great cooked breakfast and the numbers attending have grown throughout the year. There is usually a guest speaker covering many subjects. The breakfasts have brought many people into church that normally wouldn't have come into the building. We want to show people that the church is for everyone.
On Shrove Tuesday we held what is becoming a yearly event a pancake party, lots of pancakes and toppings enjoyed by all.
As COVID is still out there and still catching some of us, it was decided that we now hold our Jumble Sales in church, it is a much bigger space than the hall and as we had such a huge amount of jumble it proved an ideal space.
We had a wonderful party for the Queens Jubilee, with a lovely selection of foods and a special celebratory cake ordered from the Jolly Bakers.
We opened the church to the Jumble Trail for people who either did not have their own garden or just wished to hold their stalls inside. We were able to provide refreshments which proved to be very popular.
The Wednesday church service is proving to be very well attended with more and more people staying for lunch, our usual attendance is about 20, with more and more staying to lunch. Surplus to Supper deliver a huge range of foods and sometimes flowers and we have very little waste.
In November we had a Karaoke night, it was fantastic such fun and who knew we had so much talent in St Hilda's? This is going to have to be a yearly event now.
We also held our Christmas Fayre in church. And December bought our usual influx of schools wanting to hold their Carol services here at St Hilda's as we are the ideal size for huge gatherings.
All of the above takes a lot of time and work to organise. Thank you for all who helped throughout the year. We are always looking for people to give a hand in these events, so if you are able to help at all, please let me know.

St Hilda's Entertainers' Annual Report (Mike Davenport – Secretary)

President: Fr Joseph Fernandes
Chairman: Sue Pinfold
Secretary: Mike Davenport

Being able to put on a May Play in 2022 confirmed that St Hilda's Entertainers have well and truly returned to the stage after the ending of the COVID lockdown. We had the benefit of a brilliant script to bring us back with a bang. It was a very lively comedy, *Wife in the Fast Lane*, written by our very own Neale Winter. One of Neale's aims when writing scripts is to involve as many of our members as possible. This he achieved with a cast of 11, under the very capable direction of Steve Smith. Many of the cast had been in our first re-opening production of *Sleeping Beauty* in December 2021, so it was good to welcome them all back. It was also good to welcome back Anwen Fuller, Laura Allen and Craig Entwistle. Much of the comedy was in the style of a farce, with immaculate timing of entrances and exits. It was good to know our backstage crew had lost none of their skills in putting on a Play. The set and props, lighting and sound were excellent. At the end of the Friday performance, Gloria Smith, our NODA Representative joined us on stage to present two NODA Accolades of Excellence for our May 2019 Play, *Mother of All Parties,* one award was for the overall production and the other for Best New Play.

Neale, in collaboration with Dylan Harvey, also wrote the script for our 2022 Pantomime, *The Mermaid's Tale*. Again, we were more than fully stretched, the script calling for 16 principal parts, plus a chorus of mermaids, mermen and ship's crew. To boost our numbers we took great pleasure in welcoming five new members, Diane Stahlmann, Jess Shore, Lois Clark, Shannon Clark and Graham Sheath. Even so, the script called for much doubling up and, in some cases, tripling up, involving split-second timing. It was also time to bring back two hilarious sketches, the mop drill and an entirely original version of 'If I were not upon the stage'. Our cast, scenery, costume and choreography teams, and the Prompt, were absolutely fantastic. Thanks to everyone involved, including our very appreciative audiences.

For *The Mermaid's Tale*, we took the very sad decision not to involve children. Previously, we have always been delighted to include youngsters in our pantomimes, but we are now more aware of the strict requirements of child protection and safeguarding. In particular there is a need to provide children with their own facilities, mainly their own specific dressing rooms and the constant supervision provided by licensed chaperones. We do aim to do all we can to involve youngsters again, but we need to be certain we meet the licensing requirements of the local authority before we do so.

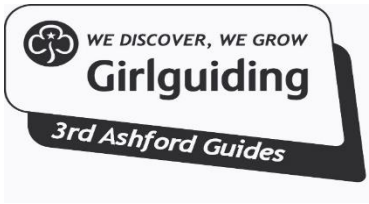
In the summer, Neale and Ayse Winter kindly hosted a very successful barbecue.

Our overall financial surplus for the year enabled us to make a donation to St Hilda's of £4,300, specifically towards repairs to the Hall roof, and also £500 to the local Salvation Army Food Bank.

Long Service Awards have been presented to Craig Entwistle (5 years), Rosalyn Young (10 years) and Maggie Rolfe (15 years).

Our Play for May 2023 is *Murder In Play*, featuring a Play within a Play, written by Simon Brett and directed by Sue Pinfold. It requires 8 actors, 5 women and 3 men, so we welcome back Laura Allen, Rachel Barnes, Kim Cooper, Anwen Fuller, Jess Shore, Craig Entwistle, Steve Smith and Neale Winter

St Hilda's Entertainers relish the part they play in the life of St Hilda's Church and the wider community. Long may it continue.



3rd Ashford Rainbows, Brownies and Guides – 2022 (Chris Davenport)

The girls of 3rd Ashford Rainbows, Brownies and Guides, their Guiders and Young Leaders meet each week at St Hilda's Church Hall.

All the Units have been working on their Theme Awards of Know Myself, Express Myself, Be Well, Have Adventures, Take Action and Skills For My Future. All these challenges are gauged for the abilities of the various age groups from 5 years to 14 years. With the girls keen to earn such a variety of badges, some of them have been able to complete Girlguiding Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards.

During the year, the Guides take part in service in the community. This year it included running the Tombola stall at St Hilda's Christmas Bazaar, raising £132 for Church funds. They also helped with Front of House duties for the two weekends of St Hilda's Entertainers' pantomime, The Mermaid's Tale.

As the months go by, we are pleased to see how the girls grow in confidence and rise to the various challenges as they progress from Rainbows, to Brownies and Guides. It is not only rewarding for the girls, but also for their Guiders, who give their time voluntarily. They encourage and guide the girls and boost their self-confidence in their efforts by organising and running exciting activities for the girls.

St Hilda's Church Hall provides a much-appreciated safe environment in which our 80 girls can come together for the fun and friendship of weekly meetings.

Chris Davenport
Guide Guider

APPENDIX A

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. HILDA's, ASHFORD, MIDDLESEX

BALANCE SHEET
For the year ending 31 December 2022

	NOTE	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	RESTRICTED FUNDS	TOTAL 2022	TOTAL 2021
Fixed Assets					
Functional property	5	850,000	-	850,000	850,000
Investment property	5	325,000	-	325,000	325,000
		1,175,000	0	1,175,000	1,175,000
Current Assets					
Debtors and prepayments	6	21,068	-	21,068	758
Cash at bank and in hand		45,649	22,003	67,652	79,686
		66,717	22,003	88,720	80,444
Current Liabilities					
Creditors - amounts falling due within one year	7	6,204	-	6,204	7,880
Net current assets		**60,513**	**22,003**	**82,516**	**72,564**
Total Assets less current liabilities		1,235,513	22,003	1,257,516	1,247,564
Creditors - amounts falling due after one year	8	-	-	-	-
TOTAL NET ASSETS		**1,235,513**	**22,003**	**1,257,516**	**1,247,564**
Funds					
Unrestricted		1,235,513	-	1,235,513	1,220,861
Restricted	9	-	22,003	22,003	26,703
		1,235,513	**22,003**	**1,257,516**	**1,247,564**

PCC Declaration

The PCC acknowledge and accept their collective responsibility for ensuring adequate financial controls are maintained and proper books and

These financial Statements were approved by the PCC on 16 / 04 /2023



Fr Joseph Fernandes
Chairman/ Incumbant of St Hilda's PCC

APPENDIX A

Independent Examiner's Report to the Members of the Parochial Church Council ('PCC') of St Hilda's Church, Ashford, Middlesex

I report to the members of the PCC on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022 as set out on the attached pages.

This report is made solely to the members of the PCC in accordance with Sections 145 of the Charities Act 2011. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the PCC members those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the members of the PCC for my examination work.

Respective responsibilities of PPC Members and Examiner

The PPC members are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year (under Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Charities Act')) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under Section 145 of the Charities Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under Section 145 (5) (b) of the Charities Act); and
- to 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 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 members of the PCC concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no view is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

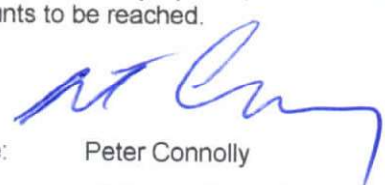
Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
   - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the Charities Act ;and
   - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act

   have not been met; or

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



Name: Peter Connolly

Address: 33 Carlyle Road, Staines, TW18 2PU

Date 16 April 2023

APPENDIX A

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. HILDA's, ASHFORD, MIDDLESEX

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
For the year ending 31 December 2022

	NOTE	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	RESTRICTED FUNDS	TOTAL 2022	TOTAL 2021
INCOMING RESOURCES		£	£	£	£
Voluntary income	2(a)	73,802	7,370	81,172	82,829
Activities for generating funds	2(b)	46,779	-	46,779	36,720
Income from investments	2(c)	13,680	-	13,680	9,071
Church activities	2(d)	3,001	-	3,001	5,932
Other incoming resources	2(e)	-	-	-	12,898
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		**137,262**	**7,370**	**144,632**	**147,450**
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Cost of generating voluntary income	3(b)	-	-	-	-
Fund raising costs	3(c)	546	-	546	482
Church activities	3(a)	118,501	711	119,212	136,232
Investment management costs	3(d)	14,922	-	14,922	10,493
Bronzefield		-	-	-	6,000
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		**133,969**	**711**	**134,680**	**153,207**
NET INCOMING RESOURCES		3,293	6,659	9,952	(5,757)
GAINS & LOSSES ON INVESTMENTS		-	-	-	-
These financial Statements were approved by the PCC on / /2023					
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS		11,359	(11,359)	-	-
ACCOUNTING PROCEDURES ADJUSTMENT		-	-	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		**14,652**	**(4,700)**	**9,952**	**(5,757)**
BALANCE B/F AT 1 JANUARY 2022		1,220,861	26,703	1,247,564	1,253,322
BALANCES C/F AT 31 DECEMBER 2022		**1,235,513**	**22,003**	**1,257,516**	**1,247,564**

APPENDIX A

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. HILDA's, ASHFORD, MIDDLESEX

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ending 31 December 2022

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared under the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the current Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2005).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for investment assets, which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gathering of church members.

FUNDS

Restricted funds comprise (a) revenue donations or grants for a specific PCC activity intended by the donor and (b) monies set aside for a specific purpose as agreed by the PCC. Where these funds have unspent balances , interest on their pooled investment is apportioned to the individual funds on an average balance basis.

Unrestricted funds are income funds which are to be spent on the PCCs general purposes.

INCOMING RESOURCES

Voluntary Income

Planned giving, collections and similar donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is entitled to the use of the resources, their ultimate receipt is considered reasonably certain and the amounts due are reliably quantifiable. Dividends are accounted for when declared receivable, interest as and when accrued by the payer. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Other Income

Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised when the rental is due.

Gains and losses on investments

Realized gains and losses are recognised when the investments are sold.

RESOURCES USED

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share expected to be paid over is accounted for when due.

FIXED ASSETS

Consecrated property and movable church furnishings

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishings held by the Vicar and the Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. Subsequently no individual item has cost more than £1,000 so all such expenditure has been written off when incurred.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment

Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1,000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

APPENDIX A

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. HILDA's, ASHFORD, MIDDLESEX

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ending 31 December 2022

2. INCOMING RESOURCES	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL 2022	TOTAL 2021
	£	£	£	£
2(a) Voluntary Income				
Planned giving - gift aid donations	39,977		39,977	40,166
Tax recovered on planned giving	-		-	11,927
Planned giving - other			-	-
Loose plate	7,462		7,462	3,785
Sundry donations	388		388	15,441
Other tax recovered	-		-	758
Donations, appeals, etc.	25,610	4,370	29,980	10,718
Grant income			-	-
Legacies		3,000	3,000	-
Memorial book	365		365	35
Flowers	-		-	-
Specials	-		-	-
	73,802	**7,370**	**81,172**	**82,829**
2(b) Activities for generating funds				
Fetes, bazaars & other fund raising events	2,781		2,781	7,760
Church Hall lettings/ Fund raising	43,998		43,998	28,934
Photocopying	-		-	25
PV Income	-		-	-
Misc.			-	-
	46,779	**-**	**46,779**	**36,720**
2(c) Income from investments				
Interest	758	-	758	30
Rent	12,922		12,922	9,041
	13,680	**-**	**13,680**	**9,071**
2(d) Income from church activities				
Crossroads	-		-	-
Weddings	(122)		(122)	915
Funerals	2,596		2,596	4,628
Baptisms/ Confirmation	-		-	-
Other	527		527	389
	3,001	**-**	**3,001**	**5,932**
2(e) Other ordinary incoming resources				
Insurance claims	-	-	-	2,198
Bronzefield	-	-	-	10,700
	-	**-**	**-**	**12,898**
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	**137,262**	**7,370**	**144,632**	**147,450**

APPENDIX A

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. HILDA's, ASHFORD, MIDDLESEX

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ending 31 December 2022

3. RESOURCES EXPENDED	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL 2022	TOTAL 2021
	£	£	£	£
3(a) Church Activities				
Missionary giving	1,120		1,120	58
Flowers	1,398		1,398	377
Insurance - Church	9,264		9,264	7,721
Insurance - Hall	859		859	1,861
Junior Church	352		352	336
Maintenance - Church & Church Hall	7,514		7,514	16,426
Purchases - Church & Church Hall	7,861		7,861	9,073
Memorial book	-		-	-
Ministry - Clergy expenses	2,562		2,562	395
Ministry - Common Fund	25,930		25,930	62,000
Ministry - Other clergy expenses	4,598		4,598	-
Ministry - Wedding fees	2,466		2,466	422
Organist & choir costs	-		-	415
Running cost - Church	5,960		5,960	5,409
Running cost - Hall	5,024		5,024	2,399
Sundry	623	711	1,334	412
Utilities - Electric	971		971	3,347
Utilities - Gas	25,540		25,540	5,982
Utilities - Other	909		909	1,347
Administration	7,210		7,210	6,861
People/ Cleaning Costs	8,340		8,340	11,391
	118,501	**711**	**119,212**	**136,232**
3(b) Cost of generating of voluntary income				
Costs of appeals	-	-	-	-
Stewardship activities	-		-	-
	-	**-**	**-**	**-**
3(c) Fund raising/ Events costs				
Fetes, bazaars & other	546		546	482
	546	**-**	**546**	**482**
3(d) Investment Management Costs				
Insurance - St Hilda's House	-	-	-	283
Maintenance Costs - St Hilda's House	9,247	-	9,247	6,908
Running Costs - St Hilda's House	5,324	-	5,324	245
Admin Costs - St Hilda's House	350	-	350	2,973
Running costs grounds	-	-	-	84
	14,921	**-**	**14,921**	**10,493**
3(e) Other				
Bronzefield	-	-	-	6,000
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	**133,968**	**711**	**134,679**	**153,207**

APPENDIX A

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. HILDA's, ASHFORD, MIDDLESEX

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ending 31 December 2022

4. People Costs

During the year the PCC used the services of part time cleaners for the church hall and an administration assistant for the parish office but no payments were large enough to attract social security costs.

A small immaterial portion of the expenses paid to the incumbent may have related to his services as chairman of the PCC. Payments for Office administration totalled £1,573 for the year.
No other payments or expenses were paid to any other PCC member, persons closely connected to them or related parties, other than for professional services rendered.

5. Fixed Assets

£	Church Hall	St Hilda's House	Total
Opening Balance	850,000	325,000	1,175,000
Additions	-	-	-
Gains & Losses in the year	-	-	-
Closing Balance	**850,000**	**325,000**	**1,175,000**

St Hilda's Church Hall in Stanwell Road, Ashford, Middlesex was brought onto the balance sheet in 2007 in order to comply with the Statement of Recommended Practise (SORP) for Charities as revised in 2005 and the Church Accounting Regulations 2006. The initial valuation was based on its current value to the PCC. The PCC believes that the residual value of the property exceeds its current use value and therefore has decided to adopt a policy of doing an annual impairment review rather than depreciating its value over its useful life.

The property known as St Hilda's House, being 34, Woodthorpe Road, Ashford, Middlesex is held for investment purposes and is shown in the accounts at market value. The last valuation was 31 December 2011 and was carried out by The Frost Partnership, Ashford, Middlesex.

6. Debtors and prepayments

£	2022	2021
Receivables Church	20,900	511
Receivables Hall	168	-
Total	**21,068**	**511**

7. Creditors

£	2022	2021
Creditors and accruals - Church	6,204	7,880
Creditors and accruals - Hall	-	-
Total	**6,204**	**7,880**

All amounts are due within one year

8. Long Term Creditors

There are no Long Term Creditors as the final instalment of £2,500 was repaid to the Diocese of London in 2022.

9. Restricted Funds Held

The breakdown and movement of restricted funds are:

£	Alford	St Hilda's House	Bronzefield	Total
Balance at 1 January 2022	10,502	11,501	4,700	26,703
Incoming resources	-	-	-	-
Resources expended	-		(4,700)	(4,700)
Moved from general fund	-	-	-	-
Interest Allocated	-	-	-	-
Balance at 31 December 2022	**10,502**	**11,501**	**0**	**22,003**

9A Non Restricted held by CBF

General reserves held in the CBF account are £ 33,742

THE PAROCHIAL COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ASHFORD ST. HILDA DIOCESE OF L

England & Wales - Charity number 1134119

Accounts

JOINT VESTRY AND PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING OF ST HILDA'S CHURCH, ASHFORD, MIDDLESEX TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY 29TH MAY 2022

AGENDAS

ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING OF PARISHONERS

The Chairman reads the Convening Notice

1. Prayers and welcome
2. Minutes of the Vestry Meeting held Sunday 25th April 2021.
3. Election of Church Wardens: Adjudicators to be nominated by the Chairman
4. Report of the Electoral Roll Officer

ANNUAL PAROCIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held Sunday 25th April 2021.
3. Matters arising
4. Election of Representatives:
   To the Parochial Church Council - **4 people for 3 years**
   2 people for 2 years
   3 people for 1 year
   To the Deanery Synod – **1 person for 1 year**
   Adjudicators to be appointed by the Church Wardens
   Appointment of the Independent Financial Examiner
5. PCC's Annual Report for 2021
6. Deanery Synod Report
7. Reports of Church Groups
8. Treasurer's Report and presentation of Church Accounts
9. Church Warden's Reports
10. Benefice's report
11. Any Other Business **(Must be notified in writing to the PCC Secretary 72 hours prior to the meeting)**.
12. Date of next year's Annual Parochial Church Meeting

CLOSING PRAYERS

MINUTES OF A JOINT MEETING OF THE VESTRY AND THE PERSONS WHOSE NAMES ARE ON THE ELECTORAL ROLL OF THE PARISH OF ST. HILDA, ASHFORD
HELD ON SUNDAY 25th April 2021 via Zoom

Present:	Chairman	Fr. Joseph Fernandes
	Licensed Lay Ministers	Carolyn Clark
	Churchwardens	Roberta Bedford
		Frances Forsbrey
	Treasurer:	Darran Buttigieg
	Secretary:	Denise Buttigieg
	Electoral Roll Officer:	Frances Forsbrey

and 21 other people via zoom

Apologies were received from Rosalyn Young (Licenced Lay Minister), Darran Buttigieg (Treasurer) and 1 other.

Vestry Meeting

1. **Convening Notice**.
   Fr. Joseph led the meeting with prayer and welcomed everyone.
2. **Minutes of the Vestry Meeting held on 25th October 2020**:
   That the Minutes be accepted was proposed by Frances Forsbrey, seconded by Valerie Scott, and agreed unanimously.
3. **Election of Churchwardens**:
   There were two nominees:

Name	*Proposer*	*Seconder*
Mrs Roberta Bedford	*Mariane Tank*	*Paula Gething*
Mrs Frances Forsbey	*John Hunt*	*Betty Hunt*

   There being no other nominations, **Roberta Bedford** and **Frances Forsbrey** were duly elected as Churchwarden for the coming year. They were thanked for stepping forward.

4. **Report of Electoral Roll Officer**:

   Jane Dobbie reported that the number on our New Electoral Roll is 175. Of the total number, 64 are non-resident in the parish.

   Jane was re-appointed as Electoral Roll Officer.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING OF THE PARISH OF ST. HILDA, ASHFORD HELD ON SUNDAY, 25th April 2021 via Zoom

Present: As for Vestry Meeting,

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from June Browne, Darran Buttigieg and Rosalyn Young

2. **Minutes:**
That the Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 25th October 2020 be accepted was proposed by Carolyn Clark, seconded by Chris Davenport and agreed unanimously.

3. **Matters Arising:** none.

4a. Election of Lay Representatives to serve on the St. Hilda's Church Parochial Church Council: there are four vacancies for a three-year period.

There were 2 nominees:

Name	*Proposer*	*Seconder*
Gordon Clark	Carolyn Clark	Paula Gething
Paula Gething	Roberta Bedford	Christine Davenport

There being no other nominations, Gordon Clark and Paula Gething were elected as Lay Representatives for the period 2021-2024 and were thanked for stepping forward.

. **4b. Election of Deanery Synod Representatives:** there is one vacancy for a two year period. There were no nominees.

4c. Independent Financial examiner:
Darran Buttigieg recommended that Peter Connolly be appointed. This was agreed unanimously.

5. **PCC Annual Report for 2020 -** This was circulated in advance of the meeting and displayed in church.

6. **Deanery Synod Report -** This was produced for all parishes in the deanery by the Area Dean.

7. **Reports of Church Groups and Committees –** A booklet containing all reports had been circulated to all members of the Electoral Roll prior to the meeting by either email or by post. It had also been on display in St Hilda's.

8. **Treasurer's Report and presentation of Church Accounts -** see the Financial Statement.
Darran Buttigieg reported: As Treasurer, I have prepared the financial statements under the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the current Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2005). The financial statements were audited by Peter Connolly in his capacity of Independent Examiner.

There were no questions on the accounts and Elizabeth Bate thanked Darran for his work on them.

That the accounts be accepted was proposed by Roberta Bedford and seconded by Paula Gething and agreed unanimously.

9. **Churchwarden's Reports**

We confirm that in accordance with the law governing the Office of Church wardens during the last year we have

- Carried out the duties assigned by the Bishop or Archdeacon

- Maintained in good order and safe keeping, the plate, ornaments and other articles committed to our charge.
- Kept the church records in the same good order and safe-keeping.
- All offerings and collections have been recorded and paid into the relevant bank.
- The bread and wine have been provided for the Holy Communion as we are bound and directed.
- The seating and good order of the congregation have been maintained and as lay officers of the Bishop we have not found it necessary to report to him or the Archdeacon any neglect or default upon any one person in the discharge of their duties.

Fabric of Building Report (Stuart Young)

Church Works during 2020

The defective sump pump in the Crypt area was repaired by a local electrician (Dr Sparky).
Following receipt of a Faculty the external brickwork joints to the Baptistry were resealed and the defective plaster to the ceiling above the Font was also repaired and following which the ceiling of the Baptistery area was repainted all by a specialist contractor with inspections being carried out by the Diocesan Architects.
Areas of the floor finish around the Font were tested by a specialist contractor who confirmed that they contained asbestos. A specialist contractor was therefore employed (Amstech Limited) to remove and seal these areas, they also carried a comprehensive inspection/testing of all of the joints in the carpeted flooring in the church, and the joints were subsequently sealed.
Sealing of the joint between the carpet and the West end wall of the church was also carried out.

Church and Church Hall

During October 2020 repair works were carried out to defective external light fittings some of the fitting had to be replaced as well as replacement lamps fitted.

Activities Report (Roberta Bedford)

Do you remember that TV programme "that was the week that was"? Well, I think we can say 2020 was that was the year that was.
It started off quite normal, we had a fantastic Burns night with an even bigger uptake on tickets than last year, there was lots of laughter and dancing and I hope I can say a good time was had by all.
Burns night was followed by Shrove Tuesday when we cooked pancakes in church on various small hot plates, there were lots of different toppings and they were delicious, a few people from other churches joined us and they were made to feel very welcome.
The very last event we had in our normal start to the year was a jumble sale, as it was already advertised, we went ahead with it, however, we were already hearing about this Covid 19 virus that was beginning to spread, so we wore protective aprons and gloves to sort the goods and serve and Mike Davenport sat in the entrance of the hall and sprayed everyone who wanted to come inside, despite all of this we made a good profit.
Sadly, a week later we were in lock-down and it would be many weeks until we would be back in our church.
Due to the lockdown a few volunteered to ring round to the more vulnerable members of the congregation to have a chat and ensure all was well with them. Darran and Denise set up a weekly newsletter to let everyone know what was going on and keep everyone in touch.
But where there's a will there's a way, Fr Joseph ever resilient began to stream the Sunday services from his study via his mobile phone and ably assisted by Elisabeth, Rebecca and Gabriel and sometimes a little glimpse of Bella the dog. Those of us fortunate to have internet could watch the service on Face Book or U-tube. This form of our Sunday worship went on for several weeks, until Fr Joseph was allowed to stream the services from the Church.
At this time Chris Maddock was a great help sorting out the filming and between Chris and Fr Joseph we settled into a pattern of Sunday services. During this time, it was heartening to see many names popping up as watching the service that we didn't recognise. It seemed that we were attracting a new congregation all be it on line.

As the choir were not allowed back into church, Chris and Paula decided to record the choir so that the recordings could be used during the service.
The first rehearsal took place safely distanced in Paula's back garden – I hope the neighbours enjoyed it as much as we did. Then Chris began to e-mail both music and words of the hymns and we recorded them in our homes, we either e-mailed or WhatsApp the recording to Chris and he very cleverly blended the individual voices and made them sound amazing.
During the year we mastered Zoom and after a few false starts for some of us we held our PCC and standing committee meetings via this app, with many a shout of you're on mute, when someone was speaking and had forgotten to put their sound on.
Later in the year we were allowed back into church, however, a safe distancing risk assessment had to be put in place and seats had to be booked via the parish office. A team led by Paula spent a couple of Saturday afternoons thoroughly cleaning the church, marking the floor with arrows showing the one-way system in and out of the church and with the aid of a 2-metre stick, safe distanced the seating. Eventually we had to remove the static wooden seats to give greater flexibility to the seating and enable more people to take part in the service.
To keep us all safe and sanitised, there are hands free sanitisers that Alison set up and everyone is given a sanitiser to use before communion.
We were at last able to have a choir in church, however, sadly no other singing was allowed. It was all very different to what we were used to and what with face masks and long lockdown hair, it was sometimes hard to recognise people. Our live streaming took on a very professional touch with the Lovely Ozzy setting up his equipment every Sunday a filming the service and we were the envy of many.
Our APCM along with other churches was held in October again via live stream. Stuart decided to stand down as church warden and Frances kindly stood and was voted in to replace him. My thanks go to Stuart for all the hard work he has carried out to keep the church building standing.
Just before Christmas we went into another lockdown and church once again was closed and services once again were live streamed curtesy of Ozzy and Chris.

So, despite the country being in lockdown St Hilda's was still going strong. Everyone has played a part in this, however, there are a few thank you'd I must give.
First to Fr Joseph for always being there for all of us and keeping St Hilda's very much in the forefront. His promotion to Area Dean is well deserved. To Darran and Denise for producing a brilliant weekly newsletter and organising delivery to those who are without Wi-Fi. To all who help deliver and keep in touch with the more vulnerable members of our family.
Paula for her rigorous risk assessment to keep the church safe to use and for her collaboration with Chris in choosing hymns and music and keeping us all in tune. Chris Maddock for his hard work in first setting up the recording of the services and doing a brilliant job in recording the music and hymns, thanks to Melvin Rouse for recording some of the music, Frances and Rosemary for cleaning and sanitising the church every Wednesday after the service to make it ready for Sunday worship. Christine Makriel who served at the Altar most Sundays and finally to all the readers and intercessors and do you like me try to guess who is reading each week.
As always there is so much done behind the scenes to keep the church running smoothly that we do not see, and my thanks to all of you for all your hard work and commitment. It has been my privilege and pleasure to serve as your church warden.

11. Resolution to enable postal voting at Future Annual Parochial Church Meetings:
these have been on display in church, and were included in the documentation issued before the meeting.

12. Benefice's Reflection
One of the purposes of this year's APCM is to reflect on church life from the previous year of 2020, and, of course, of all that still applies. If we look at all the things that changed since the first lockdown in March and all that is currently lacking in or church community compared to what was before. When all is stripped away and all pared back to a Facebook broadcast, then that is tough, very tough. Although, there is some hope in that, as I will mention in a moment.
But looking back to what church life was like before COVID should be a source of encouragement. It reminds us that we capable of so much more and that when restrictions are lifted, then we know that we can re-build our worshipping community.

But we should not underestimate the challenges which lie ahead in rebuilding our church community. There is no doubt that COVID has increased the financial pressures and put on hold many of our more social outreach activities. Things improved between the first and second lockdown, and we were able to worship together for a while, before we had to close down our doors again just before Christmas, but with the hope of the vaccine programme being rolled out.

The reason to be hopeful also originates for reasons which I will explain. Firstly, because stripped back of all the extras which go with church life, the social functions, coffee morning, the boot sales, the concerts, and going back to basics is not the worst thing in the world. If we are to look for good in the situation then there are some parallels, albeit of course not the same, with the early church. The prayed together and shared communion before they put together a social calendar. Whilst only priests are required by Canon Law to celebrate the daily offices, our church community was encouraged to be united in prayer every day at home.

My hope and prayer are that having been stripped back to the basics of our Christian life and worship, that we have the people and the spirit amongst us to put some things back together. But as we do that, I would also urge a spirit of discernment. The task of 2021 is not to re-create the church of 2019, 1919 or 1819. The task that lies ahead of us is to discern what we can do with the resources we have, what we need to do given the community we inhabit and, most importantly, what God calls us to do in this place. If we want St Hilda Ashford to have a spiritual heart, then we are not to use COVID as an excuse to back off and let other people get on with it, because if everyone does that, then I can show you what has happened to many churches throughout the Kensington area and the Diocese of London, who either are facing closure or have become church plants. Sisters and brothers in Christ, no matter how long you have been here and no matter what roles or jobs you have done for this parish before, you are not the past of St Hilda, you are its present and its future. You are called to pray, to evangelise, to worship and to play our role in the life of this parish, whatever that may be. Because everyone has a role in God's economy.

In 2020, despite the pandemic, outreach still took place. We strengthened our partnership with HMP Bronzefield, through the ongoing collaboration with chaplaincy and the art department. In terms of chaplaincy, a joint project looking at ways to reintegrate women into the local community upon release from prison, as well as supporting Simeon in his 'Through the Door' ministry. He was duly Co-Opted to the PCC at the November meeting, as a link person between the prison and the parish. In terms of the art department, the women decorated a fabric Christmas tree, which was then displayed at church, as visual sign of the existing close relationship between prison and parish.

We continued with the Foundation Governorship of Ashford Church of England Primary School, with Donna Hester as governor. After several years as governor, Lisa Richardson stepped down as a foundation governor for St Hilda, for which we are deeply grateful. As a result of the vacancy, Clare Marland, was appointed as foundation governor in November, and we welcomed her to the role. We look forward to a closer relationship with the school.

There is also a connection with Bishop Wand, through my role as Foundation Governor, and taking collective worship.

Since becoming the Area Dean for Spelthorne in March, it has meant an increase in my workload, but at the same time a bigger involvement with the life of the Diocese and a stronger connection with other parishes in the Deanery.

The gifts from the Harvest Festival went to the local food bank at the Salvation Army, which has become a lifeline throughout the pandemic for many families who are struggling financially.

As were not able to meet up in person during the lockdowns, and there were many people who did not have access to the internet, it was important to find a way to stay in touch. With this in mind, the idea of a weekly newsletter was born, which Denise and Darran took upon themselves to put together and distribute. It has contributions from across the community and has been well received and much appreciated.

The Ministry Team has not been able to operate in the same way throughout the pandemic. With Rosalyn on sabbatical, Carolyn carried on reading the Gospel, and preaching when possible, as well as keeping an eye on the Facebook page. Later on the year, she took over facilitating the Tea & Chat after the Sunday service. Denise also facilitated Tea & Chat on a Tuesday morning. Both have provided much needed opportunities for those attending to have social interaction via Zoom. We also welcomed Fr Steve, who has retired, and his wife Liz to the parish. We look forward to their involvement in the worship life at St Hilda.

A big thank you to all the readers for keeping this invaluable ministry going, and to Frances for overseeing it. Also, thank you to Frances for all the behind the scenes work as a sacristan, and to Alan Sloan for

organising the crucifer rota. I particularly would like to thank Christine Makriel for all the quiet but most appreciated help.
Junior Church tried to meet best possible in between lockdowns, and we are grateful for Christine Taylor's oversight, in collaboration with Elizabeth Bate, Chris Davenport, Elisabeth Santos and Gordon Clark. Thank you for holding it together under trialling circumstances.
Rosemary Greenwood, together with the editorial and collating teams, faithfully carried on producing Crossroads. However, with the number of contributions drying up and no one to take over from Rosemary, with a heavy heart it was decided to stop it for now. A big thank you goes to Rosemary and the rest of the team, namely Val Scott, Mike Davenport, Terry Rickson and Chris Holliday, for all their hard work, and to those who advertise in it for their sponsorship.
The Hall Committee, namely Steve Smith, Val Scott, Elizabeth Bate, Chris Davenport, and Jenny Cayley, after many years of commitment and service to the parish, by overseeing the day to day run of the Church Hall, agreed to bring it to a close, as their oversight was transferred to the newly created Church Fabric Committee, composed by Steve Smith, Elizabeth Bate and Stuart Young, with the involvement of both Church Wardens, in order to centralise and streamline ongoing maintenance of both church and church hall.
Part of the function of the APCM is to acknowledge all the areas of church life and those who contribute to them. to them. This event is a reminder that church is not something done in isolation, but it is only possible using the different silks and callings of many people from this church. Whilst I can't thank everyone in this reflection by name, there are some people that I must thank personally, not only on my own behalf but on behalf of us all.
Firstly, everyone should know that this church and this parish simply could not function without all the hard work of Denise, our parish administrator, my PA, supporting me in my role as Area Dean, and PCC Secretary! Unless you have seen behind the scenes of how the parish works you probably have no idea of how much there is to do but the newsletters, orders of services, admin work, photocopying, and many other tasks, plus trying to get any sense out of the vicar is a massive job. All this on top of being the PCC secretary. Thank you, Denise!
A huge thanks to Stuart who stepped down as a Churchwarden at the 2019 APCM, and to our current Churchwardens Bobbie and Frances, and Stuart. They have been hugely supportive and hardworking. Unless you have been a churchwarden it is hard to imagine just how much goes into the job but, a bit like being a vicar. I truly appreciate all they do.
Huge thanks also to Darran who has done a magnificent job as treasurer, and supported Denise in her varied roles.
Of course, we also need to thank the PCC and Deanery Synod members who give up evenings throughout the year to help guide the life of the church. Huge thanks to everyone who has served in that capacity and to those who have put themselves forward for the new PCC. I would also like to acknowledge the hard work of the Standing Committee, overseeing the day-to-day business of the parish. One important undertaking was to plan the return to church after the first lockdown, for which I am grateful to Paula, Elizabeth and Christine Makriel.
One of our chief characteristics in this church is the high standard of our music and our choir. I must therefore offer huge thanks to Chris Maddock for keeping the choir going throughout the pandemic, making full use of technology in unprecedented ways. Also, huge thank you to Paula for supporting Chris, and the members of the choir, for augmenting our worship so beautifully every week.
One essential part of the corporate worship in absence over the least year has been the live streaming of the services. We are deeply grateful to Chris Maddock for overseeing it and Ozzy Etis for recording it without ever asking for anything in return, as a way to serve the local community.
Thank you to those who contributed to the cleaning of the church when open, namely Bobbie, Frances, Rosemary and Chris Holliday.
What comes next for St Hilda's over the coming year? As already flagged up, we do face a number of challenges in the year ahead and, whilst celebrating our blessings, we need to face the future realistically. So, there are challenges ahead, but there are also opportunities. I think that the biggest growth opportunity for the church comes from learning how to be of service to those around us. We are surrounded by endless need, whether our eyes are open to it or not, and if we seek to serve that need in the name of Christ then that is the best possible witness to the effect that being Christians has had on our lives. To serve others out of love, to be open with them about why we do it and to help them to find ways into making a response of their own is, in my view, far more powerful than only fiddling with our worship and hoping that people will come. We need to be such good Christians out there that people will be clamouring to know what

goes on in here. We also need to increase our fellowship and discipleship, particularly to those who have joined the parish recently.
This is a good place, filled with good people, and there is no doubt that God is at work in this community. We must treasure that and not take it or each other for granted.

13. Any other business:

Fr Joseph explained that Lay Ministers are ex-officio members of the PCC and a vote was requested to appoint them as voting members. This was agreed unanimously.

Joyce & Melvyn Rouse proposed a vote of thanks to Chris Maddock for his work with the choir,music and livestreaming of the services.

14. The date of the next APCM is **Sunday 8th May 2022**.

The meeting closed at 12.10pm with a prayer.

REPORTS FOR 2022 MEETING

ST HILDA'S CHURCH

ASHFORD, MIDDLESEX

ANNUAL REPORT and FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31st December, 2021

Incumbent

The Revd Joseph Fernandes
8 Station Crescent
Ashford
Middlesex

Bank

Nat West Bank
Ashford Middlesex Branch
5 Woodthorpe Road Ashford
Middlesex TW152RN

Independent Examiner

Mr Peter Connolly
33, Carlyle Road
Staines
Middlesex TW18

The Parochial Church Council of St Hilda Ashford - Charity Number 1134119

Saint Hilda's Church, Ashford, Middlesex

Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council

for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

Saint Hilda's Church, Ashford, which is part of the Diocese of London within the Church of England, has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, Reverend Joseph Fernandes, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish with the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church, Church Hall, Vicarage and 34, Woodthorpe Road, Ashford, Middlesex TW15 2RU.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity, the Charity Number being 1134119

Incumbent	**Father Joseph Fernandes**
Licenced Lay Ministers	**Carolyn Clark** [Ex-officio & Deanery voting member]
	Rosalyn Young [Ex-officio voting member]

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL 2020

Appointments are for 3 years in the first instance with the option of serving for a second term of 3 years. After a total of 6 years members must come off the PCC but can be re-elected to serve again for 3 years after a break of one year.

Appointed for			**Due for re-election**
APCM 2019-2022	Darran Buttigieg	2nd Term	APCM 2022
	Denise Buttigieg	1st Term	APCM 2022
	Christine Taylor	2nd Term	APCM 2022
	Christopher Maddock	1st Term	APCM 2022
APCM 2020-2023	Christopher Brown	2nd Term	Resigned
	Christine Makriel	2nd Term	

APCM 2021-2024	Gordon Clark	1st Term	APCM 2024
	Paula Gething	2nd Term	APCM 2024

Year 2021 - 2022	Rev'd Stephen Brian	Co-opted
	Simeon Sturney	Co-opted

Three **Deanery Synod representatives** are elected for three year terms.

Appointed for			**Due for re-election**
APCM 2020 – 2023	Elizabeth Bate	2nd Term	
	Carolyn Clark	1st Term	APCM 2023

Two **Churchwardens**: Churchwardens are elected annually up to a total of 4 years.

1. Roberta Bedford 6th year
2. Francis Forsbrey 2nd year

Assistant to the Churchwardens: Paula Gething

Sally Goulden (whilst she acted as Church Safeguarding Officer) was invited to attend as appropriate.

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance within the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. During the year the Council met 4 times. The PCC operates through a number of committees.

Standing Committee

This is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council. The Standing Committee oversees the finances of the PCC. The committee includes the Vicar, Churchwardens, Treasurer, Secretary, Vice Chairperson. The assistant to Church Warden was co-opted to the committee for the Church year 2021/22.

Stewardship Committee

The Stewardship Committee deals with giving to the Church through the Stewardship Scheme and with encouraging members of the congregation to organize their planned giving. They ensure that tax is reclaimed on donations where applicable.

Church Attendance

There are 175 names on the Church Electoral Roll. (Of these, 64 are not resident in the parish.) The average Sunday attendance counted over a 4 week period during October, was 59 adults and 17 children. (Figures for 2020 were 58 and 17 respectively). Additionally, Church at Home (Facebook) 226 (2020 – 327). At Christmas 172 people attended special services for the congregation and local community (2020 – 59). Civic Organisations and

Schools 550 (2020 – nil) 127 people attended Christmas Eve and Christmas Day (2020 – 22).

Church Wardens Reports

We confirm that in accordance with the law governing the Office of Churchwardens during the last year we have

- Carried out duties assigned by the Bishop or Archdeacon
- Maintained in good order and safe keeping, the plate, ornaments and other articles committed to our charge.
- Kept the church records in the same good order and safe - keeping.
- All offerings and collections have been recorded and paid into the relevant bank.
- The bread and wine have been provided for the Holy Communion as we are bound and directed.
- The seating and good order of the congregation have been maintained and as lay officers of the Bishop we have not found it necessary to report to him or the Archdeacon any neglect or default upon any one person in the discharge of their duties.

Frances Forsbrey presented the Church Property Report: (Fabric)

Church Hall
With the impact of Covid-19 in 2020 and spilling into the first few months of 2021 in keeping with Government Guidelines Happytots had exclusive use of the hall premises and at their request were responsible for cleaning those areas they had use of. In May when Government Guidelines were relaxed the new cleaning company LSR Cleaning Service Ltd who we had engaged earlier in the year began operations throughout the entire hall building which fell nicely into place with some of our regular hirers starting to return and by July the halls were in full use with business as usual.
Throughout the year a considerable number of maintenance tasks were carried out e.g. Jon Bate replaced taps in the main kitchen, Lyndons Property Maintenance carried out repairs in two places to the wooden floor in the main hall where it had been damaged due to ingress of water, Jon Swaffield repaired sanitary wear in both the ladies and gents toilets in the foyer block, Steve Smith 9 with me as the goffer) replaced light bulbs, and in the electrical cupboard Doctor Sparky Ltd., replaced the RCBO unit for the water heater in the small kitchen.
In April the annual maintenance and inspection of the fire extinguishers was carried out by Chubb Fire, Jon Bate repointed the junction of the brickwork between the hall and storeroom together with a replacing a small section of lead missing from the small hall roof. In October Kingsmead Electrical Testing carried out the annual PAT testing, Butler & Miles Construction Ltd stripped off and replaced the front extension flat roof. In November Ashford Glass & Window Co., replaced the double-glazed unit to the side door, the cause of the damage unknown, and the annual gutter cleaning and maintenance was carried out by Fullers Builders Ltd.
In addition to all this throughout the year Jon Bate and Steve Smith spent many a Saturday morning up on the roof removing the moss also investigating with some success the gutters for evidence of ingress of water, though the problem continues.

With the disbandment of the hall committee a property maintenance team was set up, the responsibility for the general upkeep of the building falling on the shoulders of a small number of people. Without the help and support of Steve Smith, Jon Bate, Michael Smith

and John Swaffield I don't know what I would have done, whatever the problem they were there without any hesitation, thank you so much gentlemen.
Chris Davenport continued as Hall Booking Secretary, keeping meticulous records of who, when and for how long, she has it all down to a fine art, giving a magnificent service to us and the community, drawing in much needed revenue, thank you Chris.

Church

Prior to our being able to return to worship a Return to Church team was formed drawing up Risk Assessments and marking out our church to ensure correct distances and practices were in place so we were all as safe as safe could be where Covid 19 was concerned. We owe them all a huge thank you for the time and effort they put in together with those who arranged the seating plan week by week, booked us in on arrival, escorted us to our seats and ensured there was hand sanitiser and masks available.
A new team was set up to clean our church regularly and this continues on a weekly basis keeping the premises as safe and as covid free as we can, a big thank you to Rosemary Greenwood and Chris Holliday, I enjoy our Thursday mornings, all comers are most welcome to join us.
During the year there was the formation of a new gardening team, we have all witnessed their hard work, our grounds look so much better, thank you one and all. I don't doubt new comers are welcome many hands make light work.
109 wooden chairs were sold, thank you Paula for advertising them and for arranging their collection. The proceeds together with the funds raised from the 'chair appeal' enabled us to purchase 100 new chairs which are far more comfortable.
Throughout the year a number of tasks were carried out, exterior lights replaced, the annual maintenance and inspection of the fire extinguishers by Chubb Fire, Butler & Miles Construction Ltd rebuilt a section of the boundary wall opposite Chaucer Road with it having been demolished by an unknown vehicle, thank goodness the cost was covered by our insurers. Watkins & Watson Ltd carried out the annual inspection of the organ, the organ blower and humidifier, Kingsmead Electrical Testing carried out the annual PAT testing.
The annual gutter maintenance and cleaning was carried out by Fullers Builders Ltd in November. Throughout the year where and when necessary external lights were replaced and again my thanks to Steve Smith and Jon Bate for their never ending help and support.

Vicarage

Annual gutter maintenance and cleaning was carried out in November by Fullers Builders Ltd.,
Whilst there is provision in our budget for the redecoration of one room a year upon checking with Fr. Joseph and his family they did not consider any was required.

34 Woodthorpe Road

Our tenants gave notice to leave the property at the end of March and this gave us the opportunity to carry out some refurbishment before the property was re-let in conjunction with our project of working with Hope in Action. Rooms were redecorated by volunteers, both the bathroom and kitchen were refreshed, and a new electric cooker was purchased. Carpets were replaced where needed, additional socket points were installed by Allinson & Reynolds Building & Electrical Ltd., throughout with Jon Bate hanging new fire doors. A band of volunteers helped prepare the property ready for our new tenants and also attacked the badly overgrown garden. A big thank you to Denise Buttigieg for arranging and overseeing the works programme and to the many volunteers who all together made sure the property was ready on time.

The property is now let as ‘fully furnished’ the contents having been very generously donated by a considerable number of people.

Now on a personal note a big thank you to both the Standing Committee and PCC for their support and commitment in the management of our church in these continued challenging times, and to you the congregation for your support and understanding especially for bearing with the changes that were sometimes been sprung upon you when arriving for worship.
As well as those I have already mentioned there are others I owe a big thank you to, Fr Joseph and Bobbie for their support, Denise Buttigieg for her help as both Parish Administrator and PCC Secretary these past 18 months, my two wonderful teams those who read the second lesson of a Sunday morning and those who lead us in our prayers, you all do a magnificent job thank you. If you would like to be part of either or both teams just come and see me, I’ll be very pleased to see you.

Lastly, whilst on this occasion my ‘tour of duty’ has been ‘brief and sweet’ it has been a privilege to serve you as a warden I could not have done it without your love and support especially that of my darling family Gerald and Sophie, thank you all so much.

Activities Report (Roberta Bedford)
First of all I would like to thank Frances Forsbrey for all her help and support as my fellow warden this past year, with the Pandemic we have had quite a lot to deal with and I couldn’t have wished for a better partner.

It has been my privilege to serve as your warden, I may not always get it right but I will always do my best.

We have been so fortunate to have Fr. Steve, Mother Helen & Mother Pamela join our team this past year, also Rosalyn and Carolyn who also play a huge part in our services, how lucky are we.

There are a small team of people who help make St Hilda’s the warm and welcoming church it is. Throughout this past year the church has been thoroughly cleaned every week to minimise the risk of spreading the Covid virus, sanitisers and masks have been provided and we have done our very best to keep everyone safe. Thank you to you all.

Once again, we are able to enjoy a cup of coffee and a chat after our services and my thanks go out to all who have stepped up to help with the refreshments.

We are so fortunate to be able to continue to live stream our Sunday services thanks to Ozzy and Chris and those who are not able or comfortable returning to church, can still feel they are very much part of our church and enjoy the services.

As we are gradually getting back to some sort of normal, understandably we have had an influx of baptisms. It had been so lovely to welcome these families into our Church and Fr, Joseph’s bubble machine has proved to be a great hit.

We were also privileged to hold the confirmation service here too, with six candidates from St Hilda’s being confirmed.

We began to hold our mid-week services on Wednesdays, this was done so that we had the obligatory 72 hours between the church being cleaned and used again. People were glad to return and many felt more comfortable with the smaller numbers in church.

Denise had the great idea of maybe providing soup and a roll after the service to enable people to socialise after being cut off for so long. Fr. Joseph contacted an organisation called Surplus to Supper a charity that collects food from local supermarkets to distribute to food banks. They agreed to make a delivery to St Hilda's each week, Fr Joseph said they will bring soup in a soup tureen ready to serve. Mariane and I agreed to serve it and with soup bowls at the ready awaited the soup, it did arrive but still in the tins, we quickly plugged in the soup tureen poured in the soup and waited.

We had 12 hungry people awaiting their lunch and the soup was nowhere near warm, fortunately the delivery included French bread, and cheese so we served this and over an hour later 12 very patient people were served tepid soup. We quickly learnt and we now have two microwaves in which to heat the soup, which is just as well as our numbers for lunch have swelled to more than 20.

We are registered as a place to come and have lunch and we now have at least 6 walk ins each week in addition to those who come to the service. If we did not take this food, it would all be put into land fill, we have very little wastage. Some of those who attend take sandwiches, fruit etc back to give to elderly neighbours, or families.

We want to make St Hilda's a place of welcome, it is a big space and we should use it, not just for Sundays but hopefully in future every day of the week.

Vicar's Reflection for 2021

One of the purposes of this year's APCM is to reflect on church life from the previous year of 2021. Compared to 2020, there were large improvements, although restrictions were still in place for part of the year.

In 2021, despite the pandemic, outreach carried on. One very important aspect was the development and launch of St Hilda's House. It is a tripartite project with HMP Bronzefield and Hope Into Action, aimed at ways to reintegrate and rehabilitate women into the local community upon release from prison. After a very busy period setting things up, the first woman moved in in June. A second one followed in October, but sadly both tenancies did not work out. It was a big learning curve to all involved, and it was by no means a failure, albeit it placed a strain on our resources.

We continued with the Foundation Governorship of Ashford Church of England Primary School, through our two foundation governors, and taking collective once a month. We There is also a connection with Bishop Wand, through my role as Foundation Governor, as well as taking collective worship.

Since I became the Area Dean of Spelthorne in 2020, St Hilda's has hosted several events for the Deanery, including a talk given by Bishop Graham on his latest book.

The gifts from the Harvest Festival went to the local food bank at the Salvation Army, which has become a lifeline throughout the pandemic for many families who are struggling financially.

The Ministry Team has gone from strength to strength, and in September we welcomed Mother Helen Calner. She was originally ordained as a Deacon in the Church of Sweden, and is now training at St Mellitus College, London, in order to be ordained as a priest in the Church of England. Her ministry has been very much valued at St Hilda's and she has already made a very positive contribution to the life of parish.

A big thank you to all the readers for keeping this invaluable ministry going, and to Frances for overseeing it. Also, thank you to Frances for all the behind the scenes work as a sacristan and to Alan Sloan for organising the crucifer rota.

Junior Church have been working hard to reconnect with the younger families. We are grateful for Christine Taylor's oversight, alongside the Junior Church leaders. Thank you for holding it together under trialling circumstances.

Part of the function of the APCM is to acknowledge all the areas of church life and those who contribute to them. to them. This event is a reminder that church is not something done in isolation, but it is only possible using the different silks and callings of many people. I would like to affirm all who are involved in different areas of the life of the parish. It is routed in *agape*, an expression of faith and commitment to serve one another and ultimately God.

I would like to acknowledge the contribution made by Denise, our parish administrator and PCC Secretary. We are saying goodbye to her and Darran as they leave Ashford in the summer 2022.

Bobbie and Frances were elected as Church Wardens at the APCM. They have been hugely supportive and incredibly hardworking. Without them, the church, and the Vicar, could not function properly. On behalf of the parish, I would like to offer my deepest gratitude for the way they conducted their role over the past year, sacrificially at times.

I would also like to thank the PCC and Deanery Synod members who give up evenings throughout the year to contribute to the life of the parish and the deanery. Huge thanks to everyone who has served in that capacity, particularly Darran, in his role as treasurer. I would also like to acknowledge the hard work of the Standing Committee, overseeing the day-to-day business of the parish, particularly the invaluable contribution made by Paula Gething and Elizabeth Bate.

One of our main contributors to the liturgy in this church is the choir. I must therefore offer my gratitude to Chris Maddock for keeping the choir going throughout the pandemic, making full use of technology.

One essential part of the corporate worship in absence has been the live streaming of the services. We are deeply grateful to Chris Maddock for overseeing it and Ozzy Etis for recording it without ever asking for anything in return, as a way to serve the local community. It has provided an invaluable lifeline to those who are not able to attend the services in person.

Thank you to those who contributed to the cleaning of the church when open, for such an important role in keeping the church looking beautiful.

What comes next for St Hilda's over the coming year? We do face a number of challenges in the year ahead and, whilst celebrating our blessings, we need to face the future realistically. So, there are challenges ahead, but there are also opportunities. I think that the biggest growth opportunity for the church comes from learning how to be of service to those around us. We are surrounded by endless need, whether our eyes are open to it or not, and if we seek to serve that need in the name of Christ then that is the best possible witness to the effect that being Christians has had on our lives. To serve others out of love, to be open with them about why we do it and to help them to find ways into making a response of their own is, in my view, far more powerful than only fiddling with our worship and hoping that people will come. We need to be such good Christians out there that people will be clamouring to know what goes on in here. We also need to increase our fellowship and discipleship, particularly to those who have joined the parish recently.

This is a good place, filled with good people, and there is no doubt that God is at work in this community. We must treasure that and not take it or each other for granted.

We cannot underestimate the challenges which lie ahead in rebuilding our church community. The pandemic increased the pressure in our limited resources and put on hold our social outreach activities. The challenge of 2022 is not to re-create the church of pre pandemic. If we are to find the spiritual heart of this parish of St Hilda, we need to discern who God is calling us to be, and to do, in this place, and to be good stewards of our resources. No matter how long we have been in the parish, we are its present and its future. We are called to pray, to evangelise, to worship and to play our role in the life of this parish, whatever that may be. Everyone has a role to play in God's economy.

REVIEW of the Year

Worship and Learning

2021 started with us all going back into lockdown which again disrupted attendance at the services, we were, however, glad to be able to return to in person worship at St Hilda's for Mothering Sunday.

Junior Church has been able to meet and we limited numbers to make for a safe environment for the children. We continue to follow the Lectionary using Roots on the Web resources. Unfortunately, we were unable to have our usual Good Friday workshops, but we did manage to have a Nativity play and Christingle.

Christine Taylor who leads Junior Church is very grateful for the support of Gordon, Elizabeth, Elisabeth, Rosalyn and Chris and the parents who have helped out.

The Choir continues to contribute wonderfully to the worship life at St Hilda's, and were able to return to singing live and without masks by the end of the year. Many thanks to all members of the choir, especially Chris Maddock for his work to keep the choir heard, even when they were unable to sing in person.

The Bible Study Group were able to start meeting again on a Wednesday evening and all are welcome.

Unfortunately Feed My Sheep were unable to meet during 2021.

We continue to be supported by a committed group of Servers who contribute to the worship.

We are grateful to those who act as Vergers for occasional offices, and the Sides people who greet people.

Gordon Clark took on the role of Church Safeguarding Officer and Elizabeth Bate continues as Children's Champion.

House of Bishops' Policy Statements

St Hilda's PCC ensure that we comply with the duty under Section 5 of the Safeguarding & Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, in relation to having due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults (as below).

Child Protection

The Church of England, in all aspects of its life, is committed to and will champion the protection of children and young people both in society as a whole and in its own community.

It fully accepts, endorses and will implement the principle enshrined in the Children Act 1989, that the welfare of the child is paramount. The Church of England will foster and encourage best practice within its community by setting standards for working with children and young people and by supporting parents in the care of their children.

It will work with statutory bodies, voluntary agencies and other faith communities to promote the safety and well-being of children and young people. It is committed to acting promptly whenever a concern is raised about a child or young person or about the behaviour of an adult, and will work with the appropriate statutory bodies when an investigation into child abuse is necessary.

The Church of England is committed to encouraging an environment where all people and especially those who may be vulnerable for any reason are able to worship and pursue their faith journey with encouragement and in safety. Everyone, whether they see themselves as vulnerable or not, will receive respectful pastoral ministry recognizing any power imbalance within such a relationship.

Safeguarding Adults

All church workers involved in any pastoral ministry will be recruited with care including the use of the Criminal Records Bureau disclosure service when legal or appropriate. Workers will receive training and continuing support.

Any allegations of mistreatment, abuse, harassment or bullying will be responded to without delay. Whether or not the matter involves the church there will be cooperation with the police and local authority in any investigation.

Sensitive and informed pastoral care will be offered to anyone who has suffered abuse, including support to make a complaint if so desired: help to find appropriate specialist care either from the church or secular agencies will be offered.

Congregations will often include people who have offended in a way that means they are a continuing risk to vulnerable people. The risks will be managed sensitively with the protection of adults and children in mind.

Church Buildings 2021

St Hilda's Church

The PAT testing was carried out and again minor works were undertaken. St Hilda’s church continues to take advantage of the gutter cleaning programme offered by the Diocese of London.

A group of volunteers including Frances Forsbrey, Rosemary Greenwood and Chris Holliday who clean St Hilda’s every Thursday.

Church Hall

We fulfilled the legal requirements of our insurers, Diocese and Local Authority regarding

the electrical, gas and fire regulations. A combined properties committee now look after the Church and Church Hall.

The Church Hall continued to provide a safe community space when government covid guidelines allowed. Happytots pre-school, established in 2006, remains the principal daytime hirer.

St Hilda's House

The house was rented commercially until March 2021. It was then refurbished ready for tenants to move in, under the partnership with Bronzefield Prison and Hope into Action. After a good start, both tenants left by the end of the year, as it did not work out for them. The search for new tenants was still taking place by the end of the year.

The Vicarage

No internal works have been required at the vicarage since the redecoration in 2018.

Outreach

The 2021 outreach could be considered in three categories: local, educational and non-parish. There was a continuing ministry to bereaved families through the Memorial Book, and the Memorial Tree, we were unable to display Easter Lilies in 2021. We remain fully represented at Churches Together in Ashford and Stanwell, although as a result of the pandemic it did not meet in 2021. Educationally, we maintain our relationships with Ashford Church of England School and Bishop Wand, and to a lesser extent with St James. We were fortunate to be able to welcome St James' this year for their Christmas carol concert.

We continued with the Foundation Governorship of Ashford Church of England School, with Donna Hester and Clare Marland as our Foundation Governors. We have established a strong relationship with HMP Bronzefield Prison and support their 'Through the Door' ministry, as part of our missional outreach to the wider community. We also supported the Salvation Army foodbank.

The Mothers' Union continues to provide a place for fellowship.
We continue to build on Mission Outreach with our outgoing, welcoming Baptism, Wedding and Funeral Families. We find St. Hilda's is seen as one of the desired places for children's baptisms and we were able to hold two weddings in Church as well as some funerals.

The gifts from the Harvest Festival were given to support the local Salvation Army foodbank to help those in need in Spelthorne.

Mission Action continued throughout the year with occasional activities designed to attract different groups of people into the community. In November, under the leadership of Christine Makriel, we planted our Remembrance poppies to commemorate those who died in the war. There is also a prison holdall there containing a sleeping bag, scarf, hat and toiletries for those who may need it.

Health and Safety Risk Management Policy

Although the PCC is not required to report on its risk management policy, the PCC takes it very seriously and receives regular reports from the Health and Safety officer. A recovery plan is in place to assist the local community in the event of a disaster, and further work will

be carried out on risk management issues as required. Christine Makriel continued as Health and Safety Office.

Financial Review

St Hilda's PCC at the end of 2021 experienced another difficult year in terms of finance and endured a further loss. The total Fixed Asset valuation of properties have been maintained at £1,175,000 on the balance sheet. This comprises of St Hilda's House (34 Woodthorpe Road) at £325,000 and the Church Hall at £850,000, though based on current market rates the properties will be worth more.
The trust held total funds/ net current assets of £72,564 as at 31 December 2021 which represents a decrease of £5,757, however, included in this figure are funds that are being held on behalf of Bronzefield of £4,700 resulting in St Hilda's funds at £67,864 representing a real decrease of £10,457.
The accounts are further complicated by several other factors, receipt of grants not yet expended, Sponsor a Chair where not all donations committed. If these are also discounted the true financial impact of St Hilda's in 2021 is a deficit of £24,321. The main drivers for this deficit are Church Hall income, it increased versus 2020, however, still circa £22k lower than 2019 income. St Hilda's House income was down £6,770 versus 2020.

Restricted funds accounts for £26,703 – Alford fund £10,502, St Hilda's House £11,501, Bronzefield £4,700. There are various other funds that monies have been allocated to, but remain unrestricted.

Maintenance/ Purchases during the year were managed, with the major items being

- £8,354 Church Chairs – funded by 'Sponsor a Chair'
- £3,730 Church boiler repayments
- £2,500 London Diocesan loan repayment
- £2,340 Church Wall repair – Insurance claim
- £5,786 St Hilda's House refurbishment – fund by Church hire by Sodexo for training as well as grant received
- £3,900 Church Hall flat roof Repair

Common Fund remained at £62,000 in 2021, which is continually significantly lower than the required contribution.

As a result of the pandemic, our income has been severely impacted and our reserves are not healthy. We need to develop a fundraising strategy and promote the parish giving scheme.

Spelthorne Deanery Report 2021

Spelthorne Deanery Report 2021 Synod meetings provide an opportunity for sharing news and enjoying fellowship with the clergy and lay representatives from the 11 churches within Spelthorne Deanery. Despite the national lockdown restrictions from March 2020, the Synod continued with a programme of meetings remotely on zoom and then managed to meet in person for the meeting in October 2021.

Fr Joseph Fernandes, the incumbent of St Hilda's Ashford, continued to serve as Area Dean throughout 2021. Rev Carole George was installed as Rector of St Nicholas's Shepperton in September, two curates were appointed during the summer, Rev Johnny

Lawes at All Saints Laleham and Rev Sophie Raeside at St Saviour's Upper Sunbury.

The February meeting featured a presentation by Patrick Regan OBE, founder and director of the Kintsugi Trust, and considered the Christian approach to dealing with mental health issues.

Ven Richard Frank Archdeacon of Middlesex spoke at the June meeting on the theme of the "Vine and the Trellis" referring us to Jesus's teaching in John 15:5 about "I am the vine; you are the branches". He challenged us to check on our priorities within churches. As an example – although good administration, accounting and human resources are important, they should encourage rather than restrict Church growth.

Rev Derek Winterburn the Kensington Area lead for "Creation Care" which is one of the six pillars of the Compassionate Communities section of the London Diocese Capital Vision 2030 gave an illustrated talk and led a discussion at the October meeting. Derek's talk highlighted some of the effects and consequences of global warming and then considered how we as Christian communities can play our part in protecting the earth's resources. He encouraged us all to work on arranging for our churches to be recognised as ECO Churches.

The Annual Finance meetings were hosted remotely over zoom by Archdeacon Richard Frank and Rev Mary Spredbury (Diocesan Finance Officer) during the summer. Each Church Treasurer and many PCC representatives were able to participate.

During November and December Bishop Graham Tomlin gave three fascinating talks featuring the background and theology on the Nicene Creed open to all in the diocese.

At elections in 2021, Rev Jonathan Samedi of St Mary & St Peter Staines, Fr Andrew Downes of St Mary Sunbury, Mrs Carolyn Clark and Nick Wood-Dow were elected to the Diocesan Synod.

Father Joseph Fernandes
Spelthorne Area Dean

Norman W Head
Spelthorne Deanery Lay Chair

St Hilda's Stewardship Report for 2021
(Jim Iddiols)

Stewardship giving during 2021 amounted to a total of £37,905.05, which was an increase of £3,941.92 on the previous year. This total was made up of two categories of giving:

1. Donations made under Gift Aid (£35,438.61)

2. Donations not eligible for Gift Aid and not claimable under GASDS due to the donation amount exceeding the £30 limit (£2,466.44)

The amounts given, Gift Aid claimed from HMRC, and number of donors for each of the last 10 years are shown in the following table:

Year	Received	Claimed	Donors
2012	41,939.08	9,987.02	84
2013	39,608.75	9,781.94	78
2014	43,918.84	10,979.71	75
2015	42,850.54	10,149.31	73
2016	40,452.07	9,497.14	65
2017	39,491.90	9,135.49	61
2018	39,929.63	9,232.67	58
2019	41,203.45	9,505.23	56
2020	33,963.13	8,058.34	59
2021	37,905.05	8,859.75	58

The total number of contributors to Stewardship in 2021 was 58 (down 1 on 2020). Of these, 15 (down 7 on 2020) use the weekly envelope sets, 21 (up 5 from 2020) donate monthly or quarterly by Standing Order, 19 (up 2) donate via the preferred Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) and the remaining 3 paid annually. In total, £8,859.75 was claimed back from HMRC on all donations that fell under Stewardship during 2020.

A further £7,759.31 (down £462.33 on 2020) was donated during 2021 for other miscellaneous categories such as solar panels, baptisms, Easter lilies, Sponsoring a Chair, loose plate collections, various events, innovative fund-raising initiatives and so on. For these additional gifts, and inclusive of GASDS, we claimed back £1,908.59 from HMRC. These donations were generously provided by not only those under stewardship, but also those in the wider congregation and parish.

The coronavirus pandemic has clearly continued to have had an impact on the 2021 figures (as it had on the 2020 finances). Against that backdrop, those under stewardship deserve huge credit and thanks for their innovative efforts and kind generosity in continuing their giving to St. Hilda's in what has been, incredibly difficult circumstances.

Finally, we are still looking for a volunteer who can take on the leadership of the Stewardship Team for 2023 and beyond. Whoever takes on the role will continue to be ably assisted by Pauline Milton and Jim Iddiols, who will continue to manage the administration of collecting Gift aid from HMRC.

St Hilda's Junior Church Report 2021

(Christine Taylor)

Junior Church has been able to meet regularly each Sunday since May, thanks to the efforts of our team of leaders – Elizabeth Bate, Elisabeth Santos, Gordon Clark and Rosalyn Young.
Initially, we remained in the Hall throughout the whole service but when restrictions eased we were able to return to our normal practice of beginning in Church then moving into the Hall following the introduction and a prayer with the children, then returning to Church at the beginning of communion.

Unfortunately due to COVID we felt it sensible to limit the number of children each week to twenty. The number each week varies but we have over forty five children on our current roll including a small group of younger children. Sadly we have not been able to cater for the older children and teenagers as we hoped however in the Autumn term we did trial a monthly Friday night session but for various reasons we had to suspend this but we hope to relaunch in Summer 2022.

We still use Roots on the Web as our main teaching resource as this follows the lectionary and provides a weekly activity sheet and a more comprehensive sheet “Roots at Home” which suggests activities the whole family can become involved in.

Since October we have been working with Simon Shutt of Faith Awareness in Children Trust to provide a short monthly family orientated service on a Friday evening at 5:30pm. The services reflect the events in the Christian calendar and through activities, presentations, song and prayer involve the whole family.

Unfortunately due to COVID we were unable to have our usual Good Friday workshop but we were able to hold a relatively “normal” Christingle service where Rosalyn became a Christingle! We did not hold a separate Nativity play but the children had the opportunity to dress as their favourite Nativity character at the Crib Service where several young people and their parents read, prayed and accompanied the carols to make a very joyous beginning to the Christmas season.

St Hilda’s Bible Study Report 2021

(Carolyn Clark)

Following Covid -19 related closures of most church activities, plans were made to recommence a weekly bible study, beginning in mid-September 2021. Carolyn Clark agreed with members of the previous group to keep to a Wednesday evening, meeting in the church building at 7.30pm. We aim to begin with a hot drink for those who would like it and a short time of chat to catch up with each other. We then open with prayer followed by the main study and closing prayer; Carolyn Clark, Gordon Clark, Rosemary Greenwood and Chris Maddock have all led evenings. The group usually numbers between 6-8 people. Our one rule is that there is no such thing as a silly question!
We began with a very interesting ‘Whole Bible Bible Study’ led by Gordon Clark where he laid out a timeline on post it notes in the nave!

The start of the group coincided with the 2021 COP summit and so we followed the initial week with a series called ‘Creation Matters’ which included weeks discussing: Why should Christians care for creation, Christianity and climate change, The Land and Sabbath, Our attitudes to animals, Using your LOAF – making sure your trolley witnesses to your faith, Living simply, giving joyfully. We all tried a Carbon Footprint calculator and were challenged to see how we could begin to improve it.

We look forward to our future discussions and welcome anyone who is interested in attending.

St Hilda’s Church – Altar Servers’ Report 2021

(Alan Sloan)

Altar servers fulfil a very important function within the church. Their role dates back to the early days of the church, when priests were accompanied by an acolyte on their travels. Today altar servers’ roles in the church are usually as listed below albeit, during 2021, Covid-19 limited the roles we were able to undertake:
The **Crucifer** is the person who carries the big processional cross. We have different crosses for different times in the year. Normally we have a large, decorated cross but in

Advent and Lent a small wooden cross is available to reflect the mood of the season although, in recent years, the latter has not been used.

The **Acolytes** work in pairs and they both carry candles. In the olden days, when churches weren't lit quite so brightly, they had a very important role ensuring that when the Gospel procession went down into the church there was enough light on the Gospel book for the priest or deacon to be able to read it. They also fulfil other roles at the altar, such as bringing the vessels to the altar so that it can be laid up for mass and helping the priest wash his or her hands.

The **Book "Boy/Girl"** carries the altar book which he or she will hold for the priest when reading the Gospel. They also assist with the other roles at the altar.

St Hilda's Church currently has a team of 9 active altar servers, as listed below, who are always willing to help with any task to keep our services in Church running smoothly. Currently they assist at the 9.30 Sunday services and other special services e.g. confirmation, candles of remembrance, St Hilda's day, Midnight Mass.
As mentioned above Covid-19 caused significant changes in all our lives and the roles of servers, aside from setting up and clearing away, is currently limited to the role of crucifer. Hopefully, once we are through the winter period, it may be possible to review the situation.
Alan Sloan is the Head Server/serving team liaison representative and acts as the focal point between the servers and Father Joseph. This entails:

- Updating altar servers about any changes in process/procedure
- Completion of the end of year report
- Production of the servers' rotas.

We would always welcome new members to the team and would give the support and training to undertake this role. If interested please contact one of the Church Wardens in the first instance.

List of servers:
Darran Buttigieg
*Robb Clarke**
Frances Forsbrey*
Sally Goulden*
Chris Holliday
Christine Makriel*
Peter Makriel*
David Saville*
Alan Sloan*
Barbara Warne*
*Emma Wrightson**

An asterisk signifies where a server has additionally been appointed by the Bishop of Kensington to assist with Holy Communion albeit, due to Covid-19, that role is currently suspended. Those shown in italics are currently unavailable for rota duties.*

St Hilda's Choir Report 2021

(Chris Maddock / Paula Gething)

St Hilda's choir has continued to support worship through the pandemic. Continuing the long-standing tradition of four-part Harmony, we started the year recording our voices at home alone, relying on the magic and expertise of Chris Maddock to take seven or eight individual recordings and stitch them into a hymn to use during the live streamed service. We have now built a decent library of recorded musical items that can be used throughout the liturgical year.

As the restrictions eased we were once again able to sing live in church and we continue to use a mix of live and recorded items each week.

Chris Maddock takes the musical lead, supported by Paula Gething, Carolyn Clark and Rosemary Greenwood. We enjoyed the services of a couple of visiting organists during the year including Jeremy Rouse and we were delighted that Peter Pritchard could return to support us at Christmas. In addition, Melvyn Rouse provides regular and wonderful organ accompaniments and the occasional organ voluntary.

The choir welcomed some new members during 2021, Nick Gething (Tenor), Linda *Bishop,* Christine Makriel and Marianne Tank (Soprano) and occasionally Kate Goulden (Soprano/Alto). These new voices have made a wonderful contribution but as with most choirs, we need more men and hope that 2022 will bring us a tenor and bass or two.

St Hilda's Church - Flower Team Report 2021

(Alison Garner / Pauline Milton)

After the hiatus of the pandemic Alison Garner and Pauline Milton restarted the flower rota in May 2021 after being approached by Sheila Freeman. Once everything began to reopen, they sounded out the previous members of the Flower Team to see who was willing to carry on. Due to concerns of the on-going virus implications and their time spent on the rota we have lost some members. Grateful thanks are to be given to all the long-standing members who feel it is time to hang up their secateurs and pass on the baton to other members of the congregation. We especially would like to thank to Sheila Freeman, Sheila has been head of the team for some years and deserves her 'retirement', also Pat Kitto, Dorothy Read, Jennie Caley, Sheila West, Marion Sharps, Pat Parish and Elsie Stone for all their years of service. During the break we have sadly lost Daphne Roberts, a valuable member of the team, and her family very kindly donated a wonderful flower stand in her memory which is now in use at the High Altar.

The Flower Team are always looking for new faces and plan to run classes very soon for those who have already said they are interested. Please let Alison or Pauline know if you wish to join the team.

Alison and Pauline are concerned that the cost of flowers has increased, possibly due to the import costs increasing, but they are seeing a £2 increase per bunch. A £25 pre-Brexit /Pandemic memorial pedestal with a variety of blooms now costs closer to £35-40 for the same variety. Recently four bunches of chrysanthemums, (5 stems per bunch) and a three-stem bunch of lilies cost £24.96. All the greenery came from the Church grounds,

fortunately this display lasted two weeks. The Team will try and source flowers at the most reasonable price, but this may not always be possible during the current financial situation.

St Hilda's Church Events Report 2021

(Bobbie Bedford)

Well, we have been almost normal this past year with a few events taking place in church, however, not as much going on as in the past due to the up and down figures of the Covid numbers.

We did take part in the Ashford Jumble trails which proved very successful, we did a couple of them with stalls outside the church, our store room must have heaved a sigh of relief as we had a ton of donated goods stored because we hadn't had our usual jumble sales. For one of the jumble trails we opened up the church for people to set up stalls who couldn't use their own premises again this proved a good move as we had lots of people coming in who had never been in the church before.

Although we didn't have our usual summer Fayre, we did enjoy a Harvest bring and share lunch and then our first Jumble sale in over a year which we held in church due to it being a bigger space than the Church Hall and with so many goods to shift it proved to be the right decision.

We had a try at line dancing in church which proved to be great fun, which led to a dance class being held on Sunday afternoon for several weeks.

Parish breakfasts were started up, initially separately for men and women but quickly turning into men and women together as we had some very good speakers. The breakfast is cooked by Fr. Joseph, Jon Bate and their good ladies. The breakfasts have proved to be a great hit as the numbers have now grown to over 50.

There have been some excellent Euphonium concerts raising funds in the memory of Marion Scholar's husband Richard.

Unfortunately the Covid numbers rose again and we were not able to have a Christmas Fayre or our Burn's night party but we did manage to have a great Pancake night with lots of lovely toppings.

In April the Staines Llamas band held a concert in Church and so things are gradually getting back to normal, with our Burns night already in the calendar for next January.
St Hilda's had a limited calendar of events this year due to the pandemic. We did, however, manage to meet for Burns night and a Pancake Party before the first lockdown.

St Hilda's Church - Mothers' Union Report 2021

(Joyce Rouse)

We continued to try and keep in touch with our members by email and 'phone calls until it was safe to resume meetings in September and we offer ongoing support with shopping, collecting prescriptions, doctor's visits and the like to our less able members.

In September we resumed our monthly lunch meetings but in church so that we could be safely distanced from each other. Rosalyn led the MU Wave of Prayer that we had been unable to observe in June and it was pleasingly well attended. Alison Garner led a craft

teaching session in October to make paper angels for the Christmas Tree Festival and we then made them at the November lunch. In December we sang carols and enjoyed Christmas music led by Janet Husband, Elizabeth Bate and Melvyn Rouse.

In January Father Joseph celebrated our first Corporate Communion for almost two years and we welcomed Ordinand Helen to our lunch meeting. She gave us an interesting and humorous talk about the path that has brought her to St Hilda's. In February Father Steve celebrated Corporate Communion and returned the following week to join us for lunch. He too gave an interesting talk about his life and the various moves that have brought him back to live in our area.

We are now planning our future meetings for the year and looking forward to returning to some kind of normality.

Two of our long time members, Kath Brown and Daphne Roberts, sadly died last year and Jenny Granger celebrated her 100th birthday.

3rd Ashford Rainbows, Brownies and Guides Report 2021

(Chris Davenport – Guide Guider)

The girls of 3rd Ashford Rainbows, Brownies and Guides, their Guiders and Young Leaders were really pleased to be able to return to face-to-face meetings at St Hilda's Church Hall from September 2021.

The girls and leaders had coped very well with regular zoom meetings from May 2020, with the girls joining in at home for craft activities, games and work towards various badges. However, nothing is better than meeting weekly, in person, having fun and sharing new activities and experiences while making new friends.

All the Units have been working on their Theme Awards of Know Myself, Express Myself, Be Well, Have Adventures, Take Action and Skills For My Future. All these challenges are gauged for the abilities of the various age groups from 5 years to 14 years. With the girls keen to earn such a variety of badges, some of them have been able to complete Girlguiding Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards.

As the months roll by, we are pleased to see how the girls grow in confidence and rise to the various challenges as they progress from Rainbows, to Brownies and Guides. It is not only rewarding for the girls, but also for their Guiders, who give their time voluntarily. They encourage and guide the girls and boost their self-confidence in their efforts.

St Hilda's Church Hall provides a much-appreciated safe environment in which our 80 girls can come together for the fun and friendship of weekly meetings.

Having missed face-to-face meetings between March 2020 and September 2021, we look forward to organising and running exciting activities for the girls, and making up for lost time.

St Hilda's Entertainers' Annual Report - 2021

(Michael Davenport – Hon. Secretary)

President: Fr Joseph Fernandes

St Hilda's Entertainers

Chairman: Neale Winter

Secretary: Mike Davenport

The continuing Covid restrictions made it impossible to offer a May production in 2021. To ease the effects of this sad situation we organised fortnightly get-togethers by Zoom. These included a games evening, a variety of Play readings, a Quiz and a murder mystery evening.

An easing of lockdown rules in the summer gave us the hope of being able to perform a pantomime in December 2021. The strong possibility that fewer than usual actors and backstage crew would be available during the pandemic meant that the chosen script would need a comparatively small cast and basic staging. Alan Frayn's Sleeping Beauty fitted the bill. Following our usual three months of intensive rehearsal and backstage preparation, the end result was a very successful production which gripped our audiences' attention, whatever their ages, from start to finish. Once again, we were delighted to see nearly 900 people leaving our hall with beaming smiles on their faces, having laughed, cheered, shouted and clapped their way through the show. A very notable feature this year was the marvellous opportunity for three of our younger members, Lilly Poore, Jack Jeakins and Rob Devereux to step up and take principal parts, namely Princess Rose, Prince Alexis, and Fetch. They rose to the occasion brilliantly.

Our social events in the year, apart from our Zoom meetings, were restricted to a very enjoyable Barbecue in August, kindly hosted by Neale and Ayse.

We made two donations at the end of 2021. One was £1,000 to Shooting Star. The other was £1,080 to St Hilda's Church, towards the cost of new chairs in the Church.

Long Service Awards were presented with warm congratulations to seven members, Rob Devereux (5 years), Jayne Taylor (10 years), Tom Manly (15 years), Anwen Fuller (15 years), Kim Cooper (30 years), Laura Allen (35 years) and Mike Smith, for an incredible 50 years service. Mike was also presented with a book of memories with photos of the many shows he has been involved in.

As soon as we finish a pantomime, our thoughts turn immediately to the next production, so now it's all systems go for another hilarious comedy play written by our very own Neale Winter, 'Wife in the Fast Lane', to be performed in May 2022. It has a cast of 11, played by Sophie Gane, Craig Entwistle, Anwen Fuller, Rachel Wells, Sarah Poore, Rob Devereux, Sandra Radford, Mike Davenport, Dave Palman, Neale Winter and Laura Allen. The play's director is Steve Smith. At long last we can again look forward to performing a May Play to entertain members of St Hilda's, their families and friends, and the local community.

It looks as though we are well and truly back in the fast lane, thank goodness.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. HILDA's, ASHFORD, MIDDLESEX

BALANCE SHEET
For the year ending 31 December 2021

	NOTE	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	RESTRICTED FUNDS	TOTAL 2021	TOTAL 2020
Fixed Assets					
Functional property	5	850,000	-	850,000	850,000
Investment property	5	325,000	-	325,000	325,000
		1,175,000	0	1,175,000	1,175,000
Current Assets					
Debtors and prepayments	6	758	-	758	6,150
Cash at bank and in hand		52,983	26,703	79,686	77,607
		53,741	26,703	80,444	83,757
Current Liabilities					
Creditors - amounts falling due within one year	7	7,880	-	7,880	5,436
Net current assets		**45,861**	**26,703**	**72,564**	**78,322**
Total Assets less current liabilities		1,220,861	26,703	1,247,564	1,253,322
Creditors - amounts falling due after one year	8	-	-	-	-
TOTAL NET ASSETS		**1,220,861**	**26,703**	**1,247,564**	**1,253,322**
Funds					
Unrestricted		1,220,861	-	1,220,861	1,235,584
Restricted	9	-	26,703	26,703	17,738
		1,220,861	**26,703**	**1,247,564**	**1,253,322**

PCC Declaration

The PCC acknowledge and accept their collective responsibility for ensuring adequate financial controls are maintained and proper books and records kept

These financial Statements were approved by the PCC on 22nd February 2022

Fr Joseph Fernandes
Chairman/ Incumbant of St Hilda's Trust

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. HILDA's, ASHFORD, MIDDLESEX

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
For the year ending 31 December 2021

	NOTE	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	RESTRICTED FUNDS	TOTAL 2021	TOTAL 2020
INCOMING RESOURCES		£	£	£	£
Voluntary income	2(a)	70,829	12,000	82,829	65,472
Activities for generating funds	2(b)	36,720	-	36,720	26,810
Income from investments	2(c)	9,065	7	9,071	16,080
Church activities	2(d)	5,932	-	5,932	2,617
Other incoming resources	2(e)	2,198	10,700	12,898	-
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		**124,743**	**22,707**	**147,450**	**110,979**
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Cost of generating voluntary income	3(b)	-	-	-	-
Fund raising costs	3(c)	482	-	482	513
Church activities	3(a)	136,232	0	136,232	129,162
Investment management costs	3(d)	8,493	2,000	10,493	559
Bronzefield			6,000	6,000	
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		**145,207**	**8,000**	**153,207**	**130,234**
NET INCOMING RESOURCES		(20,464)	14,707	(5,757)	(19,255)
GAINS & LOSSES ON INVESTMENTS		-	-	-	-
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS		5,741	(5,741)	-	-
ACCOUNTING PROCEDURES ADJUSTMENT		-	-	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		**(14,722)**	**8,965**	**(5,757)**	**(19,255)**
BALANCE B/F AT 1ST JANUARY 2021		1,235,584	17,738	1,253,322	1,272,576
BALANCES C/F AT 31 DECEMBER 2021		**1,220,861**	**26,703**	**1,247,564**	**1,253,322**

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. HILDA's, ASHFORD, MIDDLESEX

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ending 31 December 2021

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared under the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the current Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2005).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for investment assets, which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gathering of church members.

FUNDS

Restricted funds comprise (a) revenue donations or grants for a specific PCC activity intended by the donor and (b) monies set aside for a specific purpose as agreed by the PCC. Where these funds have unspent balances , interest on their pooled investment is apportioned to the individual funds on an average balance basis.

Unrestricted funds are income funds which are to be spent on the PCCs general purposes.

INCOMING RESOURCES

Voluntary Income

Planned giving, collections and similar donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is entitled to the use of the resources, their ultimate receipt is considered reasonably certain and the amounts due are reliably quantifiable. Dividends are accounted for when declared receivable, interest as and when accrued by the payer. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Other Income

Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised when the rental is due.

Gains and losses on investments

Realized gains and losses are recognised when the investments are sold.

RESOURCES USED

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share expected to be paid over is accounted for when due.

All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

FIXED ASSETS

Consecrated property and movable church furnishings

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishings held by the Vicar and the Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. Subsequently no individual item has cost more than £1,000 so all such expenditure has been written off when incurred.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment

Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1,000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. HILDA's, ASHFORD, MIDDLESEX

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ending 31 December 2021

2. INCOMING RESOURCES	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL 2021	TOTAL 2020
	£	£	£	£
2(a) Voluntary Income				
Planned giving - gift aid donations	40,166		40,166	37,539
Tax recovered on planned giving	11,927		11,927	13,828
Planned giving - other			-	-
Loose plate	3,785		3,785	3,283
Sundry donations	3,441	12,000	15,441	7,122
Other tax recovered	758		758	2,314
Donations, appeals, etc.	10,718		10,718	317
Grant income			-	-
Legacies			-	-
Memorial book	35		35	280
Flowers	-		-	789
Specials	-		-	-
	70,829	**12,000**	**82,829**	**65,472**
2(b) Activities for generating funds				
Fetes, bazaars & other fund raising events	7,760		7,760	3,947
Church Hall lettings/ Fund raising	28,934		28,934	17,947
Photocopying	25		25	10
PV Income	-		-	4,906
Misc.			-	-
	36,720	**-**	**36,720**	**26,810**
2(c) Income from investments				
Interest	24	7	30	269
Rent	9,041		9,041	15,811
	9,065	**7**	**9,071**	**16,080**
2(d) Income from church activities				
Crossroads	-		-	774
Weddings	915		915	200
Funerals	4,628		4,628	1,142
Baptisms/ Confirmation	-		-	-
Other	389		389	501
	5,932	**-**	**5,932**	**2,617**
2(e) Other ordinary incoming resources				
Insurance claims	2,198		2,198	-
Bronzefield		10,700	10,700	-
	2,198	**10,700**	**12,898**	**-**
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	**124,743**	**22,707**	**147,450**	**110,979**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ending 31 December 2021

3. RESOURCES EXPENDED	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL 2021	TOTAL 2020
	£	£	£	£
3(a) Church Activities				
Missionary giving	58		58	275
Flowers	377		377	124
Insurance - Church	7,721		7,721	7,737
Insurance - Hall	1,861		1,861	1,905
Junior Church	336		336	38
Maintenance - Church & Church Hall	16,426		16,426	21,997
Purchases - Church & Church Hall	9,073		9,073	
Memorial book	-		-	-
Ministry - Clergy expenses	395		395	448
Ministry - Common Fund	62,000		62,000	62,000
Ministry - Other clergy expenses	-		-	215
Ministry - Wedding fees	422		422	-
Organist & choir costs	415		415	1,294
Running cost - Church	5,409		5,409	4,012
Running cost - Hall	2,399		2,399	1,968
Sundry	412		412	-
Utilities - Electric	3,347		3,347	1,593
Utilities - Gas	5,982		5,982	6,611
Utilities - Other	1,347		1,347	791
Administration	6,861		6,861	8,835
People/ Cleaning Costs	11,391		11,391	9,319
	136,232	**-**	**136,232**	**129,162**
3(b) Cost of generating of voluntary income				
Costs of appeals	-	-	-	-
Stewardship activities	-		-	-
	-	**-**	**-**	**-**
3(c) Fund raising/ Events costs				
Fetes, bazaars & other	482		482	513
	482	**-**	**482**	**513**
3(d) Investment Management Costs				
Insurance - St Hilda's House	283		283	278
Maintenance Costs - St Hilda's House	4,908	2,000	6,908	281
Running Costs - St Hilda's House	245		245	-
Admin Costs - St Hilda's House	2,973		2,973	-
Running costs grounds	84		84	-
	8,493	**2,000**	**10,493**	**559**
3(e) Other				
Bronzefield		6,000	6,000	-
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	**145,207**	**8,000**	**153,207**	**130,234**

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. HILDA's, ASHFORD, MIDDLESEX

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ending 31 December 2021

4. People Costs

During the year the PCC used the services of part time cleaners for the church hall and an administration assistant for the parish office but no payments were large enough to attract social security costs.

A small immaterial portion of the expenses paid to the incumbent may have related to his services as chairman of the PCC. Payments for Office administration totalled £7,574 for the year.
No other payments or expenses were paid to any other PCC member, persons closely connected to them or related parties, other than for professional services rendered.

5. Fixed Assets

£	Church Hall	St Hilda's House	Total
Opening Balance	850,000	325,000	1,175,000
Additions	0	0	0
Gains & Losses in the year	0	0	0
Closing Balance	**850,000**	**325,000**	**1,175,000**

St Hilda's Church Hall in Stanwell Road, Ashford, Middlesex was brought onto the balance sheet in 2007 in order to comply with the Statement of Recommended Practise (SORP) for Charities as revised in 2005 and the Church Accounting Regulations 2006. The initial valuation was based on its current value to the PCC. The PCC believes that the residual value of the property exceeds its current use value and therefore has decided to adopt a policy of doing an annual impairment review rather than depreciating its value over its useful life.

The property known as No 34, Woodthorpe Road, Ashford, Middlesex is held for investment purposes and is shown in the accounts at market value. The last valuation was 31 December 2011 and was carried out by The Frost Partnership, Ashford, Middlesex.

6. Debtors and prepayments

£	2021	2020
Receivables Church	758	6,150
Receivables Hall	0	0
Total	**758**	**6,150**

7. Creditors

£	2020	2021
Creditors and accruals - Church	7,880	5,436
Creditors and accruals - Hall	0	0
Total	**7,880**	**5,436**

All amounts are due within one year

8. Long Term Creditors

During the year, the second installment of the 3 year Diocesan loan in respect of the church boiler was made - £2,500
The final instalment of £2,500 will be paid in 2022.

9. Restricted Funds Held

The breakdown and movement of restricted funds are:

£	Alford	St Hilda's House	Bronzefield	Total
Balance at 1 January 2021	10,497	0	0	10,497
Incoming resources	0	11,500	10,700	22,200
Resources expended	0	0	(6,000)	(6,000)
Moved from general fund	0	0	0	0
Interest Allocated	5	1	0	7
Balance at 31 December 2021	**10,502**	**11,501**	**4,700**	**26,703**

9A Non Restricted held by CBF

General reserves held in the CBF account are £ 28,318

Independent Examiner's Report to the Members of the Parochial Church Council ('PCC') of St Hilda's Church, Ashford, Middlesex

I report to the members of the PCC on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020 as set out on the attached pages.

This report is made solely to the members of the PCC in accordance with Sections 145 of the Charities Act 2011. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the PCC members those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the members of the PCC for my examination work.

Respective responsibilities of PPC Members and Examiner

The PPC members are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year (under Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Charities Act')) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under Section 145 of the Charities Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under Section 145 (5) (b) of the Charities Act); and
- to 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 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 members of the PCC concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no view is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

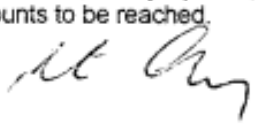
Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
   - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the Charities Act ;and
   - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act

   have not been met; or

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



Name: Peter Connolly

Address: 33 Carlyle Road, Staines, TW18 2PU

Date 25 April 2022

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. HILDA's, ASHFORD, MIDDLESEX

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
For the year ending 31 December 2021

	NOTE	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	RESTRICTED FUNDS	TOTAL 2021	TOTAL 2020
INCOMING RESOURCES		£	£	£	£
Voluntary income	2(a)	70,829	12,000	82,829	65,472
Activities for generating funds	2(b)	36,720	-	36,720	26,810
Income from investments	2(c)	9,065	7	9,071	16,080
Church activities	2(d)	5,932	-	5,932	2,617
Other incoming resources	2(e)	2,198	10,700	12,898	-
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		**124,743**	**22,707**	**147,450**	**110,979**
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Cost of generating voluntary income	3(b)	-	-	-	-
Fund raising costs	3(c)	482	-	482	513
Church activities	3(a)	136,232	0	136,232	129,162
Investment management costs	3(d)	8,493	2,000	10,493	559
Bronzefield			6,000	6,000	
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		**145,207**	**8,000**	**153,207**	**130,234**
NET INCOMING RESOURCES		(20,464)	14,707	(5,757)	(19,255)
GAINS & LOSSES ON INVESTMENTS		-	-	-	-
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS		5,741	(5,741)	-	-
ACCOUNTING PROCEDURES ADJUSTMENT		-	-	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		**(14,722)**	**8,965**	**(5,757)**	**(19,255)**
BALANCE B/F AT 1ST JANUARY 2021		1,235,584	17,738	1,253,322	1,272,576
BALANCES C/F AT 31 DECEMBER 2021		**1,220,861**	**26,703**	**1,247,564**	**1,253,322**

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. HILDA's, ASHFORD, MIDDLESEX

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ending 31 December 2021

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared under the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the current Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2005).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for investment assets, which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gathering of church members.

FUNDS

Restricted funds comprise (a) revenue donations or grants for a specific PCC activity intended by the donor and (b) monies set aside for a specific purpose as agreed by the PCC. Where these funds have unspent balances , interest on their pooled investment is apportioned to the individual funds on an average balance basis.

Unrestricted funds are income funds which are to be spent on the PCCs general purposes.

INCOMING RESOURCES

Voluntary Income

Planned giving, collections and similar donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is entitled to the use of the resources, their ultimate receipt is considered reasonably certain and the amounts due are reliably quantifiable. Dividends are accounted for when declared receivable, interest as and when accrued by the payer. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Other Income

Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised when the rental is due.

Gains and losses on investments

Realized gains and losses are recognised when the investments are sold.

RESOURCES USED

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share expected to be paid over is accounted for when due.

All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

FIXED ASSETS

Consecrated property and movable church furnishings

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishings held by the Vicar and the Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. Subsequently no individual item has cost more than £1,000 so all such expenditure has been written off when incurred.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment

Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1,000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. HILDA's, ASHFORD, MIDDLESEX

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ending 31 December 2021

2. INCOMING RESOURCES	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL 2021	TOTAL 2020
	£	£	£	£
2(a) Voluntary Income				
Planned giving - gift aid donations	40,166		40,166	37,539
Tax recovered on planned giving	11,927		11,927	13,828
Planned giving - other			-	-
Loose plate	3,785		3,785	3,283
Sundry donations	3,441	12,000	15,441	7,122
Other tax recovered	758		758	2,314
Donations, appeals, etc.	10,718		10,718	317
Grant income			-	-
Legacies			-	-
Memorial book	35		35	280
Flowers	-		-	789
Specials	-		-	-
	70,829	**12,000**	**82,829**	**65,472**
2(b) Activities for generating funds				
Fetes, bazaars & other fund raising events	7,760		7,760	3,947
Church Hall lettings/ Fund raising	28,934		28,934	17,947
Photocopying	25		25	10
PV Income	-		-	4,906
Misc.			-	-
	36,720	**-**	**36,720**	**26,810**
2(c) Income from investments				
Interest	24	7	30	269
Rent	9,041		9,041	15,811
	9,065	**7**	**9,071**	**16,080**
2(d) Income from church activities				
Crossroads	-		-	774
Weddings	915		915	200
Funerals	4,628		4,628	1,142
Baptisms/ Confirmation	-		-	-
Other	389		389	501
	5,932	**-**	**5,932**	**2,617**
2(e) Other ordinary incoming resources				
Insurance claims	2,198		2,198	-
Bronzefield		10,700	10,700	-
	2,198	**10,700**	**12,898**	**-**
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	**124,743**	**22,707**	**147,450**	**110,979**

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. HILDA's, ASHFORD, MIDDLESEX

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ending 31 December 2021

3. RESOURCES EXPENDED	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL 2021	TOTAL 2020
	£	£	£	£
3(a) Church Activities				
Missionary giving	58		58	275
Flowers	377		377	124
Insurance - Church	7,721		7,721	7,737
Insurance - Hall	1,861		1,861	1,905
Junior Church	336		336	38
Maintenance - Church & Church Hall	16,426		16,426	21,997
Purchases - Church & Church Hall	9,073		9,073	-
Memorial book	-		-	448
Ministry - Clergy expenses	395		395	62,000
Ministry - Common Fund	62,000		62,000	215
Ministry - Other clergy expenses	-		-	-
Ministry - Wedding fees	422		422	1,294
Organist & choir costs	415		415	4,012
Running cost - Church	5,409		5,409	1,968
Running cost - Hall	2,399		2,399	-
Sundry	412		412	1,593
Utilities - Electric	3,347		3,347	6,611
Utilities - Gas	5,982		5,982	791
Utilities - Other	1,347		1,347	8,835
Administration	6,861		6,861	9,319
People/ Cleaning Costs	11,391		11,391	
	136,232	-	**136,232**	**129,162**
3(b) Cost of generating of voluntary income				
Costs of appeals	-	-	-	-
Stewardship activities	-		-	-
	-	-	-	-
3(c) Fund raising/ Events costs				
Fetes, bazaars & other	482		482	513
	482	-	**482**	**513**
3(d) Investment Management Costs				
Insurance - St Hilda's House	283		283	278
Maintenance Costs - St Hilda's House	4,908	2,000	6,908	281
Running Costs - St Hilda's House	245		245	-
Admin Costs - St Hilda's House	2,973		2,973	-
Running costs grounds	84		84	-
	8,493	**2,000**	**10,493**	**559**
3(e) Other				
Bronzefield		6,000	6,000	-
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	**145,207**	**8,000**	**153,207**	**130,234**

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. HILDA's, ASHFORD, MIDDLESEX

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ending 31 December 2021

4. People Costs

During the year the PCC used the services of part time cleaners for the church hall and an administration assistant for the parish office but no payments were large enough to attract social security costs.

A small immaterial portion of the expenses paid to the incumbent may have related to his services as chairman of the PCC. Payments for Office administration totalled £7,574 for the year.
No other payments or expenses were paid to any other PCC member, persons closely connected to them or related parties, other than for professional services rendered.

5. Fixed Assets

£	Church Hall	St Hilda's House	Total
Opening Balance	850,000	325,000	1,175,000
Additions	0	0	0
Gains & Losses in the year	0	0	0
Closing Balance	**850,000**	**325,000**	**1,175,000**

St Hilda's Church Hall in Stanwell Road, Ashford, Middlesex was brought onto the balance sheet in 2007 in order to comply with the Statement of Recommended Practise (SORP) for Charities as revised in 2005 and the Church Accounting Regulations 2006. The initial valuation was based on its current value to the PCC. The PCC believes that the residual value of the property exceeds its current use value and therefore has decided to adopt a policy of doing an annual impairment review rather than depreciating its value over its useful life.

The property known as No 34, Woodthorpe Road, Ashford, Middlesex is held for investment purposes and is shown in the accounts at market value. The last valuation was 31 December 2011 and was carried out by The Frost Partnership, Ashford, Middlesex.

6. Debtors and prepayments

£	2021	2020
Receivables Church	758	6,150
Receivables Hall	0	0
Total	**758**	**6,150**

7. Creditors

£	2020	2021
Creditors and accruals - Church	7,880	5,436
Creditors and accruals - Hall	0	0
Total	**7,880**	**5,436**

All amounts are due within one year

8. Long Term Creditors

During the year, the second installment of the 3 year Diocesan loan in respect of the church boiler was made - £2,500
The final instalment of £2,500 will be paid in 2022.

9. Restricted Funds Held

The breakdown and movement of restricted funds are:

£	Alford	St Hilda's House	Bronzefield	Total
Balance at 1 January 2021	10,497	0	0	10,497
Incoming resources	0	11,500	10,700	22,200
Resources expended	0	0	(6,000)	(6,000)
Moved from general fund	0	0	0	0
Interest Allocated	5	1	0	7
Balance at 31 December 2021	**10,502**	**11,501**	**4,700**	**26,703**

9A Non Restricted held by CBF

General reserves held in the CBF account are £ 28,318

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. HILDA's, ASHFORD, MIDDLESEX

BALANCE SHEET

For the year ending 31 December 2021

	NOTE	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	RESTRICTED FUNDS	TOTAL 2021	TOTAL 2020
Fixed Assets					
Functional property	5	850,000	-	850,000	850,000
Investment property	5	325,000	-	325,000	325,000
		1,175,000	0	1,175,000	1,175,000
Current Assets					
Debtors and prepayments	6	758	-	758	6,150
Cash at bank and in hand		52,983	26,703	79,686	77,607
		53,741	26,703	80,444	83,757
Current Liabilities					
Creditors - amounts falling due within one year	7	7,880	-	7,880	5,436
Net current assets		**45,861**	**26,703**	**72,564**	**78,322**
Total Assets less current liabilities		1,220,861	26,703	1,247,564	1,253,322
Creditors - amounts falling due after one year	8	-	-	-	-
TOTAL NET ASSETS		**1,220,861**	**26,703**	**1,247,564**	**1,253,322**
Funds					
Unrestricted		1,220,861	-	1,220,861	1,235,584
Restricted	9	-	26,703	26,703	17,738
		1,220,861	**26,703**	**1,247,564**	**1,253,322**

PCC Declaration

The PCC acknowledge and accept their collective responsibility for ensuring adequate financial controls are maintained and proper books and records kept

These financial Statements were approved by the PCC on 22nd February 2022

Fr Joseph Fernandes
Chairman/ Incumbant of St Hilda's Trust

Independent Examiner's Report to the Members of the Parochial Church Council ('PCC') of St Hilda's Church, Ashford, Middlesex

I report to the members of the PCC on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021 as set out on the attached pages.

This report is made solely to the members of the PCC in accordance with Sections 145 of the Charities Act 2011. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the PCC members those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the members of the PCC for my examination work.

Respective responsibilities of PPC Members and Examiner

The PPC members are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year (under Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Charities Act')) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under Section 145 of the Charities Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under Section 145 (5) (b) of the Charities Act); and
- to 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 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 members of the PCC concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no view is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
   - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the Charities Act ;and
   - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act

   have not been met; or

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



Name: Peter Connolly

Address: 33 Carlyle Road, Staines, TW18 2PU

Date 25 April 2022

THE PAROCHIAL COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ASHFORD ST. HILDA DIOCESE OF L

England & Wales - Charity number 1134119

Accounts

JOINT VESTRY AND PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING OF ST HILDA'S CHURCH, ASHFORD, MIDDLESEX TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY 25TH APRIL 2021

AGENDAS

ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING OF PARISHONERS

The Chairman reads the Convening Notice

1. Prayers and welcome
2. Minutes of the Vestry Meeting held Sunday 20th October 2020
3. Election of Church Wardens: Adjudicators to be nominated by the Chairman
4. Report of the Electoral Roll Officer

ANNUAL PAROCIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held Sunday 20th October 2020
3. Matters arising
4. Election of Representatives:
   To the Parochial Church Council - **4 people for 3 years**
   3 people for 2 years
   To the Deanery Synod – **1 person for 2 years**
   Adjudicators to be appointed by the Church Wardens
   Appointment of the Independent Financial Examiner
5. PCC's Annual Report for 2020
6. Deanery Synod Report
7. Reports of Church Groups
8. Treasurer's Report and presentation of Church Accounts
9. Church Warden's Reports
10. Benefice's report
11. Any Other Business **(Must be notified in writing to the PCC Secretary 72 hours prior to the meeting)**.
12. Date of next year's Annual Parochial Church Meeting

CLOSING PRAYERS

MINUTES OF A JOINT MEETING OF THE VESTRY AND THE PERSONS WHOSE NAMES ARE ON THE ELECTORAL ROLL OF THE PARISH OF ST. HILDA, ASHFORD
HELD ON SUNDAY 25th October 2020 via Zoom

Present:	Chairman	Fr. Joseph Fernandes
	Licensed Lay Ministers	Carolyn Clark (zoom)
	Churchwardens	Roberta Bedford
		Stuart Young
	Treasurer:	Darran Buttigieg
	Secretary:	Denise Buttigieg
	Electoral Roll Officer:	Frances Forsbrey

and 21 other people via zoom

Vestry Meeting

1. **Convening Notice**.
Fr. Joseph led the meeting with prayer and welcomed everyone.
Graham Ledger explained how the zoom polling would work. Those sharing a computer were advised they could vote by calling Denise.

2. **Minutes of the Vestry Meeting held on 28th April 2019**:
That the Minutes be accepted was proposed by Elizabeth Bate, seconded by Frances Forsbrey, and agreed unanimously.

3. **Election of Churchwardens**:
There were two nominees:

Name	*Proposer*	*Seconder*
Mrs Roberta Bedford	*Denise Buttigieg*	*Marianne Tank*
Mrs Frances Forsbey	*John Hunt*	*Christine Davenport*

There being no other nominations, **Roberta Bedford** and **Frances Forsbrey** were duly elected as Churchwarden for the coming year. They were thanked for stepping forward. Stuart Young was thanked for his service.

4. **Report of Electoral Roll Officer**:

Frances Forsbrey reported that the number on our New Electoral Roll is 173. Of the total number, 62 are non-resident in the parish.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING OF THE PARISH OF ST. HILDA, ASHFORD HELD ON SUNDAY, 25th October 2020 via Zoom

Present: As for Vestry Meeting,

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Rosemary Greenwood, Christine Makriel, Pauline Milton, June Mitchell, Peggy Pinfold, Marion Scholar and Rosalyn Young

2. **Minutes:**
That the Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 28th April 2019 be accepted was proposed by Alison Garner, seconded by Chris Davenport and agreed unanimously.

3. **Matters Arising:** none.

4a. **Election of Lay Representatives** to serve on the St. Hilda's Church Parochial Church Council: there are four vacancies for a three-year period.

There were 2 nominees:

Name	*Proposer*	*Seconder*
Christopher Brown	Elizabeth Bate	Chris Davenport
Christine Makriel	Paula Gething	Frances Forsbrey

There being no other nominations, Christopher Brown and Christine Makriel were elected as Lay Representatives for the period 2020-2023 and were thanked for stepping forward.

. **4b. Election of Deanery Synod Representatives:** there are three vacancies for a three-year period. There were 2 nominees:

Name	*Proposer*	*Seconder*
Elizabeth Bate	Rosemary Greenwood	Darran Buttigieg
Carolyn Clark	Elisabeth Santos	Darran Buttigieg

Elizabeth and Carolyn were therefore elected unanimously.

Fr Joseph thanked those who had stepped down this year as they had reached the end of their terms of service; Chris Davenport, Jane Dobbie and Rosemary Greenwood. Rosemary was also thanked for her many years as PCC Minutes Secretary.

4c. Independent Financial examiner:
Darran Buttigieg recommended that Peter Connolly be appointed. This was agreed unanimously.

5. **PCC Annual Report for 2019 -** This was circulated in advance of the meeting and displayed in church.

6. **Deanery Synod Report -** This was produced for all parishes in the deanery by the Area Dean.

7. **Reports of Church Groups and Committees –** A booklet containing all reports had been circulated to all members of the Electoral Roll prior to the meeting by either email or by post. It had also been on display in St Hilda's.

8. **Treasurer's Report and presentation of Church Accounts -** see the Financial Statement.
Darran Buttigieg reported: As Treasurer, I have prepared the financial statements under the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the current Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2005). The financial statements were audited by Peter Connolly in his capacity of Independent Examiner.

Darran for a quiet moment to reflect and remember Donna Marshall, our previous Independent Examiner, who had passed this year.

There were no questions on the accounts and Elizabeth Bate thanked Darran for his work on them.

That the accounts be accepted was agreed unanimously.

9. Churchwarden's Reports

We confirm that in accordance with the law governing the Office of Church wardens during the last year we have

- Carried out the duties assigned by the Bishop or Archdeacon
- Maintained in good order and safe keeping, the plate, ornaments and other articles committed to our charge.
- Kept the church records in the same good order and safe-keeping.
- All offerings and collections have been recorded and paid into the relevant bank.
- The bread and wine have been provided for the Holy Communion as we are bound and directed.
- The seating and good order of the congregation have been maintained and
- As lay officers of the Bishop we have not found it necessary to report to him or the Archdeacon any neglect or default upon any one person in the discharge of their duties.

Stuart Young presented the **Church Property Report: (Fabric)**

Church Hall

The Church Hall is the hub of the community, and continues to welcome diverse organisations and people. The hall is a vital resource for us and for our local community, and it is our responsibility to ensure it is well-used and fit for purpose now and for future years. Our Hall Committee, under the chairmanship of Steve Smith, continued to put great effort into the daily running of the church hall. Thanks to them and to Mrs Chris Davenport for her very competent handling of the Hall bookings, the routine maintenance inspections and tasks were carried out.
Water ingress via the hall gutters continues to be an issue so further action will be necessary to rectify the problem in 2020.
The underground drainage system has been cleaned and the drainage system has received a plastic lining sleeve to prevent further damage.
Having relocated the parish office, the room area has been re-decorated, and will be used as a meeting room and a storage area.

Church

The annual cleaning and routine maintenance inspections and tasks were carried out, and the church has increasingly become an open and welcoming building.
Following problems with our old boilers they were replaced with new ones in March 2019.
Since the Quinquennial inspection we have continued the programme of addressing the various requirements of the inspection, these included installing a safety film to the glass door and windows to the Lady Chapel, and a new light in the Crypt was installed, and the roof repair works which will continue in 2020.
The Parish office has been relocated to within the choir vestry, with revised lighting, power and a new telephone line with broad band.
We have also hired a new printer which will benefit the production of weekly service booklets, and our Crossroads magazine.
Our church pipe organ has been regularly serviced throughout the year including some minor repairs being carried out by our specialist organ engineers B.C Shepherd & Sons Limited.
The baby grand piano in church has also been retuned on a regular basis but is now beginning to show its age.
Some plaster work fell down from the Baptistery wall/ceiling and Faculty application was started in August 2019, (the Faculty Application was granted in January 2020 and repair works will be carried out in 2020
Access gates have been repaired and repainted

Vicarage

Annual gutter cleaning was carried out.
As the Vicarage was completely redecorated in 2018 prior to the arrival of Father Joseph and family, no further works have been required although some work has been carried out to the garden in 2019.

34 Woodthorpe Road
New tenants moved in August 2019 on a short term contract. Some works to the garden were undertaken.

……

Roberta (Bobbie) Bedford presented the **Churchwarden's Report on Activities:**

Well Stuart has read out all of the legal items regarding the duties of Church Wardens, so I won't go through them again.

We have enjoyed a wonderful year under the guidance of Fr. Joseph, Carolyn and Rosalyn.
I must say this past year has just flown by, so much has been happening. St Hilda's has always been a very welcoming church and judging by the rise in our numbers over the past months we are doing something right.

We have enjoyed many events over the past year and the comments we get from people attending is what a lovely warm feeling they got when they came into the church. This is down to all of you the church family, for some people coming into church for the very first time, or even into a new church is a bit daunting and so a warm welcome is all important and I think you'll agree we have it just right.

In may we resurrected the tradition of Beating the Bounds. A group of us including children walked the whole of the parish boundary and at certain points we beat on the ground with sticks and we prayed for our parish. For anyone counting steps, believe me we did more than 10 thousand.

We once again hosted the CTAS service, I along with Fr Joseph and Jane attend CTAS meetings every other month to discuss what we can do as a united group of Ashford churches for the people of Ashford.
We are building stronger links with Bronzefield; they had a stall at both our summer and autumn fayres with items for sale made by the women of Bronzefield. They appear to be a very talented bunch, just look at the wonderful banners and the Alter frontal in the lady chapel, all of the applique made by them and put together by Alison and Pauline.

The shelter outside the church is continuing to be a talking point with many of the women who leave prison writing messages of hope and prayers on the walls of the shelter.

We were privileged in the summer to have on display the Magna Carta tapestry, curtesy of Alison who played a huge part in both the making of the display and gaining permission for St Hilda's to have it on show.

The local Art group held a display of their work one weekend in church and again both exhibitions very well attended.

One night in November the church was transformed to hold a curry and carols evening, very kindly hosted by Sam and Mandeep, the food was wonderful and was talked about for days afterwards. Our thanks go to Sam and Mandeep for their wonderful generosity.

Lodge Bros held their annual candles of remembrance service, always attended by at least 250 to 300 people. We are trying to make St Hilda's a place where the local community feel they come and hold events. We are a big space with wonderful acoustics just crying out to be used. Two of our local schools hold their Carol Concerts here, with St James school bringing in extra chairs it is so well attended.

Also, in December Happy Tots have their Nativity thoroughly enjoyed by both parents and children alike. Talking of Nativity as Christine mentioned in her events report we held our first Nativity Festival at St Hilda's the entrants were many and varied and we hope that this will be an annual event.

The Scouts held their Scout Gold Award ceremony here and hopefully will use the venue again.

With the help of Victoria from Lodge Brothers we made a start on clearing the memorial garden, it was hard work but it looked so much better with the untidy bushes cut down, however, there is still a lot of work to be done but hopefully when the better weather arrives, we can get started again.

The Saturday morning knitting group is still going strong, with a few new faces joining us, we even get the mums who drop their children off to rainbows or ballet popping in for a coffee. I would like to say thank you to the ladies who stepped up to volunteer opening up and making the coffee.

In February this year we were privileged to hold a confirmation service here at St Hilda's officiated by the Bishop. It was a wonderful occasion with candidates not only from St Hilda's but two other churches. We celebrated after the service with wine and cakes. Fortunately, we got in just before lockdown.
The church hall continues to be fully booked thanks to the hard work put in by Chris Davenport.

As Stuart mentioned we have had to have a considerable amount of work done to both the Church and Church hall and it is proving to be costly, also there is so much more that needs to be done, so can I urge you all whenever possible to support the fund raising events that we hold, or if you have any good idea's on fund raising kindly put them to Christine Taylor.

To end I would like to thank a few people, first of all Stuart for all the hard work he has put in with regards to Church repairs I 'm okay with a duster and a broom but Stuart is the go-to man for roofs gutters and drains.

Secondly to Rosemary who is standing down from the PCC this year, she somehow manages to take the minutes during what are sometimes quite lively meetings and produce and accurate report of what has been said.

Also, to everyone who works behind the scenes keeping the church running, the brass is always shining and the alter linen is always fresh and clean.

And what about the wonderful choir, they turn up every Friday evening rain or shine for practice and I for one think they are great. Our thanks go to Paula for stepping up to play the organ on many occasions, very much appreciated.

Thank you to both the Standing Committee and PCC for their commitment to the running of the church, they have at times have to make difficult decisions.

Last of all thanks to Fr Joseph for his vision for the church and his outreach to the local community. We are at times out of our comfort zone but I think that's a good thing.

Finally, it has been a real privilege to serve as your warden, however, I could not have done it without all the love and support given by you all. Thank you.

11. Resolution to enable postal voting at Future Annual Parochial Church Meetings:
these have been on display in church, and were included in the documentation issued before the meeting.

12. Benefice's Remarks

An end of year report is a good occasion to reflect on the "State of the Nation", or more aptly, the 'State of the Benefice".

In 2019 we have continued the discernment of God's vision and mission and trying to articulate it. One thing that has gone from strength to strength is the relationship with Bronzefield. The managing chaplain, Revd Marcel and the Through the Door chaplain, Simeon Sturney, have been instrumental in making it happen. One exciting outcome was a collaboration with Bronzefield's art department, Jailbirds, on a project entitled "Freedom". The women were encouraged to come up with their own definition and express it on a piece of fabric, through stitching or other methods, which were subsequently put together to make two banners. The more poignant ones were used to make an altar frontal for the Lady Chapel. Once completed, the banners were received at a poignant service at Bronzefield with some of the women who took part in the project. The official unveiling and blessing at St Hilda's took place at an ecumenical service on Pentecost Sunday.

Another partnership that has gone from strength to strength is with Lodge Brothers Ashford. The Christmas Memorial Service had an even higher attendance than last year, and the feedback was overall positive. The choir was superb and much praised. The connection with Ashford Church of England

Primary School is still ongoing, but the involvement with the school is fairly minimal, consisting of taking full collective worship once a month. As for St James, the PCC was able to have an away day there in May, which was very much appreciated.

The Ministry Team continues to play an important role in the liturgical and pastoral life of the parish, with both Carolyn and Rosalyn involved in different areas. St Hilda's is blessed to have two LLMs who contribute so much to the life of the parish and we are deeply grateful for their ministry.

In terms of the liturgy, the family service continues to be non-Eucharistic and on the first Sunday of every month. Under the leadership of Christine Taylor, the Junior Church leaders have been looking into developing the ministry to young children and families on Sundays, building upon the longstanding leadership of Chris Davenport.

The servers continue to play an important role in the liturgy, under the guidance of Alan Sloan, which is very much appreciated.

The flower ladies make sure that every week the church is beautiful for the services on Sunday, and we are very grateful for their contribution. Also, the church does not get clean by magic and we are grateful to Bobbie, Marianne, Rosemary and others for all the behind the scenes hard work.

After forty years of loyal and committed service to St Hilda's, Peter Pritchard took retirement. Paula Gething made sure the choir continued functioning until a new director of music and organist was recruited. In October, Christina Veasey was appointed. We look forward to her leadership and vision.

One continuing conversation has been to reimagine the space inside the church, in order to open up the building to the local community and make it more "user friendly". One area which has gone from strength to strength is to raise the profile of St Hilda's in the London Diocese.

The church building is both a gift and a burden, but it is an ongoing challenge. This year we had to repair the baptistry ceiling which put an extra burden on our financial resources. 2 The parish is incredibly fortunate to be able to afford a parish secretary. After many committed years, due to health reasons, Helen felt it was time to step down. Sarah took over from her over the summer, for which we are grateful. Denise agreed to take up the challenge to become the interim parish administrator and it is working really well.

Standing Committee has been very productive. Without all the ground work carried out, the PCC would not be able to function properly. The parish has benefited immensely from the expertise Darran brings as a treasurer, and the time and effort he puts into it. Thank you for such an invaluable contribution.

The sides people play a vital role in welcoming people and offer unconditional hospitality. They are the 'front of the house' at St Hilda's. It will be good to develop this ministry further. We need to be more intentional and deliberate in our missional engagement with the local community, making the best use of the stewardship of the buildings, and at a practical level make sure the parish if financially viable and sustainable, particularly when faced with unexcited expenses. Fundraising will play an important part, but we need to consider bigger changes to the use of the building, and our involvement not just locally but also within the deanery.

At a time when our country is facing so much uncertainty, churches must be a safe haven, a spiritual home, which offers the Good News of the Gospel, available for all, a place where we can be who we are called to be. The body of Christ is diverse, but united in Christ. We want St Hilda's to be known as a place of unconditional welcome and hospitable place to everyone. There are challenging, but equally exciting times ahead, and look forward to witness God at work in our church and wider community, in the year ahead. Here endeth the vicar's report.

13. Any other business:

There was no other business

14. The date of the next APCM is **Sunday 25th April 2021**.

The meeting closed at 12.37pm with a prayer.

REPORTS FOR 2021 MEETING

ST HILDA'S CHURCH

ASHFORD, MIDDLESEX

ANNUAL REPORT and FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31st December, 2020

Incumbent

The Revd Joseph Fernandes
8 Station Crescent
Ashford
Middlesex

Bank

Nat West Bank
Ashford Middlesex Branch
5 Woodthorpe Road Ashford
Middlesex TW152RN

Independent Examiner

Mr Peter Connolly
33, Carlyle Road
Staines
Middlesex TW18

The Parochial Church Council of St Hilda Ashford - Charity Number 1134119

Saint Hilda's Church, Ashford, Middlesex

Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council

for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

Saint Hilda's Church, Ashford, which is part of the Diocese of London within the Church of England, has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, Reverend Joseph Fernandes, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish with the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church, Church Hall, Vicarage and 34, Woodthorpe Road, Ashford, Middlesex TW15 2RU.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity, the Charity Number being 1134119

Incumbent	**Father Joseph Fernandes**
Licenced Lay Ministers	**Carolyn Clark**
	[Ex-officio & Deanery voting member]
	Rosalyn Young
	[Ex-officio non voting member]

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL 2020

Appointments are for 3 years in the first instance with the option of serving for a second term of 3 years. After a total of 6 years members must come off the PCC but can be re-elected to serve again for 3 years after a break of one year.

Appointed for			**Due for re-election**
APCM 2018-2021	Michael Davenport	1st Term	APCM 2021
	Alison Garner	2nd Term	
	Paula Gething	1st Term	APCM 2021
	Valerie Scott	2nd Term	
APCM 2019-2022	Darran Buttigieg	2nd Term	APCM 2022
	Denise Buttigieg	1st Term	APCM 2022
	Christine Taylor	2nd Term	APCM 2022
	Christopher Maddock	1st Term	APCM 2022

APCM 2020-2023	Christopher Brown	2nd Term	Resigned
	Christine Makriel	2nd Term	
Year 2020 - 2021	Rev'd Stephen Brian		Co-opted
	Simeon Sturney		Co-opted

Three **Deanery Synod representatives** are elected for three year terms.

Appointed for			**Due for re-election**
APCM 2020 – 2023	Elizabeth Bate	2nd Term	
	Carolyn Clark	1st Term	APCM 2023

Two **Churchwardens**: Churchwardens are elected annually up to a total of 4 years.

1. Roberta Bedford 5th year
2. Francis Forsbrey 1st year

Assistant to the Churchwardens: Paula Gething

Sally Goulden (Church Safeguarding Officer) is invited to attend as appropriate.

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance within the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. During the year the Council met 4 times. The PCC operates through a number of committees.

Standing Committee

This is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council. The Standing Committee oversees the finances of the PCC. The committee includes the Vicar, Churchwardens, Treasurer, Secretary, Vice Chairperson. The assistant to Church Warden was co-opted to the committee for the Church year 2020/21.

Stewardship Committee

The Stewardship Committee deals with giving to the Church through the Stewardship Scheme and with encouraging members of the congregation to organize their planned giving. They ensure that tax is reclaimed on donations where applicable.

Church Attendance

There are 173 names on the Church Electoral Roll. (Of these, 62 are not resident in the parish.) The average Sunday attendance counted over a 4 week period during October, was 58 adults and 19 children. Additionally, Church at Home (Facebook) 327. At Christmas 59 people attended special services for the congregation and local community. 22 people attended Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Covid 19 has impacted the numbers able to attend in person at St Hilda's.

Church Wardens Reports

We confirm that in accordance with the law governing the Office of Church wardens during the last year we have

- Carried out the duties assigned by the Bishop or Archdeacon
- Maintained in good order and safe keeping, the plate, ornaments and other articles committed to our charge.
- Kept the church records in the same good order and safe-keeping.
- All offerings and collections have been recorded and paid into the relevant bank.
- The bread and wine have been provided for the Holy Communion as we are bound and directed.
- The seating and good order of the congregation have been maintained and as lay officers of the Bishop we have not found it necessary to report to him or the Archdeacon any neglect or default upon any one person in the discharge of their duties.

Fabric of Building Report (Stuart Young)

Church Works during 2020

The defective sump pump in the Crypt area was repaired by a local electrician (Dr Sparky). Following receipt of a Faculty the external brickwork joints to the Baptistry were resealed and the defective plaster to the ceiling above the Font was also repaired and following which the ceiling of the Baptistery area was repainted all by a specialist contractor with inspections being carried out by the Diocesan Architects.

Areas of the floor finish around the Font were tested by a specialist contractor who confirmed that they contained asbestos. A specialist contractor was therefore employed (Amstech Limited) to remove and seal these areas, they also carried a comprehensive inspection/testing of all of the joints in the carpeted flooring in the church, and the joints were subsequently sealed.

Sealing of the joint between the carpet and the West end wall of the church was also carried out.

Church and Church Hall

During October 2020 repair works were carried out to defective external light fittings some of the fitting had to be replaced as well as replacement lamps fitted.

Activities Report (Roberta Bedford)

Do you remember that TV programme “that was the week that was”? Well, I think we can say 2020 was that was the year that was.

It started off quite normal, we had a fantastic Burns night with an even bigger uptake on tickets than last year, there was lots of laughter and dancing and I hope I can say a good time was had by all.

Burns night was followed by Shrove Tuesday when we cooked pancakes in church on various small hot plates, there were lots of different toppings and they were delicious, a few people from other churches joined us and they were made to feel very welcome.

The very last event we had in our normal start to the year was a jumble sale, as it was already advertised, we went ahead with it, however, we were already hearing about this Covid 19 virus that was beginning to spread, so we wore protective aprons and gloves to

sort the goods and serve and Mike Davenport sat in the entrance of the hall and sprayed everyone who wanted to come inside, despite all of this we made a good profit.
Sadly, a week later we were in lock-down and it would be many weeks until we would be back in our church.
Due to the lockdown a few volunteered to ring round to the more vulnerable members of the congregation to have a chat and ensure all was well with them. Darran and Denise set up a weekly newsletter to let everyone know what was going on and keep everyone in touch.
But where there's a will there's a way, Fr Joseph ever resilient began to stream the Sunday services from his study via his mobile phone and ably assisted by Elisabeth, Rebecca and Gabriel and sometimes a little glimpse of Bella the dog. Those of us fortunate to have internet could watch the service on Face Book or U-tube. This form of our Sunday worship went on for several weeks, until Fr Joseph was allowed to stream the services from the Church.
At this time Chris Maddock was a great help sorting out the filming and between Chris and Fr Joseph we settled into a pattern of Sunday services. During this time, it was heartening to see many names popping up as watching the service that we didn't recognise. It seemed that we were attracting a new congregation all be it on line.
As the choir were not allowed back into church, Chris and Paula decided to record the choir so that the recordings could be used during the service.
The first rehearsal took place safely distanced in Paula's back garden – I hope the neighbours enjoyed it as much as we did. Then Chris began to e-mail both music and words of the hymns and we recorded them in our homes, we either e-mailed or WhatsApp the recording to Chris and he very cleverly blended the individual voices and made them sound amazing.
During the year we mastered Zoom and after a few false starts for some of us we held our PCC and standing committee meetings via this app, with many a shout of you're on mute, when someone was speaking and had forgotten to put their sound on.
Later in the year we were allowed back into church, however, a safe distancing risk assessment had to be put in place and seats had to be booked via the parish office. A team led by Paula spent a couple of Saturday afternoons thoroughly cleaning the church, marking the floor with arrows showing the one-way system in and out of the church and with the aid of a 2-metre stick, safe distanced the seating. Eventually we had to remove the static wooden seats to give greater flexibility to the seating and enable more people to take part in the service.
To keep us all safe and sanitised, there are hands free sanitisers that Alison set up and everyone is given a sanitiser to use before communion.
We were at last able to have a choir in church, however, sadly no other singing was allowed. It was all very different to what we were used to and what with face masks and long lockdown hair, it was sometimes hard to recognise people. Our live streaming took on a very professional touch with the Lovely Ozzy setting up his equipment every Sunday a filming the service and we were the envy of many.
Our APCM along with other churches was held in October again via live stream. Stuart decided to stand down as church warden and Frances kindly stood and was voted in to replace him. My thanks go to Stuart for all the hard work he has carried out to keep the church building standing.
Just before Christmas we went into another lockdown and church once again was closed and services once again were live streamed curtesy of Ozzy and Chris.

So, despite the country being in lockdown St Hilda's was still going strong. Everyone has played a part in this, however, there are a few thank you'd I must give.

First to Fr Joseph for always being there for all of us and keeping St Hilda's very much in the forefront. His promotion to Area Dean is well deserved. To Darran and Denise for producing a brilliant weekly newsletter and organising delivery to those who are without Wi-Fi. To all who help deliver and keep in touch with the more vulnerable members of our family.
Paula for her rigorous risk assessment to keep the church safe to use and for her collaboration with Chris in choosing hymns and music and keeping us all in tune. Chris Maddock for his hard work in first setting up the recording of the services and doing a brilliant job in recording the music and hymns, thanks to Melvin Rouse for recording some of the music, Frances and Rosemary for cleaning and sanitising the church every Wednesday after the service to make it ready for Sunday worship. Christine Makriel who served at the Altar most Sundays and finally to all the readers and intercessors and do you like me try to guess who is reading each week.
As always there is so much done behind the scenes to keep the church running smoothly that we do not see, and my thanks to all of you for all your hard work and commitment. It has been my privilege and pleasure to serve as your church warden.

Benefice's Reflection

One of the purposes of this year's APCM is to reflect on church life from the previous year of 2020, and, of course, of all that still applies. If we look at all the things that changed since the first lockdown in March and all that is currently lacking in or church community compared to what was before. When all is stripped away and all pared back to a Facebook broadcast, then that is tough, very tough. Although, there is some hope in that, as I will mention in a moment.

But looking back to what church life was like before COVID should be a source of encouragement. It reminds us that we capable of so much more and that when restrictions are lifted, then we know that we can re-build our worshipping community.

But we should not underestimate the challenges which lie ahead in rebuilding our church community. There is no doubt that COVID has increased the financial pressures and put on hold many of our more social outreach activities. Things improved between the first and second lockdown, and we were able to worship together for a while, before we had to close down our doors again just before Christmas, but with the hope of the vaccine programme being rolled out.

The reason to be hopeful also originates for reasons which I will explain. Firstly, because stripped back of all the extras which go with church life, the social functions, coffee morning, the boot sales, the concerts, and going back to basics is not the worst thing in the world. If we are to look for good in the situation then there are some parallels, albeit of course not the same, with the early church. The prayed together and shared communion before they put together a social calendar. Whilst only priests are required by Canon Law to celebrate the daily offices, our church community was encouraged to be united in prayer every day at home.

My hope and prayer are that having been stripped back to the basics of our Christian life and worship, that we have the people and the spirit amongst us to put some things back together. But as we do that, I would also urge a spirit of discernment. The task of 2021 is not to re-create the church of 2019, 1919 or 1819. The task that lies ahead of us is to discern what we can do with the resources we have, what we need to do given the community we inhabit and, most importantly, what God calls us to do in this place. If we want St Hilda Ashford to have a spiritual heart, then we are not to use COVID as an excuse to back off

and let other people get on with it, because if everyone does that, then I can show you what has happened to many churches throughout the Kensington area and the Diocese of London, who either are facing closure or have become church plants. Sisters and brothers in Christ, no matter how long you have been here and no matter what roles or jobs you have done for this parish before, you are not the past of St Hilda, you are its present and its future. You are called to pray, to evangelise, to worship and to play our role in the life of this parish, whatever that may be. Because everyone has a role in God's economy.

In 2020, despite the pandemic, outreach still took place. We strengthened our partnership with HMP Bronzefield, through the ongoing collaboration with chaplaincy and the art department. In terms of chaplaincy, a joint project looking at ways to reintegrate women into the local community upon release from prison, as well as supporting Simeon in his 'Through the Door' ministry. He was duly Co-Opted to the PCC at the November meeting, as a link person between the prison and the parish. In terms of the art department, the women decorated a fabric Christmas tree, which was then displayed at church, as visual sign of the existing close relationship between prison and parish.

We continued with the Foundation Governorship of Ashford Church of England Primary School, with Donna Hester as governor. After several years as governor, Lisa Richardson stepped down as a foundation governor for St Hilda, for which we are deeply grateful. As a result of the vacancy, Clare Marland, was appointed as foundation governor in November, and we welcomed her to the role. We look forward to a closer relationship with the school. There is also a connection with Bishop Wand, through my role as Foundation Governor, and taking collective worship.

Since becoming the Area Dean for Spelthorne in March, it has meant an increase in my workload, but at the same time a bigger involvement with the life of the Diocese and a stronger connection with other parishes in the Deanery.

The gifts from the Harvest Festival went to the local food bank at the Salvation Army, which has become a lifeline throughout the pandemic for many families who are struggling financially.

As were not able to meet up in person during the lockdowns, and there were many people who did not have access to the internet, it was important to find a way to stay in touch. With this in mind, the idea of a weekly newsletter was born, which Denise and Darran took upon themselves to put together and distribute. It has contributions from across the community and has been well received and much appreciated.

The Ministry Team has not been able to operate in the same way throughout the pandemic. With Rosalyn on sabbatical, Carolyn carried on reading the Gospel, and preaching when possible, as well as keeping an eye on the Facebook page. Later on the year, she took over facilitating the Tea & Chat after the Sunday service. Denise also facilitated Tea & Chat on a Tuesday morning. Both have provided much needed opportunities for those attending to have social interaction via Zoom. We also welcomed Fr Steve, who has retired, and his wife Liz to the parish. We look forward to their involvement in the worship life at St Hilda.

A big thank you to all the readers for keeping this invaluable ministry going, and to Frances for overseeing it. Also, thank you to Frances for all the behind the scenes work as a sacristan, and to Alan Sloan for organising the crucifer rota. I particularly would like to thank Christine Makriel for all the quiet but most appreciated help.

Junior Church tried to meet best possible in between lockdowns, and we are grateful for Christine Taylor's oversight, in collaboration with Elizabeth Bate, Chris Davenport, Elisabeth Santos and Gordon Clark. Thank you for holding it together under trialling circumstances.

Rosemary Greenwood, together with the editorial and collating teams, faithfully carried on producing Crossroads. However, with the number of contributions drying up and no one to take over from Rosemary, with a heavy heart it was decided to stop it for now. A big thank you goes to Rosemary and the rest of the team, namely Val Scott, Mike Davenport, Terry Rickson and Chris Holliday, for all their hard work, and to those who advertise in it for their sponsorship.

The Hall Committee, namely Steve Smith, Val Scott, Elizabeth Bate, Chris Davenport, and Jenny Cayley, after many years of commitment and service to the parish, by overseeing the day to day run of the Church Hall, agreed to bring it to a close, as their oversight was transferred to the newly created Church Fabric Committee, composed by Steve Smith, Elizabeth Bate and Stuart Young, with the involvement of both Church Wardens, in order to centralise and streamline ongoing maintenance of both church and church hall.

Part of the function of the APCM is to acknowledge all the areas of church life and those who contribute to them. to them. This event is a reminder that church is not something done in isolation, but it is only possible using the different silks and callings of many people from this church. Whilst I can't thank everyone in this reflection by name, there are some people that I must thank personally, not only on my own behalf but on behalf of us all.

Firstly, everyone should know that this church and this parish simply could not function without all the hard work of Denise, our parish administrator, my PA, supporting me in my role as Area Dean, and PCC Secretary! Unless you have seen behind the scenes of how the parish works you probably have no idea of how much there is to do but the newsletters, orders of services, admin work, photocopying, and many other tasks, plus trying to get any sense out of the vicar is a massive job. All this on top of being the PCC secretary. Thank you, Denise!

A huge thanks to Stuart who stepped down as a Churchwarden at the 2019 APCM, and to our current Churchwardens Bobbie and Frances, and Stuart. They have been hugely supportive and hardworking. Unless you have been a churchwarden it is hard to imagine just how much goes into the job but, a bit like being a vicar. I truly appreciate all they do.

Huge thanks also to Darran who has done a magnificent job as treasurer, and supported Denise in her varied roles.

Of course, we also need to thank the PCC and Deanery Synod members who give up evenings throughout the year to help guide the life of the church. Huge thanks to everyone who has served in that capacity and to those who have put themselves forward for the new PCC. I would also like to acknowledge the hard work of the Standing Committee, overseeing the day-to-day business of the parish. One important undertaking was to plan the return to church after the first lockdown, for which I am grateful to Paula, Elizabeth and Christine Makriel.

One of our chief characteristics in this church is the high standard of our music and our choir. I must therefore offer huge thanks to Chris Maddock for keeping the choir going throughout the pandemic, making full use of technology in unprecedented ways. Also, huge thank you to Paula for supporting Chris, and the members of the choir, for augmenting our worship so beautifully every week.

One essential part of the corporate worship in absence over the least year has been the live streaming of the services. We are deeply grateful to Chris Maddock for overseeing it and Ozzy Etis for recording it without ever asking for anything in return, as a way to serve the local community.

Thank you to those who contributed to the cleaning of the church when open, namely Bobbie, Frances, Rosemary and Chris Holliday.

What comes next for St Hilda's over the coming year? As already flagged up, we do face a number of challenges in the year ahead and, whilst celebrating our blessings, we need to face the future realistically. So, there are challenges ahead, but there are also opportunities. I think that the biggest growth opportunity for the church comes from learning how to be of service to those around us. We are surrounded by endless need, whether our eyes are open to it or not, and if we seek to serve that need in the name of Christ then that is the best possible witness to the effect that being Christians has had on our lives. To serve others out of love, to be open with them about why we do it and to help them to find ways into making a response of their own is, in my view, far more powerful than only fiddling with our worship and hoping that people will come. We need to be such good Christians out there that people will be clamouring to know what goes on in here. We also need to increase our fellowship and discipleship, particularly to those who have joined the parish recently.

This is a good place, filled with good people, and there is no doubt that God is at work in this community. We must treasure that and not take it or each other for granted.

REVIEW of the Year

Worship and Learning

The Lent study course was based on the book 'Saying Yes to Life', by Ruth Valerio which was the Archbishop of Cantebury's recommended book.

Due to the national 1st Lockdown for Covid 19 we were unable to hold our usual Easter worship, however, Fr Joseph livestreamed the Easter services from the Vicarage.

We managed to return to St Hilda's between lockdowns and we were able to hold a Christmas morning service in Church, all other Christmas services were held online for people's safety.

Like all Church activities Junior Church has been affected by the two lockdowns but were able to meet in the intervening period. To make for a safe environment for the children we changed our traditional practices, the number of children was limited to twenty and they were divided into two bubbles sadly we were unable to offer a place for pre-school children. Each child has their own folder containing basic equipment to avoid sharing materials. The two leaders were supported by four parents helping on a voluntary rota basis.

We continue to follow the Lectionary using Roots on the Web resources.

Unfortunately, we have been unable to have our usual Good Friday workshops, but we did manage to have a socially distanced Nativity play which Gordon produced, directed, filmed and edited.

Christine Taylor who leads Junior Church is very grateful for the support of Gordon, Elizabeth, Elisabeth and Chris and the parents who have helped us.

We have not met since the second lockdown but in the meantime, Christine will provide some materials in Church for the children who come to the Sunday Service with their parents. Roots on the Web in response to the pandemic have materials and activities which are free to download without a password.

The Choir continues to contribute wonderfully to the worship life at St Hilda's, eventhough they have been unable to meet through much of this year. They have pre-recorded music to be played during our services. Many thanks to all members of the choir, especially Chris

Maddock who has mixed the many recorded voices together to produce the exceptional results heard in St Hilda's and online each week.

The Bible Study Group did not meet in 2020.

Feed My Sheep met only twice in the year 2020. Two topics were discussed Rivers and Mountains and the pot pouri of Pick and Mix. Tea coffee and cake were enjoyed alongside the lively discussion, contributions from members and a good few laughs.
We look forward to resuming sometime in the future should people be happy to continue .

We continue to be supported by a committed group of Servers who contribute to the worship.

We are grateful to those who act as Vergers for occasional offices, and the Sides people who greet people.

Sally Goulden continued as Church Safeguarding Officer and Elizabeth Bate continues as Children's Champion.

House of Bishops' Policy Statements

St Hilda's PCC ensure that we comply with the duty under Section 5 of the Safeguarding & Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, in relation to having due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults (as below).

Child Protection

The Church of England, in all aspects of its life, is committed to and will champion the protection of children and young people both in society as a whole and in its own community.

It fully accepts, endorses and will implement the principle enshrined in the Children Act 1989, that the welfare of the child is paramount. The Church of England will foster and encourage best practice within its community by setting standards for working with children and young people and by supporting parents in the care of their children.

It will work with statutory bodies, voluntary agencies and other faith communities to promote the safety and well-being of children and young people. It is committed to acting promptly whenever a concern is raised about a child or young person or about the behaviour of an adult, and will work with the appropriate statutory bodies when an investigation into child abuse is necessary.

The Church of England is committed to encouraging an environment where all people and especially those who may be vulnerable for any reason are able to worship and pursue their faith journey with encouragement and in safety. Everyone, whether they see themselves as vulnerable or not, will receive respectful pastoral ministry recognizing any power imbalance within such a relationship.

Safeguarding Adults

All church workers involved in any pastoral ministry will be recruited with care including the use of the Criminal Records Bureau disclosure service when legal or appropriate. Workers will receive training and continuing support.

Any allegations of mistreatment, abuse, harassment or bullying will be responded to without delay. Whether or not the matter involves the church there will be cooperation with the police and local authority in any investigation.

Sensitive and informed pastoral care will be offered to anyone who has suffered abuse, including support to make a complaint if so desired: help to find appropriate specialist care either from the church or secular agencies will be offered.

Congregations will often include people who have offended in a way that means they are a continuing risk to vulnerable people. The risks will be managed sensitively with the protection of adults and children in mind.

Events

St Hilda's had a limited calendar of events this year due to the pandemic. We did, however, manage to meet for Burns night and a Pancake Party before the first lockdown.

Church Buildings 2020

St Hilda's Church

The PAT testing was carried out and again minor works were undertaken. St Hilda's church continues to take advantage of the gutter cleaning programme offered by the Diocese of London. Work was completed on the Baptistry ceiling and to install a handrail outside the Woodthorpe Road entrance.

A group of volunteers led by Paula Gething arranged for cleaning and prepared St Hilda's for re-opening. Our thanks to Paula and all of those who were members of the 'Return to Church' team. Thanks also to Bobbie Bedford, Frances Forsbrey, Rosemary Greenwood and Chris Holliday who clean St Hilda's every Wednesday to keep it covid safe between services.

Church Hall

We fulfilled the legal requirements of our insurers, Diocese and Local Authority regarding the electrical, gas and fire regulations. A combined properties committee now look after the Church and Church Hall.

Although the gutters were relined last year, "snagging" points are still being investigated by the installers.

The Church Hall continued to provide a safe community space when government covid guidelines allowed, and many regular hirers were not able to meet after March. Happytots pre-school, established in 2006, remains the principal daytime hirer.

34 Woodthorpe Road

St Hilda's continues to fulfil Landlord's obligations in Gas, PAT and fixed electrical wire testing.

Our tenants remained throughout 2020 and Lockwood's, the managing letting agents, continued to manage the property for St Hilda's. Routine maintenance was carried out as required.

The Vicarage

No internal works were required at the vicarage since the redecoration in 2018.

Outreach

The 2020 outreach could be considered in three categories: local, educational and non-parish. There was a continuing ministry to bereaved families through the Memorial Book, and the Memorial Tree, we were unable to display Easter Lilies in 2020. We remain fully represented at Churches Together in Ashford and Stanwell. Educationally, we maintain our relationships with St James' Senior Boys' school and Ashford Church of England School; both these schools now use St Hilda's Church as their prime venue for religious events. Unfortunately, we were unable to welcome them to St Hilda's due to the pandemic.

We continued with the Foundation Governorship of Ashford Church of England School, with Donna Hester as governor and Clare Marland was appointed as our new Foundation when Lisa Richardson stood down after many years, we thank her for her commitment to the role. We have established a strong relationship with HMP Bronzefield Prison and support their 'Through the Door' ministry, as part of our missional outreach to the wider community. We also supported the Salvation Army foodbank.

Non-parish outreach has been supporting the Mothers' Union at Deanery and Diocesan Levels. We also supported the ALMA Lent appeal via a Smartie tube collection.

We continue to build on Mission Outreach with our outgoing, welcoming Baptism, Wedding and Funeral Families. We find St. Hilda's is seen as one of the desired places for children's baptism, but this year we were unable to hold many. There were no weddings during the year, and we held a limited number of Funerals in Church.

We were lucky to be only Church in Spelthorne to be able to hold a Christingle Service in Church in aid of the Children's Society.

The gifts from the Harvest Festival were given to support the local Salvation Army foodbank to help those in need in Spelthorne.

The Saturday Morning Knitting Group, which began in September 2013, have been unable to meet since February 2020. Their knitted goods that we have are distributed to the women of Bronzefield who need them.

Rosemary Greenwood, together with the editorial produced the monthly parish magazine during the year, Crossroads. A big thank you goes to the team for all their hard work, and to those who advertise in it for their sponsorship. With the inception of the weekly St Hilda's News it was decided that the production of Crossroads would cease for now.

Mission Action continued throughout the year with occasional activities designed to attract different groups of people into the community. In November, under the leadership of Christine Makriel, we again planted our Remembrance poppies to commemorate those who died in the war. A local Scout Group also planted poppies to commemorate VE Day in May. The art installation Christmas shelter by Andrew Milton remains a focal point to the women leaving Bronzefield where they can leave messages of hope on their way to Ashford Station after release. There is also a prison holdall there containing a sleeping bag, scarf and hat for those who may need it.

Risk Management Policy

Although the PCC is not required to report on its risk management policy, the PCC takes it very seriously and receives regular reports from the Health and Safety officer. A recovery

plan is in place to assist the local community in the event of a disaster, and further work will be carried out on risk management issues as required. We continue to meet all electrical, gas and fire requirements. Christine Makriel continued as Health and Safety Office, with Denise Buttigieg as deputy.

Financial Review

St Hilda's PCC remains in a healthy financial position. Total Fixed Asset valuation of properties has been maintained at £1,175,000 on the balance sheet. This comprises of 34 Woodthorpe Road valued at £325,000 and the Church Hall at £850,000. The trust held funds of £83,757 as at 31 December 2020 which represented a decrease in net operating income of £19,255, the decrease was driven by several factors, mainly due to maintenance costs of which grants and donations were received against in 2019, coupled with covid resulting in Church Hall being severely diminished.

Restricted funds accounts for £17,738, Alford fund of £10,497, £6,241 allocated to the Church and further £1,000 against the Church Hall in respect of a restricted donation received.

The PV Solar System continues to contribute with a further £6,745 received from the grid during the year and a further £1,080 allocated donations, the income covers the costs of electricity used in the Church, the original investment has been recovered. Gift Aid on planned giving during the year contributed £13,328 of which £2,516 is collected via the Parish Giving Scheme, and a further £2,314 on VAT claims against investments made during the year.

The rental of 34 Woodthorpe Road continued, and after costs for repairs, lease renewals continues to yield a net income.
Maintenance costs during the year totalled £22,278, split between the Church £21,451, Church Hall £546 and 34 Woodthorpe Road £281. The major items for each are as per the following.

- Church – Baptistry repairs, Asbestos removal, Architect fees, first instalment of Diocesan loan for the boiler, Church boiler repayments, and various other minor maintenance/ repairs/ purchases including items to ensure the Church was covid safe.
- Church Hall – Minor repairs
- 34 Woodthorpe Road – Replacement washing machine, and an electrical circuit repair.

Common fund for the year totalled £62,000 which represents a 3% increase versus 2019, which is still significantly lower than the required contribution.

Peter Connolly, who is a Chartered Accountant performed our independent examiner review.

Reserves Policy

The central reserves, which the PCC holds to ensure that emergency, as well as routine repairs can be performed on the church buildings including 34 Woodthorpe Road with minimal delay and disruption to church activities. Local bank reserves exist to manage any fluctuations in cash flow and ensure commitments can be met.

Spelthorne Deanery Report 2020

The Spelthorne Deanery Mission took place in February 2020. This was preceded by a few preparatory training events initiated by the former Area Dean, Rev Andy Saville. There were many meetings, social events and school visits throughout the Deanery and Bishop Graham Tomlin spoke at a lot of these meetings. Generally the mission was an encouragement to all those who participated and a challenge to us all to do more in future.

Normally Synod meetings provide an opportunity for sharing news and enjoying fellowship with the clergy and lay representatives from the 11 churches within Spelthorne Deanery. Despite the national lockdown restrictions from March 2020, the Synod successfully continued with a programme of meetings remotely on zoom.

Fr Joseph Fernandes, the incumbent of St Hilda's Ashford, was appointed as Area Dean in March 2020. Rev Chris Swift retired from St Nicholas's Shepperton after many years of dedicated ministry. Revd Allen Bower was licensed as the new Vicar of St Saviour's, Sunbury in September. There were several Annual Finance meetings hosted remotely over zoom by Archdeacon Richard Frank and Rev Mary Spredbury (Diocesan Finance Officer) during the summer. Each Church Treasurer and PCC representatives were able to participate.

In June, the Bishop of London, Rt Rev and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally gave an inspiring talk on the Diocese of London's vision for the next decade and then participated in a Q&A session on current topics. She noted that there had been some very positive effects of the lockdown period forexample many churches have developed good on-line services, small home groups had been supporting each other well using zoom meetings and many families, including her own, have been able to spend time together regularly for prayer and Bible reading. Referring to Life after Lockdown she mentioned that various changes are inevitable and we will not go back to a pre-lockdown "normal".

In the 2030 Vision Bishop Sarah said a principal objective would be for the Church to be there for every Londoner. The main ambitions of the vision are that we believe God is calling us to grow as:

- Confident Disciples
- Compassionate Communities
- Creative Growth in numbers

Referring to Acts 2:42– 7, she noted that the believers knew each other well, they shared things in common and then God added to their number.

At the Synod meeting in November, Bishop Graham Tomlin elaborated further on the Diocese of London Vision 2030. His introductory comments were that this is a vision with a big but not impossible ambition. The vision is that every Londoner (Spelthorne resident) should encounter the love of God in Christ and that this vision should be inspired by prayer. During the course of the presentation Bishop Graham made extensive references to Acts Chap 2 and how we need our church communities to become younger, safer and more racially diverse.

Father Joseph Fernandes
Spelthorne Area Dean

Norman W Head
Spelthorne Deanery Lay Chair

St Hilda's Stewardship Report for 2020
(Jim Iddiols)

Stewardship giving during 2020 amounted to a total of £33,963.13, which was a decrease of £7,240.32 on the previous year. This total was made up of three categories of giving:

1. Donations made under Gift Aid (£33,135.13)

2. Donations not eligible for Gift Aid but claimable under the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS) (£68.00)

3. Donations not eligible for Gift Aid and not claimable under GASDS due to the donation amount exceeding the £30 limit (£760.00)

The amounts given, Gift Aid claimed from HMRC, and number of donors for each of the last 10 years are shown in the following table:

Year	Received	Claimed	Donors
2011	**45,993.35**	**11,404.94**	**85**
2012	**41,939.08**	**9,987.02**	**84**
2013	**39,608.75**	**9,781.94**	**78**
2014	**43,918.84**	**10,979.71**	**75**
2015	**42,850.54**	**10,149.31**	**73**
2016	**40,452.07**	**9,497.14**	**65**
2017	**39,491.90**	**9,135.49**	**61**
2018	**39,929.63**	**9,232.67**	**58**
2019	**41,203.45**	**9,505.23**	**56**
2020	**33,963.13**	**8,058.34**	**59**

The total number of contributors to Stewardship in 2020 was 59 (up 3 on 2019). Of these, 22 (down 6 on 2019) use the weekly envelope sets, 16 (unchanged from 2019) donate monthly or quarterly by Standing Order, 17 (up 8) donate via the preferred Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) and the remaining 4 paid annually. In total, £8,058.34 was claimed back from HMRC on all donations that fell under Stewardship during 2020.

A further £8,221.64 (down £4,086.54 on 2019) was donated during 2020 for other miscellaneous categories such as solar panels, baptisms, Easter lilies, loose plate collections, various events, innovative fund-raising initiatives and so on. For these additional gifts, and inclusive of GASDS, we claimed back £2,055.40 from HMRC. These donations were generously provided by not only those under stewardship, but also those in the wider congregation and parish.

Unsurprisingly, the coronavirus pandemic has clearly had a significant impact on the 2020 figures shown above. That said, those under stewardship and the wider contribution are to be congratulated for their innovative efforts and kind generosity in continuing their giving to St. Hilda's in what has been, incredibly difficult circumstances.

And finally, we are currently looking for a volunteer to take on the leadership of the Stewardship Team for 2021 and beyond. Whoever takes on the role will continue to be ably assisted by Pauline Milton and Jim Iddiols, who will continue to manage the administration of collecting Gift aid from HMRC.

St Hilda's Church – Altar Servers' Report 2020

(Alan Sloan)

Altar servers fulfil a very important function within the church. Their role dates back to the early days of the church, when priests were accompanied by an acolyte on their travels.
Today altar servers' roles are as follows:
The **Crucifer** is the person who carries the big processional cross. We have different crosses for different times in the year. Normally we have a large, decorated cross but in Advent and Lent a small wooden cross is available to reflect the mood of the season although, in recent years, the latter has not been used.

The **Acolytes** work in pairs and they both carry candles. In the olden days, when churches weren't lit quite so brightly, they had a very important role ensuring that when the Gospel procession went down into the church there was enough light on the Gospel book for the priest or deacon to be able to read it. They also fulfil other roles at the altar, such as bringing the vessels to the altar so that it can be laid up for mass and helping the priest wash his or her hands.

The **Book "Boy/Girl"** carries the altar book which he or she will hold for the priest when reading the Gospel. They also assist with the other roles at the altar.

St Hilda's Church currently has a team of 10 active altar servers, as listed below, who are always willing to help with any task to keep our services in Church running smoothly. Primarily they assist at both the 8 o'clock and 9.30 Sunday services but they also assist with the Tuesday mornings services and other special services e.g. confirmation, candles of remembrance.
Of the names of servers shown in italics: Tyler Penrone is currently studying at Warwick University and Robb Clarke is still recovering following a long period of illness. At the end of January Orlando Vieira-Martins decided to stand down from being a server and we thank him for his contribution to the server's team. Sadly, at the end of June, Ian Stroudley also decided to stand down from being a server. We thank Ian for his significant contribution to the servers team, in particular, over many years, to the 8 o'clock Sunday service.

Also Pat Kitto, who for many years produced the server's rota, decided to stand down from that role and we thank her for dedication and contribution to this important task.

The advent of Covid-19 in March 2020 caused significant changes in all our lives and the roles of servers had to be suspended as a result. In October the role of crucifer was resumed to lead Father Joseph in and out of the service but with all other roles suspended. However, with the introduction of lockdown 2 on 5 November and the suspension of churches services that role was temporarily suspended and further extended as a result of lockdown 3.

Alan Sloan is the Head Server/serving team liaison representative and acts as the focal point between the servers and Father Joseph. This entails:

Updating altar servers about any changes in process/procedure
Completion of the end of year report
Production of the servers' rotas.

We would always welcome new members to the team and would give the support and training to undertake this role. If interested please contact one of the Church Wardens in the first instance.

List of servers:
Darran Buttigieg
*Robb Clarke**
Frances Forsbrey*
Sally Goulden*
Chris Holliday
Christine Makriel*
Peter Makriel*
Tyler Penrone
David Saville*
Alan Sloan*
Barbara Warne*
Emma Wrightson*

An asterisk* signifies where a server has additionally been appointed by the Bishop of Kensington to assist with Holy Communion. Those shown in italics are currently unavailable for rota duties.

St Hilda's Church - Flower Ladies Report 2020

(Bobbie Bedford)

It's been a sad year where flowers in church are concerned. Due to the lock-down we were unable to have our usual display of remembrance lilies and even though we did have a short period where we were able to hold services in church, we still did not have flowers in church. Due to our very rigorous risk assessment, we could not allow people free access to the building.

We did mute the idea of having lilies in November but again due to restrictions we decided against it. However, you will have seen the fantastic display of poppies behind the high alter.

Way back in 2019 Father Joseph popped into our Saturday knitting group and asked if anyone could either knit or crochet poppies as he had an idea of a display in church. One of our knitting ladies Mary Osborne had already been knitting them for the WI and was happy knit some for the church, in fact Mary knitted a total of 250 poppies.

A call went out to the church and patterns of wool were provided; each week small bags of poppies were left in church; we also had a large bag delivered from the women of Bronze Field. We were hoping to get around 1000, in fact we ended up with over 1500.

Fr Joseph discussed the display with Alison and she began the task of attaching the individual poppies to netting whilst she sat at home watching TV. It was far too big a job for one person and so a team of around 6 ladies organised by Alison and at a 2-metre distance from each other spent around 5 hours in the church hall attaching the poppies with garden wire to yards of netting.

When all 1500 poppies had been attached Will Gething and his friends kindly hung the nets behind the Altar, the display was breath taking and you could see the individuality of the poppies made by so many different hands.

We didn't have flowers last year, however, I think you will agree the poppies more than made up for it.

St Hilda's Church Events and Fundraising Committee Report 2020

(Christine Taylor)

Just before the first lockdown we were able to hold our second Pancake Party on the evening of Shrove Tuesday, coinciding with Bishop Graham's visit to Spelthorne so it became a Deanery affair with 40/50 people in attendance. The following morning Bishop Graham and Father Joseph accompanied by Bobbie and Frances were at Ashford Station, offering Ashing to commuters and school children. Then came the first lockdown and all our usual activities were cancelled.

In October we had our Harvest Festival and the donations of food and toiletries were distributed through the Salvation Army. On the 30th October, Simon Shutt of Faith Awareness in Children's Trust (FACT) organised a fabulous Pumpkin Carving evening for children and their parents – all socially distanced and observing Covid 19 recommendations. Simon also ran a similar event, An Advent Journey to Christmas, on 11th December. This was a smaller event but both events attracted families from the wider community.

Darran and Denise again organised for a group to go with the Staines Rotary Santa Sleigh to boost our fundraising at Christmas, thank you to those who ventured out in the cold December night to help.

We also managed to hold two Jumble Sales, socially distanced and in the open air.
I would like to give my thanks to all those who have worked so hard to keep going in these difficult times.

St Hilda's Choir Report 2020

(Paula Gething and Chris Maddock)

2020 began like any normal year, with the choir supporting Sunday services under the direction of Christina Veasey. Twelve regular members maintain soprano, alto, tenor and bass voices.

By March, as the country descended into the grip of the global pandemic, services ceased and the choir waited. After a few weeks, when it became impossible for Christina to travel and under the leadership of Chris Maddock, a few members of the choir managed to record items individually that later, using his musical expertise and available technology, Chris managed to stitch together into a single track to be broadcast as part of a live streamed service. This was to become part of the routine for half of the year.

With no regular organist, online recordings to accompany singing were sourced from a free resource called Small Church Music.co.uk. When these were not suitable or the wrong tune or harmony, either Chris would construct something electronically (through the wonder of modern technology) or Melvyn would supply a backing track.

Each week, for a significant part of the year, Chris has provided an electronic copy of the sheet music, a backing track from one of the three sources described and instructions for the choir to make a recording. Each choir member uses one "device" and headphones to listen to the track and a second device to record their voice only. Chris then receives between five and ten voice parts to combine to make a single recording. The choir has amassed a substantial back catalogue of recordings, some of which are good, others less so. Combined with recordings from St Martin in the Fields, provided by the Church of England to support live streamed worship during the pandemic, this music has supported services at St Hilda's all year.

For a short while over the summer and autumn, many of the choir were able to return to practice in church and to singing live under strict social distancing and hygiene arrangements. Again, using a combination of Melvyn's recordings, electronic and professional recordings the choir sang hymns

and some anthems. Although sadly, to date the congregation remains unable to participate in live singing, it is hoped those at home have been able to join in.

Unfortunately, preparations for Christmas were halted by the second wave of COVID-19 and the choir returned to virtual recordings for the last services of the year. Just before this, 5 sung items were recorded together and provided to HMP Bronzefield to supplement their Christmas Carol services.

Since Easter 2020, the music has been planned and prepared by a small group of choir members, Carolyn Clark, Chris Maddock, Paula Gething and Rosemary Greenwood. Jane Dobbie and Melvyn Rouse, who have both been shielding throughout have provided solo and accompaniments respectively and four other regular members of the choir have consistently contributed recorded vocals throughout and maintained our commitment to four part harmony and St Hilda's musical tradition.

We hope that in 2021 we will be able to return to regular practice on a Friday and singing together in church both with the congregation and as choir only.

St Hilda's Church - Mothers' Union Report 2020 (Joyce Rouse)

There have been no branch meetings of the Mothers' Union since last March with the Corporate Communion/Coffee Morning and regular lunch when David Mitchell gave us his Lent reflections. The following week a group of us took part in the World Day of Prayer at St Michael's Church and the week after that we were all locked down.

We have been doing our best to keep in touch with members by email where possible or by 'phone calls. At Christmas we delivered cards to every member with a personal message and we will be doing the same for Easter. Anything that we receive from the Diocese is emailed around and I know that some members have been taking part in Zoom prayer meetings.

The World Day of Prayer on March 5th this year was organised by Alison Garner. It was led by Father Joseph on a Zoom meeting and members of St Hilda's M.U. took part in it

A number of us will be joining a Zoom meeting on March 25th for a Lady Day service as this is usually celebrated in rotation around the Deanery churches.

Some members have been helping with shopping, collecting prescriptions and general support which has been much appreciated by those who had to shield throughout.

We have recognised but not yet been able to celebrate the two 90th birthdays of Joan Prescott and Sheila Freeman. Many congratulations to them both.

We have lost Donna Marshall who was a member for many years and who sadly died at the start of the Pandemic.

We very much look forward to meeting again but as yet we have no idea when this will be possible.

St Hilda's Church - Crossroads Report 2019

(Valerie Scott)

Last year was very difficult for the editorial team, Mike Davenport, Chris Holliday, Terry Rickson and myself, but especially for Rosemary Greenwood, our editor.

A printed copy was produced in February and March, but then we had lockdown, which meant we could not distribute the magazine and the editorial team were unable to meet.

However, editions were produced and put on our web site. It became increasingly difficult to find interesting material and then with the introduction of a Weekly Newsletter, Crossroads became superfluous.

Many thanks to Rosemary for all her hard work under very challenging circumstances.

3rd Ashford Rainbows, Brownies and Guides Report 2020

(Chris Davenport – Guide Guider)

Unfortunately, 3rd Ashford Rainbows, Brownies and Guides have not been able to run their usual weekly meetings at St Hilda's Church Hall since March 2020, due to the coronavirus lockdowns and restrictions.

During this time, the Guiders have kept in touch with the girls and have been able to organise a variety of Zoom meetings for all age groups. Some girls are not happy with this type of meeting, but they have managed to complete some badge work at home. In this way they can still feel involved.

It has been hard for all of our youngsters not to be able to meet up with their Guiding friends, particularly as they have had to cope with so much home schooling.

We really hope that we will be able to get back to face to face meetings soon. The girls can then, once again, meet up with their friends, and look forward to enjoying their weekly Guiding experiences.

President: Fr Joseph Fernandes

St Hilda's Entertainers

Chairman: Neale Winter

Secretary: Mike Davenport

St Hilda's Entertainers' Annual Report 2020

(Michael Davenport)

Just as reported for last year's APCM, the position remains that St Hilda's Entertainers have been unable to meet together for rehearsals or stage productions since the first coronavirus lockdown and social-distancing came into effect in March 2020.

Nevertheless, members have been given the opportunity to keep in touch with each other. Various internet Zoom events have been organised, including quizzes, show and tell, games, a Shakespeare evening and a virtual cast party.

Despite the lack of income from ticket sales, the Entertainers decided to show in a positive way their continuing goodwill to St Hilda's by making a donation of £936 from their funds to St Hilda's Church. This is the equivalent of what would, in a normal year, have been our church hall hire fees for our pantomime rehearsals from September to December 2020.

We can now only look forward optimistically, as we always do, to the months ahead. We have decided to avoid the risk of unwittingly spreading the coronavirus by postponing our May 2020 production for a second time. Later this year, however, we are hoping to be able to resume our usual schedule of auditions in July, followed by rehearsals from September, with a view to performing our pantomime in December.

Here's hoping!

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. HILDA's, ASHFORD, MIDDLESEX

BALANCE SHEET

For the year ending 31 December 2020

	NOTE	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	RESTRICTED FUNDS	TOTAL 2020	TOTAL 2019
Fixed Assets					
Functional property	5	850,000	-	850,000	850,000
Investment property	5	325,000	-	325,000	325,000
		1,175,000	0	1,175,000	1,175,000
Current Assets					
Debtors and prepayments	6	6,150	-	6,150	5,052
Cash at bank and in hand		59,870	17,738	77,607	101,117
		66,020	17,738	83,757	106,169
Current Liabilities					
Creditors - amounts falling due within one year	7	5,436	-	5,436	8,593
Net current assets		**60,584**	**17,738**	**78,322**	**97,576**
Total Assets less current liabilities		1,235,584	17,738	1,253,322	1,272,576
Creditors - amounts falling due after one year	8	-	-	-	-
TOTAL NET ASSETS		**1,235,584**	**17,738**	**1,253,322**	**1,272,576**
Funds					
Unrestricted		1,235,584	-	1,235,584	1,242,452
Restricted	9	-	17,738	17,738	30,125
		1,235,584	**17,738**	**1,253,322**	**1,272,576**

PCC Declaration

The PCC acknowledge and accept their collective responsibility for ensuring adequate financial controls are maintained and proper books and records kept

These financial Statements were approved by the PCC on 3rd March 2021

Fr Joseph Fernandes
Chairman/ Incumbant of St Hilda's Trust

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. HILDA's, ASHFORD, MIDDLESEX

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
For the year ending 31 December 2020

	NOTE	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	RESTRICTED FUNDS	TOTAL 2020	TOTAL 2019
INCOMING RESOURCES		£	£	£	£
Voluntary income	2(a)	62,172	3,300	65,472	88,056.36
Activities for generating funds	2(b)	26,810	-	26,810	64,997.83
Income from investments	2(c)	16,036	44	16,080	14,618.85
Church activities	2(d)	2,617	-	2,617	7,269.53
Other incoming resources	2(e)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		**107,635**	**3,344**	**110,979.17**	**174,942.57**
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Cost of generating voluntary income	3(b)	-	-	-	-
Fund raising costs	3(c)	513	-	513	1,323.79
Church activities	3(a)	113,431	15,731	129,162	154,107.64
Investment management costs	3(d)	559	-	559	3,477.45
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		**114,503**	**15,731**	**130,234**	**158,908.88**
NET INCOMING RESOURCES		(6,868)	(12,387)	(19,255)	16,034
GAINS & LOSSES ON INVESTMENTS		-	-	-	-
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS				-	-
ACCOUNTING PROCEDURES ADJUSTMENT		-	-	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		**(6,868)**	**(12,387)**	**(19,255)**	**16,034**
BALANCE B/F AT 1ST JANUARY 2020		1,242,452	30,125	1,272,576	1,256,543
BALANCES C/F AT 31 DECEMBER 2020		**1,235,584**	**17,738**	**1,253,322**	**1,272,576**

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. HILDA's, ASHFORD, MIDDLESEX

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ending 31 December 2020

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared under the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the current Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2005).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for investment assets, which are shown at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gathering of church members.

FUNDS

Restricted funds comprise (a) revenue donations or grants for a specific PCC activity intended by the donor and (b) monies set aside for a specific purpose as agreed by the PCC. Where these funds have unspent balances , interest on their pooled investment is apportioned to the individual funds on an average balance basis.

Unrestricted funds are income funds which are to be spent on the PCCs general purposes.

INCOMING RESOURCES

Voluntary Income

Planned giving, collections and similar donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is entitled to the use of the resources, their ultimate receipt is considered reasonably certain and the amounts due are reliably quantifiable. Dividends are accounted for when declared receivable, interest as and when accrued by the payer. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Other Income

Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised when the rental is due.

Gains and losses on investments

Realized gains and losses are recognised when the investments are sold.

RESOURCES USED

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share expected to be paid over is accounted for when due.

All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

FIXED ASSETS

Consecrated property and movable church furnishings

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishings held by the Vicar and the Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. Subsequently no individual item has cost more than £1,000 so all such expenditure has been written off when incurred.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment

Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1,000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. HILDA's, ASHFORD, MIDDLESEX

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ending 31 December 2020

2. INCOMING RESOURCES	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL 2020	TOTAL 2019
	£	£	£	£
2(a) Voluntary Income				
Planned giving - gift aid donations	37,539		37,539	40,303
Tax recovered on planned giving	13,828		13,828	9,951
Planned giving - other			-	-
Loose plate	3,283		3,283	7,084
Sundry donations	3,822	3,300	7,122	21,947
Other tax recovered	2,314		2,314	6,053
Donations, appeals, etc.	317		317	1,384
Grant income			-	-
Legacies			-	-
Memorial book	280		280	205
Flowers	789		789	1,129
Specials	-		-	-
	62,172	**3,300**	**65,472**	**88,056**
2(b) Activities for generating funds				
Fetes, bazaars & other fund raising events	3,947		3,947	9,545
Hall lettings/ Fund raising	17,947		17,947	50,851
Photocopying	10		10	-
PV Income	4,906		4,906	4,601
Misc.			-	-
	26,810	**-**	**26,810**	**64,998**
2(c) Income from investments				
Interest	225	44	269	467
Rent	15,811		15,811	14,152
	16,036	**44**	**16,080**	**14,619**
2(d) Income from church activities				
Crossroads	774		774	734
Weddings	200		200	2,100
Funerals	1,142		1,142	3,351
Baptisms/ Confirmation	-		-	-
Sundries	501		501	1,085
	2,617	**-**	**2,617**	**7,270**
2(e) Other ordinary incoming resources				
Insurance claims	-		-	-
	-	**-**	**-**	**-**
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	**107,635**	**3,344**	**110,979**	**174,943**

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. HILDA's, ASHFORD, MIDDLESEX

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ending 31 December 2020

3. RESOURCES EXPENDED	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL 2020	TOTAL 2019
	£	£	£	£
3(a) Church Activities				
Missionary giving	275		275	1,683
Flowers	124		124	1,123
Insurance - Church	7,737		7,737	7,460
Insurance - Hall	1,905		1,905	1,904
Junior Church	38		38	399
Maintenance - Church & Hall	6,266	15,731	21,997	34,052
Memorial book	-		-	102
Ministry - Clergy expenses	448		448	1,157
Ministry - Common Fund	62,000		62,000	60,000
Ministry - Other clergy expenses	215		215	379
Ministry - Wedding fees	-		-	1,029
Organist & choir costs	1,294		1,294	1,633
Running cost - Church	4,012		4,012	5,853
Running cost - Hall	1,968		1,968	4,829
Sundry			-	-
Utilities - Electric	1,593		1,593	2,359
Utilities - Gas	6,611		6,611	7,081
Utilities - Other	791		791	865
Administration	8,835		8,835	8,205
People/ Cleaning Costs	9,319		9,319	13,994
	113,431	**15,731**	**129,162**	**154,108**
3(b) Cost of generating of voluntary income				
Costs of appeals	-	-	-	-
Stewardship activities	-		-	-
	-	**-**	**-**	**-**
3(c) Fund raising/ Events costs				
Fetes, bazaars & other	513		513	1,324
	513	**-**	**513**	**1,324**
3(d) Investment Management Costs				
Insurance - 34 Woodthorpe Road	278		278	695
Maintenance Costs - 34 Woodthorpe Road	281		281	1,245
Admin Fees - 34 Woodthorpe Road	-		-	1,123
Running costs grounds	-		-	415
	559	**-**	**559**	**3,477**
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	**114,503**	**15,731**	**130,234**	**158,909**

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. HILDA's, ASHFORD, MIDDLESEX

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ending 31 December 2020

4. People Costs

During the year the PCC used the services of part time cleaners for the church hall and an administration assistant for the parish office but no payments were large enough to attract social security costs.

A small immaterial portion of the expenses paid to the incumbent may have related to his services as chairman of the PCC. Payments for Office administration totalled £6,270 for the year.
No other payments or expenses were paid to any other PCC member, persons closely connected to them or related parties, other than for professional services rendered.

5. Fixed Assets

£	Church Hall	No.34	Total
Opening Balance	850,000	325,000	1,175,000
Additions	0	0	0
Gains & Losses in the year	0	0	0
Closing Balance	**850,000**	**325,000**	**1,175,000**

St Hilda's Church Hall in Stanwell Road, Ashford, Middlesex was brought onto the balance sheet in 2007 in order to comply with the Statement of Recommended Practise (SORP) for Charities as revised in 2005 and the Church Accounting Regulations 2006. The initial valuation was based on its current value to the PCC. The PCC believes that the residual value of the property exceeds its current use value and therefore has decided to adopt a policy of doing an annual impairment review rather than depreciating its value over its useful life.

The property known as No 34, Woodthorpe Road, Ashford, Middlesex is held for investment purposes and is shown in the accounts at market value. The last valuation was 31 December 2011 and was carried out by The Frost Partnership, Ashford, Middlesex.
Monies for 2020 entered in the Trust system are net not gross with commission costs of £389, Lease Renewal fees of £ and repairs/ maintenance totalling £281 included.

6. Debtors and prepayments

£	2020	2019
Receivables Church	6,150	5,052
Receivables Hall	0	0
Total	**6,150**	**5,052**

7. Creditors

£	2020	2019
Creditors and accruals - Church	5,436	8,593
Creditors and accruals - Hall	0	0
Total	**5,436**	**8,593**

All amounts are due within one year

8. Long Term Creditors

During the year, the first installment of the 3 year Diocesan loan in respect of the church boiler was made - £2,500
The remaining balance of £5,000 will be paid in 2021/22.

9. Restricted Funds Held

The breakdown and movement of restricted funds are:

£	Alford	Church	Church Hall	Total
Balance at 1 January 2020	10,452	19,672	0	30,124
Incoming resources	0	2,300	1,000	3,300
Resources expended	0	(15,731)	0	(15,731)
Moved from general fund	0	0	0	0
Interest Allocated	44	0	0	44
Balance at 31 December 2020	**10,497**	**6,241**	**1,000**	**17,738**

The large movement against resources expended in the Church fund relate to the Baptistry works, Boiler and Diocese loan repayments.

The Alford fund monies are held in the CBF account, whilst the others are held in the current account.

9A Non Restricted held by CBF

General reserves held in the CBF account are £ 44,496

Independent Examiner's Report to the Members of the Parochial Church Council ('PCC') of St Hilda's Church, Ashford, Middlesex

I report to the members of the PCC on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020 as set out on the attached pages.

This report is made solely to the members of the PCC in accordance with Sections 145 of the Charities Act 2011. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the PCC members those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the members of the PCC for my examination work.

Respective responsibilities of PPC Members and Examiner

The PPC members are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year (under Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Charities Act')) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under Section 145 of the Charities Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under Section 145 (5) (b) of the Charities Act); and
- to 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 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 members of the PCC concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no view is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
   - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the Charities Act ;and
   - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act

   have not been met; or

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

Name: Peter Connolly

Address: 33 Carlyle Road, Staines, TW18 2PU

Date 17 April 2021

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. HILDA's, ASHFORD, MIDDLESEX

BALANCE SHEET

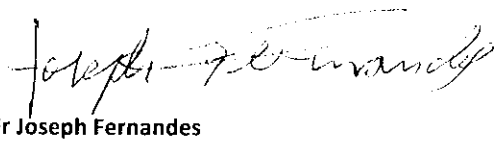
For the year ending 31 December 2020

	NOTE	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	RESTRICTED FUNDS	TOTAL 2020	TOTAL 2019
Fixed Assets					
Functional property	5	850,000	-	850,000	850,000
Investment property	5	325,000	-	325,000	325,000
		1,175,000	0	1,175,000	1,175,000
Current Assets					
Debtors and prepayments	6	6,150	-	6,150	5,052
Cash at bank and in hand		59,870	17,738	77,607	101,117
		66,020	17,738	83,757	106,169
Current Liabilities					
Creditors - amounts falling due within one year	7	5,436	-	5,436	8,593
Net current assets		**60,584**	**17,738**	**78,322**	**97,576**
Total Assets less current liabilities		1,235,584	17,738	1,253,322	1,272,576
Creditors - amounts falling due after one year	8	-	-	-	-
TOTAL NET ASSETS		**1,235,584**	**17,738**	**1,253,322**	**1,272,576**
Funds					
Unrestricted		1,235,584	-	1,235,584	1,242,452
Restricted	9	-	17,738	17,738	30,125
		1,235,584	**17,738**	**1,253,322**	**1,272,576**

PCC Declaration

The PCC acknowledge and accept their collective responsibility for ensuring adequate financial controls are maintained and proper books and records kept

These financial Statements were approved by the PCC on 3rd March 2021



Fr Joseph Fernandes
Chairman/ Incumbant of St Hilda's Trust

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. HILDA's, ASHFORD, MIDDLESEX

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
For the year ending 31 December 2020

	NOTE	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS £	RESTRICTED FUNDS £	TOTAL 2020 £	TOTAL 2019 £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Voluntary income	2(a)	62,172	3,300	65,472	88,056.36
Activities for generating funds	2(b)	26,810	-	26,810	64,997.83
Income from investments	2(c)	16,036	44	16,080	14,618.85
Church activities	2(d)	2,617	-	2,617	7,269.53
Other incoming resources	2(e)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		**107,635**	**3,344**	**110,979.17**	**174,942.57**
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Cost of generating voluntary income	3(b)	-	-	-	-
Fund raising costs	3(c)	620	-	620	1,323.79
Church activities	3(a)	113,324	15,731	129,055	154,107.64
Investment management costs	3(d)	559	-	559	3,477.45
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		**114,503**	**15,731**	**130,234**	**158,908.88**
NET INCOMING RESOURCES		(6,868)	(12,387)	(19,255)	16,034
GAINS & LOSSES ON INVESTMENTS		-	-	-	-
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS		0		-	-
ACCOUNTING PROCEDURES ADJUSTMENT		-	-	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(6,868)	(12,387)	(19,255)	16,034
BALANCE B/F AT 1ST JANUARY 2020		1,242,452	30,125	1,272,576	1,256,543
BALANCES C/F AT 31 DECEMBER 2020		**1,235,584**	**17,738**	**1,253,322**	**1,272,576**

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. HILDA's, ASHFORD, MIDDLESEX

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ending 31 December 2020

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared under the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the current Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2005).

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FUNDS

Restricted funds comprise (a) revenue donations or grants for a specific PCC activity intended by the donor and (b) monies set aside for a specific purpose as agreed by the PCC. Where these funds have unspent balances , interest on their pooled investment is apportioned to the individual funds on an average balance basis.

Unrestricted funds are income funds which are to be spent on the PCCs general purposes.

INCOMING RESOURCES

Voluntary Income

Planned giving, collections and similar donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is entitled to the use of the resources, their ultimate receipt is considered reasonably certain and the amounts due are reliably quantifiable. Dividends are accounted for when declared receivable, interest as and when accrued by the payer. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Other Income

Rental income from the letting of church premises is recognised when the rental is due.

Gains and losses on investments

Realized gains and losses are recognised when the investments are sold.

RESOURCES USED

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share expected to be paid over is accounted for when due.

All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

FIXED ASSETS

Consecrated property and movable church furnishings

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishings held by the Vicar and the Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). For anything acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. Subsequently no individual item has cost more than £1,000 so all such expenditure has been written off when incurred.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment

Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1,000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. HILDA's, ASHFORD, MIDDLESEX

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ending 31 December 2020

2. INCOMING RESOURCES	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2020 £	TOTAL 2019 £
2(a) Voluntary Income				
Planned giving - gift aid donations	37,539		37,539	40,303
Tax recovered on planned giving	13,828		13,828	9,951
Planned giving - other			-	-
Loose plate	3,283		3,283	7,084
Sundry donations	3,822	3,300	7,122	21,947
Other tax recovered	2,314		2,314	6,053
Donations, appeals, etc.	317		317	1,384
Grant income			-	-
Legacies			-	-
Memorial book	280		280	205
Flowers	789		789	1,129
Specials	-		-	-
	62,172	**3,300**	**65,472**	**88,056**
2(b) Activities for generating funds				
Fetes, bazaars & other fund raising events	3,947		3,947	9,545
Hall lettings/ Fund raising	17,947		17,947	50,851
Photocopying	10		10	-
PV Income	4,906		4,906	4,601
Misc.			-	-
	26,810	**-**	**26,810**	**64,998**
2(c) Income from investments				
Interest	225	44	269	467
Rent	15,811		15,811	14,152
	16,036	**44**	**16,080**	**14,619**
2(d) Income from church activities				
Crossroads	774		774	734
Weddings	200		200	2,100
Funerals	1,142		1,142	3,351
Baptisms/ Confirmation	-		-	-
Sundries	501		501	1,085
	2,617	**-**	**2,617**	**7,270**
2(e) Other ordinary incoming resources				
Insurance claims	-		-	-
	-	-	-	-
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	**107,635**	**3,344**	**110,979**	**174,943**

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. HILDA's, ASHFORD, MIDDLESEX

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ending 31 December 2020

3. RESOURCES EXPENDED	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2020 £	TOTAL 2019 £
3(a) Church Activities				
Missionary giving	275		275	1,683
Flowers	124		124	1,123
Insurance - Church	7,737		7,737	7,460
Insurance - Hall	1,905		1,905	1,904
Junior Church	38		38	399
Maintenance - Church & Hall	6,266	15,731	21,997	34,052
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Running cost - Church	4,012		4,012	5,853
Running cost - Hall	1,968		1,968	4,829
Sundry			-	-
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Utilities - Gas	6,611		6,611	7,081
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Administration	8,835		8,835	8,205
People/ Cleaning Costs	9,319		9,319	13,994
	113,431	**15,731**	**129,162**	**154,108**
3(b) Cost of generating of voluntary income				
Costs of appeals	-	-	-	-
Stewardship activities	-		-	-
	-	-	-	-
3(c) Fund raising/ Events costs				
Fetes, bazaars & other	513		513	1,324
	513	-	**513**	**1,324**
3(d) Investment Management Costs				
Insurance - 34 Woodthorpe Road	278		278	695
Maintenance Costs - 34 Woodthorpe Road	281		281	1,245
Admin Fees - 34 Woodthorpe Road	-		-	1,123
Running costs grounds	-		-	415
	559	-	**559**	**3,477**
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	**114,503**	**15,731**	**130,234**	**158,909**

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. HILDA's, ASHFORD, MIDDLESEX

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ending 31 December 2020

4. People Costs

During the year the PCC used the services of part time cleaners for the church hall and an administration assistant for the parish office but no payments were large enough to attract social security costs.

A small immaterial portion of the expenses paid to the incumbent may have related to his services as chairman of the PCC. Payments for Office administration totalled £6,270 for the year.
No other payments or expenses were paid to any other PCC member, persons closely connected to them or related parties, other than for professional services rendered.

5. Fixed Assets

£	Church Hall	No.34	Total
Opening Balance	850,000	325,000	1,175,000
Additions	0	0	0
Gains & Losses in the year	0	0	0
Closing Balance	**850,000**	**325,000**	**1,175,000**

St Hilda's Church Hall in Stanwell Road, Ashford, Middlesex was brought onto the balance sheet in 2007 in order to comply with the Statement of Recommended Practise (SORP) for Charities as revised in 2005 and the Church Accounting Regulations 2006. The initial valuation was based on its current value to the PCC. The PCC believes that the residual value of the property exceeds its current use value and therefore has decided to adopt a policy of doing an annual impairment review rather than depreciating its value over its useful life.

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Monies for 2020 entered in the Trust system are net not gross with commission costs of £389, Lease Renewal fees of £ and repairs/ maintenance totalling £281 included.

6. Debtors and prepayments

£	2020	2019
Receivables Church	6,150	5,052
Receivables Hall	0	0
Total	**6,150**	**5,052**

7. Creditors

£	2020	2019
Creditors and accruals - Church	5,436	8,593
Creditors and accruals - Hall	0	0
Total	**5,436**	**8,593**

All amounts are due within one year

8. Long Term Creditors

During the year, the first installment of the 3 year Diocesan loan in respect of the church boiler was made - £2,500
The remaining balance of £5,000 will be paid in 2021/22.

9. Restricted Funds Held

The breakdown and movement of restricted funds are:

£	Alford	Church	Church Hall	Total
Balance at 1 January 2020	10,452	19,672	0	30,124
Incoming resources	0	2,300	1,000	3,300
Resources expended	0	(15,731)	0	(15,731)
Moved from general fund	0	0	0	0
Interest Allocated	44	0	0	44
Balance at 31 December 2020	**10,497**	**6,241**	**1,000**	**17,738**

The large movement against resources expended in the Church fund relate to the Baptistry works, Boiler and Diocese loan repayments.

The Alford fund monies are held in the CBF account, whilst the others are held in the current account.

9A Non Restricted held by CBF

General reserves held in the CBF account are £ 44,496

Independent Examiner's Report to the Members of the Parochial Church Council ('PCC') of St Hilda's Church, Ashford, Middlesex

I report to the members of the PCC on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020 as set out on the attached pages.

This report is made solely to the members of the PCC in accordance with Sections 145 of the Charities Act 2011. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the PCC members those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the members of the PCC for my examination work.

Respective responsibilities of PPC Members and Examiner

The PPC members are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year (under Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Charities Act')) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under Section 145 of the Charities Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under Section 145 (5) (b) of the Charities Act); and
- to 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 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 members of the PCC concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no view is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
   - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the Charities Act ;and
   - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act

   have not been met; or

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



Name: Peter Connolly

Address: 33 Carlyle Road, Staines, TW18 2PU

Date 17 April 2021

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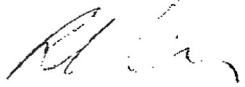
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