

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

England & Wales · Charity number 1134253

Details

Other names MERTON PRIORY PCC

Status Registered

Legal form Previously excepted

Registered 2010-02-11

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

Contact

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Wimbledon
London
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Website <http://www.mertonprioryteam.org.uk/>

Activities

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

Activities: Regular public worship open to all; providing sacred space for personal prayer & contemplation; pastoral work; teaching Christianity; taking religious assemblies in schools; providing youth club with Christian ethos; promoting Christianity; promoting the whole mission of Church; supporting other 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.
- Merton

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£311,641	£315,311	-	-
2024-12-31	£346,839	£346,332	-	-
2023-12-31	£340,300	£371,428	-	-
2022-12-31	£320,069	£309,300	-	-
2021-12-31	£291,577	£260,726	-	-
2020-12-31	£249,321	£254,809	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
REVD MARK FRANKLIN EMINSON	Chair	2019-09-04
ANN ELIZABETH NEWSON		
ANN ELIZABETH ROBERTS		2015-04-26
Andrew Norman Harold Coles		2026-05-31
Ben Jin Ooi		2022-05-21
DESMOND DAVIES		2024-05-19
Dr KERRY AMANDA PORRITT		2022-05-21
Elizabeth-Anne Charlton		2026-05-17
Ellen Louise Lyons		2025-05-18
JOANNE CLAIRE POWELL		2012-09-06
JOHN EADES		2021-05-23
Joy Lynne Lyons		2025-05-18
Karen Mary Warman		2024-05-19
RICHARD JOHN BLADES		2017-04-30
Rev Mariia Kilikidi		2025-06-28
Revd Dr Hannah Jane Swithinbank		2026-06-01
Richard John Clark		2026-05-31
Sue McKinney		2026-05-31
Tracey Margaret McDermott		2025-07-08

Accounts



THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Charity Registration Number: 1134253

Diocese of Southwark
Merton Deanery

Annual Report and Financial Statements
31 December 2025

Tandem Accounting
Chartered Accountants
17 Heathville Road
London N19 3AL

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Report and Financial Statements 2025

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THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Report of the Parochial Church Council For the year ended 31 December 2025

Charity Name	The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Merton Priory.		
Charity Number	1134253. The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure and was registered as a charity with Charity Commission on 11 February 2010.		
Principal Address	Holy Trinity Church, 234 The Broadway, London SW19 1SB.		
Governing Document	Parochial Church Council Powers Measure (1956) as amended and Church Representation Rules.		
Objective	To promote in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church.		
Members of the PCC	The Members of the PCC who served during the year or who were serving at the date of this report were:		
	Clergy (ex officio)	Revd Mark Eminson, Team Rector Revd Alison Judge, Team Vicar (<i>to 31/10/25</i>) Revd Simon Asquith, Curate (<i>to 19/01/25</i>) Revd Mary Kilikidi, Curate (<i>from 28/06/25</i>) Revd Canon Duncan Swan, Associate Priest	
	Churchwardens	Zoe Miller (<i>to 11/05/25</i>) Karen Warman <i>Vacancy (from 11/05/25)</i> John Eades Delene Edwards (<i>to 11/05/25</i>) Simon Hay (<i>from 11/05/25</i>) Ann Roberts <i>Vacancy</i>	Christ Church Christ Church Christ Church Holy Trinity & St Peter Holy Trinity & St Peter Holy Trinity & St Peter St John the Divine St John the Divine
	PCC members	Joanne Powell <i>Vacancy (to 18/05/25)</i> Joy Lyons (<i>from 18/05/25</i>) Ben Ooi Rachel Cherry Ann Newson <i>Vacancy</i>	Christ Church Christ Church Christ Church Holy Trinity & St Peter Holy Trinity & St Peter St John the Divine St John the Divine
	Representatives on Deanery Synod	Abi Erinle (<i>to 18/05/25</i>) <i>Vacancy (from 18/05/25)</i> <i>Vacancy</i> Richard Blades Boris Yurkevich (<i>to 18/05/25</i>) Ellie Lyons (<i>from 18/05/25</i>) Eva Parker (<i>to 21/05/25, RIP</i>) <i>Vacancy (from 21/05/25)</i> <i>Vacancy</i>	Christ Church Christ Church Christ Church Holy Trinity & St Peter Holy Trinity & St Peter Holy Trinity & St Peter St John the Divine St John the Divine St John the Divine
	Representatives on Diocesan Synod	Desmond Davies	Christ Church
	Treasurer	Kerry Porritt, PCC Co-Treasurer (Co-opted) Ann Roberts, PCC Co-Treasurer	
	Secretary	Margaret Duncan (<i>Co-opted to 8/07/25</i>) Tracey McDermott (<i>Co-opted from 8/07/25</i>)	

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Key Management Personnel	Key management personnel are those in charge of directing, controlling, running and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis. For Merton Priory Team Ministry, these are all the members of the PCC and the three DCCs (District Church Councils).
Bankers	<i>Merton Priory PCC, Christ Church, Holy Trinity & St Peter and St John the Divine:</i> CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Mallong ME19 4JQ
Independent Examiner	John Helm ACA Tandem Accounting 17 Heathville Road London N19 3AL
Quinquennial Inspectors	Christ Church – Tim Gough (Austin Winkley and Associates) Holy Trinity - Tim Gough (Austin Winkley and Associates) St John the Divine – Karen Butti (Thomas Ford and Partners)

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Report of the Parochial Church Council For the year ended 31 December 2025

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Merton Priory (“the PCC”) submits its report and the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2025. The financial statements have been prepared in the format prescribed by the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP2019 (FRS102)). The legal and administrative information set out earlier in this document forms part of this report.

1 Aim and purposes

Merton Priory Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the Team Rector, the Revd Mark Eminson, and the Team Vicar (the Revd Alison Judge until October 2025 and now in vacancy) in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the fabric of the three churches of Christ Church, Colliers Wood; Holy Trinity and St Peter, South Wimbledon; St John the Divine, Merton, along with the two separate church halls of Christ Church and St John the Divine.

2 Objectives and activities

The PCC is committed to promoting the Gospel of Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England; the PCC seeks by encouraging co-operation between clergy, lay members of our congregation, and the wider community to undertake the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical.

When planning the activities for the year, the Team Rector, Team Vicar and PCC have in mind the Charity Commission’s guidance on public benefit, and especially the guidance to charities for the advancement of religion. In particular we make it possible for people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Regular worship and prayer open to all: developing knowledge of and trust in God and learning about the Gospel;
- Provision of sacred spaces for personal prayer and contemplation;
- Provision of pastoral care and sacramental ministry for people living within the parish;
- Teaching the Christian faith through sermons, courses, and small groups;
- Preparing people for baptism, first communion and confirmation;
- Leading Collective Worship, assemblies, and classes in church and community schools;
- Provision of activities with a Christian ethos for young people;
- Provision of social and community events and groups which strengthen outreach and fellowship;
- Fostering relationships with other organisations and churches in our parish and borough and cooperating with them in promoting social cohesion and meeting human need;
- Ministering to those who seek marriages and funerals, before, during, and after these events;
- Supporting other charities in the UK and overseas and building active links with these.

To facilitate this work, we maintain the fabric of the three churches and two separate church halls.

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Report of the Parochial Church Council For the year ended 31 December 2025

3 Achievements and performance

3.1 Merton Priory Team

Mission Action Plan



3 – 5 Year Vision

What God is calling our church to do and become in the next three to five years

To show God's love to everyone in our parish

For all three churches to be growing, thereby able to better serve our communities

With an especial focus for all three churches to enable growth at St John's and an increased presence on High Path

Core Statement

Our purpose/reason to be here

Faithful to God

Sharing with those in need

Caring for one another

Mission Priority One

Building congregation of St John's from within the Team

Mission Priority Two

Serving the community at High Path

Mission Priority Three

Ministry to young people, including schools

Action Goals for 3 – 5 years

1. Form leadership team to oversee Priority 1
2. Church graft from say HT to SJD
3. Early Service/Messy Church at SJD
4. Different time and/or style of service
5. All of the above grounded in prayer

Action Goals for 3 – 5 years

1. Form leadership team to oversee Priority 2
2. Audit of what the community wants
3. Working with partners on the estate
4. Increasing church/hall use for community
5. All of the above grounded in prayer

Action Goals for 3 – 5 years

1. Form leadership team to oversee Priority 3
2. Developing links with Merton Abbey/Harris
3. Bell-ringing for teenagers
4. The answer is table-tennis!
5. All of the above grounded in prayer

Our *Team Mission Action Plan* (see above) has been in operation for four years now with the overall aim for all three churches to work together for community engagement around the High Path estate, trusting that thereby growth at St John's might emerge. A year ago, we noted the need for fresh perspective, personnel and focus. This was in part aided by an excellent PCC and DCCs Away Day in May, although we have since bidden farewell to Revd Alison Judge and are therefore in an in-between time.

Mission Priority One

St John's congregation remains steady at about 15-18 at the 9.30am Sunday Eucharist but it is good to welcome new faces. Our worship is quiet and rich and we enjoy worshipping together. There are plans afoot for more involvement with Holy Trinity.

Mission Priority Two

Contact with the High Path Community is on an ad hoc individual basis. So far, no overarching project or needs have emerged. In the sense of the wider community the church is used increasingly and so footfall into the church building at times is considerable, for example the yearly Pantomime and Parish Ale Festival.

Mission Priority Three

Fun and Games, run jointly by St John's and Griffiths Road Methodist Church, a toddler group in the Hall continued to be well received until Alison's retirement. We are pleased to report that the Methodists have been able to restart it in their building.

Contact with Merton Abbey School continued to thrive with Alison regularly joining the school community for assemblies and then Mark hosting the school Christingle in St John's church. For one week during the summer holiday, we ran a holiday club specifically for children in Key Stage 2 at Merton Abbey, with sports coaches from KICK (a Christian organisation that runs sports in schools) keeping the children active throughout the days.

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On 5 October, the great change was our farewell to Revd Alison Judge (and husband Peter) with services at St John's and Christ Church and a lunch at Christ Church. We rejoiced with them for the blessings of nine years of faithful, fun, gently challenging and loving ministry, although we were most sorry to see them go. We wish them well for their retirement in Weymouth.

Earlier in the year, on 28 June, we welcomed our new curate Revd Mary Kilikidi as she was ordained deacon. She has settled in very well across our three churches, especially in the areas of worship, pastoral care, teaching and community engagement.

In July, Archdeacon Simon Gates visited our churches and school leaders as part of Southwark's *Parish Conversations* initiative. He was pleased to see our extensive links with local schools and to hear about the wide life of the Team and hopes for the future looking beyond Alison's retirement.

Across the churches, *Weekday Morning and Evening Prayer* and *Eucharists* offered the round of prayer and intercession for the parish. On Monday evenings at Holy Trinity, we often had five or six people. Attendance at the Holy Trinity Thursday eucharist was usually around ten, while at Christ Church on Saturday mornings it tended to be eight or nine. The weekly Monday evening online service, *Finding Sanctuary* continued for most of the year with perhaps eight in attendance, but then with a final session on 24 November. Members felt and agreed that although it had proved beneficial over time it had run its course. It had been running for exactly 18 years, and most sessions were lay-led; furthermore, it was worthy of note that four of the original attendees had grown so much in the faith to become ordained priests in the Church of England. There was a view of some to see whether continuing to use the online medium might be developed further in conjunction with our Team Clergy. *Weekly meditation group* at Christ Church linked with the World Community for Christian Meditation averaged six attendees.

First Communion was celebrated on the Feast of Christ the King, and we were blessed with 11 children being admitted in a lovely service at Christ Church, including one baptism. Earlier in the year in June the Bishop of Kingston, Dr Martin Gainsborough, led a service of *Confirmation* at St Barnabas' Mitcham, at which we presented four adult candidates. In February and June, several young people attended the termly Southwark *Youth Ministry In Communion* (YMIC) events. There are plans for us to have a share in a YMIC Youth Worker.

The Team combined forces for the *Merton Nightshelter Project* again this year, using Holy Trinity as a venue, but allowing a broader pool of volunteers from across the Team. We hosted about 12 guests on a Friday night over a seven-week period, including Christmas. Huge thanks are due to Alison Fletcher Rogers, Richard Blades, Elizabeth Robinson and Nanma Sajan who coordinated the various aspects of the project for us.

As ever, it has been an active and positive year for the work of *Merton Citizens*. This is a community organising alliance of different organisations that work together to champion positive change and social justice in our neighbourhood and our Team is one of the founder members. In February Holy Trinity hosted a Citizens Celebration, including an inspiring performance from Holy Trinity School choir, to look back on achievements and begin to look forward to new priorities. As part of that process, there was a new Listening campaign later in the year and one of the leaders, Tom Underwood, attended Holy Trinity in October. We continue to campaign on Housing, Mental Health, Living Wage and Refugee welcome.

We celebrated Creationtide and each church has continued to strive to "recycle, reduce and reuse". All building work is undertaken with a view to reducing our carbon footprint and environmental impact. Christ Church and St John's are working towards Silver *Eco Church* awards, while Holy Trinity needs to play catch-up and aim for Bronze! For the first time in many years, several of us walked and prayed for the parish (people, creatures, work and fabric) for *Beating the Bounds*!

Another area of our common work consists in *Racial Justice* as we seek to implement the Southwark Diocese Anti-Racism Charter (ARC). Mark is Chair of the Kingston Racial Justice Group. Team members were prominent in attendance at a shared networking event with the Farsi community at Christ Church Gipsy Hill and again at our Area Black History Month event at St Peter's Norbiton. It was pleasing that we had some five to ten members undertake

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the Southwark ARC Bible study resource, which gave us fresh insights and perspectives about our worship and common life. We discussed this issue at PCC, preached about it on several occasions, from Racial Justice Sunday to Black History Month (BHM), and sent church members to the BHM Thanksgiving service at Southwark Cathedral, as well as a special service celebrating our Kingston Area link with the Diocese of Matabeleland in Zimbabwe.

Our three churches kept a dedicated *Inclusive Church* Sunday in June. We were disappointed with the House of Bishops' pausing of the LLF process in October and offered a study session and pastoral support to those who desired it. In November Mary led a Transgender Day of Remembrance Vigil. This was the first time we had done this and so an attendance of about 25 people was very impressive, including members of Merton Plus.

God in the Pub, a monthly discussion of issues of faith and life, has continued with lively conversation and conviviality, having an average attendance of around ten people.

Mary has continued *Bible study* sessions, moving now to a Thursday evening with between five and ten in attendance. Topics have included Vocation, Justice and Love.

The 2025 *Lent Groups* studied Paula Gooder's "Women of Holy Week", which was a fresh and stimulating resource. Alison also led thought-provoking discussions on issues such as the climate crisis and the Assisted Dying Bill. During Passiontide, Holy Week and Easter, we welcomed a curate Steve Jullien to enable him to have a full experience of the heart of the Church year before he finished his curacy.

The *MP3 Parish Pantomime* enjoyed its twelfth outing with an entertaining take on "Aladdin". All the money raised this year went to *Learn English at Home*, a local charity supporting asylum seekers, refugees and migrants to learn English.

We communicate with those who live in our parish through regular door-to-door leaflets before Christmas and Easter, through our websites and through flyers distributed in schools and other community places; as well as via Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, the website and e-notices.

2025 was the tenth year of contributing to the Diocese through the *Parish Support Fund*. Once again, it has been a heroic effort that the three churches met their commitments in full. For 2026 we have pledged £181,412, a slight increase, but since the Diocese asked for a 5.7% increase (to cover an increase in clergy stipends) we are not meeting our full ministry costs (£188,800). Therefore, other parishes are subsidising us to the tune of £7,388. This is a worrying (if presently unavoidable) development.

During the year we have also given to a number of charities, both through planned donations and special collections (see note 4b on page 24).

The PCC continues to promote cooperation between Parish Safeguarding Officers (PSO) in implementing our safeguarding action plan, has considered *Safeguarding* at PCC meetings, and has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. Our five-strong team of PSOs has kept us largely up to date with compliance, beginning an internal audit of members' DBS and training needs. In January we hosted an in-person training event for Domestic Abuse Awareness at Christ Church, which was appreciated by many in the Deanery. Our Health and Safety Officers have worked together to share good practice, draw up action plans for each church to ensure that we are fully compliant with our Health and Safety policy, and reported findings to the PCC.

The combined *electoral roll* for the parish in 2025 was 244 (Christ Church 52, Holy Trinity 172, St John the Divine 20); this number does not include children or the many people with a more fringe relationship with our churches. The great drop was in part because it was the six-yearly compilation of a new roll. We also maintain congregational lists of all our contacts, which comply with the requirements of GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations), which came into force in May 2018.

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3.2 Christ Church

Our buildings consist of a church building and a hall building on the same site but not physically connected. The hall is the home Monday-Friday of Flourish Day Nursery, and this is still proving a very successful arrangement.

2025 turned out to be Alison's final year, although she was keen throughout that the focus should remain on the round of worship, witness and care.

On Ascension Day, 29 May, our Foundation Day, we were delighted to welcome regular friend Revd Hannah Neale as guest preacher.

We have continued to progress our work to enhance Christ Church as a place of worship and welcome for our community. Working with our architect, Tim Gough of Austin Winkley and Associates, the project will provide a kitchenette/tea point, storage and two toilets at the west end of the church. Fundraising has been ongoing including book sales and this year the experiment of a Sunday afternoon Christmas Market, which was much enjoyed by the local community and stall holders and visitors, although perhaps had insufficient footfall.

Our Sunday worship often has the same number of attendees but each week this may be different people. We have made a concerted effort this year to invite families to our All Age Eucharist on the first Sunday each month and this is beginning to encourage families back. Easter attendance this year was 77 (adults and children combined). At Christmas 324 people came to the church for services that included a crib service, Midnight Eucharist and a very happy Community Carol Service with included old friends Colliers Wood Chorus and Musicians and Singlegate School. Average Sunday attendance throughout 2025 was 2 children and 45 adults. This year it has been lovely to welcome into the family of the church in Baptism 4 children. The First Communion service hosted at Christ Church was a beautiful occasion. A joyful wedding also took place at the start of October and a service of prayer and dedication after civil marriage earlier in the year. Our Organist and Church musician, Irene Clugston, has led us well in a range of traditional and more contemporary music.

During the year one funeral was conducted at Christ Church.

Christ Church bell tower continues to be very popular with visiting bands. Our own band of Bell ringers are also flourishing.

On 5 October, it was time to bid Alison farewell. A sumptuous bring-and-share lunch was enjoyed by many across the Team and beyond, followed by a service of "Praying our Farewells". Not only did Irene and Liz Holder offer musical accompaniment, but also folk musicians and bands of Morris, culminating in a send-off from the bell ringers, who rang a sequence of methods as a goodbye tribute - Merton Bob Doubles, Threadman and Dorset Place.

The vacancy began well under the faithful and caring leadership of churchwarden Karen, aided by a good team of other members. Mark committed to one Sunday a month with Hannah Neale filling in many of the other Sundays plus a cameo from Dean of Revitalisation Charlie Lamont. Mary was also down at least monthly and prospective Reader Sue McKinney beginning to get involved; Sister Chris and Joy Lyons were a continuous presence in prayer, teaching and welcome.

We give thanks to God for the witness of this congregation, and our friendships with so many organisations and people in this vibrant and diverse community.

3.3 Holy Trinity & St Peter

Within one building, Holy Trinity has a main worship area, clergy vestry, St Peter's Chapel, committee room, kitchen, church hall, St Cecilia Room; and an area of the church is set aside for quiet prayer. The church is widely used by outside agencies and the DCC has a licence under faculty to allow London Together Korean Church to use the church on Sunday afternoons. A quinquennial inspection (QI) in October 2021 revealed the need for a lot of minor repair and re-decoration work; much is yet to be done and can now clearly wait until the next QI in 2026!

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In the last part of 2025 Mark was made one of two Acting Archdeacons, while Archdeacon Simon was on sabbatical. This was an eye-opening experience, seeing the inner workings of the PSF, Bishop's Staff, DAC and more, though it was good to get to a comparatively quiet Christmas!

We enjoy fellowship and hospitality, often with the expert culinary oversight of Richard Blades, so once again were blessed with pancakes on Shrove Tuesday (this one assisted by Bruce Warman) and a Dawn Eucharist feast for record numbers. We also welcomed Mary and partner Kai for the "Trinity Sunday" tea in the garden (this year it coincided with her ordination and Inclusive Church Sunday).

The Christmas Fair was again a most enjoyable and well-supported community and fundraising occasion. We had incredible takings of £7,375, the highest for many years and we think therefore a record profit of an incredible £6,017; very well-done coordinating partnership of Libby Charlton and Andrew Taylor and all the many helpers! Through December we enjoyed our usual school carols and Christmas Carols with full and gifted choir.

Congregational numbers were similar for Easter with 133 adults and 45 children but rose nicely for Christmas with 353 adults and 148 children. Usual Sunday attendance throughout 2025 was similar to last year at 134 adults and 79 children.

Junior Church continues to thrive thanks to Emma Austin and her small group of helpers. We regularly have around 25 children attending and this includes a strong core of regular attendees. The children share what they have learned with the main congregation at the end of the morning service and the termly services through the year (including Mothering Sunday and Harvest) where the Junior Church children lead the service with readings and prayers are enjoyed by both the children and the congregation alike. We could do with some more leaders! We enjoyed our fifth acted-out Nativity, thanks to Ellie Lyons and Andrew Taylor, which involved a good number of children.

In a different liturgical direction, many have also valued now termly healing services.

We continue to provide music at Holy Trinity for all our main services under our Director of Music, Michael Lees. We have a great team of volunteer keyboard players: Jeremy Roberts, Liz Holder, Vivien Halstead and more recently Ivy Ong who is playing the organ, but it would be lovely to have some instrumentalists to perform during communion which adds something special to the service. Our choir, led by Tracy Lees, comes together for Easter and Christmas with the Christmas Carol service being a particular highlight of the year. The grand piano has now settled down after recent maintenance and is making a lovely sound. We are also pleased that we have been able to offer piano and organ practice facilities to two local students on a charitable basis.

Baptisms were steady numbering 16. Christine Hawes has done an excellent job coordinating the baptism diary and visits, aided by Susan Shriver on the visiting front.

For young children and carers, T3 (Trinity, Tots & Toys) has had a very well-attended year and we are grateful to Dovi Lawson for coordinating this small team. The large volume of our work in schools has continued. The Team Rector is ex officio governor of Holy Trinity and The Priory schools. Mark and now Mary take it in turns to conduct weekly assemblies (with an occasional eucharist) in them both and each school attends church four times a year. The Schools' Sunday service this year was another triumph with an enormous attendance, helped by the involvement of a joint schools' choir. We also visit Pelham School (a community school) usually termly.

Ministry to Care Homes is also important for us, so a team has visited Queens Court for a Songs of Praise and a Communion each month and South Park Residential Home once a month, as well as visiting the sick in their homes for holy communion. Thanks to Fiona Totty for overseeing the rota.

Across the year, we conducted four funerals for parishioners, dear late-member Rosemary Jennings in church at the start of the year, then three non-churchgoers across different crematoria.

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Mark and Mary continued to foster relationships across the local community, deanery and borough. As Area Dean, Mark co-chaired with Rabbi Adrian Schell the Merton Council Holocaust Memorial Day event in January. He participated in the Merton Inter-Faith Walk in May, which included visits to the Baitul Futuh Mosque in Morden, St John Fisher RC Church Merton, St Mary's Merton, Wimbledon Salvation Army and Wimbledon International Seventh Day Adventist Church.

He supported the Living Water Parish's silver jubilee in Haydons Road Rec in June and was also one of the speakers at a Scriptural Reasoning event hosted at Holy Trinity in November for Inter-Faith Week. He attends the Merton Faith and Belief Forum when he can.

Mark and Mary also took part in a very new activity, knocking on doors in one of our local roads to introduce ourselves and the church and to offer anyone a free copy of Mark's Gospel. We were one of several local churches in this Merton Gospel Giveaway. It was a stepping beyond our comfort zone; we gave away one gospel (!) but had a range of good conversations and one or two very striking spiritual encounters.

This past winter, Dons Local Action Group approached us to see if we would host a year-round soup kitchen on Saturday and Sunday evenings. We were pleased to be asked, and thanks are due to churchwarden John Eades for his assistance in this. The Dons will return in March 2026 for their thank-you to volunteers. We are most grateful for people's generosity in so many ways, not least in the precious gift of time across our small but dedicated teams who do the flowers, serve at the altar, serve refreshments after services, read, intercede and welcome, update the website, field enquiries from the public, oversee finance and hall bookings, administer the Electoral Roll, help with printing and so much more; especial thanks to Andrew Taylor for offering free administrative help in the absence of a paid Parish Administrator. We are always looking to recruit more volunteers to spread the load. After all, we are a family where everyone has gifts of time and talents to offer for the health and flourishing of all.

3.4 St John the Divine

The church comprises a church building, lovingly restored some years ago, and a hall building. These are located on separate sites, the hall being on the other side of the road from the church. As well as services the church provides a venue for Morden Park Choral Society practices and concerts and for Merton Music Foundation who use it weekly for children's choir practice and for other musical events. The proposed redevelopment of High Path estate, which may incorporate the site of the Church Hall, with the development of a new Church Hall, has now been further postponed and estimated dates for this range between 5-7 years' time. Nevertheless, our current hall continues to be used by a range of community groups from dance to martial arts and Woodcraft Folk. We welcomed Wimbledon Foodbank back as a distribution point in November while work is done at their hub at Elim church, and we hope to continue to work with them. We remain keen to make our buildings a community resource.

The Fun and Games Toddler Group met on Thursday mornings in term time, as a joint venture for St John's and Griffiths Road Methodist Church (an annexe of Lantern Methodist Church in Raynes Park). The sessions were led by Angela Linton Smith and Alison, with excellent support from Bianca Sanasi, a local parent. Unfortunately, the group had to end on Alison's retirement and a change of staffing at the Methodist Church.

The struggles with our beautiful church building continue. We have enjoyed the new lighting system but still struggle to heat our spaces effectively. We truly want to move away from fossil fuels, but this is proving quite challenging for a building of our size and character and so currently we are reliant on our inadequate gas fired heaters. Squirrels also enjoy using the roof void as a playground, and we continue to address their presence in order to prevent further damage.

It has been a good year for social events. MP3 Players used St John's to good effect in January for a wonderful take on the classic pantomime story of 'Aladdin'.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Report of the Parochial Church Council For the year ended 31 December 2025

In February we again held our very popular Parish Ale (aka Beer Festival). Numerous Morris Dancers of all traditions entertained a full church, and wonderful food from Richard Blades and Bruce Warman made for a very successful fundraising event. We are grateful for the support of Oli Carter-Esdale and the whole team from The Trafalgar. The “Traf” also hosted a barbecue in their new courtyard as a fundraiser for St Johns, and the DCC continue to support appeals against plans for redevelopment, recognising the key place in the community that both the church and the pub occupy.

St John’s Bell Tower is a very popular tower for visiting ringers keen to experience our excellent 10 bell tower. Visitors frequently compliment the excellent sound of the 10. Our own band flourishes and we were delighted to host The Ten Bell Practice on behalf of the Surrey Association of Bell Ringers, thanks to Ed Gosden who leads this.

Overall, our congregational numbers have remained much the same, that is to say small but highly committed. Average Sunday attendance throughout 2025 was 15 adults. Easter attendance was 30 adults and 3 children and at Christmas 61 adults and two children.

There were two baptisms in the year – it was a joy to welcome twins Jude and Rory and their family.

Our music is led by Liz Holder on the first Sunday of each month, and Jeremy Roberts on the other Sundays. Irene Clugston still joins us for joint and team services. We are grateful to Liz and Jeremy for their valued contribution to our worshipping life. In April we were sad to bid farewell to Peter Crowther, who had offered his talents alongside Liz, when he moved away to be closer to family.

During the year we have had two funerals at St John’s. We were saddened by the death of Agnes Parker in January, and again by the death of Eva Parker, a stalwart of St John’s and cornerstone of the team, in May. We were also saddened by the death of Joan Brunt, a member of St John’s for over 75 years, in December with her funeral held in church in January.

As noted in the MAP we continue to enjoy a good relationship with Merton Abbey School being involved in assemblies throughout the year. Alison visited Nursery and Reception classes, and Year 1 children visit the church. It is always a highlight when Key Stage 2 have their Christingle service in church, and this year they were delighted to have Mark lead the service. The church drive continues to be used for ‘kiss and drop’ allowing pupils who are driven to school by car to alight safely as parking restrictions on High Path make dropping children off problematic.

With the reorientation of activity within the team to allow a Team Vicar to focus their efforts on Christ Church, Colliers Wood, St John’s are looking forward to working more closely with Holy Trinity on joint endeavours. We have enjoyed welcoming a range of visiting clergy during the vacancy and are grateful for the care they have shown to our congregation in their visits.

We look forward to further work with Merton Priory Team to reach out to our neighbours on High Path over the coming year as we continue to build those relationships.

4 Quinquennial Inspections

Christ Church. A quinquennial inspection was completed in January 2024. Urgent works related to maintenance and access were identified for action, with this and other work intended to be addressed by the major works planned for the building in the coming years. Significant redecoration of the chancel took place during the year which, alongside improved lighting, has served to make this focal area of the church stand out.

Holy Trinity & St Peter. A quinquennial inspection was carried out in early 2026 and revealed an immediate repair required to stonework, and additional works to be prioritised. Further work on internal areas of the church is planned, though will likely need the help of grant money.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Report of the Parochial Church Council For the year ended 31 December 2025

St John the Divine. A quinquennial inspection was carried out in 2023, with the report received early in 2024. Urgent works related to squirrel access and some minor external repairs were identified, with ongoing external maintenance identified over the course of the next five years. Work to address heating and lighting continues, with the intention of moving away from fossil fuels wherever possible.

5 Looking to the future

We look forward this July (God-willing) to Mary's ordination as a priest.

We are also glad to have licensed Sue McKinney as a Reader on Easter Day, based mainly at Christ Church, though deployable across the Team.

We are also excited to have part of a youth worker's time through YMIC. Nequela Whittaker will be able to offer a session a week of some kind and is getting to know us and the area to see what might work.

And then this Summer we will welcome Revd Dr Hannah Swithinbank as the new Team Vicar at Christ Church.

Following a PCC decision, Hannah will be based at Christ Church, and St John's and Holy Trinity will be working more closely together. We have had an initial fruitful meeting about this but still need to discern and pray further. Discernment and prayer also apply to a broader sense of what new work God might be doing through St John's to bring about growth, perhaps extending to a new congregation.

6 Personnel

The Team Rector, the Revd Mark Eminson, is responsible for Holy Trinity, while the Team Vicar, the Revd Alison Judge, was responsible for Christ Church and St John the Divine until October. Her successor at Christ Church will begin later this year. Joy Lyons, SPA (Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary), continues in her work of pastoral care for members of Christ Church and to co-ordinate the Prayer Group; her work is valued greatly. We have been pleased that the Revd Canon Duncan Swan, Associate Priest, has attended St John's on most Sundays. Sister Chris SCL is a committed member of Christ Church and has the Bishop of Southwark's permission to preach, which we value enormously across the Team and are sorry for ourselves (though happy for her!) that she plans to move to Hull in September.

The DCCs set rates of pay for employees in accordance with the skills and responsibilities of their roles and with the aim of recruiting and retaining high quality staff; we continue to abide by the commitment made in 2014 to pay no one less than the London Living Wage, as set by the Living Wage Foundation, which was £13.85 per hour from the beginning of 2025. The PCC has indicated a wish to become accredited as a Living Wage Employer.

A staff pension scheme with the Church Workers Pension Fund was introduced on 1 January 2015, which was well before the PCC's workplace pensions staging date of 1 June 2016. It is available to all employees regardless of salary level and the PCC contributes 5% of gross salary provided the employee also contributes a minimum of 5%.

7 Financial Review

The PCC's main sources of funding are the free will offerings of church members and others in attendance at church meetings, and income from hiring out the church buildings.

7.1 Financial Activity and Financial Position

We remain mindful of the impact that the cost-of-living crisis is having on many people.

Total income for the year decreased by £35,198 to £311,641 (2024: increased by £6,539 to £346,839) as set out in the accompanying financial statements on pages 17-35. Of this total, £2,912 (2024: £16,181) was restricted income.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Report of the Parochial Church Council For the year ended 31 December 2025

Total unrestricted donations and legacies were £159,034 (2024: £176,826) which was a £17,791 decrease (2024: £953 decrease). Gift Aid from tax efficient giving totalled £28,010 (2024: £41,072), which includes estimated claims by Christ Church for 2024 and 2025. Church and hall lettings weakened further, raising £121,358 in 2025 compared to £126,953 in 2024, a decrease of £5,595. Income from fundraising events at £21,105 saw a rise against the previous year (2024: £19,533).

Total expenditure decreased by £31,021 (2024: £25,096 decrease) to £315,311 (2024: £346,332) with a significant decrease in the costs associated with buildings and facilities, support costs, and a reduction in the amount spent for missionary and charitable giving (see note 4).

We were pleased to be able to meet our pledged contributions to the Diocesan Parish Support Fund of £179,000 in 2025 (2024: £176,900). The Parish Support Fund pays for our parish clergy and other diocesan resources, as well as a contribution to poorer parishes.

The team as a whole happily contributed £5,078 (2024: £6,112) to mission giving and donations.

In summary, the deficit for the parish on unrestricted funds was £2,073 (2024: surplus £127). The overall deficit for the year was £2,269 (2024: surplus £5), after including unrealised gains on investments of £1,401 (2024: loss of £502). The net movement in funds for the year was therefore a deficit of £2,269 (2024: surplus of £5).

7.2 Reserves Policy

The PCC has examined the requirements for free reserves, i.e., those unrestricted funds not invested in tangible fixed assets. Given the nature of Merton Priory Team Ministry's work and ongoing financial uncertainty due to the effects of the cost-of-living crisis, the PCC considers that the free reserves requirement should be held at three months' routine general fund expenditure, plus committed future expenditure on other projects, where funds permit. This is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies. At 31 December 2025, the PCC had net free reserves of £230,172 (2024: £226,651) as outlined below, which the PCC acknowledges well exceeds the total free reserves requirement of £94,417 (2024: £94,417).

	2025 £	2024 £
Total reserves	298,292	300,561
Less: restricted funds	(23,074)	(22,621)
Less: endowment funds	(17,602)	(18,611)
Less: unrestricted tangible fixed assets used in the continuing work of the PCC	(27,444)	(32,678)
	230,172	226,651
Free reserves requirement:		
Reserve agreed by PCC	82,417	82,417
Balance allocated to the anticipated cost of fabric repairs	12,000	12,000
	94,417	94,417

Christ Church is planning significant expenditure in 2026 and beyond; this includes work around the altar, redecorations of the church, and putting toilets into the church. Some initial redecoration and improved lighting have been completed, and they are working with the DAC (Diocesan Advisory Committee) and have appointed an architect.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Report of the Parochial Church Council For the year ended 31 December 2025

Holy Trinity has completed extensive kitchen refurbishment and redecoration in recent years and is planning work to redecorate the chancel and nave, upgrade more fittings to accommodate LED lighting, and necessary repairs to the boiler. There are also urgent repairs to external stonework to be made.

St John the Divine has spent money on upgrading lighting and electrics, and will continue to explore sustainable heating options, for which they are likely to be applying for grant funding alongside other fundraising for the project. The timing of any work is dependent on funding being secured.

So, although the free reserves position at 31 December 2025 may be looking very healthy, it is clear that all three churches are mindful of their responsibility in thinking ahead to the appropriate use of the PCC's charitable reserves.

7.3 Investment Policy

Funds not immediately required for working capital are partly placed on short term deposit and partly invested in longer-term investment funds. The PCC currently uses the CCLA Church of England Deposit Fund, Charities Aid Foundation investment funds and M&G Charity Funds. The PCC expects to do some work in the near future on drawing up a formal investment policy.

All three churches and the PCC are considered to be one legal and financial entity, so all of our account balances are combined when considering the FSCS limits for deposit protection. As the total of funds available exceeded the limit, Holy Trinity's DCC took the decision to move some funds away from CAF Bank and have opted to open an account with Triodos. The limit has since increased, but the position remains under review.

7.4 Going Concern

Each year it is the PCC's responsibility to state whether or not the financial statements have been drawn up on a going concern basis (see the accounting policy note on page 19). Going concern is the assumption that an entity, in this case the PCC, has the resources (financial or otherwise) needed to continue operating for the foreseeable future and, in particular, for at least 12 months from the date of approval by the PCC of these financial statements. If the going concern principle did not apply, then the accounts would be drawn up on an insolvent basis.

8 Volunteers

We are grateful to all our churchwardens for their many and varied labours: Karen Warman at Christ Church, John Eades and Simon Hay (although he has since moved away) at Holy Trinity and Ann Roberts at St John's. Our co-treasurers, Ann Roberts and Kerry Porritt, have steered us wisely and efficiently through our financial affairs. Margaret Duncan stood down as PCC Secretary and has been succeeded by Tracey McDermott. It seems likely as is often the way that there will be some changes at the annual meetings and we pray for new volunteers to emerge, not least churchwardens.

We would like to thank all the volunteers who work so tirelessly on our behalf to make our churches the lively and vibrant communities they are. As well as those in licensed lay roles, we particularly want to mention all those who work behind the scenes and in the more invisible areas of our church life.

9 Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure and is a Registered Charity.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The PCC consists of 18 elected members, six from Christ Church, six from Holy Trinity and six from St John the Divine, plus the team clergy. During the past year the PCC has met six times.

A range of issues are discussed during PCC meetings, including considering ministry needs, parish communications and planning for key events in the parish, as well as hearing reports from the individual churches and having oversight of the Mission Action Plans for all three churches. The PCC has authority for finance across the parish.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Report of the Parochial Church Council For the year ended 31 December 2025

The PCC has assessed the major risks to which the PCC is exposed, in particular those relating to the specific operational areas of the charity, its investments, and its finances. The PCC believes that, by monitoring reserve levels, by ensuring that controls exist over key financial systems, and by examining the operational risks faced by the church, it has established effective systems and procedures to mitigate those risks.

The PCC Standing Committee, which consists of the Team Rector, Team Vicar, six Churchwardens (when in post), Secretary and co-Treasurers, has met on several occasions. The Curate has recently also been invited to attend these meetings. This group has set the agenda for the PCC meetings and ensured its smooth running. In addition, the PCC Business Committee – Team Rector, Team Vicar, co-Treasurers and Secretary – has met to make certain that all aspects of church business are covered.

The PCC appoints six foundation governors at *Holy Trinity School* and two at *The Priory School*, and members of our congregations also serve as governors appointed by Southwark Diocesan Board of Education. We are proud that at both schools one of the co-chairs is a church member. This year, one governor was appointed to Holy Trinity.

10 Responsibilities of Trustees for the Financial Statements

The PCC is responsible for preparing the report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice. Charity law in England and Wales requires the PCC to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the PCC and of the income and application of income of the charity for that period.

In preparing those financial statements, the PCC is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the activities of the charity will continue.

The PCC is responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enables them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the governing document. The PCC is 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. The PCC is responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included in the charity's website.

11 Approval

The PCC has elected to have an independent examination rather than an audit of the financial statements. The role of Independent Examiner is a personal appointment, and this has been carried out by John Helm. Mr Helm has indicated his willingness to continue in this role and accordingly a resolution will be submitted to the forthcoming Annual Parochial Church Meeting to re-appoint him as the PCC's Independent Examiner for 2026.

The report of the PCC was approved by the PCC on 30 April 2026 and signed on its behalf by:



The Revd Mark Eminson
PCC Chair

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Report of the Independent Examiner to the Parochial Church Council of Merton Priory

I report on the accounts of the Parochial Church Council of Merton Priory for the year ended 31 December 2025, which are set out on pages 17 to 34.

Respective responsibilities of PCC and examiner

The PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The PCC consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiners' report

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 those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and the seeking of explanations from you as 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 set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the church as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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



John Helm
Chartered Accountant
18 May 2026

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Statement of Financial Activities For the year ended 31 December 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Endowment Funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Endowment Funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Income from:	2								
Donations and legacies		159,034	1,611	-	160,645	176,826	13,852	-	190,678
Charitable activities		2,201	-	-	2,201	3,019	-	-	3,019
Other trading activities		142,220	243	-	142,463	145,260	1,226	-	146,486
Investments		5,274	1,058	-	6,332	5,553	1,103	-	6,656
Total Income		308,729	2,912	0	311,641	330,658	16,181	0	346,839
Expenditure on:									
Raising funds	3	7,368	-	-	7,368	2,132	-	-	2,132
Charitable activities	4	305,482	2,461	-	307,943	327,535	16,665	-	344,200
Total Expenditure		312,850	2,461	0	315,311	329,667	16,665	0	346,332
Net gains/(losses) on investments		2,048	-	(647)	1,401	(864)	-	362	(502)
Net (expenditure)/income	5	(2,073)	451	(647)	(2,269)	127	(484)	362	5
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	2,136	(2,136)	-	-
Net movement in funds		(2,073)	451	(647)	(2,269)	2,263	(2,620)	362	5
Total funds brought forward		259,329	22,621	18,611	300,561	257,066	25,241	18,249	300,556
Total funds carried forward		257,256	23,072	17,964	298,292	259,329	22,621	18,611	300,561

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Balance Sheet

As at 31 December 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Endowment Funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Fixed Assets						
Tangible Assets	6	27,444	-	-	27,444	32,678
Investments	7	41,221	-	15,539	56,760	55,264
		68,665	0	15,539	84,204	87,942
Current Assets						
Debtors	8	46,259	-	-	46,259	47,552
Cash At Bank and In Hand		161,927	23,072	2,425	187,424	190,251
		208,186	23,072	2,425	233,683	237,803
Creditors - Amounts Falling Due Within One Year	9	19,595	-	-	19,595	25,184
Net Current Assets		188,591	23,072	2,425	214,088	212,619
Net Assets		257,256	23,072	17,964	298,292	300,561
Represented by:						
Endowment Funds	10	-	-	17,964	17,964	18,611
Restricted Income Funds	11	-	23,072	-	23,072	22,621
Unrestricted Income Funds	12	257,256	-	-	257,256	259,329
Total Funds		257,256	23,072	17,964	298,292	300,561

The financial statements were approved by the PCC on 30 April 2026 and signed on its behalf by:



The Revd Mark Eminson
PCC Chair



Dr Kerry Porritt
PCC Co-Treasurer



Ann Roberts
PCC Co-Treasurer

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2025

1 Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP (FRS 102)). The financial statements are drawn up on the historical cost basis of accounting except for the revaluation of leasehold land and buildings and investments which are shown at market value.

The Parochial Church Council of Merton Priory was formed in May 2009 from the amalgamation of three separate parishes: Christ Church, Colliers Wood; Holy Trinity & St Peter, South Wimbledon; St John the Divine, Merton. These financial statements incorporate the income and expenditure, assets and liabilities of the combined parish, including comparative figures for the previous year. The finances of the three individual churches are maintained separately and are therefore accounted for as designated funds.

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

The PCC meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

Going Concern

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern and accordingly the accounts have been drawn up on a going concern basis.

Income recognition

Voluntary income and donations (including legacies) are accounted for once the PCC has entitlement to the income, it is probable the income will be received, and the amount of income receivable can be reliably measured. Income from the recovery of tax on gift aided donations is accounted for in the period to which the relevant donation is received. Grant income is recognised on a receivable basis.

The income from trading activities includes rental income from the letting of church premises which is accounted for when earned. It is shown gross, with the associated costs included in fundraising costs.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

Expenditure recognition

Expenditure is accrued as soon as a liability is considered probable, and the amount of obligation can be measured reliably. Longer term liabilities are discounted to present value. The PCC is not registered for VAT and accordingly expenditure includes VAT where appropriate.

Expenditure included in Raising Funds includes amounts incurred in obtaining grants and other donations and property maintenance costs.

Expenditure on church activities includes those costs incurred to fulfil the PCC's principal objects, as outlined in the Report of the PCC. These include grants payable and governance costs. Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The Diocesan Parish Support Fund is accounted for when due. Governance costs comprise all costs involving the public accountability of the PCC and its compliance with regulation and good practice. These costs include costs related to the independent examination and legal fees.

The PCC contributes to employees' pension plans with the Church Workers' Pension Fund (see Note 4a).

Rentals under operating leases are charged as incurred over the term of the lease.

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2025

Tangible Fixed Assets

Consecrated and benefice property of any kind is excluded from the financial statements by Section 10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011.

Moveable church furnishings are held by the Team Rector and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC. They are considered inalienable property and require a faculty for disposal. They are listed in the churches' inventories, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). Items are capitalised at cost and depreciated over their useful economic life other than where insufficient cost information is available. Individual items of furnishings with a purchase price of £1,500 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Equipment and Fixtures & Fittings and such other functional equipment used on a continuing basis for the work of the PCC is depreciated on a straight-line basis over five years (equipment, currently none held) or ten years (fixtures and fittings). Individual items of equipment and fixtures & fittings with a purchase price of £1,500 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Fixed Asset Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

Debtors

Debtors are included at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months.

Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation arising from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are recognised at their settlement amount.

The Southwark Diocese has received a business-rates demand from the local authority in respect of part of the church hall at Christ Church, which is leased to and occupied by a third-party nursery. Under the terms of the lease, any business rates arising from the tenant's use or occupation of the premises are the responsibility of the tenant. At the balance-sheet date, discussions between the Diocese and the tenant were ongoing and the outcome of the matter remained uncertain. The PCC considers that an outflow of economic benefits is possible but not probable and, accordingly, no provision has been made in these financial statements. If the matter is not resolved in the PCC's favour, the potential financial effect is estimated to be in the region of £42,000.

Fund accounting

The funds held by the charity are either:

Unrestricted general funds that can be used for PCC ordinary purposes. These include funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC. Apart from the PCC General Fund, all other unrestricted funds are designated to the three individual churches and are therefore reported as designated funds.

Restricted funds represent donations received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund.

The *permanent endowment fund (St John the Divine)* was given for building a new church, completed in 1914, with the income from the remaining endowment capital to be used on the fabric of the existing building.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2025

2 Income

	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Donations & legacies				
Offerings and donations	125,094	1,112	126,206	149,606
Income tax reclaimed	27,810	200	28,010	41,072
Legacies	6,000	-	6,000	-
Grants	130	299	429	-
	159,034	1,611	160,645	190,678
Charitable activities				
Fees for weddings and funerals	2,201	-	2,201	3,019
	2,201	0	2,201	3,019
Other trading activities				
Fund raising events	21,105	-	21,105	19,533
Lettings income	121,115	243	121,358	126,953
	142,220	243	142,463	146,486
Investments				
Dividends	1,374	-	1,374	1,257
Bank Interest	2,070	608	2,678	3,130
Rent from land	1,830	450	2,280	2,269
	5,274	1,058	6,332	6,656
	308,729	2,912	311,641	346,839

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2025

3 Expenditure on Raising Funds

	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Costs of fundraising events	7,368	-	7,368	2,066
Costs of supporting regular giving	-	-	-	66
	7,368	0	7,368	2,132

The figure for 2025 includes surveyor fees related to the renewal of the lease for the hall that is leased to the nursery as the costs are connected with maintaining rental income rather than charitable activities.

4 Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Parish Support Fund	179,000	-	179,000	176,900
Staff costs (note 4a)	17,077	-	17,077	19,793
Church Life & Outreach	4,507	1,045	5,552	10,381
Missionary & Charitable Giving and Gifts (note 4b)	4,362	716	5,078	6,112
Provision of Office & Support	15,963	700	16,663	26,990
Provision of Buildings and Facilities	80,853	-	80,853	100,304
Governance costs	3,720	-	3,720	3,720
	305,482	2,461	307,943	344,200

Included within expenditure on church activities (see note 4 above) are the following staff costs:

	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Gross salaries	17,077	-	17,077	19,732
Pension contributions	-	-	-	61
	17,077	0	17,077	19,793

These staff costs exclude the amounts paid to Southwark Diocese for the stipendiary clergy, who are funded through the Parish Support Fund. Employer's National Insurance is currently covered by the government's Employment Allowance. All employed staff are paid at least the London Living Wage. Information on the staff pension scheme is given below.

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2025

4 Expenditure on Charitable Activities (continued)

During the year the churches employed various part-time staff, as follows:

- Christ Church employs an Organist/Music Leader (who was shared with St John's until April 2025) (2024: one) and employed a Cleaner (2024: one).
- Holy Trinity: the post of Parish Administrator was vacant throughout 2025 (2024: vacant) and a Director of Music was in post for the full year (2024: full year);
- St John the Divine jointly employed an Organist/Music Leader until April 2025 (2024: one) and the post is now vacant and employed a Cleaner with a change in personnel in October 2025 (2024: one).

4a Staff Pensions

Merton Priory PCC participates in the Pension Builder Scheme section of the Church Workers Pension Fund (CWPF) for lay staff. CWPF is administered by the Church of England Pensions Board, which holds the CWPF assets separately from those of the Employer and other participating employers.

The Church Workers Pension Fund has two sections:

1. the Defined Benefits Scheme;
2. the Pension Builder Scheme, which has two subsections;
 - a. a deferred annuity section known as Pension Builder Classic; and,
 - b. a cash balance section known as Pension Builder 2014.

Pension Builder Scheme

Both sections of the Pension Builder Scheme are classed as defined benefit schemes.

Pension Builder Classic provides a pension, accumulated from contributions paid and converted into a deferred annuity during employment based on terms set and reviewed by the Church of England Pensions Board from time to time. Discretionary increases may also be added, depending on investment returns and other factors.

Pension Builder 2014 is a cash balance scheme that provides a lump sum which members use to provide benefits at retirement. Pension contributions are recorded in an account for each member. Discretionary bonuses may be added before retirement, depending on investment returns and other factors. The account, plus any bonuses declared is payable, unreduced, from age 65.

There is no sub-division of assets between employers in each section of the Pension Builder Scheme.

The scheme is considered to be a multi-employer scheme as described in Section 28 of FRS 102. This is because it is not possible to attribute the Pension Builder Scheme's assets and liabilities to specific employers and means that contributions are accounted for as if the Scheme were a defined contribution scheme. The pensions costs charged to the SOFA (Statement of Financial Activities) in the year are the contributions payable (2025: £nil; 2024: £61).

A valuation of the Pension Builder Scheme is carried out once every three years. The most recent valuation was carried out as at 31 December 2022. The next valuation is due as at 31 December 2025. For the Pension Builder Classic section, the valuation revealed a surplus of £34.8m on the ongoing assumptions used. At the most recent annual review, the Board chose to grant a discretionary bonus of 6.7% following the strong funding position over 2024. There is no requirement for deficit payments at the current time. For the Pension Builder 2014 section, the valuation revealed a surplus of £8.5m on the ongoing assumptions used. There is no requirement for deficit payments at the current time.

The legal structure of the scheme is such that if another employer fails, Merton Priory PCC could become responsible for paying a share of the failed employer's pension liabilities.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2025

4 Expenditure on Charitable Activities (continued)

4b Expenditure – Missionary & Charitable Giving and Gifts

	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Giving to Church overseas & missionary societies:				
Kingston Matabeleland	750	-	750	-
Gaza Hospital	100	-	100	361
Gifts to Relief & development agencies:				
Christian Aid	-	100	100	527
Giving to Home mission & church organisations:				
Christian CARE Merton	-	100	100	67
Faith in Action – Merton Homelessness Project	-	-	-	1,053
Messy Church & Summer Club	-	106	106	-
Holiday Club	-	19	19	-
Youth with a Mission	135	-	135	-
Toddlers Group	-	118	118	234
Children's Society	-	273	273	713
Gifts to Secular Charities:				
Merton Citizens (part of Citizens UK)	1,497	-	1,497	1,420
LEAH (Learn English at Home)	1,880	-	1,880	-
Papyrus	-	-	-	100
Deen City Farm	-	-	-	1,596
White Ribbon Day	-	-	-	41
	4,362	716	5,078	6,112

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2025

5 Net Income

This is stated after charging:

Depreciation of owned assets
Independent examination fee (including preparation of financial statements)
Other fees paid to independent examiner

2025	2024
£	£
5,234	8,009
3,720	3,720
-	-
<u> </u>	<u> </u>

6 Tangible Fixed Assets

Cost

At 1 January 2025
Additions
Disposals

At 31 December 2025

Depreciation

At 1 January 2025
Charge for Year

At 31 December 2025

Net Book Value

At 31 December 2025

At 31 December 2024

Fixtures, fittings & equipment £
114,286
-
-
<u>114,286</u>
81,608
5,234
<u>86,842</u>
<u>27,444</u>
<u>32,678</u>

Moveable Church Furnishings:

None of the three churches hold any moveable church furnishings purchased since 2001 which are capitalised and depreciated over their useful economic life (see Accounting Policies).

Fixtures & Fittings:

Christ Church: The church sound system was purchased in 2009 and is now fully depreciated. New chancel lighting was purchased and installed in 2024 and is being depreciated over 10 years.

Holy Trinity: The grand piano (purchased in 2002) and refurbishment of the reception area (2007) are both fully depreciated. The audio-visual system was installed in 2015 and is now fully depreciated. The original kitchen improvements from 2002 were disposed of and a new kitchen installed in 2024, which is being depreciated over ten years.

St John the Divine: A lighting control panel was purchased in 2018 and is being depreciated over ten years. A new heater was installed in 2024 and is being depreciated over 10 years.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2025

7 Fixed Asset Investments

	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Endowment Funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Market Value				
At 1 January 2025	39,078	16,186	55,264	55,675
Net of purchases and sales	95	-	95	91
Net gain/(loss) on revaluation	2,048	(647)	1,401	(502)
	<u>41,221</u>	<u>15,539</u>	<u>56,760</u>	<u>55,264</u>
At 31 December 2025	<u>41,221</u>	<u>15,539</u>	<u>56,760</u>	<u>55,264</u>
Market value represented by investments in:				
Charibond Charities Fixed Interest				
Common investment Fund shares	12,325	15,539	27,864	25,678
CBF Investment Fund shares	18,896	-	18,896	19,586
Polka Theatre – interest in the freehold	10,000	-	10,000	10,000
	<u>41,221</u>	<u>15,539</u>	<u>56,760</u>	<u>55,264</u>

Christ Church: CBF Investment Fund shares: Trust Fund T0169, held by the Diocese of Southwark as custodian trustee, originated from the sale of a passageway in 1951 for £200. Dividends are reinvested.

St John the Divine: CBF Investment Fund shares: Trust Fund T0046 held by the Diocese of Southwark as custodian trustee. The fund was a permanent endowment (capital) for building a new church, completed in 1914, with the remaining capital invested to provide an income restricted to work on the fabric of the building.

Holy Trinity: Charibond Charities Fixed Interest Common Investment Fund. The unit trust invests in government and corporate fixed interest securities.

The Polka Theatre: a nominal figure of the PCC's interest in the freehold of the Polka Theatre (240 The Broadway, London SW19 1SB) which is subject to a long-term lease. This has not been the subject of an independent valuation.

8 Debtors

	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Prepayments and other debtors	2,400	-	2,400	1,701
Gift Aid recoverable	25,077	-	25,077	19,069
Accrued income	18,782	-	18,782	26,782
	<u>46,259</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>46,259</u>	<u>47,552</u>

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2025

9 Creditors - Amounts Falling Due Within One Year

	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Accruals	10,631	-	10,631	13,466
Pension creditor	26	-	26	27
Income received in advance	1,381	-	1,381	4,459
Other creditors	7,557	-	7,557	7,233
	<u>19,595</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>19,595</u>	<u>25,185</u>

10 Endowment Funds

10a Current Year	At 1 January 2025 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains/ (losses) £	At 31 December 2025 £
St John the Divine (permanent) Mackrell Trust (T0046/capital)	<u>18,611</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(647)</u>	<u>17,964</u>
10b Prior Year	At 1 January 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains/ (losses) £	At 31 December 2024 £
St John the Divine (permanent) Mackrell Trust (T0046/capital)	<u>18,249</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>362</u>	<u>18,611</u>

This fund was a permanent endowment (capital) for building a new church, completed in 1914, with the remaining capital invested to provide an income restricted to work on the fabric of the building.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2025

11 Restricted Funds

11a Current Year	At 1 January 2025 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains/ Transfers (losses) £		At 31 December 2025 £
PCC						
Curate Housing	0	700	(700)	-	-	0
Youth Work	1,893	-	(500)	-	-	1,393
Night Shelter	5,693	-	(545)	-	-	5,148
Other Restricted Donations	151	-	-	-	-	151
Christ Church						
Children's Society	0	272	(272)	-	-	0
150th Anniversary Fund	0	30	-	-	-	30
Christian Care	0	10	-	-	-	10
Hymn Book Fund	295	-	-	-	-	295
Holy Trinity						
Merton Night Shelters	0	299	-	-	-	299
Flower Fund	29	-	-	-	-	29
Other Restricted Donations	2,145	-	-	-	-	2,145
St John the Divine						
Bells Centenary Project	160	-	-	-	-	160
Mission & Charities	881	543	(444)	-	-	980
Church Maintenance & Repairs: Mackrell Trust (T0046/income)	11,374	1,058	-	-	-	12,432
Total	22,621	2,912	(2,461)	0	0	23,072

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2025

11 Restricted Funds (continued)

11b Prior Year	At 1 January 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains/ Transfers (losses) £	At 31 December 2024 £
PCC					
Curate Housing	0	8,400	(8,400)	-	0
Youth Work	1,893	-	-	-	1,893
Night Shelter	1,690	4,563	(560)	-	5,693
Other Restricted Donations	-	800	(649)	-	151
Christ Church					
Children's Society	408	305	(713)	-	0
Christian Aid	427	-	(427)	-	0
Faith in Action	574	479	(1,053)	-	0
Christian Care	67	-	(67)	-	0
Hymn Book Fund	295	-	-	-	295
Holy Trinity					
Merton Night Shelters	4,562	-	(4,562)	-	0
Flower Fund	4	25	-	-	29
Other Restricted Donations	2,145	-	-	-	2,145
St John the Divine					
Bells Centenary Project	2,296	-	-	(2,136)	160
Mission & Charities	609	506	(234)	-	881
Church Maintenance & Repairs: Mackrell Trust (T0046/income)	10,271	1,103	-	-	11,374
Total	25,241	16,181	(16,665)	(2,136)	22,621

Holy Trinity received an amount from the PCC in 2025 towards the heating and lighting costs for the Merton Night Shelter which is shown in the restricted fund.

St John's resolved to transfer funds from the restricted Bells fund to general funds.

Descriptions of the main restricted funds are as follows:

PCC

- **Curate Housing:** monthly rent is payable to Southwark Diocese and was covered by a very generous restricted donation until January 2025.
- **Youth Work:** The PCC decided in January 2018 that this fund could be used for any youth work across the three churches and continues to look for opportunities to use the funds, including supporting the work of YMIC Southwark and our engagement with Nequela Whittaker.
- **Merton Night Shelter:** The team churches support the night shelter for the homeless that is run locally during the winter months, and this fund represents incoming donations and outgoing expenses.

Christ Church

- **Hymn Book Fund:** this was a specific appeal in 2012 for the purchase of new hymn books. Christ Church DCC will be reviewing what happens to the remaining balance.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2025

11 Restricted Funds (continued)

Holy Trinity

- **Other Restricted Donations:** the balance represents the remainder of a gift for future development of the prayer corner and other general appeals including towards the costs of hosting a 'warm space' in the Winter months.

St John the Divine

- **Mission & Charities:** restricted donations for charities.
- **Mackrell Trust (T0046):** an ancient permanent endowment for building a new church, held by the Diocese of Southwark as custodian trustee. The capital is not available for use, but the interest may be used on the maintenance and repair of the church.

12 Unrestricted Funds

12a Current Year	At 1 January 2025 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains/ (losses) £	At 31 December 2025 £
Unrestricted						
PCC General Fund	999	2,763	(3,220)	-	-	542
Designated Funds (General)						
Christ Church	25,268	74,722	(73,583)	-	(138)	26,269
Holy Trinity	52,500	161,106	(169,075)	-	2,186	46,717
St John the Divine	39,859	58,285	(58,654)	-	-	39,490
Designated Funds (Specific)						
PCC:						
MP3 Players	558	-	(319)	-	-	239
Christ Church:						
Hall & Church Repairs Fund	405	-	-	-	-	405
Bells Fund	5,289	1,073	-	-	-	6,362
150th Anniversary Fund	26,543	10,780	(2,765)	-	-	34,558
Fixed Assets Fund	4,320	-	(480)	-	-	3,840
Holy Trinity:						
Marian Esling Legacy (income)	42,307	-	-	-	-	42,307
Special Projects Fund	32,923	-	-	-	-	32,923
Fixed Assets Fund	23,828	-	(3,971)	-	-	19,857
St John the Divine:						
Fixed Assets Fund	4,530	-	(783)	-	-	3,747
Total	259,329	308,729	(312,850)	0	2,048	257,256

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2025

12 Unrestricted Funds (continued)

12b Prior Year	At 1 January 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains/ (losses) £	At 31 December 2024 £
Unrestricted						
PCC General Fund	(479)	2,616	(1,138)	-	-	999
Designated Funds (General)						
Christ Church	36,162	75,618	(81,786)	(4,800)	74	25,268
Holy Trinity	45,853	177,094	(169,509)	-	(938)	52,500
St John the Divine	41,186	58,767	(62,230)	2,136	-	39,859
Designated Funds (Specific)						
PCC:						
MP3 Players	558	-	-	-	-	558
Christ Church:						
Hall & Church Repairs Fund	405	-	-	-	-	405
Bells Fund	4,362	1,010	(83)	-	-	5,289
150th Anniversary Fund	17,902	15,553	(6,912)	-	-	26,543
Fixed Assets Fund	0	-	(480)	4,800	-	4,320
Holy Trinity:						
Marian Esling Legacy (income)	42,307	-	-	-	-	42,307
Special Projects Fund	32,923	-	-	-	-	32,923
Fixed Assets Fund	30,574	-	(6,746)	-	-	23,828
St John the Divine:						
Fixed Assets Fund	5,313	-	(783)	-	-	4,530
Total	257,066	330,658	(329,667)	2,136	(864)	259,329

Designated (General) Funds are funds which have been designated by the PCC to each DCC for unrestricted purposes.

Designated (Specific) Funds are funds which have been designated by each DCC for specific purposes.

PCC

- **MP3 Players Fund:** in some years, the parish drama group stages a production where 50% of the surplus is retained by the PCC and 50% designated to help with the costs of future MP3 productions.

Christ Church

- **Hall & Church Repairs Fund:** was established with income from the Colliwobbles toddler group which group has not restarted since the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Bells Fund:** will be used for the maintenance of the bells in the church.
- **150th Anniversary Fund:** in 2025, Christ Church was 150 years old. This fund will be used for the enhancement of the building and projects within the local community.
- **Fixed Assets Fund:** the remaining cost of tangible fixed assets, from where they are now depreciated.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2025

12 Unrestricted Funds (continued)

Holy Trinity

- **Marian Esling Legacy (income):** the remaining interest on the Marian Esling Legacy Fund which is designated for capital projects.
- **Special Projects Fund:** following a generous legacy and a gift weekend in 2018, the DCC felt it was appropriate to put aside some of this money to be used at a later date on special projects around the church that would enhance the building, such as refurbishing the kitchen and relocating the chapel to make it more accessible.
- **Fixed Assets Fund:** the remaining cost of tangible fixed assets, from where they are now depreciated.

St John the Divine

- **Fixed Assets Fund:** the remaining cost of tangible fixed assets, from where they are now depreciated.

13 Operating Lease Commitments

The total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are payable:

	2025 £	2024 £
Not later than one year	175	706
Later than one year and not later than five years	-	175
	175	881

The previous printer/photocopier lease expired on 12 April 2021. The PCC signed a new lease on 9 April 2021 which commits the PCC to total lease payments of £3,528 over five years.

14 Capital Commitments

The PCC has the following capital commitments, which it expects to complete in 2026:

	Expected Cost £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £
Christ Church				
Building works	34,589	34,559	30	-
Holy Trinity				
Nave redecoration and installation of LED lights	18,400	16,700	1,700	-
Stained glass	40,000	40,000	-	-
St John the Divine				
No capital works planned for 2026	0	-	-	-
	92,989	91,259	1,730	0

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2025

15 Related Party Transactions and Balances

The expenses of four (2024: three) members of the PCC amounting to £6,974 (2024: £11,237) in relation to travel, housing, training and retreats were met by the PCC during the year.

Aggregated unrestricted donations from PCC members totalled £12,602 (2024: £11,467).

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2025

16. Income & Expenditure Analysis	PCC		CC		HT		SJ			Total £
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Income from:										
Donations and legacies	-	700	46,421	312	93,123	299	19,490	300	-	160,645
Charitable activities	-	-	1,150	-	828	-	223	-	-	2,201
Other trading activities	2,856	-	38,816	-	63,050	-	37,498	243	-	142,463
Investments	(93)	-	188	-	4,105	-	1,074	1,058	-	6,332
Total Income	2,763	700	86,575	312	161,106	299	58,285	1,601	0	311,641
Expenditure on:										
Raising funds	-	-	3,721	-	1,823	-	1,824	-	-	7,368
Charitable activities	3,540	1,745	73,107	272	171,222	-	57,613	444	-	307,943
Total Expenditure	3,540	1,745	76,828	272	173,045	0	59,437	444	0	315,311
Net gains/(losses) on investments	-	-	(138)	-	2,186	-	-	-	(647)	1,401
Net (expenditure)/income	(777)	(1,045)	9,609	40	(9,753)	299	(1,152)	1,157	(647)	(2,269)
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	(777)	(1,045)	9,609	40	(9,753)	299	(1,152)	1,157	(647)	(2,269)
Total funds brought forward	1,557	7,737	61,823	297	151,558	2,174	44,391	12,413	18,611	300,561
Total funds carried forward	780	6,692	71,432	337	141,805	2,473	43,239	13,570	17,964	298,292

Accounts



THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Charity Registration Number: 1134253

Diocese of Southwark
Merton Deanery

Annual Report and Financial Statements
31 December 2024

Tandem Accounting
Chartered Accountants
17 Heathville Road
London N19 3AL

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Report and Financial Statements 2024

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THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Report of the Parochial Church Council For the year ended 31 December 2024

Charity Name	The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Merton Priory.	
Charity Number	1134253. The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure and was registered as a charity with Charity Commission on 11 February 2010.	
Principal Address	Holy Trinity Church, 234 The Broadway, London SW19 1SB.	
Governing Document	Parochial Church Council Powers Measure (1956) as amended and Church Representation Rules.	
Objective	To promote in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church.	
Members of the PCC	The Members of the PCC who served during the year or who were serving at the date of this report were:	
	Clergy (ex officio)	Revd Mark Eminson, Team Rector Revd Alison Judge, Team Vicar Revd Simon Asquith, Curate (<i>to 19/01/25</i>) Revd Canon Duncan Swan, Associate Priest
	Lay ministers	Joy Lyons, Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary (SPA)
	Churchwardens	Zoe Miller Christ Church Karen Warman (<i>from 19/05/24</i>) Christ Church John Eades Holy Trinity & St Peter Delene Edwards Holy Trinity & St Peter Ann Roberts St John the Divine <i>Vacancy</i> St John the Divine
	PCC members	Joanne Powell Christ Church Bruce Warman (<i>to 12/05/24</i>) Christ Church <i>Vacancy (from 12/05/24)</i> Christ Church Ben Ooi Holy Trinity & St Peter Rachel Cherry Holy Trinity & St Peter Ann Newson St John the Divine <i>Vacancy</i> St John the Divine
	Representatives on Deanery Synod	Abi Erinle Christ Church <i>Vacancy</i> Christ Church Richard Blades Holy Trinity & St Peter Boris Yurkevich Holy Trinity & St Peter Eva Parker St John the Divine <i>Vacancy</i> St John the Divine
	Representatives on Diocesan Synod	Desmond Davies (<i>from 12/05/24</i>) Christ Church
	Treasurer	Kerry Porritt, PCC Co-Treasurer (Co-opted) Ann Roberts, PCC Co-Treasurer
	Secretary	Margaret Duncan (Co-opted)
Key Management Personnel	Key management personnel are those in charge of directing, controlling, running and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis. For Merton Priory Team Ministry, these are all the members of the PCC and the three DCCs (District Church Councils).	

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Report of the Parochial Church Council For the year ended 31 December 2024

Bankers

Merton Priory PCC, Christ Church, Holy Trinity & St Peter and St John the Divine:
CAF Bank Ltd,
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
ME19 4JQ

St John the Divine:
NatWest plc
Wimbledon (B) Branch
16 Wimbledon Hill Road
London
SW19 7NN

Independent Examiner

John Helm ACA
Tandem Accounting
17 Heathville Road
London
N19 3AL

Quinquennial Inspectors

Christ Church – Tim Gough (Austin Winkley and Associates)
Holy Trinity - Tim Gough (Austin Winkley and Associates)
St John the Divine – Karen Butti (Thomas Ford and Partners)

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Report of the Parochial Church Council For the year ended 31 December 2024

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Merton Priory (“the PCC”) submits its report and the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2024. The financial statements have been prepared in the format prescribed by the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP2019 (FRS102)). The legal and administrative information set out earlier in this document forms part of this report.

1 Aim and purposes

Merton Priory Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the Team Rector, the Revd Mark Eminson, and the Team Vicar, the Revd Alison Judge, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the fabric of the three churches of Christ Church, Colliers Wood; Holy Trinity and St Peter, South Wimbledon; St John the Divine, Merton, along with the two separate church halls of Christ Church and St John the Divine.

2 Objectives and activities

The PCC is committed to promoting the Gospel of Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England; the PCC seeks by encouraging co-operation between clergy, lay members of our congregation, and the wider community to undertake the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical.

When planning the activities for the year, the Team Rector, Team Vicar and PCC have in mind the Charity Commission’s guidance on public benefit, and especially the guidance to charities for the advancement of religion. In particular we make it possible for people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Regular worship and prayer open to all: developing knowledge of and trust in God and learning about the Gospel;
- Provision of sacred spaces for personal prayer and contemplation;
- Provision of pastoral care and sacramental ministry for people living within the parish;
- Teaching the Christian faith through sermons, courses, and small groups;
- Preparing people for baptism, first communion and confirmation;
- Leading Collective Worship, assemblies, and classes in church and community schools;
- Provision of activities with a Christian ethos for young people;
- Provision of social and community events and groups which strengthen outreach and fellowship;
- Fostering relationships with other organisations and churches in our parish and borough and cooperating with them in promoting social cohesion and meeting human need;
- Ministering to those who seek marriages and funerals, before, during, and after these events; and
- Supporting other charities in the UK and overseas and building active links with these.

To facilitate this work, we maintain the fabric of the three churches and two separate church halls.

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3 Achievements and performance

3.1 Merton Priory Team

Mission Action Plan



3 – 5 Year Vision

What God is calling our church to do and become in the next three to five years

To show God's love to everyone in our parish

For all three churches to be growing, thereby able to better serve our communities

With an especial focus for all three churches to enable growth at St John's and an increased presence on High Path

Core Statement

Our purpose/reason to be here

Faithful to God

Sharing with those in need

Caring for one another

Mission Priority One

Building congregation of St John's from within the Team

Mission Priority Two

Serving the community at High Path

Mission Priority Three

Ministry to young people, including schools

Action Goals for 3 – 5 years

1. Form leadership team to oversee Priority 1
2. Church graft from say HT to SJD
3. Early Service/Messy Church at SJD
4. Different time and/or style of service
5. All of the above grounded in prayer

Action Goals for 3 – 5 years

1. Form leadership team to oversee Priority 2
2. Audit of what the community wants
3. Working with partners on the estate
4. Increasing church/hall use for community
5. All of the above grounded in prayer

Action Goals for 3 – 5 years

1. Form leadership team to oversee Priority 3
2. Developing links with Merton Abbey/Harris
3. Bell-ringing for teenagers
4. The answer is table-tennis!
5. All of the above grounded in prayer

Our *Team Mission Action Plan* (see above) has been in operation for three years now with the overall aim for all three churches to work together for community engagement around the High Path estate, trusting that thereby growth at St John's might emerge. Whilst there are some encouraging signs it would also be fair to say we need fresh perspective, personnel and focus.

Mission Priority One

St John's congregation has grown slightly with the addition of five people who now come fairly regularly. This means our congregation is still seldom more than 15-18 at the 9.30am Sunday Eucharist but it is good to welcome new faces. Our worship is quiet and rich, and we enjoy worshipping together. We have stopped advertising an All-Age service as we still have no families.

Mission Priority Two

Contact with the High Path Community is on an ad hoc individual basis. So far, no overarching project or needs have emerged. In the sense of the wider community the church is used increasingly and so footfall into the church building at times is considerable, for example the yearly Pantomime and Parish Ale Festival.

Mission Priority Three

Links with younger members of the community, although not necessarily residents of High Path are positive. Fun and Games, run jointly by St John's and Griffiths Road Methodist Church, a toddler group in the Hall continues to be well received. After an exodus of Toddlers heading for Reception classes across Merton in September we have a new group. The hall is set up by Alison and Angela and a local parent continues to be an active leader. Fun and Games have enjoyed two outings to the Sensory Room at the Polka Theatre.

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Contact with Merton Abbey School continues to thrive with Alison regularly joining the school community for assemblies and the school Christingle in St John's church. For one week during the summer holiday, we ran a holiday club specifically for children in Key Stage 2 at Merton Abbey. We were successful in applying for a Southwark Mission Grant and so we employed sports coaches from KICK (a Christian organisation that runs sports in schools) who kept the children active throughout the days.

These efforts, and others, have often been small and gradual steps in engaging with the community and building up the church and this lesson chimes with several conference days Mark has attended through the Diocese and the National Estate Churches Network.

Across the churches, *Weekday Morning and Evening Prayer* and *Eucharists* offered the round of prayer and intercession for the parish. A weekly Monday evening online service, *Finding Sanctuary*, offers an alternative expression with usually about nine people in attendance, led by lay people and Sr Chris of the Single Consecrated Life, while *weekly meditation group* at Christ Church linked with the World Community for Christian Meditation averaged six attendees.

First Communion was celebrated on the Feast of Christ the King, and we were blessed with 12 children being admitted in a lovely service at Christ Church, including three baptisms. Earlier in the year in June the Bishop of Kingston, the Right Reverend Dr Martin Gainsborough, led a service of *Confirmation* at Holy Trinity, at which we presented six adult candidates and four children. In October, several young people attended the first event convened by Southwark *Youth Ministry In Communion (YMIC)*, at which the Archbishop of Canterbury was present. There will be more events in 2025, gathering young people from across churches in our part of the Diocese.

The Team combined forces for the *Merton Nightshelter Project* again this year, using Holy Trinity as a venue, but allowing a broader pool of volunteers from across the Team. We hosted about 12 guests each Friday night over a seven-week period, including Christmas. Huge thanks are due to Alison Fletcher Rogers, who coordinated the project for us yet again and for the final time.

As ever, it has been an active and positive year for the work of *Merton Citizens*. This is a community organising alliance of different organisations that work together to champion positive change and social justice in our neighbourhood and our Team is one of the founder members. St John's and Christ Church welcomed our Citizens Organiser Vitoria Russo Gaino as a visiting preacher in October, to update the wider congregations and encourage more participation in the work of Citizens. The big event in the year was in April, namely the Mayoral Assembly as preparation for the Mayor of London Election. We managed a good turnout across the age range and first-timers were very impressed at the scale and tone of the event at Methodist Central Hall. We continue to campaign on Housing, Mental Health, Living Wage and Refugee welcome, including a "win" on getting Merton Council to begin the process to be accredited as a Borough of Sanctuary. As Citizens UK looked toward the General Election in 2024 one strand of their Agenda was Climate Justice and Alison attended several Zoom meetings around this topic.

We celebrated Creationtide and each church has continued to strive to "recycle, reduce and reuse". All building work is undertaken with a view to reducing our carbon footprint and environmental impact. Christ Church and St John's achieved Bronze *Eco Church* awards this year, and we are encouraged to work towards Silver!

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Another area of our common work consists in *Racial Justice* as we seek to implement the Southwark Diocese Anti-Racism Charter. Team members were prominent in attendance at two events run by the Kingston Episcopal Area Racial Justice Group via Zoom: in March, “I don’t see colour” and “what makes a good ally in the cause of racial justice”; then in June, “Allyship in Action”. It was instrumental to have administrative and technical support from Ann Roberts for the smooth running of both these events. As Acting Chair of this Group, Mark was also involved and with his fellow members also led racial justice discussions at Tooting and our own Merton Deanery Synods. We discussed this issue at PCC, preached about it on several occasions, from Racial Justice Sunday to Black History Month (BHM), and sent church members to the BHM Thanksgiving service at Southwark Cathedral with Archbishop Justin presiding.

Our three churches kept a dedicated *Inclusive Church* Sunday in June and welcomed General Synod’s approval of Prayers of Love and Faith for use in Sunday services, including a joyful service of blessing of marriage held at Holy Trinity in April.

God in the Pub, a monthly discussion of issues of faith and life, has continued with lively conversation and conviviality, having an average attendance of around 10 people.

It was also a delight to see one church member, Richard Blades, complete the *Bishop’s Certificate* in September. This is a one-year course which goes deeper into aspects of the Bible, theology, Church history, faith and discipleship.

Our curate, the Revd Simon Asquith, led a regular Monday-night *Bible study*, which was well-supported by members across the Team with between 5 and 10 in attendance.

This year’s *Lent Groups* studied “Healing and Hope In The One Household of God”, published by Embrace the Middle East.

The *MP3 Parish Pantomime* enjoyed its eleventh outing with an entertaining take on “Mother Goose”. All the money raised this year went to Deen City Farm, a local urban farm that teaches the community about the rural environment and animal husbandry.

We communicate with those who live in our parish through regular door-to-door leaflets before Christmas and Easter, through our websites and through flyers distributed in schools and other community places; as well as via Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, the website and e-notices.

2024 was the ninth year of contributing to the Diocese through the *Parish Support Fund*. Once again, it has been a heroic effort that the three churches met their commitments in full. During the year we have also given to a number of charities, both through planned donations and special collections (see note 4b on page 25). For 2025 we have pledged £179,000, which covers our full ministry costs with a slight excess of £400 towards other parishes.

The PCC continues to promote cooperation between Parish Safeguarding Officers (PSO) in implementing our safeguarding action plan, has considered *Safeguarding* at PCC meetings, and has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 to have due regard to House of Bishops’ guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. Our five-strong team of PSOs has kept us largely up to date with DBS certificates, training, compliance, awareness-raising and more. All congregations and the church councils were shocked to receive news of the Makin Report concerning the horrific and sustained abuse of John Smyth. We acknowledged the fresh and ongoing pain and trauma of victims and survivors of this and all church-related abuse and through prayers, sermons and church

Report of the Parochial Church Council For the year ended 31 December 2024

council meetings have continued to address this profound issue. We pray that the right successor to Justin Welby will be discerned. Our Health and Safety Officers have worked together to share good practice, draw up action plans for each church to ensure that we are fully compliant with our Health and Safety policy, and reported findings to the PCC.

The combined *electoral roll* for the parish in 2024 was 408 (Christ Church 76, Holy Trinity 301, St John the Divine 31); this number does not include children or the many people with a more fringe relationship with our churches. We also maintain congregational lists of all our contacts, which comply with the requirements of GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations), which came into force in May 2018.

3.2 Christ Church

Our buildings consist of a church building and a hall building on the same site but not physically connected. It has been a delight this year to return to more groups using the church building for concerts and community events.

The hall is the home Monday-Friday of Flourish Day Nursery, and this is still proving a very successful arrangement. We agreed to renew the lease in September. The new lease will run for 10 years.

2024 marked Christ Church's 150th Anniversary. This was marked by a weekend of celebration in April featuring concerts from Childe Rolande and Colliers Wood Chorus and Orchestra, and an exhibition of the history of Christ Church which was put together with the assistance of Sarah Gould from Merton Heritage Department. This exhibition featured photographs collected from members of the community who had been married or baptised at Christ Church. Bruce Goatly did sterling work editing and creating a film of members of Christ Church reflecting on their time at the church and in Colliers Wood generally. The exhibition attracted many people and refreshments were served. On Sunday afternoon we held a high tea with fabulous cakes and piano music from Jeremy Roberts.

On Ascension Day, 9 May, our Foundation Day, Bishop Martin joined us to preside and preach at a joyful Eucharist, a fitting conclusion to our 150th Anniversary celebrations.

Later in May the east end of the church was completely redecorated. With this work and the lighting which was upgraded in 2023 we now have a stunning focus for our worship.

We have continued to progress our work to enhance Christ Church as a place of worship and welcome for our community. Working with our architect, Tim Gough of Austin Winkley and Associates, the project will provide a kitchenette/tea point, storage and two toilets at the west end of the church. Fundraising has been ongoing including a Quiz Night, a Jumble Sale and the Candlelit Christmas Market taking place again, which was much enjoyed by the local community and stall holders. Vicarage Honey has been for sale; we are grateful to Coffee in the Wood for selling this on behalf of Christ Church.

Our Sunday worship often has the same number of attendees but each week this may be different people. We have made a concerted effort this year to invite families to our All Age Eucharist on the first Sunday each month and this is beginning to encourage families back. Easter attendance this year was ten children and 65 adults. At Christmas 54 children and 200 adults came to the church for services that included a crib service, Midnight Eucharist and a very happy Community Carol Service with included old friends Colliers Wood Chorus and Musicians and Singlegate School. Average Sunday attendance throughout 2024 was two children and 49 adults. This year it has been lovely to welcome into the family of the church in Baptism 14 children. The First Communion service hosted at Christ Church was a beautiful occasion. Our Organist and Church musician, Irene Clugston, has this year worked with some members of Christ Church

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to form the Christ Church Singers. The main practice time is before the 11.15am service on the first Sunday of each month. This has enabled them to join the other Team singers for Choral Evensong. We are very grateful to Irene for her skill and experience.

During the year one funeral was conducted at Christ Church.

Christ Church bell tower continues to be very popular with visiting bands. Our own band of Bell ringers are also flourishing.

We give thanks to God for the witness of this congregation, and our friendships with so many organisations and people in this vibrant and diverse community.

3.3 Holy Trinity & St Peter

Within one building, Holy Trinity has a main worship area, clergy vestry, St Peter's Chapel, committee room, kitchen, church hall, St Cecilia Room; and an area of the church is set aside for quiet prayer. The church is widely used by outside agencies and the DCC has a licence under faculty to allow London Together Korean Church to use the church on Sunday afternoons. A quinquennial inspection in October 2021 revealed the need for a lot of minor repair and re-decoration work. We hope to continue with this in the main church, the nave, though will likely need the help of grant money.

2024 was a year in which Mark was able to take his first ever sabbatical, enabling our curate, Revd Simon Asquith, to step up well across the long summer!

We enjoy fellowship and hospitality, often with the expert culinary oversight of Richard Blades, so once again pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, a Dawn Eucharist feast and Harvest Supper have been very well-received; Mark also felt blessed on his sabbatical way at a delightful Trinity Sunday tea in the garden. In his absence, the hospitality raged on through June as we hosted, first, the Deanery Confirmation and, second, the Churchwardens' swearing-in.

The Christmas Fair was again a most enjoyable and well-supported community and fundraising occasion. Our profit was an incredible £5,850, so very well-done new coordinating team of Libby Charlton and Andrew Taylor and all the many helpers! Through December we enjoyed our usual school carols and Christmas Carols with full and gifted choir.

Congregational numbers were similar for Easter with 130 adults and 43 children but rose nicely for Christmas with 318 adults and 132 children. Usual Sunday attendance throughout 2024 was 130 adults and 85 children, taking into account the twice-monthly Early Service as if it happened weekly.

Junior Church continues to thrive thanks to Emma Austin and her slowly growing group of helpers. We regularly have around 25 children attending and this includes a strong core of regular attendees. The children share what they have learned with the main congregation at the end of the morning service and the termly services through the year (including Mothering Sunday and Harvest) where the Junior Church children lead the service with readings and prayers are enjoyed by both the children and the congregation alike. We enjoyed our fourth acted-out Nativity, thanks to Simon, which involved some 60 children, and whose finale in every sense was again uplifting.

In a different liturgical direction, many have also valued now termly healing services.

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Music continues to flourish at Holy Trinity under our Director of Music, Michael Lees, aided by volunteer musicians Jeremy Roberts, Liz Holder and Vivien Halstead. We are always looking out for young instrumentalists to perform during communion which adds something special to the service. Our choir, led by Tracy Lees, comes together for major services throughout the year, including three team evensongs - with the Passiontide service taking place at Holy Trinity. The Christmas Carol service was a particular highlight of the year. Grants are being applied for to cover the ongoing cost of organ maintenance.

Baptisms increased with 36 children baptized and two adults, half of them during Mark's sabbatical, keeping Simon busily engaged over the summer!

For young children and carers, T3 (Trinity, Tots & Toys) has had a very well-attended year, and we are grateful to Dovi Lawson for taking on coordination of this small team. The large volume of our work in schools has continued. The Team Rector is ex officio governor of Holy Trinity and The Priory schools, while Simon has been a governor at The Priory. They take it in turns to conduct weekly assemblies (with an occasional eucharist) in them both and each school attends church four times a year. The Schools' Sunday service this year was a triumph with an enormous attendance, helped by the involvement of a joint schools' choir. We also visit Pelham School (a community school) half-termly. Naturally Simon carried more of this burden throughout 2024.

Ministry to Care Homes is also important for us, so a team has visited Queens Court for a Songs of Praise and a Communion each month and now South Park Residential Home once a month, as well as visiting the sick in their homes for holy communion. We were sorry to say farewell to an integral member of this team and indeed our whole church family, Evelyn Wilson, as she has had to move into care near her brother in Cardiff.

Across the year, we conducted five funerals for parishioners and were very sorry to lose Jody De Saram, Jean Goodwin, Clark Douglas-Withers, Carlton Peazold and Rosemary Jennings, but commend them to the Lord's love.

Mark and Simon continued to foster relationships across the local community, deanery and borough. The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity included a memorable pulpit swap with Simon presiding here and guest preacher Fr Simon Peat of St Winefride's; we seem to recall Anglicans and Catholics being compared to different wines! Mark therefore preached at St Winefride's, not thinking of wine, but prosaically CS Lewis instead! This ecumenical dimension was consolidated during the Thy Kingdom Come ten days of prayer across local churches and our two church schools. And then, in keeping with this theme, for the third year, we shared a service with Pastor Park and his congregation. Mark returned from sabbatical in September to take up the reins as new Area Dean of Merton, being formally commissioned at the October Deanery Synod by Archdeacon Simon Gates. This involves him in more of the wider life of our Area and Diocese, as well as Merton Borough through the Faith and Belief Forum and being available to local parishes and clergy if they need a bit of advice or a meal out!

A clear highlight of the year was the blessing of the marriage of Richard Blades and Andrew Taylor in April, which was a glorious coming together in worship and fellowship, in love and faith, under God's blessing.

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Looking to the future, we are pleased that our connection with DONS Local Action Group means they are coming to us for their five-year celebration early in 2025. We are most grateful for people's generosity in so many ways. Finances continue to be stretched, however, meaning for at least one more year DCC has voted to suspend the tithe payment. We will hope also to re-decorate the main church space, so help us, God! As well as seeking ways to increase income, we are also seeking to involve more church members in a range of areas of church life and work. This has begun with aiming to break down into smaller sections a range of tasks, so that people know what they are committing to and that the work falls on more not fewer people. After all, we are a family where everyone has gifts of time and talents to offer for the health and flourishing of all.

3.4 St John the Divine

The church comprises a church building, lovingly restored some years ago, and a hall building. These are located on separate sites, the hall being on the other side of the road from the church. As well as services the church provides a venue for Morden Park Choral Society practices and concerts and for Merton Music Foundation who use it weekly for children's choir practice and for other musical events. The proposed redevelopment of High Path estate, which may incorporate the site of the Church Hall, with the development of a new Church Hall, has now been further postponed and estimated dates for this range between 5-7 years' time. Nevertheless, our current hall continues to be used by a range of community groups from dance to martial arts and Woodcraft Folk. We continued to host, free of charge, Care4Calais who are working with refugees living in local accommodation. They run a weekly food and clothing bank which gives out over 750 items including food, clothing and toiletries. Care4Calais has now moved to a more spacious site in Mitcham. We remain keen to make our buildings a community resource.

As noted Fun and Games Toddler Group meets each Thursday morning in term time, run as a joint venture for St John's and Griffiths Road Methodist Church (an annexe of Lantern Methodist Church in Raynes Park). Angela Linton Smith and Alison lead, with excellent support from Bianca Sanasi, a local parent.

The struggles with our beautiful church building continue. Despite efforts to secure a faculty, raise funds and install a new heating and lighting system we finally admitted that, as the darker days came we would address the lighting separately and a new system was installed. We truly want to move away from fossil fuels but this is proving quite challenging for a building of our size and character and so currently we are reliant on our inadequate gas fired heaters.

It has been a good year for social events. MP3 Players used St John's to good effect in January for a wonderful pantomime 'Mother Goose'. In February we had a very popular Parish Ale (aka Beer Festival). Numerous Morris Dancers of all traditions entertained and tours of the Bell Tower from our Bell ringers made for a very successful fundraising event.

St John's Bell Tower is a very popular tower for visiting ringers keen to experience our excellent bells. Our own band flourishes and we were delighted to host The Eight Bell Practice on behalf of the Surrey Association of Bell Ringers, thanks to Pam Donovan who leads this.

Overall our congregational numbers have remained much the same, that is to say small but highly committed. Average Sunday attendance throughout 2024 was 14 adults. Easter attendance was 24 adults and one child and at Christmas 24 adults and one child. We have enjoyed the music of Liz Holder and Peter Crowther who play for us on the first Sunday of each month whilst Irene has singing practice at Christ Church. As last year our carol singing around the estate was a joy as we encountered local residents and waved to others.

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During the year we have had one wedding and no funerals at St John's.

As noted in the MAP we continue to enjoy a good relationship with Merton Abbey School being involved in assemblies throughout the year. Alison visits Nursery and Reception classes and Year 1 children visit the church. It is always a highlight when Key Stage 2 have their Christingle service in church. The church drive continues to be used for 'kiss and drop' allowing pupils who are driven to school by car to alight safely as parking restrictions on High Path make dropping children off problematic.

We look forward to further work with Merton Priory Team to reach out to our neighbours on High Path.

4 Quinquennial Inspections

Christ Church. A quinquennial inspection was completed in January 2024. Urgent works related to maintenance and access were identified for action, with this and other work intended to be addressed by the major works planned for the building in the coming years. Significant redecoration of the chancel took place during the year which, alongside improved lighting, has served to make this focal area of the church stand out.

Holy Trinity & St Peter. A quinquennial inspection was last carried out in October 2021 and revealed the need for a lot of minor repair and re-decoration work. Further work on internal areas of the church is planned, though will likely need the help of grant money.

St John the Divine. A quinquennial inspection was carried out in 2025, with the report received early in 2025. Urgent works related to squirrel access and some minor external repairs were identified, with ongoing external maintenance identified over the course of the next five years. Work to address heating and lighting continues, with the intention of moving away from fossil fuels wherever possible.

5 Looking to the future

As hinted earlier, our MAP needs fresh focus, therefore PCC, DCC and other church members have an Away Day planned in early May 2025 to reflect on where our MAP and indeed each church's life is at present, the blessings and the challenges, as we look to God's and our future.

Merton Citizens is also at a similar junction, looking back and looking forward, and Holy Trinity is the venue for a Citizens Celebration in late February. We hope fresh vision will emerge from this, including from within our three churches.

Our duties under safeguarding will continue as we assess ourselves against the latest Diocesan audit. Already one impressive initiative is our own PSOs hosting in-person training for ourselves and other Deanery churches. The January training was "Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse"; perhaps there will be more to follow.

On 19 January 2025, we bade farewell to Simon Asquith after three and a half glorious years; 181 adults and 47 children attended a very moving and joyful team eucharist and were delighted to see pictures of our three churches (courtesy of Simon Burder) which is the Team's leaving gift to Simon. Then on 13 February Merton Priory Team sent a most impressive delegation to Simon's Institution at Christ Church Streatham. Life with God is never static, so we also look forward to the ordination, God-willing, of Mary Kilikidi on 28 June, thereafter Assistant and Title Curate in the Merton Priory Team.

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For the year ended 31 December 2024**

6 Personnel

The Team Rector, the Revd Mark Eminson, is responsible for Holy Trinity, while the Team Vicar, the Revd Alison Judge, is responsible for Christ Church and St John the Divine. Joy Lyons, SPA (Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary), continues in her work of pastoral care for members of Christ Church and to co-ordinate the Prayer Group; her work is valued greatly. We have been pleased that The Revd Canon Duncan Swan, Associate Priest, has attended St John's on most Sundays. Sr Chris SCL is a committed member of Christ Church and has the Bishop of Southwark's permission to preach which we value.

The DCCs set rates of pay for employees in accordance with the skills and responsibilities of their roles and with the aim of recruiting and retaining high quality staff; we continue to abide by the commitment made in 2014 to pay no one less than the London Living Wage, as set by the Living Wage Foundation, which was £13.15 per hour from the beginning of 2024, rising to £13.85 from 2025. The PCC has indicated a wish to become accredited as a Living Wage Employer.

A staff pension scheme with the Church Workers Pension Fund was introduced on 1 January 2015, which was well before the PCC's workplace pensions staging date of 1 June 2016. It is available to all employees regardless of salary level and the PCC contributes 5% of gross salary provided the employee also contributes a minimum of 5%.

7 Financial Review

The PCC's main sources of funding are the free will offerings of church members and others in attendance at church meetings, and income from hiring out the church buildings.

7.1 Financial Activity and Financial Position

We remain mindful of the impact that the cost-of-living crisis is having on many people.

Total income for the year increased by £6,539 to £346,839 (2023: increased by £20,231 to £340,300) as set out in the accompanying financial statements on pages 18-36. Of this total, £16,181 was restricted income.

Total unrestricted donations and legacies were £176,826 which was a £953 decrease from the previous year's figure of £177,779. Gift Aid from tax efficient giving totalled £41,072 (2023: £25,581), which includes claims by Christ Church for 2023 and 2024. Church and hall lettings weakened further, raising £126,953 in 2024 compared to £128,340 in 2023, a decrease of £1,387. Income from fundraising events at £19,533 saw a rise against the previous year (2023: £12,924).

Total expenditure decreased by £28,784 to £346,332 (2023: £371,428) with a significant decrease in the costs associated with buildings and facilities, and a reduction in the amount spent for missionary and charitable giving (see note 4).

We were pleased to be able to meet our pledged contributions to the Diocesan Parish Support Fund of £176,900 in 2024. The Parish Support Fund pays for our parish clergy and other diocesan resources, as well as a contribution to poorer parishes.

The team as a whole happily contributed £11,234 (2023: £18,405) to mission giving and donations. The decrease is in part due to Holy Trinity, for operational reasons, paying over its 2022 annual charitable tithe in 2023 and suspending its tithe giving for the foreseeable future.

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In summary, the surplus for the parish on unrestricted funds was £2,263, with an overall surplus of £5, after unrealised gains on investments which totalled a loss of £502. The net movement of funds is a surplus of £5 (2023: a deficit of £28,640).

7.2 Reserves Policy

The PCC has examined the requirements for free reserves, i.e., those unrestricted funds not invested in tangible fixed assets. Given the nature of Merton Priory Team Ministry's work and ongoing financial uncertainty due to the effects of the cost-of-living crisis, the PCC considers that the free reserves requirement should be held at three months' routine general fund expenditure, plus committed future expenditure on other projects, where funds permit. This is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies. At 31 December 2024, the PCC had net free reserves of £226,651 (2023: £227,924) as outlined below, which the PCC acknowledges well exceeds the total free reserves requirement of £94,417 (2023: £110,712).

	2024 £	2023 £
Total reserves	300,561	300,556
Less: restricted funds	(22,621)	(25,241)
Less: endowment funds	(18,611)	(18,249)
Less: unrestricted tangible fixed assets used in the continuing work of the PCC	(32,678)	(35,887)
	226,651	221,179
Free reserves requirement:		
Reserve agreed by PCC	82,417	88,686
Balance allocated to the anticipated cost of fabric repairs	12,000	22,026
	94,417	110,712

Christ Church is planning significant expenditure in 2025 and beyond to coincide with their 150-year anniversary celebrations; this includes work around the altar, redecorations of the church, moving the font and putting toilets into the church. They have already spoken to the DAC (Diocesan Advisory Committee) and have appointed an architect.

Holy Trinity has completed extensive kitchen refurbishment and redecoration in recent years and is planning work to redecorate the chancel and nave, upgrade more fittings to accommodate LED lighting, and necessary repairs to the boiler.

St John the Divine has spent money on upgrading lighting and electrics, and will continue to explore sustainable heating options, for which they are likely to be applying for grant funding alongside other fundraising for the project. The timing of any work is dependent on funding being secured.

So although the free reserves position at 31 December 2024 may be looking very healthy, it is clear that all three churches are mindful of their responsibility in thinking ahead to the appropriate use of the PCC's charitable reserves.

7.3 Investment Policy

Funds not immediately required for working capital are partly placed on short term deposit and partly invested in longer-term investment funds. The PCC currently uses the CCLA Church of England Deposit Fund, Charities Aid Foundation investment funds and M&G Charity Funds. The PCC expects to do some work in the near future on drawing up a formal investment policy.

Report of the Parochial Church Council For the year ended 31 December 2024

7.4 Going Concern

Each year it is the PCC's responsibility to state whether or not the financial statements have been drawn up on a going concern basis (see the accounting policy note on page 20). Going concern is the assumption that an entity, in this case the PCC, has the resources (financial or otherwise) needed to continue operating for the foreseeable future and, in particular, for at least 12 months from the date of approval by the PCC of these financial statements. If the going concern principle did not apply, then the accounts would be drawn up on an insolvent basis.

8 Volunteers

We are grateful to all our churchwardens for their many and varied labours: Zoe Miller and - returning after a decent gap - Karen Warman at Christ Church, John Eades and Delene Edwards at Holy Trinity and Ann Roberts at St John's. Our co-treasurers, Ann Roberts and Kerry Porritt, have steered us wisely and efficiently through our financial affairs, with Margaret Duncan as PCC Secretary. It seems likely as is often the way that there will be some changes at the annual meetings, and we pray for new volunteers to emerge.

We would like to thank all the volunteers who work so tirelessly on our behalf to make our churches the lively and vibrant communities they are. As well as those in licensed lay roles, we particularly want to mention all those who work behind the scenes and in the more invisible areas of our church life.

9 Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure and is a Registered Charity.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The PCC consists of 18 elected members, six from Christ Church, six from Holy Trinity and six from St John the Divine, plus the team clergy. During the past year the PCC has met six times.

A range of issues are discussed during PCC meetings, including considering ministry needs, parish communications and planning for key events in the parish, as well as hearing reports from the individual churches and having oversight of the Mission Action Plans for all three churches. The PCC has authority for finance across the parish.

The PCC has assessed the major risks to which the PCC is exposed, in particular those relating to the specific operational areas of the charity, its investments, and its finances. The PCC believes that, by monitoring reserve levels, by ensuring that controls exist over key financial systems, and by examining the operational risks faced by the church, it has established effective systems and procedures to mitigate those risks.

The PCC Standing Committee, which consists of the Team Rector, Team Vicar, six Churchwardens (when in post), Secretary and co-Treasurers, has met on several occasions. The Curate has recently also been invited to attend these meetings. This group has set the agenda for the PCC meetings and ensured its smooth running. In addition, the PCC Business Committee – Team Rector, Team Vicar, co-Treasurers and Secretary – has met to make certain that all aspects of church business are covered.

Regarding the PCC's obligations to safeguard children and vulnerable adults, the members of the PCC confirm that they have complied with their duties under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016. The PCC also complies with statutory requirements with regard to employment, access and health and safety.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Report of the Parochial Church Council For the year ended 31 December 2024

The PCC appoints six foundation governors at Holy Trinity School and two at The Priory School, and members of our congregations also serve as governors appointed by Southwark Diocesan Board of Education. This year, two governors apiece were appointed to Holy Trinity and The Priory.

10 Responsibilities of Trustees for the Financial Statements

The PCC is responsible for preparing the report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice. Charity law in England and Wales requires the PCC to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the PCC and of the income and application of income of the charity for that period.

In preparing those financial statements, the PCC is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the activities of the charity will continue.

The PCC is responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enables them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the governing document. The PCC is 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. The PCC is responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included in the charity's website.

11 Approval

The PCC has elected to have an independent examination rather than an audit of the financial statements. The role of Independent Examiner is a personal appointment and this has been carried out by John Helm. Mr Helm has indicated his willingness to continue in this role and accordingly a resolution will be submitted to the forthcoming Annual Parochial Church Meeting to re-appoint him as the PCC's Independent Examiner for 2025.

The report of the PCC was approved by the PCC on 22 April 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



The Revd Mark Eminson
PCC Chair

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Report of the Independent Examiner to the Parochial Church Council of Merton Priory

I report on the accounts of the Parochial Church Council of Merton Priory for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 19 to 37.

Respective responsibilities of PCC and examiner

The PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The PCC consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiners' report

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 those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and the seeking of explanations from you as 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 set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the church as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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



John Helm
Chartered Accountant
22 April 2025

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Statement of Financial Activities For the year ended 31 December 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Endowment Funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Endowment Funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Income from:	2								
Donations and legacies		176,826	13,852	-	190,678	177,779	11,624	-	189,403
Charitable activities		3,019	-	-	3,019	2,289	-	-	2,289
Other trading activities		145,260	1,226	-	146,486	141,013	313	-	141,326
Investments		5,553	1,103	-	6,656	5,518	980	-	6,498
Other		-	-	-	-	784	-	-	784
Total Income		330,658	16,181	0	346,839	327,383	12,917	0	340,300
Expenditure on:									
Raising funds	3	2,132	-	-	2,132	3,706	-	-	3,706
Charitable activities	4	327,535	16,665	-	344,200	354,745	12,977	-	367,722
Total Expenditure		329,667	16,665	0	346,332	358,451	12,977	0	371,428
Net gains/(losses) on investments		(864)	-	362	(502)	1,116	-	1,372	2,488
Net income/(expenditure)	5	127	(484)	362	5	(29,952)	(60)	1,372	(28,640)
Transfers between funds		2,136	(2,136)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		2,263	(2,620)	362	5	(29,952)	(60)	1,372	(28,640)
Total funds brought forward		257,066	25,241	18,249	300,556	287,018	25,301	16,877	329,196
Total funds carried forward		259,329	22,621	18,611	300,561	257,066	25,241	18,249	300,556

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Balance Sheet

As at 31 December 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Endowment Funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Fixed Assets						
Tangible Assets	6	32,678	-	-	32,678	35,887
Investments	7	39,078	-	16,186	55,264	55,675
		71,756	0	16,186	87,942	91,562
Current Assets						
Debtors	8	47,552	-	-	47,552	42,440
Cash At Bank and In Hand		165,205	22,621	2,425	190,251	190,865
		212,757	22,621	2,425	237,803	233,305
Creditors - Amounts Falling Due Within One Year	9	25,184	-	-	25,184	24,311
Net Current Assets		187,573	22,621	2,425	212,619	208,994
Net Assets		259,329	22,621	18,611	300,561	300,556
Represented by:						
Endowment Funds	10	-	-	18,611	18,611	18,249
Restricted Income Funds	11	-	22,621	-	22,621	25,241
Unrestricted Income Funds	12	259,329	-	-	259,329	257,066
Total Funds		259,329	22,621	18,611	300,561	300,556

The financial statements were approved by the PCC on 22 April 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



The Revd Mark Eminson
PCC Chair



Dr Kerry Porritt
PCC Co-Treasurer



Ann Roberts
PCC Co-Treasurer

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2024

1 Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP (FRS 102)). The financial statements are drawn up on the historical cost basis of accounting except for the revaluation of leasehold land and buildings and investments which are shown at market value.

The Parochial Church Council of Merton Priory was formed in May 2009 from the amalgamation of three separate parishes: Christ Church, Colliers Wood; Holy Trinity & St Peter, South Wimbledon; St John the Divine, Merton. These financial statements incorporate the income and expenditure, assets and liabilities of the combined parish, including comparative figures for the previous year. The finances of the three individual churches are maintained separately and are therefore accounted for as designated funds.

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

The PCC meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

Going Concern

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern and accordingly the accounts have been drawn up on a going concern basis.

Income recognition

Voluntary income and donations (including legacies) are accounted for once the PCC has entitlement to the income, it is probable the income will be received, and the amount of income receivable can be reliably measured. Income from the recovery of tax on gift aided donations is accounted for in the period to which the relevant donation is received. Grant income is recognised on a receivable basis.

The income from trading activities includes rental income from the letting of church premises which is accounted for when earned. It is shown gross, with the associated costs included in fundraising costs.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

Expenditure recognition

Expenditure is accrued as soon as a liability is considered probable, and the amount of obligation can be measured reliably. Longer term liabilities are discounted to present value. The PCC is not registered for VAT and accordingly expenditure includes VAT where appropriate.

Expenditure included in Raising Funds includes amounts incurred in obtaining grants and other donations and property maintenance costs.

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2024

Expenditure on church activities includes those costs incurred to fulfil the PCC's principal objects, as outlined in the Report of the PCC. These include grants payable and governance costs. Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The Diocesan Parish Support Fund is accounted for when due. Governance costs comprise all costs involving the public accountability of the PCC and its compliance with regulation and good practice. These costs include costs related to the independent examination and legal fees.

The PCC contributes to employees' pension plans with the Church Workers' Pension Fund (see Note 4a).

Rentals under operating leases are charged as incurred over the term of the lease.

Tangible Fixed Assets

Consecrated and benefice property of any kind is excluded from the financial statements by Section 10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011.

Moveable church furnishings are held by the Team Rector and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC. They are considered inalienable property and require a faculty for disposal. They are listed in the churches' inventories, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). Items are capitalised at cost and depreciated over their useful economic life other than where insufficient cost information is available. Individual items of furnishings with a purchase price of £1,500 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Equipment and Fixtures & Fittings and such other functional equipment used on a continuing basis for the work of the PCC is depreciated on a straight-line basis over five years (equipment, currently none held) or ten years (fixtures and fittings). Individual items of equipment and fixtures & fittings with a purchase price of £1,500 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Fixed Asset Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

Debtors

Debtors are included at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months.

Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation arising from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are recognised at their settlement amount.

Fund accounting

The funds held by the charity are either:

Unrestricted general funds that can be used for PCC ordinary purposes. These include funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC. Apart from the PCC General Fund, all other unrestricted funds are designated to the three individual churches and are therefore reported as designated funds.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2024

Restricted funds represent donations received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund.

The *permanent endowment fund (St John the Divine)* was given for building a new church, completed in 1914, with the income from the remaining endowment capital to be used on the fabric of the existing building.

2 Income

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Donations & legacies				
Offerings and donations	137,434	12,172	149,606	162,034
Income tax reclaimed	39,392	1,680	41,072	25,581
Legacies	-	-	-	1,000
Grants	-	-	-	788
	176,826	13,852	190,678	189,403
Charitable activities				
Fees for weddings and funerals	3,019	-	3,019	2,289
	3,019	0	3,019	2,289
Other trading activities				
Bookstall, magazine etc sales	-	-	-	62
Fund raising events	18,733	800	19,533	12,924
Lettings income	126,527	426	126,953	128,340
	145,260	1226	146,486	141,326
Investments				
Dividends	1,257	-	1,257	1,039
Bank Interest	2,466	664	3,130	2,739
Rent from land	1,830	439	2,269	2,720
	5,553	1103	6,656	6,498
Other				
Insurance claim	-	-	-	784
	0	0	0	784
	330,658	16,181	346,839	340,300

The figures for Donations & legacies do not include gifts banked directly to charities for Christian Aid Week or cheques sent direct to the Bishop of Southwark's Lent Appeal. The parish also makes significant contributions in kind, such as the substantial amount of food given each year to the Wimbledon Food Bank.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2024

3 Expenditure on Raising Funds

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Costs of fundraising events	2,066	-	2,066	3,344
Costs of supporting regular giving	66	-	66	362
	2,132	0	2,132	3,706

4 Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Parish Support Fund	176,900	-	176,900	172,100
Staff costs (note 4a)	19,793	-	19,793	20,522
Church Life & Outreach	4,610	649	5,259	4,721
Missionary & Charitable Giving and Gifts (note 4b)	3,618	7,616	11,234	16,715
Provision of Office & Support	18,590	8,400	26,990	22,497
Provision of Buildings and Facilities	100,304	-	100,304	127,567
Governance costs	3,720	-	3,720	3,600
	327,535	16,665	344,200	367,722

Included within expenditure on church activities (see note 4 above) are the following staff costs:

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Gross salaries	19,732	-	19,732	20,340
Pension contributions	61	-	61	182
	19,793	0	19,793	20,522

These staff costs exclude the amounts paid to Southwark Diocese for the stipendiary clergy, who are funded through the Parish Support Fund. Employer's National Insurance is currently covered by the government's Employment Allowance. All employed staff are paid at least the London Living Wage. Information on the staff pension scheme is given below.

During the year the churches employed various part-time staff, as follows:

- Holy Trinity: the post of Parish Administrator was vacant throughout 2024 (2023: vacant) and a Director of Music was in post for the full year (2023: full year); the church employed one Bookkeeper until the end of April 2024, and the post is now vacant (2023: one).

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2024

- Christ Church and St John the Divine jointly employed an Organist/Music Leader (2023: one), and each church employed a Cleaner (2023: one each).

4a Staff Pensions

Merton Priory PCC participates in the Pension Builder Scheme section of the Church Workers Pension Fund (CWPF) for lay staff. CWPF is administered by the Church of England Pensions Board, which holds the CWPF assets separately from those of the Employer and other participating employers.

The Church Workers Pension Fund has two sections:

1. the Defined Benefits Scheme;
2. the Pension Builder Scheme, which has two subsections;
 - a. a deferred annuity section known as Pension Builder Classic; and,
 - b. a cash balance section known as Pension Builder 2014.

Pension Builder Scheme

Both sections of the Pension Builder Scheme are classed as defined benefit schemes.

Pension Builder Classic provides a pension, accumulated from contributions paid and converted into a deferred annuity during employment based on terms set and reviewed by the Church of England Pensions Board from time to time. Discretionary increases may also be added, depending on investment returns and other factors.

Pension Builder 2014 is a cash balance scheme that provides a lump sum which members use to provide benefits at retirement. Pension contributions are recorded in an account for each member. Discretionary bonuses may be added before retirement, depending on investment returns and other factors. The account, plus any bonuses declared is payable, unreduced, from age 65.

There is no sub-division of assets between employers in each section of the Pension Builder Scheme.

The scheme is considered to be a multi-employer scheme as described in Section 28 of FRS 102. This is because it is not possible to attribute the Pension Builder Scheme's assets and liabilities to specific employers and means that contributions are accounted for as if the Scheme were a defined contribution scheme. The pensions costs charged to the SOFA (Statement of Financial Activities) in the year are the contributions payable (2024: £61; 2023: £182).

A valuation of the Pension Builder Scheme is carried out once every three years. The most recent valuation was carried out as at 31 December 2022. The next valuation is due as at 31 December 2025.

For the Pension Builder Classic section, the valuation revealed a surplus of £34.8m on the ongoing assumptions used. At the most recent annual review, the Board chose to grant a discretionary bonus of 6.7% following the strong funding position over 2024. There is no requirement for deficit payments at the current time.

For the Pension Builder 2014 section, the valuation revealed a surplus of £8.5m on the ongoing assumptions used. There is no requirement for deficit payments at the current time.

The legal structure of the scheme is such that if another employer fails, Merton Priory PCC could become responsible for paying a share of the failed employer's pension liabilities.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2024

4b Expenditure – Missionary & Charitable Giving and Gifts

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Giving to Church overseas & missionary societies:				
The Leprosy Mission	-	-	-	2,100
Gifts to Relief & development agencies:				
Christian Aid	100	427	527	1,800
Turkey-Syria	-	-	-	106
Gaza Hospital	361	-	361	224
Giving to Home mission & church organisations:				
Christian CARE Merton	-	67	67	369
Bishop of Southwark's Lent Appeal	-	-	-	414
Faith in Action – Merton Homelessness Project	-	1,053	1,053	2,100
Merton Night Shelter	-	5,122	5,122	314
Accoutre Centre Learning	-	-	-	2,100
Don Foodbank	-	-	-	589
Annual Donation	-	-	-	200
Toddlers Group	-	234	234	65
Children's Society	-	713	713	-
Gifts to Secular Charities:				
Children Society	-	-	-	202
Merton Citizens (part of Citizens UK)	1,420	-	1,420	1,365
London Air Ambulance	-	-	-	1,800
Papyrus	100	-	100	1,800
Deen City Farm	1,596	-	1,596	-
White Ribbon Day	41	-	41	-
Save the Children	-	-	-	1,167
	3,618	7,616	11,234	16,715

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2024

5 Net Income

This is stated after charging:

Depreciation of owned assets
Independent examination fee (including preparation of financial statements)
Other fees paid to independent examiner

2024	2023
£	£
8,009	7,529
3,720	3,600
-	-
<u> </u>	<u> </u>

6 Tangible Fixed Assets

Cost

At 1 January 2024
Additions
Disposals

At 31 December 2024

Depreciation

At 1 January 2024
Charge for Year

At 31 December 2024

Net Book Value

At 31 December 2024

At 31 December 2023

Fixtures, fittings & equipment £
109,486
4,800
-
<u> </u>
114,286
<u> </u>
73,599
8,009
<u> </u>
81,608
<u> </u>
32,678
<u> </u>
35,887
<u> </u>

Moveable Church Furnishings:

None of the three churches hold any moveable church furnishings purchased since 2001 which are capitalised and depreciated over their useful economic life (see Accounting Policies).

Fixtures & Fittings:

Christ Church: The church sound system was purchased in 2009 and is now fully depreciated. New chancel lighting was purchased and installed in 2023 and is being depreciated over 10 years.

Holy Trinity: The grand piano (purchased in 2002) and refurbishment of the reception area (2007) are both fully depreciated. The audio-visual system was installed in 2015 and will be depreciated over ten years. The original kitchen improvements from 2002 were disposed of and a new kitchen installed in 2023, which is being depreciated over ten years.

St John the Divine: A lighting control panel was purchased in 2018 and is being depreciated over ten years. A new heater was installed in 2023 and is being depreciated over 10 years.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2024

7 Fixed Asset Investments

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Endowment Funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Market Value				
At 1 January 2024	39,851	15,824	55,675	53,099
Net of purchases and sales	91	-	91	88
Net gain/(loss) on revaluation	(864)	362	(502)	2,488
At 31 December 2024	39,078	16,186	55,264	55,675
Market value represented by investments in:				
Charibond Charities Fixed Interest				
Common investment Fund shares	3,400	16,186	19,586	19,059
CBF Investment Fund shares	25,678	-	25,678	26,616
Polka Theatre – interest in the freehold	10,000	-	10,000	10,000
	39,078	16,186	55,264	55,675

Christ Church: CBF Investment Fund shares: Trust Fund T0169, held by the Diocese of Southwark as custodian trustee, originated from the sale of a passageway in 1951 for £200. Dividends are reinvested.

St John the Divine: CBF Investment Fund shares: Trust Fund T0046 held by the Diocese of Southwark as custodian trustee. The fund was a permanent endowment (capital) for building a new church, completed in 1914, with the remaining capital invested to provide an income restricted to work on the fabric of the building.

Holy Trinity: Charibond Charities Fixed Interest Common Investment Fund. The unit trust invests in government and corporate fixed interest securities.

The Polka Theatre: a nominal figure of the PCC's interest in the freehold of the Polka Theatre (240 The Broadway, London SW19 1SB) which is subject to a long-term lease. This has not been the subject of an independent valuation.

8 Debtors

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Prepayments and other debtors	1,701	-	1,701	1,966
Gift Aid recoverable	19,069	-	19,069	19,422
Accrued income	26,782	-	26,782	21,052
	47,552	0	47,552	42,440

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2024

9 Creditors - Amounts Falling Due Within One Year

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Accruals	13,466	-	13,466	15,557
Pension creditor	27	-	27	49
Income received in advance	11,691	-	11,691	8,705
	<u>25,184</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>25,184</u>	<u>24,311</u>

10 Endowment Funds

10a Current Year	At 1 January 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains/ (losses) £	At 31 December 2024 £
St John the Divine (permanent) Mackrell Trust (T0046/capital)	<u>18,249</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>362</u>	<u>18,611</u>

10b Prior Year	At 1 January 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains/ (losses) £	At 31 December 2023 £
St John the Divine (permanent) Mackrell Trust (T0046/capital)	<u>16,877</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,372</u>	<u>18,249</u>

This fund was a permanent endowment (capital) for building a new church, completed in 1914, with the remaining capital invested to provide an income restricted to work on the fabric of the building.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2024

11 Restricted Funds

11a Current Year	At 1 January 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers	Gains/ (losses) £	At 31 December 2024 £
PCC						
Curate Housing	0	8,400	(8,400)	-	-	0
Youth Work	1,893	-	-	-	-	1,893
Night Shelter	1,690	4,563	(560)	-	-	5,693
Other Restricted Donations	-	800	(649)	-	-	151
Christ Church						
Children's Society	408	305	(713)		-	0
Christian Aid	427	-	(427)		-	0
Faith in Action	574	479	(1,053)		-	0
Christian Care	67		(67)	-	-	0
Hymn Book Fund	295	-	-	-	-	295
Holy Trinity						
Merton Night Shelters	4,562	(4,562)	-	-	-	0
Flower Fund	4	25	-	-	-	29
Other Restricted Donations	2,145	-	-	-	-	2,145
St John the Divine						
Bells Centenary Project	2,296			(2,136)	-	160
Mission & Charities	609	506	(234)		-	881
Church Maintenance & Repairs: Mackrell Trust (T0046/income)	10,271	1,103	-	-	-	11,374
Total	25,241	16,181	(16,665)	(2,136)	0	22,621

Both Christ Church and Holy Trinity agreed to transfer funds they held for the Night Shelter to the PCC as it was agreed that it should be administered centrally, which was done over the end of one financial year and the beginning of another. The movement of funds between Holy Trinity and the PCC is presented as income and expenditure, whereas the transfer between Christ Church and the PCC in the previous year is presented as a transfer of funds.

St John's resolved to close the NatWest Bells account and move the funds from a restricted fund to the general fund. The intention is to close the Bells restricted fund completely and move the remaining money to the general fund in the next financial year.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2024

11 Restricted Funds (continued)

11b Prior Year	At 1 January 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers	Gains/ (losses) £	At 31 December 2023 £
PCC						
Curate Housing	0	8,400	(8,400)	-	-	0
Youth Work	1,976	-	(83)	-	-	1,893
Night Shelter	0	-	-	1,690	-	1,690
Christ Church						
Merton Night Shelters	1,958	-	(268)	(1,690)	-	0
Children's Society	408	202	(202)	-	-	408
Christian Aid	427	-	-	-	-	427
Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call	194	15	(209)	-	-	0
Faith in Action	574	-	-	-	-	574
Christian Care	204	231	(368)	-	-	67
150th Anniversary Fund	871	(333)	(538)	-	-	0
Hymn Book Fund	295	-	-	-	-	295
Mission & Charities – Other	0	237	(237)	-	-	0
Holy Trinity						
Merton Night Shelters	4,603	-	(41)	-	-	4,562
Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call	0	197	(197)	-	-	0
Flower Fund	4	-	-	-	-	4
Other Restricted Donations	2,338	1,645	(1,838)	-	-	2,145
St John the Divine						
Bells Centenary Project	2,258	560	(522)	-	-	2,296
Mission & Charities	(100)	783	(74)	-	-	609
Church Maintenance & Repairs: Mackrell Trust (T0046/income)	9,291	980	-	-	-	10,271
Total	25,301	12,917	(12,977)	0	0	25,241

Both Christ Church and Holy Trinity agreed to transfer funds they held for the Night Shelter to the PCC as it was agreed that it should be administered centrally, which was done over the end of one financial year and the beginning of another. The movement of funds between Holy Trinity and the PCC is presented as income and expenditure, whereas the transfer between Christ Church and the PCC in the previous year is presented as a transfer of funds.

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2024

11 Restricted Funds (continued)

Descriptions of the main restricted funds are as follows:

PCC

- **Curate Housing:** monthly rent is payable to Southwark Diocese and is covered by a very generous restricted donation.
- **Youth Work:** this was originally the balance held by Morden Baptist Church when the Fusion Youth Group was transferred to the Merton Priory Team. The Fusion Youth Group no longer exists and Morden Baptist Church does not want the funds returned to them. The PCC decided in January 2018 that this fund could be used for any youth work across the three churches, and continues to look for opportunities to use the funds.
- **Merton Night Shelter:** The team churches support the night shelter for the homeless that is run locally during the winter months, and this fund represents incoming donations and outgoing expenses. In 2024 it was agreed to move this to a PCC fund to reflect it as a parish-wide activity.

Christ Church

- **Hymn Book Fund:** this was a specific appeal in 2012 for the purchase of new hymn books. Christ Church DCC will be reviewing what happens to the remaining balance.

Holy Trinity

- **Other Restricted Donations:** the balance represents the remainder of a gift for future development of the prayer corner and other general appeals including towards the costs of hosting a 'warm space' in the Winter months.

St John the Divine

- **Mission & Charities:** restricted donations for charities.
- **Mackrell Trust (T0046):** an ancient permanent endowment for building a new church, held by the Diocese of Southwark as custodian trustee. The capital is not available for use but the interest may be used on the maintenance and repair of the church.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2024

12 Unrestricted Funds

12a Current Year	At 1 January 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains/ (losses) £	At 31 December 2024 £
Unrestricted						
PCC General Fund	(479)	2,616	(1,140)	-	-	997
Designated Funds (General)						
Christ Church	36,162	75,618	(81,786)	(4,800)	74	25,268
Holy Trinity	45,853	177,094	(169,509)	-	(938)	52,500
St John the Divine	41,186	58,767	(62,230)	2,136	-	39,859
Designated Funds (Specific)						
PCC:						
MP3 Players	558	-	-	-	-	558
Christ Church:						
Hall & Church Repairs Fund	405	-	-	-	-	405
Bells Fund	4,362	1,010	(83)	-	-	5,289
150th Anniversary Fund	17,902	15,554	(6,913)	-	-	26,543
Fixed Assets Fund			(480)	4,800		4,320
Holy Trinity:						
Marian Esling Legacy (income)	42,307	-	-	-	-	42,307
Special Projects Fund	32,923	-	-	-	-	32,923
Fixed Assets Fund	30,574	-	(6,746)		-	23,828
St John the Divine:						
Fixed Assets Fund	5,313	-	(783)		-	4,530
Total	257,066	330,659	(329,670)	2,136	(864)	259,327

St John resolved to transfer funds from a restricted Bells fund to general funds, ahead of closing the restricted fund in the next financial year.

Christ Church transferred money from their designated general fund to the fixed assets fund in respect of the new chancel lighting installed in 2023.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2024

12 Unrestricted Funds (continued)

12b Prior Year	At 1 January 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains/ (losses) £	At 31 December 2023 £
Unrestricted						
PCC General Fund	1,000	1,270	(2,747)	(2)	-	(479)
Designated Funds (General)						
Christ Church	46,591	70,715	(81,420)	-	276	36,162
Holy Trinity	45,931	180,302	(181,220)	-	840	45,853
St John the Divine	58,016	57,214	(69,684)	(4,360)	-	41,186
Designated Funds (Specific)						
PCC:						
MP3 Players	558	-	-	-	-	558
Christ Church:						
Hall & Church Repairs Fund	716	-	(311)	-	-	405
Bells Fund	3,394	1,026	(58)	-	-	4,362
150th Anniversary Fund	4,828	16,856	(3,782)	-	-	17,902
Holy Trinity:						
Marian Esling Legacy (income)	42,307	-	-	-	-	42,307
Annual Tithe	11,700	-	(11,700)	-	-	0
Special Projects Fund	32,923	-	-	-	-	32,923
Fixed Assets Fund	36,972	-	(6,746)	348	-	30,574
St John the Divine:						
Fixed Assets Fund	2,082	-	(783)	4,014	-	5,313
Total	287,018	327,383	(358,451)	0	1,116	257,066

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2024

12 Unrestricted Funds (continued)

Designated (General) Funds are funds which have been designated by the PCC to each DCC for unrestricted purposes.

Designated (Specific) Funds are funds which have been designated by each DCC for specific purposes.

PCC

- **MP3 Players Fund:** in some years, the parish drama group stages a production where 50% of the surplus is retained by the PCC and 50% designated to help with the costs of future MP3 productions.

Christ Church

- **Hall & Church Repairs Fund:** was established with income from the Colliwobbles toddler group which has not restarted since the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Bells Fund:** will be used for the maintenance of the bells in the church.
- **150th Anniversary Fund:** in 2024, Christ Church was 150 years old. This fund will be used for the enhancement of the building and projects within the local community.
- **Fixed Assets Fund:** the remaining cost of tangible fixed assets, from where they are now depreciated.

Holy Trinity

- **Marian Esling Legacy (income):** the remaining interest on the Marian Esling Legacy Fund which is designated for capital projects.
- **Annual Tithe:** Holy Trinity has historically given away 5% of its unrestricted voluntary income, excluding fundraising and investment income, to charitable causes each year. In 2023 it paid out it's 2022 tithe and, as reported last year, it has suspended it's tithe giving for 2023 and beyond.
- **Special Projects Fund:** following a generous legacy and a gift weekend in 2018, the DCC felt it was appropriate to put aside some of this money to be used at a later date on special projects around the church that would enhance the building, such as refurbishing the kitchen and relocating the chapel to make it more accessible.
- **Fixed Assets Fund:** the remaining cost of tangible fixed assets, from where they are now depreciated.

St John the Divine

- **Fixed Assets Fund:** the remaining cost of tangible fixed assets, from where they are now depreciated.

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2024

13 Operating Lease Commitments

The total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are payable:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Not later than one year	706	706
Later than one year and not later than five years	175	881
	881	1,587

The previous printer/photocopier lease expired on 12 April 2021. The PCC signed a new lease on 9 April 2021 which commits the PCC to total lease payments of £3,528 over five years.

14 Capital Commitments

The PCC has the following capital commitments, which it expects to complete in 2025:

	Expected Cost	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment
	£	Funds	Funds	Funds
		£	£	£
Christ Church				
Building works	150,000	150,000	-	-
Holy Trinity				
Nave redecoration and installation of LED lights	16,000	16,000	-	-
Boiler refurbishment/replacement	6,000	6,000	-	-
St John the Divine				
No capital works planned for 2025	0	-	-	-
	172,000	172,000	0	0

15 Related Party Transactions and Balances

The expenses of three (2023: three) members of the PCC amounting to £11,237 (2023: £10,923) in relation to travel, housing, training and retreats were met by the PCC during the year.

Aggregated unrestricted donations from PCC members totalled £11,467 (2023: £9,235).

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2024

16. Income & Expenditure Analysis	PCC		CC		HT		SJ			Total £
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	
Income from:										
Donations and legacies	5	12,963	51,343	785	109,652	25	15,825	80	-	190,678
Charitable activities	-	-	1,255	-	1,438	-	326	-	-	3,019
Other trading activities	2,458	800	39,400	-	62,000	-	41,402	426	-	146,486
Investments	153	-	186	-	4,003	-	1,212	1,102	-	6,656
Total Income	2,616	13,763	92,184	785	177,093	25	58,765	1,608	0	346,839
Expenditure on:										
Raising funds	-	-	150	-	1,810	-	172	-	-	2,132
Charitable activities	1,139	9,609	89,112	2,259	174,445	4,563	62,839	234	-	344,200
Total Expenditure	1,139	9,609	89,262	2,259	176,255	4,563	63,011	234	0	346,332
Net gains/(losses) on investments	-	-	74	-	(938)	-	-	-	362	(502)
Net income/(expenditure)	1,477	4,154	2,996	(1,474)	(100)	(4,538)	(4,246)	1,374	362	5
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,136	(2,136)	-	-
Net movement in funds	1,477	4,154	2,996	(1,474)	(100)	(4,538)	(2,110)	(762)	362	5
Total funds brought forward	80	3,583	58,827	1,771	151,658	6,712	46,501	13,175	18,249	300,556
Total funds carried forward	80	3,583	58,827	1,771	151,658	6,712	46,501	13,175	18,249	300,561

Accounts



THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Charity Registration Number: 1134253

Diocese of Southwark
Merton Deanery

Annual Report and Financial Statements
31 December 2023

Tandem Accounting
Chartered Accountants
17 Heathville Road
London N19 3AL

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

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THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Report of the Parochial Church Council For the year ended 31 December 2023

Charity Name	The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Merton Priory	
Charity Number	1134253. The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure and was registered as a charity with Charity Commission on 11 February 2010.	
Principal Address	Holy Trinity Church, 234 The Broadway, London SW19 1SB	
Governing Document	Parochial Church Council Powers Measure (1956) as amended and Church Representation Rules.	
Objective	To promote in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church.	
Members of the PCC	The Members of the PCC who served during the year or who were serving at the date of this report were:	
	Clergy (ex officio)	Revd Mark Eminson, Team Rector Revd Alison Judge, Team Vicar Revd Simon Asquith, Curate Revd Canon Duncan Swan, Associate Priest
	Lay ministers	Joy Lyons, Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary (SPA)
	Churchwardens	Alison Fletcher Rogers (to 21/05/23) Christ Church Zoe Miller (from 21/05/23) Christ Church Vacancy (from 21/05/23) Christ Church Richard Blades (to 21/05/23) Holy Trinity & St Peter John Eades Holy Trinity & St Peter Delene Edwards (from 21/05/23) Holy Trinity & St Peter Ann Roberts St John the Divine Vacancy St John the Divine
	PCC members	Joanne Powell Christ Church Bruce Warman Christ Church Ben Ooi Holy Trinity & St Peter Vacancy (to 21/05/23) Holy Trinity & St Peter Rachel Cherry (from 21/05/23) Holy Trinity & St Peter Ann Newson St John the Divine Vacancy St John the Divine
	Representatives on Deanery Synod	Michael Brunt (to 21/05/23) Christ Church Abi Erinle Christ Church Martin Lyons (to 21/05/23) Holy Trinity & St Peter Richard Blades (from 21/05/23) Holy Trinity & St Peter Boris Yurkevich (from 21/05/23) Holy Trinity & St Peter Eva Parker St John the Divine Vacancy St John the Divine
	Treasurer	Kerry Porritt, PCC Co-Treasurer (Co-opted) Ann Roberts, PCC Co-Treasurer
	Secretary	Jenny Harper (Co-opted until 21/05/23) Margaret Duncan (Co-opted from 21/05/23)
	Co-opted	Alison Fletcher Rogers (from 21/05/23 to 11/02/24)

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Report of the Parochial Church Council For the year ended 31 December 2023

Key Management Personnel	Key management personnel are those in charge of directing, controlling, running and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis. For Merton Priory Team Ministry, these are all the members of the PCC and the three DCCs (District Church Councils).
Bankers	<i>Merton Priory PCC, Christ Church and Holy Trinity & St Peter and St John the Divine:</i> CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling ME19 4JQ <i>St John the Divine:</i> NatWest plc, Wimbledon (B) Branch, 16 Wimbledon Hill Road, London SW19 7NN
Independent Examiner	John Helm ACA Tandem Accounting 17 Heathville Road London N19 3AL
Quinquennial Inspectors	Christ Church – Tim Gough (Austin Winkley and Associates) Holy Trinity - Tim Gough (Austin Winkley and Associates) St John the Divine – Karen Butti (Thomas Ford and Partners)

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Report of the Parochial Church Council For the year ended 31 December 2023

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Merton Priory ("the PCC") submits its report and the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2023. The financial statements have been prepared in the format prescribed by the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP2019 (FRS102)). The legal and administrative information set out earlier in this document forms part of this report.

1 Aim and purposes

Merton Priory Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the Team Rector, the Revd Mark Eminson, and the Team Vicar, the Revd Alison Judge, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the fabric of the three churches of Christ Church, Colliers Wood; Holy Trinity and St Peter, South Wimbledon; St John the Divine, Merton, along with the two separate church halls of Christ Church and St John the Divine.

2 Objectives and activities

The PCC is committed to promoting the Gospel of Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England; the PCC seeks by encouraging co-operation between clergy, lay members of our congregation, and the wider community to undertake the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical.

When planning the activities for the year, the Team Rector, Team Vicar and PCC have in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, and especially the guidance to charities for the advancement of religion. In particular we make it possible for people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Regular worship and prayer open to all: developing knowledge of and trust in God and learning about the Gospel;
- Provision of sacred spaces for personal prayer and contemplation;
- Provision of pastoral care and sacramental ministry for people living within the parish;
- Teaching the Christian faith through sermons, courses, and small groups;
- Preparing people for baptism, first communion and confirmation;
- Leading Collective Worship, assemblies, and classes in church and community schools;
- Provision of activities with a Christian ethos for young people;
- Provision of social and community events and groups which strengthen outreach and fellowship;
- Fostering relationships with other organisations and churches in our parish and borough and cooperating with them in promoting social cohesion and meeting human need;
- Ministering to those who seek marriages and funerals, before, during, and after these events;
- Supporting other charities in the UK and overseas and building active links with these.

To facilitate this work, we maintain the fabric of the three churches and two separate church halls.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Report of the Parochial Church Council For the year ended 31 December 2023

3 Achievements and performance

3.1 Merton Priory Team

Mission Action Plan



3 – 5 Year Vision

What God is calling our church to do and become in the next three to five years

To show God's love to everyone in our parish

For all three churches to be growing, thereby able to better serve our communities

With an especial focus for all three churches to enable growth at St John's and an increased presence on High Path

Core Statement

Our purpose/reason to be here

Faithful to God

Sharing with those in need

Caring for one another

Mission Priority One

Building congregation of St John's from within the Team

Mission Priority Two

Serving the community at High Path

Mission Priority Three

Ministry to young people, including schools

Action Goals for 3 – 5 years

1. Form leadership team to oversee Priority 1
2. Church graft from say HT to SJD
3. Early Service/Messy Church at SJD
4. Different time and/or style of service
5. All of the above grounded in prayer

Action Goals for 3 – 5 years

1. Form leadership team to oversee Priority 2
2. Audit of what the community wants
3. Working with partners on the estate
4. Increasing church/hall use for community
5. All of the above grounded in prayer

Action Goals for 3 – 5 years

1. Form leadership team to oversee Priority 3
2. Developing links with Merton Abbey/Harris
3. Bell-ringing for teenagers
4. The answer is table-tennis!
5. All of the above grounded in prayer

Under our Team Mission Action Plan (see above), now two years in, we have had an active year on several fronts. The overall aim for all three churches is to work together for community engagement around the High Path estate, trusting that thereby growth at St John's might emerge. Under Priority One, significant Evening Services have taken place at St John's with Stations of the Cross in Lent well-supported and a Coronation and Harvest Evensong particularly well-attended, as well as Advent Carols. As for Priority Two, in May a dedicated team undertook to visit and leaflet all the households of the estate, supported by prayer, which led to some fruitful conversations and connections. It also culminated in a fun afternoon in church and at Nelson Gardens on the Feast of Pentecost. Under Priority Three (and also Priority Two), we can make proud mention of the Fun and Games initiative, run jointly by St John's and Griffiths Road Methodist Church, a toddler group in the Hall. These efforts, and others, have often been small and gradual steps in engaging with the community and building up the church and this lesson chimes with several conference days the Team Rector has attended through the Diocese and the National Estate Churches Network.

Across the churches, Weekday Morning and Evening Prayer and Eucharists offered the round of prayer and intercession for the parish. A weekly Monday evening online service, Finding Sanctuary, offers an alternative expression with usually about nine people in attendance, while weekly meditation group at Christ Church linked with the World Community for Christian Meditation averaged six attendees.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Report of the Parochial Church Council For the year ended 31 December 2023

First Communion returned this year to its pre-pandemic slot of the Feast of Christ the King and we were blessed with 13 children being so admitted in a lovely service at Christ Church. Earlier in the year in June, the new Bishop of Kingston, Dr Martin Gainsborough, led a service of Confirmation at St John's, at which we presented 3 adult candidates.

The Team combined forces for the Merton Nightshelter Project again this year, using Holy Trinity as a venue, but allowing a broader pool of volunteers from across the Team. We hosted about 12 guests on a Friday night over a seven-week period, including Christmas. Thank you to Alison Fletcher Rogers, who coordinated the project for us.

As ever, it has been an active and positive year for the work of Merton Citizens. This is a community organising alliance of different organisations that work together to champion positive change and social justice in our neighbourhood and our Team is one of the founder members. Holy Trinity welcomed our Citizens Organiser Vitoria Russo Gaino as a visiting preacher in March, to update the wider congregation and encourage more participation in the work of Citizens. Perhaps partly as a result of this, we managed an impressive turnout at the South London Listens event in Clapham in November, not only of church members, but also other local colleagues from our parish. We continue to campaign on Housing, Mental Health, Living Wage and Refugee welcome, and Christ Church has several times hosted workshops under the Refugee strand, working towards getting Merton Council accredited to be a Borough of Sanctuary. For the second year, we were involved in the Scriptural Reasoning event during inter-faith week. As Citizens UK looks toward a General Election in 2024 one strand of their Agenda is Climate Justice and the Team Vicar attended several Zoom meetings around this topic. We celebrated Creationtide and each church has continued to strive to "reduce, reuse and recycle". All building work is undertaken with a view to reducing our carbon footprint and environmental impact.

Another area of our common work consists in Racial Justice as we seek to implement the Southwark Diocese Anti-Racism Charter. We discussed this issue at PCC and preached about it on several occasions, including welcoming a guest speaker at Holy Trinity from local organisation Accoutre Centre for Learning during Black History Month. Further afield, the Team Rector was invited to a reception dinner for the Bishop of Barbados during Windrush week since he has joined the Kingston Episcopal Area Racial Justice Group as Vice-Chair. He and other church members attended the National Service of Thanksgiving at Southwark Cathedral on Windrush Day itself, as well as the annual thanksgiving service at the Cathedral in Black History Month. Returning to Wimbledon, the Team was delighted to participate in an event at Wimbledon Quarter, organised by our friend the Revd Hannah Neale and her group BAME Voice, we ourselves being part of a panel discussion about identity and race.

The Curate and Team Rector attended the AGM of Inclusive Church at St John's Waterloo as a backdrop to all three churches keeping a dedicated Inclusive Church Sunday in June.

God in the Pub, a monthly discussion of issues of faith and life, has continued with lively conversation and conviviality, having an average attendance of around 15 people.

The MP3 Parish Pantomime enjoyed its tenth outing with an entertaining take on "The Three Musketeers". Funds raised were donated to St John the Divine heating and lighting appeal.

In October, six of us took part in a retreat at Hilfield Franciscan Friary in Dorset, which was a stimulating and blessed time of worship and study, conversation and feasting and time apart for reflection. We hope to return before too long.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Report of the Parochial Church Council For the year ended 31 December 2023

We communicate with those who live in our parish through regular door-to-door leaflets before Christmas and Easter, through our websites and through flyers distributed in schools and other community places; as well as via Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, the website and e-notices.

2023 was the eighth year of contributing to the Diocese through the Parish Support Fund. Once again, and notwithstanding an ongoing cost-of-living crisis, it has been a heroic effort that the three churches met their commitments in full. During the year we have also given to a number of charities, both through planned donations and special collections (see note 4b on page 24). For 2024 we have pledged not only to cover our own full ministry costs of £172,600, but give £4,300 above and beyond that towards poorer parishes.

The PCC continues to promote cooperation between Parish Safeguarding Officers (PSO) in implementing our safeguarding action plan, has considered Safeguarding at PCC meetings, and has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. We are pleased we now have a team of five PSOs and a DBS administrator, which has enabled us to encourage participation in training, raise awareness of a range of safeguarding issues and complete a safeguarding audit for the Team. In November at Holy Trinity we kept a Safeguarding Sunday, introducing the congregation to the new Church of England National Safeguarding Standards as well as commissioning some of our PSOs. Our Health and Safety Officers have worked together to share good practice, draw up action plans for each church to ensure that we are fully compliant with our Health and Safety policy, and reported findings to the PCC. The PCC also complies with statutory requirements with regard to employment, access and health and safety.

The combined electoral roll for the parish in 2023 was 376 (Christ Church 66, Holy Trinity 281, St John the Divine 29); this number does not include children or the many people with a more fringe relationship with our churches. We also maintain congregational lists of all our contacts, which comply with the requirements of GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations), which came into force in May 2018. This year we recruited two church members to help oversee our GDPR duties and a fresh data audit is planned for 2024.

3.2 Christ Church

This year has seen some major steps forward in our desire to enhance Christ Church as a place of worship and welcome to our community. We have continued to work with our Architect, Tim Gough of Austin Winkley and Associates, on a project to provide a kitchenette/tea point, storage and two toilets at the west end of the church. In December we installed new lighting at the East end of the church which has greatly enhanced the chancel area. Fundraising has been ongoing. George Fletcher Rogers travelled through 150 underground stations in one day. Joy Lyons has been raising money through a Sponsored Park Challenge. The Candlelit Christmas Market was a delightful occasion and much enjoyed by the local community and stall holders. Other sales and events continue - including the sale of Vicarage Honey.

Our congregation is growing and building. We are still saddened that we have fewer families but we are now occasionally being joined by one or two young people. Easter attendance this year was 6 children and 63 adults. At Christmas 35 children and 123 adults attended services including a very happy Community Carol Service which included old friends Colliers Wood Chorus and Singlegate School and, joining our regulars, a new choir Solis. Average Sunday attendance throughout 2023 was two children and 49 adults. This year it has been lovely to welcome six children into the family of the church in Baptism. The First Communion service hosted at Christ Church was a beautiful occasion and Ethan Mecwan, Ryan Mecwan and Jason Taamale, members of Christ Church, were three of the candidates.

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It was our delight to host a special service on 23rd July for Sr Chris as she entered into vows in the Single Consecrated Life. Bishop Christopher came to receive her vow and preside and preach. It was a lovely occasion and we are very grateful to Sr Chris SCL for her active commitment to Christ Church and being part of the preaching rota.

During the year, we conducted three funerals. This included a packed congregation who came to pay their respects and say farewell to Mardelle Jordan a much loved and greatly missed member of Christ Church congregation.

Christ Church bell tower continues to be very popular with visiting bands. Our own band of Bell ringers are also flourishing.

Christ Church is looking to the future and the celebration for our 150th Anniversary. We give thanks to God for the witness of this congregation, and our friendships with so many organisations and people in this vibrant and diverse community.

3.3 Holy Trinity & St Peter

Within one building, Holy Trinity has a main worship area, clergy vestry, St Peter's Chapel, committee room, kitchen, church hall, St Cecilia Room; and an area of the church is set aside for quiet prayer. The church is widely used by outside agencies and the DCC has a licence under faculty to allow London Together Korean Church to use the church on Sunday afternoons.

The Warm Space initiative soon dwindled in take-up in January, so we have not pursued it again this winter. Thanks are due to churchwarden John and other helpers for hosting it.

We enjoyed several occasions of fellowship and hospitality, usually with the expert culinary oversight of Richard Blades, such as pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, a Dawn Eucharist feast and Harvest Supper; also, a revived Trinity Sunday tea in the garden and Coronation party at the vicarage.

The Christmas Fair was again a most enjoyable and well-supported community and fundraising occasion. Our profit was an incredible £5,848, aided by the return of a raffle, overseen by Libby Charlton; thanks go to her, all helpers and especially coordinator Richard Blades, in his sixth and final Fair! Through December we enjoyed our usual school carols and Christmas Carols with full choir and the Team Rector was invited back as the guest preacher at the National Sri Sathya Sai Christmas gathering in Tolworth.

Congregational numbers picked up for Easter with 171 people, although numbers were down at Christmas with 264. Usual Sunday attendance throughout 2023 was 80 adults and 50 children. The twice-monthly Early Service alone continued in its popularity with usually about 60 apiece of adults and very young children.

Junior Church has grown further, for which we are thankful to Emma Austin and her team; we often have about 25 children. Emma has also helped the children to lead the service once a term, which is an inspiring development. We enjoyed our third acted-out Nativity, thanks to our Curate, Revd Simon Asquith, which involved some 80 children, and whose finale of chorus crescendo and rising star prop was truly awe-inspiring!

In a different liturgical direction, many have also valued greatly twice-yearly healing services.

Our musical life has gone from strength to strength under our Director of Music, Michael Lees, aided by volunteer musicians Jeremy Roberts, Liz Holder and Vivien Halstead, and talented singers under Tracy Lees. We are mindful that our wonderful organ is in need of some "tlc" soon!

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Baptisms increased again with 30 children welcomed into the fellowship of the church through Baptism.

For young children and carers, T3 (Trinity, Tots & Toys) has had a very well-attended year, while the large volume of our work in schools has continued. The Team Rector is ex officio governor of Holy Trinity and The Priory schools, while the Curate has also become a governor at The Priory. They take it in turns to conduct weekly assemblies (with an occasional eucharist) in them both and each school attends church four times a year. The Schools' Sunday service this year was a triumph with an enormous attendance, helped by the involvement of a joint schools' choir and also the "unveiling" of our new mural; thanks to all school children and church members who provided photographs of themselves for this Coronation-Year project and especially to Simon Burder and Kate Wilson, two of our artists at church, whose commitment and skill are clear for all to see. The Team Rector – and now Curate – also visit Pelham School (a community school) half-termly.

Ministry to Care Homes is also important for us, so a team has visited Queens Court for a Songs of Praise and a Communion each month and now South Park Residential Home once a month, as well as visiting the sick in their homes for holy communion. At Queens Court we held two memorial services: one for long-time volunteer driver Joe (whom many of us remember before COVID, bringing residents to church every week); and a second general memorial service with the Mayor of Merton in attendance.

Across the year, we conducted three funerals for parishioners. We also hosted a Dying Matters Awareness evening with local funeral directors, Poppy's, which was an informative and sensitively-conducted occasion for those able to attend.

It has been a year replete with opportunities for the Team Rector, Curate and other church members to represent the church at ecumenical, inter-faith and civic events, an important part of our witness and working together for the common good. These included: singing at the Haydons Road Recreation Ground event for the Coronation; coordinating the Thy Kingdom Come ten days of prayer across local churches and our two church schools; the Shavuot service and meal at Wimbledon Synagogue; a New Met for London evening in Mitcham; the Pan-African Peace Symposium at the Ahmadiyya Mosque in Morden; an Interfaith Service on Ladies' Day at the Shree Ghanapathy Temple in Effra Road; the commissioning of new ministers at Trinity United Reformed Church and Everyday Church. In keeping with this theme, for the second year, we shared a service on Pentecost with Pastor Park and his congregation with the experience of hearing the Gospel proclaimed in Korean particularly memorable. Our own keeping of Remembrance Sunday was as fitting as ever, but also enhanced by Simon's sermon, building on a day in the church archives in Woking and by having a live bugler, our own Esther Burder. The Team Rector and Curate have also helped to cover several deanery churches who are in vacancy, which sometimes explains their absence on a Sunday morning!

Looking to the future, we are so grateful for people's generosity, but realise our finances are presently over-stretched, so we forecast a loss this year. One consequence is that the DCC has voted to suspend payments of the tithe for 2023 and 2024. As well as seeking ways to increase income, we are also seeking to involve more church members in a range of areas of church life and work; after all, we are a family where everyone has gifts of time and talents to offer for the health and flourishing of all.

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3.4 St John the Divine

The church comprises a church building, lovingly restored some years ago, and a hall building. These are located on separate sites, the hall being on the other side of the road from the church. As well as services the church provides a venue for Morden Park Choral Society practices and concerts and for Merton Music Foundation who use it weekly for children's choir practice and for other musical events. The proposed redevelopment of High Path estate, which may incorporate the site of the Church Hall, with the development of a new Church Hall, has now been further postponed and estimated dates for this range between 5-7 years' time. Nevertheless our current hall continues to be used by a range of community groups from dance to martial arts and Woodcraft Folk. We continue to host, free of charge, Care4Calais who are working with refugees living in local accommodation. They run a weekly food and clothing bank which gives out over 750 items including food, clothing and toiletries. We are keen to make our buildings a community resource.

A new venture in the hall is the Fun and Games Toddler Group which meets each Thursday morning in term time. This is being run as a joint venture for St John's and Griffiths Road Methodist Church (an annexe of Lantern Methodist Church in Raynes Park). Angela Linton Smith and Alison Judge lead, with excellent support from Bianca Sanasi, a local parent.

It has been a good year for social events. MP3 Players used St John's to good effect in January for a wonderful pantomime 'The Three Musketeers'. And in February there was a return to the very popular Parish Ale (aka Beer Festival). Numerous Morris Dancers of all traditions entertained and tours of the Bell Tower from our Bell ringers made for a very successful fundraising event.

St John's Bell Tower is a very popular tower for visiting ringers keen to experience our excellent bells. Our own band flourishes and we are delighted to host The Eight Bell Practice on behalf of the Surrey Association of Bell Ringers, thanks to Pam Donovan who leads this.

Overall our congregational numbers have remained much the same, that is to say small but highly committed. Average Sunday attendance throughout 2023 was 14 adults. Easter attendance was 21 adults and at Christmas 24 adults. Our carol singing around the estate was a joy as we encountered local residents and waved to others.

During the year we have had one funeral from St John's district.

We continue to enjoy a good relationship with Merton Abbey School being involved in assemblies throughout the year. The Team Vicar visits Nursery and Reception classes and Year 1 children visit the church. It is always a highlight when Key Stage 2 have their Christingle service in church. The church drive continues to be used for 'kiss and drop' allowing pupils who are driven to school by car to alight safely as parking restrictions on High Path make dropping children off problematic.

We look to further work with members of our Merton Priory Team to reach out to our neighbours on High Path.

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Report of the Parochial Church Council For the year ended 31 December 2023

4 **Quinquennial Inspections**

Christ Church. A quinquennial inspection was due in 2023 and has been completed in January 2024.

Holy Trinity & St Peter. A quinquennial inspection was last carried out in October 2021 and revealed the need for a lot of minor repair and re-decoration work. In the spring, around our Dedication Festival weekend, we embarked on fundraising to begin this work of re-decoration. We were delighted to raise in the region of £13,000, which enabled us to pay for major improvement of the reception area and committee room, as well as the door, guttering and fascias outside. This was made possible, too, by hours and hours of volunteers' work, led by the churchwardens John Eades and Delene Edwards among others. We hope to continue with other areas of the church, though will likely need the help of grant money.

St John the Divine. The struggles with our beautiful church building continue. Despite efforts to secure a faculty, raise funds and install a new heating and lighting system we are still at the work in progress level. We truly want to move away from fossil fuels and this is proving quite challenging for a building of our size and character. We have had a visit and advice from our new Inspecting Architect, Karen Butti, from Thomas Ford and Partners. Karen has also completed our Quinquennial Inspection which was due in 2023.

5 **Looking to the future**

We will continue in prayer and action for our Team MAP, leaning on the Lord for His guidance and blessing. Fun and Games is one sign of new life, links with the schools are promising, while we haven't fully explored building up the congregation at St John's from within the Team.

As the Church of England authorised Prayers of Love and Faith for use in parishes in December, we look forward joyfully to offering those prayers of blessing for same-sex couples to church members and the wider community within Sunday services and wait for the process of authorisation for standalone services of blessing.

In March, we are involved in a Kingston Episcopal Area Racial Justice Group event, centring on the twin themes of "I don't see colour" and "what makes a good ally in the cause of racial justice". We hope this will continue to stimulate ideas and discussion within our own church and community life.

This year also heralds both a London Mayoral and a General Election, which will be opportunities to engage with our allies in Merton Citizens and across London Citizens. In turbulent times with the ongoing war in Ukraine, the tragic loss of life in Israel and Gaza, the climate crisis and daily struggles for many at home, we hope and pray that our faith and work will seek always to proclaim the faith, hope and love we believe we find in Christ; to paraphrase the prophet Micah, may we "do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God".

6 **Personnel**

The Team Rector, the Revd Mark Eminson, is responsible for Holy Trinity, while the Team Vicar, the Revd Alison Judge, is responsible for Christ Church and St John the Divine. Mark, having been ordained 16 years, will be taking his first ever sabbatical in the summer of 2024. The Revd Simon Asquith has been formally "signed off" in his training by the Diocese, so is free to seek his next post, but we hope we may keep him as long as possible into 2025; we have all benefitted from his ministry and gifts of character. Joy Lyons, SPA (Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary), continues in her work of pastoral care for members of Christ Church and to co-ordinate the Prayer Group; her work is valued greatly. The Revd Canon Duncan Swan, Associate Priest, has assisted at St John's

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when he can. Sr Chris SCL is a committed member of Christ Church and has the Bishop of Southwark's permission to preach which we value.

The DCCs set rates of pay for employees in accordance with the skills and responsibilities of their roles and with the aim of recruiting and retaining high quality staff; we continue to abide by the commitment made in 2014 to pay no one less than the London Living Wage, as set by the Living Wage Foundation, which was £13.15 per hour from the beginning of 2023. The PCC has indicated a wish to become accredited as a Living Wage Employer.

A staff pension scheme with the Church Workers Pension Fund was introduced on 1 January 2015, which was well before the PCC's workplace pensions staging date of 1 June 2016. It is available to all employees regardless of salary level and the PCC contributes 5% of gross salary provided the employee also contributes a minimum of 5%.

7 Financial Review

The PCC's main sources of funding are the free will offerings of church members and others in attendance at church meetings, and income from hiring out the church buildings.

7.1 Financial Activity and Financial Position

We remain mindful of the impact that the cost-of-living crisis is having on many people.

Total income for the year increased by £20,231 to £340,300 (2022: £320,069) as set out in the accompanying financial statements on pages 17-34. Of this total, £12,917 was restricted income.

Total unrestricted donations and legacies were £177,779 which was a £11,084 increase from the previous year's figure of £166,695. Gift Aid from tax efficient giving totalled £25,581 (2022: £30,025),

Church and hall lettings strengthened further, raising £128,340 in 2023 compared to £115,135 in 2022, an increase of £13,205. Income from fundraising events at £12,924 saw a small drop against the previous year (£16,960).

Total expenditure increased by £62,128 to £371,428 (2022: £309,300) with increases across several of the major expense headings (see note 4).

We were pleased to be able to meet our pledged contributions to the Diocesan Parish Support Fund of £165,800 in 2023. The Parish Support Fund pays for our parish clergy and other diocesan resources, as well as a contribution to poorer parishes.

The team as a whole happily contributed £16,715 (2022: £13,189) to mission giving and donations. The increase is in part due to Holy Trinity, for operational reasons, paying over its 2022 annual charitable tithe in 2023.

In summary, the deficit for the parish on unrestricted funds was £29,952, with an overall deficit of £28,640, after unrealised gains on investments which totalled £2,488. The net movement of funds is a deficit of £28,640 (2022: a surplus of £5,416).

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7.2 Reserves Policy

The PCC has examined the requirements for free reserves, i.e., those unrestricted funds not invested in tangible fixed assets. Given the nature of Merton Priory Team Ministry's work and ongoing financial uncertainty due to the effects of the cost-of-living crisis, the PCC considers that the free reserves requirement should be held at three months' routine general fund expenditure, plus committed future expenditure on other projects, where funds permit. This is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies. At 31 December 2023, the PCC had net free reserves of £227,924 (2022: £247,962) as outlined below, which the PCC acknowledges well exceeds the total free reserves requirement of £110,712 (2022: £79,918).

	2023 £	2022 £
Total reserves	307,301	329,196
Less: restricted funds	(25,241)	(25,301)
Less: endowment funds	(18,249)	(16,877)
Less: unrestricted tangible fixed assets used in the continuing work of the PCC	(35,887)	(39,056)
	227,924	247,962
Free reserves requirement:		
Reserve agreed by PCC	88,686	74,168
Balance allocated to the anticipated cost of fabric repairs	22,026	5,750
	110,712	79,918

All three churches are planning significant expenditure in 2024 and beyond. Christ Church is planning major work in to coincide with their 150 year anniversary celebrations; this includes work around the altar, redecorations of the church, moving the font and putting toilets into the church. They have already spoken to the DAC (Diocesan Advisory Committee) and have appointed an architect.

Holy Trinity has completed extensive kitchen refurbishment and redecoration in recent years, and has no immediate plans for further major works.

St John the Divine will be spending significant sums on a new lighting and heating system with associated electrical works, for which they are likely to be applying for grant funding alongside other fundraising for the project. The timing is dependent on funding being secured.

So although the free reserves position at 31 December 2023 may be looking very healthy, it is clear that all three churches are mindful of their responsibility in thinking ahead to the appropriate use of the PCC's charitable reserves.

7.3 Investment Policy

Funds not immediately required for working capital are partly placed on short term deposit and partly invested in longer-term investment funds. The PCC currently uses the CCLA Church of England Deposit Fund, Charities Aid Foundation investment funds and M&G Charity Funds. The PCC expects to do some work in the near future on drawing up a formal investment policy.

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7.4 Going Concern

Each year it is the PCC's responsibility to state whether or not the financial statements have been drawn up on a going concern basis (see the accounting policy note on page 17). Going concern is the assumption that an entity, in this case the PCC, has the resources (financial or otherwise) needed to continue operating for the foreseeable future and, in particular, for at least 12 months from the date of approval by the PCC of these financial statements. If the going concern principle did not apply, then the accounts would be drawn up on an insolvent basis.

8 Volunteers

We are grateful to all our churchwardens for their many and varied labours: Zoe Miller in her first year at Christ Church, John Eades and Delene Edwards (also in her first year) at Holy Trinity and Ann Roberts at St John's (returning to a previous ministry). Our co-treasurers, Kerry Porritt and Ann Roberts, have steered us wisely and efficiently through our financial affairs, while Margaret Duncan has joined us as PCC Secretary. It has been encouraging to welcome Zoe, Delene and Margaret in these new roles for them, which come with significant responsibility; well done to them!

We would like to thank all the volunteers who work so tirelessly on our behalf to make our churches the lively and vibrant communities they are. As well as those in licensed lay roles, we particularly want to mention all those who work behind the scenes and in the more invisible areas of our church life.

9 Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure and is a Registered Charity.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The PCC consists of 18 elected members, six from Christ Church, six from Holy Trinity and six from St John the Divine, plus the team clergy. During the past year the PCC has met six times.

A range of issues are discussed during PCC meetings, including considering ministry needs, parish communications and planning for key events in the parish, as well as hearing reports from the individual churches and having oversight of the Mission Action Plans for all three churches. The PCC has authority for finance across the parish.

The PCC has assessed the major risks to which the PCC is exposed, in particular those relating to the specific operational areas of the charity, its investments, and its finances. The PCC believes that, by monitoring reserve levels, by ensuring that controls exist over key financial systems, and by examining the operational risks faced by the church, it has established effective systems and procedures to mitigate those risks.

The PCC appoints six foundation governors at Holy Trinity School and two at The Priory School, and members of our congregations also serve as governors appointed by Southwark Diocesan Board of Education. This year two governors were appointed to Holy Trinity School.

The PCC Standing Committee, which consists of the Team Rector, Team Vicar, six Churchwardens, Secretary and co-Treasurers, has met on several occasions. The Curate has recently also been invited to attend these meetings. This group has set the agenda for the PCC meetings and ensured its smooth running. In addition, the PCC Business Committee – Team Rector, Team Vicar, co-Treasurers and Secretary – has met to make certain that all aspects of church business are covered.

Our new PCC Secretary, Margaret Duncan, has commented that "what really stood out for me, apart from learning new skills for the new role, was St John's efforts to increase the church membership by visiting the residents of High Path estate and the Team winter night shelter for the homeless".

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Report of the Parochial Church Council For the year ended 31 December 2023

10 Responsibilities of Trustees for the Financial Statements

The PCC is responsible for preparing the report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice. Charity law in England and Wales requires the PCC to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the PCC and of the income and application of income of the charity for that period.

In preparing those financial statements, the PCC is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the activities of the charity will continue.

The PCC is responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enables them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the governing document. The PCC is 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. The PCC is responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included in the charity's website.

11 Approval

The PCC has elected to have an independent examination rather than an audit of the financial statements. The role of Independent Examiner is a personal appointment and this has been carried out by John Helm. Mr Helm has indicated his willingness to continue in this role and accordingly a resolution will be submitted to the forthcoming Annual Parochial Church Meeting to re-appoint him as the PCC's Independent Examiner for 2024.

The report of the PCC was approved by the PCC on 24 April 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



**The Revd Mark Eminson
PCC Chair**

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Report of the Independent Examiner to the Parochial Church Council of Merton Priory

I report on the accounts of the Parochial Church Council of Merton Priory for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 17 to 34.

Respective responsibilities of PCC and examiner

The PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The PCC consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiners' report

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 those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and the seeking of explanations from you as 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 set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the church as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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



John Helm
Chartered Accountant
24 April 2024

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Statement of Financial Activities For the year ended 31 December 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Endowment Funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Endowment Funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Income from:	2								
Donations and legacies		177,779	11,624	-	189,403	166,695	14,129	-	180,824
Charitable activities		2,289	-	-	2,289	1,885	-	-	1,885
Other trading activities		141,013	313	-	141,326	132,103	-	-	132,103
Investments		5,518	980	-	6,498	2,867	580	-	3,447
Other		784	-	-	784	1,810	-	-	1,810
Total Income		327,383	12,917	0	340,300	305,360	14,709	0	320,069
Expenditure on:									
Raising funds	3	3,706	-	-	3,706	5,762	-	-	5,762
Charitable activities	4	354,745	12,977	-	367,722	290,912	12,626	-	303,538
Total Expenditure		358,451	12,977	0	371,428	296,674	12,626	0	309,300
Net gains/(losses) on investments		1,116	-	1,372	2,488	(3,434)	-	(1,919)	(5,353)
Net income	5	(29,952)	(60)	1,372	(28,640)	5,252	2,083	(1,919)	5,416
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(29,952)	(60)	1,372	(28,640)	5,252	2,083	(1,919)	5,416
Total funds brought forward		287,018	25,301	16,877	329,196	281,766	23,218	18,796	323,780
Total funds carried forward		257,066	25,241	18,249	300,556	287,018	25,301	16,877	329,196

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Balance Sheet As at 31 December 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Endowment Funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Fixed Assets						
Tangible Assets	6	35,887	-	-	35,887	39,056
Investments	7	39,851	-	15,824	55,675	53,099
		75,738	0	15,824	91,562	92,155
Current Assets						
Debtors	8	42,440	-	-	42,440	36,329
Cash At Bank and In Hand		165,624	25,241	2,425	190,865	221,583
		208,064	25,241	2,425	233,305	257,912
Creditors - Amounts Falling Due Within One Year	9	24,311	-	-	24,311	20,871
Net Current Assets		183,753	25,241	2,425	208,994	237,041
Net Assets		259,491	25,241	18,249	300,556	329,196
Represented by:						
Endowment Funds	10	-	-	18,249	18,249	16,877
Restricted Income Funds	11	-	25,241	-	25,241	25,301
Unrestricted Income Funds	12	257,066	-	-	257,066	287,018
Total Funds		257,066	25,241	18,249	300,556	329,196

The financial statements were approved by the PCC on 24 April 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



The Revd Mark Eminson
PCC Chair



Dr Kerry Porritt
PCC Co-Treasurer



Ann Roberts
PCC Co-Treasurer

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2023

I Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP (FRS 102)). The financial statements are drawn up on the historical cost basis of accounting except for the revaluation of leasehold land and buildings and investments which are shown at market value.

The Parochial Church Council of Merton Priory was formed in May 2009 from the amalgamation of three separate parishes: Christ Church, Colliers Wood; Holy Trinity & St Peter, South Wimbledon; St John the Divine, Merton. These financial statements incorporate the income and expenditure, assets and liabilities of the combined parish, including comparative figures for the previous year. The finances of the three individual churches are maintained separately and are therefore accounted for as designated funds.

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

The PCC meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

Going Concern

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern and accordingly the accounts have been drawn up on a going concern basis.

Income recognition

Voluntary income and donations (including legacies) are accounted for once the PCC has entitlement to the income, it is probable the income will be received, and the amount of income receivable can be reliably measured. Income from the recovery of tax on gift aided donations is accounted for in the period to which the relevant donation is received. Grant income is recognised on a receivable basis.

The income from trading activities includes rental income from the letting of church premises which is accounted for when earned. It is shown gross, with the associated costs included in fundraising costs.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

Expenditure recognition

Expenditure is accrued as soon as a liability is considered probable, and the amount of obligation can be measured reliably. Longer term liabilities are discounted to present value. The PCC is not registered for VAT and accordingly expenditure includes VAT where appropriate.

Expenditure included in Raising Funds includes amounts incurred in obtaining grants and other donations and property maintenance costs.

Expenditure on church activities includes those costs incurred to fulfil the PCC's principal objects, as outlined in the Report of the PCC. These include grants payable and governance costs. Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The Diocesan Parish Support Fund is accounted for when due. Governance costs comprise all costs involving the public accountability of the PCC and its compliance with regulation and good practice. These costs include costs related to the independent examination and legal fees.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2023

I Accounting Policies (continued)

The PCC contributes to employees' pension plans with the Church Workers' Pension Fund (see Note 4a). Rentals under operating leases are charged as incurred over the term of the lease.

Tangible Fixed Assets

Consecrated and benefice property of any kind is excluded from the financial statements by Section 10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011.

Moveable church furnishings are held by the Team Rector and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC. They are considered inalienable property and require a faculty for disposal. They are listed in the churches' inventories, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). Items are capitalised at cost and depreciated over their useful economic life other than where insufficient cost information is available. Individual items of furnishings with a purchase price of £1,500 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Equipment and Fixtures & Fittings and such other functional equipment used on a continuing basis for the work of the PCC is depreciated on a straight-line basis over five years (equipment, currently none held) or ten years (fixtures and fittings). Individual items of equipment and fixtures & fittings with a purchase price of £1,500 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Fixed Asset Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

Debtors

Debtors are included at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months.

Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation arising from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are recognised at their settlement amount.

Fund accounting

The funds held by the charity are either:

Unrestricted general funds that can be used for PCC ordinary purposes. These include funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC. Apart from the PCC General Fund, all other unrestricted funds are designated to the three individual churches and are therefore reported as designated funds.

Restricted funds represent donations received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund.

The *permanent endowment fund (St John the Divine)* was given for building a new church, completed in 1914, with the income from the remaining endowment capital to be used on the fabric of the existing building.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2023

2 Income

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Donations & legacies				
Offerings and donations	152,225	9,809	162,034	143,480
Income tax reclaimed	24,176	1,405	25,581	30,025
Legacies	1,000	-	1,000	2,000
Grants	378	410	788	5,319
	177,779	11,624	189,403	180,824
Charitable activities				
Fees for weddings and funerals	2,289	-	2,289	1,885
	2,289	0	2,289	1,885
Other trading activities				
Bookstall, magazine etc sales	62	-	62	8
Fund raising events	12,924	-	12,924	16,960
Lettings income	128,027	313	128,340	115,135
	141,013	313	141,326	132,103
Investments				
Dividends	1,039	-	1,039	1,038
Bank Interest	2,192	547	2,739	1,036
Rent from land	2,287	433	2,720	1,373
	5,518	980	6,498	3,447
Other				
Insurance claim	784	-	784	1,810
	784	0	784	1,810
	327,383	12,917	340,300	320,069

The figures for Donations do not include gifts banked directly to charities for Christian Aid Week or cheques sent direct to the Bishop of Southwark's Lent Appeal. The parish also makes significant contributions in kind, such as the substantial amount of food given each year to the Wimbledon Food Bank.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2023

3 Expenditure on Raising Funds

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Costs of fundraising events	3,344	-	3,344	4,609
Costs of supporting regular giving	362	-	362	1,153
	3,706	0	3,706	5,762

4 Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Parish Support Fund	172,100	-	172,100	165,800
Staff costs (note 4a)	20,522	-	20,522	15,761
Church Life & Outreach	4,638	83	4,721	12,398
Missionary & Charitable Giving and Gifts (note 4b)	13,280	3,435	16,715	13,189
Provision of Office & Support	14,097	8,400	22,497	22,013
Provision of Buildings and Facilities	126,508	1,059	127,567	71,137
Governance costs	3,600	-	3,600	3,240
	354,745	12,977	367,722	303,538

Included within expenditure on church activities (see note 4 above) are the following staff costs:

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Gross salaries	20,340	-	20,340	15,586
Pension contributions	182	-	182	175
	20,522	0	20,522	15,761

These staff costs exclude the amounts paid to Southwark Diocese for the stipendiary clergy, who are funded through the Parish Support Fund. Employer's National Insurance is currently covered by the government's Employment Allowance. All employed staff are paid at least the London Living Wage. Information on the staff pension scheme is given below.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2023

During the year the churches employed various part-time staff, as follows:

- Holy Trinity: the post of Parish Administrator was vacant throughout 2023 and a Director of Music was in post for the full year (2022: from October); the church employed one Bookkeeper (2022: one).
- Christ Church and St John the Divine jointly employed an Organist/Music Leader (2022: one), and each church employed a Cleaner (2022: one each).

4a Staff Pensions

Merton Priory PCC participates in the Pension Builder Scheme section of the Church Workers Pension Fund (CWPF) for lay staff. CWPF is administered by the Church of England Pensions Board, which holds the CWPF assets separately from those of the Employer and other participating employers.

The Church Workers Pension Fund has two sections:

1. the Defined Benefits Scheme;
2. the Pension Builder Scheme, which has two subsections;
 - a. a deferred annuity section known as Pension Builder Classic; and,
 - b. a cash balance section known as Pension Builder 2014.

Pension Builder Scheme

Both sections of the Pension Builder Scheme are classed as defined benefit schemes.

Pension Builder Classic provides a pension, accumulated from contributions paid and converted into a deferred annuity during employment based on terms set and reviewed by the Church of England Pensions Board from time to time. Discretionary increases may also be added, depending on investment returns and other factors.

Pension Builder 2014 is a cash balance scheme that provides a lump sum which members use to provide benefits at retirement. Pension contributions are recorded in an account for each member. Discretionary bonuses may be added before retirement, depending on investment returns and other factors. The account, plus any bonuses declared is payable, unreduced, from age 65.

There is no sub-division of assets between employers in each section of the Pension Builder Scheme.

The scheme is considered to be a multi-employer scheme as described in Section 28 of FRS 102. This is because it is not possible to attribute the Pension Builder Scheme's assets and liabilities to specific employers and means that contributions are accounted for as if the Scheme were a defined contribution scheme. The pensions costs charged to the SOFA (Statement of Financial Activities) in the year are the contributions payable (2023: £182; 2022: £175).

A valuation of the Pension Builder Scheme is carried out once every three years. The most recent valuation was carried out as at 31 December 2022. The next valuation is due as at 31 December 2025.

For the Pension Builder Classic section, the valuation revealed a surplus of £34.8m on the ongoing assumptions used. At the most recent annual review, the Board chose to grant a discretionary bonus of 6.7% following the strong funding position over 2023. There is no requirement for deficit payments at the current time.

For the Pension Builder 2014 section, the valuation revealed a surplus of £8.5m on the ongoing assumptions used. There is no requirement for deficit payments at the current time.

The legal structure of the scheme is such that if another employer fails, **Merton Priory PCC** could become responsible for paying a share of the failed employer's pension liabilities.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2023

4b Expenditure – Missionary & Charitable Giving and Gifts

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Giving to Church overseas & missionary societies:				
Joshua Orphan & Community Care, Malawi	-	-	-	1,967
Embrace the Middle East	-	-	-	451
International Rescue Committee	-	-	-	184
Red Cross Somalia	-	-	-	284
The Leprosy Mission	2,100	-	2,100	-
Gifts to Relief & development agencies:				
Toilet Twinning	-	-	-	364
Christian Aid	1,800	-	1,800	-
Ukraine Appeal	-	-	-	161
Turkey-Syria	11	95	106	-
Gaza Hospital	-	224	224	-
Giving to Home mission & church organisations:				
Christian CARE Merton	-	369	369	332
Bishop of Southwark's Lent Appeal	-	414	414	1,241
Faith in Action – Merton Homelessness Project	2,100	-	2,100	2,134
Merton Night Shelter	4	310	314	668
Accoutre Centre Learning	2,100	-	2,100	-
Don Foodbank	-	589	589	-
Annual Donation	200	-	200	-
Toddlers Group	-	65	65	-
Gifts to Secular Charities:				
Children Society	-	202	202	-
Merton Citizens (part of Citizens UK)	1,365	-	1,365	1,300
South London Refugee Association	-	-	-	1,967
London Air Ambulance	1,800	-	1,800	-
Book Trust	-	-	-	375
Jigsaw4u	1,800	-	1,800	786
Samaritans	-	-	-	225
Shooting Star Hospice	-	-	-	375
Time is Precious	-	-	-	375
Save the Children	-	1,167	1,167	-
	13,280	3,435	16,715	13,189

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2023

5 Net Income

	2023 £	2022 £
This is stated after charging:		
Depreciation of owned assets	7,529	7,091
Independent examination fee (including preparation of financial statements)	3,600	3,240
Other fees paid to independent examiner	-	-
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

6 Tangible Fixed Assets

	Fixtures, fittings & equipment £
Cost	
At 1 January 2023	105,126
Additions	4,360
Disposals	-
	<u> </u>
At 31 December 2023	109,486
Depreciation	
At 1 January 2023	66,070
Charge for Year	7,529
	<u> </u>
At 31 December 2023	73,599
Net Book Value	
At 31 December 2023	<u> </u> 35,887
At 31 December 2022	<u> </u> 39,056

Moveable Church Furnishings:

None of the three churches hold any moveable church furnishings purchased since 2001 which are capitalised and depreciated over their useful economic life (see Accounting Policies).

Fixtures & Fittings:

Christ Church: The church sound system was purchased in 2009 and is now fully depreciated.

Holy Trinity: The grand piano (purchased in 2002) and refurbishment of the reception area (2007) are both fully depreciated. The audio-visual system was installed in 2015 and will be depreciated over ten years. The original kitchen improvements from 2002 were disposed of and a new kitchen installed in 2022, which is being depreciated over ten years.

St John the Divine: A lighting control panel was purchased in 2018 and is being depreciated over ten years. A new heater was installed in 2023 and is being depreciated over 10 years.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2023

7 Fixed Asset Investments

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Endowment Funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Market Value				
At 1 January 2023	38,647	14,452	53,099	58,369
Net of purchases and sales	88	-	88	83
Net gain/(loss) on revaluation	1,116	1,372	2,488	(5,353)
At 31 December 2023	39,851	15,824	55,675	53,099
Market value represented by investments in:				
Charibond Charities Fixed Interest				
Common investment Fund shares	3,235	15,824	19,059	17,324
CBF Investment Fund shares	26,616	-	26,616	25,775
Polka Theatre – interest in the freehold	10,000	-	10,000	10,000
	39,851	15,824	55,675	53,099

Christ Church: CBF Investment Fund shares: Trust Fund T0169, held by the Diocese of Southwark as custodian trustee, originated from the sale of a passageway in 1951 for £200. Dividends are reinvested.

St John the Divine: CBF Investment Fund shares: Trust Fund T0046 held by the Diocese of Southwark as custodian trustee. The fund was a permanent endowment (capital) for building a new church, completed in 1914, with the remaining capital invested to provide an income restricted to work on the fabric of the building.

Holy Trinity: Charibond Charities Fixed Interest Common Investment Fund. The unit trust invests in government and corporate fixed interest securities.

The Polka Theatre: a nominal figure of the PCC's interest in the freehold of the Polka Theatre (240 The Broadway, London SW19 1SB) which is subject to a long-term lease. This has not been the subject of an independent valuation.

8 Debtors

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Prepayments and other debtors	1,966	-	1,966	2,944
Gift Aid recoverable	19,422	-	19,422	18,273
Accrued income	21,052	-	21,052	15,112
	42,440	0	42,440	36,329

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2023

9 Creditors - Amounts Falling Due Within One Year

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Accruals	15,557	-	15,557	13,610
Pension creditor	49	-	49	32
Income received in advance	8,705	-	8,705	7,229
	24,311	0	24,311	20,871

10 Endowment Funds

10a Current Year	At 1 January 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains/ (losses) £	At 31 December 2023 £
St John the Divine (permanent) Mackrell Trust (T0046/capital)	16,877	-	-	-	1,372	0
Total	16,877	0	0	0	16,464	18,249

10b Prior Year	At 1 January 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains/ (losses) £	At 31 December 2022 £
St John the Divine (permanent) Mackrell Trust (T0046/capital)	18,796	-	-	-	(1,919)	16,877
Total	18,796	0	0	0	(23,028)	16,877

This fund was a permanent endowment (capital) for building a new church, completed in 1914, with the remaining capital invested to provide an income restricted to work on the fabric of the building.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2023

II Restricted Funds

I Ia Current Year	At 1 January 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers	Gains/ (losses) £	At 31 December 2023 £
PCC						
Curate Housing	0	8,400	(8,400)	-	-	0
Youth Work	1,976	-	(83)	-	-	1,893
Merton Night Shelters	0	-	-	1,690	-	1,690
Christ Church						
Merton Night Shelters	1,958	-	(268)	(1,690)	-	0
Children's Society	408	202	(202)	-	-	408
Christian Aid	427	-	-	-	-	427
Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call	194	15	(209)	-	-	0
Faith in Action	574	-	-	-	-	574
Christian Care	204	231	(368)	-	-	67
150th Anniversary Fund	871	(333)	(538)	-	-	0
Hymn Book Fund	295	-	-	-	-	295
Mission & Charities – Other	0	237	(237)	-	-	0
Holy Trinity						
Merton Night Shelters	4,603	-	(41)	-	-	4,562
Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call	0	197	(197)	-	-	0
Flower Fund	4	-	-	-	-	4
Other Restricted Donations	2,338	1,645	(1,838)	-	-	2,145
St John the Divine						
Bells Centenary Project	2,258	560	(522)	-	-	2,296
Mission & Charities	(100)	783	(74)	-	-	609
Church Maintenance & Repairs: Mackrell Trust (T0046/income)	9,291	980	-	-	-	10,271
Total	25,301	12,917	(12,977)	0	0	25,241

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2023

II Restricted Funds (continued)

I Ib Prior Year	At 1 January 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers	Gains/ (losses) £	At 31 December 2022 £
PCC						
Curate Housing	-	8,400	(8,400)	-	-	0
Youth Work	2,499	-	(523)	-	-	1,976
Christ Church						
Merton Night Shelters	1,771	187	-	-	-	1,958
Children's Society	408	-	-	-	-	408
Christian Aid	427	-	-	-	-	427
Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call	194	-	-	-	-	194
Faith in Action	574	-	-	-	-	574
Christian Care	-	536	(332)	-	-	204
150th Anniversary Fund	537	334	-	-	-	871
Hymn Book Fund	295	-	-	-	-	295
Holy Trinity						
Merton Night Shelters	3,542	1,211	(150)	-	-	4,603
Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call	564	256	(820)	-	-	0
Flower Fund	4	-	-	-	-	4
Junior Church collections for charity	1,125	-	(1,125)	-	-	0
Other Restricted Donations	309	2,783	(754)	-	-	2,338
St John the Divine						
Bells Centenary Project	2,258	-	-	-	-	2,258
Mission & Charities	-	422	(522)	-	-	(100)
Church Maintenance & Repairs: Mackrell Trust (T0046/income)	8,711	580	-	-	-	9,291
Total	23,218	14,709	(12,626)	0	0	25,301

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2023

II Restricted Funds (continued)

Descriptions of the main restricted funds are as follows:

PCC

- **Curate Housing:** monthly rent is payable to Southwark Diocese and is covered by a very generous restricted donation.
- **Youth Work:** this was originally the balance held by Morden Baptist Church when the Fusion Youth Group was transferred to the Merton Priory Team. The Fusion Youth Group no longer exists and Morden Baptist Church does not want the funds returned to them. The PCC decided in January 2018 that this fund could be used for any youth work across the three churches, and at the start of 2023 was used to fund a Sunday evening outreach at St John's.

Christ Church

- **Merton Night Shelter:** Christ Church is one of the locations for the night shelter for the homeless during the winter months and this fund represents incoming donations and outgoing expenses. In 2023 it was agreed to move this to a PCC fund to reflect it as a parish-wide activity.
- **150th Anniversary Fund:** in 2024, Christ Church will be 150 years old. This fund was established to gather the proceeds, from appeals and fundraising, to be used for the enhancement of the building and projects within the local community. This fund has now been spent and future activity will be through a designated unrestricted fund.
- **Hymn Book Fund:** this was a specific appeal in 2012 for the purchase of new hymn books. Christ Church DCC will be reviewing what happens to the remaining balance.

Holy Trinity

- **Merton Night Shelter:** Holy Trinity is one of the locations for the night shelter for the homeless during the winter months and this fund represents incoming donations and outgoing expenses. In 2023 it was agreed to move this to a PCC fund to reflect it as a parish-wide activity.
- **Junior Church collections:** regular Sunday collections by the children which are sent to a charity of their choice.
- **Other Restricted Donations:** the balance represents the remainder of a gift for future development of the prayer corner and other general appeals including towards the costs of hosting a 'warm space' in the Winter months.

St John the Divine

- **Mission & Charities:** restricted donations for charities.
- **Mackrell Trust (T0046):** an ancient permanent endowment for building a new church, held by the Diocese of Southwark as custodian trustee. The capital is not available for use but the interest may be used on the maintenance and repair of the church.

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF
MERTON PRIORY**

**Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2023**

12 Unrestricted Funds

12a Current Year	At 1 January 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains/ (losses) £	At 31 December 2023 £
Unrestricted						
PCC General Fund	1,000	1,270	(2,747)	(2)	-	(479)
Designated Funds (General)						
Christ Church	46,591	70,715	(81,420)	-	276	36,162
Holy Trinity	45,931	180,302	(181,220)	-	840	45,853
St John the Divine	58,016	57,214	(69,684)	(4,360)	-	41,186
Designated Funds (Specific)						
PCC: MP3 Players	558	-	-	-	-	558
Christ Church:						
Hall & Church Repairs Fund	716	-	(311)	-	-	405
Bells Fund	3,394	1,026	(58)	-	-	4,362
150th Anniversary Fund	4,828	16,856	(3,782)	-	-	17,902
Holy Trinity:						
Marian Esling Legacy (income)	42,307	-	-	-	-	42,307
Annual Tithe	11,700	-	(11,700)	-	-	0
Special Projects Fund	32,923	-	-	-	-	32,923
Fixed Assets Fund	36,972	-	(6,746)	348	-	30,574
St John the Divine						
Fixed Assets Fund	2,082	-	(783)	4,014	-	5,313
Total	287,018	327,383	(358,451)	0	1,116	257,066

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF
MERTON PRIORY**

**Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2023**

12 Unrestricted Funds (continued)

12b Prior Year	At 1 January 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains/ (losses) £	At 31 December 2022 £
Unrestricted						
PCC General Fund	1,000	1,404	(1,404)	-	-	1,000
Designated Funds (General)						
Christ Church	42,548	78,937	(74,520)	-	(374)	46,591
Holy Trinity	53,650	168,832	(168,091)	(5,400)	(3,060)	45,931
St John the Divine	47,097	50,269	(39,350)	-	-	58,016
Designated Funds (Specific)						
PCC: MP3 Players	558	-	-	-	-	558
Christ Church:						
Hall & Church Repairs Fund	716	-	-	-	-	716
Bells Fund	2,620	774	-	-	-	3,394
150th Anniversary Fund	-	5,144	(316)	-	-	4,828
Holy Trinity:						
Marian Esling Legacy (income)	42,307	-	-	-	-	42,307
Annual Tithe	12,200	-	(5,900)	5,400	-	11,700
Special Projects Fund	32,923	-	-	-	-	32,923
Fixed Assets Fund	44,065	-	(7,093)	-	-	36,972
St John the Divine						
Fixed Assets Fund	2,082	-	-	-	-	2,082
Total	281,766	305,360	(296,674)	0	(3,434)	287,018

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2023

12 Unrestricted Funds (continued)

Designated (General) Funds are funds which have been designated by the PCC to each DCC for unrestricted purposes.

Designated (Specific) Funds are funds which have been designated by each DCC for specific purposes.

PCC

- **MP3 Players Fund:** in some years, the parish drama group stages a production where 50% of the surplus is retained by the PCC and 50% designated to help with the costs of future MP3 productions.

Christ Church

- **Hall & Church Repairs Fund:** was established with income from the Colliwobbles toddler group which group has not restarted since the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Bells Fund:** will be used for the maintenance of the bells in the church.
- **150th Anniversary Fund:** in 2024, Christ Church will be 150 years old. This fund will be used for the enhancement of the building and projects within the local community.

Holy Trinity

- **Marian Esling Legacy (income):** the remaining interest on the Marian Esling Legacy Fund which is designated for capital projects.
- **Annual Tithe:** Holy Trinity has historically given away 5% of its unrestricted voluntary income, excluding fundraising and investment income, to charitable causes each year. In 2023 it paid out it's 2022 tithe and has suspended it's tithe giving for 2023.
- **Special Projects Fund:** following a generous legacy and a gift weekend in 2018, the DCC felt it was appropriate to put aside some of this money to be used at a later date on special projects around the church that would enhance the building, such as refurbishing the kitchen and relocating the chapel to make it more accessible.
- **Fixed Assets Fund:** the remaining cost of tangible fixed assets, from where they are now depreciated.

St John the Divine

- **Fixed Assets Fund:** the remaining cost of tangible fixed assets, from where they are now depreciated.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2023

13 Operating Lease Commitments

The total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are payable:

	2023 £	2022 £
Not later than one year	706	706
Later than one year and not later than five years	881	1,587
	1,587	2,293

The previous printer/photocopier lease expired on 12 April 2021. The PCC signed a new lease on 9 April 2021 which commits the PCC to total lease payments of £3,528 over five years.

14 Capital Commitments

The PCC has the following capital commitments, which it expects to complete in 2024:

	Expected Cost £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £
Christ Church				
Decoration of Chancel	20,976	20,976	-	-
Protection of Organ	1,050	1,050	-	-
Holy Trinity				
No capital works planned for 2024	0	-	-	-
St John the Divine				
Heating & Lighting	70,000	-	70,000	-
	92,026	22,026	70,000	0

15 Related Party Transactions and Balances

The expenses of three (2022: three) members of the PCC amounting to £10,923 (2022: £8,722) in relation to travel, housing, training and retreats were met by the PCC during the year.

Aggregated unrestricted donations from PCC members totalled £9,235 (2022: £15,810).

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Statement of Financial Activities For the year ended 31 December 2023

16. Income & Expenditure Analysis	PCC		Christ Church		Holy Trinity		St John the Divine			Total £
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Income from:										
Donations and legacies	41	8,400	42,955	352	113,676	1,843	21,107	1,029	-	189,403
Charitable activities	66	-	1,389	-	729	-	105	-	-	2,289
Other trading activities	1,143	-	44,070	-	61,070	-	34,730	313	-	141,326
Investments	21	-	179	-	4,044	-	1,274	980	-	6,498
Other	-	-	-	-	784	-	-	-	-	784
Total Income	1,271	8,400	88,593	352	180,303	1,843	57,216	2,322	0	340,300
Expenditure on:										
Raising funds	3	-	478	-	2,080	-	1,145	-	-	3,706
Charitable activities	2,744	8,483	85,093	1,822	197,586	2,076	69,322	596	-	371,428
Total Expenditure	2,747	8,483	85,571	3,512	199,666	2,076	70,467	596	0	373,118
Net gains/(losses) on investments	-	-	276	-	840	-	-	-	1,372	2,488
Net income	(1,476)	(83)	3,298	(1,470)	(18,523)	(233)	(13,251)	1,726	1,372	(28,640)
Transfers between funds	(2)	1,690	-	(1,690)	348	-	(346)	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	(1,478)	1,607	3,298	(3,160)	(18,175)	(233)	(13,597)	1,726	1,372	(28,640)
Total funds brought forward	1,558	1,976	55,529	4,931	169,833	6,945	60,098	11,449	16,877	329,196
Total funds carried forward	80	3,583	58,827	1,771	151,658	6,712	46,501	13,175	18,249	300,556

Accounts



THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Charity Registration Number: 1134253

Diocese of Southwark
Merton Deanery

Annual Report and Financial Statements
31 December 2022

Tandem Accounting
Chartered Accountants
17 Heathville Road
London N19 3AL

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Report and Financial Statements 2022 Contents

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THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Report of the Parochial Church Council For the year ended 31 December 2022

Charity Name	The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Merton Priory	
Charity Number	1134253. The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure and was registered as a charity with Charity Commission on 11 February 2010.	
Principal Address	Holy Trinity Church, 234 The Broadway, London SW19 1SB	
Governing Document	Parochial Church Council Powers Measure (1956) as amended and Church Representation Rules.	
Objective	To promote in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church.	
Members of the PCC	The Members of the PCC who served during the year or who were serving at the date of this report were:	
	Clergy (ex officio)	Revd Mark Eminson, Team Rector Revd Alison Judge, Team Vicar Revd Simon Asquith, Curate Revd Canon Duncan Swan, Associate Priest
	Lay ministers	Joy Lyons, Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary (SPA)
	Churchwardens	Alison Fletcher Rogers Christ Church Desmond Davies (to 21/05/22) Christ Church Vacancy (from 21/05/22) Christ Church Richard Blades Lay Chair Holy Trinity & St Peter John Eades Holy Trinity & St Peter Vacancy St John the Divine Vacancy (to 21/05/22) St John the Divine Ann Roberts (from 21/05/22) St John the Divine
	PCC members	Joanne Powell Christ Church Bruce Warman Christ Church Vacancy Holy Trinity & St Peter Vacancy (to 21/05/22) Holy Trinity & St Peter Ben Ooi (from 21/05/22) Holy Trinity & St Peter Vacancy St John the Divine Ann Roberts (to 21/05/22) St John the Divine Ann Newson (from 21/05/22) St John the Divine
	Representatives on Deanery Synod	Michael Brunt Christ Church Jane Savill (to 21/05/22) Christ Church Abi Erinle (from 21/05/22) Christ Church Martin Lyons Holy Trinity & St Peter Vacancy Holy Trinity & St Peter Eva Parker St John the Divine Ann Newson (to 21/05/22) St John the Divine Vacancy (from 21/05/22) St John the Divine
	Treasurer	Liz Holder, PCC Treasurer (Co-opted to 21/05/22) Kerry Porritt, PCC Co-Treasurer (Co-opted from 21/05/22) Ann Roberts, PCC Co-Treasurer (from 21/05/22)
	Secretary	Jenny Harper (Co-opted from 21/05/22)

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Report of the Parochial Church Council For the year ended 31 December 2022

Key Management Personnel	Key management personnel are those in charge of directing, controlling, running and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis. For Merton Priory Team Ministry, these are all the members of the PCC and the three DCCs (District Church Councils).
Bankers	<i>Merton Priory PCC, Christ Church and Holy Trinity & St Peter:</i> CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling ME19 4JQ <i>St John the Divine:</i> NatWest plc, Wimbledon (B) Branch, 16 Wimbledon Hill Road, London SW19 7NN
Independent Examiner	John Helm ACA Tandem Accounting 17 Heathville Road London N19 3AL
Quinquennial Inspectors	Christ Church – Tim Gough (Austin Winkley and Associates) Holy Trinity - Tim Gough (Austin Winkley and Associates) St John the Divine – Karen Butti (Thomas Ford and Partners)

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Report of the Parochial Church Council For the year ended 31 December 2022

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Merton Priory (“the PCC”) submits its report and the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2022. The financial statements have been prepared in the format prescribed by the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP2019 (FRS102)) and the Financial Reporting Standard 102. The legal and administrative information set out earlier in this document forms part of this report.

1 Aim and purposes

Merton Priory Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the Team Rector, the Revd Mark Eminson, and the Team Vicar, the Revd Alison Judge, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the fabric of the three churches of Christ Church, Colliers Wood; Holy Trinity and St Peter, South Wimbledon; St John the Divine, Merton, along with the two separate church halls of Christ Church and St John the Divine.

2 Objectives and activities

The PCC is committed to promoting the Gospel of Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England; the PCC seeks by encouraging co-operation between clergy, lay members of our congregation, and the wider community to undertake the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical.

When planning the activities for the year, the Team Rector, Team Vicar and PCC have in mind the Charity Commission’s guidance on public benefit, and especially the guidance to charities for the advancement of religion. In particular we make it possible for people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Regular worship and prayer open to all: developing knowledge of and trust in God and learning about the Gospel;
- Provision of sacred spaces for personal prayer and contemplation;
- Provision of pastoral care and sacramental ministry for people living within the parish;
- Teaching the Christian faith through sermons, courses, and small groups;
- Preparing people for baptism, first communion and confirmation;
- Leading Collective Worship, assemblies, and classes in church and community schools;
- Provision of activities with a Christian ethos for young people;
- Provision of social and community events and groups which strengthen outreach and fellowship;
- Fostering relationships with other organisations and churches in our parish and borough and cooperating with them in promoting social cohesion and meeting human need;
- Ministering to those who seek marriages and funerals, before, during, and after these events;
- Supporting other charities in the UK and overseas and building active links with these.

To facilitate this work, we maintain the fabric of the three churches and two separate church halls.

3 Achievements and performance

This year heralded the official launch of our *Team Mission Action Plan*, upon the feast of Candlemas (see below), in which together the three churches are seeking to work for community engagement around the High Path estate, trusting thereby that growth at St John’s might emerge. Under Priority One, some of us participated in a very practical course from the Church Urban Fund, “Growing Good”, enabling us to see how we can begin to engage in mission. As for Priority Two, new flats have had welcome packs delivered to them and conversations

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Report of the Parochial Church Council For the year ended 31 December 2022

have begun with other local stakeholders, including the Methodist Church. And under Priority Three, we did run a Youth Group, which began with a real buzz, but did not gain sufficient momentum and in particular did not break through into the estate.

Mission Action Plan



3 – 5 Year Vision

What God is calling our church to do and become in the next three to five years

To show God's love to everyone in our parish

For all three churches to be growing, thereby able to better serve our communities

With an especial focus for all three churches to enable growth at St John's and an increased presence on High Path

Core Statement

Our purpose/reason to be here

Faithful to God

Sharing with those in need

Caring for one another

Mission Priority One

Building congregation of St John's from within the Team

Action Goals for 3 – 5 years

1. Form leadership team to oversee Priority 1
2. Church graft from say HT to SJD
3. Early Service/Messy Church at SJD
4. Different time and/or style of service
5. All of the above grounded in prayer

Mission Priority Two

Serving the community at High Path

Action Goals for 3 – 5 years

1. Form leadership team to oversee Priority 2
2. Audit of what the community wants
3. Working with partners on the estate
4. Increasing church/hall use for community
5. All of the above grounded in prayer

Mission Priority Three

Ministry to young people, including schools

Action Goals for 3 – 5 years

1. Form leadership team to oversee Priority 3
2. Developing links with Merton Abbey/Harris
3. Bell-ringing for teenagers
4. The answer is table-tennis!
5. All of the above grounded in prayer

3.1 Merton Priory Team

As a Team, for most of the year we held an *Evening Service* at St John's Church, fitting in with our MAP priorities. Special, art-focused Stations of the Cross were well attended, as were an evensong for the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee and Advent Carols. We also enjoyed gathering together first in Kingston for Simon Asquith's ordination to the priesthood and then many more of us at St John's for his first eucharist. The regular, quieter services generally had a low attendance, so we have paused the service for now, waiting on the Lord for what might come next. Across the churches, *Weekday Morning and Evening Prayer* and *Eucharists* offered the round of prayer and intercession for the parish. A weekly Monday evening online service, *Finding Sanctuary*, offers an alternative expression with usually about 8 people in attendance, while a *weekly meditation group* at Christ Church linked with the World Community for Christian Meditation averaged 7 attendees.

In terms of digital engagement, the number of YouTube views averaged 20.

First Communion returned this year in May, praise God, with 5 candidates, in a lovely service at Christ Church. On the same day at Holy Trinity, we also had 14 candidates for *Confirmation* confirmed by Bishop Richard of Kingston towards the end of his tenure.

The Team combined forces for the *Merton Nightshelter Project* this year, using Holy Trinity as a venue, but allowing a broader pool of volunteers from across the Team. We hosted about 12 guests on a Friday night over a seven-week period, including Christmas. Thank you to Alison Fletcher Rogers, who coordinated the project for us.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Report of the Parochial Church Council For the year ended 31 December 2022

It has been a positive year for the work of *Merton Citizens*, part of our previous MAP. This is a community organising alliance of different organisations that work together to champion positive change and social justice in our neighbourhood. Work with South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust continued with the training of volunteers and the gradual establishment of Mental Health Hubs. We engaged with meetings with the newly elected Merton Council members with good effect. We continue to campaign on Housing, Mental Health, Living Wage and Refugee welcome. Turnout from Merton Priory Team at the South London Listens Assembly was very good. We were also asked to provide the Christian speaker in a Scriptural Reasoning event during inter-faith week.

We celebrated Creationtide and each church has continued to strive to “recycle, reduce and reuse”. All building work is undertaken with a view to reducing our carbon footprint and environmental impact. We undertook a survey of the congregations for two of the *Eco Church* criteria: Community and Global Response and Lifestyle. The results were fed back into each church’s *Eco Church Questionnaire*.

We have a shared responsibility in promoting *Racial Justice*, which involves working towards the implementation of the Southwark Diocese Anti-Racism Charter. Our efforts in this area have included discussing the issue during PCC meetings, preaching about it on multiple occasions, and commemorating Black History Month in October through liturgical activities. Additionally, we are actively striving to increase participation and representation of people from UKME backgrounds in leadership roles.

God in the Pub, a monthly discussion of issues of faith and life, has been going from strength to strength at The Sultan Pub moving from 6 or 7 attending each session to an average of 13 or 14 people.

The *MP3 Parish Pantomime* returned with “Cinderella – The Shoe Must Go On”, which raised funds for Jigsaw4U, supporting young people through difficult times.

We communicate with those who live in our parish through regular door-to-door leaflets before Christmas and Easter, through our websites and through flyers distributed in schools and other community places; as well as via Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, the websites and e-notices.

2022 was the seventh year of contributing to the diocese through the *Parish Support Fund*. Given the gradual emergence from the pandemic and the reduction in hall income and pressures on giving, it has been a heroic effort that the three churches met their commitments in full. During the year we have also given to a number of charities, both through planned donations and special collections.

The PCC continues to promote cooperation between Parish Safeguarding Officers (PSO) in implementing our safeguarding action plan, has considered *Safeguarding* at PCC meetings, and has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 to have due regard to House of Bishops’ guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. Our new DBS Administrator and PSO have helped oversee the DBS process, as well as ensure our training requirements are being met, including the new requirement for PCC members of Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse training. Our Health and Safety Officers have worked together to share good practice, draw up action plans for each church to ensure that we are fully compliant with our Health and Safety policy, and reported findings to the PCC.

The combined *electoral roll* for the parish in 2022 was 351 (Christ Church 66, Holy Trinity 251, St John the Divine 34); this number does not include children or the many people with a more fringe relationship with our churches. We also maintain congregational lists of all our contacts, which comply with the requirements of GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations), which came into force in May 2018.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Report of the Parochial Church Council For the year ended 31 December 2022

3.2 Christ Church

Our buildings consist of a church building and a hall building on the same site but not physically connected. It has been a delight this year to return to more groups using the church building for concerts and community events. The hall is the home Monday-Friday of Flourish Day Nursery and this is still proving a very successful arrangement. The hall is used on Saturdays during term time for ballet lessons by Motion Dance.

This year has seen some major steps forward in our desire to enhance Christ Church as a place of worship and welcome to our community. We have appointed Tim Gough of Austin Winkley and Associates as our Inspecting Architect and also to work with us on a project to provide a kitchenette/tea point and two toilets at the west end of the church.

To this end we have embarked on fundraising for the approximately £130,000 that it will cost. We enjoyed a sell-out concert in September with old friends Colliers Wood Chorus and a wonderful newly formed children's choir from Singlegate School. A programme for the concert featured cover designs by pupils from Singlegate School. Other sales and events continue - including the sale of Vicarage Honey.

Our congregation is beginning to reform after the trauma of the pandemic with many new members welcomed and most of our regulars returned. We have been sad to note that few of our young families have returned and in this we are very much part of the trend across the Church of England. Easter attendance this year was 6 children and 70 adults. At Christmas 35 children and 147 adults attended services. Average Sunday attendance throughout 2022 was one child and 40 adults. This year we have been delighted to welcome into the family of the church in Baptism nine children and one adult. The First Communion service hosted at Christ Church was a beautiful occasion with George Fletcher Rogers one of the candidates.

Our band of Bell ringers also returned from lockdown and are developing their skills. During 2022, they rang for the death and funeral of Queen Elizabeth II, and on the announcement of the accession of King Charles III.

During the year, we conducted five funerals. This included a packed congregation who came to pay their respects and say farewell to Angela Williams, daughter of Winnie and the late Gus Williams, stalwarts of Christ Church congregation.

During the pandemic funerals were disrupted and sorry affairs. During this time significant members of our congregation died. We met in March to remember them with thanksgiving and dedicate our new church noticeboard to the memory of Gus Williams, Eleanor Watkins, Tony Dove and Girlie Robinson.

Looking to the future we hope to build on our relationship with Singlegate School and continue to celebrate Christ Church as an inclusive church and part of a vibrant community as we look forward to our 150th Anniversary celebration on Ascension Day in 2024.

3.3 Holy Trinity & St Peter

Within one building, Holy Trinity has a main worship area, clergy vestry, St Peter's Chapel, committee room, kitchen, church hall, St Cecilia Room; and an area of the church is set aside for quiet prayer. The church is widely used by outside agencies and the DCC has a licence under faculty to allow London Together Korean Church to use the worship area on Sunday afternoons. A quinquennial inspection in October 2021 revealed the need for a lot of minor repair and re-decoration work, which mercifully fitted with our plans and expectations. We are planning the work later this year with the assistance of a new Inspecting Architect, Tim Gough, of Austin Winkley and Associates.

Near the beginning of the year, it was a great joy to bless our completed kitchen in memory of long-time church member, Ann Foster. This time of fellowship and hospitality was the first in a series of occasions, such as pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, an Easter Dawn Eucharist feast, Harvest Supper, Christmas lunch, and especially a sumptuous sit-down meal for over 100 to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee, following a joint Pentecost service with London Together Church.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Report of the Parochial Church Council For the year ended 31 December 2022

In other ways, we have begun to emerge from the pandemic, such as being able to employ a new Director of Music, Michael Lees, to develop our prized musical life.

In response to the cost of living crisis, we began a Warm Space in November, which also involved liaising with the council and other faith groups.

The Christmas Fair was a most enjoyable community and fundraising occasion, beginning that period of connection with the wider community: we had not only our usual school carols and Christmas Carols with full choir, but also informal carols in South Park Gardens and the Team Rector was asked to be the guest preacher at the National Sri Sathya Sai Christmas gathering in Tolworth.

Congregational numbers have taken time to build up: Easter attendance was still lower than before the pandemic at 100 adults and 20 children; although numbers rose again at Christmas with 362 adults and 80 children.

Average Sunday attendance throughout 2022 was 94 adults and 46 children. The twice-monthly Early Service alone (for children under six and their carers) grew fastest with 59 adults and 55 children.

Junior Church has begun to build up again with an average of about 20 children and we enjoyed again an acted-out Nativity, thanks to our curate, Revd Simon Asquith, which involved some 40-50 children.

Baptisms picked up again with 29 people welcomed into the fellowship of the church through Baptism.

For young children and carers, T3 (Trinity, Tots & Toys) has had a very well-attended year, while our large contribution of schools work has flourished again. The Team Rector is ex officio governor of Holy Trinity and The Priory schools. He and the curate conduct weekly assemblies (with an occasional eucharist) in them both and each school attends church three times a year. It was also good to hold again a joint Schools' Sunday service including the children singing the Jubilee anthem, slightly adapted for Her Majesty's recent death. The Team Rector also visits Pelham School (a community school) half-termly.

Ministry to Care Homes is also important for us, so a team has visited Queens Court for a Songs of Praise and a Communion each month and now South Park Residential Home once a month, as well as visiting the sick in their homes for holy communion.

Across the year, we conducted 8 funerals for parishioners, including for long-time church member, Ken Webb, whom we miss very much.

Following the high-point of Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee, her death on 8 September came as a genuine shock. She had been such an anchor throughout most of our lives. We were able to assist our church and community during the time of mourning as we opened our doors for candle-lighting and writing in a Book of Condolence; visiting our schools, care homes, the YMCA and elsewhere and culminating in a service on the eve of her funeral, attended by a range of church, faith and community leaders. As the late-Queen herself often said at Christmas, our thanks go out to all those many volunteers, often quiet and unsung, who enable our church life to continue and to thrive, living out the example of servanthood set by our Lord Jesus Christ.

3.4 St John the Divine

The church comprises a church building, lovingly restored some years ago, and a hall building. These are located on separate sites, the hall being on the other side of the road from the church. As well as services the church provides a venue for Morden Park Choral Society practices and concerts and for Merton Music Foundation who use it weekly for children's choir practice and for other musical events. The proposed redevelopment of High Path estate, which may incorporate the site of the Church Hall, with the development of a new Church Hall, has moved forward in the later part of 2022. A new surveyor, Hugo Stuttford, has been recommended by Southwark Diocese and engaged by the DCC. Negotiations are ongoing and timescales are still uncertain. Nevertheless the hall continues to be used by a range of community groups from dance to martial arts and Woodcraft Folk. This year we have opened the doors free of charge to Care4Calais who are working with refugees living in local accommodation. They run a weekly food and clothing bank, a lunch group and a yoga class. We are keen to make our buildings a community resource.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Report of the Parochial Church Council For the year ended 31 December 2022

This year has seen some major struggles with our beautiful church building. A leak in the roof set off a real problem with the electric lights and we are having to face a large bill for the repairs. We also need to replace our heating system as many of the heaters are no longer working and are not repairable. We truly want to move away from fossil fuels and this is proving quite challenging for a building of our size and character. We have engaged a new Inspecting Architect. After the retirement of Daniel Golberg, we look forward to working with Karen Butti, from Thomas Ford and Partners.

Our church garden has had a lot of attention this year as we have received visits from a team from the Community Payback scheme.

It has been a good year for social events. In May we enjoyed a very energetic Ceilidh in the hall with wonderful local folk musicians and an excellent caller. In October it was a return to the very popular Parish Ale (aka Beer Festival). Numerous Morris Dancers of all traditions entertained and tours of the Bell Tower from our Bell ringers made for a very successful fundraising event.

Our band of Bell ringers returned from lockdown and are developing their skills. During 2022, they rang for the death and funeral of Queen Elizabeth II, and on the announcement of the accession of King Charles III.

St John's were pleased to host the World Day of Prayer for the Merton area with a chance to welcome a large ecumenical gathering. This was very well organised by Ann Newson.

Overall our congregational numbers have remained much the same, that is to say small but highly committed. Average Sunday attendance throughout 2022 was 14 adults. Easter attendance was 27 adults and four children and at Christmas 30 adults. One member, Willow Reid, was admitted to Holy Communion.

The funeral of Raymond Sparks, who was well known at St John's, was the only one held during the year.

We continue to enjoy a good relationship with Merton Abbey School being involved in assemblies throughout the year, Year One visits to the church, and it was lovely to have the Christingle service back in the church this year. The school also uses our church drive for 'kiss and drop' allowing pupils who are driven to school by car to alight safely as parking restrictions on High Path make dropping children off problematic.

We look to the future and working with members of our Merton Priory Team to reach out to our neighbours on High Path. We can see gentle signs of hope. Our carol singing around the estate was an hour or so of joy as we were joined by one or two residents, met and waved to others and felt the hope of new birth.

4 Looking to the future

Our MAP priority of engaging with the people of the High Path estate leads us this year to be planning for a door-knocking and leafleting campaign in Eastertide, culminating in a day for the community at Pentecost. That day is also the final day of the Thy Kingdom Come global days of prayer when we will have partnered with other local churches to collectively pray for the welfare of our local community. This outward-focus is part of the Church's DNA, yet perhaps it is a stimulus which we have been given by the shared challenges and coming-together of recent years.

Another occasion for gathering will therefore be centred on the Coronation of King Charles III in early May when we will offer special services, as well combining with other local groups. Having registered with the Welcome Directory to be a welcoming church for prison-leavers, we will extend our Inclusive Church identity as we keep that focus one Sunday in June. This is particularly in response to the Living in Love and Faith process in the Church of England and we wish to offer an unequivocal welcome to LGBTQI+ people in the church and wider society.

Likewise, we will be looking to get more involved in the Kingston Episcopal Area Racial Justice Group, in order that our common life is sensitive to these issues of discrimination and that we are increasingly not simply "not racist", but rather "anti-racist".

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Report of the Parochial Church Council For the year ended 31 December 2022

In this new year and new reign, then, we hope that we are equipping church members to live out their faith and contribute to the common good of our local area and thereby continue to offer a hospitable and loving welcome to all of our neighbours who wish to join us on this journey into life in all its fulness, which is the gift Jesus dearly wants to give.

5 Personnel

The Team Rector, the Revd Mark Eminson, is responsible for Holy Trinity, while the Team Vicar, the Revd Alison Judge, is responsible for Christ Church and St John the Divine. The Revd Simon Asquith is coming towards the half-way point in his curacy, following ordination to the priesthood last summer, and we continue to be richly blessed through his developing ministry. Joy Lyons, SPA (Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary), continues in her work of pastoral care for members of Christ Church and to co-ordinate the Prayer Group; her work is valued greatly. The Revd Canon Duncan Swan, Associate Priest, presides or preaches once a month at St John's, which is a great gift.

The DCCs set rates of pay for employees in accordance with the skills and responsibilities of their roles and with the aim of recruiting and retaining high quality staff; we continue to abide by the commitment made in 2014 to pay no one less than the London Living Wage, as set by the Living Wage Foundation, which was £11.05 per hour from the beginning of 2022. The PCC has indicated a wish to become accredited as a Living Wage Employer.

A staff pension scheme with the Church Workers Pension Fund was introduced on 1 January 2015, which was well before the PCC's workplace pensions staging date of 1 June 2016. It is available to all employees regardless of salary level and the PCC contributes 5% of gross salary provided the employee also contributes a minimum of 5%.

6 Financial Review

The PCC's main sources of funding are the free will offerings of church members and others in attendance at church meetings, and income from hiring out the church buildings.

6.1 Financial Activity and Financial Position

As we have found our way out of the COVID-19 pandemic, so our finances have begun to recover but we are mindful of the impact that the cost-of-living crisis is having on many people.

Total income for the year increased by £28,492 to £320,069 (2021: £291,577) as set out in the accompanying financial statements on pages 15-32. Of this total, £14,709 was restricted income.

Total unrestricted donations and legacies were £166,695 which was a £17,197 decrease from the previous year's figure of £183,892. Gift Aid from tax efficient giving totalled £30,025 (2021: £29,419),

Church and hall lettings strengthened further, raising £115,135 in 2022 compared to £82,304 in 2021, an increase of £32,831. Income from fundraising events at £16,960 was also ahead of the previous year (£6,607).

Total expenditure increased by £48,574 to £309,300 (2021: £260,726) with increases across all of the major expense headings (see note 4). Unrestricted expenditure overall was broadly similar to the previous year.

We were pleased to be able to meet our pledged contributions to the Diocesan Parish Support Fund of £165,800 in 2022. The Parish Support Fund pays for our parish clergy and other diocesan resources, as well as a contribution to poorer parishes.

The team as a whole happily contributed £13,189 (2021: £5,349) to mission giving and donations. The increase is in part due to Holy Trinity, for operational reasons, paying over its 2021 annual charitable tithe in 2022.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Report of the Parochial Church Council For the year ended 31 December 2022

In summary, the surplus for the parish on unrestricted funds was £8,686, with an overall surplus of £10,769, both before unrealised losses on investments which totalled £5,353. The net movement of funds for 2022 was a surplus of £5,416.

6.2 Reserves Policy

The PCC has examined the requirements for free reserves, i.e., those unrestricted funds not invested in tangible fixed assets. Given the nature of Merton Priory Team Ministry's work and ongoing financial uncertainty due to the effects of the cost-of-living crisis, the PCC considers that the free reserves requirement should be held at three months' routine general fund expenditure, plus committed future expenditure on other projects, where funds permit. This is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies. At 31 December 2022, the PCC had net free reserves of £247,962 (2021: £235,619) as outlined below, which the PCC acknowledges well exceeds the total free reserves requirement of £79,918 (2021: £68,220).

	2022 £	2021 £
Total reserves	329,196	323,780
Less: restricted funds	(25,301)	(23,218)
Less: endowment funds	(16,877)	(18,796)
Less: unrestricted tangible fixed assets used in the continuing work of the PCC	(39,056)	(46,147)
Free reserves	247,962	235,619
Free reserves requirement:		
Reserve agreed by PCC	74,168	62,470
Balance allocated to the anticipated cost of fabric repairs	5,750	5,750
Free reserves	79,918	68,220

All three churches are planning significant expenditure in 2023 and beyond. Christ Church is planning major work in the next three years to coincide with their 150-year anniversary celebrations; this may include work around the altar, redecorations of the church, moving the font and putting toilets into the church. They have spoken to the DAC (Diocesan Advisory Committee) and have appointed an architect.

In 2023, Holy Trinity expects to repair and redecorate the front exterior of the church, costing around £5,200.

St John the Divine expects to spend a significant sum on a new heating system in 2023, for which they are likely to be applying for grant funding. They are also looking at upgrading their electrical systems and still have some roof repairs to be completed.

So, although the free reserves position at 31 December 2022 may be looking very healthy, it is clear that all three churches are mindful of their responsibility in thinking ahead to the appropriate use of the PCC's charitable reserves.

6.3 Investment Policy

Funds not immediately required for working capital are partly placed on short term deposit and partly invested in longer-term investment funds. The PCC currently uses the CCLA Church of England Deposit Fund, Charities Aid Foundation investment funds and M&G Charity Funds. The PCC expects to do some work in the near future on drawing up a formal investment policy.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Report of the Parochial Church Council For the year ended 31 December 2022

6.4 Going Concern

Each year it is the PCC's responsibility to state whether or not the financial statements have been drawn up on a going concern basis (see the accounting policy note on page 17). Going concern is the assumption that an entity, in this case the PCC, has the resources (financial or otherwise) needed to continue operating for the foreseeable future and, in particular, for at least 12 months from the date of approval by the PCC of these financial statements. If the going concern principle did not apply, then the accounts would be drawn up on an insolvent basis.

7 Volunteers

We are grateful to all our churchwardens for their many and varied labours: Alison Fletcher Rogers at Christ Church, Richard Blades and John Eades at Holy Trinity and Ann Roberts at St John's. Our co-treasurers, Ann Roberts and Kerry Porritt, have had an excellent first year, ensuring our financial affairs are being guided wisely and safely. We must also extend our thanks to Jenny Harper, who has been a conscientious PCC Secretary this past year but needs to pass on the baton as she moves to Kingston. We especially thank Alison and Richard as they stand down as churchwardens, having done the full six years, and so having given so much of their time and talents to our common life.

We would like to thank all the volunteers who work so tirelessly on our behalf to make our churches the lively and vibrant communities they are. As well as those in licensed lay roles, we particularly want to mention all those who work behind the scenes and in the more invisible areas of our church life.

8 Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure and is a Registered Charity.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The PCC consists of 18 elected members, six from Christ Church, six from Holy Trinity and six from St John the Divine, plus the team clergy. During the past year the PCC has met six times.

A range of issues are discussed during PCC meetings, including considering ministry needs, parish communications and planning for key events in the parish, as well as hearing reports from the individual churches and having oversight of the Mission Action Plans for all three churches. The PCC has authority for finance across the parish.

The PCC appoints six foundation governors at *Holy Trinity School* and two at *The Priory School*, and members of our congregations also serve as governors appointed by Southwark Diocesan Board of Education. This year, one governor was appointed to each school.

The PCC Standing Committee, which consists of the Team Rector, Team Vicar, six Churchwardens, Secretary and co-Treasurers, has met on several occasions. The Curate has recently also been invited to attend these meetings. This group has set the agenda for the PCC meetings and ensured its smooth running. In addition, the PCC Business Committee – Team Rector, Team Vicar, co-Treasurers and Secretary – has met to make certain that all aspects of church business are covered.

The PCC complies with diocesan requirements with regard to safeguarding policies and risk assessment. It also complies with statutory requirements with regard to employment, access and health and safety.

Amongst other things, the PCC:

- oversaw implementation of the Mission Action Plan (in particular, welcoming the links that had been established with Griffiths Road Methodist Church and the Friends of Nelson Gardens);

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Report of the Parochial Church Council For the year ended 31 December 2022

-
- re-affirmed its commitment to achieving Eco Church status (as part of which, a high-quality Tearfund course on Christianity and Climate Change was run across the team, the team's toilets were twinned with toilets in Africa, and the initiative "Take the Jump" was promoted at Holy Trinity); and
 - ensured that the team was recognised as a welcoming church for released prisoners as part of the prison's awareness initiative.

9 Responsibilities of Trustees for the Financial Statements

The PCC is responsible for preparing the report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice. Charity law in England and Wales requires the PCC to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the PCC and of the income and application of income of the charity for that period.

In preparing those financial statements, the PCC is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the activities of the charity will continue.

The PCC is responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enables them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the governing document. The PCC is 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. The PCC is responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included in the charity's website.

10 Approval

The PCC has elected to have an independent examination rather than an audit of the financial statements. The role of Independent Examiner is a personal appointment and this has been carried out by John Helm. Mr Helm has indicated his willingness to continue in this role and accordingly a resolution will be submitted to the forthcoming Annual Parochial Church Meeting to re-appoint him as the PCC's Independent Examiner for 2023.

The report of the PCC was approved by the PCC on 3 May 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



The Revd Mark Eminson
PCC Chair

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Report of the Independent Examiner to the Parochial Church Council of Merton Priory

I report on the accounts of the Parochial Church Council of Merton Priory for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on pages 15 to 32.

Respective responsibilities of PCC and examiner

The PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The PCC consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiners' report

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 those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and the seeking of explanations from you as 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 set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the church as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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



John Helm
Chartered Accountant
3 May 2023

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Statement of Financial Activities For the year ended 31 December 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Endowment Funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Endowment Funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £
Income from:	2								
Donations and legacies		166,695	14,129	-	180,824	183,892	12,607	-	196,499
Charitable activities		1,885	-	-	1,885	2,690	-	-	2,690
Other trading activities		132,103	-	-	132,103	88,921	-	-	88,921
Investments		2,867	580	-	3,447	3,045	422	-	3,467
Other		1,810	-	-	1,810	-	-	-	-
Total Income		305,360	14,709	0	320,069	278,548	13,029	0	291,577
Expenditure on:									
Raising funds	3	5,762	-	-	5,762	1,195	-	-	1,195
Charitable activities	4	290,912	12,626	-	303,538	248,684	10,847	-	259,531
Total Expenditure		296,674	12,626	0	309,300	249,879	10,847	0	260,726
Net gains/(losses) on investments		(3,434)	-	(1,919)	(5,353)	(634)	-	2,058	1,424
Net income	5	5,252	2,083	(1,919)	5,416	28,035	2,182	2,058	32,275
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	24,758	(10,695)	(14,063)	-
Net movement in funds		5,252	2,083	(1,919)	5,416	52,793	(8,513)	(12,005)	32,275
Total funds brought forward		281,766	23,218	18,796	323,780	228,973	31,731	30,801	291,505
Total funds carried forward		287,018	25,301	16,877	329,196	281,766	23,218	18,796	323,780

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Balance Sheet As at 31 December 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Endowment Funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Fixed Assets						
Tangible Assets	6	39,056	-	-	39,056	46,147
Investments	7	38,647	-	14,452	53,099	58,369
		77,703	0	14,452	92,155	104,516
Current Assets						
Debtors	8	32,484	3,845	-	36,329	36,049
Cash At Bank And In Hand		197,598	21,560	2,425	221,583	234,979
		230,082	25,405	2,425	257,912	271,028
Creditors - Amounts Falling Due Within One Year	9	20,767	104	-	20,871	51,764
Net Current Assets		209,315	25,301	2,425	237,041	219,264
Net Assets		287,018	25,301	16,877	329,196	323,780
Represented by:						
Endowment Funds	10	-	-	16,877	16,877	18,796
Restricted Income Funds	11	-	25,301	-	25,301	23,218
Unrestricted Income Funds	12	287,018	-	-	287,018	281,766
Total Funds		287,018	25,301	16,877	329,196	323,780

The financial statements were approved by the PCC on 3 May 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



The Revd Mark Eminson
PCC Chair



Dr Kerry Porritt
PCC Co-Treasurer



Ann Roberts
PCC Co-Treasurer

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2022

I Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS 102). The financial statements are drawn up on the historical cost basis of accounting except for the revaluation of leasehold land and buildings and investments which are shown at market value.

The Parochial Church Council of Merton Priory was formed in May 2009 from the amalgamation of three separate parishes: Christ Church, Colliers Wood; Holy Trinity & St Peter, South Wimbledon; St John the Divine, Merton. These financial statements incorporate the income and expenditure, assets and liabilities of the combined parish, including comparative figures for the previous year. The finances of the three individual churches are maintained separately and are therefore accounted for as designated funds.

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

The PCC meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

Going Concern

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern and accordingly the accounts have been drawn up on a going concern basis (see also Section 5.4 of the Annual Report on page 12).

Income recognition

Voluntary income and donations (including legacies) are accounted for once the PCC has entitlement to the income, it is probable the income will be received, and the amount of income receivable can be reliably measured. Income from the recovery of tax on gift aided donations is accounted for in the period to which the relevant donation is received. Grant income is recognised on a receivable basis.

The income from trading activities includes rental income from the letting of church premises which is accounted for when earned. It is shown gross, with the associated costs included in fundraising costs.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

Expenditure recognition

Expenditure is accrued as soon as a liability is considered probable, and the amount of obligation can be measured reliably. Longer term liabilities are discounted to present value. The PCC is not registered for VAT and accordingly expenditure includes VAT where appropriate.

Expenditure included in Raising Funds includes amounts incurred in obtaining grants and other donations and property maintenance costs.

Expenditure on church activities includes those costs incurred to fulfil the PCC's principal objects, as outlined in the Report of the PCC. These include grants payable and governance costs. Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2022

constructive obligation on the PCC. The Diocesan Parish Support Fund is accounted for when due. Governance costs comprise all costs involving the public accountability of the PCC and its compliance with regulation and good practice. These costs include costs related to the independent examination and legal fees.

The PCC contributes to employees' pension plans with the Church Workers' Pension Fund (see Note 4a).

Rentals under operating leases are charged as incurred over the term of the lease.

Tangible Fixed Assets

Consecrated and benefice property of any kind is excluded from the financial statements by Section 10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011.

Moveable church furnishings are held by the Team Rector and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC. They are considered inalienable property and require a faculty for disposal. They are listed in the churches' inventories, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). Items are capitalised at cost and depreciated over their useful economic life other than where insufficient cost information is available. Individual items of furnishings with a purchase price of £1,500 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Equipment and Fixtures & Fittings and such other functional equipment used on a continuing basis for the work of the PCC is depreciated on a straight-line basis over five years (equipment, currently none held) or ten years (fixtures and fittings). Individual items of equipment and fixtures & fittings with a purchase price of £1,500 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Fixed Asset Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

Debtors

Debtors are included at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months.

Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation arising from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are recognised at their settlement amount.

Fund accounting

The funds held by the charity are either:

Unrestricted general funds that can be used for PCC ordinary purposes. These include funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC. Apart from the PCC General Fund, all other unrestricted funds are designated to the three individual churches and are therefore reported as designated funds.

Restricted funds represent donations received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2022

The *expendable endowment fund (Holy Trinity & St Peter)* was established following the receipt of a substantial legacy from a parishioner. The terms of the legacy are such that the capital can either be invested or expended in the furtherance of the church's ministry in the parish. It has therefore been accounted for as an expendable endowment. Income arising from the invested funds is credited to unrestricted incoming resources.

The *permanent endowment fund (St John the Divine)* was given for building a new church, completed in 1914, with the income from the remaining endowment capital to be used on the fabric of the existing building.

2 Income

	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Donations & legacies				
Offerings and donations	131,540	11,940	143,480	153,373
Income tax reclaimed	27,836	2,189	30,025	29,419
Legacies	2,000	-	2,000	12,000
Grants	5,319	-	5,319	1,707
	166,695	14,129	180,824	196,499
Charitable activities				
Fees for weddings and funerals	1,885	-	1,885	2,690
	1,885	0	1,885	2,690
Other trading activities				
Bookstall, magazine etc sales	8	-	8	10
Fund raising events	16,960	-	16,960	6,607
Lettings income	115,135	-	115,135	82,304
	132,103	0	132,103	88,921
Investments				
Dividends	608	430	1,038	1,090
Bank Interest	886	150	1,036	547
Rent from land	1,373	-	1,373	1,830
	2,867	580	3,447	3,467
Other				
Insurance claim	1,810	-	1,810	-
	1,810	0	1,810	0
	305,360	14,709	320,069	291,577

These figures for Mission Giving & Donations do not include gifts banked directly to charities for Christian Aid Week or cheques sent direct to the Bishop of Southwark's Lent Appeal. The parish also makes significant contributions in kind, such as the substantial amount of food given each year to the Wimbledon Food Bank.

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF
MERTON PRIORY**

**Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2022**

3 Expenditure on Raising Funds

	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Costs of fundraising events	4,609	-	4,609	1,116
Costs of supporting regular giving	1,153	-	1,153	79
	5,762	0	5,762	1,195

4 Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Parish Support Fund	165,800	-	165,800	160,380
Staff costs (see note 4a)	15,761	-	15,761	13,612
Church Life & Outreach	11,874	524	12,398	5,610
Missionary & Charitable Giving and Gifts (note 4b)	9,487	3,702	13,189	5,349
Provision of Office & Support	13,613	8,400	22,013	13,922
Provision of Buildings and Facilities	71,137	-	71,137	57,778
Governance costs	3,240	-	3,240	2,880
	290,912	12,626	303,538	259,531

Included within expenditure on church activities (see note 4 above) are the following staff costs:

	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Gross salaries	15,586	-	15,586	13,445
Pension contributions	175	-	175	167
	15,761	0	15,761	13,612

These staff costs exclude the amounts paid to Southwark Diocese for the stipendiary clergy, who are funded through the Parish Support Fund. Employer's National Insurance is covered by the government's Employment Allowance. All employed staff are paid at least the London Living Wage. Information on the staff pension scheme is given below.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2022

During the year the churches employed various part-time staff, as follows:

- Holy Trinity: the post of Parish Administrator was vacant throughout 2022 and a Director of Music was appointed in October 2022 (2021: both vacant); the church employed one Bookkeeper (2021: one).
- Christ Church and St John the Divine jointly employed an Organist/Music Leader (2021: one), and each church employed a Cleaner (2021: one each).

4a Staff Pensions

Merton Priory PCC participates in the Pension Builder Scheme section of the Church Workers Pension Fund (CWPF) for lay staff. CWPF is administered by the Church of England Pensions Board, which holds the CWPF assets separately from those of the Employer and other participating employers.

The Church Workers Pension Fund has two sections:

1. the Defined Benefits Scheme;
2. the Pension Builder Scheme, which has two subsections;
 - a. a deferred annuity section known as Pension Builder Classic; and,
 - b. a cash balance section known as Pension Builder 2014.

Pension Builder Scheme

Both sections of the Pension Builder Scheme are classed as defined benefit schemes.

Pension Builder Classic provides a pension, accumulated from contributions paid and converted into a deferred annuity during employment based on terms set and reviewed by the Church of England Pensions Board from time to time. Discretionary increases may also be added, depending on investment returns and other factors.

Pension Builder 2014 is a cash balance scheme that provides a lump sum which members use to provide benefits at retirement. Pension contributions are recorded in an account for each member. Discretionary bonuses may be added before retirement, depending on investment returns and other factors. The account, plus any bonuses declared is payable, unreduced, from age 65.

There is no sub-division of assets between employers in each section of the Pension Builder Scheme.

The scheme is considered to be a multi-employer scheme as described in Section 28 of FRS 102. This is because it is not possible to attribute the Pension Builder Scheme's assets and liabilities to specific employers and means that contributions are accounted for as if the Scheme were a defined contribution scheme. The pensions costs charged to the SOFA (Statement of Financial Activities) in the year are the contributions payable (2022: £175; 2021: £167).

A valuation of the Pension Builder Scheme is carried out once every three years. The most recent valuation was carried out as at 31 December 2019. The next valuation is due as at 31 December 2022.

For the Pension Builder Classic section, the valuation revealed a deficit of £4.8m on the ongoing assumptions used. At the most recent annual review, the Board chose to grant a discretionary bonus of 10.1% following improvements in the funding position over 2022. There is no requirement for deficit payments at the current time.

For the Pension Builder 2014 section, the valuation revealed a surplus of £5.5m on the ongoing assumptions used. There is no requirement for deficit payments at the current time.

The legal structure of the scheme is such that if another employer fails, **Merton Priory PCC** could become responsible for paying a share of the failed employer's pension liabilities.

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF
MERTON PRIORY**

**Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2022**

4b Expenditure – Missionary & Charitable Giving and Gifts

	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Giving to Church overseas & missionary societies:				
Word Day of Prayer	-	-	-	150
Joshua Orphan & Community Care, Malawi	1,967	-	1,967	-
Embrace the Middle East	451	-	451	-
International Rescue Committee		184	184	-
Red Cross Somalia	100	184	284	-
Gifts to Relief & development agencies:				
Toilet Twinning	364	-	364	-
Christian Aid	-	-	-	87
Ukraine Appeal	-	161	161	-
Giving to Home mission & church organisations:				
Christian CARE Merton	-	332	332	1,960
Bishop of Southwark's Lent Appeal	-	1,241	1,241	75
Faith in Action – Merton Homelessness Project	1,966	168	2,134	-
Merton Night Shelter	586	82	668	-
Gifts to Secular Charities:				
Rethink Mental Illness	-	-	-	1,750
Merton Citizens (part of Citizens UK)	1,300	-	1,300	1,300
South London Refugee Association	1,967	-	1,967	-
Other donations under £100	-	-	-	27
Book Trust	-	375	375	-
Jigsaw4u	786	-	786	-
Samaritans	-	225	225	-
Shooting Star Hospice	-	375	375	-
Time is Precious	-	375	375	-
	9,487	3,702	13,189	5,349

5 Net Income

	2022 £	2021 £
This is stated after charging:		
Depreciation of owned assets	7,091	7,093
Independent examination fee (including preparation of financial statements)	3,240	1,680
Other fees paid to independent examiner	-	-

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2022

6 Tangible Fixed Assets

	Fixtures, fittings & equipment £
Cost	
At 1 January 2022	105,126
Additions	-
Disposals	-
At 31 December 2022	105,126
Depreciation	
At 1 January 2022	58,979
Charge for Year	7,091
At 31 December 2022	66,070
Net Book Value	
At 31 December 2022	39,056
At 31 December 2021	46,147

Moveable Church Furnishings:

None of the three churches hold any moveable church furnishings purchased since 2001 which are capitalised and depreciated over their useful economic life (see Accounting Policies).

Fixtures & Fittings:

Christ Church: The church sound system was purchased in 2009 and is now fully depreciated.

Holy Trinity: The grand piano (purchased in 2002) and refurbishment of the reception area (2007) are both fully depreciated. The audio-visual system was installed in 2015 and will be depreciated over ten years. The original kitchen improvements from 2002 were disposed of and a new kitchen installed in 2021, which is being depreciated over ten years.

St John the Divine: A lighting control panel was purchased in 2018 and is being depreciated over ten years.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2022

7 Fixed Asset Investments

	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Endowment Funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Market Value				
At 1 January 2022	41,998	16,371	58,369	56,866
Net of purchases and sales	83	-	83	79
Net gain/ (losses) on revaluation	(3,434)	(1,919)	(5,353)	1,424
	<u>38,647</u>	<u>14,452</u>	<u>53,099</u>	<u>58,369</u>
At 31 December 2022	38,647	14,452	53,099	58,369
Market value represented by investments in:				
Charibond Charities Fixed Interest				
Common investment Fund shares	2,872	14,452	17,324	28,836
CBF Investment Fund shares	25,775	-	25,775	19,533
Polka Theatre – interest in the freehold	10,000	-	10,000	10,000
	<u>38,647</u>	<u>14,452</u>	<u>53,099</u>	<u>58,369</u>

Christ Church: CBF Investment Fund shares: Trust Fund T0169, held by the Diocese of Southwark as custodian trustee, originated from the sale of a passageway in 1951 for £200. Funds are invested in 139.11 CBF Investment Fund shares with the dividend reinvested.

St John the Divine: CBF Investment Fund shares: Trust Fund T0046 held by the Diocese of Southwark as custodian trustee. The fund was a permanent endowment (capital) for building a new church, completed in 1914, with the remaining capital invested to provide an income restricted to work on the fabric of the building.

Holy Trinity: Charibond Charities Fixed Interest Common Investment Fund: original purchase price £27,734 for 24,426 units. The current holding is 23,798 units at 31 December 2022. The unit trust invests in government and corporate fixed interest securities.

The Polka Theatre: a nominal figure of the PCC's interest in the freehold of the Polka Theatre (240 The Broadway, London SW19 1SB) which is subject to a long-term lease. This has not been the subject of an independent valuation.

8 Debtors

	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Prepayments and other debtors	2,944	-	2,944	1,808
Gift Aid recoverable	14,428	3,845	18,273	23,482
Accrued income	15,112	-	15,112	10,759
	<u>32,484</u>	<u>3,845</u>	<u>36,329</u>	<u>36,049</u>

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF
MERTON PRIORY**

**Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2022**

9 Creditors - Amounts Falling Due Within One Year

	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Accruals	13,506	104	13,610	43,719
Payroll tax creditor	-	-	-	550
Pension creditor	32	-	32	30
Income received in advance	7,229	-	7,229	7,465
	20,767	104	20,871	51,764

10 Endowment Funds

10a Current Year	At 1 January 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains/ (losses) £	At 31 December 2022 £
St John the Divine (permanent) Mackrell Trust (T0046/capital)	18,796	-	-	-	(1,919)	16,877
Total	18,796	0	0	0	(1,919)	16,877

10b Prior Year	At 1 January 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains/ (losses) £	At 31 December 2021 £
Holy Trinity (expendable) Marian Esling Legacy (capital)	14,063	-	-	(14,063)	-	0
St John the Divine (permanent) Mackrell Trust (T0046/capital)	16,738	-	-	-	2,058	18,796
Total	30,801	0	0	(14,063)	2,058	18,796

Marian Esling Legacy (capital): the DCC, in consultation with the congregation in 2007, decided that 55% of the expendable endowment Marian Esling Legacy Fund would be given away to charitable organisations over a period of five years, the last year of which was 2013. The remaining 45% of the expendable endowment would be used for capital projects in the church. During 2021, the final balance of £14,063 was used towards the cost of the new kitchen.

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF
MERTON PRIORY**

**Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2022**

II Restricted Funds

I Ia Current Year	At 1 January 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers	Gains/ (losses) £	At 31 December 2022 £
PCC						
Curate Housing	-	8,400	(8,400)	-	-	0
Youth Work	2,499	-	(523)	-	-	1,976
Christ Church						
Merton Night Shelters	1,771	187	-	-	-	1,958
Children's Society	408	-	-	-	-	408
Christian Aid	427	-	-	-	-	427
Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call	194	-	-	-	-	194
Faith in Action	574	-	-	-	-	574
Christian Care	-	536	(332)	-	-	204
150th Anniversary Fund	537	334	-	-	-	871
Hymn Book Fund	295	-	-	-	-	295
Holy Trinity						
Merton Night Shelters	3,542	1,211	(150)	-	-	4,603
Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call	564	256	(820)	-	-	0
Flower Fund	4	-	-	-	-	4
Junior Church collections for charity	1,125	-	(1,125)	-	-	0
Other Restricted Donations	309	2,783	(754)	-	-	2,338
St John the Divine						
Bells Centenary Project	2,258	-	-	-	-	2,258
Mission & Charities	-	422	(522)	-	-	(100)
Church Maintenance & Repairs: Mackrell Trust (T0046/income)	8,711	580	-	-	-	9,291
Total	23,218	14,709	(12,626)	0	0	25,301

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2022

I Ib Prior Year	At 1 January 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains/ (losses) £	At 31 December 2021 £
PCC						
Curate Housing	-	4,200	(4,200)	-	-	0
Youth Work	2,499	-	-	-	-	2,499
Other Restricted Donations	-	538	(538)	-	-	0
Christ Church						
Merton Night Shelters	1,771	-	-	-	-	1,771
Children's Society	408	-	-	-	-	408
Christian Aid	227	200	-	-	-	427
Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call	-	184	-	10	-	194
Faith in Action	-	574	-	-	-	574
Other Charities	10	-	-	(10)	-	0
150th Anniversary Fund	187	350	-	-	-	537
Hymn Book Fund	295	-	-	-	-	295
Holy Trinity						
Kitchen Refurbishment	10,070	625	-	(10,695)	-	0
Merton Night Shelters	3,542	-	-	-	-	3,542
Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call	-	564	-	-	-	564
Merton Citizens	192	-	(192)	-	-	0
Flower Fund	4	-	-	-	-	4
Junior Church collections for charity	1,125	-	-	-	-	1,125
Other Restricted Donations	308	5,210	(5,209)	-	-	309
St John the Divine						
Bells Centenary Project	2,804	-	(546)	-	-	2,258
Mission & Charities	-	162	(162)	-	-	0
Church Maintenance & Repairs: Mackrell Trust (T0046/income)	8,289	422	-	-	-	8,711
Total	31,731	13,029	(10,847)	(10,695)	0	23,218

Descriptions of the main restricted funds are as follows:

PCC

- **Curate Housing:** monthly rent is payable to Southwark Diocese and is covered by a very generous restricted donation.
- **Youth Work:** this was originally the balance held by Morden Baptist Church when the Fusion Youth Group was transferred to the Merton Priory Team. The Fusion Youth Group no longer exists and Morden Baptist Church does not want the funds returned to them. The PCC decided in January 2018 that this fund could be used for any youth work across the three churches, and in 2022 was used to fund a Sunday evening outreach at St John's.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2022

Christ Church

- **Merton Night Shelter:** Christ Church is one of the locations for the night shelter for the homeless during the winter months and this fund represents incoming donations and outgoing expenses. The night shelter was not held during 2021 on the advice of Merton Council and Public Health England and in 2022 Christ Church supported Holy Trinity as the hosting venue. In 2021 Christ Church decided instead to support Faith in Action Merton Homelessness Project with its Christmas collections, for which £574 was raised.
- **150th Anniversary Fund:** in 2024, Christ Church will be 150 years old. This fund is to gather the proceeds, from appeals and fundraising, to be used for the enhancement of the building and projects within the local community.
- **Hymn Book Fund:** this was a specific appeal in 2012 for the purchase of new hymn books. Christ Church DCC will be reviewing what happens to the remaining balance.

Holy Trinity

- **Merton Night Shelter:** Holy Trinity is one of the locations for the night shelter for the homeless during the winter months and this fund represents incoming donations and outgoing expenses. On the advice of Merton Council and Public Health England, the night shelter was not held in 2021.
- **Junior Church collections:** regular Sunday collections by the children which are sent to a charity of their choice.
- **Other Restricted Donations:** the balance of £2,338 represents the remainder of a gift for future development of the prayer corner and a Christmas collection the Dons Local Action Group. During 2021, an anonymous gift of £5,000 was made towards Holy Trinity's contribution to the Diocesan Parish Support Fund, and £210 was raised at a poetry recital for Christian CARE Merton. In 2022, funds were raised to enable a winter Warm Space to operate through the coldest months.

St John the Divine

- **Mission & Charities:** restricted donations for charities. During 2022, funds were raised for both Christian Aid and the Bishop of Southwark's Lent Appeal.
- **Mackrell Trust (T0046):** an ancient permanent endowment for building a new church, held by the Diocese of Southwark as custodian trustee. The capital is not available for use but the interest may be used on the maintenance and repair of the church.

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF
MERTON PRIORY**

**Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2022**

I2 Unrestricted Funds

I2a Current Year	At 1 January 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains/ (losses) £	At 31 December 2022 £
Unrestricted						
PCC General Fund	1,000	1,404	(1,404)	-	-	1,000
Designated Funds (General)						
Christ Church	42,548	78,937	(74,520)	-	(374)	46,591
Holy Trinity	53,650	168,832	(168,091)	(5,400)	(3,060)	45,931
St John the Divine	47,097	50,269	(39,350)	-	-	58,016
Designated Funds (Specific)						
PCC: MP3 Players	558	-	-	-	-	558
Christ Church:						
Hall & Church Repairs Fund	716	-	-	-	-	716
Bells Fund	2,620	774	-	-	-	3,394
150th Anniversary Fund	-	5,144	(316)	-	-	4,828
Holy Trinity:						
Marian Esling Legacy (income)	42,307	-	-	-	-	42,307
Annual Tithe	12,200	-	(5,900)	5,400	-	11,700
Special Projects Fund	32,923	-	-	-	-	32,923
Fixed Assets Fund	44,065	-	(7,093)	-	-	36,972
St John the Divine						
Fixed Assets Fund	2,082	-	-	-	-	2,082
Total	281,766	305,360	(296,674)	0	(3,434)	287,018

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2022

12b Prior Year	At 1 January 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains/ (losses) £	At 31 December 2021 £
Unrestricted						
PCC General Fund	1,000	1,884	(1,884)	-	-	1,000
Designated Funds (General)						
Christ Church	37,381	79,228	(71,329)	(3,124)	392	42,548
Holy Trinity	34,399	160,491	(133,914)	(6,300)	(1,026)	53,650
St John the Divine	42,016	36,736	(31,655)	-	-	47,097
Designated Funds (Specific)						
PCC: MP3 Players	558	-	-	-	-	558
Christ Church:						
Hall & Church Repairs Fund	716	-	-	-	-	716
Bells Fund	-	-	(504)	3,124	-	2,620
Holy Trinity:						
Marian Esling Legacy (income)	42,098	209	-	-	-	42,307
Annual Tithe	9,400	-	(3,500)	6,300	-	12,200
Special Projects Fund	47,879	-	-	(14,956)	-	32,923
Fixed Assets Fund	11,097	-	(6,746)	39,714	-	44,065
St John the Divine						
Fixed Assets Fund	2,429	-	(347)	-	-	2,082
Total	228,973	278,548	(249,879)	24,758	(634)	281,766

Designated (General) Funds are funds which have been designated by the **PCC** to each **DCC** for unrestricted purposes.

Designated (Specific) Funds are funds which have been designated by each **DCC** for specific purposes.

PCC

- **MP3 Players Fund:** in some years, the parish drama group stages a production where 50% of the surplus is kept by the PCC and 50% designated to help with the costs of future MP3 productions.

Christ Church

- **Hall & Church Repairs Fund:** income from the Colliwobbles toddler group which is transferred for the use of hall and church repairs at the end of each year. The group has not restarted since the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Bells Fund:** will be used for the maintenance of the bells in the church. The transfer of £3,124 from the general fund in 2021 represents monies donated by the bellringers in previous years.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2022

- **150th Anniversary Fund:** in 2024, Christ Church will be 150 years old. This fund is to gather the proceeds, from appeals and fundraising, to be used for the enhancement of the building and projects within the local community.

Holy Trinity

- **Marian Esling Legacy (income):** the remaining interest on the Marian Esling Legacy Fund which is designated for capital projects.
- **Annual Tithe:** Holy Trinity gives away 5% of its unrestricted voluntary income, excluding fundraising and investment income, to charitable causes each year. The balance of £11,700 at the end of 2022 represented £6,300 from the 2021 tithe and £5,400 from the 2022 tithe, both of which will be distributed in 2023.
- **Special Projects Fund:** following a generous legacy and a gift weekend in 2018, the DCC felt it was appropriate to put aside some of this money to be used at a later date on special projects around the church that would enhance the building, such as refurbishing the kitchen and relocating the chapel to make it more accessible. £14,956 was transferred to the Fixed Assets Fund in 2021 to cover part of the cost of the new kitchen.
- **Fixed Assets Fund:** the remaining cost of tangible fixed assets, from where they are now depreciated. £39,714 was transferred to this fund in 2021 to cover the cost of the new kitchen which will be depreciated over 10 years.

St John the Divine

- **Fixed Assets Fund:** the remaining cost of tangible fixed assets, from where they are now depreciated.

13 Operating Lease Commitments

The total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are payable:

	2022 £	2021 £
Not later than one year	706	706
Later than one year and not later than five years	1,587	2,293
Free reserves	2,293	2,999

The previous printer/photocopier lease expired on 12 April 2021. The PCC signed a new lease on 9 April 2021 which commits the PCC to total lease payments of £3,528 over five years.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2022

14 Capital Commitments

The PCC has the following capital commitments, which it expects to complete in 2023:

	Expected Cost £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £
Christ Church				
No capital works planned for 2023	-	-	-	-
Holy Trinity				
Refurbishing lavatories	2,600	2,600	-	-
Redecorating committee room and reception area	1,500	1,500	-	-
Kitchen boiler replacement	1,650	1,650	-	-
St John the Divine				
No capital works planned for 2023	-	-	-	-
	5,750	5,750	0	0

15 Related Party Transactions and Balances

The expenses of three (2021: four) members of the PCC amounting to £8,722 (2021: £4,802) in relation to travel, housing, training and retreats were met by the PCC during the year.

Aggregated unrestricted donations from PCC members totalled £15,810 (2021: £19,052).

Accounts



The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Merton Priory

Registered Charity Number: 1134253

**Diocese of Southwark
Merton Deanery**

Annual Report and Financial Statements

31 December 2021

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

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THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Annual Report of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2021

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Merton Priory ("PCC") submits its report and the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2021. The financial statements have been prepared in the format prescribed by the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2015 (FRS102)) and the Financial Reporting Standard 102.

1 Aim and purposes

Merton Priory Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the Team Rector, the Revd Mark Eminson, and the Team Vicar, the Revd Alison Judge, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the fabric of the three churches of Christ Church, Colliers Wood; Holy Trinity and St Peter, South Wimbledon; St John the Divine, Merton, along with the two separate church halls of Christ Church and St John the Divine.

2 Objectives and activities

The PCC is committed to promoting the Gospel of Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England; the PCC seeks by encouraging co-operation between clergy, lay members of our congregation, and the wider community to undertake the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. We are guided by our vision statement, agreed in 2011, reaffirmed in both 2018 and early 2022 as part of our Mission Action Planning:

"In Merton Priory Team Ministry, we aim to be a community:

Faithful to God

Sharing with those in need

Caring for one another."

When planning the activities for the year, the Team Rector, Team Vicar and PCC have in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, and especially the guidance to charities for the advancement of religion. In particular we make it possible for people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Regular worship and prayer open to all: developing knowledge of and trust in God and learning about the Gospel;
- Provision of sacred spaces for personal prayer and contemplation;
- Provision of pastoral care and sacramental ministry for people living within the parish;
- Teaching the Christian faith through sermons, courses and small groups;
- Preparing people for baptism, first communion and confirmation;
- Leading Collective Worship, assemblies, and classes in church and community schools;
- Provision of activities with a Christian ethos for young people;
- Provision of social and community events and groups which strengthen outreach and fellowship;
- Fostering relationships with other organisations and churches in our parish and borough and cooperating with them in promoting social cohesion and meeting human need;
- Ministering to those who seek marriages and funerals, before, during and after these events;
- Supporting other charities in the UK and overseas and building active links with these.

To facilitate this work, we maintain the fabric of the three churches and two separate church halls.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Annual Report of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2021

3 Achievements and performance

Mission Action Plan



3 – 5 Year Vision

What God is calling our church to do and become in the next three to five years

To show God's love to everyone in our parish

For all three churches to be growing, thereby able to better serve our communities

With an especial focus for all three churches to enable growth at St John's and an increased presence on High Path

Core Statement

Our purpose/reason to be here

Faithful to God

Sharing with those in need

Caring for one another

Mission Priority One

Building congregation of St John's from within the Team

Mission Priority Two

Serving the community at High Path

Mission Priority Three

Ministry to young people, including schools

Action Goals for 3 – 5 years

1. Form leadership team to oversee Priority 1
2. Church graft from say HT to SJD
3. Early Service/Messy Church at SJD
4. Different time and/or style of service
5. All of the above grounded in prayer

Action Goals for 3 – 5 years

1. Form leadership team to oversee Priority 2
2. Audit of what the community wants
3. Working with partners on the estate
4. Increasing church/hall use for community
5. All of the above grounded in prayer

Action Goals for 3 – 5 years

1. Form leadership team to oversee Priority 3
2. Developing links with Merton Abbey/Harris
3. Bell-ringing for teenagers
4. The answer is table-tennis!
5. All of the above grounded in prayer

This year, notwithstanding the challenges of emerging from various stages of COVID-19 and various levels of lockdown, we were able to work through a process of discernment of vision aided by a Diocesan Mission Enabler, Katharine Von Schubert. Through a series of meetings with the clergy and PCC, via congregational questionnaires, at an Away Day and two further follow-up meetings, we arrived at the plan shown above. Its intention is very much for the three churches to unite in mission over the greatest area of need and opportunity, while realising that the whole of our work and mission are much broader. To this end, we retain reference to the Five Marks of Mission as agreed by the Church of England (see below), which also provide a benchmark by which to measure our work.

The Five Marks of Mission

- To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
- To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
- To respond to human need by loving service
- To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation
- To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

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Faithful to God

As Christians our first commitment is to God – and all our other vocations find their place within this commitment. Our principal expression of our faithfulness to God is in worship and prayer, the goal and end of all human existence.

The year began with rapidly rising Covid cases, such that, following recommendation from local and regional government, the PCC and DCCs voted overwhelmingly to close for public worship. This decision was reviewed a couple of times and it was latterly agreed to re-open on Mothering Sunday, 14 March, with the *Eucharist* at all three churches.

Congregational numbers across the three churches have taken time to build up. Certainly, *Easter* attendance was lower than usual at 91 adults and 14 children at Holy Trinity, 20 adults at St John the Divine and 45 adults at Christ Church; likewise *Christmas*, as the Omicron variant spread rapidly, with 190 adults and 78 children at Holy Trinity, 35 adults at St John the Divine and 95 adults at Christ Church.

Average Sunday attendance throughout 2021 was 67 adults and 24 children at Holy Trinity, nine adults at St John the Divine and 41 adults and four children at Christ Church.

It was good to have an in-person *Community Carol Service* at Christ Church, with Colliers Wood Chorus and many other friends from the community joining us. The *Early Service* at Holy Trinity (for children under six and their carers) left the digital realm and began meeting informally outside in the church garden from late May until October when it returned to church after a hiatus of 18 months or more; numbers attending were often close to pre-pandemic levels at 55 adults and 58 children.

The more contemplative *Team Evening Service* resumed in September and now at St John the Divine, fitting in with our MAP priorities. Attendance has been slow in building up (average attendance of eight), so this will be something to keep under review, although one-off services such as Choral Evensong and Advent Carols had 29 and 51 respectively.

Weekday Morning and Evening Prayer and *Eucharists* continued throughout the year, from March onwards. A weekly Monday evening *Finding Sanctuary* time of meditation, previously held at St John the Divine, has remained online by popular request; and a *weekly meditation group* at Christ Church linked with the World Community for Christian Meditation has continued since churches opened up with two new members and an average attendance of eight.

Private Prayer was maintained in various forms throughout the year, not least offering a lifeline to some when churches were shut for public worship at the beginning of the year.

A different kind of lifeline for those two months was available with *Coffee and Chat* over Zoom each Sunday morning, allowing members of all our churches to enjoy a time of fellowship each week. In terms of digital engagement, the number of YouTube views averaged 30 when churches were open and 70 when they were closed.

Among our church membership, it was often children and families with whom we lost most contact. At Holy Trinity, *Junior Church* operated using separate bubbles through the spring and then it was pleasing to be open to all-comers from the autumn. For the first time, Holy Trinity staged an acted-out *Nativity*, thanks to our new curate, Revd Simon Asquith, which involved some 40-50 children. Christ Church families have been slow to return. The *Annual Crib Service* was well attended mostly by local families.

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Inevitably, *Baptisms* were almost off at the start of the year but subsequently there was quite a rush, getting through the COVID-19 backlog! Across the year, we welcomed 36 people into the fellowship of the church through Baptism. Unfortunately, *First Communion* preparation was not feasible again, although is scheduled for May 2022. Thankfully, five candidates who had had one of the longest periods of *Confirmation* preparation were able to be confirmed at Southwark Cathedral in November.

Sharing with those in need

Our churches exist for all those who live in our parish and any others who can find solace or belonging in them. 'Those in need' is not restricted to those in pastoral or material extremity but to every human being's need for fellowship and love. It is in knowing our need that we discover God's grace.

For young children and carers, *T3 (Trinity, Tots & Toys)* at Holy Trinity was re-launched in September 2021, thanks to a new leader stepping forward, and has been well-received by a steady flow of people. *Colliwobbles* at Christ Church has been much missed as we look for volunteers to help run it. The *Merton Nightshelter Project* did not go ahead this year, following advice from Merton Council and Public Health England. This prompted Christ Church to support *Faith in Action – Merton Homelessness Project*, a local charity working with people who have housing problems, as their Christmas Charity this year. Christ Church has also continued its link with *Christian CARE Merton*, a local charity based in Mitcham, that provides practical support to families in need.

We continue our links with *Merton Citizens*, part of our previous MAP. This is a community organising alliance of different organisations that work together to champion positive change and social justice in our neighbourhood. During the pandemic each of the areas for action has continued to pursue its work via Zoom meetings. Members have also participated in a South London COVID-19 Mental Health Prevention Summit with members of South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust keen to engage as many community groups as possible to consider the impact of COVID and lockdown on the mental health of various groups in our communities. The housing group continues to build on its relationships within Merton Council to press for affordable housing. The refugee group is also very active.

We contribute to ministry in the *schools* of our parish. The PCC appoints six foundation governors at *Holy Trinity School* and two at *The Priory School*, and members of our congregations also serve as governors appointed by Southwark Diocesan Board of Education. The Team Rector is ex officio governor of these schools. Once it was possible to enter the schools, from March 2021, *Holy Trinity* and *The Priory* received weekly live assemblies, a different year group at a time with whole-school worship returning in the autumn, praise be! *Holy Trinity* sadly missed their Leavers' Service for a second year, due to COVID-19, but *The Priory* were able to attend the church for Leavers', Harvest and Remembrance services. We are also in close contact with community schools in our parish; we were able to visit *Pelham School* on a couple of occasions. The Revd Alison Judge continues to work with *Merton Abbey School* and it was great to go into school for an Advent Assembly and sharing the Christmas Story with Nursery and Reception children.

We communicate with those who live in our parish through regular door-to-door leaflets before Christmas and Easter, through our websites and through flyers distributed in schools and other community places. Holy Trinity's Christmas leaflet was a glossy version again, tied in with the Church of England Christmas campaign. This year, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, the website and e-notices have been effective in communicating news and updates regarding the virus and our response.

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2021 was the sixth year of contributing to the diocese through the *Parish Support Fund*. Given the crisis of the virus and the reduction in hall income and pressures on giving, it has been a heroic effort that the three churches met their commitments in full. During the year we have also given to a number of charities, both through planned donations and special collections (see note 3.2 on page 25).

We know that mutual care and support is the hall-mark of a truly Christian community. In this way we embody God's love in our life together.

Various groups exist to promote fellowship and learning. A *prayer group* at Christ Church led by Joy Lyons has continued to hold members of the parish in prayer via a phone network during lockdown and meeting in person at Christ Church on Wednesday afternoons once the church was open. *God in the Pub*, a monthly discussion of issues of faith and life, remained in its incarnation of *God in the Home*, thanks again to Zoom, but returned to its origins at The Sultan Pub in September. In Lent 2021 we met over Zoom to study "We need to talk about race: understanding the Black experience in white-majority churches" by Ben Lindsay. This enabled fruitful and frank discussions and, out of a desire to share our experience with a greater number, led to our receiving the Southwark Trinity Icon on loan across our churches in May. During these services, Lent group participants also shared their learning with the congregations. As a result of this engagement, several of us were invited to participate in a *Black History Month* event at Wimbledon Library in October, discussing racism in society and church. There remains an enthusiastic band of *bell ringers* at Christ Church and St John the Divine. They continued to ring once the churches were reopened and a risk assessment had been made. They are enjoying the added opportunity of ringing before the 6.00pm Evening Service at St John the Divine.

This year there were few occasions for fellowship, although a nice lunch was held following a Team Service in August to say farewell to the Revd Belemo Alagoa. There was also a memorable night of poetry when the retired actor Renu Setna performed Matthew Arnold's "Sohrab and Rustum", raising funds for *Christian CARE Merton*. The *MP3 Parish Pantomime* had to be on hold this year. Holy Trinity *Christmas Fair* returned as an in-person event and was well-attended and raised a good amount of money.

Holy Trinity hosted two *weddings* this year, one with a strong pastoral connection and the other a beneficiary of changed plans due to COVID. This was a novelty, given the previous wedding had been four years earlier! For the record, these were also the first two ceremonies entered into new marriage registers, following the Government's change in law regarding how marriages are registered (no longer by the church, but through the civil authorities).

Ministry to Care Homes in the Parish was able to resume: at *Queens Court Care Home*, both a Songs of Praise and a Communion each month, from May; while *South Park Residential Home* were able to host us for special Easter and Christmas services. We visit the sick at home and in hospital and offer pastoral care to those who have been bereaved. During the year the clergy conducted 10 *funerals*, of which five were held in our churches; amongst those who died during the year were sometime worshippers in our parish: Tony Dove, Anne Cox, Joan Brock and Girlie Robinson. We shall miss them. At All Souls' tide we invited those who are bereaved to a *Memorial service*, which was appreciated by the 41 in attendance; also because refreshments could be shared again. Holy Trinity was pleased to be able to hold a long-awaited Memorial Service for long-time member Barbara Fleming with clergy and congregants past and present, hymn-singing and food and drink.

Aware that care for one another extends to having proper procedures in place for protecting people, the PCC continues to promote cooperation between Parish Safeguarding Officers (PSO) in implementing our safeguarding action plan, has considered *Safeguarding* at PCC meetings, and has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. This year we recruited a new DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) Administrator to enable better working together across the Team and we are hopeful we will have one or two new PSOs very soon.

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We also preached on the subject of domestic abuse to raise awareness of the terrible plight of women (and occasionally men) in these situations. Our Health and Safety Officers have worked together to share good practice, draw up action plans for each church to ensure that we are fully compliant with our Health and Safety policy, and reported findings to the PCC. Naturally, they, churchwardens, clergy and others have been very busy in making and updating risk assessments and cleaning schedules to be COVID-compliant and to ensure safe spaces for worship and prayer.

The combined *electoral roll* for the parish in 2021 was 325 (Christ Church 63, Holy Trinity 228, St John the Divine 34); this number does not include children or the many people with a more fringe relationship with our churches. We also maintain congregational lists of all our contacts, which comply with data protection legislation; we are mindful of the requirements of GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations), which came into force in May 2018.

Personnel

The Team Rector, the Revd Mark Eminson, is responsible for Holy Trinity, while the Team Vicar, the Revd Alison Judge, is responsible for Christ Church and St John the Divine. The Revd Belemo Alagoa, Assistant Priest, (as already hinted) left us in August for a new post. We are incredibly grateful for her generous ministry amongst us over four years and wish her well in her new position responsible for St Paul's Church, Furzedown. The Revd Simon Asquith joined us in June, following ordination to the diaconate. He has settled in very well, both at Holy Trinity and across the Team and we look forward (God-willing) to his ordination to the priesthood in July 2022. Nick Mayhew-Smith, Parish Ordinand, has suspended his training at Ripon College, Cuddesdon, for a year, to be reviewed later in 2022. Joy Lyons, SPA (Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary), continues in her work of pastoral care for members of Christ Church and to co-ordinate the Prayer Group; her work is valued greatly. The Revd Canon Duncan Swan, Associate Priest, has finished work for Southwark Diocese as Deaneries Development Advisor on grounds of ill health, though we are pleased he and his family will be remaining in the parish.

The DCCs set rates of pay for employees in accordance with the skills and responsibilities of their roles and with the aim of recruiting and retaining high quality staff; we continue to abide by the commitment made in 2014 to pay no one less than the London Living Wage, as set by the Living Wage Foundation, which was £10.85 per hour from the beginning of 2021. The PCC has indicated a wish to become accredited as a Living Wage Employer.

A staff pension scheme with the Church Workers Pension Fund was introduced on 1 January 2015, which was well before the PCC's workplace pensions staging date of 1 June 2016. It is available to all employees regardless of salary level and the PCC contributes 5% of gross salary provided the employee also contributes a minimum of 5%.

We are very aware that officers and those in licensed or paid roles are only a small part of the ministry of all God's people and give thanks to God for the many volunteers who contribute to our worship and ministry.

Caring for one another

As a Team with three churches each hosting and committed to many activities, and offering many opportunities to our congregations and communities, we realise the challenge of good and clear communications to enable us to make the best use of our resources and to maximise our outreach. Through updating our websites and social media contacts, through work on our internal communications we hope to become more fully 'one body in Christ'. This has received fresh impetus this year as a result of the pandemic and we hope to build on this shared working in the future.

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Use of Church Buildings

The PCC has responsibility for the three sites where the churches are situated. Each site has had to respond to making our buildings COVID-19 secure and churchwardens and clergy have worked together to produce a risk assessment and cleaning protocols to ensure that our buildings are as safe as possible.

Christ Church: This consists of a church building and a hall building on the same site but not physically connected. Use of the church building by the local community for concerts and community events has begun to pick up this year. Flourish Day Nursery is now thoroughly embedded within the community and they continue to be excellent tenants. We continue working to improve the facilities within the church and had a very constructive meeting with Archdeacon Simon Gates, representatives of the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) and members of the congregations to think through our ideas.

Holy Trinity & St Peter: Within one building, Holy Trinity has a main worship area, clergy vestry, St Peter's Chapel, committee room, kitchen, church hall, St Cecilia Room; and an area of the church is set aside for quiet prayer. The church is widely used by outside agencies and the DCC has a licence under faculty to allow London Together Korean Church to use the worship area on Sunday afternoons. A quinquennial inspection in October 2021 revealed the need for a lot of minor repair and re-decoration work, which mercifully fitted with our plans and expectations. This means larger projects will need to be on hold for now, such as creating a downstairs chapel and repairing the stained-glass window in the East end. This year, however, the kitchen refurbishment was undertaken and a new kitchen mostly ready for the Christmas Fair and to be blessed in early 2022, in memory of long-time church member Ann Foster. New LED lighting has also been put in place, while the decking was replaced with durable recycled plastic, to improve our Eco-Church credentials. From the spring, hirer use picked up again, close to pre-pandemic levels.

St John the Divine: This comprises a church building and a hall building. These are located on separate sites, the hall being on the other side of the road from the church. The proposed redevelopment of High Path estate, which may incorporate the site of the church hall, continues and we hope soon to have more conversations with Clarion Housing Association in early 2022. Throughout 2021 Merton Music Foundation, based in Merton Abbey School, have used the church for Saturday practices and rehearsals. This has enabled them to maintain the level of students by providing a large well-ventilated breakout space from the school. In December St John the Divine was the venue for the Mayor of Merton, Cllr Michael Brunt, to hold his Christmas Event.

Our churches have not been open to the community as much as we would wish because of concerns about theft and vandalism, but the times of opening for private prayer - always with a couple of volunteers - have meant we have started to redress this. The PCC is keen that the facilities are used by the community as much as possible and therefore allows for the hiring of the buildings by community groups at a reduced or no cost basis. This is also supplemented by hiring to private groups on more commercial terms.

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4 Looking to the future

Our principal hope, channelled through this new Mission Action Plan, is to pray for, work for and see growth in the congregation of St John the Divine and in our engagement with the residents and organisations in that part of the parish. This will be a challenge and will take time, but, coming out of COVID, can be an opportunity to acquaint and re-acquaint ourselves with our neighbours and serve our community.

As part of the broader mission of the Church, we also hope to deepen our engagement with the Southwark Diocese Anti-Racism Charter, in terms of church membership and leadership, education, raising awareness, challenging injustice, and more (Fourth Mark of Mission).

Likewise, we intend to enhance our status as an Eco-Church across our Team life, not least following COP-26 in Glasgow (Fifth Mark of Mission).

As Inclusive Churches, we are also interested to see the outcomes of the national Church of England *Living in Love and Faith* process (Christian teaching and learning about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage). Two study groups used the course materials in the autumn and members submitted feedback to the National Church. On a different aspect of Inclusion, we are looking forward to completing a *Prison Awareness Course* with a view to becoming Welcoming Churches for former prisoners.

Finally, it seems pertinent for a second year to recall from a PCC meeting, members' range of hopes for the days beyond lockdown (since it all went on rather longer than anyone could have imagined!):

- have a full church;
- have a mixture of Zoom and face to face meetings (and fewer meetings!);
- expand our social gatherings;
- remember and value what we have discovered and be mindful of them;
- a party;
- remember to focus on the people and not get bogged down by other mundane things;
- have a big sing song;
- have regular community events in all three churches;
- continue some of the conversations which have been held over the phone and at a distance ... that communication can continue;
- a Team Service of thanksgiving and celebration, possibly with special thanks to the NHS and other key workers.

Another year on, many of these aspirations are underway and will indeed be brought together, in partnership and solidarity with many others, under the auspices of Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. It will be seen that we have lived, during COVID, through an intense period of history. Her Majesty's reign has traversed so much more and, it is to be asserted, provided a focus for continuity, adaptation and unity. These are all things which point to the One who holds all times, places and persons in His hands and it is to Him that we commend Her Majesty, our Team and its inhabitants, our common life of 2021 and all that awaits in 2022 and beyond.

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5 Financial Review

As we have found our way through the COVID-19 pandemic, so our finances have begun to recover.

Total income for the year increased by £42,256 (17%) to £291,577 (2020: £249,321) as set out in the accompanying financial statements on pages 18-39. Of this total, £13,029 was restricted income.

Total unrestricted donations and legacies were £183,892 which was a 5% increase from the previous year's figure of £174,833. Hearteningly, tax efficient planned giving pretty much held its own and we are grateful to our three congregations for sustaining their regular stewardship commitments despite the upheavals of national lockdowns and church buildings closed to public worship.

During 2021, Holy Trinity benefited from a generous legacy of £12,000 from the estate of the late Barbara Fleming. The PCC continued to make full use of the government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) to the tune of £1,707, to support the salaries of those staff who were put on furlough. Occasional or one-off giving recovered from the previous year as church buildings began to re-open.

Church and hall lettings also recovered and hirers returned, raising £82,304 in 2021 compared to £57,136 in 2020, an increase of £25,168 (44%). Gift Aid from tax efficient giving totalled £29,419 (2020: £28,091), while income from fundraising events at £6,607 was largely similar to the previous year.

Total expenditure increased by 2% to £260,726 (2020: £254,809). Some of this increase was due to paying housing costs for our new curate, covered by a generous restricted donation. Depreciation on fixed assets increased by £3,972 due to the installation of a new kitchen at Holy Trinity. Major capital works undertaken were replacement garden decking at Holy Trinity, a contribution to a new hall boiler at Christ Church, and a splendid external noticeboard, also at Christ Church. Unrestricted expenditure overall was broadly similar to the previous year.

We were pleased to be able to meet our pledged contributions to the Diocesan Parish Support Fund of £160,380 in 2021, which includes a contribution of £6,000 towards 2019 arrears from Christ Church. The Parish Support Fund pays for our parish clergy and other diocesan resources, as well as a contribution to poorer parishes.

The team as a whole happily contributed £5,349 (2020: £14,578) to mission giving and donations. The reduction from 2020 is due to Holy Trinity, for operational reasons, not yet having paid over its 2020 annual charitable tithe of £5,900, which it expects to pay early in 2022. Holy Trinity also transferred its tithe for 2021 of £6,300 to a designated fund which will likewise be distributed in 2022.

In summary, the surplus for the parish on unrestricted funds was £28,669, with an overall surplus of £30,851, both before unrealised gains on investments which totalled £1,424. The net movement of funds for 2021 was a surplus of £32,275, with all three churches turning in a surplus for the year. A very pleasing outcome all round, especially for a retiring PCC Treasurer!

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6 Reserves Policy

The PCC has examined the requirements for free reserves, i.e. those unrestricted funds not invested in tangible fixed assets (see Note 10 of the Financial Statements). Given the nature of Merton Priory Team Ministry's work and financial uncertainty due to the global pandemic, the PCC considers that the free reserves requirement should be held at three months' routine general fund expenditure, plus committed future expenditure on other projects, where funds permit. This is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies. At 31 December 2021, the PCC had net free reserves of £235,619 (2020: £215,447) as outlined below, which the PCC acknowledges well exceeds the total free reserves requirement of £68,220 (2020: £85,742).

	2021 £	2020 £
Total reserves	323,780	291,505
Less: restricted funds	(23,218)	(31,731)
Less: endowment funds	(18,796)	(30,801)
Less: unrestricted tangible fixed assets used in the continuing work of the PCC	(46,147)	(13,526)
Net free reserves	235,619	215,447
Free reserves requirement:		
Three months' routine expenditure	62,470	62,942
Anticipated cost of major capital works	5,750	22,800
Total free reserves requirement	68,220	85,742

All three churches are planning significant expenditure in 2023 and beyond. Christ Church is planning major work in the next three years to coincide with their 150 year anniversary celebrations; this may include work around the altar, redecorations of the church, moving the font and putting toilets into the church. They have already spoken to the DAC (Diocesan Advisory Committee) and are currently looking for an architect.

Apart from the £5,750 anticipated expenditure on capital commitments in 2022 listed in Note 10 of the Financial Statements, Holy Trinity will be spending a further £3,570 in 2022 on roof repairs, bell repair, repair of the west fence, large boiler repair, fuse boards and hall noticeboards. None of these items on their own come to over £1,500 so have not been listed separately in the Capital Commitments note of the Financial Statements. In 2023, the church expects to repair and redecorate the front exterior of the church, costing around £5,200.

St John the Divine will be spending significant sums on a new heating system either late in 2022 or in 2023, for which they are likely to be applying for grant funding. They are also looking at upgrading their electrical systems and still have some roof repairs to be completed.

So although the free reserves position at 31 December 2021 may be looking very healthy, it is clear that all three churches are mindful of their responsibility in thinking ahead to the appropriate use of the PCC's charitable reserves.

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7 Investment Policy

Funds not immediately required for working capital are partly placed on short term deposit and partly invested in longer-term investment funds. The PCC currently uses the CCLA Church of England Deposit Fund, Charities Aid Foundation investment funds and M&G Charity Funds. The PCC expects to do some work in the near future on drawing up a formal investment policy.

8 Going concern

Each year it is the PCC's responsibility to state whether or not the financial statements have been drawn up on a going concern basis (see the accounting policy note on page 20). Going concern is the assumption that an entity, in this case the PCC, has the resources (financial or otherwise) needed to continue operating for the foreseeable future and, in particular, for at least 12 months from the date of approval by the PCC of these financial statements. If the going concern principle did not apply then the accounts would be drawn up on an insolvent basis.

Clearly, as part of this year's going concern review, the PCC has had to continue to consider the impact of COVID-19. The financial risks to the ministry of the PCC increased significantly as a result of COVID-19 during 2020-21 and on into 2022. We do not yet fully know the complete direct and indirect economic impact of the virus on our church members, whose giving provides the bulk of our financial support.

We do know, however, that we could not let the church or halls during the lockdown periods and well beyond that. Our free reserves position, however, is adequate, so we do not currently envisage severe financial distress during 2022 and do not consider that there is going concern risk in the short-term. The PCC is keeping both the short-term and longer-term implications under review,

9 Volunteers

We are grateful to all our churchwardens, upon whom much falls as ever: Desmond Davies and Alison Fletcher Rogers (Christ Church) and Richard Blades and John Eades (Holy Trinity). We particularly thank Jean Parker and Ann Roberts, who have stood down at St John the Divine, which now has no churchwardens; therefore, Ann Roberts has been co-opted on to PCC Standing Committee. We are also thankful for all of Kerry Porritt's labours, having relinquished her churchwarden duties at Holy Trinity and for all the extra administrative help she has freely given (and continues to give). Our Team administrative life is an area where we will look more and more to a widening pool of volunteers. We must also extend our thanks to Jane Savill, who has been a most willing and efficient PCC Secretary for two years, initially in an acting capacity to cover maternity leave and then appointed in her own right. Finally, our fullest thanks are reserved for our PCC Treasurer, Liz Holder, not only for another excellent year stewarding our finances and preparing much of this report, but for the incredible 22 years as part of the finance team. Initially at Holy Trinity and moving on to set up and oversee the PCC finances for Merton Priory Team, Liz now steps down and passes the baton on to others; well done, good and faithful servant!

We would like to thank all the volunteers who work so tirelessly on our behalf to make our churches the lively and vibrant communities they are. As well as those in licensed lay roles, we particularly want to mention all those who work behind the scenes and in the more invisible areas of our church life.

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10 Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure and is a Registered Charity.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The PCC consists of 18 elected members, six from Christ Church, six from Holy Trinity and six from St John the Divine, plus the team clergy. During the past year the PCC has met six times; meetings have taken place both in person and online, via Zoom, due to the pandemic.

A range of issues are discussed during PCC meetings, including considering ministry needs, parish communications and planning for key events in the parish, as well as hearing reports from the individual churches and having oversight of the Mission Action Plans for all three churches. The PCC is responsible for appointing foundation governors to the governing body of Holy Trinity and Priory schools and also has authority for finance across the parish.

The PCC Standing Committee, which consists of the Team Rector, Team Vicar, six Churchwardens, Secretary and Treasurer, has met on several occasions. The Curate has recently also been invited to attend these meetings. This group has set the agenda for the PCC meetings and ensured its smooth running. In addition, the PCC Business Committee – Team Rector, Team Vicar, Treasurer and Secretary – has met to make certain that all aspects of church business are covered.

The PCC complies with diocesan requirements with regard to safeguarding policies and risk assessment. It also complies with statutory requirements with regard to employment, access and health and safety.

11 Key management personnel

Key management personnel are those in charge of directing, controlling, running and operating the charity on a day to day basis. For Merton Priory Team Ministry, these are all the members of the PCC and the three DCCs (District Church Councils).

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12 Administrative information

Parish details

Full name of the Charity: The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Merton Priory
Registered Charity Number: 1134253
Diocese & Deanery: Southwark Diocese, Merton Deanery
Address: Holy Trinity Church, 234 The Broadway, London SW19 1SB
Telephone: 020 8542 1388
Website: www.mertonprioryteam.org.uk

Parish Clergy:
Revd Mark Eminson, Team Rector
Revd Alison Judge, Team Vicar
Revd Simon Asquith, Curate (*from 27/06/21*)
Revd Belemo Alagoa, Assistant Priest (*to 09/08/21*)
Revd Canon Duncan Swan, Associate Priest (*to 31/12/21*)

Lay Ministers:
Joy Lyons, Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary (SPA)
Nick Mayhew-Smith, Ordinand

Churchwardens:
Desmond Davies & Alison Fletcher Rogers, Christ Church
Richard Blades & John Eades, Holy Trinity & St Peter
Two vacancies, St John the Divine

Principal Bankers:
Merton Priory PCC, Christ Church and Holy Trinity & St Peter:
CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling ME19 4JQ
St John the Divine:
NatWest plc, Wimbledon (B) Branch, 16 Wimbledon Hill Road,
London SW19 7NN

Independent Examiner:
John Helm ACA
Simply Churches Ltd
17 Heathville Road
Crouch End
London N19 3AL

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Annual Report of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2021

Parochial Church Council Members from January 2021 to the date this report was signed:

Parish Clergy (ex officio):	Revd Mark Eminson, Chair Revd Alison Judge Revd Simon Asquith <i>(from 27/06/21)</i> Revd Belemo Alagoa <i>(to 09/08/21)</i> Revd Canon Duncan Swan <i>(to 31/12/21)</i>	
Churchwardens:	Desmond Davies Alison Fletcher Rogers, Lay Chair Richard Blades Kerry Porritt <i>(to 23/05/21)</i> John Eades <i>(from 23/05/21)</i> Ann Roberts <i>(to 23/05/21)</i> Jean Parker <i>(to 23/05/21)</i> <i>Two vacancies (from 23/05/21)</i>	Christ Church Christ Church Holy Trinity & St Peter Holy Trinity & St Peter Holy Trinity & St Peter St John the Divine St John the Divine St John the Divine
Representatives on Deanery Synod:	Michael Brunt Jane Savill, PCC Secretary Martin Lyons <i>Vacancy</i> Ann Newson Eva Parker	Christ Church Christ Church Holy Trinity & St Peter Holy Trinity & St Peter St John the Divine St John the Divine
PCC Members:	Joanne Powell <i>Vacancy (to 23/05/21)</i> Bruce Warman <i>(from 23/05/21)</i> Andrew Taylor <i>(to 23/05/21)</i> <i>Vacancy (from 23/05/21)</i> <i>Vacancy</i> <i>Vacancy (to 23/05/21)</i> Ann Roberts <i>(from 23/05/21)</i> <i>Vacancy</i> Liz Holder, PCC Treasurer	Christ Church Christ Church Christ Church Holy Trinity & St Peter Holy Trinity & St Peter Holy Trinity & St Peter St John the Divine St John the Divine St John the Divine Co-opted

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Annual Report of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2021

13 Statement of responsibilities of the Parochial Church Council

Law applicable to Parochial Church Councils in England & Wales requires the PCC to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the PCC and of its incoming resources and application of resources for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the PCC is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the PCC will continue in operation for the foreseeable future; and
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

14 Independent Examiner

The PCC has elected to have an independent examination rather than an audit of the financial statements. The role of Independent Examiner is a personal appointment and this has been carried out by John Helm. Mr Helm has indicated his willingness to continue in this role and accordingly a resolution will be submitted to the forthcoming Annual Parochial Church Meeting to re-appoint him as the PCC's Independent Examiner for 2022.

Approved by the PCC on 28 April 2022 and signed on its behalf:



The Revd Mark Eminson
PCC Chair

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Independent Examiner's Report to the members of the Parochial Church Council

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021 which are set out on pages 19-41.

Respective Responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

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

It is my responsibility to

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

Basis of this Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the PCC concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the church as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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



John Helm ACA
Simply Churches Ltd
17 Heathville Road
Crouch End
London N19 3AL

Dated: 29 April 2022

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2021

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2021 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2020 £
INCOME & ENDOWMENTS FROM:									
Donations and legacies	2.1	183,892	12,607	-	196,499	174,833	6,211	-	181,044
Raising funds	2.2	6,607	-	-	6,607	7,010	-	-	7,010
Investment income	2.3	3,045	422	-	3,467	2,162	446	-	2,608
Church activities	2.4	85,004	-	-	85,004	58,659	-	-	58,659
TOTAL		278,548	13,029	-	291,577	242,664	6,657	-	249,321
EXPENDITURE ON:									
Church activities	3.1	243,899	10,283	-	254,182	239,144	171	-	239,315
Mission giving & donations	3.2	4,785	564	-	5,349	11,707	2,871	-	14,578
Costs of raising funds	3.3	1,195	-	-	1,195	916	-	-	916
TOTAL		249,879	10,847	-	260,726	251,767	3,042	-	254,809
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		28,669	2,182	-	30,851	(9,103)	3,615	-	(5,488)
Net gains/(losses) on investments	5.2	(634)	-	2,058	1,424	513	-	925	1,438
Transfers between funds	8	24,758	(10,695)	(14,063)	-	4,250	(4,250)	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		52,793	(8,513)	(12,005)	32,275	(4,340)	(635)	925	(4,050)
Reconciliation of funds:									
Totals funds brought forward 1 January 2021		228,973	31,731	30,801	291,505	233,313	32,366	29,876	295,555
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD 31 DECEMBER 2021		281,766	23,218	18,796	323,780	228,973	31,731	30,801	291,505

The notes on pages 21-41 form part of these financial statements.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

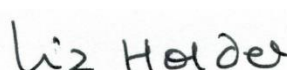
Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2021

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
FIXED ASSETS						
Tangible fixed assets	5.1	46,147	-	-	46,147	13,526
Investments	5.2	41,998	-	16,371	58,369	56,865
		<u>88,145</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>16,371</u>	<u>104,516</u>	<u>70,391</u>
CURRENT ASSETS						
Debtors	6	34,592	1,457	-	36,049	17,839
Cash at bank and in hand		210,583	21,971	2,425	234,979	222,293
		<u>245,175</u>	<u>23,428</u>	<u>2,425</u>	<u>271,028</u>	<u>240,132</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES						
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	7	51,554	210	-	51,764	19,018
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>193,621</u>	<u>23,218</u>	<u>2,425</u>	<u>219,264</u>	<u>221,114</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS		<u>281,766</u>	<u>23,218</u>	<u>18,796</u>	<u>323,780</u>	<u>291,505</u>
PARISH FUNDS	8					
Unrestricted Funds:						
- PCC General Fund		1,000	-	-	1,000	1,000
- Designated Funds (general)		143,295	-	-	143,295	113,796
- Designated Funds (specific)		137,471	-	-	137,471	114,177
Restricted Funds		-	23,218	-	23,218	31,731
Endowment Funds		-	-	18,796	18,796	30,801
TOTAL PARISH FUNDS		<u>281,766</u>	<u>23,218</u>	<u>18,796</u>	<u>323,780</u>	<u>291,505</u>

The financial statements were approved by the PCC and authorised for issue on 28 April 2022 and signed on its behalf by:



The Revd Mark Eminson
PCC Chair



Liz Holder FMAAT
PCC Treasurer

The notes on pages 21-41 form part of these financial statements.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

I ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation or uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS 102). The financial statements are drawn up on the historical cost basis of accounting except for investment assets, which are shown at market value.

The Parochial Church Council of Merton Priory was formed in May 2009 from the amalgamation of three separate parishes: Christ Church, Colliers Wood; Holy Trinity & St Peter, South Wimbledon; St John the Divine, Merton. These financial statements incorporate the income and expenditure, assets and liabilities of the combined parish, including comparative figures for the previous year. The finances of the three individual churches are maintained separately and are therefore accounted for as designated funds.

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

The PCC meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

Going Concern

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern and accordingly the accounts have been drawn up on a going concern basis (see also Section 8 of the Annual Report on page 12).

Income Recognition

Voluntary income and donations (including legacies) are accounted for once the PCC has entitlement to the income, it is probable the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be reliably measured. Income from the recovery of tax on gift aided donations is accounted for in the period to which the relevant donation is received. Grant income is recognised on a receivable basis. All income is accounted for gross apart from parochial fees for weddings and funerals, which are accounted for net of fees payable to the diocese.

The income from church activities includes rental income from the letting of church and hall premises, which is accounted for when earned. It is shown gross, with any associated costs included in costs of trading.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

I ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Expenditure Recognition

Expenditure is accrued as soon as a liability is considered probable, and the amount of obligation can be measured reliably. Longer term liabilities are discounted to present value. The PCC is not registered for VAT and accordingly expenditure includes VAT where appropriate.

Where applicable, expenditure included in Raising Funds includes amounts incurred in obtaining grants and other donations.

Expenditure on church activities includes those costs incurred to fulfil the PCC's principal objects, as outlined in the Report of the PCC. These include grants payable and governance costs. Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The Diocesan Parish Support Fund is accounted for when due. Governance costs comprise all costs involving the public accountability of the PCC and its compliance with regulation and good practice. These costs include costs related to the independent examination and legal fees.

The PCC contributes to employees' pension plans with the Church Workers' Pension Fund (see Note 4.3).

Rentals under operating leases are charged as incurred over the term of the lease.

Tangible Fixed Assets

Consecrated and benefice property of any kind is excluded from the financial statements by Section 10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011.

Moveable church furnishings are held by the Team Rector and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC. They are considered inalienable property and require a faculty for disposal. They are listed in the churches' inventories, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). Items are capitalised at cost and depreciated over their useful economic life other than where insufficient cost information is available. Individual items of furnishings with a purchase price of £1,500 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Equipment and Fixtures & Fittings and such other functional equipment used on a continuing basis for the work of the PCC is depreciated on a straight-line basis over five years (equipment, currently none held) or ten years (fixtures and fittings). Individual items of equipment and fixtures & fittings with a purchase price of £1,500 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Fixed Asset Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

Debtors

Debtors are included at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term deposits with a withdrawal notice period of no more than three months.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

I ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Creditors

Creditors are recognised where the charity has a present obligation arising from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are recognised at their settlement amount.

Borrowings

The PCC currently holds no borrowings.

Fund accounting

The funds held by the charity are either:

Unrestricted general funds that can be used for PCC ordinary purposes. These include funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC. Apart from the PCC General Fund, all other unrestricted funds are designated to the three individual churches and are therefore reported as designated funds.

Restricted funds represent donations received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund.

The *expendable endowment fund (Holy Trinity & St Peter)* was established following the receipt of a substantial legacy from a parishioner. The terms of the legacy are such that the capital can either be invested or expended in the furtherance of the church's ministry in the parish. It has therefore been accounted for as an expendable endowment. Income arising from the invested funds is credited to unrestricted incoming resources.

The *permanent endowment fund (St John the Divine)* was given for building a new church, completed in 1914, with the income from the remaining endowment capital to be used on the fabric of the existing building.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

2 INCOME & ENDOWMENTS FROM:

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
2.1 Donation and legacies				
Regular giving	116,697	-	116,697	112,085
Collections at services	5,229	603	5,832	4,385
All other giving/voluntary income	20,149	10,695	30,844	27,067
Gift Aid recovered	28,110	1,309	29,419	28,091
Legacies received	12,000	-	12,000	4,652
Grants (recurring & one-off)	1,707	-	1,707	4,764
	<u>183,892</u>	<u>12,607</u>	<u>196,499</u>	<u>181,044</u>
2.2 Raising funds				
Fundraising events	6,607	-	6,607	7,010
	<u>6,607</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,607</u>	<u>7,010</u>
2.3 Investment income				
Dividends	674	416	1,090	1,190
Bank interest	541	6	547	960
Rent from land	1,830	-	1,830	458
	<u>3,045</u>	<u>422</u>	<u>3,467</u>	<u>2,608</u>
2.4 Church activities				
Fees for weddings and funerals	2,690	-	2,690	1,523
Church & hall lettings	82,304	-	82,304	57,136
Bookstall sales	10	-	10	-
	<u>85,004</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>85,004</u>	<u>58,659</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>278,548</u>	<u>13,029</u>	<u>291,577</u>	<u>249,321</u>

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

3 EXPENDITURE ON:

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
3.1 Church activities				
<i>Church activities:</i>				
Diocesan parish support fund	155,380	5,000	160,380	161,075
Salaries of parish staff	13,612	-	13,612	12,866
Clergy & assistant staff expenses	2,370	4,200	6,570	2,181
<i>Church expenses:</i>				
Mission & evangelism costs	89	-	89	157
Education	483	-	483	1,109
Church insurance	10,848	-	10,848	10,960
Routine maintenance	9,003	546	9,549	8,100
Parish office costs	3,139	-	3,139	3,373
Upkeep of services	3,052	-	3,052	2,699
Upkeep of church gardens	86	-	86	-
Church cleaning – contractors & supplies	716	-	716	1,184
Organ & piano tuning	1,986	-	1,986	1,880
Depreciation on tangible fixed assets	7,093	-	7,093	3,121
Church utilities - electricity, gas & water	5,183	-	5,183	5,590
Other church running expenses	5,280	537	5,817	2,537
<i>Costs of trading:</i>				
Hall insurance	2,072	-	2,072	2,015
Hall routine maintenance	2,026	-	2,026	31
Hall cleaning – contractors & supplies	471	-	471	1,148
Hall utilities - electricity, gas & water	8,554	-	8,554	8,135
<i>Major capital expenditure:</i>				
Garden decking (HT)	6,132	-	6,132	-
Hall boiler (CC)	3,738	-	3,738	-
External noticeboard (CC)	2,586	-	2,586	-
Organ blower repair (CC)	-	-	-	4,284
Hall rewiring (CC)	-	-	-	4,254
Hall alarm refit (CC)	-	-	-	2,580
TOTAL CHURCH ACTIVITIES	243,899	10,283	254,182	239,315

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

3 EXPENDITURE ON: (continued)

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
3.2 Mission giving and donations				
<i>Church overseas & missionary societies:</i>				
World Day of Prayer	150	-	150	-
Joshua Orphan & Community Care, Malawi	-	-	-	2,083
<i>Relief and development agencies:</i>				
Christian Aid	-	87	87	160
<i>Home mission & church organisations:</i>				
Christian CARE Merton	1,750	210	1,960	1,001
Bishop of Southwark's Lent Appeal	-	75	75	171
Wimbledon Food Bank	-	-	-	4,604
Faith in Action – Merton Homelessness Project	-	-	-	2,144
Wimbledon Guild	-	-	-	547
Merton Night Shelter	-	-	-	455
<i>Secular charities:</i>				
Rethink Mental Illness	1,750	-	1,750	-
Merton Citizens (part of Citizens UK)	1,108	192	1,300	1,330
South London Refugee Association	-	-	-	2,083
Other donations under £100	27	-	27	-
TOTAL MISSION GIVING & DONATIONS	4,785	564	5,349	14,578
3.3 Costs of raising funds				
Costs of fundraising events	1,116	-	1,116	853
Costs of supporting regular giving	79	-	79	63
TOTAL COSTS OF RAISING FUNDS	1,195	-	1,195	916
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	249,879	10,847	260,726	254,809

These figures for Mission Giving & Donations do not include gifts banked directly to charities for Christian Aid Week or cheques sent direct to the Bishop of Southwark's Lent Appeal. The parish also makes significant contributions in kind, such as the substantial amount of food given each year to the Wimbledon Food Bank.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

4.1 STAFF COSTS

Included within expenditure on church activities (see note 3 above) are the following staff costs:

	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Gross Salaries	13,445	12,704
Employer National Insurance contributions	-	-
Employment Allowance	-	-
Employer Pension contributions	167	162
	13,612	12,866

These staff costs exclude the amounts paid to Southwark Diocese for the stipendiary clergy, who are funded through the Parish Support Fund. Employer's National Insurance is covered by the government's Employment Allowance. All employed staff are paid at least the London Living Wage. Information on the staff pension scheme is given in Note 4.3.

During the year the churches employed various part-time staff, as follows:

- Holy Trinity: the posts of Parish Administrator and Director of Music were vacant in 2021 (2020: vacant); the church employed one Bookkeeper (2020: one).
- Christ Church and St John the Divine jointly employed an Organist/Music Leader (2020: one), and each church employed a Cleaner (2020: one each).

4.2 RELATED PARTIES

Liz Holder, PCC Treasurer and member of the PCC, was paid £1,200 (2020: £1,200) for accountancy services relating to the preparation of the statutory financial statements. This payment was gift-aided back to the PCC.

Jane Savill, PCC member, is Chair and trustee of Christian CARE Merton, to which the PCC donated £1,960 in 2021 (2020: £1,001).

The expenses of four (2020: three) members of the PCC amounting to £4,802 (2020: £426) in relation to travel, housing, training and retreats were met by the PCC during the year. The significant increase from 2020 is due to the addition of housing costs for our new curate.

Aggregated unrestricted donations from PCC members totalled £19,052 (2020: £14,395).

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

4.3 STAFF PENSIONS

Merton Priory PCC participates in the Pension Builder Scheme section of the Church Workers Pension Fund (CWPF) for lay staff. CWPF is administered by the Church of England Pensions Board, which holds the CWPF assets separately from those of the Employer and other participating employers.

The Church Workers Pension Fund has two sections:

1. the Defined Benefits Scheme
2. the Pension Builder Scheme, which has two subsections;
 - a. a deferred annuity section known as Pension Builder Classic, and,
 - b. a cash balance section known as Pension Builder 2014.

Pension Builder Scheme

Both sections of the Pension Builder Scheme are classed as defined benefit schemes.

Pension Builder 2014 is a cash balance scheme that provides a lump sum which members use to provide benefits at retirement. Pension contributions are recorded in an account for each member. Discretionary bonuses may be added before retirement, depending on investment returns and other factors. The account, plus any bonuses declared is payable, unreduced, from age 65.

There is no sub-division of assets between employers in each section of the Pension Builder Scheme.

The scheme is considered to be a multi-employer scheme as described in Section 28 of FRS 102. This is because it is not possible to attribute the Pension Builder Scheme's assets and liabilities to specific employers and means that contributions are accounted for as if the Scheme were a defined contribution scheme. The pensions costs charged to the SoFA (Statement of Financial Activities) in the year are the contributions payable (**2021: £167; 2020: £162**).

A valuation of the Pension Builder Scheme is carried out once every three years. The most recent valuation was carried out as at 31 December 2019. The next valuation is due as at 31 December 2022.

For the Pension Builder 2014 section, the valuation revealed a surplus of £5.5m on the ongoing assumptions used. There is no requirement for deficit payments at the current time.

The legal structure of the scheme is such that if another employer fails, **Merton Priory PCC** could become responsible for paying a share of the failed employer's pension liabilities.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

5 FIXED ASSETS

5.1 Tangible Fixed Assets

		Fixtures & Fittings £
Cost	At 1 January 2021	70,369
	Disposals	(4,957)
	Additions at cost	39,714
	At 31 December 2021	105,126
Depreciation	At 1 January 2021	56,843
	Charge for the year	7,093
	Withdrawn on disposals	(4,957)
	At 31 December 2021	58,979
Net Book Value at 31 December 2021		46,147
Net Book Value at 31 December 2020		13,526

Moveable Church Furnishings:

None of the three churches hold any moveable church furnishings purchased since 2001 which are capitalised and depreciated over their useful economic life (*see Accounting Policies, page 21*).

Fixtures & Fittings:

Christ Church

The church sound system was purchased in 2009 and is now fully depreciated.

Holy Trinity

The grand piano (purchased in 2002) and refurbishment of the reception area (2007) are both fully depreciated. The audio-visual system was installed in 2015 and will be depreciated over ten years. The original kitchen improvements from 2002 were disposed of and a new kitchen installed in 2021, which will be depreciated over ten years.

St John the Divine

A lighting control panel was purchased in 2018 and will be depreciated over ten years.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

5.2 Investments

	Unrestricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Market value 1 January 2021	42,553	14,313	56,866	55,353
Dividends reinvested	79	-	79	74
Unrealised gains/(losses) on revaluation	(634)	2,058	1,424	1,438
Market value 31 December 2021	41,998	16,371	58,369	56,865
Market value represented by investments in:				
CBF Investment Fund shares	3,162	16,371	19,533	17,004
Charibond Charities Fixed Interest Common Investment Fund shares	28,836	-	28,836	29,861
Polka Theatre – interest in the freehold	10,000	-	10,000	10,000
	41,998	16,371	58,369	56,865

CBF Investment Fund shares are held by:

Christ Church:

Trust Fund T0169, held by the Diocese of Southwark as custodian trustee, originated from the sale of a passageway in 1951 for £200. Funds are invested in 85.37 CBF Investment Fund shares with the dividend reinvested.

St John the Divine:

Trust Fund T0046 held by the Diocese of Southwark as custodian trustee. The fund was a permanent endowment (capital) for building a new church, completed in 1914, with the remaining capital invested to provide an income restricted to work on the fabric of the building.

Charibond Charities Fixed Interest Common Investment Fund is held by **Holy Trinity**: original purchase price £27,734 for 24,426 units. The current holding is 23,798 units at 31 December 2021. The unit trust invests in government and corporate fixed interest securities.

The Polka Theatre is held by **Holy Trinity**: a nominal figure of the PCC's interest in the freehold of the Polka Theatre (240 The Broadway, London SW19 1SB) which is subject to a long-term lease. This has not been the subject of an independent valuation.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

6 DEBTORS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Gift Aid recoverable	22,235	1,247	23,482	12,024
Accrued income	10,759	-	10,759	4,045
Prepayments and other debtors	1,598	210	1,808	1,770
	34,592	1,457	36,049	17,839

7 CREDITORS

Amounts falling due within one year:

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Accruals	43,509	210	43,719	5,691
Payroll tax creditor	550	-	550	491
Pension creditor	30	-	30	1
Other creditors and income received in advance	7,465	-	7,465	12,835
	51,554	210	51,764	19,018

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

8 FUND ANALYSIS

8.1a Fund Summary (current year)

	Balance 01/01/21 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains & Losses £	Balance 31/12/21 £
Unrestricted Funds						
PCC General Fund	1,000	1,884	(1,884)	-	-	1,000
Designated Funds (General) *						
Christ Church	37,381	79,228	(71,329)	(3,124)	392	42,548
Holy Trinity	34,399	160,491	(133,914)	(6,300)	(1,026)	53,650
St John the Divine	42,016	36,736	(31,655)	-	-	47,097
Designated Funds (Specific) *						
PCC	558	-	-	-	-	558
Christ Church	716	-	(504)	3,124	-	3,336
Holy Trinity	110,474	209	(10,246)	31,058	-	131,495
St John the Divine	2,429	-	(347)	-	-	2,082
	<u>228,973</u>	<u>278,548</u>	<u>(249,879)</u>	<u>24,758</u>	<u>(634)</u>	<u>281,766</u>
Restricted Funds						
PCC	2,499	4,738	(4,738)	-	-	2,499
Christ Church	2,898	1,308	-	-	-	4,206
Holy Trinity	15,241	6,399	(5,401)	(10,695)	-	5,544
St John the Divine	11,093	584	(708)	-	-	10,969
	<u>31,731</u>	<u>13,029</u>	<u>(10,847)</u>	<u>(10,695)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>23,218</u>
Endowment Funds						
Holy Trinity (expendable)	14,063	-	-	(14,063)	-	-
St John the Divine (permanent)	16,738	-	-	-	2,058	18,796
	<u>30,801</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(14,063)</u>	<u>2,058</u>	<u>18,796</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>291,505</u>	<u>291,577</u>	<u>(260,726)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,424</u>	<u>323,780</u>

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

8.1b Fund Summary (prior year)

	Balance 01/01/20 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains & Losses £	Balance 31/12/20 £
Unrestricted Funds						
PCC General Fund	1,000	5,372	(5,372)	-	-	1,000
Designated Funds (General) *						
Christ Church	18,742	75,249	(60,947)	4,164	173	37,381
Holy Trinity	46,230	132,585	(134,204)	(10,552)	340	34,399
St John the Divine	49,742	29,164	(36,543)	(347)	-	42,016
Designated Funds (Specific) *						
PCC	558	-	-	-	-	558
Christ Church	3,210	-	(2,580)	86	-	716
Holy Trinity	111,402	294	(11,774)	10,552	-	110,474
St John the Divine	2,429	-	(347)	347	-	2,429
	<u>233,313</u>	<u>242,664</u>	<u>(251,767)</u>	<u>4,250</u>	<u>513</u>	<u>228,973</u>
Restricted Funds						
PCC	2,499	-	-	-	-	2,499
Christ Church	3,923	4,271	(1,046)	(4,250)	-	2,898
Holy Trinity	15,172	1,899	(1,830)	-	-	15,241
St John the Divine	10,722	487	(166)	-	-	11,093
	<u>32,366</u>	<u>6,657</u>	<u>(3,042)</u>	<u>(4,250)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>31,731</u>
Endowment Funds						
Holy Trinity (expendable)	14,063	-	-	-	-	14,063
St John the Divine (permanent)	15,813	-	-	-	925	16,738
	<u>29,876</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>925</u>	<u>30,801</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>295,555</u>	<u>249,321</u>	<u>(254,809)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,438</u>	<u>291,505</u>

* **Designated (General) Funds** are funds which have been designated by the **PCC** to each **DCC** for unrestricted purposes.

Designated (Specific) Funds are funds which have been designated by each **DCC** for specific purposes.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

8.2 Individual Church Funds

8.2.1a PCC (current year)

	Balance 01/01/21 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance 31/12/21 £
Unrestricted Fund	1,000	1,884	(1,884)	-	1,000
Designated Funds (Specific)					
MP3 Players	558	-	-	-	558
Restricted Funds					
Curate Housing	-	4,200	(4,200)	-	-
Youth Work	2,499	-	-	-	2,499
Other Restricted Donations	-	538	(538)	-	-
	<u>4,057</u>	<u>6,622</u>	<u>(6,622)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,057</u>

- *MP3 Players Fund:* in some years, the parish drama group stages a production where 50% of the surplus is kept by the PCC and 50% designated to help with the costs of future MP3 productions. No such production was held in 2021.
- *Curate Housing:* monthly rent is payable to Southwark Diocese and is covered by a very generous restricted donation.
- *Youth Work:* this was originally the balance held by Morden Baptist Church when the Fusion Youth Group was transferred to the Merton Priory Team. The Fusion Youth Group no longer exists and Morden Baptist Church does not want the funds returned to them. The PCC decided in January 2018 that this fund could be used for any youth work across the three churches.

8.2.1b PCC (prior year)

	Balance 01/01/20 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance 31/12/20 £
Unrestricted Fund	1,000	5,372	(5,372)	-	1,000
Designated Funds (Specific)					
MP3 Players	558	-	-	-	558
Restricted Funds					
Youth Work	2,499	-	-	-	2,499
	<u>4,057</u>	<u>5,372</u>	<u>(5,372)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,057</u>

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

8.2.2a Christ Church, Colliers Wood (current year)

	Balance 01/01/21 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains & Losses £	Balance 31/12/21 £
Designated Fund (General)	37,381	79,228	(71,329)	(3,124)	392	42,548
Designated Funds (Specific)						
Hall & Church Repairs Fund	716	-	-	-	-	716
Bells Fund	-	-	(504)	3,124	-	2,620
Restricted Funds:						
Merton Night Shelters	1,771	-	-	-	-	1,771
Mission & Charities:						
- Children's Society	408	-	-	-	-	408
- Christian Aid	227	200	-	-	-	427
- Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call	-	184	-	10	-	194
- Faith in Action	-	574	-	-	-	574
- Other Charities	10	-	-	(10)	-	-
150 th Anniversary Fund	187	350	-	-	-	537
Hymn Book Fund	295	-	-	-	-	295
	<u>40,995</u>	<u>80,536</u>	<u>(71,833)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>392</u>	<u>50,090</u>

- *Hall & Church Repairs Fund:* income from the Colliwobbles toddler group which is transferred for the use of hall and church repairs at the end of each year. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Colliwobbles was not able to operate during 2021; the group is currently seeking new volunteer leaders so that it can re-start.
- *Bells Fund:* the transfer of £3,124 from the general fund in 2021 represents monies donated by the bellringers in previous years. The new designated Bells Fund will be used for the maintenance of the bells in the church.
- *Merton Night Shelter:* Christ Church is one of the locations for the night shelter for the homeless during the winter months and this fund represents incoming donations and outgoing expenses. The night shelter was not held during 2021 on the advice of Merton Council and Public Health England; Christ Church decided instead to support Faith in Action Merton Homelessness Project with its Christmas collections, for which £574 was raised.
- *150th Anniversary Fund:* in 2024, Christ Church will be 150 years old. This fund is to gather the proceeds, from appeals and fundraising, to be used for the enhancement of the building and projects within the local community.
- *Hymn Book Fund:* this was a specific appeal in 2012 for the purchase of new hymn books. Christ Church DCC will be reviewing what happens to the remaining balance.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

8.2.2b Christ Church, Colliers Wood (prior year)

	Balance 01/01/20 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains & Losses £	Balance 31/12/20 £
Designated Fund (General)	18,742	75,249	(60,947)	4,164	173	37,381
Designated Funds (Specific)						
Hall & Church Repairs Fund	3,210	-	(2,580)	86	-	716
Restricted Funds:						
Organ Fund	-	4,250	-	(4,250)	-	-
Merton Night Shelters	1,816	-	(45)	-	-	1,771
Mission & Charities:						
- Children's Society	387	21	-	-	-	408
- Christian Aid	227	-	-	-	-	227
- Christian CARE Merton	1,001	-	(1,001)	-	-	-
- Other Charities	10	-	-	-	-	10
150 th Anniversary Fund	187	-	-	-	-	187
Hymn Book Fund	295	-	-	-	-	295
	<u>25,875</u>	<u>79,520</u>	<u>(64,573)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>173</u>	<u>40,995</u>

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

8.2.3a Holy Trinity & St Peter, South Wimbledon (current year)

	Balance 01/01/21 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains & Losses £	Balance 31/12/21 £
Designated Fund (General)	34,399	160,491	(133,914)	(6,300)	(1,026)	53,650
Designated Funds (Specific)						
Marian Esling Legacy (income)	42,098	209	-	-	-	42,307
Annual Tithe	9,400	-	(3,500)	6,300	-	12,200
Special Projects Fund	47,879	-	-	(14,956)	-	32,923
Fixed Assets Fund	11,097	-	(6,746)	39,714	-	44,065
Restricted Funds						
Kitchen Refurbishment	10,070	625	-	(10,695)	-	-
Merton Night Shelters	3,542	-	-	-	-	3,542
Mission & Charities:						
- Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call	-	564	-	-	-	564
- Merton Citizens	192	-	(192)	-	-	-
Flower Fund	4	-	-	-	-	4
Junior Church collections for charity	1,125	-	-	-	-	1,125
Other Restricted Donations	308	5,210	(5,209)	-	-	309
Expendable Endowment Fund						
Marian Esling Legacy (capital)	14,063	-	-	(14,063)	-	-
	<u>174,177</u>	<u>167,099</u>	<u>(149,561)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,026)</u>	<u>190,689</u>

- *Marian Esling Legacy (income)*: the remaining interest on the Marian Esling Legacy Fund which is designated for capital projects.
- *Annual Tithe*: Holy Trinity gives away 5% of its unrestricted voluntary income, excluding fundraising and investment income, to charitable causes each year. The balance of £12,200 at the end of 2021 represents £5,900 from the 2020 tithe and £6,300 from the 2021 tithe, both of which will be distributed in 2022.
- *Special Projects Fund*: following a generous legacy and a gift weekend in 2018, the DCC felt it was appropriate to put aside some of this money to be used at a later date on special projects around the church that would enhance the building, such as refurbishing the kitchen and relocating the chapel to make it more accessible. £14,956 was transferred to the Fixed Assets Fund in 2021 to cover part of the cost of the new kitchen.
- *Fixed Assets Fund*: the remaining cost of tangible fixed assets, from where they are now depreciated. £39,714 was transferred to this fund in 2021 to cover the cost of the new kitchen which will be depreciated over 10 years.
- *Kitchen Refurbishment*: the remaining balance of £10,695 has now been transferred to the Fixed Assets Fund to cover part of the cost of the new kitchen.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

- *Merton Night Shelter:* Holy Trinity is one of the locations for the night shelter for the homeless during the winter months and this fund represents incoming donations and outgoing expenses. On the advice of Merton Council and Public Health England, the night shelter was not held in 2021.
- *Junior Church collections:* regular Sunday collections by the children which are sent to a charity of their choice. The DCC is aware that charitable donations have not been made for a few years and will be addressing this during 2022.
- *Other Restricted Donations:* the balance of £309 represents the remainder of a gift for future development of the prayer corner and a Christmas collection for the Samaritans. During 2021, an anonymous gift of £5,000 was made towards Holy Trinity's contribution to the Diocesan Parish Support Fund, and £210 was raised at a poetry recital for Christian CARE Merton.
- *Marian Esling Legacy (capital):* the DCC, in consultation with the congregation in 2007, decided that 55% of the expendable endowment Marian Esling Legacy Fund would be given away to charitable organisations over a period of five years, the last year of which was 2013. The remaining 45% of the expendable endowment would be used for capital projects in the church. During 2021, the final balance of £14,063 was used towards the cost of the new kitchen.

8.2.3b Holy Trinity & St Peter, South Wimbledon (prior year)

	Balance 01/01/20 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains & Losses £	Balance 31/12/20 £
Designated Fund (General)	46,230	132,585	(134,204)	(10,552)	340	34,399
Designated Funds (Specific)						
Marian Esling Legacy (income)	41,804	294	-	-	-	42,098
Annual Tithe	12,500	-	(9,000)	5,900	-	9,400
Special Projects Fund	43,227	-	-	4,652	-	47,879
Fixed Assets Fund	13,871	-	(2,774)	-	-	11,097
Restricted Funds						
Kitchen Refurbishment	10,070	-	-	-	-	10,070
Merton Night Shelters	2,565	1,433	(456)	-	-	3,542
Mission & Charities:						
- Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call	83	37	(120)	-	-	-
- Merton Citizens	192	-	-	-	-	192
- Wimbledon Guild	547	-	(547)	-	-	-
- Wimbledon Food Bank (Trussell Trust)	547	-	(547)	-	-	-
Flower Fund	4	-	-	-	-	4
Junior Church collections for charity	1,081	44	-	-	-	1,125
Other Restricted Donations	83	385	(160)	-	-	308
Expendable Endowment Fund						
Marian Esling Legacy (capital)	14,063	-	-	-	-	14,063
	<u>186,867</u>	<u>134,778</u>	<u>(147,808)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>340</u>	<u>174,177</u>

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

8.2.4a St John the Divine, Merton (current year)

	Balance 01/01/21 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains & Losses £	Balance 31/12/21 £
Designated Fund (General)	42,016	36,736	(31,655)	-	-	47,097
Designated Funds (Specific)						
Fixed Assets Fund	2,429	-	(347)	-	-	2,082
Restricted Funds						
Bells Centenary Project	2,804	-	(546)	-	-	2,258
Mission & Charities	-	162	(162)	-	-	-
Church Maintenance & Repairs: - Mackrell Trust (T0046/income)	8,289	422	-	-	-	8,711
Permanent Endowment Fund						
Mackrell Trust (T0046/capital)	16,738	-	-	-	2,058	18,796
	<u>72,276</u>	<u>37,320</u>	<u>(32,710)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,058</u>	<u>78,944</u>

- *Fixed Assets Fund*: the remaining cost of tangible fixed assets, from where they are now depreciated.
- *Bells Centenary Project*: the fund represents donations from an appeal set up to enable the church to engage the community and raise money to install an 8-bell peal in time for the church centenary in 2014. This project was started in 2013 and a 6-bell peal was completed in 2014. A further four bells were installed early in 2018. The balance of £2,258 will be used for ongoing maintenance of the bells.
- *Church Maintenance & Repairs*: interest income from the Mackrell Trust (permanent endowment) that is restricted for use on the maintenance and repair of the church building. It had been anticipated that this would be used for repairs to the vestry roof in 2021 but the project was put on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- *Mission & Charities*: restricted donations for charities. During 2021, funds were raised for both Christian Aid and the Bishop of Southwark's Lent Appeal.
- *Mackrell Trust (T0046)*: an ancient permanent endowment for building a new church, held by the Diocese of Southwark as custodian trustee. The capital is not available for use but the interest may be used on the maintenance and repair of the church.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

8.2.4b St John the Divine, Merton (prior year)

	Balance 01/01/20 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains & Losses £	Balance 31/12/20 £
Designated Fund (General)	49,742	29,164	(36,543)	(347)	-	42,016
Designated Funds (Specific)						
Fixed Assets Fund	2,429	-	(347)	347	-	2,429
Restricted Funds						
Bells Centenary Project	2,929	-	(125)	-	-	2,804
Mission & Charities	-	41	(41)	-	-	-
Church Maintenance & Repairs: - Mackrell Trust (T0046/income)	7,843	446	-	-	-	8,289
Permanent Endowment Fund						
Mackrell Trust (T0046/capital)	15,813	-	-	-	925	16,738
	<u>78,756</u>	<u>29,651</u>	<u>(37,056)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>925</u>	<u>72,276</u>

9 OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

The total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are payable:

	2021 £	2020 £
Not later than one year	706	288
Later than one year and not later than five years	2,293	-
	<u>2,999</u>	<u>288</u>

The previous printer/photocopier lease expired on 12 April 2021. The PCC signed a new lease on 9 April 2021 which commits the PCC to total lease payments of £3,528 over five years.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

10 CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

The PCC has the following capital commitments, which it expects to complete in 2022:

	Expected Cost £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £
Christ Church				
No capital works planned for 2022 <i>(also see Section 6 of the Annual Report, page 12)</i>	-	-	-	-
Holy Trinity				
Refurbishing lavatories	2,600	2,600	-	-
Redecorating committee room and reception area	1,500	1,500	-	-
Kitchen boiler replacement	1,650	1,650	-	-
St John the Divine				
No capital works planned for 2022 <i>(also see Section 6 of the Annual Report, page 12)</i>	-	-	-	-
	<u>5,750</u>	<u>5,750</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

Accounts



The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Merton Priory

Registered Charity Number: 1134253

**Diocese of Southwark
Merton Deanery**

Annual Report and Financial Statements

31 December 2020

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

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THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Annual Report of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2020

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Merton Priory ("PCC") submits its report and the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2020. The financial statements have been prepared in the format prescribed by the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2015 (FRS102)) and the Financial Reporting Standard 102.

I Aim and purposes

Merton Priory Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the Team Rector, the Revd Mark Eminson, and the Team Vicar, the Revd Alison Judge, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the fabric of the three churches of Christ Church, Colliers Wood; Holy Trinity and St Peter, South Wimbledon; St John the Divine, Merton, along with the two separate church halls of Christ Church and St John the Divine.

2 Objectives and activities

The PCC is committed to promoting the Gospel of Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England; the PCC seeks by encouraging co-operation between clergy, lay members of our congregation, and the wider community to undertake the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical. We are guided by our vision statement, agreed in 2011 and reaffirmed in 2018 as part of our Mission Action Planning:

"In Merton Priory Team Ministry, we aim to be a community:

Faithful to God

Sharing with those in need

Caring for one another

We know we don't always get it right but we seek God's grace to fulfil his mission."

When planning the activities for the year, the Team Rector, Team Vicar and PCC have in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, and especially the guidance to charities for the advancement of religion. In particular we make it possible for people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Regular worship and prayer open to all: developing knowledge of and trust in God and learning about the Gospel;
- Provision of sacred spaces for personal prayer and contemplation;
- Provision of pastoral care and sacramental ministry for people living within the parish;
- Teaching the Christian faith through sermons, courses, and small groups;
- Preparing people for baptism, first communion and confirmation;
- Leading Collective Worship, assemblies, and classes in church and community schools;
- Provision of activities with a Christian ethos for young people;
- Provision of social and community events and groups which strengthen outreach and fellowship;
- Fostering relationships with other organisations and churches in our parish and borough and cooperating with them in promoting social cohesion and meeting human need;
- Ministering to those who seek marriages and funerals, before, during, and after these events;
- Supporting other charities in the UK and overseas and building active links with these.

To facilitate this work, we maintain the fabric of the three churches and two separate church halls.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

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In 2018 we concluded our three-year Mission Action Plan (MAP) for 2015-17 that had been agreed in December 2014. On the basis of the work done at an Away Day, the PCC agreed a new MAP for 2018-20. Below is an outline of the work we planned to undertake during these three years.

3 Achievements and performance

Mission Action Plan			
Whole parish Objectives	Help people grow in their Christian Journey: an ongoing programme of Christian nurture	Promote positive change by being fully involved with Merton Citizens.	Become 'one body in Christ': deepening commitment through good communication.
	Christ Church is Open: To open up Christ Church as a centre of welcome and hospitality for our community. To provide a safe place for prayer, reflection and Christian practice.		
Christ Church Objectives	Move from welcoming to inviting: Encourage people to be more confident in sharing faith.	Move from welcoming to inviting: Become a more inclusive community and deepen care for one another.	
	Outreach and Welcome: To become visible and known in our community; to build and strengthen the congregation and support the community, with people using our church as a community resource.		
Holy Trinity Objectives			
St John's Objectives			

In drawing up our new MAP we were mindful of our Vision Statement quoted above, of the Five Marks of Mission as agreed by the Church of England (see below), and of the need to build on and strengthen existing projects. We have also committed to doing a few things well rather than taking on too much and failing.

The Five Marks of Mission

- To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
- To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
- To respond to human need by loving service
- To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation
- To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

COVID-19 Pandemic

Before we detail the range of work done this past year, it is important to highlight the overriding fact of the coronavirus pandemic. While we are grateful to God that many things have been able to continue and often in innovative ways, we cannot deny the challenge and sadness of missing so many things. A simple look back at the list of ways we seek to help people live out their faith quickly indicates how that has been impaired in a year of extended national lockdown; however, being faithful to God may have been more important than ever.

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Faithful to God

MAP objectives:

- *To help people grow in their Christian Journey; an ongoing programme of Christian nurture*
- *Moving from welcoming to inviting: encouraging people to be more confident in sharing faith*
- *To open up Christ Church as a safe place for prayer, reflection and Christian practice*
- *Outreach and welcome: to become visible and known in our community*

As Christians our first commitment is to God – and all our other vocations find their place within this commitment. Our principal expression of our faithfulness to God is in worship and prayer, the goal and end of all human existence.

Before the pandemic hit, the PCC had a wide range of acts of worship each week, including at least one *Eucharist* at each of the three churches on Sunday with provision for children, sometimes through *Junior Church* groups, and sometimes at *All Age worship* in which children actively participate; regular *Team Sunday evening worship* based at Holy Trinity provided a quiet and more contemplative environment; the *Early Service* at Holy Trinity for children under six and their carers; weekday Morning and Evening Prayer and Eucharists; a weekly Monday evening *Finding Sanctuary* service at St John the Divine; and weekly *meditation group* at Christ Church linked with the World Community for Christian Meditation.

From late-March 2020 and throughout the first national lockdown, we opted for a Team approach, providing a weekly *Sunday service* for the three churches and a monthly *Messy Church* which was pre-recorded and uploaded to a newly-created *Merton Priory Parish YouTube channel*. This was felt to be a workable arrangement in terms of burden on the ministers and their helpers in recording services and without the risks (technical and otherwise) of a livestream. As we emerged from the first lockdown, each church was initially open for periods of private prayer from June, and then from July we resumed public worship; now with a service at each church to allow as many as possible who wished to return to do so safely. We also ensured one of the weekly services was recorded and uploaded to YouTube to enable those still at home to feel connected. The *Early Service* at Holy Trinity also went online, but unfortunately given the challenges of social distancing for such a large number of very young children, it has remained a digital service throughout 2020, with 50 views on average per service (compared to 65 adults and 60 children attending a physical service).

The November 2020 lockdown heralded a return to pre-recording, although now from the church buildings rather than ministers' homes in contrast with the first lockdown. During this second lockdown period, we held *Coffee and Chat* over Zoom each Sunday morning, allowing members of all our churches to enjoy a time of fellowship each week. We returned to our churches near the start of December and while Tier 4 meant that Christmas numbers were low, we were pleased to be able to celebrate the festival: carol services, Christingle and eucharists brought in 221 people. Christ Church recorded a *Community Carol Service*, some parts filmed 'on location' with members of the community taking part. We also participated in a Merton Deanery initiative, *25 Minutes of Comfort and Joy*, which involved an audio-visual recording of carols and short talks; we used it during some of our times of private prayer, as well as on a dedicated afternoon at St John the Divine in lieu of live carols. Overall, when churches were open, average Sunday attendance was about 92 adults and 9 children; by way of comparison, before the lockdown average attendance was 153 adults and 46 children. The number of YouTube views averaged 40 when churches were open and 120 when they were closed (130 first lockdown; 90 second lockdown).

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Help people grow in the Christian Journey: an ongoing programme of Christian nurture

One necessary, but sad consequence of lockdown was a period when there were absolutely no baptisms. It was, therefore, wonderful when we were able to resume them, although given the varying restrictions throughout the year, numbers were down: we welcomed 18 people into the fellowship of the church through baptism. Other casualties of the pandemic were *First Communion* preparation and *Confirmation* preparation with neither celebration able to take place this year. However, we were able to find creative ways to nurture people in faith. *Finding Sanctuary* transferred to Zoom video-conferencing and this way saw an increase in participation, from a pre-lockdown average of 5 attendees to 11 for the digital version. A regular *Bible study/prayer group* has also met via Zoom, while one *Confirmation group* has made use of this facility and arguably been able to meet more often given the time saved on travel.

In terms of innovation, we might also add the provision of resources during the first lockdown for people to pray and reflect. Throughout the spring of 2020, various church members provided weekly prayers and a Thought of the Week, as well as contributing to a dedicated “Inspiration and Comfort” section on the Merton Priory Team website; offerings included artwork, photographs and videos as well as text.

We have been conscious this year that families and children have found it hard to engage with provision at church. Christ Church were able to innovate and offer a Christingle service to families, while Holy Trinity compiled a digital Crib Service which was well-received. Junior Church also had a couple of brief spells when it could operate with strict limitation on numbers, which was a start and a foundation for the future.

Sharing with those in need

MAP objectives:

- *Promote positive change by being fully involved with Merton Citizens*
- *Christ Church is open as a centre of welcome and hospitality for our community*
- *Outreach and welcome for people to use our churches as a community resource*

Our churches exist for all those who live in our parish and any others who can find solace or belonging in them. ‘Those in need’ is not restricted to those in pastoral or material extremity but to every human being’s need for fellowship and love. It is in knowing our need that we discover God’s grace.

Therefore, when lockdown came each church organised a system whereby the clergy and church members were responsible for keeping in phone contact with our more vulnerable members; for conversation and for any practical needs that might arise. We have had about 84 church members looked after in this way. In a few cases, people from beyond the congregation also got in touch with us, which was pleasing. We could also add that the keeping of the church open for private prayer also sometimes proved to be a lifeline of human contact for some otherwise starved of it and suffering with poor mental health.

Our various groups for young children and carers have had to be put on pause, including our Toddler groups, *Colliwobbles* at Christ Church and *T3 (Trinity, Tots & Toys)* at Holy Trinity. *Colliwobbles* continues to flourish in its new setting in Christ Church and has been much missed. *Coffee, Cake, and Chat*, a social occasion held at Holy Trinity on a Friday once a month, was not well-supported before lockdown, so in its present format has come to a natural end. We again played an active part in the *Merton Nightshelter Project* in its different iteration this COVID-year. There was a single base at the Lantern Methodist Church in Griffiths Road, Wimbledon, where each guest has their own room. Nevertheless, through our churches, we had 22 volunteers who continued to provide meals or do shifts. Christ Church has continued its link with *Christian CARE Merton*, a local charity based in Mitcham, that provides practical support to families in need.

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Merton Citizens is part of our MAP. This is a community organising alliance of different organisations that work together to champion positive change and social justice in our neighbourhood. During the pandemic each of the areas for action has continued to pursue its work via Zoom meetings. Members have also participated in a South London COVID-19 Mental Health Prevention Summit with members of South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust keen to engage as many community groups as possible to consider the impact of COVID and lockdown on the mental health of various groups in our communities. The housing group continues to build on its relationships within Merton Council to press for affordable housing. The refugee group is also very active.

We contribute to ministry in the *schools* of our parish. The PCC appoints six foundation governors at *Holy Trinity School* and two at *The Priory School*, and members of our congregations also serve as governors appointed by Southwark Diocesan Board of Education. The Team Rector is ex officio governor of these schools. Visits to church were lost this year at Easter, the Leavers' service, Schools Sunday and Christmas, but we were able to offer *Holy Trinity* and *The Priory* weekly recorded worship during the lockdowns. Once it was possible to enter the schools, *Holy Trinity* received a weekly live assembly, a different year group at a time and the act of worship recorded for the rest of the school; *The Priory* had a roughly monthly pair of mornings where each class was in for worship one after the other. We are also in close contact with community schools in our parish; we were able to visit *Pelham School* for assemblies for the season of Remembering and for Christmas, the first assemblies they had had in the hall in seven or eight months. The Revd Alison Judge continues to work with *Merton Abbey School*; although assemblies and visits have had to be discontinued, it was a delight to join the school for their online Christingle Service.

We communicate with those who live in our parish through regular door-to-door leaflets before Christmas and Easter, through our websites and through flyers distributed in schools and other community places. *Holy Trinity's* Christmas leaflet was its glossiest version yet, tied in with the Church of England Christmas campaign. This year, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, the website and e-notices have been effective in communicating news and updates regarding the virus and our response.

2020 was the fifth year of contributing to the diocese through the *Parish Support Fund*. Given the crisis of the virus and the obliteration of hall income and pressures on giving, it has been a heroic effort that the three churches met their commitments in full. During the year we have also given to a number of charities, both through planned donations and special collections (see note 3.2 on page 26).

We know that mutual care and support is the hall-mark of a truly Christian community. In this way we embody God's love in our life together.

Various groups exist to promote fellowship and learning. *Messy Church* was held online during the first lockdown but has now been discontinued. A *prayer group* at Christ Church led by Joy Lyons has continued to hold members of the parish in prayer via a phone network during lockdown and meeting in person at Christ Church on Wednesday afternoons once the church was open. *God in the Pub*, a monthly discussion of issues of faith and life, has taken on a new lease of life led by Jane Lovesey, especially this year when it became *God in the Home*, thanks again to Zoom! Our Lent groups commenced to study the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent book on the creation, "Saying Yes to Life", by Ruth Valerio, but sadly disbanded due to the first national lockdown. The *Easter Story Holiday Club* during Holy Week was yet another activity cancelled because of the virus. There remains an enthusiastic band of *bell ringers* at Christ Church and St John the Divine. Members of the band met in July to work on a risk assessment and ringing resumed as the churches opened with numbers in the tower limited to allow social distancing. Sadly, with the new regulations that came into force in October we were unable to continue ringing and the bells have been silent since.

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This year there were few occasions for fellowship, but a combined *Shrove Tuesday* event hosted at Holy Trinity was a good occasion and the sort of thing to return to in the future. The *MP3 Parish Pantomime* was *Puss in Boots* with proceeds going to the Wimbledon Food Bank. These have sometimes been occasions for raising money for charity or the parish and have often been chances for those unfamiliar with worship to participate in an accessible way. Holy Trinity *Christmas Fair* adapted to the times by running a Scavenger Hunt, which drew support from the wider community. The annual Christ Church *Candlelit Market* was not held this year.

At the start of the year, members of the ministry team continued to visit and lead regular Communion Services in Care Homes in the Parish and take communion at home to those unable to get to worship. At *Queens Court*, an extra Songs of Praise service was begun. It has been sad that contact with homes has been on hold, although we have maintained regular communication with home managers. We visit the sick at home and in hospital and offer pastoral care to those who have been bereaved. This has been continued by the clergy as far as possible during this past difficult year. During the year the clergy conducted 12 *funerals*, of which three were held in our churches; amongst those who died during the year were sometime worshippers in our parish: Patrick Brunt, Barbara Fleming, Morris Gibbs, Sylvia Knight, Eleanor Watkins and Gus Williams. We shall miss them. At All Souls' tide we invited those who are bereaved to a *memorial service*, which was appreciated by the 42 in attendance and happened just before the November lockdown. That lockdown unfortunately put a stop to some planned services of Thanksgiving and Loss, for which we had prepared publicity and made contacts in the wider community.

Aware that care for one another extends to having proper procedures in place for protecting people, the PCC continues to promote cooperation between Parish Safeguarding Officers (PSO) in implementing our safeguarding action plan (including the recruitment of a new PSO), has considered *Safeguarding* at PCC meetings, and has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. At our November PCC meeting we had a brief discussion on the final IICSA report regarding child sexual abuse in the Church of England; this is something we want to spend more time on in 2021. Our Health and Safety Officers have worked together to share good practice, draw up action plans for each church to ensure that we are fully compliant with our Health and Safety policy, and reported findings to the PCC. Naturally, they, churchwardens, clergy and others have been very busy in making and updating risk assessments and cleaning schedules to be COVID-compliant and to ensure safe spaces for worship and prayer.

The combined *electoral roll* for the parish in 2020 was 314 (Christ Church 64, Holy Trinity 216, St John the Divine 34); this number does not include children or the many people with a more fringe relationship with our churches. We also maintain congregational lists of all our contacts, which comply with data protection legislation; we are mindful of the requirements of GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations), which came into force in May 2018.

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Personnel

The Team Rector, the Revd Mark Eminson, is responsible for Holy Trinity, while the Team Vicar, the Revd Alison Judge, is responsible for Christ Church and St John the Divine. The Revd Belemo Alagoa, Assistant Priest, continues to work three days a week across the team and we were very pleased to have her time with us renewed for a further three years. Nick Mayhew-Smith, Reader, is now a Parish Ordinand, having been recommended for training for ordained ministry. He is training part-time at Ripon College, Cuddesdon, and so is still with us in the Team too. Joy Lyons, SPA (Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary), continues in her work of pastoral care for members of Christ Church and to co-ordinate the Prayer Group; her work is valued greatly. The Revd Canon Duncan Swan, Associate Priest, works for Southwark Diocese as Deaneries Development Advisor (albeit on furlough this year). We heard towards the end of the year that we are to be blessed with a title curate next summer; more on that shortly. We currently have no paid Parish Administrator and are hugely indebted to Kerry Porritt and Ann Roberts for holding the fort.

The DCCs set rates of pay for employees in accordance with the skills and responsibilities of their roles and with the aim of recruiting and retaining high quality staff; we continue to abide by the commitment made in 2014 to pay no one less than the London Living Wage, as set by the Living Wage Foundation, which was £10.75 per hour from the beginning of 2020. The PCC has indicated a wish to become accredited as a Living Wage Employer.

A staff pension scheme with the Church Workers Pension Fund was introduced on 1 January 2015, which was well before the PCC's workplace pensions staging date of 1 June 2016. It is available to all employees regardless of salary level and the PCC contributes 5% of gross salary provided the employee also contributes a minimum of 5%.

We are very aware that officers and those in licensed or paid roles are only a small part of the ministry of all God's people and give thanks to God for the many volunteers who contribute to our worship and ministry.

Caring for one another

MAP objective:

- *Becoming 'one body in Christ' through deepening commitment and good communication*
- *Becoming a more inclusive community*

As a Team with three churches each hosting and committed to many activities, and offering many opportunities to our congregations and communities, we realise the challenge of good and clear communications to enable us to make the best use of our resources and to maximise our outreach. Through updating our websites and social media contacts, through work on our internal communications we hope to become more fully 'one body in Christ'. This has received fresh impetus this year as a result of the pandemic when we started out with a Team task group representing the three churches and have maintained team-wide communications. This is something we hope to build on in the future.

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Use of Church Buildings

The PCC has responsibility for the three sites where the churches are situated. Each site has had to respond to making our buildings COVID-19 secure and churchwardens and clergy have worked together to produce a risk assessment and cleaning protocols to ensure that our buildings when open are as safe as possible.

Christ Church: This consists of a church building and a hall building on the same site but not physically connected. The church building is much used by the local community for concerts and community events and we have greatly missed this contact this year. Flourish Day Nursery is now thoroughly embedded within the community and a delight to have as tenants. They have been affected by the pandemic but have managed to maintain their service and, fortunately, been able to pay their rent accordingly. We continue working as a congregation and DCC to enhance Christ Church as a place of worship and welcome to our community. Times when the church has been open for private prayer have been well attended and we look forward to continuing this.

Holy Trinity & St Peter: Within one building, Holy Trinity has a main worship area, clergy vestry, St Peter's Chapel, committee room, kitchen, church hall, St Cecilia Room; and an area of the church is set aside for quiet prayer. The church is widely used by outside agencies and the DCC has a licence under faculty to allow London Together Korean Church to use the worship area on Sunday afternoons. A quinquennial inspection in December 2016 revealed a number of works that need undertaking. In addition, the DCC has identified four projects – refurbishing the kitchen; creating a downstairs chapel; redecorating the church interior; repairing the stained-glass window in the East end – that it wishes to accomplish in the coming years. Most hirer use was interrupted for the better part of 2020, although in the autumn we did gain several new hirers. While we were closed for hire, some of our space was made available free of charge for Merton Mutual Aid, a new community group set up to assist in the pandemic. In a similar arrangement, another part of the building was used by Care4Calais, collecting goods for asylum-seekers. The diocese granted a faculty for The Polka Theatre, leaseholders of Holy Trinity's former hall, to create a new entrance at the corner of the church wall, which we supported. Eventually things were in place for a new lease to be signed for Polka Theatre's use of the garden area (vestries forecourt), which will result in a small income for the church each year. Late in the year, after an accident, it became clear that the decking outside the hall area was unfit for use, so this was speedily sealed off, awaiting attention in the new year.

St John the Divine: This comprises a church building and a hall building. These are located on separate sites, the hall being on the other side of the road from the church. The proposed redevelopment of High Path estate, which may incorporate the site of the church hall, continues but we have heard nothing from Clarion Housing Association this year. Due to COVID-19 we have not been able to welcome choirs or new initiatives into St John the Divine and so we look forward to a better year in 2021.

Our churches have not been open to the community as much as we would wish because of concerns about theft and vandalism, but the times of opening for private prayer - always with a couple of volunteers - have meant we have started to redress this. The PCC is keen that the facilities are used by the community as much as possible and therefore allows for the hiring of the buildings by community groups at a reduced or no cost basis. This is also supplemented by hiring to private groups on more commercial terms.

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4 Looking to the future

Recalling again the set of bullet points under our “objectives and activities”, 2020 and the pandemic meant that most of them were not possible or severely hindered: the building closed, sacramental life on hold, people separated, income slashed. Against this backdrop, it is amazing how our corporate life and core purpose have been maintained and developed. Equally, perhaps it means we look to the future with more anticipation and delight than ever! At one PCC meeting, members offered this range of hopes for the days beyond lockdown:

- have a full church;
- have a mixture of Zoom and face to face meetings (and fewer meetings!);
- expand our social gatherings;
- remember and value what we have discovered and be mindful of them;
- a party;
- remember to focus on the people and not get bogged down by other mundane things;
- have a big sing song;
- have regular community events in all three churches;
- continue some of the conversations which have been held over the phone and at a distance... that communication can continue;
- a Team Service of thanksgiving and celebration, possibly with special thanks to the NHS and other key workers.

One tangible hope and expectation is the arrival of a title curate in June 2021. We are gratified that the diocese sees us as a good training parish and the advent of a newly-ordained minister should provide occasion for that combination of worship and song, fellowship and celebration. Furthermore, the sight of someone responding to God’s call on their lives will inspire the vocation and mission of the whole people of God.

This will be timely because in some ways it is quite difficult to plan creatively for the future after a year of constantly surviving and adapting. We are conscious, however, that this MAP cycle has come to an end, so we look forward to a period of review and discernment regarding how and where we go next. This will involve a combination of an Away Day, the assistance of a diocesan missionary, a consultation process and will need time and prayer; but start we certainly will!

Notwithstanding this process, we can already see projects underway or on the horizon which God’s providence has in store. In this regard, we will be continuing to focus on our response to the Black Lives Matter movement and working against racial injustice; also, on our plans to become an Eco-Church; then the national Living in Love and Faith process (Christian teaching and learning about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage).

We imagine we will also continue to embed our close communications and working together as this will free up time, talents and personnel for the key work of mission and service. This is also the case with our financial stewardship. Stewardship campaigns in 2020 enabled us to hold our own, while big savings in some areas of expenditure mean budgets this year look a lot healthier than we would have expected. The generosity and spirit of all our members across the three churches is cause for great thanksgiving and a strong foundation for 2021 and beyond.

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5 Financial Review

As with all of our activities, the COVID-19 pandemic affected our finances in a major way during 2020.

Total income for the year decreased by £59,990 (19%) to £249,321 (2019: £309,331) as set out in the accompanying financial statements on pages 21-42. Of this total, £6,657 was restricted income.

Total unrestricted donations and legacies were £174,833 which was a 5% reduction from the previous year's figure of £183,970. Hearteningly, tax efficient planned giving pretty much held its own and we are grateful to our three congregations for sustaining their regular stewardship commitments despite the upheavals of national lockdowns and church buildings closed to public worship.

During 2020, we also benefited from the balance (£4,652) of a legacy first received in 2018 from Suzette Rumney and the PCC made full use of the government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) to the tune of £4,764, to support salaries of those staff who were put on furlough. Occasional or one-off giving inevitably suffered a downturn while church buildings were closed.

The major reduction in income over the previous year came from church and hall lettings, which raised £57,136 in 2020 compared with £86,995 in 2019, a loss of £29,859 (34%). As lockdown begins to be eased during 2021, we hope that our hirers will return. Flourish Day Nursery, which rents the church hall at Christ Church, was able to stay open during the pandemic to serve the children of key workers and vulnerable children, and we are grateful for that. Gift Aid from tax efficient giving totalled £28,091 (2019: £33,160), and income from fundraising events reduced by £3,700, from £10,710 in 2019 to £7,010 in 2020, a reduction of 35%, again largely due to closed buildings.

Although our overall income was down by 19%, likewise total expenditure fell by 21% to £254,809 (2019: £322,627). This was mostly due to staff vacancies for the whole year, the Parish Administrator who worked across the team and a Director of Music at Holy Trinity. With these vacancies, parish staff salaries were £12,866 in 2020, a reduction of £29,736 (70%) over the 2019 total of £42,602. Unrestricted expenditure overall reduced by 18%.

Despite the reduction in income, we were able to meet our pledged contributions to the Diocesan Parish Support Fund of £161,075 in 2020, which is a remarkable achievement. Christ Church has also begun in 2021 to pay the shortfall of £18,000 in its contributions from 2019 over the next three years, at the rate of £500 per month. The Parish Support Fund pays for our parish clergy and other diocesan resources, as well as a contribution to poorer parishes.

The team as a whole happily contributed £14,578 (2019: £25,252) to mission giving and donations. Although this was less than in previous years, largely because of the loss of income the churches received, it is pleasing that these commitments did continue. Holy Trinity transferred its annual charitable tithe for 2020 of £5,900 to a designated fund which will be distributed in 2021.

In summary, the deficit for the parish on unrestricted funds was £9,103, with an overall deficit of £5,488, both before unrealised gains on investments which totalled £1,438. The net movement of funds for 2020 was a deficit of only £4,050, which in a year of a global pandemic is reason to express great thanks.

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6 Reserves Policy

The PCC has examined the requirements for free reserves, i.e. those unrestricted funds not invested in tangible fixed assets. Given the nature of Merton Priory Team Ministry's work and financial uncertainty due to the global pandemic, the PCC decided during 2020 that free reserves should be reduced from six months to three months' routine general fund expenditure, plus committed future expenditure on other projects, where funds permit. This is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies. At 31 December 2020, the PCC had net free reserves of £215,447 (2019: £216,666) as outlined below, which meets the total free reserves requirement of £85,742 (2019: £167,963). Further details on capital commitments are shown in Note 10 on page 42.

	2020 £	2019 £
Total reserves	291,505	295,555
Less: restricted funds	(31,731)	(32,366)
Less: endowment funds	(30,801)	(29,876)
Less: unrestricted tangible fixed assets used in the continuing work of the PCC	(13,526)	(16,647)
Net free reserves	215,447	216,666
Free reserves requirement:		
Three months' routine expenditure (2019: six months)	62,942	153,063
Anticipated cost of major capital works	22,800	14,900
Total free reserves requirement	85,742	167,963

7 Investment Policy

Funds not immediately required for working capital are partly placed on short term deposit and partly invested in longer-term investment funds. The PCC currently uses the CCLA Church of England Deposit Fund, Charities Aid Foundation investment funds and M&G Charity Funds. The PCC expects to do some work in the near future on drawing up a formal investment policy.

8 Going concern

Each year it is the PCC's responsibility to state whether or not the financial statements have been drawn up on a going concern basis (see the accounting policy note on page 21). Going concern is the assumption that an entity, in this case the PCC, has the resources (financial or otherwise) needed to continue operating for the foreseeable future and, in particular, for at least 12 months from the date of approval by the PCC of these financial statements. If the going concern principle did not apply then the accounts would be drawn up on an insolvent basis.

Clearly, as part of this year's going concern review, the PCC has had to consider the impact of COVID-19. The financial risks to the ministry of the PCC have increased significantly as a result of COVID-19 during the whole of 2020 and also into 2021. We do not yet know the complete direct and indirect economic impact of the virus on our church members, whose giving provides the bulk of our financial support. Although tax efficient planned giving held its own in 2020, there has been significant loss of income from other sources.

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We do know, however, that we could not let the church or halls during the lockdown periods and perhaps well beyond that, and a significant reduction in that source of income has been unavoidable. Our free reserves position, however, is adequate, so we do not currently envisage severe financial distress during 2021 and do not consider that there is going concern risk in the short-term. The PCC is keeping both the short-term and longer-term implications under review,

9 Volunteers

We are grateful to all our churchwardens, upon whose shoulders much has fallen this year: Desmond Davies and Alison Fletcher Rogers (Christ Church), Kerry Porritt and Richard Blades (Holy Trinity), Ann Roberts and Jean Parker (St John the Divine); several of whom are due to stand down at the 2021 Annual Parochial Church Meeting, when they will receive fuller thanks. We are also thankful for the considerable labours of our PCC Treasurer, Liz Holder, and PCC Secretaries, first Jaclyn Lartey, then Jane Savill.

We would like to thank all the volunteers who work so tirelessly on our behalf to make our churches the lively and vibrant communities they are. As well as those in licensed lay roles, we particularly want to mention all those who work behind the scenes and in the more invisible areas of our church life; special mention this year should go to the few stalwarts who have managed our communications (websites, social media and notices).

10 Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure and is a Registered Charity.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The PCC consists of 18 elected members, six from Christ Church, six from Holy Trinity and six from St John the Divine, plus the team clergy. During the past year the PCC has met six times, since the pandemic began via Zoom.

A range of issues are discussed during PCC meetings, including considering ministry needs, parish communications and planning for key events in the parish, as well as hearing reports from the individual churches and having oversight of the Mission Action Plans for all three churches. The PCC is responsible for appointing foundation governors to the governing body of Holy Trinity and Priory schools and also has authority for finance across the parish.

The PCC Standing Committee, which consists of the Team Rector, Team Vicar, six Churchwardens, Secretary and Treasurer, has met on several occasions. The Assistant Priest has recently also been invited to attend these meetings. This group has set the agenda for the PCC meetings and ensured its smooth running. In addition, the PCC Business Committee – Team Rector, Team Vicar, Treasurer and Secretary – has met to make certain that all aspects of church business are covered.

The PCC complies with diocesan requirements with regard to safeguarding policies and risk assessment. It also complies with statutory requirements with regard to employment, access and health and safety.

11 Key management personnel

Key management personnel are those in charge of directing, controlling, running and operating the charity on a day to day basis. For Merton Priory Team Ministry, these are all the members of the PCC and the three DCCs (District Church Councils).

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Annual Report of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2020

12 Administrative information

Parish details

Full name of the Charity: The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Merton Priory

Registered Charity Number: 1134253

Diocese & Deanery: Southwark Diocese, Merton Deanery

Address: Holy Trinity Church, 234 The Broadway, London SW19 1SB

Telephone: 020 8542 1388

Website: www.mertonprioryteam.org.uk

Parish Clergy: Revd Mark Eminson, Team Rector
Revd Alison Judge, Team Vicar
Revd Belemo Alagoa, Assistant Priest
Revd Canon Duncan Swan, Associate Priest

Lay Ministers: Nick Mayhew-Smith, Reader* (to 31/08/20)
Joy Lyons, Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary (SPA)

**Nick Mayhew-Smith began ordination training on 1 September 2020, at which point he stood down from his licensed lay minister role as a Reader*

Churchwardens: Desmond Davies & Alison Fletcher Rogers, Christ Church
Kerry Porritt & Richard Blades, Holy Trinity & St Peter
Ann Roberts & Jean Parker, St John the Divine

Principal Bankers: Merton Priory PCC, Christ Church and Holy Trinity & St Peter:
CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling ME19 4JQ
St John the Divine:
NatWest plc, Wimbledon (B) Branch, 16 Wimbledon Hill Road,
London SW19 7NN

Independent Examiner: John Helm ACA
Simply Churches Ltd
17 Heathville Road
Crouch End
London N19 3AL

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Annual Report of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2020

Parochial Church Council Members from January 2020 to the date this report was signed:

Parish Clergy:	Revd Mark Eminson, Chair Revd Alison Judge Revd Belemo Alagoa Revd Canon Duncan Swan	
Churchwardens:	Desmond Davies Alison Fletcher Rogers Kerry Porritt, Lay Chair Richard Blades Ann Roberts Jean Parker	Christ Church Christ Church Holy Trinity & St Peter Holy Trinity & St Peter St John the Divine St John the Divine
Representative on Diocesan Synod:	Liz Holder (<i>to 12/06/20</i>), PCC Treasurer	Merton Deanery
Representatives on Deanery Synod:	Michael Brunt Jane Savill, Acting PCC Secretary (<i>from 15/01/21</i>) Martin Lyons <i>Vacancy</i> Ann Newson Eva Parker	Christ Church Christ Church Holy Trinity & St Peter Holy Trinity & St Peter St John the Divine St John the Divine
PCC Members:	Joanne Powell <i>Vacancy</i> Andrew Taylor Daisy Tate (<i>to 16/06/20</i>) <i>Vacancy (from 16/06/20)</i> <i>Vacancy</i> <i>Vacancy</i> Jaclyn Lartey, PCC Secretary (<i>to 15/01/21</i>) Liz Holder (<i>from 01/07/20</i>), PCC Treasurer	Christ Church Christ Church Holy Trinity & St Peter Holy Trinity & St Peter Holy Trinity & St Peter St John the Divine St John the Divine Co-opted Co-opted

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Annual Report of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2020

13 Statement of responsibilities of the Parochial Church Council

Law applicable to Parochial Church Councils in England & Wales requires the PCC to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the PCC and of its incoming resources and application of resources for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the PCC is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the PCC will continue in operation for the foreseeable future; and
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

14 Independent Examiner

The PCC has elected to have an independent examination rather than an audit of the financial statements. The role of Independent Examiner is a personal appointment and this has been carried out by John Helm. Mr Helm has indicated his willingness to continue in this role and accordingly a resolution will be submitted to the forthcoming Annual Parochial Church Meeting to re-appoint him as the PCC's Independent Examiner for 2021.

Approved by the PCC on 6 May 2021 and signed on its behalf:



The Revd Mark Eminson
PCC Chair

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Independent Examiner's Report to the members of the Parochial Church Council

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020 which are set out on pages 19 to 42.

Respective Responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

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

It is my responsibility to

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

Basis of this Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the PCC concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the church as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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



John Helm ACA
Simply Churches Ltd
17 Heathville Road
Crouch End
London N19 3AL

Dated: 10 May 2021

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2020

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2020 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2019 £
INCOME & ENDOWMENTS FROM:									
Donations and legacies	2.1	174,833	6,211	-	181,044	183,970	22,289	-	206,259
Raising funds	2.2	7,010	-	-	7,010	10,063	647	-	10,710
Investment income	2.3	2,162	446	-	2,608	1,821	465	-	2,286
Church activities	2.4	58,659	-	-	58,659	90,056	-	-	90,056
TOTAL		242,664	6,657	-	249,321	285,910	23,401	-	309,311
EXPENDITURE ON:									
Church activities	3.1	239,144	171	-	239,315	283,192	12,004	-	295,196
Mission giving & donations	3.2	11,707	2,871	-	14,578	21,158	4,094	-	25,252
Costs of raising funds	3.3	916	-	-	916	1,776	403	-	2,179
TOTAL		251,767	3,042	-	254,809	306,126	16,501	-	322,627
NET (EXPENDITURE)/INCOME		(9,103)	3,615	-	(5,488)	(20,216)	6,900	-	(13,316)
Net gains/(losses) on investments	5.2	513	-	925	1,438	835	-	2,111	2,946
Transfers between funds	8	4,250	(4,250)	-	-	-	-	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(4,340)	(635)	925	(4,050)	(19,381)	6,900	2,111	(10,370)
Reconciliation of funds:									
Totals funds brought forward 1 January 2020		233,313	32,366	29,876	295,555	252,694	25,466	27,765	305,925
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD 31 DECEMBER 2020		228,973	31,731	30,801	291,505	233,313	32,366	29,876	295,555

The notes on pages 21-42 form part of these financial statements.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

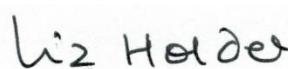
Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2020

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
FIXED ASSETS						
Tangible fixed assets	5.1	13,526	-	-	13,526	16,647
Investments	5.2	42,552	-	14,313	56,865	55,353
		<u>56,078</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14,313</u>	<u>70,391</u>	<u>72,000</u>
CURRENT ASSETS						
Debtors	6	17,136	703	-	17,839	19,848
Cash at bank and in hand		174,777	31,028	16,488	222,293	233,805
		<u>191,913</u>	<u>31,731</u>	<u>16,488</u>	<u>240,132</u>	<u>253,653</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES						
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	7	19,018	-	-	19,018	30,098
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>172,895</u>	<u>31,731</u>	<u>16,488</u>	<u>221,114</u>	<u>223,555</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS		<u>228,973</u>	<u>31,731</u>	<u>30,801</u>	<u>291,505</u>	<u>295,555</u>
PARISH FUNDS						
Unrestricted Funds:	8					
- PCC General Fund		1,000	-	-	1,000	1,000
- Designated Funds (general)		113,796	-	-	113,796	114,714
- Designated Funds (specific)		114,177	-	-	114,177	117,599
Restricted Funds		-	31,731	-	31,731	32,366
Endowment Funds		-	-	30,801	30,801	29,876
TOTAL PARISH FUNDS		<u>228,973</u>	<u>31,731</u>	<u>30,801</u>	<u>291,505</u>	<u>295,555</u>

The financial statements were approved by the PCC and authorised for issue on 6 May 2021 and signed on its behalf by:



The Revd Mark Eminson
PCC Chair



Liz Holder FMAAT
PCC Treasurer

The notes on pages 21-42 form part of these financial statements.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

I ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation or uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS 102). The financial statements are drawn up on the historical cost basis of accounting except for investment assets, which are shown at market value.

The Parochial Church Council of Merton Priory was formed in May 2009 from the amalgamation of three separate parishes: Christ Church, Colliers Wood; Holy Trinity & St Peter, South Wimbledon; St John the Divine, Merton. These financial statements incorporate the income and expenditure, assets and liabilities of the combined parish, including comparative figures for the previous year. The finances of the three individual churches are maintained separately and are therefore accounted for as designated funds.

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

The PCC meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

Going Concern

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern and accordingly the accounts have been drawn up on a going concern basis (see also Section 8 of the Annual Report on page 13).

Income Recognition

Voluntary income and donations (including legacies) are accounted for once the PCC has entitlement to the income, it is probable the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be reliably measured. Income from the recovery of tax on gift aided donations is accounted for in the period to which the relevant donation is received. Grant income is recognised on a receivable basis. All income is accounted for gross apart from parochial fees for weddings and funerals, which are accounted for net of fees payable to the diocese.

The income from church activities includes rental income from the letting of church and hall premises, which is accounted for when earned. It is shown gross, with any associated costs included in costs of trading.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

I ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Expenditure Recognition

Expenditure is accrued as soon as a liability is considered probable, and the amount of obligation can be measured reliably. Longer term liabilities are discounted to present value. The PCC is not registered for VAT and accordingly expenditure includes VAT where appropriate.

Where applicable, expenditure included in Raising Funds includes amounts incurred in obtaining grants and other donations.

Expenditure on church activities includes those costs incurred to fulfil the PCC's principal objects, as outlined in the Report of the PCC. These include grants payable and governance costs. Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The Diocesan Parish Support Fund is accounted for when due. Governance costs comprise all costs involving the public accountability of the PCC and its compliance with regulation and good practice. These costs include costs related to the independent examination and legal fees.

The PCC contributes to employees' pension plans with the Church Workers' Pension Fund (see Note 4.3).

Rentals under operating leases are charged as incurred over the term of the lease.

Tangible Fixed Assets

Consecrated and benefice property of any kind is excluded from the financial statements by Section 10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011.

Moveable church furnishings are held by the Team Rector and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC. They are considered inalienable property and require a faculty for disposal. They are listed in the churches' inventories, which can be inspected (at any reasonable time). Items are capitalised at cost and depreciated over their useful economic life other than where insufficient cost information is available. Individual items of furnishings with a purchase price of £1,500 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Equipment and Fixtures & Fittings and such other functional equipment used on a continuing basis for the work of the PCC is depreciated on a straight-line basis over five years (equipment, currently none held) or ten years (fixtures and fittings). Individual items of equipment and fixtures & fittings with a purchase price of £1,500 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Fixed Asset Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

Debtors

Debtors are included at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term deposits with a withdrawal notice period of no more than three months.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

I ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Creditors

Creditors are recognised where the charity has a present obligation arising from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are recognised at their settlement amount.

Borrowings

The PCC currently holds no borrowings.

Fund accounting

The funds held by the charity are either:

Unrestricted general funds that can be used for PCC ordinary purposes. These include funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC. Apart from the PCC General Fund, all other unrestricted funds are designated to the three individual churches and are therefore reported as designated funds.

Restricted funds represent donations received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund.

The *expendable endowment fund (Holy Trinity & St Peter)* was established following the receipt of a substantial legacy from a parishioner. The terms of the legacy are such that the capital can either be invested or expended in the furtherance of the church's ministry in the parish. It has therefore been accounted for as an expendable endowment. Income arising from the invested funds is credited to unrestricted incoming resources.

The *permanent endowment fund (St John the Divine)* was given for building a new church, completed in 1914, with the income from the remaining endowment capital to be used on the fabric of the existing building.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

2 INCOME & ENDOWMENTS FROM:

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
2.1 Donation and legacies				
Tax efficient planned giving	90,373	-	90,373	91,015
Other planned giving	21,712	-	21,712	27,827
Collections at services	4,151	234	4,385	11,714
All other giving/voluntary income	21,708	5,359	27,067	42,543
Gift Aid recovered	27,473	618	28,091	33,160
Legacies received	4,652	-	4,652	-
Grants (recurring & one-off)	4,764	-	4,764	-
	<u>174,833</u>	<u>6,211</u>	<u>181,044</u>	<u>206,259</u>
2.2 Raising funds				
Fundraising events	7,010	-	7,010	10,710
	<u>7,010</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,010</u>	<u>10,710</u>
2.3 Investment income				
Dividends	788	402	1,190	1,126
Bank interest	916	44	960	1,160
Rent from land	458	-	458	-
	<u>2,162</u>	<u>446</u>	<u>2,608</u>	<u>2,286</u>
2.4 Church activities				
Fees for weddings and funerals	1,523	-	1,523	3,051
Church & hall lettings	57,136	-	57,136	86,995
Bookstall sales	-	-	-	10
	<u>58,659</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>58,659</u>	<u>90,056</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>242,664</u>	<u>6,657</u>	<u>249,321</u>	<u>309,311</u>

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

3 EXPENDITURE ON:

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
3.1 Church activities				
<i>Church activities:</i>				
Diocesan parish support fund	161,075	-	161,075	144,529
Salaries of parish staff	12,866	-	12,866	42,602
Clergy & assistant staff expenses	2,181	-	2,181	2,623
<i>Church expenses:</i>				
Mission & evangelism costs	111	46	157	1,105
Education	1,109	-	1,109	1,978
Insurance	10,960	-	10,960	11,045
Routine maintenance	7,975	125	8,100	10,697
Parish office costs	3,373	-	3,373	5,317
Upkeep of services	2,699	-	2,699	5,605
Upkeep of church gardens	-	-	-	960
Church cleaning – contractors & supplies	1,184	-	1,184	1,885
Organ & piano tuning	1,880	-	1,880	1,835
Depreciation on tangible fixed assets	3,121	-	3,121	3,121
Church utilities - electricity, gas & water	5,590	-	5,590	10,984
Other church running expenses	2,537	-	2,537	6,930
<i>Costs of trading:</i>				
Hall insurance	2,051	-	2,051	2,015
Hall routine maintenance	31	-	31	2,114
Hall cleaning – contractors & supplies	1,148	-	1,148	2,312
Hall utilities - electricity, gas & water	8,135	-	8,135	6,810
Legal fees re Christ Church hall lease	-	-	-	4,552
<i>Major capital expenditure:</i>				
Organ blower repair (CC)	4,284	-	4,284	7,476
Hall rewiring (CC)	4,254	-	4,254	-
Hall alarm refit (CC)	2,580	-	2,580	-
Grand piano refurbishment (HT)	-	-	-	11,693
Damp proof walls (HT)	-	-	-	5,400
Roof repairs (HT)	-	-	-	1,608
TOTAL CHURCH ACTIVITIES	239,144	171	239,315	295,196

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

3 EXPENDITURE ON: (continued)

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
3.2 Mission giving and donations				
<i>Church overseas & missionary societies:</i>				
Joshua Orphan & Community Care, Malawi	2,083	-	2,083	3,083
Mary's Meals	-	-	-	2,313
Tear Fund	-	-	-	2,313
Care4Calais	-	-	-	663
<i>Relief and development agencies:</i>				
Christian Aid (Lebanon Crisis Appeal)	-	160	160	137
DEC (Cyclone Idai, East Africa)	-	-	-	600
<i>Home mission & church organisations:</i>				
Wimbledon Food Bank	4,057	547	4,604	-
Faith in Action – Merton Homelessness Project	2,144	-	2,144	3,153
Christian CARE Merton	-	1,001	1,001	1,536
Wimbledon Guild	-	547	547	-
Merton Night Shelter	-	455	455	395
Bishop of Southwark's Lent Appeal	10	161	171	1,408
Surrey Churches Preservation Trust	-	-	-	290
Other donations under £100	-	-	-	47
<i>Secular charities:</i>				
South London Refugee Association	2,083	-	2,083	3,360
Merton Citizens (part of Citizens UK)	1,330	-	1,330	1,330
Polka Theatre	-	-	-	2,312
Rethink Mental Illness	-	-	-	2,312
TOTAL MISSION GIVING & DONATIONS	11,707	2,871	14,578	25,252

These figures for Mission Giving & Donations do not include gifts banked directly to charities for Christian Aid Week or cheques sent direct to the Bishop of Southwark's Lent Appeal. The parish also makes significant contributions in kind, such as the substantial amount of food given each year to the Wimbledon Food Bank.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

3 EXPENDITURE ON: (continued)

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
3.3 Costs of raising funds				
Costs of fundraising events	853	-	853	1,872
Costs of supporting regular giving	63	-	63	307
TOTAL COSTS OF RAISING FUNDS	916	-	916	2,179
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	251,767	3,042	254,809	322,627

4.1 STAFF COSTS

Included within expenditure on church activities (see note 3 above) are the following staff costs:

	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Gross Salaries	12,704	41,241
Employer National Insurance contributions	-	1,379
Employment Allowance	-	(1,379)
Employer Pension contributions	162	1,361
	12,866	42,602

These staff costs exclude the amounts paid to Southwark Diocese for the stipendiary clergy, who are funded through the Parish Support Fund. Employer's National Insurance is covered by the government's Employment Allowance. All employed staff are paid at least the London Living Wage. Information on the staff pension scheme is given in Note 4.3.

During the year the churches employed various part-time staff, as follows:

- Holy Trinity: the posts of Parish Administrator and Director of Music were vacant in 2020 (2019: one Parish Administrator and two job-share Directors of Music); the church employed one Bookkeeper (2019: one).
- Christ Church and St John the Divine jointly employed an Organist/Music Leader (2019: one), and each church employed a Cleaner (2019: one each).

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

4.2 RELATED PARTIES

Liz Holder, PCC Treasurer and member of the PCC, was paid £1,200 (2019: £1,200) for accountancy services relating to the preparation of the statutory financial statements. This payment was gift-aided back to the PCC.

Jane Savill, PCC member, is Chair and trustee of Christian CARE Merton, to which the PCC donated £1,001 in 2020 (2019: £1,536).

Alison Judge, PCC member, made an interest-free loan of £6,000 to Christ Church in November 2019. The loan was for cashflow purposes to progress essential work to the Christ Church organ and was repaid in full in 2020.

The expenses of three (2019: four) members of the PCC/DCCs amounting to £426 (2019: £890) in relation to travel, training and retreats were met by the PCC during the year.

Aggregated unrestricted donations from PCC members totalled £14,395 (2019: £15,158).

4.3 STAFF PENSIONS

Merton Priory PCC participates in the Pension Builder Scheme section of CWPF (Church Workers Pension Fund) for lay staff. The Scheme is administered by the Church of England Pensions Board ("the Board"), which holds the assets of the schemes separately from those of the Employer and the other participating employers.

The Church Workers Pension Fund has a section known as the Defined Benefits Scheme, a deferred annuity section known as Pension Builder Classic and a cash balance section known as Pension Builder 2014.

Pension Builder Scheme

The Pension Builder Scheme of the Church Workers Pension Fund is made up of two sections, Pension Builder Classic and Pension Builder 2014, both of which are classed as defined benefit schemes.

Pension Builder Classic provides a pension for members for payment from retirement, accumulated from contributions paid and converted into a deferred annuity during employment based on terms set and reviewed by the Church of England Pensions Board from time to time. Bonuses may also be declared, depending on the investment returns and other factors.

Pension Builder 2014 is a cash balance scheme that provides a lump sum that members use to provide benefits at retirement. Pension contributions are recorded in an account for each member. This account may have bonuses added by the Board before retirement. The bonuses depend on investment experience and other factors. There is no requirement for the Board to grant any bonuses. The account, plus any bonuses declared, is payable from members' Normal Pension Age.

There is no sub-division of assets between employers in each section of the Pension Builder Scheme.

The scheme is a multi-employer scheme as described in Section 28 of FRS 102. This is because it is not possible to attribute the Pension Builder Scheme's assets and liabilities to specific employers and that contributions are accounted for as if the Scheme were a defined contribution scheme. The pensions costs charged to the SoFA (Statement of Financial Activities) in the year are contributions payable **(2020: £162; 2019: £1,361)**.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

A valuation of the Pension Builder Scheme is carried out once every three years. The most recent was carried out as at 31 December 2016. A valuation as at 31 December 2019 was underway as at 31 December 2020.

For the Pension Builder Classic section, the valuation revealed a deficit of £14.2m on the ongoing assumptions used. At the most recent annual review, the Board chose not to grant a discretionary bonus, which will have acted to improve the funding position. There is no requirement for deficit payments at the current time.

For the Pension Builder 2014 section, the valuation revealed a surplus of £1.8m on the ongoing assumptions used. There is no requirement for deficit payments at the current time.

The legal structure of the scheme is such that if another employer fails, **Merton Priory PCC** could become responsible for paying a share of that employer's pension liabilities.

5 FIXED ASSETS

5.1 Tangible Fixed Assets

		Fixtures & Fittings £
Cost	At 1 January 2020	70,369
	Additions at cost	-
	At 31 December 2020	70,369
Depreciation	At 1 January 2020	53,722
	Charge for the year	3,121
	At 31 December 2020	56,843
Net Book Value at 31 December 2020		13,526
Net Book Value at 31 December 2019		16,647

Moveable Church Furnishings:

None of the three churches hold any moveable church furnishings purchased since 2001 which are capitalised and depreciated over their useful economic life (see *Accounting Policies*, page 22).

Fixtures & Fittings:

Christ Church

The church sound system was purchased in 2009 and is now fully depreciated.

Holy Trinity

The grand piano (purchased in 2002), original kitchen improvements (also 2002) and refurbishment of the reception area (2007) are all fully depreciated. The audio-visual system was installed in 2015 and will be depreciated over ten years.

St John the Divine

A lighting control panel was purchased in 2018 and will be depreciated over ten years.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

5.2 Investments

	Unrestricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Market value 1 January 2020	41,965	13,388	55,353	52,338
Dividends reinvested	74	-	74	70
Unrealised gains on revaluation	513	925	1,438	2,945
Market value 31 December 2020	42,552	14,313	56,865	55,353
Market value represented by investments in:				
CBF Investment Fund shares	2,691	14,313	17,004	15,832
Charibond Charities Fixed Interest Common Investment Fund shares	29,861	-	29,861	29,521
Polka Theatre – interest in the freehold	10,000	-	10,000	10,000
	42,552	14,313	56,865	55,353

CBF Investment Fund shares are held by:

Christ Church:

Trust Fund T0169, held by the Diocese of Southwark as custodian trustee, originated from the sale of a passageway in 1951 for £200. Funds are invested in 85.37 CBF Investment Fund shares with the dividend reinvested.

St John the Divine:

Trust Fund T0046 held by the Diocese of Southwark as custodian trustee. The fund was a permanent endowment (capital) for building a new church, completed in 1914, with the remaining capital invested to provide an income restricted to work on the fabric of the building.

Charibond Charities Fixed Interest Common Investment Fund is held by **Holy Trinity**: original purchase price £27,734 for 24,426 units. The current holding is 23,798 units at 31 December 2020. The unit trust invests in government and corporate fixed interest securities.

The Polka Theatre is held by **Holy Trinity**: a nominal figure of the PCC's interest in the freehold of the Polka Theatre (240 The Broadway, London SW19 1SB) which is subject to a long-term lease. This has not been the subject of an independent valuation.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

6 DEBTORS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Gift Aid recoverable	11,321	703	12,024	12,759
Accrued income	4,045	-	4,045	5,252
Prepayments and other debtors	1,770	-	1,770	1,837
	<u>17,136</u>	<u>703</u>	<u>17,839</u>	<u>19,848</u>

7 CREDITORS

Amounts falling due within one year:

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Accruals	5,691	-	5,691	9,792
Payroll tax creditor	491	-	491	1,717
Pension creditor	1	-	1	236
Other creditors and income received in advance	12,835	-	12,835	12,353
Loan from a member of the congregation *	-	-	-	6,000
	<u>19,018</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>19,018</u>	<u>30,098</u>

* An interest-free loan from a member of the congregation was given to Christ Church in 2019. The purpose of the loan was for cashflow purposes to progress essential work to the Christ Church organ and was repaid in full in November 2020.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

8 FUND ANALYSIS

8.1a Fund Summary (current year)

	Balance 01/01/20 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains & Losses £	Balance 31/12/20 £
Unrestricted Funds						
PCC General Fund	1,000	5,372	(5,372)	-	-	1,000
Designated Funds (General) *						
Christ Church	18,742	75,249	(60,947)	4,164	173	37,381
Holy Trinity	46,230	132,585	(134,204)	(10,552)	340	34,399
St John the Divine	49,742	29,164	(36,543)	(347)	-	42,016
Designated Funds (Specific) *						
PCC	558	-	-	-	-	558
Christ Church	3,210	-	(2,580)	86	-	716
Holy Trinity	111,402	294	(11,774)	10,552	-	110,474
St John the Divine	2,429	-	(347)	347	-	2,429
	233,313	242,664	(251,767)	4,250	513	228,973
Restricted Funds						
PCC	2,499	-	-	-	-	2,499
Christ Church	3,923	4,271	(1,046)	(4,250)	-	2,898
Holy Trinity	15,172	1,899	(1,830)	-	-	15,241
St John the Divine	10,722	487	(166)	-	-	11,093
	32,366	6,657	(3,042)	(4,250)	-	31,731
Endowment Funds						
Holy Trinity (expendable)	14,063	-	-	-	-	14,063
St John the Divine (permanent)	15,813	-	-	-	925	16,738
	29,876	-	-	-	925	30,801
TOTAL FUNDS	295,555	249,321	(254,809)	-	1,438	291,505

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

8.1b Fund Summary (prior year)

	Balance 01/01/19 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains & Losses £	Balance 31/12/19 £
Unrestricted Funds						
PCC General Fund	1,000	3,166	(3,166)	-	-	1,000
Designated Funds (General) *						
Christ Church	5,105	64,421	(50,702)	(460)	378	18,742
Holy Trinity	40,804	173,996	(186,198)	17,171	457	46,230
St John the Divine	48,561	43,702	(43,708)	1,187	-	49,742
Designated Funds (Specific) *						
PCC	558	-	-	-	-	558
Christ Church	2,882	-	(132)	460	-	3,210
Holy Trinity	149,821	625	(21,873)	(17,171)	-	111,402
St John the Divine	3,963	-	(347)	(1,187)	-	2,429
	252,694	285,910	(306,126)	-	835	233,313
Restricted Funds						
PCC	2,499	1,084	(1,084)	-	-	2,499
Christ Church	2,778	2,108	(963)	-	-	3,923
Holy Trinity	10,132	19,195	(14,155)	-	-	15,172
St John the Divine	10,057	1,014	(299)	-	-	10,722
	25,466	23,401	(16,501)	-	-	32,366
Endowment Funds						
Holy Trinity (expendable)	14,063	-	-	-	-	14,063
St John the Divine (permanent)	13,702	-	-	-	2,111	15,813
	27,765	-	-	-	2,111	29,876
TOTAL FUNDS	305,925	309,311	(322,627)	-	2,946	295,555

* **Designated (General) Funds** are funds which have been designated by the **PCC** to each **DCC** for unrestricted purposes.

Designated (Specific) Funds are funds which have been designated by each **DCC** for specific purposes.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

8.2 Individual Church Funds

8.2.1a PCC (current year)

	Balance 01/01/20 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance 31/12/20 £
Unrestricted Fund	1,000	5,372	(5,372)	-	1,000
Designated Funds (Specific)					
MP3 Players	558	-	-	-	558
Restricted Funds					
Youth Work	2,499	-	-	-	2,499
	<u>4,057</u>	<u>5,372</u>	<u>(5,372)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,057</u>

8.2.1b PCC (prior year)

	Balance 01/01/19 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance 31/12/19 £
Unrestricted Fund	1,000	3,166	(3,166)	-	1,000
Designated Funds (Specific)					
MP3 Players	558	-	-	-	588
Restricted Funds					
Youth Work	2,499	-	-	-	2,499
Mission & Charities:					
- Surrey Churches Preservation Fund	-	290	(290)	-	-
- Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call	-	580	(580)	-	-
Other Restricted Donations	-	214	(214)	-	-
	<u>4,057</u>	<u>4,250</u>	<u>(4,250)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,057</u>

• *MP3 Players Fund:* in some years, the parish drama group stages a production where 50% of the surplus is kept by the PCC and 50% designated to help with the costs of future MP3 productions. No such production was held in 2020.

• *Youth Work:* this was originally the balance held by Morden Baptist Church when the Fusion Youth Group was transferred to the Merton Priory Team. The Fusion Youth Group no longer exists and Morden Baptist Church does not want the funds returned to them. The PCC decided in January 2018 that this fund could be used for any youth work across the three churches.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

8.2.2a Christ Church, Colliers Wood (current year)

	Balance 01/01/20 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains & Losses £	Balance 31/12/20 £
Designated Fund (General)	18,742	75,249	(60,947)	4,164	173	37,381
Designated Funds (Specific)						
Hall & Church Repairs Fund	3,210	-	(2,580)	86	-	716
Restricted Funds:						
Organ Fund	-	4,250	-	(4,250)	-	-
Merton Night Shelter	1,816	-	(45)	-	-	1,771
Mission & Charities:						
- Children's Society	387	21	-	-	-	408
- Christian Aid	227	-	-	-	-	227
- Christian CARE Merton	1,001	-	(1,001)	-	-	-
- Other Charities	10	-	-	-	-	10
150 th Anniversary Fund	187	-	-	-	-	187
Hymn Book Fund	295	-	-	-	-	295
	<u>25,875</u>	<u>79,520</u>	<u>(64,573)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>173</u>	<u>40,995</u>

8.2.2b Christ Church, Colliers Wood (prior year)

	Balance 01/01/19 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains & Losses £	Balance 31/12/19 £
Designated Fund (General)	5,105	64,421	(50,702)	(460)	378	18,742
Designated Funds (Specific)						
Hall & Church Repairs Fund	2,882	-	(132)	460	-	3,210
Restricted Funds:						
Organ Fund	-	764	(764)	-	-	-
150 th Anniversary Fund	187	-	-	-	-	187
Hymn Book Fund	295	-	-	-	-	295
Merton Night Shelter	1,688	250	(122)	-	-	1,816
Mission & Charities:						
- Children's Society	-	387	-	-	-	387
- Christian Aid	5	222	-	-	-	227
- Christian Care Merton	526	475	-	-	-	1,001
- Other Charities	77	10	(77)	-	-	10
	<u>10,765</u>	<u>66,529</u>	<u>(51,979)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>378</u>	<u>25,875</u>

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

- *Hall & Church Repairs Fund*: income from the Colliwobbles toddler group which is transferred for the use of hall and church repairs at the end of each year.
- *Organ Fund*: £4,250 (including associated gift aid) was given during 2020 for the repairs to the organ blower that took place late in 2019. This amount has been transferred to the general fund to cover costs that were taken from the general fund in the previous year.
- *150th Anniversary Fund*: in 2024, Christ Church will be 150 years old. This fund is to gather the proceeds, from appeals and fundraising, to be used for the enhancement of the building and projects within the local community.
- *Hymn Book Fund*: this was a specific appeal in 2012 for the purchase of new hymn books. Christ Church DCC will be reviewing what happens to the remaining balance.
- *Merton Night Shelter*: Christ Church is one of the locations for the night shelter for the homeless during the winter months and this fund represents incoming donations and outgoing expenses. During the pandemic in 2020/21, the night shelter was held at just one location, the Lantern Methodist Church in Wimbledon.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

8.2.3a Holy Trinity & St Peter, South Wimbledon (current year)

	Balance 01/01/20 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains & Losses £	Balance 31/12/20 £
Designated Fund (General)	46,230	132,585	(134,204)	(10,552)	340	34,399
Designated Funds (Specific)						
Marian Esling Legacy (income)	41,804	294	-	-	-	42,098
Annual Tithe	12,500	-	(9,000)	5,900	-	9,400
Special Projects Fund	43,227	-	-	4,652	-	47,879
Fixed Assets Fund	13,871	-	(2,774)	-	-	11,097
Restricted Funds						
Kitchen Refurbishment	10,070	-	-	-	-	10,070
Merton Night Shelters	2,565	1,433	(456)	-	-	3,542
Mission & Charities:						
- Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call	83	37	(120)	-	-	-
- Merton Citizens	192	-	-	-	-	192
- Wimbledon Guild	547	-	(547)	-	-	-
- Wimbledon Food Bank (Trussell Trust)	547	-	(547)	-	-	-
Flower Fund	4	-	-	-	-	4
Junior Church collections for charity	1,081	44	-	-	-	1,125
Other Restricted Donations	83	385	(160)	-	-	308
Expendable Endowment Fund						
Marian Esling Legacy (capital)	14,063	-	-	-	-	14,063
	<u>186,867</u>	<u>134,778</u>	<u>(147,808)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>340</u>	<u>174,177</u>

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

8.2.3b Holy Trinity & St Peter, South Wimbledon (prior year)

	Balance 01/01/19 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains & Losses £	Balance 31/12/19 £
Designated Fund (General)	40,804	173,996	(186,198)	17,171	457	46,230
Designated Funds (Specific)						
Marian Esling Legacy (income)	71,179	625	-	(30,000)	-	41,804
Annual Tithe	18,500	-	(18,499)	12,499	-	12,500
Special Projects Fund	42,897	-	-	330	-	43,227
Fixed Assets Fund	16,645	-	(2,774)	-	-	13,871
Mission & Charities:						
- Emergency Disasters Fund	600	-	(600)	-	-	-
Restricted Funds						
Kitchen Refurbishment	3,506	6,157	(403)	810	-	10,070
Merton Night Shelters	2,625	335	(395)	-	-	2,565
Mission & Charities:						
- Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call	334	415	(666)	-	-	83
- South London Refugee Association	277	-	(277)	-	-	-
- South London Church Fund	47	-	(47)	-	-	-
- Care 4 Calais	664	-	(663)	(1)	-	-
- Merton Citizens	105	886	(800)	1	-	192
- Wimbledon Guild	-	547	-	-	-	547
- Wimbledon Food Bank (Trussell Trust)	-	547	-	-	-	547
Flower Fund	149	569	(714)	-	-	4
Junior Church collections for charity	842	239	-	-	-	1,081
Other Restricted Donations	1,583	9,500	(10,190)	(810)	-	83
Expendable Endowment Fund						
Marian Esling Legacy (capital)	14,063	-	-	-	-	14,063
	<u>214,820</u>	<u>193,816</u>	<u>(222,226)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>457</u>	<u>186,867</u>

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

- *Legacy Income*: the remaining interest on the Marian Esling Legacy Fund which is designated for capital projects.
- *Annual Tithe*: Holy Trinity gives away 5% (2019: 10%) of its unrestricted voluntary income, excluding fundraising and investment income, to charitable causes each year. Of the balance at the end of 2019, £3,500 has been earmarked for Christian CARE Merton (£1,750) and Rethink Mental Illness (£1,750). The amount raised in 2020 (£5,900) will be distributed during 2021.
- *Special Projects Fund*: following a generous legacy and a gift weekend in 2018, the DCC felt it was appropriate to put aside some of this money to be used at a later date on special projects around the church that would enhance the building, such as refurbishing the kitchen and relocating the chapel to make it more accessible. The money transferred from the General Fund in 2020 is the final balance of £4,652 received from Suzette Rumney's original legacy.
- *Fixed Assets Fund*: the remaining cost of tangible fixed assets, from where they are now depreciated.
- *Kitchen Refurbishment*: the kitchen was last refurbished in 2002 and is looking very sad. Funds have begun to be raised for a new kitchen, which it is hoped will be completed in 2021.
- *Merton Night Shelter*: Holy Trinity is one of the locations for the night shelter for the homeless during the winter months and this fund represents incoming donations and outgoing expenses. During the pandemic in 2020/21, the night shelter was held at just one location, the Lantern Methodist Church in Wimbledon.
- *Junior Church collections*: regular Sunday collections by the children which are sent to a charity of their choice. The DCC is aware that charitable donations have not been made for a few years and will be addressing this during 2021.
- *Other Restricted Donations*: the balance of £308 represents the remainder of a gift for future development of the prayer corner (£83) and a Christmas collection for the Samaritans (£225). During 2020, a further £160 was raised for Christian Aid's Lebanon Crisis Appeal.
- *Legacy Capital*: the DCC, in consultation with the congregation in 2007, decided that 55% of the expendable endowment Marian Esling Legacy Fund would be given away to charitable organisations over a period of five years, the last year of which was 2013. The remaining 45% of the expendable endowment would be used for urgent capital projects in the church. In 2021, it is anticipated that the balance of £14,063 will be used towards the cost of the kitchen refurbishment that was put on hold during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

8.2.4a St John the Divine, Merton (current year)

	Balance 01/01/20 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains & Losses £	Balance 31/12/20 £
Designated Fund (General)	49,742	29,164	(36,543)	(347)	-	42,016
Designated Funds (Specific)						
Fixed Assets Fund	2,429	-	(347)	347	-	2,429
Restricted Funds						
Bells Centenary Project	2,929	-	(125)	-	-	2,804
Mission & Charities	-	41	(41)	-	-	-
Church Maintenance & Repairs: - Mackrell Trust (T0046/income)	7,843	446	-	-	-	8,289
Permanent Endowment Fund						
Mackrell Trust (T0046/capital)	15,813	-	-	-	925	16,738
	<u>78,756</u>	<u>29,651</u>	<u>(37,056)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>925</u>	<u>72,276</u>

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

8.2.4b St John the Divine, Merton (prior year)

	Balance 01/01/19 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains & Losses £	Balance 31/12/19 £
Designated Fund (General)	48,561	43,702	(43,708)	1,187	-	49,742
Designated Funds (Specific)						
Choir Fund	1,187	-	-	(1,187)	-	-
Fixed Assets Fund	2,776	-	(347)	-	-	2,429
Restricted Funds						
Bells Centenary Project	2,679	250	-	-	-	2,929
Mission & Charities	-	299	(299)	-	-	-
Flower Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
Church Maintenance & Repairs: - Mackrell Trust (T0046/income)	7,378	465	-	-	-	7,843
Permanent Endowment Fund						
Mackrell Trust (T0046/capital)	13,702	-	-	-	2,111	15,813
	<u>76,283</u>	<u>44,716</u>	<u>(44,354)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,111</u>	<u>78,756</u>

- *Fixed Assets Fund*: the remaining cost of tangible fixed assets, from where they are now depreciated.
- *Bells Centenary Project*: the fund represents donations from an appeal set up to enable the church to engage the community and raise money to install an 8-bell peal in time for the church centenary in 2014. This project was started in 2013 and a 6-bell peal was completed in 2014. A further four bells were installed early in 2018. The balance of £2,804 will be used for ongoing maintenance of the bells.
- *Church Maintenance & Repairs*: interest income from the Mackrell Trust (permanent endowment) that is restricted for use on the maintenance and repair of the church building. It is anticipated that this will be used for repairs to the vestry roof in 2021.
- *Mission & Charities*: restricted donations for charities. During 2020, funds were raised for the Bishop of Southwark's Lent Appeal.
- *Mackrell Trust (T0046)*: an ancient permanent endowment for building a new church, held by the Diocese of Southwark as custodian trustee. The capital is not available for use but the interest may be used on the maintenance and repair of the church.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF MERTON PRIORY

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

9 OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

The total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are payable:

	2020 £	2019 £
Not later than one year	288	863
Later than one year and not later than five years	-	288
	288	1,151

The current printer/photocopier lease expired on 12 April 2021. The PCC has signed a new lease which commits the PCC to total lease payments of £3,528 over five years.

10 CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

The PCC has the following capital commitments, which it expects to complete in the next year:

	Expected Cost £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £
Christ Church				
Ramp for church porch	1,000	1,000	-	-
Holy Trinity				
Kitchen refurbishment	35,000	11,000	10,000	14,000
Garden decking	10,800	10,800	-	-
St John the Divine				
No capital works planned for 2021	-	-	-	-
	46,800	22,800	10,000	14,000

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF
MERTON PRIORY**

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