

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF CHARLES WITH ST. MATTHIAS, PLYMOUTH

England & Wales · Charity number 1134139

Details

Other names ST MATTHIAS PCC, PLYMOUTH

Status Registered

Legal form Previously excepted

Registered 2010-02-05

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address St Matthias Church
North Hill
Plymouth
PL4 8HF

Phone 01752253251

Email info@stmplymouth.org.uk

Website www.stmplymouth.org.uk

Activities

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

Activities: Public worship and sacred space for prayer and contemplation. Pastoral work inc.sick and bereaved. Teaching Christianity:sermons, courses and small groups. Promoting Christianity through youth club, events,meetings + distribution of literature. Promoting church mission with activities for senior citizens, parents,toddlers and special need groups. Supporting charities in the UK and overseas.

Classification

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

Geography

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

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£272,364	£308,645	-	-
2024-12-31	£283,787	£309,506	-	-
2023-12-31	£322,118	£359,254	-	-
2022-12-31	£282,103	£356,834	-	-
2021-12-31	£454,602	£537,640	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Adam Taylor		2025-04-27
Alleyn Wilson		2025-04-27
Alston Chan		2024-04-21
Amy McCusker		2023-04-23
Deborah Marks		2024-04-21
Dr Graham Stirling		2024-04-21
Elizabeth Phillips		2023-04-23
Hannah Bowker		2017-03-10
JONATHAN HARRIS		2025-04-27
Jeffrey Stephenson		2022-03-30
Jonathan Wilson		2022-04-03
Laura Fraser-Crewes		2025-04-27
Louis Winstone		2025-04-27
Mark Pearson		2025-04-27
Michael Knight		2020-07-16
Radu Ciubotarasu		2024-04-21
Rev Sophie Chatten		2024-02-29
Richard Bull		2025-04-27
Selwyn Jeba		2025-04-27
Steve Champion		2023-04-23

Accounts



**Annual Report and
Financial Statements
of the Parochial Church Council
for the year ended 31 December 2025**

Incumbent

Sophie Chatten

Bank:

The Co-Operative Bank
Skelmersdale
WN86WT

Independent Examiner:

Tony Jopson & Co.
246 Peverell Park Road
Plymouth PL3 4QG

Registered Charity Number:

1134139

**The Parish Church of Charles with St Matthias and St Simons
'St Matts Plymouth'**

North Hill, Plymouth, PL4 8HF
stmplymouth.org.uk



THE **EVANGELISATION** OF THE NATIONS
THE **REVITALISATION** OF THE CHURCH AND THE **TRANSFORMATION** OF SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024
(presented Sunday 27th April 2025)

'CHARLES WITH ST MATTHIAS AND ST SIMON '

Diocesan ID - 9187

Registered Charity Number - 1134139

PURPOSE - St Matts is a **City Centre Resource Church** with a vision to play its part in:

The **EVANGELISATION** of the nations;

The **REVITALISATION** of the Church;

The **TRANSFORMATION** of society.

St Simons is a **Revitalisation Church Plant** from St Matts into Mount Gould.

Together we are one church with two sites and four congregations.

MISSION - St Matts aims to fulfil this vision through three operating lenses:

LOVE GOD - We want everyone to come into a personal relationship with God. We do this principally through our **Sunday Services** and encouraging people in their own personal faith journey.

LOVE OTHERS - We want everyone to grow in their relationship with God and discover freedom and life, and we believe this happens best in community. Through belonging to midweek **Small Groups** we grow in life, faith and friendship. Through serving on our **Dream Team** we each participate in a life of service and blessing which energises us and blesses others.

GO AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE - We want everyone to live lives of witness, service and blessing. We want to make a difference in the communities where we live and work so that others may receive the good news of Jesus.

Background - The church was launched on **25 September 2016** by Revd Olly & Ali Ryder and a small staff & volunteer team, at the invitation of the Bishops of Exeter and Plymouth in partnership with Holy Trinity Brompton, London. As part of St Matts heart for revitalisation, the church agreed to pastoral reorganisation to include a neighbouring closed church leading to the new Parish of Charles with St Matthias and St Simon being formed in **November 2021**. Since **February 2024** St Matts has been led by Revd Sophie Chatten. Sunday services at St Simons recommenced on **19 May 2024** headed up by Assistant Vicar Revd Mike Knight. St Matts and St Simon is part of the **Plymouth City Deanery** in the **Diocese of Exeter** in the **Church of England**. The parish's administrative centre is based at St Matts at the top of North Hill, Plymouth, PL4 8HF.

Structure, Governance and Management - St Matts and St Simons is led by the **PCC** (Parochial Church Council). The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church of England's '*Church Representation Rules*'. All church attendees who consider themselves as belonging to the worshipping communities of St Matts and St Simons are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll. All those on the Electoral Roll may stand for election on the PCC. The Church Council should reflect the diversity of the church and local community. PCC members are re-elected every three years. The Church Council has responsibility, alongside the Vicar, staff team, and lay pastors, of fulfilling the church's vision. PCC members who served from **April 2025** until the date this report was approved are:

PCC Members

Ex-Officio Members

Vicar and Chairman	Sophie Chatten
Assistant Curate	Mike Knight
Assistant Curate	Liz Grier
Assistant Curate	James Harding

Church Wardens

Steve Campion
Laura Fraser Crewes

Elected annually up to six successive years

Elected 2023, 2024, 2025
Elected 2025

Deanery Synod Members

Louis Winstone
Jeff Stephenson

Elected every three years

Elected 2025
Elected 2023

Elected Members

Amy McCusker
Lizzie Philips
Alston Chan
Radu Ciubotarasu
Debs Marks
Graham Stirling
Rich Bull
Jon Harris
Selwyn Jeba
Mark Pearson

Elected every three years

Elected 2023
Elected 2023
Elected 2024
Elected 2024
Elected 2024
Elected 2024
Elected 2025
Elected 2025 - one year term
Elected 2025 - two year term
Elected 2025 - **Safeguarding Representative**

Adam Taylor
Alleyn Wilson
Jonny Wilson

Elected 2025 - ***Treasurer***
Elected 2025
Reelected 2025

In Attendance (non-voting)

Hannah Bowker
Claire Worth

Secretary [since 2017]
Staff - Executive Director [until Jun 2025]

Staff Team

As at Jan 2026

Sophie Chatten
Mike Knight
Hannah Bowker
Teresa Cornish
Rachael Hutchins
Amy Wheeler
Louis Winstone

Vicar
Associate Minister
Church Coordinator & Executive Assistant
Ordinand
Operations Manager [from Sep 2025]
Kids & Youth Pastor
Worship & Young Adults Pastor [from Sep 2025]

Also on team during 2025

Claire Worth
Paul Worth
Zoe Wilson
Terri Jackson

Executive Director [to Jun 2025]
Worship Pastor [to Sep 2025]
Student Pastor [to Aug 2025]
SWYM intern [to Jun 2025]

Safeguarding Report

This report outlines the safeguarding activities at St Matts and St Simons over the past year, reinforcing our commitment to creating a safe environment for all, particularly children and vulnerable adults. Safeguarding remains a vital part of our Christian mission to reflect God's love and care for every individual.

We have adhered to the Church of England's safeguarding guidelines as detailed in "Promoting a Safer Church" (House of Bishops, 2017). This document provides the framework for our safeguarding policy and practices, ensuring they align with national standards. Our Parish Safeguarding Policy Statement has been reviewed and publicly displayed.

All new kids/youth volunteers and staff undergo DBS checks and are recruited following safer recruitment principles, including safeguarding training. Additionally, all PCC members and Prayer Ministry Team have been asked to complete safeguarding training at the required levels. We have conducted risk assessments for all church activities involving children and young people, as required by diocesan guidelines, and all these activities have been approved by the PCC..

This year, we've had a number of safeguarding concerns that were raised and reported to the Diocesan Safeguarding Team. We implemented all advice given and kept appropriate records. A Safeguarding Report was given verbally at every PCC meeting and the PCC have been satisfied that we are following due diligence.

In 2025 we made excellent progress with the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard and will continue work on our Action Plan to make sure we are following best practice as a church. Special thanks to Mark Pearson, our Parish Safeguarding Officer, for his dedication to this essential work. Together, we remain committed to fostering a safe and caring church environment.

Rev Sophie Chatten

Vicar, Parish of Charles with St Matthias and St Simon, Plymouth

ANNUAL REVIEW - 2024/25

St Matts has completed its **ninth** full year as a '**HTB Network**' City Centre Resource Church with a vision to play its part in the '**evangelisation of the nations, the revitalisation of the church and the transformation of society**' by helping people to:

Love God
Love Others
Go and Make A Difference.

Our **four vision priorities** as a church are:

Empowering Young People - we want to empower, encourage, equip and evangelise the next generation to be whole-hearted followers of Jesus. We have particularly expressed this: at **St Matts** through launching a youth band; creating a permanent role to oversee ministry to young adults; relaunching and rebranding our student ministry; intentionally creating opportunities for young people to preach and lead; and continuing to grow our kids and youth ministry.

at **St Simons** through starting our first Sunday kids group which has grown steadily both in numbers and friendship over the rest of the year with mostly primary school age children. We are keen to move forward with plans for a local youth group and to explore possibilities for working with young babies and toddlers having had a mini baby boom in 2025!

Enhancing Spaces - we want to rethink our spaces to craft places that inspire and support growth. We have particularly expressed this:

at **St Matts** through starting essential works and surveys following the Quinquennial Inspection; installing HIVE systems to control heating systems; exploring opportunities to host events and welcome in community groups.

at **St Simons** through our wonderful grounds team has continued improving the site, alongside internal works redecorating the lower rooms and repairing the bell tower. We are beginning a new community garden with raised beds, and received Diocesan permission to further explore future possibilities for the church hall site to support local mission and ministry.

Enriching Community - we want to foster deep, meaningful connections to impact the city.

We have particularly expressed this:

at **St Matts** through partnering with Transforming Plymouth Together (TPT) and Path to provide accommodation for rough sleepers during the winter months; continuing to work as part of the Plymouth Soup Run team; and blessing our local community through the Love Christmas initiative.

at **St Simons** through events like summer BBQs and a new community café, creating space for friendship and belonging and looking to grow in invitation. We also blessed our local school through Love Christmas and welcomed hundreds to our Christmas services.

Engaging Prayer - we want to strengthen our spiritual foundations and harness prayer as the powerhouse for renewal. We have particularly expressed this:

at **St Matts** through hosting a 24/7 prayer week; preaching on prayer; relaunching prayer ministry; and introducing Fast and Pray May.

at **St Simons** through whole-church gatherings like Thy Kingdom Come, monthly meetings, and the continued faithful prayer particularly of our Tuesday congregation. In 2026, we plan to start Sunday prayer ministry and partnering with local churches to pray for our community.

Each of these four vision priorities reflects our heart as a church and where we believe the Lord is calling us to invest our time, energy and resources in this season. We will continue to lean into these over the coming year.

Staff team - during the year we had changes to our staff team, saying farewell to Claire & Paul Worth (Executive Director & Worship Pastor), Zoe Wilson (Student Pastor) and Terri Jackson (SWYM intern). We were delighted to welcome Rachael Hutchins as our Operations Director and Louis Winstone as Worship and Young Adults Pastor.

Love South West - this event took a break in Plymouth for 2025. We are networking with other local churches to reimagine and relaunch an impact weekend to 'pray, serve & invite' for 2026. We have felt challenged to refocus from the Friday night event back to blessing our local communities through the Saturday serve day. We're excited to embrace this new season of Love South West and look forward to unveiling plans for **5th-7th June 2026**.

Creation Fest - once again we headed off to Creation Fest as a church with around 80 people (including around 20 kids) camping on site and volunteering on teams. We loved being able to welcome many more of our church family coming as day visitors over the weekend and enjoyed a special lunch together on Sunday. We will be going again as a church family in 2026 for an extended weekend with churches across the South West for worship, teaching, prayer, fun and time together but plan to take a breather in 2027..

As you read the rest of this report, we hope you enjoy and are inspired by all that God is doing in and through us and all that lies ahead. Thank you so much for being part of this family and this God-adventure by the sea!

LOVE GOD - Sunday Services

CONTACTS

Database - 'Join the Adventure' cards												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2022	1375	1402	1417	1446	1458	1483	1488	*archiving	1353	*archiving	1131	1138
2023	1138	1176	1191	1223	1227	1224	1226	1234	1235	1267	1309	1318
2024	1310	1323	1330	1335	1340	1346	1352	1368	1370	1372	1376	1387
2025	1390	1399	1399	Database cleansing					1147	1187	1215	1214
2026	1225	1232										
Facebook - 'Followers'												
2022	2144	2100	2086	2096	2102	2106	2110	2134	2146	2158	2166	2170
2023	2197	2206	2220	2227	2232	2235			2192	2250	2300	2368
2024	2399	2386	2381	2378	2375	2373	2378	2387	2393	2398	2403	2411
2025	2418	2426	2428	2437	2440	2442			2432	2442	2449	2467
2026	2472	2477										
Instagram - 'Followers'												
2022	1667	1676	1680		1691	1697	1703	1700	1699	1710	1724	1738
2023	1740	1741	1743	1752	1756	1767			1758	1763	1767	1770
2024	1765	1750	1747	1749	1748	1748	1748	1748	1748	1756	1760	1758
2025	1754	1757	1759	1760	1763	1766	1769	1770	1774	1778	1782	1773
2026	1779	1781										

ELECTORAL ROLL - (members of the church's official register): **158** (as at 24th March 2025).

This was the year of a complete revision of the electoral roll and we were very pleased with the number who re-joined or signed up for the first time.

SUNDAY SERVICES

St Matts has two main Sunday services - **THE TEN & THE SIX** with an average weekly attendance of around 260 people across the two services - 215 adults & 45 children - and a further 80-100 for 'Church Online'.

St Simons has one Sunday service at **ELEVEN** which finished the year with an average attendance of around 50 people attending - 40 adults & 10 children. In addition the mid-week **TUESDAY** service at 10.00am has an average weekly attendance of 25 people.

Average Main Service Attendance													
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2022	TEN	118	131	156	225	207	170	137	153	175	166	182	139
2022	FIVE	96	124	147	108	132	98	98	55	65	132	109	168
2022	YouTube	156	121	111	157	110	98	110	82	72	85	110	102
	Total	370	376	414	490	449	366	345	290	312	383	401	356
2023	TEN	159	175	138	197	144	136	148	136	118	138	152	131
2023	FIVE	88	100	105	71	70	100	96	86	96	73	80	179
2023	YouTube	72	70	79	109	133	138	103	88	88	110	120	119
	Total	319	345	322	377	347	374	335	310	301	321	352	429
2024	TEN	149	143	206	148	132	120	122	105	160	154	146	174
2024	ELEVEN	-	-	-	-	-	33	36	34	30	33	37	90
2024	FIVE	92	86	84	70	68	65	48	-	-	-	-	-
2024	SIX	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	95	70	75	120
2024	YouTube	79	82	103	70	70	60	86	107	96	99	108	89
	Total	320	311	393	288	270	278	292	246	381	356	366	473
2025	TEN	180	162	157	195	147	138	132	130	133	138	145	158
2025	ELEVEN	-	30	32	42	35	36	40	-	40	37	42	153
2025	SIX	100	80	70	60	58	55	55	-	70	104	72	182
2025	YouTube	108	86	83	100	72	68	98	99	86	84	94	115
	Total	388	358	342	397	312	297	325	229	329	363	353	608

2026	TEN	134	129										
2026	ELEVEN	38	-										
2026	SIX	74	69										
2026	YouTube	103	96										
	Total	349	294										

BAPTISMS - It's been a joy to welcome people into the Christian faith and join with them as they publicly affirm their faith in Baptism.

Baptisms and Reaffirmations of Baptismal Vows					
	Spring	Summer	Autumn	Total over year	
2022	8	9	6	23	
2023	7	7	5	19	
2024	-	12	5	17	
2025	9	8	9	26	

CHILDREN & YOUTH - Amy Wheeler (Kids & Youth Pastor)

Vision

Our vision is to love and serve the children and young people of St Matts and beyond, helping them become wholehearted followers of Jesus. This is rooted in Proverbs 22:6: "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it."

Everything we do centres around building faith, having fun and forming strong friendships.

Age Groups & Curriculum

Creche (0-2s with parents)

Based in the downstairs office with a live stream of the service, toys and space for parents to sit comfortably.

This year we rebranded all our Sunday morning groups, giving each room its own name and identity. This has helped children and young people recognise their stage of faith and belonging, especially as we were able to split our growing youth group into two.

Bubbles (2-4.5s)

Lower hall. Play and creative learning focused. We continue to use Scripture Union's Tiddlywinks.

Splash (4.5-9s)

Upper hall. Building strong foundations in discipleship and fellowship using Faith in Kids curriculum.

Waves (9-11s)

Join worship in church, then head to the Library. Preparing children to live confidently as young followers of Jesus. Faith in Kids is also used here.

Breakers (11-14s) & Depths (14-18s)

Meet in the Youth room and Staff office after Worship in church. The focus is helping young people explore and strengthen their personal faith. Breakers use Youth for Christ resources. Depths follow a curriculum written in house.

Team

We have 34 volunteers across Kids, including one young person serving monthly, and 20 volunteers in Youth for both Sundays and Thursdays.

This year we introduced a Room Coordinator role for every Sunday age group. Coordinators carry leadership responsibility for their room, meet with Amy termly, and gather their team each term to review what is going well and what could improve.

We have also refreshed team T shirts and lanyards to improve visibility and safeguarding. This has positively impacted team morale and clarity of roles.

Light Parties

Our Halloween outreach ran three events in one day:

- Pumpkin Patch (Under 5s): 30 families
- Funfair Party (5–11s): 55 children
- Youth Escape Room (11–18s): 24 young people

Schools

We are intentionally investing in the two schools on our doorstep: Mount Street Primary School and Plymouth High School for Girls. A weekly Christian Union now runs at Plymouth High School for Girls every Thursday lunchtime. With Mount Street we deliver a termly assembly and support families through Love Christmas hampers.

Mini Matts

Mini Matts continues to welcome 10–15 families each Thursday morning. It is led by Amy and Bec. We are currently praying for another volunteer to assist with set up.

Outreach

Amy serves on a core team alongside SWYM, Youth for Christ, and other local churches to lead Ignite, a termly citywide youth gathering. Three gatherings have taken place so far, with the next in May.

In August we partnered with Transforming Plymouth Together to host Lighthouse Lunch, supporting families during the holidays. We plan to continue these during future school breaks, with the next scheduled for Easter.

Vision & Next Steps

- Prayerfully seeking a new Kids & Youth intern for September.
- Taking Youth and Year 5 and 6 to Spree again this year.

We are thankful for all that God is doing and remain expectant for what is to come.

Children & Youth - St Matts Average Weekly Service Attendance												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2022	45	48	52	48	58	51	57	36	48	45	52	28
2023	37	42	37	45	42	40	42	18	32	41	40	42
2024	39	38	38	36	39	37	42	35	35	45	49	46
2025	51	48	48	39	33	41	44	38	48	42	44	39
2026	45	44										
Children & Youth - St Simons Average Weekly Service Attendance												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2024						7	8	10	8	9	4	25
2025	6	4	7	9	5	10	10	/	10	8	12	42
2026	11											
Children & Youth - Total Contacts on Database												
2022	668	673	676	680	688	707	711	592	602	604	606	612
2023	612	621	625	629	634	637	641	645	647	652	659	660
2024	664	666	668	672	687	691	695	699	705	716	724	725
2025	727	729	733	736	737	738	741	743	746	749	751	755
2026	759	762										
Youth Nights												
2022		6	8	9	10	9	-	-	10	10	8	6
2023	7	8	6	8	8	6	7	-	8	10	7	7
2024	10	11	10	10	10	10	-	-	15	16	14	17
2025	16	15	14	14	15	16	-	-	16	14	12	13
2026	10	10										

Youth Band - Louis Wintone (Worship & Young Adults Pastor)

The Youth Band was started at St Matts in January 2025, led by Paul and Claire Worth. A small team has formed with 9 youth attending regularly. Louis took over in September with the change in Worship Pastor. Throughout the year there has been the opportunity to lead worship at three services across the year with the group growing in confidence each time. It has also been encouraging to see those attending coming to understand the heart behind worship and gaining a vision for what it means to lead corporate worship.

Looking ahead there are plans to give the youth more opportunities to serve alongside current members of the worship team, and to continue to foster their growth as disciples of Jesus in the context of the worship.

YOUNG ADULTS MINISTRY - Louis Winstone

In Summer 2025 St Matts 'Student Ministry' evolved into a more broadly focused young adults ministry serving all those aged 18-25. Following this, Young Adult Nights began weekly on Thursdays in September. This key part of the ministry runs on an alternating cycle of Small Group Nights with food, community time and this year the Bible Course, and Gathered Nights consisting of worship, a talk, response time and games. The year ended with a Christmas Party which was great fun for all involved. Around 30 young adults gather each Thursday with around 70 engaged in the life of the church, attending at both Sunday services, engaging in small groups and serving across all teams.

There has been real growth amongst the community over the Autumn Term in terms of friendships as well as in faith and learning particularly through the Bible Course which has sparked good conversations and has been really helpful for those newer to faith. Excitingly we are seeing a steady stream of young adults trying out church, coming to know Jesus for the

first time or rekindling their childhood faith. We are praying both for this to continue as we long to see more of God at work in this generation, and for us as a church to be able to meet them where they're at and for them to be disciplined in the way of Jesus.

The Young Adults Ministry is facilitated by a committed core team of 7 people who have really taken ownership of building community amongst 18-25s, welcoming new students in September and running Young Adult Nights. With Zoe moving as the Student Pastor in the Summer and Louis joining in September as the Young Adults Pastor this team has played a key role in supporting and shaping the ministry.

Looking ahead we are running 'Host A Roast' in March and are hoping to get involved with the Love South West serve day in June. In the Spring we are also hosting a Discipleship Training Event with the organisation Fusion alongside a few churches in Plymouth to be inspired to grow in evangelism. There is also the opportunity moving forward to develop our relationships with the universities' Christian Unions and other churches in the city as we work together to make Jesus known amongst the students and young adults of Plymouth.

Students - connected with community												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Instagram - @stmstudents												
2022	419	422	430	433	439	439	439	436	434	445	469	471
2023	473	474	475	472	468	465	465	466	466	487	495	495
2024	495	494	492	489	488	488	488	489	489	490	492	489
2025	484	489	489	489	489	489			483	488	493	487
2026	489	491										
Student Nights												
2022	-	40	45	45	49	49	-	-	45	45	45	45
2023	50	40	40	40	40	-	-	-	30-40	30-40	20-35	45 party
2024	35	35	35	37	37	-	-	-	31	31	31	31
2025	31	32	31	30	29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Young Adults Nights - 18 - 25s												
2025	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25	38	30	40
2026	30	30										

LOVE OTHERS

SMALL GROUPS - Revd Mike Knight

Small Groups have one, simple purpose - to bring people together. We believe God created us to live in community with others and only then can we experience the full life he intends for us. Small Groups provide a place for us to **connect with others**, **share life**, and **grow in faith** together. We believe life-change happens in the context of relationships. Our belief and vision is that St Matts is a church **of** Small Groups, not a church **with** Small Groups.

Small groups are a core part of our church life. We have had a solid number of small groups running through (around 20-25). We have encouraged more longer term discipleship based groups to start this year. So although we have fewer groups than in some previous years we are seeing a greater consistency through the year in these groups. We have made this clear on

our sign up website too differentiating between those groups that meet mainly around longer term friendship, discipleship, prayer and bible study, and meet mostly in people's homes; and those that meet around a particular shared activity. Both are great spaces to connect with others and grow in faith and friendship together. We have also run training in the autumn as a space both to grow in leadership of our groups as well as to help new leaders to get up and running with new groups.

Small Groups				
		Spring	Summer	Autumn
2022	Groups	43	41	44
	Leaders	55	52	48
	Members	410	355	330
2023	Groups	45	33	24
	Leaders	55	45	30
	Members	345	251	286
2024	Groups	24	20	21
	Leaders	34	28	28
	Members	250	194	178
2025	Groups	23	21	22
	Leaders	34	25	28
	Members	164	139	179
2026	Groups	20		
	Leaders	23		
	Members	135		

DREAM TEAM

Every member of St Matts and St Simons is encouraged to serve on the **Dream Team** whether it's helping with Kids Church, Worship, Welcome, Production, Cafe, Students, Youth, Small Group Leadership, Prayer Team, or Services Team. A MASSIVE thank you to everyone who serves in whatever capacity - we truly appreciate the many ways you live out our value of being #blessed to bless.

GIVING

It is a privilege and a joy to be able to give to God as part of our worship. We encourage everyone who calls St Matts and St Simons 'home' to develop godly practices with their finances including giving to support the work of the church. We now mention giving at every service and we thanks to the generous donation by the Diocese of Exeter of a new giving machine have improved our contactless options.

We had an encouraging response to Giving Sundays throughout the year and this played a large part in enabling us to end the year with a small surplus rather than the projected deficit. We're continuing to pray for an increase in our number of givers and total giving to enable us to move forwards with confidence into the exciting vision we have. We are very grateful to God for everyone who gives financially into the life of the church which enables us to flourish and grow as a church family and bless the city, region and further afield.

GIVING: Number of individual monthly givers & monthly amounts given														
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2022	Givers	130	132	170	143	152	139	173	135	141	157	148	171	155
	Amount	15450	14938	19089	15810	16913	14586	16,438	14,457	15634	17829	14660	13993	189797
2023	Givers	135	131	130	139	130	131	126	115	112	131	113	107	125
	Amount	14826	14166	13682	16347	14,231	15,083	13,420	13,041	13,352	13,617	13,338	12678	167781
2024	Givers	111	104	104	95	89	89	91	105	111	127	106	102	103
	Amount	13122	12664	12728	10834	12418	12141	13419	11,128	11,084	15,767	14,815	17,015	157135
2025	Givers	110	111	121	116	107	102	105	100	103	106	107	104	108
	Amount	14,837	17,374	16,113	16,746	15,275	15,270	14,988	13,985	15,055	14,627	£16,638	16,073	186,981
2026	Givers	101												
	Amount	14,618												

GO AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE

ALPHA

We encourage members of the congregation to share their faith with others in their everyday life. We also run the Alpha course as a more intentional way of providing an opportunity for people wanting to investigate Christianity or are new to faith.

This year at St Simons we ran Alpha during the summer months. We had regular attendance of around 20 people which was a mixture of people who are brand new to faith as well as those who have been around church for much longer. Most of these already had an ongoing connection to the church so we had a good consistent attendance. The Holy Spirit day was particularly special, with opportunities to pray for many who haven't had the opportunity before. We were really grateful to those who helped run the course and especially to cook for us!

Alpha				
	SPRING	SUMMER	AUTUMN	Total
2021 attendees	29	-	-	29
2022 attendees	50	-	-	50
2023 attendees	20	-	-	20
2024 attendees	25	-	-	25
2025 attendees	25	20		45

SOUP RUN - Jill & Jerry Morris

Plymouth Soup Run operates every night with teams from churches, community and business groups from across the city and beyond. It serves at 4 stops, offering food and other supplies, but also support, being a link to other services, in particular PATH (Plymouth access to housing). This winter has seen an even closer collaboration with them via Project 58.7 which some of our team have also been involved with.

St Matts team serves on alternate Tuesdays, with a wonderfully dedicated team of volunteers. Currently this consists of a strong core of mostly church members, including 1 family with 2 youngsters, but also volunteers from other churches and the community.

Volunteers come and go, but we usually have enough on any one night to have separate teams for food prep and going out, except perhaps around the holiday seasons when we might enlist help from family.

We are often, or occasionally, joined by students from the church, Dof E placements, and a business team.

In the 6 years we've been a part of this ministry we have seen a significant increase in need. Facts and figures are carefully documented by the coordinators of Plymouth Soup Run, but the increase is noticeable, and our team now prepares around 100 hot meals each time, far more than when we began.

We also provide homemade soup, hot drinks, sandwiches, snack bags, fruit, and various other items of food. Each session, food is collected from Fareshare and skillfully turned into hot meals by Sheena and her kitchen team. We are extremely grateful for her ongoing commitment to the ministry.

We also feel incredibly blessed to have a team who willingly turn their hands to anything, whether on food prep, washing pans, or chopping mountains of veg etc, or braving the weather to go out, it really can be challenging serving food in a downpour. All the work is undertaken with smiles and good humour.

None of what we do would be possible without money, so we would like to say a big thank you to the church leaders, pcc and individuals for the continued generous financial support which enables us to purchase the food and disposable items, (hot food containers, cups etc) required to serve it in.

We also receive donations of sleeping bags and blankets, toiletries, extra food and some essential clothes items, from individuals and via central soup run appeals, such as the reverse advent calendar appeal. Our cupboards are currently well stocked with items that make a difference to the people we serve. Thank you.

OTHER ACTIVITIES/REPORTS DURING THE YEAR

BUILDINGS & MAINTENANCE REPORT - Rachael Hutchins (Operations Manager)

Church roof – As reported last year, the lead on the roof over both aisles is very old and has come to the end of its life. A visit from the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) at the end of 2025 ruled out the possibility of the previously explored use of a Hybrid Liquid Plastic System as a medium term solution, so we are now looking at a big project in the coming year to re-lead both roofs, adding insulation at the same time. We hope to cover much of the cost of this through applying for grants.

Church heating – The Diocese has told us that we are unable to replace our heaters like for like as they are not eco-friendly, but we have been able to source parts to fix them now, so

hopefully we can keep them going for a few more years. We have very limited options for replacing the system entirely, due to the Church of England's target to be net zero carbon by 2030.

Quinquennial report – The most recent report was done in September 2024 and we are working our way through the list of things that need work within the five-year timeframe. The most significant work, aside from the roof, involves repairing the stonework around several windows.

Other works completed this year include moving the production studio from the South Porch to the Vestry, allowing the South Porch to become a fire exit, meaning we can increase our capacity for numbers of people in the building which opens up options for hosting large events. Minor works such as replacing or upgrading lighting in the church and hall have also been carried out, as well as pressure washing the walkways and adding yellow paint to the step outside the hall to make it more visible.

In 2026 we are planning some significant projects, including work on the church roof, café floor, hall roof, stonework around the windows, lower hall floor and garden. We are also planning our first 'Big Church Spring Clean' in March which will hopefully make the church and halls look brighter and more welcoming.

MISSIONS - St Matts 'tithes' 10% of its income to other local, national and international charities and mission organisations including:

- **2% - Trevi House / Sunflower Project** (<https://trevi.org.uk/>) - Trevi is a nationally award-winning women's and children's charity based in St Matts parish, Plymouth providing safe and nurturing spaces for women in recovery to heal, grow and thrive.
- **2% - Shekinah** (<https://shekinah.co.uk/>) - South West charity providing opportunities for people who are experiencing all forms of homelessness.
- **2% Creation Fest** (<https://creationfest.org.uk/>) - regional Christian festival supporting and encouraging the church in the South West.
- **2% - Church Planting Fund** - a fund to support and enable church planting in and around Plymouth through St Matts.
- **2%** - St Matts 'Missionary Fund'** - a fund providing small grants to support St Matts members with missionary endeavours.
- **St Matts 'Acts 4 Fund'** - a fund providing small grants for St Matts members in financial hardship

**If / when the balance of the hardship fund drops below £4,000, 1% of giving received will be allocated to this fund and giving to the St Matts missionary fund will be reduced to 1%.

This historical allocation of funds was reviewed by the PCC at the end of 2025 to reflect the new partnerships we have been exploring. In particular we are excited to begin supporting Transforming Plymouth Together (TPT), Safe Families/Home for Good, and Mercy Ships.

FINANCE REPORT – Adam Taylor (Treasurer)

This year the charity received a total income of £272,364. The vast majority of this income (£193,817) was from voluntary giving and we were able to claim £39,505 in Gift Aid on this. Total income also includes £27,524 generated from the hire of the church and hall and £11,518 received from a combination of grants, donations, fees and bank interest.

Expenditure in the year came to £308,645 and from the summary you can see that for 2025 we have separated out the maintenance and running costs for the two church buildings. We are extremely encouraged and grateful to report an operational surplus of £1,715 for 2026 despite a budgeted deficit of over £33,000. This was achieved through a combination of higher than anticipated levels of giving, reduced staffing costs and lower expenditure than budgeted for St Simon's. Sunday teaching focused on giving as part of discipleship in both May and October which led to new regular givers signing up and an increase in regular giving amounts.

Overall the accounts show a deficit of £36,381 once the £19,948 charge for depreciation on fixed assets and the strategic use of £16,333 (net) from former endowment fund reserves to cover specific expenditure is included. In 2025, £4,747 from these funds was used to support provision of a SW Youth Ministries worker for part of the year, whilst £1,467 was used to purchase office tech. St Simon's used £1,782 (net) of designated reserves towards fabric project expenditure, leaving an end of year balance of £88,632. The Acts 4 Fund, which supports church members in financial difficulty, has paid out £2,500 in grants and the end of year fund balance is £5,110. The Mission Fund which exists to provide small grants for those involved in mission activities at home or abroad, stands at £8,074. Information about these funds is available on the website and from the PCC.

Investment policy

In accordance with the charity's governing document, the Trustees have the power to invest funds in any investments that they see fit. The policy is to adopt a low-risk strategy while maximising returns. The Trustees are satisfied that the policy adopted remains adequate and appropriate.

Reserves policy

As is best practice, it is the policy of the Trustees to maintain unrestricted funds, which are free reserves, at a sufficient level to secure the continued provision of normal charitable activities for a maximum period of six months.

Adam Taylor

Treasurer

Trustees' Responsibilities - Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity at the end of the year and of the surplus or deficiency for the year then ended.

In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to select suitable accounting policies, as described later in the accounts, and then apply them on a consistent basis, making judgements and estimates that are prudent and reasonable. The trustees must also prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Safeguarding

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

Independent Examination

A resolution to appoint Tony Jopson & Co. as independent examiners for the ensuing year will be proposed at the next APCM during which the financial statements are approved in accordance with the Charities Act 2011

On behalf of the PCC



Sophie Chatten, Priest In Charge

Date: 2nd March 2026

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF CHARLES WITH ST
MATTHIAS YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025

I report on the attached accounts of the Parochial Church Council ("PCC") for the year ended 31 December 2025, in respect of an examination carried out under regulation 3 of the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 to 2001 and Section 145, Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act").

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees (members of the PCC) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 144 of the 2011 Act and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b)) of the 2011 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 Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with these records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters as set out in the statement below.

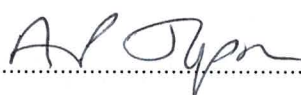
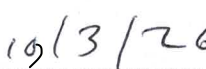
Independent Examiner's Statement

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 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 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.

 _____  _____

A P Jopson, FCA

Date

(Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales)

Tony Jopson & Co Ltd, Peverell Corner, 246 Peverell Park Road, Plymouth, PL3 4QG

The Parochial Church Council of Charles with St Mathias, Plymouth

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Year Ending 31 December 2025

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (SOFA)

	Note	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
		General £	Designated £	£	£	£	£
Income from							
Donations and legacies:							
Regular giving	2	232,861	461	0	0	233,322	239,740
Other voluntary receipts	3	230	1,250	0	0	1,480	972
Church activities	4	33,498	0	0	0	33,498	39,119
Investments	5	4,064	0	0	0	4,064	3,956
Total Income		270,653	1,711	0	0	272,364	283,787
Expenditure on							
Church activities	6	276,951	6,999	24,695	0	308,645	311,936
Total Expenditure		276,951	6,999	24,695	0	308,645	311,936
Net income / (expenditure) before investment gains / (losses)		-6,298	-5,288	-24,695	0	-36,281	-28,149
Net gains / (losses) on investments		0	0	0	0	0	0
Net income / (expenditure)		-6,298	-5,288	-24,695	0	-36,281	-28,149
Transfers between funds		-85,680	85,680	0	0	0	0
Transfers in of 3 charities							
Assets controlled by PCC		0	0	0	0	0	0
Net movement in funds		-91,978	80,393	-24,695	0	-36,280	-28,149
Total funds brought forward		91,980	189,035	45,957	0	326,971	355,120
Total funds carried forward	11	1	269,428	21,262	0	290,691	326,971

The Parochial Church Council of Charles with St Mathias, Plymouth

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Year Ending 31 December 2025

BALANCE SHEET

	Note	2025		2024	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets	8				
Freehold investment property			0		0
Furniture, fixtures and fittings			11,574		19,534
Audio visual equipment			8,397		20,386
Investments			0		0
			<u>19,970</u>		<u>39,919</u>
Current Assets					
Debtors	9	3,248		19,095	
Cash on deposit		203,145		256,959	
Cash at bank and in hand		71,866		18,753	
		<u>278,259</u>		<u>294,807</u>	
Creditors					
Falling due within one year	10	<u>7,538</u>		<u>7,755</u>	
Net Current Assets			270,721		287,052
Total Assets less Current Liabilities			290,691		326,971
Creditors					
Falling due after more than one year			0		0
Net Assets			<u><u>290,691</u></u>		<u><u>326,971</u></u>
Funds	11				
Endowment funds			0		0
Designated funds			269,428		181,886
Restricted funds			21,262		53,105
Unrestricted funds			1		91,980
Total Funds			<u><u>290,691</u></u>		<u><u>326,971</u></u>

The financial statements were approved by the Parochial Church Council on 19/03/2026 and signed on its behalf by:

Schatten
Rev S Chatten
Vicar

ARTaylor
Mr A Taylor
Treasurer

The Parochial Church Council of Charles with St Matthias, Plymouth

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year Ending 31 December 2025

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS 102).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention, except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at fair value.

The PCC meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the PCC.

Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis. There are no material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubts upon the PCC's ability to continue as a going concern.

Funds

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

Restricted funds are amounts which have been received by the PCC with specific directions concerning the way in which capital and any income arising are to be expended.

Endowment funds are sums which are held by or on behalf of the PCC and where only the income can be spent, with the capital being retained permanently, or at the PCC's discretion, and invested.

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

Income

Donations and legacies: Planned giving, collections and general donations are recognised only when received. Gift aid recoverable on donations is recognised when the donation is received. Grants and legacies to the PCC are recognised as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is probable.

The Parochial Church Council of Charles with St Matthias, Plymouth

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year Ending 31 December 2025

Charitable activities: Income from church fee income is recognised when the fee is due. Income from activities is accounted for gross.

Other trading activities: Rental income is recognised when the rent is due. Where income is received in advance, it is recognised in the year in which the event takes place that it relates to.

Investments: Interest entitlements are accounted for as they accrue. Dividends are accounted for when due and payable.

Expenditure

Raising funds: Expenditure on raising funds is accounted for on the accruals basis. Raising funds includes the costs of the investment property.

Charitable activities: Expenditure on charitable activities is accounted for on the accruals basis. The diocesan common fund is accounted for when payable. Any unpaid amount at 31 December is provided for in these accounts as an operational (although not legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the balance sheet. Grants are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

Tangible fixed assets

Consecrated land and buildings and moveable church furnishing: Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s10(2)(a) of the Charities Act 2011. No value is placed on moveable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers this to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings and moveable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the SOFA and separately disclosed.

Freehold property: Freehold property is valued at purchase price. In the opinion of the PCC members, depreciation of freehold properties would be immaterial and has not been charged. The members carry out an annual impairment review, and in their opinion no provision is necessary in respect of the value at which freehold properties are included in the financial statements.

Other fixed assets: Other fixed assets are recognised at cost. Individual assets with a purchase price less than £1,000 are written off when the asset is acquired. Depreciation has been provided on other fixed assets on a straight-line basis in order to write off the cost of the assets over the following estimated useful lives:

- Fixtures and fittings - 10 years
- Computers and equipment - 5 years

The Parochial Church Council of Charles with St Matthias, Plymouth

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year Ending 31 December 2025

Investment properties

Investment properties are included in the balance sheet at their open market value in accordance with FRS 102 and are not depreciated.

Investments

Investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price. The SOFA includes net gains and losses arising on revaluations and disposals throughout the year.

Debtors

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors less provision for any amounts that may prove uncollectible. These are recognised initially at the settlement amount. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid, net of any trade discounts due.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, and other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

Creditors

Creditors are recognised when the PCC has an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Creditors are recognised at the amount that the PCC anticipates it will pay to settle the debt, or the amount it has received as advanced payment for the goods or services it must provide.

Financial instruments

The church only has financial assets and liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. All (including debtors and creditors) are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

The Parochial Church Council of Charles with St Mathias, Plymouth

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
Year Ending 31 December 2025

		Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
		General £	Designated £	£	£	£	£
2	Regular giving						
	Planned giving inc. envelopes	188,398	388	0	0	188,786	200,113
	Collections at services	5,031	0	0	0	5,031	6,393
	Income tax recovered	39,431	73	0	0	39,505	33,234
		232,861	461	0	0	233,322	239,740
3	Other voluntary receipts						
	Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme	230	0	0	0	230	972
	Four Greens Community Trust grant	0	1,000	0	0	1,000	0
	The Social Change grant	0	250	0	0	250	0
	Hardship fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
		230	1,250	0	0	1,480	972
4	Income from church activities						
	Statutory fees - weddings, funerals, etc.	1,068	0	0	0	1,068	1,119
	Miscellaneous	2,100	0	0	0	2,100	9,048
	Gross income (solar panels)	2,806	0	0	0	2,806	2,103
	Gross income (hall lettings)	27,524	0	0	0	27,524	26,849
		33,498	0	0	0	33,498	39,119
5	Income from investments						
	Profit from sale of investments	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Dividends & interest	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Bank interest received	4,064	0	0	0	4,064	3,956
		4,064	0	0	0	4,064	3,956
	Total Income	270,653	1,711	0	0	272,364	283,787
6	Expenditure on charitable activities						
	Ministry: common fund	60,300	0	0	0	60,300	57,400
	Church running expenses - St Matts	25,147	0	0	0	25,147	19,457
	Church maintenance - St Matts	3,631	0	0	0	3,631	15,489
	Church running expenses - St Simons	8,397	0	0	0	8,397	0
	Church maintenance - St Simons	1,339	3,032	0	0	4,371	0
	Upkeep of services	6,958	0	0	0	6,958	16,821
	Music and production	7,100	0	0	0	7,100	6,782
	Parish hall – services and maintenance	17,149	0	0	0	17,149	16,414
	Events and other parish expenditure	2,909	0	0	0	2,909	3,705
	Youth / student work	2,999	0	0	0	2,999	2,888
	Salaries and fees	116,651	0	4,747	0	121,398	127,224
	Training	2,103	0	0	0	2,103	2,014
	External giving	14,405	2,500	0	0	16,905	13,542
	Depreciation	0	0	19,948	0	19,948	19,948
	Administration	7,463	1,467	0	0	8,930	9,851
	Accountant's fees	400	0	0	0	400	400
	Total Expenditure	276,951	6,999	24,695	0	308,645	311,936

7 Transactions with PCC members and related parties

- None of the members of the PCC were remunerated or reimbursed for their expenses in their capacity as PCC members.
- Hannah Bowker was paid £21,588 for her role as Church Centre Manager. Louis Winstone was paid £7,996 for his role as Worship & Young Adults Pastor.
- During 2025, the PCC received £45,284 in donations from Trustees. The donors did not attach any conditions to their gift which required the charity to significantly alter the nature of its existing activities.

The Parochial Church Council of Charles with St Mathias, Plymouth

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
Year Ending 31 December 2025

		Investment Property £	A/V & IT Equipment £	Furniture, Fixtures & Fittings £	Total £	
8	Tangible fixed assets					
	Cost or valuation					
	At 1/1/25	0	119,887	79,595	199,482	
	Additions	0	0	0	0	
	At 31/12/25	0	119,887	79,595	199,482	
	Depreciation					
	At 1/1/25	0	99,501	60,062	159,563	
	Charge for the year	0	11,989	7,960	19,948	
	At 31/12/25	0	111,490	68,022	179,511	
	Net book value					
	At 31/12/2025	0	8,397	11,574	19,970	
	At 31/12/2024	0	20,386	19,533	39,919	
9	Debtors	31/12/25 £		31/12/24 £		
	Gift Aid reclaimable	3,073		2,852		
	Prepayments	0		0		
	Rent due	0		7,291		
	Solar feed-in	0		0		
	Other debtors	174		8952		
		3,248		19,095		
10	Creditors	31/12/25 £		31/12/24 £		
	Fees due	0		0		
	Other creditors	4,551		4,008		
	Accrued expenses	2,986		3,747		
		7,538		7,755		
11	Funds	Bal b/fwd £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Bal c/fwd £
	General - unrestricted	91,980	270,653	276,951	-85,680	1
	Church planting - designated	12,267			3,869	16,136
	Casual reserves - designated	0			7,943	7,943
	Capital purchases - designated	0			45,000	45,000
	Younger generations - designated	0			10,000	10,000
	Social action / start up - designated	0			10,000	10,000
	Media & technology - designated	0		1,467	5,000	3,533
	St Simons - designated	90,414	1,250	3,032		88,632
	Mission - designated	4,205			3,869	8,074
	Reserves - designated	75,000				75,000
	Hardship fund - designated	7,149	461	2,500		5,110
	Youth & media - restricted	6,040		4,747		1,294
	Fixed assets - restricted	39,917		19,948		19,969
		326,972	272,364	308,645	0	290,691

Accounts



**Annual Report and
Financial Statements
of the Parochial Church Council
for the year ended 31 December 2024**

Incumbent

Sophie Chatten

Bank:

The Co-Operative Bank
Skelmersdale
WN86WT

Independent Examiner:

Tony Jopson & Co.
246 Peverell Park Road
Plymouth PL3 4QG

Registered Charity Number:

1134139

**The Parish Church of Charles with St Matthias and St Simons
'St Matts Plymouth'**

North Hill, Plymouth, PL4 8HF
stmplymouth.org.uk



THE **EVANGELISATION** OF THE NATIONS
THE **REVITALISATION** OF THE CHURCH AND THE **TRANSFORMATION** OF SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024
(presented Sunday 27th April 2025)

'CHARLES WITH ST MATTHIAS AND ST SIMON '

Diocesan ID - 9187

Registered Charity Number - 1134139

PURPOSE - St Matts is a **City Centre Resource Church** with a vision to play it's part in the:

The **EVANGELISATION** of the nations;

The **REVITALISATION** of the Church;

The **TRANSFORMATION** of society.

MISSION - St Matts aims to fulfil this vision through four operating lenses:

KNOW GOD - We want everyone to come into a personal relationship with Jesus. We do this principally through our **Sunday Services** and encouraging people in their own personal faith journey.

FIND FREEDOM - We want everyone to grow in their relationship with God and to discover freedom and life. We believe this happens supremely in community with others in midweek **Small Groups** where we can grow in life, faith and friendship.

DISCOVER PURPOSE - We want everyone to discover their purpose in life. We do this through our **Join the Adventure sessions** providing people with an opportunity to learn how to get the most out of their faith and how God has made them.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE - We want everyone to get up and running living a life of service and blessing. Through our **Dream Team** of volunteers we hope to connect every person with an area of the church's life that energises them, blesses others and spills out into other areas of their life.

Background - The church was launched on **25 September 2016** by Revd Olly & Ali Ryder and a small staff & volunteer team, at the invitation of the Bishops of Exeter and Plymouth in partnership with Holy Trinity Brompton, London. As part of St Matts heart for revitalisation, the church agreed to pastoral reorganisation to include a neighbouring closed church leading to the new Parish of Charles with St Matthias and St Simon being formed on **25 November 2021**. Since **29 February 2024** St Matts has been led by Revd Sophie Chatten. Sunday services at the St Simons recommenced on **19 May 2024** headed up by Assistant Vicar Revd Mike Knight. St Matts and St Simon is part of the **Plymouth City Deanery** in the **Diocese of Exeter** in the **Church of England**. The parish's administrative centre is based at St Matts at the top of North Hill, Plymouth, PL4 8HF.

Structure, Governance and Management - St Matts and St Simons is led by the **PCC** (Parochial Church Council). The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church of England's '*Church Representation Rules*'. All church attendees who consider themselves as belonging to the worshipping community of St Matts are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll. All those on the Electoral Roll may stand for election on the PCC. The Church Council should reflect the diversity of the church and local community. PCC members are re-elected every three years. The Church Council has responsibility, alongside the Vicar, staff team, and lay pastors, of fulfilling the church's vision. PCC members who served from **April 2024** until the date this report was approved are:

PCC Members

Ex-Officio Members

Vicar and Chairman	Sophie Chatten
Assistant Curate	Mike Knight
Assistant Curate	Liz Grier
Assistant Curate	James Harding

Church Wardens

Steve Campion	Elected 2023
Sally Pearson	Elected 2022

Elected annually up to six successive years

Deanery Synod Members

Teressa Cornish	Treasurer	Elected 2022
Jeff Stephenson		Elected 2022

Elected every three years

Safeguarding Representative

Mark Pearson	Appointed 2024
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Other Members

Neil Mawson	Elected 2022
Sam Ansell	Elected 2022
Jonny Wilson	Elected 2022
Lizzie Philips	Elected 2023
Amy McCusker	Elected 2023
Peter Horton	Elected 2023
Graham Stirling	Elected 2024

Alston Chan	Elected 2024
Radu Ciubotararu	Elected 2024
Debs Marks	Elected 2024
<i>Vacant</i>	Elected 2023
<i>Vacant</i>	Elected 2024

Co-Opted Members

Hannah Bowker	Secretary	[re-elected annually since 2017]
Claire Worth	Staff - Executive Director	[re-elected annually since 2017]

Staff Team - (as of April 2024)

Claire Worth	Executive Director
Mike Knight	Associate Minister
Teressa Cornish	Ordinand
Paul Worth	Worship Pastor
Amy Wheeler	Kids & Youth Pastor
Terri Jackson	Kids & Youth Pastor Intern
Zoe Wilson	Student Pastor
Hannah Bowker	Church Coordinator & Executive Assistant

ANNUAL REVIEW - 2023/24

St Matts has completed its **eighth** full year as a '**HTB Network' City Centre Resource Church** with a vision to play its part in the '**evangelisation of the nations, the revitalisation of the church and the transformation of society**' by helping people to know God, find freedom, discover purpose and make a difference. The church has grown from a small group of 30-50 to a post pandemic level of 300+ every Sunday.

This past year has been an exciting year of change for St Matts. We were delighted to welcome Sophie, Simon and their boys as Sophie took up the post of Priest-in-Charge. The licensing service was an immensely special occasion that provided a great opportunity to introduce Sophie to the church and community.

In addition to this, we also had the joy of appointing Revd Mike Knight to the post of Associate Vicar with particular responsibility for St Simons. Having been greatly blessed by Mike's ministry during his time as training curate we were thrilled that he, Roxy and the boys would continue to minister as part of our church family.

St Matts - over the last year at St Matts we've continued to meet and provide a space for encounter and encouragement with our whole church family and visitors at our **Sunday Services** offering both 'in-person' and 'online' provision. In September we relaunched the evening service at the revised time of six o'clock. Over the year we've continued to have around 2-300 people gathering every Sunday in the building at the Ten and Five/Six, as well as around 50-100 online over the course of a Sunday and 40-50 children/ young people. We've also continued providing smaller midweek communities for people to grow in faith and friendship through our **Small Groups** - this term there have been 30 groups.

In September we relaunched our vision priorities for the coming years: **empowering young people, enhancing spaces, enriching community, engaging prayer**. Each of these reflects our heart as a church and where we believe the Lord is calling us to invest our time, energy and resources in this season.

In the coming year we hope to move forwards with our plans to redevelop the church halls with a view to making them more accessible and available to our local community whilst also opening up the possibilities for an increase in income through lettings. We have some major work needed following our Quinquennial Inspection, most notably repairs to the roof and the windows.

St Simons - 19 May 2024 marked the launch of Sunday services at **St Simons**. There had been a faithful and growing community worshipping mid-week for a few years and we were overjoyed to start worshipping on Sundays too. We saw over 150 people for the launch which included many people from the immediate local area. Mike's role changed early in the year to become Associate Vicar with responsibility for St Simons. He's thankful for all your prayers and support and especially to the St Simons community who have given so much to make church possible in this new location. We have settled into a weekly rhythm of services with around 20-30 still attending on Tuesdays and around 40 on Sundays.

The first 6 months have been a time of growing a new community, teams and patterns (we especially love enjoying lunch together once a month) and there have also been some great opportunities to link up with people from the local community- especially with summer BBQ's and Christmas services. Lots of work has been done to the building including clearing tonnes of pigeon much in the bell tower, getting the heating working and redecorating the lower rooms which are now being used for our first St Simons kids group! Please be praying for us in 2025 as we look to connect further with the local community, start new things and seek God's way forward for the church hall site.

Staff team - during the year we had changes to our staff team, welcoming Paul Worth as Worship Pastor and Zoe Wilson as Student Pastor. With Lizzie Roberts successfully completing her year as a SWYM (South West Youth Ministries) intern in August we were pleased to have Terri Jackson start her SWYM internship in September.

Love South West - in a change to the usual pattern for LSW, we had three gatherings happening simultaneously in Liskeard ('Love Cornwall'), Barnstaple ('Love North Devon') and Plymouth. Each venue hosted a Kingdom Come night on Fri 17th May where a total of 600 people from across the region gathered to pray for our churches, our communities, our country. At St Matts people were encouraged to run social action projects in their local communities on Sat 18 May; and to invite people to either 'Try Church' at St Matts or to head to the launch of St Simons on Sun 19 May. We loved running this event in collaboration with other areas of the South West and plans are already in place to follow a similar pattern on **6 June 2025**. We're proud to be hosting the Plymouth-based event at St Matts this year.

Creation Fest - we loved heading to Creation Fest again with around 100 people camping on site and volunteering on teams. In addition we were able to welcome many more of our church family coming as day visitors and enjoyed a BBQ together on the Sunday. We will be going again as a church family in 2025 for an extended weekend with churches across the South West for worship, teaching, prayer, fun and time together.

As you read the rest of this report, we hope you enjoy and are inspired by all that God is doing in and through us and all that lies ahead. Thank you so much for being part of this family and this God-adventure by the sea!

KNOW GOD - Sunday Services

CONTACTS

Database - 'Join the Adventure' cards												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2021	1246	cleanse	-	-	1250	1252	1256	-	1260		1374	-
2022	1375	1402	1417	1446	1458	1483	1488	*archivin g	1353	*archivin g	1131	1138
2023	1138	1176	1191	1223	1227	1224	1226	1234	1235	1267	1309	1318
2024	1310	1323	1330	1335	1340	1346	1352	1368	1370	1372	1376	1387
2025	1390	1399	1406									
Facebook - 'Followers'												
2021	2095	-	2089	-	2128	2022	2025	-	2133		2144	
2022	2144	2100	2086	2096	2102	2106	2110	2134	2146	2158	2166	2170
2023	2197	2206	2220	2227	2232	2235			2192	2250	2300	2368
2024	2399	2386	2381	2378	2375	2373	2378	2387	2393	2398	2403	2411
2025	2418	2419	2420									
Instagram - 'Followers'												
2021	1560	-	1580	-	1601	1608	1611	-	1,618		1651	
2022	1667	1676	1680		1691	1697	1703	1700	1699	1710	1724	1738
2023	1740	1741	1743	1752	1756	1767			1758	1763	1767	1770
2024	1765	1750	1747	1749	1748	1748	1748	1748	1748	1756	1760	1758
2025	1754	1759	1764									

ELECTORAL ROLL - (members of the church's official register): **123** (as at 11th March 2025).

SUNDAY SERVICES - St Matts currently has two main Sunday services - **THE TEN & THE SIX** with an average weekly attendance of around 350 people across the two services - 300 adults & 50 children - and a further 50-100 for 'Church Online'.

Average Main Service Attendance													
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2021	TEN	-	-	-	-	104	74	63	-	-	TEN	150	272
2021	SIX/Five	-	-	-	-	83	70	85	-	-	FIVE	40	87
	SEVEN	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	SEVEN	90	119
2021	Online	69	89	97	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2021	YouTube	235	262	219	-	358	133	170	-	-	YouTube	280	114
	Total	304	351	316	-	545	277	318	--	-	-	560	
2022	TEN	118	131	156	225	207	170	137	153	175	166	182	139
2022	FIVE	96	124	147	108	132	98	98	55	65	132	109	168
2022	YouTube	156	121	111	157	110	98	110	82	72	85	110	102
	Total	370	376	414	490	449	366	345	290	312	383	401	356

2023	TEN	159	175	138	197	144	136	148	136	118	138	152	131
2023	FIVE	88	100	105	71	70	100	96	86	96	73	80	179
2023	YouTube	72	70	79	109	133	138	103	88	88	110	120	119
	Total	319	345	322	377	347	374	335	310	301	321	352	429
2024	TEN	149	143	206	148	132	120	122	105	160	154	146	174
2024	FIVE	92	86	84	70	68	65	48	-	-	-	-	-
2024	SIX	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	95	70	75	120
2024	YouTube	79	82	103	70	70	60	86	107	96	99	108	89
	Total	320	311	393	288	270	245	256	212	351	323	329	383
2025	TEN	180	160	167									
2025	SIX	100	80	65									
2025	YouTube	108	100	91									
	Total	388	340	323									

BAPTISMS - It's been a joy to welcome people into the Christian faith and join with them as they publicly affirm their faith in Baptism.

Baptisms and Reaffirmations of Baptismal Vows				
	Spring	Summer	Autumn	Total over year
2021	0	12	5	17
2022	8	9	6	23
2023	7	7	5	19
2024	-	12	8	20

CHILDREN & YOUTH - Amy Wheeler (Kids & Youth Pastor) and Terri Jackson (Kids & Youth Intern)

The vision of our Kids and Youth ministry is to love and serve the children and young people of St Matts and beyond, to enable them to become wholehearted followers of Jesus Christ. This is based on the scripture: 'Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.' (Proverbs 22:6). We focus on building faith, having fun and establishing friendships.

Age groups & curriculum.

Creche (0-2s with parents) meet in the downstairs office where the service is live streamed, age appropriate toys are available and parents can sit comfortably with their little ones.

Preschool (2 - 4.5 year olds) meet in the lower hall with an emphasis on play and creative based learning. We are still really enjoying the Scripture Union resources called Tiddlywinks.

Foundation - Year 4 (4.5 - 9 Year olds) meet in the upper hall with the objective of creating a foundation of knowledge in discipleship and fellowship. We started using a resource called 'Faith in kids' which has been well received.

Year 5 and 6 (9 - 11 Year olds) meet in church for worship then all head up to the library. Our focus is to prepare the children for being a Christ-following young person. The 'Faith in Kids' materials are also being used in 5 & 6.

Our young people (11-16s) meet in the Church for worship then gather in the youth room. Our main objective is for young people to explore their own faith and solidify their relationship with God. Youth are currently using a resource from 24/7 prayer called 'Origins' which is a series on prayer.

Attendance

On an average Sunday we get between 30 - 50 children attending the 4 age groups. With 63 children and 22 young people regularly attending.

Our midweek youth gathering changed to be called STM Youth and to meet every Thursday in term time. The session includes activities such as a pool table and table football, plus our now legendary tuck shop and plenty of games. With all these amazing changes our attendance has gone from 8-10 to a regular 25 young people coming every Thursday. We are currently doing the Alpha Youth series which added 9 new young people. 4 of which are now regular attendees.

Team

We currently have 32 volunteers on the kids team. We will be looking to develop some of our under-18s as helpers over the coming months. In our Sunday Youth, we currently have 6 volunteers. We have 6 regular volunteers who come on Thursdays to serve at STM Youth.

Our inclusion team is running well with a team member most Sundays supporting children with additional needs. We'd love this to increase every week. Lorna Clarke has stepped into the role of Volunteer SENCo (Special education needs coordinator).

We have developed regular meetings as a team with monthly pre-service breakfasts and termly meetings for review and training. We also have termly 'celebration' gatherings where the team celebrates another successful term finishing!

Light Party

Our Halloween community outreach got a huge change this year. Amy successfully organised 3 light parties all on the 31st of October. Each had a talk about Jesus by Amy.

We had a Pumpkin patch party for the under 5s where we had a farm set up in the Upper hall with snacks, crafts, photo booth, messy play, soft play, ride on cars and refreshments for the adults. 37 families attended and it was a jam packed event!

After a quick turn around we hosted a Fun Fair party for 5-11 year olds. There was candy floss, glitter, tattoos, bouncy slide, popcorn machine, crafts and fairground games. 42 children, mostly from St Matts, came along to enjoy the fun!

Finally Amy designed an Escape room party for the 11-18s with puzzles to solve to crack a code to access the fun fair in the church. 24 young people came along to solve the mystery and they managed to solve it in 50 minutes!

Christmas

Our Family carols service was, once again, very successful. 15 children performed major roles and many more children played background roles. Amy gave a talk on grace and how we cannot earn it but Jesus came down from Heaven so that we can all be given his grace.

Schools

Amy has focused on the two schools right on our doorstep: Mount Street Primary School and

Plymouth High School for Girls. Amy has successfully started a Christian Union in PHSG that meets fortnightly on a Wednesday lunchtime. We have a great relationship with Mount Street doing a termly assembly.

Mini-Matts

Terri, Amy and Rachael have been running Mini Matts this academic year. Rachael loves to ensure the cafe is running smoothly, Terri ensures everyone has a cup of something hot and a sweet treat and Amy ensures everyone has someone to talk to and the children are having fun. It's a great team! We have a regular 15 - 20 families that come every Thursday morning.

Outreach

Amy is part of a core team in collaboration with SWYM, Youth for Christ, Churches Together in Plymouth and several other churches in Plymouth, to organise a Youth gathering in Plymouth. We hope to use St Matts as the venue and this will be a mix of worship, prayer and a guest speaker for evangelism and deepening of faith but mostly for young people across the city to meet in a safe environment to connect with each other.

Vision/Next Steps

We hope to continue to have an intern in Kids & Youth with Terri's internship due to finish in mid August.

Amy has been connecting with Transforming Plymouth Together to organise events in the school holidays to help with the issue of holiday hunger. We hope to launch something this Summer. This would be in the form of a holiday club where everyone attending will get a free lunch.

Terri is taking the Youth and Year 5 & 6 on a holiday camp called Spree South West in June. Last year our children and young people loved this trip so we are looking forward to doing it again!

We would like to run several courses over the year. Some for parents of faith and none, and some for kids & youth volunteers to equip them for their ministry.

SAFEGUARDING - All those working with children and youth are expected to have **DBS disclosures**. St Matts has a **Child Protection Policy** and an **Equal Opportunities Policy**. Any concerns regarding children's safety should be referred to our **Safeguarding Representative, Mark Pearson - safeguarding@stmplymouth.org.uk**

Children & Youth - Average Weekly Service Attendance												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2021	98	112	75	-	-	78	81	29	72	54	43	63
2022	45	48	52	48	58	51	57	36	48	45	52	28
2023	37	42	37	45	42	40	42	18	32	41	40	42
2024	39	38	38	36	39	37	42	35	35	45	49	46
2025	51											
Children & Youth - Total Contacts on Database												
2021	-	-	-	-	637	-	649					-
2022	668	673	676	680	688	707	711	592	602	604	606	612
2023	612	621	625	629	634	637	641	645	647	652	659	660
2024	664	666	668	672	687	691	695	699	705	716	724	725

2025	727	728	730									
YOUTH NIGHTS												
2021	-	-	-	5	7	8	7	-	-	-	9	9
2022		6	8	9	10	9	-	-	10	10	8	6
2023	7	8	6	8	8	6	7	-	8	10	7	7
2024	10	11	10	10	10	-	-	-	15	16	14	17
2025	16	16	16									

STUDENTS - Zoe Wilson -

We love students and are super thankful for the many who commit to being part of the St Matts Family.

Student Night - Student Nights have been the focus of student life at St Matts, and with the handover to a new student pastor we have continued this. We meet weekly on a Thursday evening with an average of 20 students for time to, worship together, hear from scripture or on particular topics and pray/respond in small groups. Highlights of the year so far include our 1920's themed Christmas Party with a Charleston dance teacher, and a deep dive into what worship is, led by the student worship team. We said goodbye to a group for final year students in the summer, along with their current coordinator Hanne, so it has been a year rebuilding and exploring how God wants to shape and use our student group this year. We've loved seeing new freshers and other young adults join us this year, with numbers growing as the year has gone on. We have seen people join and continue on teams, serving and sharing as part of the church community.

Sundays – the Six service has been a place of real growth for students since the relaunch. There are still a number of students at the Ten but we are seeing a full church family in the evening with a majority of young adults, including students that do not come on a Thursday but regularly attend this service. We have had students giving Preach-tastics and responding to calls to be prayed with.

Vision/Next Steps – Even though the Student Pastor role has not yet run for a full year it is obvious of the great need for this post and the many opportunities available to reach out to the 35,000 students at Plymouth's three universities. With developing connections with the Christian Union at Plymouth Uni, possibilities at the other 2 Plymouth universities are being explored through relationships with those studying there too. Amongst our regular St Matt's students, there is an eagerness to go deeper with Christ, that could be met through one to ones and smaller study groups. We are looking towards the coming year, and asking how God will help us draw these students closer to Him and expand our capacity to do this.

St Matts holds an important position as we sit right at the heart of the student area of the city and so we are listening for God's vision on how to shape our student ministry for the coming academic year.

Instagram - @stmstudents												
2021	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	401	-
2022	419	422	430	433	439	439	439	436	434	445	469	471
2023	473	474	475	472	468	465	465	466	466	487	495	495

2024	495	494	492	489	488	488	488	489	489	490	492	489
2025	484											
Student Nights - Thursday night gathering during term time for food, worship, message, discussion, prayer												
2021	37 (online)	40 (online)	-	50	52	46	-	-	40-60	40-60	40-60	-
2022	-	40	45	45	49	49	-	-	45	45	45	45
2023	50	40	40	40	40	-	-	-	30-40	30-40	20-35	45 christmas party
2024	35	35	35	35-40	35-40	-	-	-	29-35	29-35	29-35	29-35
2025	29-35	29-35										

FIND FREEDOM - Small Groups

SMALL GROUPS - Revd Mike Knight

Small Groups have one, simple purpose - to bring people together. We believe God created us to live in community with others and only then can we experience the full life he intends for us. Small Groups provide a place for us to **connect with others, share life, and grow in faith** together. We believe life-change happens in the context of relationships. Our belief and vision is that St Matts is a church **of** Small Groups, not a church **with** Small Groups.

Small groups are a core part of our church life. We have had a solid number of small groups running through (around 25-30)- slightly lower than in previous years. Groups are quite diverse with a mixture of discipleship/ Bible study type groups, activity & support groups and serving groups. We would love to encourage groups to become more committed as places of ongoing life-on-life discipleship where everyone in our church family find a place.

SMALL GROUPS				
		SPRING	SUMMER	AUTUMN
2021	GROUPS	37	38	41
	LEADERS	47	48	56
	MEMBERS	319	290	360
2022	GROUPS	43	41	44
	LEADERS	55	52	48
	MEMBERS	410	355	330
2023	GROUPS	45	33	24
	LEADERS	55	45	30
	MEMBERS	345	251	286
2024	GROUPS	24	20	21
	LEADERS	34	28	28
	MEMBERS	250	194	178
2025	GROUPS	23		
	LEADERS	34		
	MEMBERS	164		

ALPHA - We encourage members of the congregation to share their faith with others in their everyday life. We also run the Alpha course as a more intentional way of providing an opportunity for people wanting to investigate Christianity or are new to faith.

This year we've settled into a regular attendance of about 25 people each week who are exploring the Christian faith. It's wonderful to welcome people to an Alpha course wherever they are in their faith exploration and it's been a particular joy to welcome those who have recently been baptised to continue exploring their relationship with Jesus. We've also had some new faces who have found us via the Alpha website, where we also advertise our upcoming courses.

We are hugely grateful to our team of volunteers who come each week and to anyone who has volunteered to help us with food - including Bishop James! Offering hospitality and a place to connect with people face to face is simply a gift. Many of our volunteers come straight from work into offering welcome to our guests - it certainly amplifies the sense that we rely on the Holy Spirit to turn up!

Do keep Alpha in your prayers and consider volunteering next time! Wouldn't it be amazing to live out an Acts 2:47 experience at St Matts: "And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."

Alpha				
	SPRING	SUMMER	AUTUMN	Total
2021 attendees	29	?	?	29
2022 attendees	50	-	-	50
2023 attendees	20	-	-	-
2024 attendees	25			
2025 attendees	25			

MAKE A DIFFERENCE - Every member of St Matts is encouraged to serve on the **DREAM TEAM** whether it's helping with Kids Church, Worship, Welcome, Production, Cafe, Students, Youth, Small Group Leadership, Prayer Team.

GIVING - it is a privilege and a joy to be able to give to God as part of our worship. We encourage everyone who calls St Matts 'home' and is part of the DREAM TEAM to develop godly practices with their finances including giving to support the work of the church. We had an encouraging response to our Giving Sunday in October and we're praying that we might continue to see an increase in our number of givers and total giving to enable us to move forwards with confidence into the exciting vision we have. We are very grateful to God for everyone who gives financially into the life of the church which enables us to flourish and grow as a church family and bless the city, region and further afield.

GIVING: Number of individual monthly givers & monthly amounts given														
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2021	Givers	134	136	132	126	142	140	127	122	125	142	132	126	132
	Amount	14273	18174	16933	13460	13210	15061	13,456	13,318	13,138	15,891	14782	15438	177134
2022	Givers	130	132	170	143	152	139	173	135	141	157	148	171	155
	Amount	15450	14938	19089	15810	16913	14586	16,438	14,457	15634	17829	14660	13993	189797
2023	Givers	135	131	130	139	130	131	126	115	112	131	113	107	125

	Amount	14826	14166	13682	16347	14,231	15,083	13,420	13,041	13,352	13,617	13,338	12678	167781
2024	Givers	111	104	104	95	89	89	91	105	111	127	106	102	103
	Amount	13122	12664	12728	10834	12418	12141	13419	11128	11084	15767	14815	17015	157135
2025	Givers	110	109											
	Amount	14837	17290											

OTHER ACTIVITIES/REPORTS DURING THE YEAR

Soup Run -

It is now 5 years since the St Matts Soup Run team was formed, back when the first Covid lockdown came into effect, and a number in our church family felt an urgent desire to do something to help address the pressing needs that many in the city were facing, and most especially the homeless community.

5 years on some of the original team are still working hard doing the same thing and though we have thankfully moved on from those lockdown days, the needs certainly haven't gone away. Here it would be good to make special mention of Sheena McCulloch who been the head cook for the whole of that time and barely ever missed a Soup Run session. We certainly could not have kept this up without her dedication.

Over the last year we have again been serving as a part of a wider organisation known as Plymouth Soup Run- made up of 11 churches, 8 businesses and 6 community or philanthropic groups in the city. How brilliant that the churches are so much a central part of a well respected secular homelessness food charity, being 'salt and light' in Plymouth. We feel the smile of God on us!

We have again been blessed with £1,526 in cash donations, and in addition St Matts has again generously made up the other £898 of the £2,424 we have spent this year on food, sleeping bags, toiletries, clothes etc that we offer on our visits to the 4 distribution sites across the city. We calculate that over the year around 2000 hot meals have been provided by the St Matts team not to mention snack bags, hot drinks, homemade soup as well as a range of surplus fruit and vegetables that would otherwise be binned and wasted.

We also thank God for our incredible volunteers, who turn out cheerfully in all weathers, ready to pitch in and do whatever is required- be that washing up, making meals, or going out on the streets. Most but not all are members of St Matts and in total we have a pool of about 15-20 at any one time. We find that as one volunteer comes to an end of their stint with us that God provides another for us at just the right time.

So in conclusion, thank you again to St Matts PCC and Sophie in particular for the practical and financial support that has been demonstrated over the last year. As we said last year, Soup Run continues to provide an outlet for service and community for those in the church who are motivated to be involved in social action and keen to demonstrate Jesus' heart of love for a broken world.

We would be happy to talk to anyone who would like to contribute to this ongoing ministry.

MISSIONS - St Matts 'tithes' 10% of it's income to other local, national and international charities and mission organisations including:

- **2% - Trevi House / Sunflower Project** (<https://trevi.org.uk/>) - Trevi is a nationally award-winning women's and children's charity based in St Matts parish, Plymouth providing safe and nurturing spaces for women in recovery to heal, grow and thrive.
- **2% - Shekinah** (<https://shekinah.co.uk/>) - South West charity providing opportunities for people who are experiencing all forms of homelessness.
- **2% Creation Fest** (<https://creationfest.org.uk/>) - regional Christian festival supporting and encouraging the church in the South West.
- **2% - Church Planting Fund** - a fund to support and enable church planting in and around Plymouth through St Matts.
- **2%** - St Matts 'Missionary Fund'** - a fund providing small grants to support St Matts members with missionary endeavours.
- **St Matts 'Acts 4 Fund'** - a fund providing small grants for St Matts members in financial hardship

**If / when the balance of the hardship fund drops below £4,000, 1% of giving received will be allocated to this fund and giving to the St Matts missionary fund will be reduced to 1%.

BUILDINGS & MAINTENANCE REPORT - Claire Worth (Executive Director) -

Church Roof - We have had 3 contractors come and assess the roof and provide us with some information about what we can do. The lead on the roof (on both of the side areas of the church) is very old and has basically come to the end of its life. Having now received the 3 quotes it looks like replacing both of the lead roof's on either side of the church is going to cost upwards of £120,000. As such, we have also received a quote (from one of the lead specialists) who has recommended an interim solution which entails using a Hybrid Liquid Plastic System to 'fill all the cracks' in the lead which can last from a few years to 20 years. How long this will last is entirely dependent on case by case basis, the weather, temperature etc. The cost for this including the scaffolding, labour and materials is £3,500. It would be a more temporary measure at this time and we are currently looking at various grant opportunities to be able to plan for longer term solutions.

Hall roof - We have had work done on the roof which was causing significant leaks in the youth room and office. This was significantly less work than we thought we would need and as such, has cost significantly less to fix! We will need to have the damaged walls stripped and re-plastered and painted at some point.

Hall guttering - We have several gutters which need to be replaced or repaired. It would be helpful to do this at the same time as removing the old plaster which has been damaged by the previous leak and then begin redecorating the youth room and office. However, as we look to update the hall and invest in our space we may need to incorporate this into that

wider plan.

Church Heaters- Due to the age of the heaters and the lack of engineers able to work on them (due to their age) we are very limited as to what we can do. We have contacted an engineer who may be able to assist but it seems unlikely that repairs can be made due to the fact that parts are no longer available for the heaters we have. As part of the Carbon neutral initiative the Cof E are working towards becoming carbon neutral by 2030. It is doubtful that any external (green) funding would be applicable to replace our existing heaters and each one would cost £3,000. However, we are applying for National Lottery funding too which may enable us to replace our existing heating system with a more affordable and efficient green energy option. The new HIVE system is now fully functional and is really helpful for being able to set schedules for the church and also control the heating off site. This will ensure that we can set the heating times and should enable us to reduce costs by being able to remotely check that heaters are off.

Hall Fire alarm system- This has had its annual maintenance check and it is all fully functional.

Carbon monoxide alarms- I have added these to the church hall and office to ensure that the boiler is functioning safely.

Quinquennial Report - The inspection has now been completed and we are awaiting the report. The architect was surprisingly upbeat about the condition of the church. Other than the roof (which we are all aware of) the most significant issue is the stonework around a number of the windows. He is sending us contact details of a Stonemason he has worked with before.

Tree in the garden- We have been advised In the Quinquennial report that the tree has grown to a stage where it may start affecting the foundations, windows and roof of the church so we will be arranging for this to be felled in due course.

Electrical Certification- We have had this 5 yearly requirement done for both the church and hall. We had a new electrical circuit supplied to the cafe area which will hopefully stop the issues with tripping plugs etc.

FINANCE REPORT - Teresa Cornish (Treasurer) -

This year the charity received a total income of £283,787. The vast majority of this income (£206,506) was from voluntary giving and we were able to claim £33,234 in Gift Aid on this. Total income also includes £26,849 generated from the hire of the church and hall, a further £8,150 from sundry sources, £3,007 as donations for other purposes and £6,041 in backdated Gift Aid claims that we were able to make following an appeal to current givers who had not yet signed up to the scheme.

Expenditure in the year came to £309,506.

Despite the significant cost saving and efficiency measures introduced in 2023 and despite the plan for a break-even budget, the accounts show a deficit of £25,718. This is made up of an operational deficit of £5,500 and a £20,218 charge for depreciation on fixed assets.

The deficit is accounted for by a shortfall in anticipated giving. Where we had hoped to see giving restored to a level similar to that before the period of interregnum in 2023, this was not the case. Looking ahead to 2025 a more conservative estimate of giving has been used but this leaves the church with a potential future deficit of £2,750/month.

The Endowment Funds that were released in 2023 from the charities that we dissolved are in the process of being allocated by the PCC. As far as possible the PCC intends to honour the purposes for which they were originally intended, although they are now unrestricted funds. In 2024, £2,380 of these historic funds have been used to provide a Student Pastor and £13,000 has been used to cover the 2024 general fund deficit.

St Matts allocated £55,000 from its church planting fund to provide starting costs to St Simons. St Simons received income of £50,100 from various other sources during the year and spent £22,800. The St Simons end of year fund balance is £90,414.

The Acts 4 Fund, which supports church members in financial difficulty, has paid out £4,123 in hardship grants and the end of year fund balance is £7,149. The Mission Fund, established in 2023 to provide small grants for those involved in mission activities at home or abroad, stands at £4,205. Information about these funds is available on the website and from the PCC.

Investment policy

In accordance with the charity's governing document, the Trustees have the power to invest funds in any investments that they see fit. The policy is to adopt a low risk strategy while maximising returns. The Trustees are satisfied with the performance of the investments held and that the policy adopted remains adequate and appropriate.

Reserves policy

As is best practice, it is the policy of the Trustees to maintain unrestricted funds, which are free reserves, at a sufficient level to secure the continued provision of normal charitable activities for a maximum period of six months.

Teresa Cornish

Treasurer

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

Trustees' Responsibilities - Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity at the

end of the year and of the surplus or deficiency for the year then ended.

In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to select suitable accounting policies, as described later in the accounts, and then apply them on a consistent basis, making judgements and estimates that are prudent and reasonable. The trustees must also prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Independent Examination

A resolution to appoint Tony Jopson & Co. as independent examiners for the ensuing year will be proposed at the next APCM during which the financial statements are approved in accordance with the Charities Act 2011

On behalf of the PCC

Sophie Chatten, Priest In Charge

Date

The Parochial Church Council of Charles with St Mathias, Plymouth

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Year Ending 31 December 2024

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (SOFA)

	Note	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
		General £	Designated £	£	£	£	£
Income from							
Donations and legacies:							
Regular giving	2	187,790	49,524	2,426	0	239,740	216,830
Other voluntary receipts	3	396	576	0	0	972	0
Church activities	4	39,119	0	0	0	39,119	53,170
Investments	5	3,956	0	0	0	3,956	52,118
Total Income		231,261	50,100	2,426	0	283,787	322,118
Expenditure on							
Church activities	6	256,141	22,800	30,564	0	309,506	359,254
Total Expenditure		256,141	22,800	30,564	0	309,506	359,254
Net income / (expenditure) before investment gains / (losses)		-24,880	27,300	-28,138	0	-25,718	-85,870
Net gains / (losses) on investments		0	0	0	0	0	48,734
Net income / (expenditure)		-24,880	27,300	-28,138	0	-25,718	-37,136
Transfers between funds		-8,980	5,656	3,324	0	0	0
Transfers in of 3 charities							
Assets controlled by PCC		0	0	0	0	0	0
Net movement in funds		-33,860	32,956	-24,814	0	-25,718	-37,136
Total funds brought forward		125,840	73,930	155,350	0	355,120	392,256
Total funds carried forward	11	91,980	106,886	130,536	0	329,402	355,120

The Parochial Church Council of Charles with St Mathias, Plymouth

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Year Ending 31 December 2024

BALANCE SHEET

		2024		2023	
	Note	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets	8				
Freehold investment property			0		0
Furniture, fixtures and fittings			19,534		27,493
Audio visual equipment			22,816		32,374
Investments			0		0
			<u>42,349</u>		<u>59,867</u>
Current Assets					
Debtors	9	19,095		11,616	
Cash on deposit		256,960		263,030	
Cash at bank and in hand		18,753		27,691	
		<u>294,808</u>		<u>302,338</u>	
Creditors					
Falling due within one year	10	<u>7,755</u>		<u>7,085</u>	
Net Current Assets			287,053		295,253
Total Assets less Current Liabilities			329,402		355,120
Creditors					
Falling due after more than one year			0		0
Net Assets			<u>329,402</u>		<u>355,120</u>
Funds	11				
Endowment funds			0		0
Designated funds			106,886		148,930
Restricted funds			130,536		80,350
Unrestricted funds			91,980		125,840
Total Funds			<u>329,402</u>		<u>355,120</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Parochial Church Council on 20/03/2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Rev S Chatten
Vicar

Ms T Cornish
Treasurer

The Parochial Church Council of Charles with St Mathias, Plymouth

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year Ending 31 December 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS 102).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention, except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at fair value.

The PCC meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the PCC.

Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis. There are no material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubts upon the PCC's ability to continue as a going concern.

Funds

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

Restricted funds are amounts which have been received by the PCC with specific directions concerning the way in which capital and any income arising are to be expended.

Endowment funds are sums which are held by or on behalf of the PCC and where only the income can be spent, with the capital being retained permanently, or at the PCC's discretion, and invested.

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

Income

Donations and legacies: Planned giving, collections and general donations are recognised only when received. Gift aid recoverable on donations is recognised when the donation is received. Grants and legacies to the PCC are recognised as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is probable.

The Parochial Church Council of Charles with St Mathias, Plymouth

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year Ending 31 December 2024

Charitable activities: Income from church fee income is recognised when the fee is due. Income from activities is accounted for gross.

Other trading activities: Rental income is recognised when the rent is due. Where income is received in advance, it is recognised in the year in which the event takes place that it relates to.

Investments: Interest entitlements are accounted for as they accrue. Dividends are accounted for when due and payable.

Expenditure

Raising funds: Expenditure on raising funds is accounted for on the accruals basis. Raising funds includes the costs of the investment property.

Charitable activities: Expenditure on charitable activities is accounted for on the accruals basis. The diocesan common fund is accounted for when payable. Any unpaid amount at 31 December is provided for in these accounts as an operational (although not legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the balance sheet. Grants are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

Tangible fixed assets

Consecrated land and buildings and moveable church furnishing: Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s10(2)(a) of the Charities Act 2011. No value is placed on moveable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers this to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings and moveable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the SOFA and separately disclosed.

Freehold property: Freehold property is valued at purchase price. In the opinion of the PCC members, depreciation of freehold properties would be immaterial and has not been charged. The members carry out an annual impairment review, and in their opinion no provision is necessary in respect of the value at which freehold properties are included in the financial statements.

Other fixed assets: Other fixed assets are recognised at cost. Individual assets with a purchase price less than £1,000 are written off when the asset is acquired. Depreciation has been provided on other fixed assets on a straight-line basis in order to write off the cost of the assets over the following estimated useful lives:

- Fixtures and fittings - 10 years
- Computers and equipment - 5 years

The Parochial Church Council of Charles with St Mathias, Plymouth

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year Ending 31 December 2024

Investment properties

Investment properties are included in the balance sheet at their open market value in accordance with FRS 102 and are not depreciated.

Investments

Investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price. The SOFA includes net gains and losses arising on revaluations and disposals throughout the year.

Debtors

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors less provision for any amounts that may prove uncollectible. These are recognised initially at the settlement amount. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid, net of any trade discounts due.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, and other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

Creditors

Creditors are recognised when the PCC has an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Creditors are recognised at the amount that the PCC anticipates it will pay to settle the debt, or the amount it has received as advanced payment for the goods or services it must provide.

Financial instruments

The church only has financial assets and liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. All (including debtors and creditors) are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

The Parochial Church Council of Charles with St Mathias, Plymouth

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
Year Ending 31 December 2024

		Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
		General £	Designated £	Funds £	Funds £	2024 £	2023 £
2	Regular giving						
	Planned giving inc. envelopes	153,297	44,822	1,994	0	200,113.10	183,060
	Collections at services	6,393	0	0	0	6,392.87	3,473
	Income tax recovered	28,100	4,702	432	0	33,234.37	30,297
		187,790	49,524	2,426	0	239,740	216,830
3	Other voluntary receipts						
	Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme	396	576	0	0	972	0
	Love Your Neighbour & Covid relief giving	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Donation to youth and media	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Hardship fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
		396	576	0	0	972	0
4	Income from church activities						
	Statutory fees - weddings, funerals, etc.	1,119	0	0	0	1,119	372
	Miscellaneous	9,048	0	0	0	9,048	20,722
	Gross income (solar panels)	2,103	0	0	0	2,103	5,214
	Gross income (hall lettings)	26,849	0	0	0	26,849	25,996
	Gross income (letting 18 Dale Gardens)	0	0	0	0	0	866
		39,119	0	0	0	39,119	53,170
5	Income from investments						
	Profit from sale of investments	0	0	0	0	0	48,734
	Dividends & interest	0	0	0	0	0	1,859
	Bank interest received	3,956	0	0	0	3,956	1,524
		3,956	0	0	0	3,956	52,118
	Total Income	231,261	50,100	2,426	0	283,787	322,118
6	Expenditure on charitable activities						
	Ministry: common fund	57,400	0	0	0	57,400	67,637
	Church running expenses	14,995	4,462	0	0	19,457	17,061
	Church maintenance	5,403	7,386	0	0	12,789	64,913
	Upkeep of services	6,729	10,092	0	0	16,821	4,809
	Music and production	6,782	0	0	0	6,782	8,716
	Parish hall – services and maintenance	16,414	0	0	0	16,414	20,001
	Events and other parish expenditure	3,705	0	0	0	3,705	3,643
	Youth / student work	2,888	0	0	0	2,888	5,089
	Maintenance costs – 18 Dale Gardens	0	0	0	0	0	866
	Salaries and fees	121,000	0	6,223	0	127,224	125,649
	Training	2,014	0	0	0	2,014	1,098
	External giving	9,419	0	4,123	0	13,542	11,784
	Depreciation	0	0	20,218	0	20,218	19,948
	Administration	8,991	860	0	0	9,851	7,640
	Accountant's fees	400	0	0	0	400	400
	Total Expenditure	256,141	22,800	30,564	0	309,506	359,254

7 Transactions with PCC members and related parties

- None of the members of the PCC were remunerated or reimbursed for their expenses in their capacity as PCC members.
- Hannah Bowker was paid £22,120 for her role as Church Centre Manager. Claire Worth was paid £38,625 for her role as Executive Director.
- During 2024, the PCC received £38,999 in donations from Trustees. The donors did not attach any conditions to their gift which required the charity to significantly alter the nature of its existing activities.

The Parochial Church Council of Charles with St Mathias, Plymouth

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
Year Ending 31 December 2024

		Investment Property	A/V & IT Equipment	Furniture, Fixtures & Fittings	Total	
		£	£	£	£	
8	Tangible fixed assets					
	Cost or valuation					
	At 1/1/24	0	119,887	79,595	199,482	
	Additions	0	2,700	0	2,700	
	At 31/12/24	0	122,587	79,595	202,182	
	Depreciation					
	At 1/1/24	0	87,512	52,102	139,614	
	Charge for the year	0	12,259	7,960	20,218	
	At 31/12/24	0	99,771	60,062	159,832	
	Net book value					
	At 31/12/2024	0	22,816	19,534	42,349	
	At 31/12/2023	0	32,375	27,493	59,868	
9	Debtors	31/12/24	31/12/23			
		£	£			
	Gift Aid reclaimable	2,852	2,175			
	Prepayments	0	0			
	Rent due	7,291	7,551			
	Solar feed-in	0	0			
	Other debtors	8,952	1890			
		19,095	11,616			
10	Creditors	31/12/24	31/12/23			
		£	£			
	Fees due	0	229			
	Other creditors	4,008	1,846			
	Accrued expenses	3,747	5,010			
		7,755	7,085			
11	Funds	Bal b/fwd	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Bal c/fwd
		£	£	£	£	£
	General unrestricted	125,840	231,261	256,141	-8,980	91,980
	Designated for church planting	72,241	50,100	22,800	3,140	102,681
	Designated property investment	0				0
	Designated mission	1,689			2,516	4,205
	Restricted reserves	75,000				75,000
	Restricted youth & media	12,263		6,223		6,040
	Restricted hardship fund	8,222	2,426	4,123	624	7,149
	Restricted fixed assets	59,865		20,218	2,700	42,347
	Endowment funds - 3 separate charities	0				0
		355,120	283,787	309,506	0	329,402

Accounts



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

Incumbent

Sophie Chatten

Bank:

Barclays Bank Plc
19 Princess Street
Plymouth

Independent Examiner:

Tony Jopson & Co.
246 Peverell Park Road
Plymouth PL3 4QG

Registered Charity Number:

1134139

**The Parish Church of Charles with St Matthias and St Simons
'St Matts Plymouth'
North Hill, Plymouth, PL4 8HF
stmplymouth.org.uk**



THE **EVANGELISATION** OF THE NATIONS
THE **REVITALISATION** OF THE CHURCH AND THE **TRANSFORMATION** OF SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023
(presented Sunday 21st April 2024)

'CHARLES WITH ST MATTHIAS AND ST SIMON '

Diocesan ID - 9187

Registered Charity Number - 1134139

PURPOSE - St Matts is a **City Centre Resource Church** with a vision to play it's part in the:

The **EVANGELISATION** of the nations;

The **REVITALISATION** of the Church;

The **TRANSFORMATION** of society.

MISSION - St Matts aims to fulfil this vision through four operating lenses:

KNOW GOD - We want everyone to come into a personal relationship with Jesus. We do this principally through our **Sunday Services** and encouraging people in their own personal faith journey.

FIND FREEDOM - We want everyone to grow in their relationship with God and to discover freedom and life. We believe this happens supremely in community with others in midweek **Small Groups** where we can grow in life, faith and friendship.

DISCOVER PURPOSE - We want everyone to discover their purpose in life. We do this through our **Join the Adventure sessions** providing people with an opportunity to learn how to get the most out of their faith and how God has made them.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE - We want everyone to get up and running living a life of service and blessing. Through our **Dream Team** of volunteers we hope to connect every person with an area of the church's life that energises them, blesses others and spills out into other areas of their life.

Background - The church in its current format was launched on **25 September 2016** by Revd Olly & Ali Ryder and a small staff & volunteer team, at the invitation of the Bishops of Exeter and Plymouth in partnership with Holy Trinity Brompton, London. St Matts is part of the **Plymouth City Deanery** in the **Diocese of Exeter** in the **Church of England** and is based at the top of North Hill, Plymouth, PL4 8HF. St Matts has been in interregnum (vacancy) since Nov 2022 but Sophie Chatten was licensed as Priest-in-Charge to the parish on **29th February 2024**!

Structure, Governance and Management - St Matts is led by the **PCC** (Parochial Church Council). The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church of England's 'Church Representation Rules'. All church attendees who consider themselves as belonging to the worshipping community of St Matts are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll. All those on the Electoral Roll may stand for election on the PCC. The Church Council should reflect the diversity of the church and local community. PCC members are re-elected every three years. The Church Council has responsibility, alongside the Vicar, staff team, and lay pastors, of fulfilling the church's vision. PCC members who served from **April 2023** until the date this report was approved are:

PCC Members

Ex-Officio Members

Vicar and Chairman	Sophie Chatten (licensed 2024)
Assistant Curate	Mike Knight

Church Wardens

Steve Campion	Elected 2023
Sally Pearson	Elected 2023

Elected annually up to six successive years

Deanery Synod Members

Teresa Cornish	Elected 2022
Jeff Stephenson	Elected 2022

Treasurer

Elected every three years

Safeguarding Representative

Mark Pearson	Appointed 2023
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Other Members

Dean Jacobs	Elected 2021 [serving second term]
Laura Fraser-Crewes	Elected 2021
Neil Mawson	Elected 2021
Beth Horton	Elected 2021
Sam Ansell	Elected 2022
Jonny Wilson	Elected 2022
Janet Stirling	Elected 2022
Vacant	Elected 2022
Lizzie Philips	Elected 2023
Amy McCusker	Elected 2023
Peter Horton	Elected 2023
Vacant	Elected 2023

Co-Opted Members

Hannah Bowker	Secretary	[re-elected annually since 2017]
Claire Worth	Staff - Executive Director	[re-elected annually since 2017]

Staff Team - (as of April 2024)

Claire Worth	Executive Director
Mike Knight	Associate Minister
Vacant	Worship Pastor
Amy Wheeler	Kids & Youth Pastor
Lizzie Roberts	Youth Pastor Intern
Hannah Bowker	Church Coordinator & Executive Assistant

ANNUAL REVIEW - 2023/24

St Matts has completed its **seventh** full year as a '**HTB Network**' **City Centre Resource Church** with a vision to play its part in the '**evangelisation of the nations, the revitalisation of the church and the transformation of society**' by helping people to know God, find freedom, discover purpose and make a difference. The church has grown from a small group of 30-50 to a post pandemic level of 300+ every Sunday.

2023 was a full year of interregnum for St Matts. We are extremely grateful to so many people in the church who have stepped up in so many different ways to make the last year a success. Olly and family have been missed but many people have commented that it hasn't felt that there has been an 'Olly-shaped hole' and that is thanks to the hard work of staff, PCC members, team leaders, team members, small group leaders- the list could go on. Thank you so much!

We had three rounds of interviews for the position of Priest-in-Charge- thanks so much for persevering in prayer through all this, and thanks to the PCC and panel (especially Sally and Jeff) who were careful and faithful to discern who the right person would be for St Matts. It's super exciting to have Sophie, Simon, Benjamin and Oliver joining the church family!

Over the last year we've continued to meet and provide a space for encounter and encouragement with our whole church family and visitors at our **Sunday Services** offering both 'in-person' and 'online' provision. Over the year we've continued to have around 2-300 people gathering every Sunday in the building at the Ten and Five, as well as around 50-100 online over the course of a Sunday and 40-50 children/ young people. We've also continued providing smaller midweek communities for people to grow in faith and friendship through our **Small Groups** - this term there have been 30 groups.

Over the year we have had some change on our staff team having said goodbye to Phil Jones, Noah Gilbert and Lucy Gilbert (who did not return to the team after maternity leave) - all three brought an immense amount to the church and the team and we are really glad that they are

all sticking around at St Matts albeit in a different capacity. We've also had the joy of having Lizzie Roberts join us initially to cover maternity leave and then as a SWYM (South West Youth Ministries) intern; Amy Wheeler has also returned to work after her maternity leave.

Church Planting- In August the PCC made the decision (after an 18-month) discernment period) to commit fully to church planting at St Simons, Mount Gould. St Simons is now officially part of the St Matts family and parish ('Charles with St Matthias and St Simons'). Mike Knight has been appointed as Associate Vicar and will have responsibility for launching St Simons whilst still having some involvement in the wider St Matts family. We are hoping to launch Sunday service on the pentecost weekend (19th May).

Looking ahead - We are excited about all the God will do among us this year- as we continue to grow and encourage our Sunday Services, church family, small groups, teams and ministries with a new vicar in place and as we church planting at St Simons.

Love South West - We are looking forward to another united weekend of worship, service and invitation as part of Love South West 2024 which will be held 17-19 May 2024 (<https://www.lovesouthwest.org.uk/>). We'll gather again at Methodist Central Hall for a Kingdom Come night of worship and prayer on Fri 17th May (tickets available now); and encourage our church to run social action projects in our streets and local communities on Sat 18 May; and invite people to 'Try Church' at St Matts on Sun 19 May and launch St Simons at the same time!

Creation Fest - We are looking forward to the whole St Matts family attending Creation Fest (1-4th August) - <https://creationfest.org.uk/>) for an extended weekend with churches across the South West for worship, teaching, prayer, fun and time together.

As you read the rest of this report, we hope you enjoy and are inspired by all that God is doing in and through us and all that lies ahead. Thank you so much for being part of this family and this God-adventure by the sea!

KNOW GOD - Sunday Services

CONTACTS

Database - 'Join the Adventure' cards												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2017	387	450	494	543	604	639	657	667	702	743	865	902
2018	935	996	1022	1040	1099	1116	1145	1161	1208	1251	1315	1363
2019	1386	1401	1440	1438	1488	1500	1549	-	1584	-	1665	-
2020	1719	1727	1785	1795	data cleanse		1154	-	1148	-	1236	-
2021	1246	cleanse	-	-	1250	1252	1256	-	1260	-	1374	-
2022	1375	1402	1417	1446	1458	1483	1488	*archiving	1353	*archiving	1131	1138
2023	1138	1176	1191	1223	1227	1224	1226	1234	1235	1267	1309	1318
2024	1310	1323	1330									
Facebook - 'Followers'												
2017	633	685	762	797	825	852	862	894	980	1036	1059	1098
2018	1109	1123	1155	1188	1217	1226	1248	1262	1337	1402	1424	1458
2019	1482	1500	1521	1626	1628	1678	1688	-	1762	-	1825	-

2020	1828	-	1943	1971	-	-	1997	-	1941	-	2026	-
2021	2095	-	2089	-	2128	2022	2025	-	2133	-	2144	-
2022	2144	2100	2086	2096	2102	2106	2110	2134	2146	2158	2166	2170
2023	2197	2206	2220	2227	2232	2235			2192	2250	2300	2368
2024	2399	2386	2381									
Instagram - 'Followers'												
2018	-	725	792	843	870	885	917	952	982	1024	1066	-
2019	-	1144	1160	-	1207	-	1267	-	1342	-	1403	-
2020	1447	-	-	1490	-	-	1507	-	1,510	-	1542	-
2021	1560	-	1580	-	1601	1608	1611	-	1,618	-	1651	-
2022	1667	1676	1680	-	1691	1697	1703	1700	1699	1710	1724	1738
2023	1740	1741	1743	1752	1756	1767			1758	1763	1767	1770
2024	1765	1750	1747									

ELECTORAL ROLL - (members of the church's official register): **163** (as at 3rd Apr 2024).

SUNDAY SERVICES - St Matts currently has two main Sunday services - **THE TEN & THE FIVE** with an average weekly attendance of around 350 people across the two services - 300 adults & 50 children - and a further 50-100 for 'Church Online'.

Average Main Service Attendance													
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2018	TEN	242	257	200	285	245	259	253	236	297	291	280	282
2018	SIX	183	190	158	168	154	126	98	106	199	230	215	166
	Total	407	447	358	453	399	385	351	342	496	521	495	448
2019	TEN	332	311	306	297	269	321	291	257	321	319	299	213
2019	SIX	229	254	208	177	200	172	148	127	240	227	220	201
	Total	561	565	514	475	469	493	439	384	561	546	519	414
2020	TEN	318	265	CO 298	CO 351	CO 267	CO 211	CO 172	CO 120	79	70	70	-
2020	SIX	203	225	CO 157	CO 87	CO 66	Live 54	CO 44	Live 31	66	70	70	-
	YouTube	-	-	-	418	497	441	354	393	340	366	464	569
	Total	521	490	455	856	830	706	570	544	485	621	644	569
2021	TEN	-	-	-	-	104	74	63	-	-	TEN	150	272
2021	SIX/Five	-	-	-	-	83	70	85	-	-	FIVE	40	87
	SEVEN	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	SEVEN	90	119
2021	Online	69	89	97	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2021	YouTube	235	262	219	-	358	133	170	-	-	YouTube	280	114
	Total	304	351	316	-	545	277	318	--	-	-	560	
2022	TEN	118	131	156	225	207	170	137	153	175	166	182	139
2022	FIVE	96	124	147	108	132	98	98	55	65	132	109	168
2022	YouTube	156	121	111	157	110	98	110	82	72	85	110	102
	Total	370	376	414	490	449	366	345	290	312	383	401	356
2023	TEN	159	175	138	197	144	136	148	136	118	138	152	131
2023	FIVE	88	100	105	71	70	100	96	86	96	73	80	179
2023	YouTube	72	70	79	109	133	138	103	88	88	110	120	119
	Total	319	345	322	377	347	374	335	310	301	321	352	429
2024	TEN	149	143	206									
2024	FIVE	92	86	84									
2024	YouTube	79	82	103									
	Total	320	311	393									

BAPTISMS - It's been a joy to welcome people into the Christian faith and join with them as they publicly affirm their faith in Baptism.

Baptisms and Reaffirmations of Baptismal Vows				
	Spring	Summer	Autumn	Total over year
2017	19	5	1	25
2018	7	-	10	17
2019	17	12	8	37
2020	0	2 (reaffirmations)	0	2 (reaffirmations)/ Covid
2021	0	12	5	17
2022	8	9	6	23
2023	7	7	5	19

CHILDREN & YOUTH - Amy Wheeler (Kids & Youth Pastor) and Lizzie Roberts (Youth Pastor Intern)

The vision of our Kids and Youth ministry is to love and serve the children and young people of St Matts, to enable them to become wholehearted followers of Jesus Christ. This is based on the scripture: 'Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.' (Proverbs 22:6)

On Amy's return from Maternity leave it was decided that she would take on the oversight of the youth work at St Matts. Lizzie Roberts who covered Amy and Lucy's (Previous Youth pastor) Maternity leave was kept on as she wanted to do an internship with South West Youth Ministries (SWYM). Amy has been overseeing Lizzie's work in running the majority of the Youth work for St Matts. Lizzie's internship with SWYM finishes at the end of August 2024. We are hoping to have another intern for September 2024.

This year we are focusing on building faith, having fun and establishing friendships.

Age groups & rooms

For Kids Church, we have Preschool (2 - 4.5 year olds) meeting in the lower hall, Foundation - Year 4 (4.5 - 9 Year olds) meeting in the upper hall and Year 5 and 6 (9 - 11 Year olds). Our Year 5 and 6 children stay in church for worship then they all head up to the library for their session. Our young people (11-16s) meet in the Church for worship then gather in the youth room for their session.

The inclusion team has expanded, with almost every week having a one-to-one helper for children with additional needs. Recently Amy did some training with Urban Saints all about supporting children with additional needs. She will be implementing many of the resources and knowledge she gained from that. A notice board in the corridor of the Hall will have information on how we can support anyone with additional needs coming to Church.

Attendance

On an average Sunday we get between 30 - 50 children attending the 4 age groups with 20 young people. For our youth club Fusion we have between 8 and 10 that regularly attend.

Curriculum

For the Preschool room the emphasis is on play and creative based learning. We are still really enjoying the Scripture Union resources which Amy is currently creating a 3 year plan for that

room, so planning will be a lot easier for the future.

For Foundation - Year 4 the main objective is to create a foundation of knowledge in discipleship and fellowship amongst their peers and leaders. We finished using the Scripture Union materials and may revisit that in the future. We did try the Big Start Assemblies materials but after a meeting with the Leaders it was decided that Amy could write the curriculum for Foundation - Year 4 to save money on buying materials and for ease of use for the volunteers.

Year 5 and 6 the overarching principle is to prepare the children for being a Christ following young person. Amy has been writing the curriculum for Year 5 and 6 room and has been focusing on spirituality and discipleship.

Youth are currently using the curriculum from South West Youth Ministries (SWYM) called TAG, which stands for 'Transforming A Generation'. This has a discipleship focus and is very accessible for young people of faith and no faith background.

Team

In Kids Church, we currently have 31 volunteers on team, 25 female and 6 male, 2 of which are under 18 helpers. We are continuing to develop junior leaders to help regularly on a Sunday morning with younger aged groups. In our Youth groups, we currently have 6 volunteers that lead Sunday sessions, 3 female and 3 male. Lizzie runs Fusion with 2 volunteers, 1 male and 1 female.

Light Party

Around 70 children turned up with their parents and carers to our Light party. It was decided last year that there would be a joint Light party for Kids and Youth. We had a bouncy castle, candy floss, glitter tattoos, craft, face painting and a lot more. The majority of the children were not attending St Matts at the time. Lizzie gave a short message on Jesus being the light of the world and we are called to be a 'City on a hill' which the song of the same title was played to conclude the evening.

Schools

Lizzie helped to continue the great relationship with Prince Rock school and Amy has re-established a relationship with Mount street school. These assemblies are a form of outreach and create a strong connection in the community. Amy visits both schools once a term. Lizzie has been tasked with establishing a stronger link with Plymouth High School for Girls. We have in previous years hosted them for their christmas carol concert. This has been a joy to do for them, but we would like to help them with their Christian Union and possibly other activities for them like assemblies in due course.

Mini-Matts

Amy, Lizzie and Mike have been running a weekly parents/carers/toddlers group in the Church Hall. It's a space for parents and carers to connect, enjoy coffee, cake, conversation and mutual support and encouragement and for their children to have a safe and fun place to play and grow in friendships. We have a lovely group of childminders and a group of parents who have formed social groups. Amy has been using her background in Early years education by adding themes and activities to the sessions. Our numbers attending has increased from an average of 10 regular parents/childminders to 20 with our busiest week having 31 adults and 45 Children.

Vision/Next Steps

Amy and Lizzie have done extensive reorganisation of our Kids resources to ensure storage has been used effectively and volunteers find it easier to access resources. This will continue with Amy meeting volunteers regularly to ensure they have the right resources in place.

There will be changes to Fusion to make the Hall a more inviting place and to have small groups for discussions on Monday evenings. This will be more of a christian hang out rather than replicating what we do on Sundays. We hope to invite speakers to share and have themed evenings like testimony week.

Amy has been connecting with Transforming Plymouth Together to organise events in the school holidays to help with the issue of holiday hunger. Lizzie is taking the Youth and Year 5 & 6 on a holiday camp called Spree South West in June. It is the first time St Matts young people will be going on this trip.

Our social media channels will be getting more regularly updated to show the church community and wider Plymouth area what our children and young people do in their sessions. We will also be releasing a termly Kids & Youth newsletter to keep parents and anyone else interested in what our children and young people are doing.

We would like to do some outreach events where we can connect with the local community. These would be holiday clubs and celebration events for the community to join in. We hope to deepen our connection with the local schools by offering more resources and reaching out to more schools in our local area.

SAFEGUARDING - All those working with children and youth are expected to have **DBS disclosures**. St Matts has a **Child Protection Policy** and an **Equal Opportunities Policy**. Any concerns regarding children's safety should be referred to our **Safeguarding Representative, Mark Pearson - safeguarding@stmplymouth.org.uk**

Children & Youth - Average Weekly Service Attendance												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2017	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	56	57	59	46
2018	69	67	65	86	66	71	71	69	92	84	81	70
2019	81	87	116	73	69	87	62	60	89	81	71	64
2020	78	64	74	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2021	98	112	75	-	-	78	81	29	72	54	43	63
2022	45	48	52	48	58	51	57	36	48	45	52	28
2023	37	42	37	45	42	40	42	18	32	41	40	42
2024	39	38	38									
Children & Youth - Total Contacts on Database												
2017	-	-	96	96	97	97	97	97	180	189	198	211
2018	219	242	259	274	308	314	331	357	387	418	435	444
2019	467	481	499	523	532	563	561	568	575	-	591	-
2020	612	623	644	641	-	-	642	-	-	-	-	-
2021	-	-	-	-	637	-	649					
2022	668	673	676	680	688	707	711	592	602	604	606	612
2023	612	621	625	629	634	637	641	645	647	652	659	660
2024	664	666	668									
YOUTH NIGHTS												
2020	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	16	-	18

2021	-	-	-	5	7	8	7	-	-	-	9	9
2022		6	8	9	10	9	-	-	10	10	8	6
2023	7	8	6	8	8	6	7	-	8	10	7	7
2024	10	11	10									

STUDENTS - Revd Mike Knight -

We love students and are super thankful for the many who commit to being part of the St Matts Family.

Student Night - Student Nights are the highlight of student life at St Matts. We meet weekly on a Thursday evening with around 20-40 students for time to hang out, worship together, hear from scripture or on particular topics and chat/ pray in our small groups. Highlights of the year included our packed out 'Testimony Takeover nights' and end of year Beach BBQ at Bovisand with over 60 people attending. We said goodbye to a huge year group for final year students in the summer so it has been a bit of a rebuilding year and we've loved seeing a good group of freshers getting involved this year- and particularly getting stuck in quickly with teams, serving and sharing as part of the church community.

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Vision/Next Steps - As Mike transitions towards a new role leading at St Simons the Student team are taking on responsibility for running Student nights with Hanne Deakin coordinating this team. We will now start to look for a new Student Pastor for the next Academic year - there is so much opportunity (to reach out to the 35,000 students at Plymouth's three universities) and St Matts holds an important position as we sit right at the heart of the student area of the city.

Students - connected with community (Facebook Group)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2017	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	178	184
2018	189	196	206	214	207	207	209	213	218	234	240	-
2019	-	255	259	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	272	-
2020	-	-	-	295	296	297	298	295	305	313	313	312
2021	313	314	-	-	308	308	306	-	-	-	308	-
2022	309	307	305	307	307	307	307	308	309	306	305	303
2023	300	299	296	293	290	289	289	289	289	290	290	288
2024	288	288	288									

Instagram - @stmstudents

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2021	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	401	-
2022	419	422	430	433	439	439	439	436	434	445	469	471
2023	473	474	475	472	468	465	465	466	466	487	495	495
2024	495	494	492									

Student Nights - Thursday night gathering during term time for food, worship, message, discussion, prayer

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2019	-	67	50	40	41	-	-	-	52	59	47	-
2020	45	57	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	68 (in person)	42 (online)	45 (online)
2021	37 (online)	40 (online)	-	50	52	46	-	-	40-60	40-60	40-60	-
2022	-	40	45	45	49	49	-	-	45	45	45	45
2023	50	40	40	40	40	-	-	-	30-40	30-40	20-35	45 christmas

												party
2024	35	35	35									

FIND FREEDOM - Small Groups

SMALL GROUPS - Revd Mike Knight (Curate) - *Small Groups have one, simple purpose - to bring people together. We believe God created us to live in community with others and only then can we experience the full life he intends for us. Small Groups provide a place for us to **connect with others, share life, and grow in faith** together. We believe life-change happens in the context of relationships. Our belief and vision is that St Matts is a church **of** Small Groups, not a church **with** Small Groups.*

Small group numbers have been slightly lower over the course of the interregnum year with c. 40 groups each term in 2022 and c. 30 groups currently). However many of those that have been running have seemed to be more committed and vibrant than ever before. We have an opportunity now to begin to strengthen our current small group leadership and encourage wider sign up to this vital part of church life. I'd love to develop our small group training further (with smaller groups of leaders meeting more regularly for discipleship and shared learning so that we continue to grow our groups as places of deeper discipleship, closer community and mission.

SMALL GROUPS				
		SPRING	SUMMER	AUTUMN
2017	GROUPS	28	28	24
	LEADERS	-	-	-
	MEMBERS	154	181	135
2018	GROUPS	34	33	48
	LEADERS	-	-	65
	MEMBERS	246	252	357
2019	GROUPS	46	40	44
	LEADERS	58	60	60
	MEMBERS	329	315	353
2020	GROUPS	52	44	50
	LEADERS	60	54	62
	MEMBERS	497	400	382
2021	GROUPS	37	38	41
	LEADERS	47	48	56
	MEMBERS	319	290	360
2022	GROUPS	43	41	44
	LEADERS	55	52	48
	MEMBERS	410	355	330
2023	GROUPS	45	33	24
	LEADERS	55	45	30
	MEMBERS	345	251	286
2024	GROUPS	26		
	LEADERS	34		
	MEMBERS	250		

ALPHA - We encourage members of the congregation to share their faith with others in their everyday life. We also run the Alpha course as a more intentional way of providing an opportunity for people wanting to investigate Christianity or are new to faith.

Alpha				
	SPRING	SUMMER	AUTUMN	Total
2016 attendees	-	-	120	120
2017 attendees	14	28	100	142
2018 attendees	11	6	70	87
2019 attendees	-	-	90	90
2020 attendees	60	30	23	113
2021 attendees	29	?	?	29
2022 attendees	50	-	-	50
2023 attendees	20	-	-	-
2024 attendees	-			

MAKE A DIFFERENCE - Every member of St Matts is encouraged to serve on the **DREAM TEAM** whether it's helping with Kids Church, Worship, Welcome, Production, Cafe, Students, Youth, Small Group Leadership, Prayer Team.

GIVING - We would love to help everyone that calls St Matts 'home' and is part of the DREAM TEAM to develop Godly practices with their finances including — *'earning diligently, spending carefully, saving wisely, and giving generously'*. We would love to grow the number of people worshipping God through their finances and enabling the vision of the church to grow through their 'tithes' and 'offerings' and we are very grateful for everyone who gives financially into the life of the church enabling us to flourish and grow as a church family and bless the city, region and further afield.

GIVING: Number of individual monthly givers & monthly amounts given														
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2017	Givers	45	34	52	50	52	60	58	57	54	70	85	82	58
	Amount	4192	5627	8697	5123	5219	5806	7437	6771	6991	9831	9993	9145	84832
2018	Givers	77	85	86	105	99	93	97	102	96	123	116	120	100
	Amount	9207	12382	11372	13815	12536	11762	12004	12936	12037	14941	13000	14,376	150368
2019	Givers	141	149	149	151	143	143	143	143	145	137	154	148	145
	Amount	15,444	13,707	16,046	15,097	14,945	15,743	14,201	15,615	16,546	14,755	21736	18288	192123
2020	Givers	147	132	162	162	161	150	147	136	138	138	152	140	147
	Amount	19,034	14,385	20,563	14,607	16,000	17,885	16,359	14,312	14,866	14,439	17,356	17,452	197258
2021	Givers	134	136	132	126	142	140	127	122	125	142	132	126	132
	Amount	14273	18174	16933	13460	13210	15061	13,456	13,318	13,138	15,891	14782	15438	177134
2022	Givers	130	132	170	143	152	139	173	135	141	157	148	171	155
	Amount	15450	14938	19089	15810	16913	14586	16,438	14,457	15634	17829	14660	13993	189797

2023	Givers	135	131	130	139	130	131	126	115	112	131	113	107	125
	Amount	14826	14166	13682	16347	14,231	15,083	13,420	13,041	13,352	13,617	13,338	12678	167781
2024	Givers	111	104											
	Amount	13122	12664											

OTHER ACTIVITIES/REPORTS DURING THE YEAR

Soup Run -

St Matts have now been supporting Plymouth Soup Run for 4 years making and delivering food to 4 locations across the city every other Tuesday evening. Over the last year we have seen numbers reach a peak, with almost 100 meals being provided on a regular basis during Autumn 2023 reflecting the increased need in the city.

We have been blessed again this year by a group of longstanding and committed volunteers, many of whom but not all are members of St Matts and we are hugely thankful for them. We are grateful for the £2.5k of church funds that have enabled us to serve over 2000 hot meals this year, alongside cash donations of around £1,500, clothing and sleeping bags. This has allowed us to maintain the same level of service to those in need despite increasing costs. The new stove and storage cupboards have also made a real difference to our efforts thanks to the generosity of the church and Jerry Morris' sterling efforts.

Soup Run continues to provide an outlet for service and community for those in the church who are motivated to be involved in social action and to demonstrate the love of God. We would be happy to talk to anyone who would like to contribute to this ongoing ministry.

MISSIONS - St Matts 'tithes' 10% of it's income to other local, national and international charities and mission organisations including:

- **2% - Trevi House / Sunflower Project** (<https://trevi.org.uk/>) - Trevi is a nationally award-winning women's and children's charity based in St Matts parish, Plymouth providing safe and nurturing spaces for women in recovery to heal, grow and thrive.
- **2% - Shekinah** (<https://shekinah.co.uk/>) - South West charity providing opportunities for people who are experiencing all forms of homelessness.
- **2% Creation Fest** (<https://creationfest.org.uk/>) - regional Christian festival supporting and encouraging the church in the South West.
- **2% - Church Planting Fund** - a fund to support and enable church planting in and around Plymouth through St Matts.
- **1% - St Matts 'Acts 4 Fund'** - a fund providing small grants for St Matts members in financial hardship
- **1% - St Matts 'Missionary Fund'** - a fund providing small grants to support St Matts members with missionary endeavours.

ST SIMONS MOUNT GOULD -

In December 2021 the derelict church of St Simon's Mt Gould (Edith Avenue, PL4 8TJ) legally became part of St Matts. The PCC agreed with the Diocese of Exeter to an 18 month period to assess the longer term viability of developing a new worshipping community at the church, restoring the buildings and serving the area. In August 2023 St Matts PCC officially agreed to church plant at St Simons Mount Gould. Mike Knight has been appointed as Associate Vicar with responsibility for St Simons and we are hoping to launch Sunday services on the 19th May as part of the Love South West weekend. Do get in touch if you are interested in this exciting endeavour, and especially if you live over towards St Simons.

Considerable work has been accomplished over the years by dedicated volunteers. As well as generally maintenance of the site and upkeep of the gardens we have also installed new inner doors, made repairs to the external doors, and repaired stone tile flooring. We look forward to getting going with some larger projects (particularly installing heating and a PA) which will make the building more welcoming as we enter into the next season of church life.

The midweek service continues with around 20-30 people, monthly Sunday hangouts have varied (with 30-40 during the summer months but much fewer over the winter) and our Christmas Carols by Candlelight service was attended by well over 200 people with standing room only at the back!

BUILDINGS & MAINTENANCE REPORT - Claire Worth (Executive Director) -

The Church site and buildings have continued to be used in many different ways; The Church Hall has continued to be used for AA meetings, cooking and preparation for the bi-weekly Soup Run and providing pastoral care, support, friendship and advice. The Church Building is in full swing with Sunday services, Alpha, Student nights, St Mellitus College, Kingdom Come and other ad hoc events.

Last year's wins! - 2023 saw us complete some big projects that have been in the pipeline for many years. The toilet project was finished on time and within budget. This has made a big difference to the site and the users. It has been so nice to have a fully functioning, warm and clean space that is accessible to all. In addition, the sale of Dale Gardens not only allowed us to finance this project, but also gave us 3 months of operational reserves and some additional funds to invest back into the life and ministry of St Matts.

AA - Since lockdown and beyond, we have seen an increase in the number of people attending the Alcoholics Anonymous 'Road to Recovery' group in the Church Hall. The group continues to meet twice a week with over 100 members coming each week.

Site Maintenance - We were able to recruit a volunteer handyman who has been working hard to keep the grounds and garden area clean and tidy. There are some other church family members who have offered to help in this way so the team is building slowly but surely.

Flat roof in upper hall - The flat roof in the fire escape section of the upper hall (by the kitchen) had been leaking for some time. We have now had this replaced and the inner roof plastered and decorated. This will enable access to the disabled toilet.

Roof in the Church - As many of you will be aware, the roof in the church is slowly showing more and more leaks as the year progresses. With such wet weather, these leaks have gotten worse and we are getting quotes from various roofing contractors to see what needs to be done. This will likely be quite an expensive project and we are looking at grant/ matched funding opportunities to aid us with this.

Cleaner - We currently have an individual cleaning for us on a weekly basis, which is a cost saving in comparison to the various companies we have used over the last few years. We will keep an eye on this and assess our needs as required.

FINANCE REPORT - Teresa Cornish (Treasurer) -

During the year, the charity received a total income of £322,118. Although the majority of this was voluntary giving, £26,862 was received from hall rental and £48,734 was profit generated from the sale of the investment property at Dale Gardens.

Operating expenditure in the year amounted to £339,306. This includes costs of £47,995 to refurbish the toilet facilities in the church building. In addition, £19,948 of depreciation was charged in the year.

As a result of the significant deficit brought forward from 2022, substantial efforts have been made during the year to reduce operating expenditure. Despite the additional challenge caused by continued cost increases, expenditure in 2023 was approximately £40,000 less than the previous year. A considerable drop in regular giving of approximately £20,000 reduced the net impact of these savings on church funds. The church is currently operating with a monthly deficit of around £1,500. The monthly operating deficit in 2022 was £4,500. Plans are in place to increase giving and further reduce costs in 2024, with the aim of achieving a balanced budget.

The investment property at Dale Gardens was sold during the year. Proceeds of sale totalled £194,734. £75,000 of this has been used to establish a designated reserves fund, in accordance with the organisation's reserves policy. £47,995 was used to cover the cost of the toilet refurbishment. The remaining £71,739 was allocated to general funds to offset the negative balance brought forward from 2022 and to cover the anticipated 2023 deficit. There were no capital purchases in the year.

The 3 separate charities controlled by the Vicar, Churchwardens and PCC were dissolved during the year. The associated endowment accounts relating to these charities were closed and all funds were transferred to the church reserve account, where they are temporarily being held as general funds. The PCC will continue to decide how to utilise these funds to fulfil the purposes for which they were originally intended.

During the year, £3,379 was added to the church planting fund, which now stands at £72,241. £1,689 was used to establish a new mission fund to support individuals wishing to undertake

short term mission projects. £1,689 was also allocated to the hardship fund; 'The Acts 4 Fund' is available to support members of the congregation in financial difficulty. The balance of this fund is currently £8,222.

£8,294 of funds held for youth and media were used to offset some of the salary costs of the Youth Pastor and Media Coordinator during the year.

After the deduction of the £106,671 former endowment funds awaiting further allocation (see above), the general fund year end balance stands at £19,172.

Investment policy

In accordance with the charity's governing document, the Trustees have the power to invest funds in any investments that they see fit. The policy is to adopt a low risk strategy whilst maximising returns. The Trustees are satisfied with the performance of the investments held and that the policy adopted remains adequate and appropriate.

Reserves policy

It is the policy of the trustees to maintain unrestricted funds, which are free reserves, at a sufficient level to secure the continued provision of normal charitable activities for a maximum period of six months.

Teresa Cornish

Treasurer

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

Trustees' Responsibilities - Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity at the end of the year and of the surplus or deficiency for the year then ended.

In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to select suitable accounting policies, as described later in the accounts, and then apply them on a consistent basis, making judgements and estimates that are prudent and reasonable. The trustees must also prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Independent Examination

A resolution to appoint Tony Jopson & Co. as independent examiners for the ensuing year will be proposed at the next APCM during which the financial statements are approved in accordance with the Charities Act 2011

On behalf of the PCC

Sophie Chatten, Priest In Charge

Date

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF CHARLES WITH ST
MATTHIAS YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

I report on the attached accounts of the Parochial Church Council ("PCC") for the year ended 31 December 2023, in respect of an examination carried out under regulation 3 of the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 to 2001 and Section 145, Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act").

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees (members of the PCC) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 144 of the 2011 Act and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

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

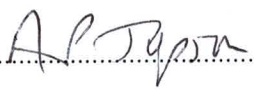
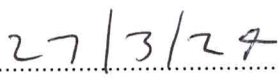
Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with these records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters as 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 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 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.

.....  

A P Jopson, FCA

Date

(Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales)

Tony Jopson & Co Ltd, Peverell Corner, 246 Peverell Park Road, Plymouth, PL3 4QG

The Parochial Church Council of Charles with St Mathias, Plymouth

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Year Ending 31 December 2023

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (SOFA)

	Note	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
		General £	Designated £	£	£	£	£
Income from							
Donations and legacies:							
Regular giving	2	197,067	17,050	2,713	0	216,830	238,340
Other voluntary receipts	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Church activities	4	53,170	0	0	0	53,170	43,696
Investments	5	3,384	48,734	0	0	52,118	67
Total Income		253,621	65,784	2,713	0	322,118	282,103
Expenditure on							
Church activities	6	318,320	11,117	29,817	0	359,254	356,834
Total Expenditure		318,320	11,117	29,817	0	359,254	356,834
Net income / (expenditure) before investment gains / (losses)		-64,699	5,933	-27,104	0	-85,870	-74,731
Net gains / (losses) on investments		0	48,734	0	0	48,734	-11,812
Net income / (expenditure)		-64,699	54,667	-27,104	0	-37,136	-86,543
Transfers between funds		219,648	-114,666	1,689	-106,671	0	0
Transfers in of 3 charities							
Assets controlled by PCC		0	0	0	0	0	0
Net movement in funds		154,949	-59,999	-25,415	-106,671	-37,136	-86,543
Total funds brought forward		-29,109	208,929	105,765	106,671	392,256	478,799
Total funds carried forward	12	125,840	148,930	80,350	0	355,120	392,256

The Parochial Church Council of Charles with St Mathias, Plymouth

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Year Ending 31 December 2023

BALANCE SHEET

		2023		2022	
	Note	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets	8				
Freehold investment property			0		146,000
Furniture, fixtures and fittings			27,493		35,453
Audio visual equipment			32,374		44,363
Investments	9		0		106,671
			<u>59,867</u>		<u>332,487</u>
Current Assets					
Debtors	10	11,616		29,504	
Cash on deposit		263,030		22,308	
Cash at bank and in hand		27,691		19,019	
		<u>302,338</u>		<u>70,831</u>	
Creditors					
Falling due within one year	11	<u>7,085</u>		<u>11,061</u>	
Net Current Assets			295,253		59,770
Total Assets less Current Liabilities			355,120		392,256
Creditors					
Falling due after more than one year			0		0
Net Assets			<u>355,120</u>		<u>392,256</u>
Funds	12				
Endowment funds			0		106,671
Designated funds			148,930		208,929
Restricted funds			80,350		105,765
Unrestricted funds			125,840		-29,109
Total Funds			<u>355,120</u>		<u>392,256</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Parochial Church Council on 21/3/2024 and signed on its behalf by



Dr S Pearson
PCC Chair



Ms T Cornish
Treasurer

The Parochial Church Council of Charles with St Mathias, Plymouth

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year Ending 31 December 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS 102).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention, except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at fair value.

The PCC meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the PCC.

Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis. There are no material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubts upon the PCC's ability to continue as a going concern.

Funds

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

Restricted funds are amounts which have been received by the PCC with specific directions concerning the way in which capital and any income arising are to be expended.

Endowment funds are sums which are held by or on behalf of the PCC and where only the income can be spent, with the capital being retained permanently, or at the PCC's discretion, and invested.

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

Income

Donations and legacies: Planned giving, collections and general donations are recognised only when received. Gift aid recoverable on donations is recognised when the donation is received. Grants and legacies to the PCC are recognised as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is probable.

The Parochial Church Council of Charles with St Mathias, Plymouth

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year Ending 31 December 2023

Charitable activities: Income from church fee income is recognised when the fee is due. Income from activities is accounted for gross.

Other trading activities: Rental income is recognised when the rent is due. Where income is received in advance, it is recognised in the year in which the event takes place that it relates to.

Investments: Interest entitlements are accounted for as they accrue. Dividends are accounted for when due and payable.

Expenditure

Raising funds: Expenditure on raising funds is accounted for on the accruals basis. Raising funds includes the costs of the investment property.

Charitable activities: Expenditure on charitable activities is accounted for on the accruals basis. The diocesan common fund is accounted for when payable. Any unpaid amount at 31 December is provided for in these accounts as an operational (although not legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the balance sheet. Grants are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

Tangible fixed assets

Consecrated land and buildings and moveable church furnishing: Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s10(2)(a) of the Charities Act 2011. No value is placed on moveable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers this to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings and moveable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the SOFA and separately disclosed.

Freehold property: Freehold property is valued at purchase price. In the opinion of the PCC members, depreciation of freehold properties would be immaterial and has not been charged. The members carry out an annual impairment review, and in their opinion no provision is necessary in respect of the value at which freehold properties are included in the financial statements.

Other fixed assets: Other fixed assets are recognised at cost. Individual assets with a purchase price less than £1,000 are written off when the asset is acquired. Depreciation has been provided on other fixed assets on a straight-line basis in order to write off the cost of the assets over the following estimated useful lives:

- Fixtures and fittings - 10 years
- Computers and equipment - 5 years

The Parochial Church Council of Charles with St Mathias, Plymouth

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year Ending 31 December 2023

Investment properties

Investment properties are included in the balance sheet at their open market value in accordance with FRS 102 and are not depreciated.

Investments

Investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price. The SOFA includes net gains and losses arising on revaluations and disposals throughout the year.

Debtors

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors less provision for any amounts that may prove uncollectible. These are recognised initially at the settlement amount. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid, net of any trade discounts due.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, and other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

Creditors

Creditors are recognised when the PCC has an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Creditors are recognised at the amount that the PCC anticipates it will pay to settle the debt, or the amount it has received as advanced payment for the goods or services it must provide.

Financial instruments

The church only has financial assets and liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. All (including debtors and creditors) are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

The Parochial Church Council of Charles with St Mathias, Plymouth

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
Year Ending 31 December 2023

		Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
		General £	Designated £	£	£	£	£
2	Regular giving						
	Planned giving inc. envelopes	165,453	15,150	2,457	0	183,060	198,824
	Collections at services	3,473	0	0	0	3,473	0
	Income tax recovered	28,141	1,900	256	0	30,297	39,516
		197,067	17,050	2,713	0	216,830	238,340
3	Other voluntary receipts						
	Government COVID relief grants	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Love Your Neighbour & Covid relief giving	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Donation to youth and media	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Hardship fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
		0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Income from church activities						
	Statutory fees - weddings, funerals, etc.	372	0	0	0	372	1,408
	Miscellaneous	20,722	0	0	0	20,722	13,545
	Gross income (solar panels)	5,214	0	0	0	5,214	0
	Gross income (hall lettings)	25,996	0	0	0	25,996	23,543
	Gross income (letting 18 Dale Gardens)	866	0	0	0	866	5,200
		53,170	0	0	0	53,170	43,696
5	Income from investments						
	Profit from sale of investments	0	48,734	0	0	48,734	0
	Dividends & interest	1,859	0	0	0	1,859	0
	Bank interest received	1,524	0	0	0	1,524	67
		3,384	48,734	0	0	52,118	67
	Total Income	253,621	65,784	2,713	0	322,118	282,103
6	Expenditure on charitable activities						
	Ministry: common fund	67,637	0	0	0	67,637	56,918
	Church running expenses	16,227	834	0	0	17,061	13,708
	Church maintenance	55,068	9,845	0	0	64,913	20,758
	Upkeep of services	4,515	294	0	0	4,809	6,283
	Music and production	8,716	0	0	0	8,716	10,908
	Parish hall – services and maintenance	20,001	0	0	0	20,001	23,925
	Events and other parish expenditure	3,643	0	0	0	3,643	13,623
	Youth / student work	5,089	0	0	0	5,089	6,177
	Maintenance costs – 18 Dale Gardens	866	0	0	0	866	1,581
	Salaries and fees	117,355	0	8,294	0	125,649	155,046
	Training	1,098	0	0	0	1,098	1,829
	External giving	10,209	0	1,575	0	11,784	13,600
	Depreciation	0	0	19,948	0	19,948	19,948
	Administration	7,496	144	0	0	7,640	12,529
	Accountant's fees	400	0	0	0	400	0
	Total Expenditure	318,320	11,117	29,817	0	359,254	356,833

7 Transactions with PCC members and related parties

- None of the members of the PCC were remunerated or reimbursed for their expenses in their capacity as PCC members.
- Hannah Bowker was paid £18,540 for her role as Church Centre Manager. Claire Worth was paid £38,625 for her role as Executive Director.
- During 2023, the PCC received £27,708 in donations from Trustees. The donors did not attach any conditions to their gift which required the charity to significantly alter the nature of its existing activities.

The Parochial Church Council of Charles with St Mathias, Plymouth

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
Year Ending 31 December 2023

8	Tangible fixed assets	Investment Property £	A/V & IT Equipment £	Furniture, Fixtures & Fittings £	Total £
	Cost or valuation				
	At 1/1/23	146,000	119,887	79,595	345,482
	Additions	-146,000	0	0	-146,000
	At 31/12/23	0	119,887	79,595	199,482
	Depreciation				
	At 1/1/23	0	75,524	44,143	119,666
	Charge for the year	0	11,989	7,960	19,948
	At 31/12/23	0	87,512	52,102	139,614
	Net book value				
	At 31/12/2023	0	32,374	27,493	59,867
	At 31/12/2022	146,000	44,363	35,453	225,816

9	Investments	Market Value 31/12/23 £	Market Value 31/12/22 £
	Household of Faith	0	34,247
	Victoria Almshouses	0	30,682
	Charles Plymouth Relief in Need	0	41,742
		0	106,671

- These investments were held in separate charities and were shown on the church's balance sheet as they were under the control of the Vicar, Churchwardens and PCC, in line with guidance from the Diocese.

- These charities were dissolved during 2023 and the balances held were transferred to the church general fund, as directed by the PCC.

10	Debtors	31/12/23 £	31/12/22 £
	Gift Aid reclaimable	2,175	10,157
	Prepayments	0	3,777
	Rent due	7,551	6,600
	Solar feed-in	0	0
	Other debtors	1,890	8970
		11,616	29,504

11	Creditors	31/12/23 £	31/12/22 £
	Fees due	229	64
	Other creditors	1,846	5,774
	Accrued expenses	5,010	5,223
		7,085	11,061

12	Funds	Bal b/fwd £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Bal c/fwd £
	General unrestricted	-29,109	253,621	318,320	219,648	125,840
	Designated for church planting	62,929	17,050	11,117	3,379	72,241
	Designated property investment	146,000	48,734		-194,734	0
	Designated mission	0			1,689	1,689
	Designated reserves	0			75,000	75,000
	Restricted youth & media	20,557		8,294		12,263
	Restricted hardship fund	5,395	2,713	1,575	1,689	8,222
	Restricted fixed assets	79,813		19,948		59,865
	Endowment funds - 3 separate charities	106,671			-106,671	0
		392,256	322,118	359,254	0	355,120

Accounts



**Annual Report and
Financial Statements
of the Parochial Church Council
for the year ended 31 December 2022**

Incumbent

(In vacancy)

Bank:

Barclays Bank Plc
19 Princess Street
Plymouth

Independent Examiner:

Tony Jopson & Co.
246 Peverell Park Road
Plymouth PL3 4QG

Registered Charity Number:

1134139

**The Parish Church of Charles with St Matthias
'St Matts Plymouth'
North Hill, Plymouth, PL4 8HF
stmplymouth.org.uk**



THE **EVANGELISATION** OF THE NATIONS
THE **REVITALISATION** OF THE CHURCH AND THE **TRANSFORMATION** OF SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022
(presented Sunday 23rd April 2023)

‘CHARLES WITH ST MATTHIAS (St Matts) PLYMOUTH’

Diocesan ID - 9187

Registered Charity Number - 1134139

PURPOSE - St Matts is a **City Centre Resource Church** with a vision to play it's part in the:

The **EVANGELISATION** of the nations;
The **REVITALISATION** of the Church;
The **TRANSFORMATION** of society.

MISSION - St Matts aims to fulfil this vision through four operating lenses:

KNOW GOD - We want everyone to come into a personal relationship with Jesus. We do this principally through our **Sunday Services** and encouraging people in their own personal faith journey.

FIND FREEDOM - We want everyone to grow in their relationship with God and to discover freedom and life. We believe this happens supremely in community with others in midweek **Small Groups** where we can grow in life, faith and friendship.

DISCOVER PURPOSE - We want everyone to discover their purpose in life. We do this through our **Join the Adventure sessions** providing people with an opportunity to learn how to get the most out of their faith and how God has made them.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE - We want everyone to get up and running living a life of service and blessing. Through our **Dream Team** of volunteers we hope to connect every person with an area of the church's life that energises them, blesses others and spills out into other areas of their life.

Background - The church in its current format was launched on **25 September 2016** by Revd Olly & Ali Ryder and a small staff & volunteer team, at the invitation of the Bishops of Exeter and Plymouth in partnership with Holy Trinity Brompton, London. St Matts is part of the **Plymouth City Deanery** in the **Diocese of Exeter** in the **Church of England** and is based at the top of North Hill, Plymouth, PL4 8HF.

Structure, Governance and Management - St Matts is led by the **PCC** (Parochial Church Council). The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church of England's '*Church Representation Rules*'. All church attendees who consider themselves as belonging to the worshipping community of St Matts are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll. All those on the Electoral Roll may stand for election on the PCC. The Church Council should reflect the diversity of the church and local community. PCC members are re-elected every three years. The Church Council has responsibility, alongside the Vicar, staff team, and lay pastors, of fulfilling the church's vision. PCC members who served from **April 2022** until the date this report was approved are:

PCC Members

Ex-Officio Members

Vicar and Chairman	Olly Ryder [left November 2022]
Curate	Reuben Crossley [left June 2022]
Curate	Mike Knight

Church Wardens

Adrian Boughton	<i>Elected annually up to six successive years</i>
Sally Pearson	Elected 2022
	Elected 2022

Deanery Synod Members

Teresa Cornish	<i>Elected every three years</i>
Jeff Stephenson	Elected 2022
	Elected 2022

Safeguarding Representative

Jen Bradley	Appointed 2022
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Other Members

Bob Mills	Treasurer	<i>Elected every three years</i>
Dean Jacobs		Elected 2021 [serving second term]
Tim Hookway		Elected 2021 [serving second term]
Laura Fraser-Crewes		Elected 2022 [serving second term]
Neil Mawson		Elected 2021
Jeff Stephenson		Elected 2021
Teresa Cornish		Elected 2021
Jesse Leach		Elected 2020
Beth Horton		Elected 2021
Georgia Grinham		Elected 2022
Sam Ansell		Elected 2022
Jonny Wilson		Elected 2022
Janet Stirling		Elected 2022

Co-Opted Members (non-voting)

Hannah Bowker	Secretary	Elected 2021 [re-elected annually since 2017]
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Staff Team - (as of April 2023)

Claire Worth	Executive Director
Mike Knight	Curate
Phil Jones	Worship & Creative Pastor
Lizzie Roberts	Kids & Youth Pastor (Maternity Cover)
Noah Gilbert	Production Coordinator
Hannah English	Church Coordinator & Executive Assistant
Amy Wheeler	<i>Kids & Youth Pastor [Maternity leave]</i>
Lucy Gilbert	<i>Youth Pastor [Maternity leave]</i>

ANNUAL REVIEW - 2022/23

St Matts has completed its **sixth** full year as a '**HTB Network' City Centre Resource Church** with a vision to play its part in the '**evangelisation of the nations, the revitalisation of the church and the transformation of society**' by helping people to know God, find freedom, discover purpose and make a difference. The church has grown from a small group of 30-50 to a post pandemic level of 300+ every Sunday.

We sadly said goodbye to Revd Olly Ryder and his wife Ali who were instrumental in relaunching St Matts over 6 years ago. They are dearly loved and missed at St Matts, but we continue to pray for them and wish them well in all the future holds.

We advertised the position of 'Priest-in-Charge' at St Matts and held interviews in February but, although we had three great candidates, the panel did not feel it was right to appoint any of them for the position. We continue now in a vacancy but full of hope in all that God will do in this season and as we look forward to who he will bring to lead St Matts into the future.

2022 was our first full year clear from Covid restrictions and it has been great seeing the St Matts family come out of that time and begin to rebuild together. Over the year, we've continued to meet and provide a space for encounter and encouragement with our whole church family and visitors at our **Sunday Services** offering both 'in-person' and 'online' provision. Over the year we've had almost 300 people gathering every Sunday in the building as well as around 100 online and 50-60 children and youth. We've also continued providing smaller midweek communities for people to grow in faith and friendship through our **Small Groups** - this term there are 45 groups.

It has been a year of goodbyes as we also said farewell to our Curate Reuben, Ordinand Robin and Kids Pastor Julia as they each continue with their calling and head on to serve God in new places. We also welcomed Amy Wheeler as our new Kids pastor in the summer and wish both her and Lucy Gilbert well on maternity leave, during which Kids and Youth will be covered by Lizzie Roberts.

Looking ahead - As we look ahead to a new church year there is lots to look forward to including the ongoing exploration of the viability of planting a church into St Simon's Mt Gould (decisions on this have been delayed whilst we find our new leader); improving the site at St Matts with a possible toilet project; continuing to grow our Sunday Services and church family; continuing to encourage and thank our amazing Dream Team with a dream team party; developing our Small Groups; and continuing to grow the different strands of church life: Kids Church, Youth, Students, Over 50s and Missions.

Love South West - We are looking forward to a united weekend of worship, service and invitation as part of Love South West 2023 which will be held 19-21 June (<https://www.lovesouthwest.org.uk/>). We'll gather at Methodist Central Hall for a Kingdom Come night of worship and prayer on Fri 19th May (tickets available now); and encourage our church to run social action projects in our streets and local communities on Sat 20 May; and invite people to 'Try Church' at St Matts on Sun 21 May.

Creation Fest - We are looking forward to the whole St Matts family attending Creation Fest (4th- 7th August) - <https://creationfest.org.uk/>) for an extended weekend with churches across the South West for worship, teaching, prayer, fun and time together.

As you read the rest of this report, we hope you enjoy and are inspired by all that God is doing in and through us and all that lies ahead. Thank you so much for being part of this family and this God-adventure by the sea.

KNOW GOD - Sunday Services

CONTACTS

Database - 'Join the Adventure' cards												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2017	387	450	494	543	604	639	657	667	702	743	865	902
2018	935	996	1022	1040	1099	1116	1145	1161	1208	1251	1315	1363
2019	1386	1401	1440	1438	1488	1500	1549	-	1584	-	1665	-
2020	1719	1727	1785	1795	data cleanse		1154	-	1148	-	1236	-
2021	1246	cleanse	-	-	1250	1252	1256	-	1260	-	1374	-
2022	1375	1402	1417	1446	1458	1483	1488	*archiving	1353	*archiving	1131	1138
2023	1138	1176	1191									
Facebook - 'Followers'												
2017	633	685	762	797	825	852	862	894	980	1036	1059	1098
2018	1109	1123	1155	1188	1217	1226	1248	1262	1337	1402	1424	1458
2019	1482	1500	1521	1626	1628	1678	1688	-	1762	-	1825	-
2020	1828	-	1943	1971	-	-	1997	-	1941	-	2026	-
2021	2095	-	2089	-	2128	2022	2025	-	2133	-	2144	-
2022	2144	2100	2086	2096	2102	2106	2110	2134	2146	2158	2166	2170
2023	2197	2206	2220									
Instagram - 'Followers'												
2018	-	725	792	843	870	885	917	952	982	1024	1066	-
2019	-	1144	1160	-	1207	-	1267	-	1342	-	1403	-
2020	1447	-	-	1490	-	-	1507	-	1,510	-	1542	-
2021	1560	-	1580	-	1601	1608	1611	-	1,618	-	1651	-
2022	1667	1676	1680	-	1691	1697	1703	1700	1699	1710	1724	1738
2023	1740	1741	1743									

ELECTORAL ROLL - (members of the church's official register): **140** (as at 18th April 2023).

SUNDAY SERVICES - St Matts currently has two main Sunday services - **THE TEN & THE FIVE** with an average weekly attendance of around 350 people across the two services - 300 adults & 50 children - and a further 50-100 for 'Church Online'.

Average Main Service Attendance													
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2018	TEN	242	257	200	285	245	259	253	236	297	291	280	282
2018	SIX	183	190	158	168	154	126	98	106	199	230	215	166
	Total	407	447	358	453	399	385	351	342	496	521	495	448
2019	TEN	332	311	306	297	269	321	291	257	321	319	299	213
2019	SIX	229	254	208	177	200	172	148	127	240	227	220	201
	Total	561	565	514	475	469	493	439	384	561	546	519	414
2020	TEN	318	265	CO 298	CO 351	CO 267	CO 211	CO 172	CO 120	79	70	70	-
2020	SIX	203	225	CO 157	CO 87	CO 66	Live 54	CO 44	Live 31	66	70	70	-
	YouTube	-	-	-	418	497	441	354	393	340	366	464	569
	Total	521	490	455	856	830	706	570	544	485	621	644	569
2021	TEN	-	-	-	-	104	74	63	-	-	TEN	150	272
2021	SIX/Five	-	-	-	-	83	70	85	-	-	FIVE	40	87
	SEVEN	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	SEVEN	90	119
2021	Online	69	89	97	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2021	YouTube	235	262	219	-	358	133	170	-	-	YouTube	280	114
	Total	304	351	316	-	545	277	318	-	-	-	560	-
2022	TEN	118	131	156	225	207	170	137	153	175	166	182	139
2022	FIVE	96	124	147	108	132	98	98	55	65	132	109	168
2022	YouTube	156	121	111	157	110	98	110	82	72	85	110	102
	Total	370	376	414	490	449	366	345	290	312	383	401	356
2023	TEN	159	175	138									
2023	FIVE	88	100	105									
2023	YouTube	72	70	79									
	Total	319	345	322									

CO - Church Online

BAPTISMS - It's been a joy to welcome people into the Christian faith and join with them as they publicly affirm their faith in Baptism. It's been particularly joyful to celebrate with some mums from Trevi house who have been Baptised alongside their babies, and to hear a little bit of their stories.

Baptisms and Reaffirmations of Baptismal Vows				
	Spring	Summer	Autumn	Total over year
2017	19	5	1	25
2018	7	-	10	17
2019	17	12	8	37
2020	0	2 (reaffirmations)	0	2 (reaffirmations)/ Covid
2021	0	12	5	17
2022	8	9	6	23
2023	7			

CHILDREN & YOUTH - Amy Wheeler (Kids & Youth Pastor)

KIDS

The vision of Kids Church is to love and serve the children of St Matts, to enable them to become wholehearted followers of Jesus Christ. This is based on the scripture: 'Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.' (Proverbs 22:6)

Sundays

There have been several changes to Kids Church on Sundays. The five different age groups have been slimmed down to three. Preschool (2 - 4.5 year olds), Foundation - Year 4 (4.5 - 9 Year olds) and Year 5 and 6 (9 - 11 Year olds). A Creche has been created in the downstairs office for children under the age of 2, where the service is live streamed. There are age appropriate toys available and a place for parents to sit comfortably with their baby. Preschool room will accept children from the age of 18 months with a parent present to ensure a smooth transition if the child is not used to being left with other adults. The Creche is not volunteer run as it is a place for parents to go with their children if they feel more comfortable in a separate room but they still have access to the service.

On an average Sunday we get between 40 - 60 children attending the three age groups.

Curriculum for all three groups has also changed with the introduction of Scripture Union and Youth for Christ resources. For the Preschool room the emphasis is on play and creative based learning. For Foundation - Year 4 the main objective is to create a foundation of knowledge in discipleship and fellowship amongst their peers and leaders. In Year 5 and 6 the overarching principle is to prepare the children for being a Christ following young person.

An inclusion team has also been created for any children who have additional needs, therefore needing 1-2-1 support.

Team

We currently have 43 volunteers on the team, 31 female and 12 male. We are also starting to develop junior leaders who like to help with our registration process at the beginning of the TEN service.

Kids Church Special Events and Activities

Light Party - We had an excellent turn out for our Light Party which was Neon themed. Around 120 children turned up with their parents and carers. We had a silent disco from Jozzy sounds, a bouncy slide, face painting, candy floss and lots more activities. The majority of the children were not attending St Matts at the time and 3 families started attending after the event. Amy gave a short message on Jesus coming to this Earth to bring light to banish the darkness of sin.

Christmas - Our Family carols service was very successful. 15 children performed major roles and many more children played background roles. Amy gave a talk on Jesus being the ultimate gift to mankind. For Christmas day Amy also gave a family talk on symbolism and how Jesus can appear in the small things.

Schools - Amy has continued the great relationship with Prince Rock school. She has also started visiting Mount Street school on a regular basis. These assemblies are a form of outreach and create a strong connection in the community. Amy also invited the schools to the Light party and Christmas services.

Mini-Matts - Amy and Mike Knight have been running a weekly parents/carers/toddlers group in the Church Hall on Mondays. It's a space for parents and carers to connect, enjoy coffee, cake, conversation and mutual support and encouragement and for their children to have a safe and fun place to play and grow in friendships. We have a lovely group of childminders and a group of grandparents who have formed social groups.

Vision/Next Steps

As Amy goes on maternity leave, Lizzie will continue to forge connections with the team, families and our local community. When Amy returns in November the next steps will be to have more of an outreach focus. Creating events and activities to bring in families who have not attended church. Although great headway has been made in utilising our resources more effectively, more work will be done to ensure the Kids team can use our resources easily.

YOUTH

Lucy, our Youth pastor, did an excellent job in establishing two spaces for young people to meet and explore faith.

Younger Youth - We provide 'Youth' on a Sunday morning during The Ten. This is a place to play games, hear about each other's difficulties and wins and to grow in relationship with God. We have started using Youth for Christ for our curriculum exploring various different topics such as mental health and what it means to be Christ-like. We are starting to find that this group is starting to get big in numbers with 10 - 18 youth attending. We are also finding that the older ones in this group are starting to want to explore deeper topics and discuss things further. Whereas the younger ones are ready to move on to the next activity. This could mean we split the group into 11s - 13s and a 13 plus group to facilitate that.

Monday evenings, called 'Fusion' is our youth club. This continues our session from Sunday with lighter activities and more competitive and active games. The emphasis is more on fellowship and making connections.

Older Youth and Young Adults - On Lucy's departure on maternity leave, she still felt that older youth (GCSE age and above) was something to continue to look at but very difficult to engage with. This could be something for our future vision of Youth to pursue.

Team - We currently have 5 volunteers that lead Sunday sessions, 4 female and 1 male. Amy runs Fusion with 3 female volunteers.

Youth Light Party - One of our big events of this year was our Light Party in October. We saw over 40 young people between the ages of 11-16 gather together for an evening of mess and fun. The young people enjoyed pizza and inflatables and all participated in dressing up for the occasion.

Vision/Next Steps - The next steps for Youth ministry is to continue to grow team, look at how we can split the Sunday group into older and younger youth, do more outreach in the community and look at making connections with community by making links with schools and hosting events. It would be great to get more team members for both groups,

especially males so that our young boys have a role model.

SAFEGUARDING - All those working with children and youth are expected to have **DBS disclosures**. St Matts has a **Child Protection Policy** and an **Equal Opportunities Policy**. Any concerns regarding children's safety should be referred to our **Safeguarding Representative, Jen Bradley** - safeguarding@stmplymouth.org.uk

Children & Youth - Average Weekly Service Attendance												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2017	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	56	57	59	46
2018	69	67	65	86	66	71	71	69	92	84	81	70
2019	81	87	116	73	69	87	62	60	89	81	71	64
2020	78	64	74	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2021	98	112	75	-	-	78	81	29	72	54	43	63
2022	45	48	52	48	58	51	57	36	48	45	52	28
2023	37	42	37									
Children & Youth - Total Contacts on Database												
2017	-	-	96	96	97	97	97	97	180	189	198	211
2018	219	242	259	274	308	314	331	357	387	418	435	444
2019	467	481	499	523	532	563	561	568	575	-	591	-
2020	612	623	644	641	-	-	642	-	-	-	-	-
2021	-	-	-	-	637	-	649	-	-	-	-	-
2022	668	673	676	680	688	707	711	592	602	604	606	612
2023	612	621	625									
YOUTH NIGHTS												
2020	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	16	-	18
2021	-	-	-	5	7	8	7	-	-	-	9	9
2022		6	8	9	10	9	-	-	10	10	8	6
2023	7	8	6									

STUDENTS - Revd Mike Knight (Curate) -

Students continue to make up a large proportion of our church family (particularly at the Five on Sundays) and our student community contributes massively to the life of the church. We love students and are committed to reaching out to the 35,000 students at Plymouth's three universities.

Student Night - 2022 saw our Student Night back in full force post pandemic. We meet weekly on a Thursday evening with around 40 students for time to hang out, worship together, hear from scripture or on particular topics and chat/ pray in our small groups. We also try to have lots of fun with plenty of quiz nights and a fantastic end of year Beach BBQ at Bovisand, including an inter-church rounders match (we won of course!). A continued highlight of our student nights is our termly 'Testimony Takeover' which continues to always be well attended and bring in some who have never set foot in a church before. We are low on first year students this year but continue often to attract and make space for students in their later years who have walked away from church since leaving home or are looking to reconnect with their faith again.

Vision/Next Steps - We will be looking to run some events to help equip the many students who will be heading on from Plymouth to the world of work, as well as finishing the student year well together. I'll be particularly looking for new team members as we head towards the start of a new academic year, especially among the first years and newer students. We'd also love to see more connection and cohesion

between our student community and the wider church and to continue to see our students growing in confidence and faith as we seek to play our part in reaching the 35,000 students at Plymouth's three Universities.

Students - connected with community (Facebook Group)												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2017	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	178	184
2018	189	196	206	214	207	207	209	213	218	234	240	-
2019	-	255	259	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	272	-
2020	-	-	-	295	296	297	298	295	305	313	313	312
2021	313	314	-	-	308	308	306	-	-	-	308	-
2022	309	307	305	307	307	307	307	308	309	306	305	303
2023	300	299	296									
Instagram - @stmstudents												
2021	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	401	-
2022	419	422	430	433	439	439	439	436	434	445	469	471
2023	473	474	475									
Student Nights - Thursday night gathering during term time for food, worship, message, discussion, prayer												
2019	-	67	50	40	41	-	-	-	52	59	47	-
2020	45	57	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	68 (in person)	42 (online)	45 (online)
2021	37 (online)	40 (online)	-	50	52	46	-	-	40-60	40-60	40-60	-
2022	-	40	45	45	49	49	-	-	45	45	45	45
2023	50	40	35									

Student SMALL GROUPS				
		AUTUMN	SPRING	SUMMER
2020-21	GROUPS	12	9	-
	LEADERS	16	11	-
	MEMBERS	75	55	-
		AUTUMN	SPRING	SUMMER
2021-22	GROUPS	5	6	6
	LEADERS	9	9	9
	MEMBERS	45	48	50
		AUTUMN	SPRING	SUMMER
2022-23	GROUPS	7	6	
	LEADERS	10	9	
	MEMBERS	58	41	

FIND FREEDOM - Small Groups

SMALL GROUPS - Revd Mike Knight (Curate) - Small Groups have one, simple purpose - to bring people together. We believe God created us to live in community with others and only then can we experience the full life he intends for us. Small Groups provide a place for us to **connect with others, share life, and grow in faith** together. We believe life-change happens in the context of relationships. Our belief and vision is that St Matts is a church **of** Small Groups, not a church **with** Small Groups.

Small groups have continued to go from strength to strength. The autumn term saw over 45 groups with over 50 leaders and 300+ distinct attendees. It's been a joy to take over our small groups with already such a strong culture of invitation, welcome and fun.

We held an autumn Small Group Leaders Celebration and training in November 2021, which saw 55 booked in including those currently running groups and many who are simply thinking about it for the future. We continue to have a broad mix of groups from activity based (board games, fitness) to more direct Bible study groups. There is a desire to grow these as places of deeper discipleship, closer community and mission without losing the sense of fun, simplicity and ease of getting groups up-and-running and people into leadership roles.

SMALL GROUPS				
		SPRING	SUMMER	AUTUMN
2017	GROUPS	28	28	24
	LEADERS	-	-	-
	MEMBERS	154	181	135
2018	GROUPS	34	33	48
	LEADERS	-	-	65
	MEMBERS	246	252	357
2019	GROUPS	46	40	44
	LEADERS	58	60	60
	MEMBERS	329	315	353
2020	GROUPS	52	44	50
	LEADERS	60	54	62
	MEMBERS	497	400	382
2021	GROUPS	37	38	41
	LEADERS	47	48	56
	MEMBERS	319	290	360
2022	GROUPS	43	41	44
	LEADERS	55	52	48
	MEMBERS	410	355	330
2023	GROUPS	45		
	LEADERS	55		
	MEMBERS	345		

ALPHA - Revd Mike Knight (Curate) and Teresa Cornish - *We encourage members of the congregation to share their faith with others in their everyday life. We also run the Alpha course as a more intentional way of providing an opportunity for people wanting to investigate Christianity or are new to faith.*

Our Ordinand Robin Smith ran Alpha at St Matts for many years including a centralised course with Teresa in Spring 2022 which gathered a good group of nearly 50 people many of whom had never attended an Alpha course before or with us at St Matts. More recently we have had more time, resource and financial constraints (it costs several thousand pounds to run a centralised Alpha with dinner). However, we wanted to continue to provide this opportunity for people to explore Christian faith and launch Alpha groups in homes as part of our Small group structures this Spring. We launched at St Matts with around 20 guests and have split into two groups meeting in leaders houses where there is space for discussion both for those who are new to faith and those who are brushing up on the basics.

Alpha				
	SPRING	SUMMER	AUTUMN	Total
2016 attendees	-	-	120	120
2017 attendees	14	28	100	142
2018 attendees	11	6	70	87
2019 attendees	-	-	90	90
2020 attendees	60	30	23	113
2021 attendees	29	?	?	29
2022 attendees	50	-	-	50
2023 attendees	20	-	-	

MAKE A DIFFERENCE - Every member of St Matts is encouraged to serve on the **DREAM TEAM** whether it's helping with Kids Church, Worship, Welcome, Production, Cafe, Students, Youth, Small Group Leadership, Prayer Team. An annual Dream Team Party is held each year to thank all team members. There are currently around **176** members of the **DREAM TEAM**.

GIVING - We would love to help everyone that calls St Matts 'home' and is part of the DREAM TEAM to develop Godly practices with their finances including — *'earning diligently, spending carefully, saving wisely, and giving generously'*. We have a growing number of people worshipping God through their finances and enabling the vision of the church to grow through their 'tithes' and 'offerings'. We are very grateful for everyone who gives financially into the life of the church enabling us to flourish and grow as a church family and bless the city, region and further afield.

GIVING: Number of individual monthly givers & monthly amounts given														
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2017	Givers	45	34	52	50	52	60	58	57	54	70	85	82	58
	Amount	4192	5627	8697	5123	5219	5806	7437	6771	6991	9831	9993	9145	84832
2018	Givers	77	85	86	105	99	93	97	102	96	123	116	120	100
	Amount	9207	12382	11372	13815	12536	11762	12004	12936	12037	14941	13000	14,376	150368
2019	Givers	141	149	149	151	143	143	143	143	145	137	154	148	145
	Amount	15,444	13,707	16,046	15,097	14,945	15,743	14,201	15,615	16,546	14,755	21736	18288	192123
2020	Givers	147	132	162	162	161	150	147	136	138	138	152	140	147
	Amount	19,034	14,385	20,563	14,607	16,000	17,885	16,359	14,312	14,866	14,439	17,356	17,452	197258
2021	Givers	134	136	132	126	142	140	127	122	125	142	132	126	132
	Amount	14273	18174	16933	13460	13210	15061	13,456	13,318	13,138	15,891	14782	15438	177134
2022	Givers	130	132	170	143	152	139	173	135	141	157	148	171	155
	Amount	15450	14938	19089	15810	16913	14586	16,438	14,457	15634	17829	14660	13993	189797

OTHER ACTIVITIES/REPORTS DURING THE YEAR

Soup Run - The Church Council continues to fund the Soup Run (around £2k pa) overseen by congregation members Neil & Liz Mawson and Jill and Jerry Morris, alongside a group of reliable and committed volunteers. As well as providing physical, relational and spiritual support and encouragement to those in need, the Soup Run also provides a low key bridge to faith and the church. There are a number of regular

attendees of the church who have made St Matts their home as a direct result of their contact with the Soup Run Team, including a member who was recently baptised. The Soup Run also provides an outlet for service and community for those in the church who are motivated to be involved in social action.

MISSIONS - St Matts 'tithes' 10% of it's income to other local, national and international charities and mission organisations including:

- **2% - Trevi House / Sunflower Project** (<https://trevi.org.uk/>) - Trevi is a nationally award-winning women's and children's charity based in St Matts parish, Plymouth providing safe and nurturing spaces for women in recovery to heal, grow and thrive.
- **2% - Shekinah** (<https://shekinah.co.uk/>) - South West charity providing opportunities for people who are experiencing all forms of homelessness.
- **2% Creation Fest** (<https://creationfest.org.uk/>) - regional Christian festival supporting and encouraging the church in the South West.
- **2% - Church Planting Fund** - a fund to support and enable church planting in and around Plymouth through St Matts.
- **1% - St Matts 'Acts 4 Fund'** - a fund providing small grants for St Matts members in financial hardship
- **1% - St Matts 'Missionary Fund'** - a fund providing small grants to support St Matts members with missionary endeavours.

CHURCH PLANTING - **St Simon's Mt Gould** - St Matts is a church plant from Holy Trinity Brompton. Church planting and church renewal across the city and region is part of our vision. Since we launched in 2016, we have been involved to varying degrees in helping to plant churches at St Chad's Whitleigh, St Mark's Ford, and Bay Church Torbay. We are a church who are expecting to continue to plant and grow and are currently exploring a church plant at St Simon's Mt Gould.

In December 2021 the derelict church of St Simon's Mt Gould (Edith Avenue, PL4 8TJ) legally became part of St Matts. The PCC agreed with the Diocese of Exeter to an 18 month period to assess the longer term viability of developing a new worshipping community at the church, restoring the buildings and serving the area. It is an adjoining parish to St. Matt's and is set in the Mount Gould area of Plymouth next to Mount Gould hospital. It was originally opened in 1905 to accommodate up to 750 worshippers making it one of the largest Church of England buildings in Plymouth. However the church has been disused for around 10 years and use of the building was waning long before that so consequently it had fallen into disrepair.

Since then there has been considerable work accomplished including essential maintenance and repairs, launching a midweek service and holding numerous events for the community. There is a strong steering group and lots of interest and engagement from the local community as well as the music and arts community in Plymouth, but some questions remain over the way forward and resource implications of this as a church plant.

The midweek service continues with around 20-30 people. A Christmas Carols by Candlelight service was held attended by nearly 200 people. Plans for the rest of the year include an Easter egg hunt and service, Coronation lunch, and a possible monthly Sunday afternoon hangout to connect with a wider group in the local community.

BUILDINGS & MAINTENANCE REPORT - Claire Worth (Executive Director) -

The Church site and buildings have continued to be used in different ways; The Church Hall has continued to be used for AA meetings, cooking and preparation for the bi-weekly Soup Run and providing pastoral care, support, friendship and advice. The Church Building is currently getting back into full swing with Sunday services, Alpha, Student nights, St Mellitus College, Kingdom Come and other ad hoc events.

AA - Since lockdown and beyond, we have seen an increase in the number of people attending the Alcoholics Anonymous 'Road to Recovery' group in the Church Hall. The group continues to meet 3 times a week.

Site Maintenance - Noah Gilbert (our Production & Maintenance Coordinator) had continued to coordinate several maintenance projects throughout the year but has now stepped down from this role within the church due to other commitments, so is now back to working 3 days per week. He has retained the Health and Safety coordination for half a day per week, which is a big help with a site of our size and with the gatherings we have. We are now looking to find a volunteer maintenance coordinator and if we are not able to do this within a voluntary capacity, we may need to find a contractor to do this work one day per week.

Dale Gardens - The property has now been sold (subject to contract) and we are in the process of the sale with the buyers and solicitors. The property was sold for £212,000 and our hope is that this should be completed in 10-12 weeks. I have recently been informed by the agents that the buyers survey has come back with a few concerns including the roof, so I will be liaising with them to try and negotiate through this.

Toilets - There are 2 final quotes both of which are of a similar value (circa £48,000). To move forward with this project we will require the PCC to sign off the funding which could come from the sale of Dale Gardens or we could try crowd funding for half of the costs.

Flat roof in upper hall - The flat roof in the fire escape section of the upper hall (by the kitchen) has been leaking for some time. We have made several attempts to stem the issue but the roof is no longer viable. We are awaiting a quote for the work which will need to be completed as soon as possible to stop further damage and more associated costs.

New Cleaners - Our new cleaners seem to be very effective and efficient. They are still getting used to the site but a few people have feedback that they have noticed a difference. They are also cheaper than our previous cleaning company so this has been a positive step.

FINANCE REPORT - Bob Mills (Treasurer) -

During the year, the charity received a total income of £282,103. Although the majority of this was voluntary giving, £28,743 of income came from hall rental and rent received from the investment property at Dale Gardens. The church received a grant from Exeter Diocese of £8,970 towards the cost of energy.

Operating expenditure in the year amounted to £336,486. In addition, £19,948 of depreciation was charged. There has been a noticeable increase in costs during the year.

The church is currently operating with a monthly deficit of around £4,500 and plans are in place involving further giving increases and cost savings that will need to be achieved to bring the budget back into balance over the coming years. The PCC has agreed to set up an independent review group to report back with a decisive plan to reduce the deficit. In addition the PCC will provide to the church family a financial report every three months, as part of our Gift Sunday services.

St Matts has also generously contributed £10000 to St Simons to help in establishing the viability of this community.

Capital items totalling £11,000 were sold during 2022 and purchases made of £5,030. The surplus of £5,019 was allocated to general funds to offset against the operating deficit. £5,706 was added to the church planting fund, which now stands at £62,929.

The operating deficit reduced the general fund year end balance to -£28,709.

£16,804 of funds held for youth and media were used to offset some of the salary costs of the Youth Pastor and Media Coordinator during the year.

A hardship fund, 'The Acts 4 Fund', available to support members of the congregation in financial difficulty, was started during 2020 and stands at £5,395 at the end of 2022.

We have been encouraged by the faithfulness of our regular givers in the St Matts family, particularly in light of the current financial crisis. However, significant efforts are needed to encourage more of the church's members to give. Concentrated efforts must be made to reduce the church operating costs, in order to ensure a balanced budget going forward.

Investment policy

In accordance with the charity's governing document, the Trustees have the power to invest funds in any investments that they see fit. The policy is to adopt a low risk strategy whilst maximising returns. The Trustees are satisfied with the performance of the investments held and that the policy adopted remains adequate and appropriate. £106,671 of endowment investments, held in 3 separate charities, are shown in the church accounts on the basis that they are controlled by the PCC. Income was £2,064 on these investments, which showed a loss of £11,812 over the year. £5,200 of rent was received on a freehold property, valued in the accounts at £146,000, owned by the PCC.

Reserves policy

It is the policy of the trustees to maintain unrestricted funds, which are free reserves, at a sufficient level to secure the continued provision of normal charitable activities for a maximum period of six months. I am extremely grateful to Rebecca Campion and Claire Worth who, in the last six months, have worked so very hard in establishing our new more detailed accountancy base and without their hard work we would not be in position to have the detailed financial processes moving forward.

Bob Mills (Interim treasurer October 2022 April 2023)

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

Trustees' Responsibilities - Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity at the end of the year and

of the surplus or deficiency for the year then ended.

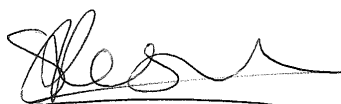
In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to select suitable accounting policies, as described later in the accounts, and then apply them on a consistent basis, making judgements and estimates that are prudent and reasonable. The trustees must also prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Independent Examination

A resolution to appoint Tony Jopson & Co. as independent examiners for the ensuing year will be proposed at the next APCM during which the financial statements are approved in accordance with the Charities Act 2011

On behalf of the PCC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sally Pearson', with a horizontal line underneath.

Sally Pearson, Lay Chairperson

Date 18.04.2023

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF CHARLES WITH ST
MATTHIAS YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

I report on the attached accounts of the Parochial Church Council ("PCC") for the year ended 31 December 2022, in respect of an examination carried out under regulation 3 of the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 to 2001 and Section 145, Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act").

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees (members of the PCC) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 144 of the 2011 Act and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b)) of the 2011 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 Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with these records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters as set out in the statement below.

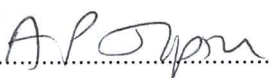
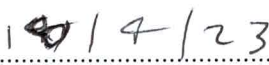
Independent Examiner's Statement

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 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 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.

.....  

A P Jopson, FCA

Date

(Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales)

Tony Jopson & Co Ltd, Peverell Corner, 246 Peverell Park Road, Plymouth, PL3 4QG

The Parochial Church Council of Charles with St Mathias, Plymouth

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Year Ending 31 December 2022

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (SOFA)

	Note	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2022	Total Funds 2021
		General £	Designated £	£	£	£	£
Income from							
Donations and legacies:							
Regular giving	2	229,947	6,808	1,585	0	238,340	215,133
Other voluntary receipts	3	0	0	0	0	0	201,557
Church activities	4	43,696	0	0	0	43,696	34,844
Investments	5	67	0	0	0	67	3,068
Total Income		273,710	6,808	1,585	0	282,103	454,602
Expenditure on							
Church activities	6	304,933	14,627	37,274	0	356,834	537,640
Total Expenditure		304,933	14,627	37,274	0	356,834	537,640
Net income / (expenditure) before investment gains / (losses)		-31,223	-7,819	-35,689	0	-74,731	-83,039
Net gains / (losses) on investments		0	0	0	-11,812	-11,812	14,776
Net income / (expenditure)		-31,223	-7,819	-35,689	-11,812	-86,543	-68,263
Transfers between funds		-1,872	5,706	-3,834	0	0	0
Transfers in of 3 charities							
Assets controlled by PCC		0	0	0	0	0	0
Net movement in funds		-33,095	-2,113	-39,523	-11,812	-86,543	-68,263
Total funds brought forward		3,986	211,042	145,288	118,483	478,799	547,062
Total funds carried forward	12	-29,109	208,929	105,765	106,671	392,256	478,799

The Parochial Church Council of Charles with St Mathias, Plymouth

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Year Ending 31 December 2022

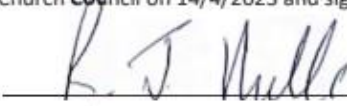
BALANCE SHEET

		2022		2021	
	Note	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets	8				
Freehold investment property			146,000		146,000
Furniture, fixtures and fittings			35,453		43,412
Audio visual equipment			44,363		62,322
Investments	9		106,671		118,483
			<u>332,487</u>		<u>370,217</u>
Current Assets					
Debtors	10	29,504		16,046	
Cash on deposit		22,308		72,267	
Cash at bank and in hand		19,019		36,310	
		<u>70,831</u>		<u>124,623</u>	
Creditors					
Falling due within one year	11	<u>11,062</u>		<u>16,041</u>	
Net Current Assets			59,770		108,582
Total Assets less Current Liabilities			392,256		478,799
Creditors					
Falling due after more than one year			0		0
Net Assets			<u>392,256</u>		<u>478,799</u>
Funds	12				
Endowment funds			106,671		118,483
Designated funds			208,929		211,042
Restricted funds			105,765		145,288
Unrestricted funds			-29,109		3,986
Total Funds			<u>392,256</u>		<u>478,799</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Parochial Church Council on 14/4/2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Dr S Pearson
PCC Chair



Mr R Mills
Treasurer

The Parochial Church Council of Charles with St Mathias, Plymouth

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year Ending 31 December 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS 102).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention, except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at fair value.

The PCC meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the PCC.

Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis. There are no material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubts upon the PCC's ability to continue as a going concern.

Funds

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

Restricted funds are amounts which have been received by the PCC with specific directions concerning the way in which capital and any income arising are to be expended.

Endowment funds are sums which are held by or on behalf of the PCC and where only the income can be spent, with the capital being retained permanently, or at the PCC's discretion, and invested.

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

Income

Donations and legacies: Planned giving, collections and general donations are recognised only when received. Gift aid recoverable on donations is recognised when the donation is received. Grants and legacies to the PCC are recognised as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is probable.

The Parochial Church Council of Charles with St Mathias, Plymouth

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year Ending 31 December 2022

Charitable activities: Income from church fee income is recognised when the fee is due. Income from activities is accounted for gross.

Other trading activities: Rental income is recognised when the rent is due. Where income is received in advance, it is recognised in the year in which the event takes place that it relates to.

Investments: Interest entitlements are accounted for as they accrue. Dividends are accounted for when due and payable.

Expenditure

Raising funds: Expenditure on raising funds is accounted for on the accruals basis. Raising funds includes the costs of the investment property.

Charitable activities: Expenditure on charitable activities is accounted for on the accruals basis. The diocesan common fund is accounted for when payable. Any unpaid amount at 31 December is provided for in these accounts as an operational (although not legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the balance sheet. Grants are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

Tangible fixed assets

Consecrated land and buildings and moveable church furnishing: Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s10(2)(a) of the Charities Act 2011. No value is placed on moveable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers this to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings and moveable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the SOFA and separately disclosed.

Freehold property: Freehold property is valued at purchase price. In the opinion of the PCC members, depreciation of freehold properties would be immaterial and has not been charged. The members carry out an annual impairment review, and in their opinion no provision is necessary in respect of the value at which freehold properties are included in the financial statements.

Other fixed assets: Other fixed assets are recognised at cost. Individual assets with a purchase price less than £1,000 are written off when the asset is acquired. Depreciation has been provided on other fixed assets on a straight-line basis in order to write off the cost of the assets over the following estimated useful lives:

- Fixtures and fittings - 10 years
- Computers and equipment - 5 years

The Parochial Church Council of Charles with St Mathias, Plymouth

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year Ending 31 December 2022

Investment properties

Investment properties are included in the balance sheet at their open market value in accordance with FRS 102 and are not depreciated.

Investments

Investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price. The SOFA includes net gains and losses arising on revaluations and disposals throughout the year.

Debtors

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors less provision for any amounts that may prove uncollectible. These are recognised initially at the settlement amount. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid, net of any trade discounts due.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, and other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

Creditors

Creditors are recognised when the PCC has an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Creditors are recognised at the amount that the PCC anticipates it will pay to settle the debt, or the amount it has received as advanced payment for the goods or services it must provide.

Financial instruments

The church only has financial assets and liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. All (including debtors and creditors) are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

The Parochial Church Council of Charles with St Mathias, Plymouth

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
Year Ending 31 December 2022

		Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2022	Total Funds 2021
		General £	Designated £	£	£	£	£
2	Regular giving						
	Planned giving inc. envelopes	190,589	6,771	1,465	0	198,824	173,110
	Collections at services	0	0	0	0	0	1,571
	Income tax recovered	39,358	38	120	0	39,516	40,453
		229,947	6,808	1,585	0	238,340	215,134
3	Other voluntary receipts						
	Government COVID relief grants	0	0	0	0	0	110,513
	Love Your Neighbour & Covid relief giving	0	0	0	0	0	40,117
	Donation to youth and media	0	0	0	0	0	50,000
	Hardship fund	0	0	0	0	0	927
		0	0	0	0	0	201,557
4	Income from church activities						
	Statutory fees - weddings, funerals, etc.	1,408	0	0	0	1,408	414
	Miscellaneous	13,545	0	0	0	13,545	0
	Gross income (solar panels)	0	0	0	0	0	2,818
	Gross income (hall lettings)	23,543	0	0	0	23,543	23,811
	Gross income (letting 18 Dale Gardens)	5,200	0	0	0	5,200	7,800
		43,696	0	0	0	43,696	34,843
5	Income from investments						
	Dividends & interest	0	0	0	0	0	3,051
	Bank interest received	67	0	0	0	67	17
		67	0	0	0	67	3,068
	Total Income	273,710	6,808	1,585	0	282,103	454,602

6	Expenditure on charitable activities						
	Ministry: common fund	56,918	0	0	0	56,918	53,194
	Church running expenses	13,708	0	0	0	13,708	12,004
	Church maintenance	6,132	14,627	0	0	20,758	7,539
	Upkeep of services	6,283	0	0	0	6,283	2,757
	Music and production	10,908	0	0	0	10,908	7,877
	Parish hall – services and maintenance	23,925	0	0	0	23,925	22,122
	Events and other parish expenditure	13,101	0	522	0	13,623	1,585
	Youth / student work	6,177	0	0	0	6,177	6,987
	Maintenance costs – 18 Dale Gardens	1,581	0	0	0	1,581	422
	COVID relief - Love Your Neighbour	0	0	0	0	0	254,788
	Salaries and fees	138,242	0	16,804	0	155,046	125,273
	Training	1,829	0	0	0	1,829	1,005
	External giving	13,600	0	0	0	13,600	14,150
	Depreciation	0	0	19,948	0	19,948	20,545
	Administration	12,529	0	0	0	12,529	7,141
	Accountant's fees	0	0	0	0	0	250
	Total Expenditure	304,933	14,627	37,274	0	356,834	537,640

7 Transactions with PCC members and related parties

- None of the members of the PCC were remunerated or reimbursed for their expenses in their capacity as PCC members.
- Jonathan Bushby was paid £9,000 relating to his role as Operations Director and Hannah English £16,669 as Church Centre Manager. Claire Worth was paid £38,440 in her role as Executive Director.
- During 2022, the PCC received £20,394 in donations from Trustees. The donors did not attach any conditions to their gift which required the charity to significantly alter the nature of its existing activities.

The Parochial Church Council of Charles with St Mathias, Plymouth

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
Year Ending 31 December 2022

8	Tangible fixed assets	Investment Property £	A/V & IT Equipment £	Furniture, Fixtures & Fittings £	Total £
	Cost or valuation				
	At 1/1/22	146,000	125,857	79,595	351,452
	Additions	0	-5,970	0	-5,970
	At 31/12/22	146,000	119,887	79,595	345,482
	Depreciation				
	At 1/1/22	0	63,535	36,183	99,718
	Charge for the year	0	11,989	7,960	19,948
	At 31/12/22	0	75,524	44,143	119,666
	Net book value				
	At 31/12/2022	146,000	44,363	35,453	225,816
	At 31/12/2021	146,000	62,322	43,412	251,734

9	Investments	Market Value 31/12/22 £	Market Value 31/12/21 £
	Household of Faith	34,247	38,039
	Victoria Almshouses	30,682	34,079
	Charles Plymouth Relief in Need	41,742	46,365
		106,671	118,483

- These investments are held in separate charities and are shown on the church's balance sheet as they are under the control of the Vicar, Churchwardens and PCC, in line with guidance from the Diocese.
- £106,671 represents the value of the investments on 31/12/22 and £12,742 in the charities bank accounts at that date has been consolidated into the cash on the balance sheet.

10	Debtors	31/12/22 £	31/12/21 £
	Gift Aid reclaimable	10,157	3,090
	Prepayments	3,777	3,129
	Rent due	6,600	6,000
	Solar feed-in	0	1,000
	Other debtors	8,970	2828
		29,504	16,047

11	Creditors	31/12/22 £	31/12/21 £
	Fees due	64	250
	Other creditors	5,774	120
	Accrued expenses	5,223	15,671
		11,061	16,041

12	Funds	Bal b/fwd £	Income £	Expenditure £	Investment Gain £	Transfers £	Bal c/fwd £
	General unrestricted	3,986	273,710	304,933		-1,872	-29,109
	Designated for church planting	65,042	6,808	14,627		5,706	62,929
	Designated property investment	146,000					146,000
	Restricted youth & media	37,361		16,804			20,557
	Restricted Love Your Neighbour	717				-717	0
	Restricted hardship fund	1,479	1,585	522		2,853	5,395
	Restricted sale of endowments	0					0
	Restricted fixed assets	105,731		19,948		-5,970	79,813
	Endowment funds - 3 separate charities	118,483	0		-11,812		106,671
		478,799	282,103	356,834	-11,812	0	392,256

Accounts



**Annual Report
and unaudited
Financial Statements
of the Parochial Church Council
for the year ended 31 December 2021**

Incumbent

The Reverend Olly Ryder
6 St Lawrence Road
Plymouth

Bank:

Barclays Bank Plc
19 Princess Street
Plymouth

Independent Examiner:

Tony Jopson & Co.
246 Peverell Park Road
Plymouth PL3 4QG

Registered Charity Number:

1134139

The Parish Church of Charles with St Matthias

‘St Matts Plymouth’

North Hill, Plymouth, PL4 8HF

stmplymouth.org.uk



THE EVANGELISATION OF THE NATIONS
THE REVITALISATION OF THE CHURCH AND THE TRANSFORMATION OF SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021
(presented April 2022)

‘CHARLES WITH ST MATTHIAS (St Matts) PLYMOUTH’

Diocesan ID - 9187

Registered Charity Number - 1134139

PURPOSE - St Matts is a **City Centre Resource Church** with a vision to play it's part in the

The **EVANGELISATION** of the nations;
The **REVITALISATION** of the Church;
The **TRANSFORMATION** of society.

MISSION - St Matt's aims to fulfil this vision through four operating lenses:

KNOW GOD - We want everyone to come into a personal relationship with Jesus. We do this principally through our **Sunday Services** and encouraging people in their own personal faith journey.

FIND FREEDOM - We want everyone to grow in their relationship with God and to discover freedom and life. We believe this happens supremely in community with others in midweek **Small Groups** where we can grow in life, faith and friendship.

DISCOVER PURPOSE - We want everyone to discover their purpose in life. We do this through our **Join the Adventure sessions** providing people with an opportunity to learn how to get the most out of their faith and how God has made them.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE - We want everyone to get up and running living a life of service and blessing. Through our **Dream Team** of volunteers we hope to connect every person with an area of the church's life that energises them and blesses others and spills out into other areas of their life.

Background - The church in its current format was launched on **25 September 2016** by Revd Olly & Ali Ryder and a small staff & volunteer team at the invitation of the Bishops of Exeter and Plymouth in partnership with Holy Trinity Brompton, London. St Matts is part of the **Plymouth City Deanery** in the **Diocese of Exeter** in the **Church of England** and is based at the top of North Hill, Plymouth, PL4 8HF.

Structure, Governance and Management - St Matts is led by the **PCC** (Parochial Church Council). The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church of England's '*Church Representation Rules*'. All church attendees who consider themselves as belonging to the worshipping community of St Matts are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll. All those on the Electoral Roll may stand for election on the PCC. The Church Council should reflect the diversity of the church and local community. The PCC is re-elected every three years. The Church Council has responsibility, alongside the Vicar, staff team, and lay pastors, of fulfilling the church's vision. PCC members who served from **April 2021** until the date this report was approved are:

PCC Members

Ex-Officio Members

Vicar and Chairman	Olly Ryder
Curate	Reuben Crossley
Curate	Mike Knight

Church Wardens

Adrian Boughton	<i>Elected annually up to six successive years</i>
Sally Pearson	Elected 2021
	Elected 2021

Deanery Synod Members

Portia Crossley	<i>Elected every three years</i>
<i>Vacant position</i>	Elected 2020

Safeguarding Representative

Debbie Boughton	Appointed 2019
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Other Members

Jonathan Bushby	Treasurer	<i>Elected every three years</i>
Dean Jacobs		Elected 2020 [serving second term]
Tim Hookway		Elected 2021 [serving second term]
Laura Fraser-Crewes		Elected 2019
Neil Mawson		Elected 2021
Bob Mills		Elected 2021
Jeff Stephenson		Elected 2021 (re-elected serving second term)
Teressa Cornish		Elected 2021
Jesse Leach		Elected 2021
Beth Horton		Elected 2020
Janet Stirling		Elected 2021

Co-Opted Members (non-voting)

Hannah English	Secretary	Elected 2021 [re-elected annually since 2017]
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Staff Team - as at March 2022

Olly Ryder	Vicar
Claire Worth	Executive Director
Jonathan Bushby	Finance Director & Treasurer
Reuben Crossley	Curate & Small Groups Pastor

Mike Knight	Curate & Student Pastor
Robin Smith	Ordinand & Alpha Pastor
Phil Jones	Worship & Creative Pastor
Julia Johnston	Kids Pastor
Lucy Gilbert	Youth Pastor
Noah Gilbert	Media & Production Coordinator
Hannah English	Church Coordinator & Executive Assistant

ANNUAL REVIEW - 2021/22

St Matts has completed its **fifth** full year as an '**HTB Network' City Centre Resource Church** with a vision to play its part in the '**evangelisation of the nations, the revitalisation of the church and the transformation of society**' by helping people to know God, find freedom, discover purpose and make a difference. The church has grown from a small group of 30-50 regular worshippers to 400-500 every Sunday (pre-pandemic) - post pandemic levels now at 300+ every Sunday, and 1,000+ contacts on the church's database.

VICAR'S REPORT - Rev'd Olly Ryder - Like the previous year, this last year has been very challenging due to the ongoing turmoil brought about by the coronavirus pandemic. However, it has been inspiring to see the St Matts family weathering the storm with great faith and resilience and many good things happening.

During the year we've sought to provide weekly spiritual support and encouragement to our whole church family and visitors through our **Sunday Services** offering both 'in-person' and 'online' provision. More recently, following the ease in lockdown restrictions, it has been great to be able to gather together in person - we now have more than 300 people gathering every Sunday as well as around 100 online and 50-60 children and youth. We've also continued providing smaller midweek communities for people to grow in faith and friendship through our **Small Groups** - this term there are more than 40 groups.

Our Love Your Neighbour campaign provided significant support to those most in need in our community and city during the pandemic. Although we have formally finished the project much of the work continues through the Soup Run and our many partner organisations in the city.

Looking ahead - As we look ahead to a new church year there is lots to look forward to including the ongoing exploration of the viability of planting a church into St Simon's Mt Gould; further developing and improving the site at St Matts; continuing to grow our Sunday Services and church family; rebuilding our Dream Team of volunteers; developing our Small Groups; and continuing to grow the different strands of church life, Kids Church, Youth, Students, Over 50s, Missions.

In the summer we will be saying farewell to our Curate, Reuben Crossley, as he takes on a new role as Rector of St Swithuns, Retford. We'll also be saying farewell to our Ordinand, Robin Smith, as he takes on a new role as Curate at Holy Trinity Barnstaple. We are exploring the possibility of a new Ordinand joining us this September and a new Curate next summer.

Love South West - We are looking forward to a united weekend of worship, service and invitation as part of Love South West 2022, 10-12 June (<https://www.lovesouthwest.org.uk/>). We'll gather at St Matt's for a Kingdom Come night of worship and prayer on Fri 10 June; run social action projects in our streets and local communities on Sat 11 June; and invite people to 'Try Church' at St Matts on Sun 12 June.

Creation Fest - We are looking forward to the whole St Matts family attending Creation Fest (29 July – 1 August - <https://creationfest.org.uk/>) for an extended weekend with churches across the South West of worship, teaching, prayer, fun and time together.

As you read the rest of this report, I hope you enjoy and are inspired by all that God is doing in and through us. Thank you so much for being part of this family and God-adventure by the sea!

KNOW GOD - Sunday Services

CONTACTS

Database - primarily through 'Join the Adventure' cards

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2017	387	450	494	543	604	639	657	667	702	743	865	902
2018	935	996	1022	1040	1099	1116	1145	1161	1208	1251	1315	1363
2019	1386	1401	1440	1438	1488	1500	1549	-	1584	-	1665	-
2020	1719	1727	1785	1795	Data cleanse		1153	1156	1149	1171	1233	1242
2021	1246	cleanse	-	-	1250	1252	1256	-	1260		1374	-
2022	1375	1402	1417									

Facebook - 'Likes'

2017	633	685	762	797	825	852	862	894	980	1036	1059	1098
2018	1109	1123	1155	1188	1217	1226	1248	1262	1337	1402	1424	1458
2019	1482	1500	1521	1626	1628	1678	1688	-	1762	-	1825	-
2020	1835	1845	1895	1906	1919	1927	1928	1937	1942	1954	1968	1985
2021	2095	-	2089	-	2128	2022	2025	-	2133		2144	
2022	2144	2100	2086									

Instagram - 'Followers'

2018	-	725	792	843	870	885	917	952	982	1024	1066	-
2019	-	1144	1160	-	1207	-	1267	-	1342	-	1403	-
2020	1447	-	1470	-	-	1500	-	-	1520	-	-	1550
2021	1560	-	1580	-	1601	1608	1611	-	1,618		1651	
2022	1667	1676	1680									

ELECTORAL ROLL - (members of the church's official register): **117 (as at 23 March 2022)**

SUNDAY SERVICES - St Matt's currently has two main Sunday services - **THE TEN & THE FIVE** with an average weekly attendance of around 360 people across the two services - 300 adults & 50 children - and a further 100 for 'Church Online'. During the last year, in response to the pandemic and changing regulations, we have had to adapt and offer different Sunday service provision over the year including multiple socially distanced services and 'Church Online'. As the pandemic continues to ease and people are able to gather in person we hope, pray and expect our Sunday Services to increase in numbers.

Main Service Attendance

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2017	TEN	163	158	196	184	171	179	204	196	197	209	224	227
2017	SIX	136	146	129	130	158	102	109	74	193	200	177	211
	TOTAL BOTH	299	304	325	314	329	281	313	270	390	409	401	438
2018	TEN	242	257	200	285	245	259	253	236	297	291	280	282
2018	SIX	183	190	158	168	154	126	98	106	199	230	215	166
	TOTAL BOTH	407	447	358	453	399	385	351	342	496	521	495	448
2019	TEN	332	320	323	281	268	311	291	256	320	319	299	213
2019	SIX	229	277	226	163	199	165	147	127	240	227	226	192
	TOTAL BOTH	561	597	549	444	467	476	438	383	560	546	525	405
2020	TEN	327	264	260	-	-	-	-	-	58	62	-	56

2020	SIX	209	224	215	-	-	-	-	35	46	-	-	58
2020	NINE-THIRTY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	66	57	-
2020	ELEVEN-THIRTY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26	32	-
2020	FIVE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	60	51	51	-
2020	SEVEN	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	70	58	54	-
2020	TEN ONLINE	-	-	-	333	267	210	271	125	60	81	92	80
2020	SIX ONLINE	-	-	-	89	66	54	111	31	53	-	-	-
2020	YOUTUBE	-	-	-	-	-	-	259	307	265	160	250	340
TOTAL	BOTH	536	488	475	422	333	264	641	498	612	504	536	534
2021	TEN	-	-	-	-	104	74	63	-	-	TEN	150	272
2021	SIX/Five	-	-	-	-	83	70	85	-	-	FIVE	40	87
2021	SEVEN	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	SEVEN	90	119
2021	Online	69	89	97	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2021	YouTube	235	262	219	-	358	133	170	-	-	YouTube	280	114
	Total	304	351	316	-	545	277	318	--	-	-	560	
2022	TEN	118	131	156									
2022	FIVE	96	124	147									
2022	YouTube	156	121	111									
	Total	370	376	414									

BAPTISMS - Due to coronavirus pandemic and limits on the number of people who can gather we have had a significant reduction in baptisms and reaffirmations during 2021/22. As lockdown eases we anticipate a significant increase in baptisms.

Baptisms and Reaffirmations of Baptismal Vows				
	Spring	Summer	Autumn	Total over year
2017	19	5	1	25
2018	7	-	10	17
2019	17	12	8	37
2020	0	2 (reaffirmations)	0	2 (reaffirmations)/ Covid
2021	0	12	5	17
2022	8			8 (so far)

CHILDREN & YOUTH - Julia Johnston (Kids Pastor) - The vision of Kids Church, under the church's overarching vision, is: **'To enable every child to experience a fun and life-giving relationship with Jesus and to grow as Christian leaders in their generation.'** The three pillars of St Matts Kids Church are:

- 1. Fun** - ensuring kids have fun.
- 2. Love** - helping them to know they are loved and to love.
- 3. Jesus** - meet and grow in faith and friendship with Jesus.

Sundays - It has been a challenging year with a second year of pandemic restrictions but also many signs of life, hope and new life. Despite the difficulties we've endured, we've also seen children and families growing in life, faith and friendship.

Kids Church Online - During the lockdowns we continued offering a special weekly 'Kids Church Online' service with teaching, testimonies, worship, prayer and lots of fun. Huge thanks to Kids Team leader Charlie Kingston who helped to oversee the online content and delivery. And many thanks to so many of our young people and Kids Team helpers who also provided regular content.

'In Person' Gatherings - Following the end of the national lockdowns and easing in covid restrictions there has been a great sense of joy and community as we have welcomed between 50-60 children each week to Kids Church. We are not quite at our pre-pandemic numbers but, since Christmas, parents and carers have been growing in confidence in attending church with their children and meeting in larger groups. We have seen attendance growing steadily each week and look forward to seeing an increasing number of children and young people across all ages.

Team - Since the pandemic has eased we have spent time rebuilding our volunteer Kids Team of helpers who serve, bless and encourage our young people each week. We currently have around 50 helpers (36 female, 12 male). We are currently seeking to grow the number of male volunteers to provide a better balance in leadership. We have recently recruited three more male leaders. We are also seeking to further balance our Kids Church content of art, crafts, activities and sport alongside worship, teaching, discussion and prayer. The boys in particular seem to appreciate space for more energetic games, activities and sport.

Pastoring & Pastoral Calls - During the pandemic and the lockdowns we tried to stay connected with families, kids and the Kids Team through pastoral calls, walks and mentoring. We have sought to continue this post lockdown.

Kids Church Special Events and Activities:

Easter (March) - for Easter 2021 there was an easing in the pandemic restrictions so we were able to gather in person. We held a successful Easter Trail in the Church Garden.

Light Party (Oct) - Following an ease in pandemic restrictions we were delighted to be able to host an indoor 'cosmic themed' Light Party attended by 250 children, parents and carers. The evening - a positive alternative to Halloween - included a silent disco, giant inflatables, candy floss, face painting, lots of sweet treats and a light themed Christian message.

Christmas (Dec) - Despite uncertainty regarding Christmas covid regulations and changes it was great to be able to host an in person Family Carols with Nativity attended by around 200 people as well as many more online. The Kids Team put together a scratch Nativity performed by around 30 young people.

Social Trips (Yrs 5&6) - We've organised a number of social trips for the young people to grow in faith and friendships outside of Sundays. This year we've had trips to Pizza Hut, Frankie and Bennies and Ice Skating at Plymouth Pavilions attended each time by 10-18 children supervised by members of the Kids Team and some parents. It has been lovely to see the children grow in relationship with one another. We are aiming to hold more regular social outings and encourage the young people to bring their non-church going friends as well as forming lasting friendships with each other.

Schools - We have formed good relationships with Prince Rock School. Julia frequently visits and delivers a short message on the life of Jesus. The school is enjoying the assemblies and Julia is seeing a lot of fruit from this as young children often seek her out and ask further questions.

Mini-Matts - Zoe Wilson and Roxy Knight have been running a weekly parents/carers/toddlers group in the Church Hall on Mondays as restrictions have allowed. It's been lovely to provide a space for parents and

carers to connect, enjoy coffee, cake, conversation and mutual support and encouragement and for their children to have a safe and fun place to play and grow in friendships.

Vision/Next Steps - We are anticipating that Kids Church will continue to grow to pre-pandemic levels and beyond. We are seeking to improve the worship experience that the young people enjoy by building the Kids Worship Team. We are also planning on updating and improving some of the Kids Church equipment. We will continue recruiting more Kids Team volunteers as well as continuing to look at ways to best utilise the space in all our rooms for different year groups.

YOUTH - Lucy Gilbert (Youth Pastor) - All parents and young people were contacted when Lucy started the youth role to ensure connection was being made with those who attended St Matts. We received useful feedback which helped to tailor provision going forward.

Younger Youth - For our Year 7-9's, we started meeting in person after Easter last year when covid regulations allowed. The group have been able to build relationships together and develop connections with those who serve on the Youth Team. We regularly see between 8-10 children which can sometimes reach 14-16 over busier periods.

We provide 'Youth' on a Sunday morning during The Ten. This is a place to play games, hear about each other's difficulties and wins and to grow in relationship with God. This session often follows seasonal topics or books of the Bible. We have also included other topics including: 'How to Understand Parents', 'What does it mean to have faith?' and 'The Fruit of the Spirit'. After Easter, our young people will stay in for worship in the main church building as this is a key part of growing them in their faith.

Monday evenings, called 'Fusion', have been running since September and has been the more social gathering. Our emphasis on this night has been fun and then growing deeper in what it means to be a Christian. We are currently exploring Youth Alpha with the aim of growing the personal faith and relationship with God in our young people.

Older Youth and Young Adults - Our Year 10-11's and Year 12+ have been much harder to reach. When discussing with other youth workers in the surrounding area, this has been a common theme. All are facing much lower engagement from this age group. They have been encouraged to attend The Five and we do see them occasionally but attendance at our midweek gathering (Wednesday evening) has been minimal.

Youth Light Party - One of our big events of this year was our Light Party in October. We saw over 30 young people between the ages of 11-16 gather together for an evening of mess and fun. Whilst this did not grow our youth group in numbers, it did solidify growing friendships of our current young people. This has been invaluable in creating a group that has meaning and provides the youth themselves with familiarity and a space to be open.

Vision/Next Steps - As with everything, we are learning that sometimes the best things take time to develop and create those deep roots. It has been an exciting yet challenging year for our youth ministry however we have learnt a lot along the way. Big areas of development over the next year:

- **Growing Team** - this is essential in ensuring consistency in provision and in relationship building. If provision is consistent, young people remain consistent. This is something Lucy is actively working

on and putting plans in place to ensure this is strengthened over the next year. With this will come team socials/training to create a strong team of people that care for the needs of our young people. A vision night will be held in April for anyone interested in youth ministry or currently on Youth Team to bring their ideas and see what we hope to achieve and bring to our youth ministry at St Matts.

- **Older Youth/Young Adult provision** - finding out what would be beneficial to this age group and making it available is a top priority for the coming year. Ensuring they feel valued within church and have space to grow in/develop a relationship with God.
- **Events** - Being a teenager is tough and we'd love to provide our young people with opportunities to just have fun. That can look like great Christian events such as Creation Fest but it could also be a fun social where they just get to be with their friends. This is something we'd like to build in more as a termly occasion once we have a greater number of team to lean on.

SAFEGUARDING - All those working with children and youth are expected to have **DBS disclosures**. St Matts has a **Child Protection Policy** and an **Equal Opportunities Policy**. Our Safeguarding Representative, Debbie Boughton stood down from her role in January 2022 after serving the church in this capacity since 2019. We are very grateful to Debbie for all her hard work, care and concern in ensuring our safeguarding processes and procedures are in place. One of our parents and Kids Team helpers, Jen Bradley, has agreed to take on the role. Any concerns regarding children's safety should be referred to our **Safeguarding Representative, Jen Bradley - safeguarding@stmplymouth.org.uk**

Children & Youth - Average Weekly Service Attendance													
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2017	TEN	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	56	57	59	46
2018	TEN	69	67	65	86	66	71	71	69	92	84	81	70
2019	TEN	81	87	116	73	69	87	62	60	89	81	71	64
2020	TEN	78	64	74	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
2021	TEN	98	112	75	-	-	78	81	29	72	54	43	63
2022	TEN	45	48	52									
Children & Youth - Total Contacts on Database													
2017		-	-	96	96	97	97	97	97	180	189	198	211
2018		219	242	259	274	308	314	331	357	387	418	435	444
2019		467	481	499	523	532	563	561	568	575	-	591	-
2020		612	623	644	641	-	-	642	-	-	-	-	-
2021		-	-	-	-	637	-	649					-
2022		668	673	676									
YOUTH NIGHTS													
2020		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	16	-	18
2021		-	-	-	5	7	8	7	-	-	-	9	9
2022			6	8									

STUDENTS - Revd Mike Knight (Student Pastor & Curate) - It has been a joy to serve alongside the student community this year, and particularly to be able to get back to some kind of normality in terms of meeting together. There is a strong sense of family among the students which has grown over the year and has been particularly evident during the particularly difficult periods over the last few months. It has been beautiful in the midst of darkness seeing people join together, get round each other and keep pointing each other back to Jesus.

Students continue to make up a large proportion of our church family (particularly at the Five on Sundays) though we have seen some expected movement around churches post-Covid where, anecdotally, we had

found many new students joining St Matts very quickly due to the brilliant online provision but have now had the chance to explore other places that are more suited to them. Our student community contribute massively to the life of the church and it has been great seeing so many getting involved on teams and using their gifts in serving the church as well as stepping out leading Small Groups, doing 'Preachtastic' talks and leading Sunday Services.

Student Night - In the last academic year (2020-21) we multiplied our student night into Small Groups as a necessity during Covid restrictions. This year we decided to keep a focus on Small Groups meeting separately from Student Night as these provide a great space for students to really get to know and be supported by a smaller community that can know and love them. It also gives more space for student leaders to take on more responsibility in leading and discipling other students. Our student leaders have really taken ownership for this and being the 'Student Pastors' to smaller groups within the community. More recently, hoping to provide a bit more consistency week-by-week, we have moved our Small Groups back to meeting separately but together in the building on alternate weeks for time to study God's word and pray together. We have a wider student community of around 100, whilst numbers at Student Nights tend to be around 35-45 on any given week and our 5 student Small Groups represent around 40-50 students with 9 leaders.

A highlight of our student nights is our termly 'Testimony Takeover' - a chance for students to share their faith story and invite friends along (and they always do!) to experience something of Jesus' story in our lives. One student was invited along to a 'Testimony Takeover' in October — it was her first time in church - at our February 'Testimony Takeover' she was sharing the story of her own journey to faith over the last few months. She was then baptised in March!

Vision/Next Steps - We look forward to finishing the academic year well, praying for those heading off to new things and having lots of fun and bbqs as we continue to grow together as a community. I'll be particularly looking for new team members as we head towards the start of a new academic year, especially among the first years and newer students. Next year I hope to continue to grow our team even more in their leadership so that Student Nights are more and more student led; to solidify our pattern of meeting so that its really easy for new freshers to get quickly embedded in the community; and to re-focus on doing our part in reaching out to the 35,000 students studying in Plymouth.

Students - connected with community (Facebook Group)												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2017	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	178	184
2018	189	196	206	214	207	207	209	213	218	234	240	-
2019	-	255	259	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	272	-
2020	-	-	-	295	296	297	298	295	305	313	313	312
2021	313	314	-	-	308	308	306	-	-	-	308	-
2022	309	307	306									
Instagram - @stmstudents												
2021	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	401	-
2022	419	422	430									
Student Nights - Thursday night gathering during term time for food, worship, message, discussion, prayer												
2019	-	67	50	40	41	-	-	-	52	59	47	-
2020	45	57	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	68 (in person)	42 (online)	45 (online)
2021	37 (online)	40 (online)	-	50	52	46	-	-	40-60	40-60	40-60	-

2022	40	40	37									
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Student SMALL GROUPS												
		AUTUMN				SPRING				SUMMER		
2020-21	GROUPS	12				9				-		
	LEADERS	16				11				-		
	MEMBERS	75				55				-		
		AUTUMN				SPRING				SUMMER		
2021-22	GROUPS	5				5						
	LEADERS	9				7						
	MEMBERS	39				45						

50+ OVER 50s GROUP - Bob & Lin Mills & Olly Ryder - In November 2021 we started a new ministry at St Matts called '50+' aimed at supporting and encouraging the over 50s in our church family and their friends. It's a monthly gathering with refreshments, worship, teaching, discussion, prayer and time for conversation and community. There are currently more than 40 members of the group with a monthly attendance of around 30 each time. We have formed a fledgling over 50s worship band and have enjoyed numerous speakers and testimonies.

Vision/Next Steps - We aim to grow the over 50s Leadership Team and Worship Team and build a growing number of over 50s engaged in the life of St Matt's and at 50+ to provide a supportive and encouraging faith based community. We are planning on some social outings as well as providing opportunities to welcome and invite non-Christian friends or those disengaged from faith to grow in faith and friendship.

50+ over 50s monthly midweek service - Thursdays, 10.30am-12pm												
	Spring Term				Summer Term				Autumn Term			
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
2021	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	38	36
2022	25	32	30									

FIND FREEDOM - Small Groups

SMALL GROUPS - Revd Reuben Crossley (Curate & Small Group Pastor) - *Small Groups have one, simple purpose - to bring people together. We believe God created us to live in community with others and only then can we experience the full life he intends for us. Small Groups provide a place for us to **connect with others, share life, and grow in faith** together. We believe life-change happens in the context of relationships. Our belief and vision is that St Matts is a church **of** Small Groups, not a church **with** Small Groups.*

It's wonderful to report that Small Groups have revived and are back in force. The autumn term saw over 40 groups with over 50 leaders and 360 distinct attendees (total attendees is greater due to some people joining more than one group). This compares to our record of 52 small groups. There remained a healthy mix of in-person and online groups through the summer madness of unexpected isolations and uncertainty in 2021 and by the Autumn term more and more groups returned and small group leaders took up the mantle again. There had been some concern as to how quickly leaders would take on groups again, but this was unfounded and the take-up has been as significant as before the pandemic.

Our small group model continues to foster group gatherings and friendship groups outside of the formal structure as well. We held an autumn Small Group Leaders Celebration and Training in November 2021 which saw 37 booked in. This was a fun time of renewing friendships, sharing encouragement and tips and also praying for one another. I reiterated the tenets of our Small Group system which are 'Connect', 'Protect' and 'Grow'. This re-established our vision to facilitate friendship and connection between the whole community of St Matts, the role of groups in caring for, praying and watching out for each other and for seeking to grow in our faith together.

Despite the common challenges of leading groups during the pandemic there were many stories of the Holy Spirit at work transforming lives and communities. We have continued to see the benefits of our organic, passion-led group model. The flexibility this has created for leaders to respond to what they see happening around them in the St Matts community, the world and what the Holy Spirit prompts is amazing.

I have continued to field emails, texts and requests for coffee meetings to discuss group issues, new group dreams and ideas, tricky interpersonal issues in the groups and complex theological and Biblical questions. It is always a pleasure and a privilege to meet with and pray with our leaders who are always grace-filled and enthusiastic. I have also fielded several enquiries from other church leaders on our model and this has been one way that we can realise our call to be a Resource Church.

SMALL GROUPS				
		SPRING	SUMMER	AUTUMN
2017	GROUPS	28	28	24
	LEADERS	-	-	-
	MEMBERS	154	181	135
2018	GROUPS	34	33	48
	LEADERS	-	-	65
	MEMBERS	246	252	357
2019	GROUPS	46	40	44
	LEADERS	58	60	60
	MEMBERS	329	315	353
2020	GROUPS	52	44	50
	LEADERS	60	54	62
	MEMBERS	497	400	382
2021	GROUPS	37	38	41
	LEADERS	47	48	56
	MEMBERS	319	290	360
2022	GROUPS	43		
	LEADERS	55		
	MEMBERS	410		

ALPHA - Robin Smith (Ordinand & Alpha Pastor) - We encourage members of the congregation to share their faith with others in their everyday life. We also run the Alpha course as a more intentional way of providing an opportunity for people wanting to investigate Christianity or are new to faith. Alpha continues to be a great place to help those exploring faith to ask their questions, make new friends and be introduced to the life of St Matt's as well as for those already attending St Matt's with faith to be refreshed, reconnect with God and others and grow in their own evangelism. A typical Alpha session would include food (when meeting in person), icebreakers, worship, watching the DVD together looking at a range of topics (e.g. Who is Jesus? How can I have faith? How does God guide me?) and a discussion. In the past St Matts has run a large centralised course in the Autumn and Small Groups in the Spring and Summer terms.

Over the past year, Alpha at St Matt's has transitioned from being online to meeting back in person. Our last 'Online Alpha' was January-March 2021 where we had 29 people join us. The following term from May-July, Tina Bayliss and Sheena McCulloch ran an in person Alpha which 15 people attended (10 guests and 5 helpers)) who were connected to the Love Your Neighbour ministry, some of who had significant addictions, domestic and spiritual challenges. Many were helped through prayer, counselling and listening and a number were baptised.

Following all restrictions being lifted, in September 2021 with people getting back to work, church in person and life, the Alpha Team and I sensed it was not right to run an in church Alpha straight away but give people time to transition back into routine and so not overwhelm people with an 11 week course commitment. This time was spent instead building and training team, caring for people who had previous done or led Alpha and advertising for a bigger in-person Alpha in January 2022 and an extended period of invitation. This was time well spent and since January 2022 we resumed Alpha in-person and we have had an average of 50 people over 5 groups attend each week, with 38 of them having never attended an Alpha course before or with us at St Matts and we trained 9 new leaders alongside the other 7 who had previously helped to lead on Alpha.

Alpha continues to be one of the most exciting opportunities for people to come to faith, experience the power and healing of God (especially on the Alpha Day away and "Does God Heal Today?" sessions) and to connect to the wider life of the church. So far this term we have seen one person's back healed, one person set free from a smoking addiction, two people get baptised, everyone having the opportunity to receive and be filled with the Holy Spirit and his gifts and to learn and have an opportunity to pray with and for each other.

The Holy Spirit Alpha Day continues to be one of the highlights of every course. Every time we see the Holy Spirit filling people, bringing his healing, peace and presence as we take time to pray for people and to hear God. We often open up a time of response after the second session "How Can I be Filled with the Holy Spirit?" for singing/speaking in tongues, words of knowledge, prophecy and this is often peoples first encounter with the more obvious supernatural elements of the Christian faith.

The Holy Spirit Alpha Day is also a significant time for people to bond and to have fun together. This term in the afternoon groups went out climbing, tobogganing and to a board games café with entertainment in the evening in the form of a quiz, group games and food. There is always so much laughter and a real sense of the kingdom of God breaking in.

Some of the challenges of running Alpha over the past year has been the huge knock on effect of people's physical, mental and emotional health (and zoom fatigue) which no doubt had a variety of sources. Much more recently, the tragic death of Lewis Fletcher (who some of our leaders knew well) saw a number of leaders step down and away from Alpha entirely. Mental health has had a big effect on the small groups, worship and production, but I am very thankful for Terrassa Cornish who has co-lead Alpha with me this term and Phil Jones for stepping in and up in so many ways to keep Alpha running smoothly.

I cannot recommend this course enough as a great way to draw others into faith and friendship. It

has been such a huge privilege and joy to serve St Matt's in this way and as I hand Alpha on after I leave in June, my hope and prayer is that it will continue to be a central part of the life of St Matt's.

Alpha Testimonies - 'Alpha has been an inspiration for my confidence, leadership, my continuing growth in faith which is amazing as I learn and try to memorise verses and become fulfilled with God, Christ Jesus, the Holy Spirit and The Bible' - Richie

'The Holy Spirit day was an amazing session and I now realise I have encountered the Holy Spirit and had guidance from God! What a revelation! I feel so grateful for Alpha for the learning but also in some ways to clarify I am closer to God than I ever realised. I wish I had done the Alpha course a long time ago!' - Kirstein

'I love helping on Alpha because you get to meet different kinds of people and see them grow in their questions and depth to life and the purpose of living. It is an amazing way to intentionally have conversations and get to the core of who Jesus is, how we ended up here and who we can be in Jesus.' - Jess

'The Alpha group has changed everything for me. As a non-believer or feeling "on the fence" for a long time, Alpha gave me a space to openly talk to other people about life and faith... I have learnt so many things about faith that I didn't previously know, I have had questions answered, I have cried, laughed, dressed up as a leopard and had love hearts drawn on my face. This course was so much more than what I expected. Coming from a background of avoiding discussions about faith with others, I now feel quite the opposite and I want to speak to others more about it, and learn as much as I can. I don't want it to end!' - Emily

Alpha				
	SPRING	SUMMER	AUTUMN	Total
2016 attendees	-	-	120	120
2017 attendees	14	28	100	142
2018 attendees	11	6	70	87
2019 attendees	-	-	90	90
2020 attendees	60	30	23	113
2021 attendees	29	?	?	29
2022 attendees	50			

DISCOVER PURPOSE - We have a 'JOIN THE ADVENTURE' session to help people integrate into the life of the church, learn about the church's vision, discover their gifting and take their next step by joining a team. During 'normal time' we have run our 'Join the Adventure' sessions every month.

During the pandemic we have not been running our 'Join the Adventure' sessions - although we have been connecting people to the life of our church through Sunday Services and Small Groups. We will be restarting our Join the Adventure sessions after Easter.

Join Adventure Sessions													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals
2017	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23	20	34	8	-	85
2018	20	-	12	-	10	-	13	-	7	-	-	-	60
2019	26	-	9	-	6	3	7	-	10	8	-	7	35
2020	4	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	15

MAKE A DIFFERENCE - Every member of St Matts is encouraged to serve on the **DREAM TEAM** whether it's helping with Kids Church, Worship, Welcome, Cafe, Students, Youth, Small Group Leadership, Prayer Team. An annual Dream Team Party is held each year to thank all team members. There are currently around **150** members of the **DREAM TEAM**. We are in a time of rebuilding all of our teams following the pandemic.

Including All Teams			
	Spring	Summer	Autumn
2018	155	153	176
2019	215	220	225
2020	248	-	-
2021	-	-	-
2022	Approx 150		

GIVING - Jonathan Bushby (Treasurer & Finance Director) - We would love to help everyone that calls St Matt's 'home' and is part of the DREAM TEAM to develop godly practices with their finances including — *'earning diligently, spending carefully, saving wisely, and giving generously'*. We have a growing number of people worshipping God through their finances and enabling the vision of the church to grow through their 'tithes' and 'offerings'. We are very grateful for everyone who gives financially into the life of the church enabling us to flourish and grow as a church family and bless the city, region and further afield.

GIVING: Number of individual monthly givers & monthly amounts given													
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2017	Givers	45	34	52	50	52	60	58	57	54	70	85	82
	Amount	4192	5627	8697	5123	5219	5806	7437	6771	6991	9831	9993	9145
2018	Givers	77	85	86	105	99	93	97	102	96	123	116	120
	Amount	9207	12382	11372	13815	12536	11762	12004	12936	12037	14941	13000	14,376
2019	Givers	141	149	149	151	143	143	143	143	145	137	154	148
	Amount	15,444	13,707	16,046	15,097	14,945	15,743	14,201	15,615	16,546	14,755	21736	18288
2020	Givers	147	132	162	162	161	150	147	136	138	138	152	140
	Amount	19,034	14,385	20,563	14,607	16,000	17,885	16,359	14,312	14,866	14,439	17,356	17,452
2021	Givers	134	136	132	126	142	140	127	122	125	142	132	126
	Amount	14273	18174	16933	13460	13210	15061	13,456	13,318	13,138	15,891	14782	15438
2022	Givers	130	132	-									
	Amount	15,450	14,938	-									

OTHER ACTIVITIES/REPORTS DURING THE YEAR

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR - Our Love Your Neighbour project came to an end at the end of December as our grant funding and contracts finished. During the pandemic, in partnership with Holy Trinity Brompton and their national 'Love Your Neighbour Campaign' (<https://www.loveyourneighbour.uk/>) we were able to access match funding from the Government and other funders to enable significant social action and relief to those in need across Plymouth and the South West. St Matts contributed £50k of church funds towards the project. The whole project and supporting partners has spent £500k+ over two years and supported thousands of people in need. The Plymouth Love Your Neighbour campaign has involved:

- **Staffing** - We were able to employ one full time and two part time staff members to oversee the project - full time Hub Leader, Tina Bayliss, part time Hub Coordinator, Sheena McCulloch; part time

Finance Director, Jonathan Bushby. A team of 80+ volunteers has been involved in the project. Huge thanks to Tina, Sheena and Jonathan for all their hard work and the whole volunteer team.

- **Food Bank** - we set up our own weekly food bank operating out of St Matt's Church Hall (providing 600,000 meals over the last 18 months). During the food bank we had volunteers to assist with debt advice and budgeting advice, signposting to our partners Hamoaze House, Shekinah, Christians Against Poverty and Shelter and PATH for those who were experiencing housing issues. We also offered morning breakfasts during the lockdowns for people who were in Bed and Breakfasts. We also created small groups such as Alpha, bible studies, self defence class for vulnerable women, and lunches for lonely vulnerable people.
- **Other Food** - We also provided food from the St Matt's team, congregation and food bank for homeless people housed in accommodation on North Hill as well as other sheltered housing. This specific project was for the Homes 4 Homeless (H4H)
- **Linked food provision** - We acted as a conduit for food provision to people across the city and region through other churches and charities including 'Transforming Plymouth Together' and the 'Four Greens Community Trust'. We developed a relationship with a food charity called Fareshare which enabled more food provision. We were given a warehouse from a local business man Fareshare asked if we would be willing to receive and distribute DEFRA Emergency food supplies from December to April. We were distributing about 20 tonnes of food a week to almost 40 different organisations throughout Devon and Cornwall.
- **Soup Run** - We started overseeing Tuesday evening on the Plymouth Soup Run (a citywide project that has been running for 20+ years). LYN Hub Leader Tina Bayliss also attended the monthly city wide Rough Sleeper Team meeting each month to provide input. St Matts has contributed to discussions that have led to positive change in the city for homelessness.
- **Love Christmas** - We took part in a national Love Christmas Campaign (building on our annual Christmas 'Gift Project' from previous years) providing more than 188 presents to those in need as well as 164 food hampers and 100 student boxes with food and other items. Due to the DEFRA Emergency supplies we were also able to provide frontline organisations with food to give out over Christmas.
- **Other Charities** - Through our connection with the national Love Your Neighbour campaign we enabled other local charities to access match funding to support work amongst the homeless, debt advice, alcohol and drug support, job advice including charities Christians Against Poverty, Trevi House, Shekinah, Hamoaze House. St Matts has collaborated with Shekinah, Hamoaze, PATH, and CAP for service users to get to a point where they would not need to utilise a food bank. Once we were out of lockdown we required service users to engage with our partner services to continue to receive food or be referred from an agency such as the job centre or the council.

Love Your Neighbour Legacy - Whilst the funding for our Love Your Neighbour project ended there are still obviously many ongoing social needs in our church and city. As a church we continue to seek to play our part in alleviating poverty and hardship and supporting those in need through:

- **Supporting the Vulnerable** - We currently continue to offer spiritual, emotional and relational support and encouragement through our Sunday Services and midweek Small Groups. We also signpost people to other more experienced organisations in the city to meet specialist needs such as debt relief, housing advice and drug addiction support. In the future the church could look to employ a 'Community Pastor' who can help oversee and develop further support for addiction recovery, mentoring ex-offenders, and other support for those in need in St Matts and the local community.
- **Fareshare** - There is now a permanent Fareshare Hub in Estover. This will continue to provide food across Plymouth and the South West.
- **Other Charities** - Our other partner charities including Trevi House, Hamoaze House, Christians Against Poverty and Shekinah continue to offer care across the city to those in need. We continue to have various links with the charities and continue to give a percentage of our annual church

'missions giving' to Trevi House and Shekinah. We also welcome many of these regular service users to St Matt's for Sunday services and our midweek small groups for ongoing pastoral care.

- **Soup Run** - The Church Council agreed to continue funding the Soup Run (around £2k pa) overseen by congregation members Neil & Liz Mawson and Jill and Jerry Morris alongside a group of 10-12 reliable and committed volunteers. As well as providing physical, relational and spiritual support and encouragement to those in need. The Soup Run also provides a low key bridge to faith and the church. There are a number of regular attendees of the church who have made St Matts their home as a direct result of their contact with the Soup Run Team. The Soup Run also provides an outlet for service and community for those in the church who are motivated to be involved in social action.

MISSIONS - St Matt's 'tithes' 10% of its income to other local, national and international charities and mission organisations including (in equal proportion):

- **Shekinah** - Shekinah is a Plymouth based charity that provides opportunities for people in recovery or seeking recovery - <https://www.shekinah.co.uk/>
- **Trevi House** - Trevi is a nationally award-winning women's and children's charity based in Plymouth. The three Trevi Houses (Jasmine, Sunflower, Daffodil) are all in the St Matthias parish. We have very close connections with the charity's leadership as well as many of the women, children and families who attend St Matt's - <https://trevi.org.uk/>
- **Church Planting Fund** - St Matt's gives into an internal 'church planting fund' with a vision to help plant other life giving anglican churches across Plymouth and the South West. At the beginning of 2022 the Church Council agreed to allocate £5k of funds towards exploring a potential church plant at St Simon's Mt Gould.
- **CRT (Church Revitalisation Trust)** - The Church Revitalisation Trust is a charity set up in early 2017 by St Matt's parent church, Holy Trinity Brompton to be a catalyst for a momentum of church planting that will see 100 City Centre Resource Churches (CCRCs) and other local churches planted in strategic cities across the country, bringing revitalisation to the Church and seeing communities transformed - <https://crtrust.org/about>
- **Compassion** - Compassion is a leading Christian children's charity seeking to release children from poverty in Jesus name. St Matt's members currently sponsor more than **80** children across the world but primarily in Ghana - <https://www.compassionuk.org/>

CHURCH PLANTING - **St Simon's Mt Gould** - In December 2021 the Church Council agreed for the derelict church of St Simon's Mt Gould to be transferred into the parish of St Matt's with a view to St Matt's exploring the possibility of restoring the buildings, launching a new worshipping community and serving the area. Since then a small team overseen by Bob Mills and Olly Ryder have formed a 'St Simon's Interest Group' (currently 80+ members); launched a midweek service (weekly 15-20 people), spent time clearing and cleaning the church building and grounds and formed a 'Strategy Group.'

A Christmas Carols by Candlelight service was held attended by 150 people. A Spring BBQ was held attended by 30-40 people. And an Easter Egg Hunt and Easter Service is planned for Easter Sunday, 3pm. Electricity has now been installed in the church, significant pigeon mess has been cleared and essential repairs have been made to the building.

Plans for the Summer Term include continuing to grow the midweek service, continuing to repair, clean and clear the building and gardens, develop a medium and longer term strategy for the church and site for consideration by the Church Council.

HTB NETWORK

- **BAY CHURCH TORBAY** - During 2021 we supported the planting of Bay Church Torbay, led by Matt Bray. The church officially launches on Easter Sunday.
- **ASSEMBLE DAY** - As part of the HTB Network, St Matts hosted a regional hub for the HTB Network staff teams welcoming two other regional HTB churches, Bay Church Torbay and St Matt's Exeter, for a day of encouragement, envisioning, worship and prayer.

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT - Portia Crossley (Deanery Synod Representative) - *St Matts is part of the 'Plymouth City Deanery' in the Diocese of Exeter, in the Church of England. All Deanery Synod Representatives of the Church of England churches in the Deanery termly to share information, feedback and encouragement.*

Next Steps - The Next Steps for the Diocese concerning creating more missional communities has had nearly 500 people take part in consultation events. Feedback was that the culture of 'Next Steps' would need to be invitational and attentive to what each mission community said about its own circumstances.

New Legal Form of the Diocesan Board of Education - The Diocesan Synod was required to make a scheme in accordance with the new Diocesan Board of Education Measure 2021, to designate an entity as the Diocesan Board of Education for each diocese. It was agreed this would come under the Diocesan Board of Finance.

Report on Women in Ordained Ministry - Numbers are low of Women clergy in our diocese and we need to address the abuse they are receiving both in person and online.

Anna Chaplaincy – 7 Anna chaplains and 2 Anna Friends were commissioned.

Keyham - Churches involved with Keyham were thanked and consideration was given to what further help could be administered.

General Synod Election The results of the General Synod Elections for the Diocese of Exeter are as follows:

Clergy

The Revd Preb. Rosie Austin
The Ven. Douglas Dettmer
The Revd Preb. Karl Freeman
The Revd. Graham Hamilton
The Revd Prof. Morwenna Ludlow

Laity

Mr Luke Appleton
Mr Simon Friend
Mr Timothy Hamilton
Miss Georgia Willis

BUILDINGS & MAINTENANCE REPORT - Claire Worth (Executive Director) - The Church site and buildings have continued to be used in different ways; The Church Hall has continued to be used for AA meetings, cooking and preparation for the bi-weekly Soup Run and providing pastoral care, support, friendship and advice. The Church Building is currently getting back into full swing with Sunday services, Alpha, Student nights, St Mellitus College, Kingdom Come and other ad hoc events.

Security Funding - We have been successful in our bid to receive funding for additional security measures across the site from a Government Security Fund for Churches. This significant funding includes full system CCTV across the whole site (12 cameras), new security fencing, security lighting, gates and other security features. We are currently liaising with a contractor in regards to commencing this site upgrade as soon as possible. We are so grateful to have been chosen as this work would cost tens of thousands of pounds to do ourselves.

AV Changes/ Sound Desk - The team continues to improve and upgrade our AV systems and we now have additional provision through the significant investment made. We felt as a Leadership team that we needed to continue with our 'on-line' service provision, which is now of an extremely high standard with extensive positive feedback received from the wider St Matts family. We have also continued to improve our social media offering and increase our external engagement and the team is continuing to develop this area of ministry. Recently, our 5 year old sound desk (which has been extensively used) unfortunately broke. However, through an incredibly generous member of the St Matts family, we have been able to purchase a new desk which is an amazing answer to prayer.

AA - Since lockdown and beyond, we have seen an increase in the number of people attending the Alcoholics Anonymous 'Road to Recovery' group in the Church Hall. The group continues to meet 3 times a week (it was once a week previously). We didn't feel that we wanted to increase the costs excessively for them, given the nature of their work and the support they offer the local community. However, this has in turn increased the hall hire revenue to £375 per month (an increase of £225 per month).

Toilets - We are at the final stage of this very long process, with the application now waiting for approval with the Chancellor. All being well with the application, we will be commencing the tendering process for this development and looking into raising funds to cover the work needed. The updated toilets will bring a much needed revamp to the Vestry area and provide warm, clean, modern toilet facilities which we are very excited about!

Site Maintenance - Noah Gilbert (our Production & Maintenance Coordinator) continues to work very hard in keeping the site functioning safely and securely. With such a large site to look after and given that Noah only works 1.5 days a week on this element of his role, he is building a team of volunteers to help support all of the maintenance, decorating and gardening that needs doing.

Dale Gardens - The church owns a property in Dale Gardens which is let to long term tenants. Rental income is invested in the life of the church.

FINANCE REPORT - Jonathan Bushby (Treasurer & Finance Director) - Covid relief grants from the Government and other sources significantly boosted financial activity from the usual level in 2021, as they did in 2020, and this has been shown as restricted fund activity under the Love your Neighbour (LYN) banner in the annual accounts. All grants were fully spent by the end of 2021 so will not be a factor in 2022.

During the year the charity received a total income of £454,602 split between £253,972 of operating income, a £50,000 donation match funding the employment of a Youth pastor and a Media pastor and £150,630 of LYN/Covid relief funding.

Operating expenditure in the year amounted to £262,308 and in addition £20,545 of depreciation was charged. LYN/Covid related expenditure was £254,788. The overall effect of the pandemic on the

church's finances was slightly positive over 2020 and the first part of 2021, with the reduction in giving at services being offset by reduced costs due to lower activity levels and furlough scheme payments. However as reopening progressed, and the furlough scheme tapered away, in the latter part of 2021 operating costs have risen.

The church is currently operating with a monthly deficit of around £3,000 and plans are in place involving further giving increases and/or cost savings that will need to be achieved to bring the budget back into balance over the coming years.

Capital expenditure of £7,331 was undertaken and £4,750 was added to the church planning fund which now stands at £65,042.

An operating surplus of £915 and Investment income of £3,051 helped to increase the general fund and at the year end it stood at £3,986.

£39,310 of funds reserved for children's work, support for those in need and at the discretion of the PCC, were transferred to the general fund to support our children's work and to help provide much needed Covid relief. This enabled matched funding to be accessed from the Government, as well as helping to cover LYN expenses that did not have grant funding. Over 2020 and 2021 St Matts released £50k of historic funds and redirected 6 months of its tithing (£13,968) to LYN to provide Covid relief in our city. Overall £7 was raised, via Government and other grants and donations, for every £1 St Matts provided.

A hardship fund, 'The Acts 4 Fund', available to support members of the congregation in financial difficulty, was started during 2020 and stands at £1,479 at the end of 2021.

We have been encouraged by the faithfulness of our regular givers in the St Matt's family (currently 130 members give regularly), particularly in the face of the uncertainty of the pandemic, but need to encourage more of the church's members to give in order to ensure a balanced budget going forward and to continue growing and blessing the city and region.

Investment policy - In accordance with the charity's governing document, the Trustees have the power to invest funds in any investments that they see fit. The policy is to adopt a low risk strategy whilst maximising returns. The Trustees are satisfied with the performance of the investments held and that the policy adopted remains adequate and appropriate. £118,483 of endowment investments, held in 3 separate charities, are shown in the church accounts on the basis that they are controlled by the PCC. Income was £3,051 on these investments which showed a gain of £14,776 over the year. £7,800 of rent was received on a freehold property, valued in the accounts at £146,000, owned by the PCC.

Reserves policy - It is the policy of the trustees to maintain unrestricted funds, which are free reserves, at a sufficient level to secure the continued provision of normal charitable activities for a maximum period of six months.

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

Trustees' Responsibilities - Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity at the end of the year and of the surplus or deficiency for the year then ended.

In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to select suitable accounting policies, as described later in the accounts, and then apply them on a consistent basis, making judgements and

estimates that are prudent and reasonable. The trustees must also prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Independent Examination

A resolution to appoint Tony Jopson & Co. as independent examiners for the ensuing year will be proposed at the next APCM during which the financial statements are approved in accordance with the Charities Act 2011

On behalf of the PCC *Olly Ryder.* Olly Ryder, Chairman Mon 11 July 2022
Date.....

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF CHARLES WITH ST
MATTHIAS YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

I report on the attached accounts of the Parochial Church Council ("PCC") for the year ended 31 December 2021, in respect of an examination carried out under regulation 3 of the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 to 2001 and Section 145, Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act").

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees (members of the PCC) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 144 of the 2011 Act and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

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

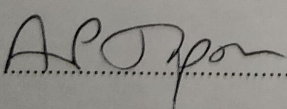
Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with these records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters as set out in the statement below.

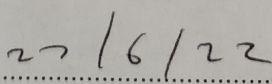
Independent Examiner's Statement

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 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 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.



A P Jopson, FCA



Date

(Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales)

Tony Jopson & Co Ltd, Peverell Corner, 246 Peverell Park Road, Plymouth, PL3 4QG

THE PARISH CHURCH OF CHARLES WITH ST MATTHIAS PLYMOUTH

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - Year ended 31 December 2021

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (SOFA)

	Note	Unrestricted funds		Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2021	Total Funds 2020
		General £	Designated £	£	£	£	£
Income from							
Donations and legacies							
Regular giving	2	215,133	-	-	-	215,133	216,938
Other voluntary receipts	3	0	-	201,557	-	201,557	293,470
Church activities	4	34,844	-	-	-	34,844	29,601
Investments	5	17	-	-	3,051	3,068	3,055
Total income		249,994	-	201,557	3,051	454,602	543,064
Expenditure on							
Church activities	6	249,078	-	288,562	-	537,640	493,533
Total expenditure		249,078	-	288,562	-	537,640	493,533
Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains/(losses)		915	-	-87,005	3,051	-83,039	49,531
Net gains/(losses) on investments		-	-	-	14,776	14,776	6,260
Net income/(expenditure)		915	-	-87,005	17,827	-68,263	55,791
Transfers between funds		-1,534	4,750	-165	-3,051	0	0
Transfers in of 3 charities							
Assets controlled by PCC		-	-	-	-	0	0
Net movement in funds		-619	4,750	-87,170	14,776	-68,263	55,791
Total funds brought forward		4,605	206,292	232,458	103,707	547,062	491,271
Total funds carried forward	12	3,986	211,042	145,288	118,483	478,799	547,062

THE PARISH CHURCH OF CHARLES WITH ST MATTHIAS PLYMOUTH

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - Year ended 31 December 2021

BALANCE SHEET

		2021		2020	
	Note	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS	8				
Freehold Investment Property			146,000		146,000
Furniture, Fixtures and Fittings			43,412		51,371
Audio Visual equipment			62,322		67,577
Investments	9		118,483		103,707
			<u>370,217</u>		<u>368,655</u>
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	10	16,046		25,022	
Cash on deposit		72,267		81,983	
Cash at bank and in hand		36,310		82,867	
		<u>124,623</u>		<u>189,872</u>	
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	11	<u>16,041</u>		<u>11,466</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			108,583		178,406
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			478,799		547,062
CREDITORS: amounts falling due after more than one year			0		0
NET ASSETS			<u>478,799</u>		<u>547,062</u>
FUNDS	12				
Endowment funds			118,483		103,707
Designated Funds			211,042		206,292
Restricted funds			145,288		232,458
Unrestricted funds			3,986		4,605
TOTAL FUNDS			<u>478,799</u>		<u>547,062</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Parochial Church Council on 17/3/2022 and signed on its behalf by:

Revd Olly Ryder (Chair)

Mr Jonathan Bushby (Treasurer)

Oliver Ryder

Oliver Ryder

JC Bushby

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
CHARLES WITH ST MATTHIAS, PLYMOUTH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for investment assets, which are shown at market value, and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP FRS 102 together with update bulletin 1) on Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the financial statements of Church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body or those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Funds

Unrestricted and designated funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any special restrictions regarding their use and are available for application to the general purposes of the PCC. These include funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC.

Restricted funds are amounts which have been received by the PCC with specific directions concerning the way in which capital and any income arising are to be expended.

Endowment funds are sums which are held by or on behalf of the PCC and where only the income can be spent, with the capital being retained permanently, or at the PCC's discretion, and invested.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the Church is entitled to the income, there is sufficient certainty of receipt, and the amount can be reliably measured.

Voluntary income, including collections, donations, planned giving and income tax recoverable under Gift Aid is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as they are received. Funds raised and other similar events are accounted for gross. Sales of books and magazines from the church bookstall are accounted for gross.

Income from Investment

Investment Income, including recoverable tax, is included when receivable.

Resources expended

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and is included in the accounts gross of VAT

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
CHARLES WITH ST MATTHIAS, PLYMOUTH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

.....continued

Fixed assets

Consecrated property and movable church furnishings Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the financial statements by S10(2) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Church Wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal, are considered inalienable property and are now capitalized unless consecrated. For inalienable property acquired prior to 2000, there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the financial statements. All expenditure incurred in the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off.

A full year's depreciation is charged in the year of purchase and none in the year of sale.

Office furniture, computing and other equipment

These items are depreciated on a straight-line basis over five years.

Church audio visual and other equipment, fixtures and fittings

These items are depreciated on a straight-line basis over ten years.

Investments

Investments are valued at market value as at 31 December.

THE PARISH CHURCH OF CHARLES WITH ST MATTHIAS PLYMOUTH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - Year ended 31 December 2021

		Unrestricted funds		Restricted	Endowment	Total Funds	Total Funds
		General	Designated	Funds	Funds	2021	2020
		£	£	£	£	£	£
2	Regular giving						
	Planned giving inc. envelopes	173,110	-	-	-	173,110	178,866
	Collections at services	1,571	-	-	-	1,571	6,137
	Income tax recovered	40,453	-	-	-	40,453	31,935
		215,133	-	-	-	215,133	216,938
3	Other voluntary receipts						
	Government COVID relief grants	0	-	110,513	-	110,513	254,715
	Love your neighbour & Covid relief giving	0	-	40,117	-	40,117	37,414
	Donation to Youth and Media	0	-	50,000	-	50,000	0
	Hardship fund	0	-	927	-	927	1,342
		0	-	201,557	-	201,557	293,470
4	Income from church activities						
	Statutory fees - weddings, funerals, etc.	414	-	-	-	414	932
	Miscellaneous	0	-	-	-	0	0
	Gross income (Solar panels)	2,818	-	-	-	2,818	1,505
	Gross income (Hall lettings)	23,811	-	-	-	23,811	19,365
	Gross income (Letting 18 Dale Gardens)	7,800	-	-	-	7,800	7,800
		34,844	-	-	-	34,844	29,601
5	Income from investments						
	Dividends & Interest	0	-	-	3,051	3,051	2,991
	Bank Interest received	17	-	-	-	17	63
		17	-	-	-	3,068	3,055
	Total Income	249,994	-	201,557	3,051	454,602	543,064

6	Expenditure on Charitable activities						
	Ministry: common fund	53,194	-	-	-	53,194	50,183
	Church running expenses	12,004	-	-	-	12,004	11,006
	Church maintenance	7,539	-	-	-	7,539	3,016
	Upkeep of services	2,757	-	-	-	2,757	5,811
	Music and production	7,877	-	-	-	7,877	4,862
	Parish hall – services and maintenance	22,122	-	-	-	22,122	11,762
	Events and Other parish expenditure	1,585	-	-	-	1,585	6,333
	Youth/Student work	6,987	-	-	-	6,987	4,280
	Maintenance costs – 18 Dale Gardens	422	-	-	-	422	1,498
	COVID relief-Love your neighbour	-	-	254,788	-	254,788	251,222
	Salaries and fees	112,634	-	12,640	-	125,273	98,849
	Training	1,005	-	-	-	1,005	3415.26
	External giving	13,560	-	590	-	14,150	13700
	Depreciation	-	-	20,545	-	20,545	19,812
	Administration	7,141	-	-	-	7,141	7,534
	Accountant's fees	250	-	-	-	250	250
	Total Expenditure	249,078	-	288,562	-	537,640	493,533

THE PARISH CHURCH OF CHARLES WITH ST MATTHIAS PLYMOUTH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - Year ended 31 December 2021

7 Transactions with PCC members and related parties

None of the members of the PCC were remunerated or reimbursed for their expenses in their capacity as PCC members.
Jonathan Bushby was paid £31,332 relating to his role as Operations Director and Hannah English £19,111 as Church Centre Manager
Claire Worth was paid £38,203 in her role as Executive Director
During 2021 the PCC received £30,868 in donations from Trustees. The donors did not attach any conditions to their gift which required the charity to significantly alter the nature of its existing activities.

8 Tangible Fixed Assets	Investment Property	A/V & IT Equip.	FF&F	Total
Cost or Valuation				
At 1/1/21	146,000	118,526	79,595	344,121
Additions		7,331	0	7,331
At 31/12/21	146,000	125,857	79,595	351,452
Depreciation				
At 1/1/21	0	50,949	28,224	79,173
Charge for the year	0	12,586	7,959	20,545
At 31/12/21	0	63,535	36,183	99,718
Net Book Value				
At 31/12/2021	146,000	62,322	43,412	251,733
At 31/12/2020	146,000	67,577	51,371	264,948

9 Investments	Market Value 31/12/21	Market Value 31/12/20
Household of Faith	38,039	33,295
Victoria Almshouses	34,079	29,829
Charles Plymouth relief in need	46,365	40,583
	118,483	103,707

These investments are held in separate charities and are shown on the Church's balance sheet because they are under the control of the Vicar, Churchwardens and PCC, in line with guidance from the Diocese.

£118,483 represents the value of the investments on 31/12/21 and £13,657 in the charities bank accounts at that date has been consolidated into the cash on the balance sheet.

10 Debtors	31/12/21	31/12/20
Gift Aid reclaimable	3,090	12,919
Prepayments	3,129	4,946
Rent due	6,000	5,360
Solar feed-in	1,000	1,000
Other debtors	2,828	798
	16,046	25,022

11 Creditors	31/12/21	31/12/20
Fees due	250	250
Other creditors	120	1927
Accrued expenses	15671	9288.82
	16,041	11,466

12 Funds	Bal b/fwd	Income	Expenditure	Investment Gain	Transfers	Bal c/fwd
General unrestricted	4,605	249,994	249,078		-1,534	3,986
Designated for Church Planting	60,292				4,750	65,042
Designated Property investment	146,000				0	146,000
Restricted Youth & Media	0	50,000	12,640			37,361
Restricted Love Your Neighbour	73,060	150,630	254,788		31,815	717
Restricted hardship fund	1,142	927	590		0	1,479
Restricted Sale of endowments	39,310				-39,310	0
Restricted Fixed Assets	118,946		20,545		7,331	105,731
Endowment Funds 3 separate charities	103,707	3,051		14,776	-3,051	118,483
	547,062	454,602	537,640	14,776	0	478,799