

2023 Report and Accounts for the Parochial Church Council St James and Emmanuel Churches, New Brighton

Aim and purposes

St James with Emmanuel Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Heather Atkinson, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at St James with Emmanuel. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and the Parish Development Group (a subgroup of the PCC) makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

Ministry to young people is developing. Our youth group based at Emmanuel on a monthly Monday has seen some growth from five to eight members through invitation to the uniformed organizations and Megan's friends. For a couple of them, this is their church. The all-age service, which entails a lot of work, has continued throughout 2023 and Messy Church which also requires hard work and a team of people from both churches led by Helen Jones started in September 2023. Baptism and hamper families continue to be invited but with little uptake. We need to investigate the reasons why they are not engaging. Parade Services have continued in 2023 and have been well attended with encouragement from Colin Jones. Our participation in Bridging the Wallasey Gap has enabled us to continue working with families whether delivering hampers or inviting families to collect their hampers from the member churches which gives them a chance to participate in activities and have some spiritual input, similar to Messy Church. (See Organisation Reports.)

Vision of our Leading your Church into Growth Plan (LyCiG)

*The Parish has a mission statement: -Together in Prayer, Worship, Community Care and Outreach.
The aim is to be a growing church both in spirituality, numbers and unity and to be confident in our faith through the engagement of the mission statement. The Diocesan vision statement is
Together in Christ, Sharing Hope*

When planning our activities for the year, we have continued working on the **Leading Your Church into Growth** (LyCiG) plan which we initially developed together as the Lent group back in 2018. This document is flexible, developmental and transformative. We invited the former Childrens Missioner to a PCC away day in January 2023 which resulted in new ideas, which have been implemented during the year. People can openly suggest other ideas which can be taken to the PDG to develop. We try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel; developing knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish and church family.
- Mission and outreach work.

To facilitate this work, it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Churches of St. James and Emmanuel

A) Worship, Mission and Church Buildings

Aims: - To continue to be welcoming churches and encourage worship across all ages.

As well as our usual services, which are filmed for online viewing, children are helping to make the choice

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of hymns in the All-Age service and different things have taken place and experimented with: craft activities for all, group discussion at the request of some members of the congregation. A children's corner at St James continues to be enjoyed by all the children attending. The Youth Group for 11+ at Emmanuel (See group reports) and Rev Heather holds a simple service at special times of year for Carers and Totts.

We held a Healing Service at Emmanuel, involving Rev Chris Turner, from St Mary's. A few people came from churches together. We also have offered healing on the streets around Emmanuel and the shops and delivered hot cross buns around the parish, around Emmanuel and going down to the front via various routes, offering people a chance for prayer which was taken up by many. The use of Testimonies in services continues and also in the Parish Magazine as part of everyday faith. Carol Singing around the streets also took place.

Special services for the Coronation were held at both churches last May.

A new screen for St James has been approved by the PCC but has since been put on hold. We had previously looked at Christ Church Moreton, St Peter's Heswall and St Mary's Eastham. Three quotes had already been already obtained and have been updated by AV Practical, the company chosen. The balance of sound at St. James has been reviewed and adjusted.

B) Care and Fellowship Aim: To deepen existing relationships and build on our links with the community. This will enable transformation to happen on different levels.

We need to ensure that pastoral care is ongoing, with the congregation working together. Revd. Heather cannot always see everyone so asked for volunteers to help with home communions and general pastoral care. Safeguarding and DBS checks were implemented for the team which consists of Rev Heather, Ron Jones, Liz Cooper Clarke, Fred Aspbury and Sarah Maxwell, those who are housebound were contacted to see if they wished to have home communion. It is everyone's responsibility to ensure a growing church still feels cared for. Rev Heather has different areas of involvement of which pastoral care plays a part in. We need to work on further developing the pastoral care groups already started. Rev Heather, Ann Barlow and Sue Chadwick have continued to ring members on the electoral roll supplementing the work of the pastoral groups.

Funeral follow up: - Bereaved families are asked if they would like to have a post funeral visit. Bereavement visits where necessary are continuing.

Welcome people moving into the area: A welcome pack for community and visitors to church is still under development to be finished in 2024. This will extend pastoral care to the newest members of the community and gives presence. New people will understand how the church works better.

Emmanuel remains on the Places of Welcome scheme for the Saturday morning session. St James did for part of the year on a Wednesday with Tea and Toast. These sessions are part of the Warm Spaces initiative continued in 2023 until March. The Craft group commenced on a Tuesday lunchtime and continued throughout the year. They held a simple Christmas Service.

Revd. Heather is also a member of the Coastal Committee which has continued to meet via Zoom and later in person. The local RNLI let Rev Heather know when they have been called out so that they can be included in prayer has continued. Rev Heather is available for pastoral visits with the RNLI staff. From initial conversations with the RNLI and the Council regarding help notices at 'honeypot' places along the river have now been implemented. A fundraising event was held during the Coronation weekend for the RNLI as part of the Big Help. The uniformed organizations held a BBQ for the community. Grace was said.

An ECO committee was formed in January 2023 and later in the year, a successful ECO green day in

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partnership with existing community members in the field took place. The New Brighteners also took part in a Sunday service. Charlotte Brightside also used the church and gardens for several afternoons during the summer.

Social suggestions from the congregation are part of future planning.

Rev Heather, Rev Fran and Rev Richard met with the local Pride organizer and built bridges and relationships which resulted in Rev Heather being invited to take part in the Pride Opening Ceremony.

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith. Charitable giving, Foodbank Distribution Centre at St James, and AA meetings at St James are examples, the latter meeting in the narthex due to an increase in numbers and the need for ventilation. Fun Food and Friendship ran fortnightly during the summer holidays, allowing families to pick up fresh groceries as part of Bridging the Wallasey Gap. *(See Part 2)*

Our parish magazine is distributed monthly to subscribers and available at both churches and several outlets in the parish of New Brighton. The magazine keeps our parishioners informed of the important matters affecting our Church and articles that help develop our knowledge and trust in Jesus.

Rev Heather and Reader Liz Cooper Clark went door knocking around both churches inviting local people to the Coronation events.

A small group with Rev Heather and Reader Ron Jones offered prayer on the streets and visited shop keepers. Hot cross bun give out also gave an opportunity for people to be prayed for.

Mount Primary School attended in December for their lesson 'Why Jesus is called Saviour'

Rev Heather and Mike Colins are part of the Remembrance Committee.

c) Prayer and Spirituality: Aim to deepen existing faith within the congregation and to enable the community to know that they can ask for prayer.

- Testimony and Bible Notes will help, links to apps etc. Many use Bible notes and Heather has let people know about Lectio 365 App which is a great resource for morning and evening prayer. Anyone can take part at Fred's house 9.30am on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays.
- To encourage prayer for the church and growth. A bookmark of LYCIG prayer and times of all services has been made and will now be put out, which includes details for children and families.
- To mention any useful courses in the pew sheet. (Ongoing) Members of leadership teams have been completing safeguarding courses online and as has Revd. Heather (Ongoing)
- The Lady Chapel at St James and votive candles continue to be used as a practical place for prayer for all who come.
- A Prayer walk around the parish boundary with printed high vis jackets for the leaders and picnics happened in the summer (flyers with service time make it become missional): We revisited the Pride Event in New Brighton at the Floral and also walked along the prom and give out leaflets which promoted our first Pride service showing that we are Pride friendly.
- House groups. The Vicarage House group met in person during the year.
- Monthly Prayer group at St James has continued to meet online and Heather's WhatsApp group has continued in this format. Anyone can join (See Rev Heather or Angela Adams for further information.
- Practical Prayer board at St. James.
- Thy Kingdom Come encouraged us to be praying for five people to come to faith.

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- Sam Rowan started his last year of ordination training and will become a curate in Rock Ferry in 2024. Fred Asbury is further on in his exploration of ministry and went to the selection event in 2023. He is hoping to start ministry training in September 2024.

Achievements and Performance

Worship and Prayer Statistics

Revd. Heather has continued filming and editing as some members of the congregations are still worshipping online, via our YouTube channel. We currently have 175 subscribers. The annual statistics required by the Church of England now asks for the on-line statistics as part of the parish picture. Choral evensong is the most watched with 100 -300 views. Special services are also highly watched.

The Lifeboat Service took place in October putting it back to the usual time at which the Glee Club were again present

Two weddings took place at St James in 2023 and one at Emmanuel We have now caught up with weddings delayed due to covid

Two baptisms and one thanksgiving service took place at St James with one candidate for confirmation

Nine funerals took place at St James, none at Emmanuel in 2023 and eight funerals took place at the Crematorium.

All are welcome to attend our regular services. At present there are 150 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll following the revision in 2023.

Christmas: A Carol Service was held at St James with 96 people attending, a large increase on last year with only a slight increase to 48 from 43 who attended at the midnight Eucharist on Christmas Eve, which was down on last year and represented the amount of illness prevailing in the congregation at the time. At Emmanuel, the Christmas Tree service and Christmas crafts took place and were both well attended. The Christingle service also took place with 167 attending which is a huge increase on the 109 the previous year so we are now back to our usual figures pre-covid. The other advent Services at Emmanuel (Christmas Tree, Ladies Fellowship and nativity) were well attended as usual. Members of both congregations took to the streets near Emmanuel to sing carols which was well received. This year we had musical accompaniment by Ann Hinchcliffe who also played for the Churches Together carol singing at Asda.

Easter saw 68 adult and 5 children attend at St James and at Emmanuel 42 adults and 3 children attended.

Parade Services have been well attended since Colin Jones gave an encouragement to parents.

On average, the adult attendance at St James in 2023 was 42 with an average of 3 children, occasionally attendance reaching 54 on a usual Sunday. At Emmanuel the average increased from 29 to 32 with the mid-week remaining steady with an attendance of 21. A service of BCP Holy Communion continued on the third Sunday in the month and also first Wednesday in the month at St James. The midweek BCP Holy Communion is the better attended service.

Choral Evensong has recovered post covid with figures usually about 34 in attendance reaching even higher on special occasions.

Messy Church started in September 2023 with a gentle start of 5 families. 10 families in total have attended but not always on the same week

Light up a Life took place as usual in early December and also Special Lives as usual in late October.

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Deanery Synod Meetings 2023

Maureen Hennessey and myself, Helen Harvey, were the lay representatives of the parish at Deanery Synod at the beginning of 2023. At the last APCM, I decided not to seek re-election for another 3-year term, after doing 9 years in the role. Maureen Hennessey also decided to step down. Sue Chadwick and Fred Aspbury agreed to take up our places. By virtue of the fact that I am a member of Diocesan Synod (until June 2024), I was automatically still a member of Deanery Synod and I agreed, last June, to continue to support the Deanery as Lay Chair until this year's APCMs take place in our Deanery.

After each Synod, our parish reps report back to our PCC. The purposes of Deanery Synods are to share information amongst local churches, pray for each other, bring together the views of the parishes in the Deanery on common issues and make known provisions made by Diocesan and General Synods. Our parish is allocated 3 representative places, corresponding to the number on our electoral roll, so we have a vacancy for another rep. If you feel that you could take up this vacancy, please have a chat with Reverend Heather.

Wallasey Synod usually has three meetings every year each beginning with a time of worship.

Meetings in 2023 were held on -

- 8 February at St Chad's
- 15 June at St Nicholas with All Saints
- 5 October at St Mary's

At each Synod, Deanery news and prayer is an important item. We call it **Sharing Your News Or Dates**. Items for prayer are shared in groups of 4 or 5 and time is spent in prayer for some of these issues. These prayer needs are compiled into a list after the Synod and distributed by email so that the ongoing needs of all the churches in the Deanery can be prayed. We usually have a speaker at each Synod and a small amount of business takes place.

On 8 February, Rev'd Nikki Eastwood from St Mary's Upton gave us an update on the Living in Love and Faith process. Nikki sits on Chester Diocese Bishop's Council as our diocesan LLF lead and reports into the National Group on LLF. She had just returned from General Synod where discussions on LLF were ongoing and important voting due to take place on whether there can be church blessings of same sex couples. She reported that The College of Bishops had asked for feedback to the issues raised in the study books and videos on LLF and consequently 6,000 responses had been received. Nikki read a letter that the bishops had recently written to apologise for the treatment of LGBTQ+ people by the church. "For the times we have rejected or excluded you, and those you love, we are deeply sorry," "the occasions on which you received a hostile and homophobic response in our churches are shameful and for this, we repent." Nikki took questions and said that each church will need to consider their response to the proposals.

Other items discussed were Wallasey Christians Against Poverty needing more support, Diocesan Synod of 5 November, Vision Cafes

On 15 June, Rev'd John Helliwell, Mission Adviser in the Diocese, had been invited and spoke to us on "Helping Evangelism be a normal part of how we do church". His presentation was based upon some interesting and informative slides from the book "How to nurture a faith-sharing culture". The main points of the presentation were –

Culture is about how things are done around here. Making small changes can have a big impact over time. There are 7 core shifts which can be made to encourage faith-sharing.

- i) Engage with God – reinforce the Gospels, talk about Jesus.
- ii) Pray for 5 people to know Jesus – as in the Thy Kingdom Come context.

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- iii) Refocus your intercessions – pray for people by name and be outward-looking.
- iv) Practice faith conversations – be able to talk about your own faith journey.
- v) Tell faith stories - where have you seen God at work.
- vi) Resource faith sharing – give people the tools and training.
- vii) Budget for Mission – as we do for charitable giving /set money aside.

Other items discussed were the need for a new Lay Chair from mid-2024, a Deanery Secretary to take over this role, Alan Ward explained that Heather Atkinson would take over from him as Rural Dean on 30 June and he asked for prayer for the interviews shortly taking place for a new incumbent at Christchurch, Moreton. We looked at what had taken place at Diocesan Synod of 25th March which included the decision to change the age at which children can be admitted to Holy Communion from 8 years to 5 years.

On 5 October, our guest speaker was Rev'd Debbie Wilkinson, Mission Lead for Wirral Waters and Associate Minister of priory Parish talking about **"The Well at Wirral Waters"**.

She was licensed to this role in May and began by explaining to us something about herself and her family and her ministry and calling which brought her and her husband James to serving in Birkenhead; him as a Church Army Officer. Wirral Waters is a Peel Holdings Development which they describe as being the largest and most exciting regeneration project in the UK. The plan is to build up to 13,000 new homes with associated environmental improvements, cycle routes etc. to create a sustainable environment for both businesses and people to flourish. Chester Diocese has a 5-year commitment to be a worshipping Christian presence in the area.

The faith community now numbers about 25 people who meet weekly on a Wednesday evening at the Sales Office / The Well. Debbie outlined how she felt that the hub should be called The Well by opening the scripture of John 4 to us. The group there are sharing in prayer, fellowship and listening to how God wants them to proceed. Debbie's most interesting talk to us was illustrated with slides of the area.

Other items on our Agenda were the Diocesan CMS system, the Deanery Secretary vacant role, Lindsey Lawrence (from Christchurch) was elected to take up one of our vacant laity places on Diocesan Synod and we had a report on the Diocesan Synod of 17 June. This concentrated on Bishop Mark's presentation on the Diocesan Vision process ... " Together in Christ, Sharing Hope "

The first Synod meeting of 2024 was planned for 8 February at Emmanuel.

Helen Harvey

St James Church: A Report upon the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments

The purpose of this report is to describe the structural condition of the Church building, and to assess the state of the furnishings and embellishments.

The building is examined on a regular basis by the Churchwardens and occasionally by our architect. As far as can be established from these visual examinations, the main building remains sound, with no serious signs of settlement, there are however a number of deficiencies that have been noted in the recent mandatory quinquennial inspection. These will be addressed as part of the ongoing restoration of the building as funding becomes available.

The furnishings are generally well cared for by a dedicated group of helpers, and thanks are due to these people for all their hard work.

A blocked vestry toilet drain was attended to efficiently in the autumn by Reactive Plumbing and Drainage.

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The broken boiler fan was replaced was also replaced in the autumn by GCS Solutions as part of the twice yearly service.

The Standing Committee have reviewed the maintenance and installation method used for the polycarbonate window covering. Following discussions with our architect this led to a stonework survey being carried in out in December 2023 by Halestone. Their report highlighted the poor condition of the south transept rose window, and led to the creation of a phase 3a restoration phase in the new year. We applied for a diocesan grant in December towards maintenance of the church but have yet to hear if we are successful.

General maintenance has been carried out during the year including some small repairs in the north porch, kitchen and to blocked and overflowing guttering. We are grateful to Sue Chadwick and Rob Jones for their assistance in contacting and meeting tradespeople when necessary.

Slates were also dislodged from the east roof of the north transept by the winter's storms, also from the south east corner of the nave roof. Repairs were satisfactorily carried out by Furber Roofing of Wallasey, who are well experienced in this class of work.

We have purchased a screen for use in the narthex.

The old lighting in the church continues to cause problems. Failed lighting units have been replaced with LEDs on an ad hoc basis and throw up further visibility problems. Consideration is to be given to the improvement of illumination in certain areas of the church when we get to that stage of the restoration.

The fire appliances within the church have been serviced by Claughton Fire Protection of Birkenhead, and all portable electrical appliances are tested annually in accordance with the current regulations.

Our insurance for the building and contents remains underwritten by Ecclesiastical Insurance Group.

A John Timms, Churchwarden

EMMANUEL FABRIC REPORT for 2024 APCM

The church building fabric is generally in good shape and appears water tight at present.

The church silverware and 'ornaments' are checked annually against the inventory then being signed by the wardens and incumbent.

The main work completed during 2023 was the upgrade of the lighting. All the lights in the church and church hall were changed to energy efficient LED bulbs. These are recommended by the Diocese in an effort to reduce the church carbon footprint. The church is brighter and the hall is dazzling and, in time, will reduce the energy consumption thus reducing electricity bills.

At the same time the ageing emergency lighting packs were replaced, again with LED systems.

More recent work, that will feature in next year's report is changing the toilet flush systems to dual flush to reduce water consumption.

The volunteers who tend the planters on Seabank Road requested if they could fit a water butt so they have water to water the planters without them bringing their own. We obliged and allowed them to fit two at their cost.

My heartfelt thanks to those who have worked on the planters at the side of the church bringing nice colourful displays during each season.

The statutory annual inspections are being monitored:

- Heating systems and boilers serviced
- Electrical system inspection not yet due.
- Annual Portable Appliance Testing has been carried out
- Fire extinguishers serviced.

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The garden and grounds of the church are challenging and becoming more so as shrubs and trees continue to grow. We do not have the gardening enthusiasts now it seems, as we used to have. Age is probably a major factor. Unless it gets some serious attention, it will become more wild and even less manageable.

Some 'wishful' projects:

- Paint the inside of the church
- Renew the heating system in the hall
- Upgrade the heating system of church
- Manage the grounds

Colin Jones (church warden)

Safeguarding

Children were welcome and safe in the company of Jesus, and children and people at risk should be safe in Christ's Church. The Diocese of Chester and all its churches are committed to encouraging an environment where all people, but especially those who may be at risk for any reason, are able to worship and follow their faith journey with encouragement and in safety. Safeguarding is everyone's business, and the Safeguarding Team is available to discuss any concerns at any time. In 2023, the team consisted of Revd. Heather, Sue Chadwick, Gill Walduck, Cath Tunstall, Helen Jones and Helen Harvey. PCC Members are obliged to take part in the Diocesan Safeguarding training. One item was investigated during 2023 with a satisfactory outcome.

Electoral Roll

This is another of those years in which the roll is simply revised using the existing roll as a basis. A major revision of the roll is scheduled for next year (2025/6) but this year the roll is simply compiled using any amendments of which I am made aware through the year.

Our numbers have once again remained stable. There are now **151** members on the roll as at the date on this report, actually the same as last year. As we are obliged to do under ecclesiastical law, we have had a period of revision prior to the annual meeting, but if any regular church members are still not the roll and wish to be, then I can supply a form which can be completed and returned to the PCC. It is possible that members miss the revision for some reason which can cause their membership to lapse. May I take this opportunity to remind everyone that only members listed on the current electoral roll are entitled to vote at church meetings where important decisions could be taken. Rolls will be available at both church sites and can be consulted at any reasonable time.

I hope that I have managed to keep this information up to date and amend the roll accordingly, as people's personal circumstances change. I do, however, apologise for any distress caused by the inclusion of any deceased persons. New applications which have come in through the year have been dealt with according to the ecclesiastical regulations. Please check the roll following as soon as possible, especially if you are a new applicant to ensure you are listed. It is quite possible that I have still included persons who for some reason are no longer active members of the congregation. Any help from the congregation in this area would be appreciated as we do not always hear when people pass away especially if they move out of the area or have lost regular contact with other church members.

Once again, I would thank all members of the congregation who have helped to ensure that the electoral roll is kept up to date and for the parish secretary who has ensured that we comply with all the necessary legal and ecclesiastical protocols.

We have some applications to join which have been received during the revision period. These will be completed at the next meeting of the Parochial Church Council.

Steve Cottam , March 2024

Ecumenical Relationships

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The Foodbank team at St James works together with members from Claremount Methodist Church assisting those needing food. Bridging the Wallasey Gap is a good example of working with 5 other churches. Revd. Heather has a good working relationship with Revd. Lorraine Aizlewood Threlfall at St Andrews URC which has continued and joint services were resumed in 2023. Emmanuel hosted the service for the week of prayer for Christian Unity. St James hosted the Agape meal and St Andrews Pentecost Sunday. Our churches are members of Churches Together in Wallasey. Rev Heather became Rual Dean in September 2023, taking over on June of that year.

Financial Review Treasurers Report 2023

Overall, our financial position is still healthy and we are blessed in having sufficient funds to run two church buildings and a vast array of services and activities throughout the week. It should be noted total expenditure over all our accounts exceeded income by just £6,000 in 2023. However, with the prospect of some major expenditure becoming necessary at St James in the coming year the picture may be very different in a year's time, hence the PCC's letter to the parish in October. On a positive note, the value of our shares started to increase again and accounts invested with CCLA received considerably more interest than in previous years.

Looking at the accounts in more detail:

General Account

This is our main account for both receiving income and paying bills. Total expenditure increased by £10,000 compared to 2022 but income dipped by £2,000 leaving a gap of almost £12,000 (a widening of the £9,000 shortfall in 2022) which was met by reserves built up in previous years.

The main issue was the increase in gas and electricity bills at both churches due to the end of the three-year fixed price contracts we had been enjoying. Our total expenditure on these commodities doubled in 2023 from £5,000 to £10,000 and this dwarfed other increases such as Parish Share and insurance. Costs for the website appear to increase but this is because licenses for 2021 and 2022 were not invoiced to us until late in 2023, hence previous figures were artificially low. It became necessary to replace the aged PC in the vestry but most others costs were comparable.

Givings via standing order and the blue envelope scheme remained at almost the same level as 2022 and for this we are very grateful, but there was a noticeable reduction in cash givings. This may be a reflection on the cost of living or due to trend away from carrying cash, it is hoped that the opportunity to donate by cashless means using the QR code will help going forward and for this reason I have created an entry for 'digital giving' in the accounts. This relates to donations only and does not include card use at the Christmas Fair for example. PCC fees reduced reflecting fewer funerals in 2023, but lettings again increased. The church benefited from a generous grant for the operation of Warm Spaces in 2023 and this offset the increased heating costs to some extent.

Fabric Reserve Account at Emmanuel

2023 saw higher than normal expenditure on this account due to modifications to lighting and toilets to make Emmanuel more fuel efficient and sustainable, this is in line with our bid to be an 'Eco Church' and in terms of electricity should yield lower bills in the future. The Tots shed in the garden had become dangerously unsafe and needed to be replaced but was partly funded by generous donations shown under income. Fundraising again produced over £2,000 for this account.

St James Restoration Fund

Another very quiet year with little activity on the finances of the account, the only expenditure being that

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related to fundraising events. Income through fundraising and donations significantly increased compared to 2022, and this is greatly appreciated as we approach a period of further restoration with the commencement of phase 3a in 2024.

Repairs Account at St James

Expenditure on this account was similar to 2022, and consisted mostly of routine maintenance and testing, together with three visits by the organ tuner. The parish received two donations from Ecclesiastical Insurance as a reward for parishioners taking out policies with them, and these, together with the unexpected profits from the Green Fair, were shared between the Repairs account at St James and the Fabric Renewal Account at Emmanuel, hence you may notice what appears to be a duplication of entries. Due to the overall lack of income it was once again necessary to supplement the Repairs Account from the Legacy Account by £5,000, and this will probably be necessary again in 2024.

Churchwarden's Legacy Account

As usual there was little activity here. We continue to value this account as a reserve in case of unexpected outlay or if income continues to dwindle in the General Account. In 2024 some of this money will need to be used for urgent restoration and repair work at St James.

Vicar's Discretionary Fund for Youth

Expenditure on this account has been recorded slightly differently so that amounts spent on young church (Sunday School and Messy church) can be seen separately to youth work. The value of shares attached to this account rose to over £9,000 by Dec 2023 providing a good fund of money for any future activities planned for children and young people.

Conclusion

The parish continues to find itself in the fortunate position of having sufficient funds for all foreseeable events. However, as can be seen in the balance sheet, there was an excess in expenditure over income on the General Account of around £21,000. Whilst this is a relatively small proportion of overall income, we cannot sustain this indefinitely. Looking at the balance of all of our accounts in total, the excess of expenditure is reduced to £6,000 but this is due to the funds building up in the SJRF and these will be spent once phase 3a begins. With rising costs, and a relatively static congregation size, the PCC will, as always, need to be prudent.

Sally Giles, February 2024

Volunteers

We would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make our church enable to be an open presence under difficult circumstances. In particular we want to mention our churchwardens John Timms, Helen Jones at St James' and Colin Jones at Emmanuel who have worked so tirelessly on our behalf and all members of the various subgroups: Choirs at both churches, PCC, PDG, Cleaning Team, Refreshments Teams Admin Team. Thanks to Rev. Marcus who preaches once a month and our readers Ron Jones, Mike Collins and Liz Cooper Clark for their support.

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St James with Emmanuel, the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our vicar), churchwardens from both churches, three readers who were co-opted at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting and members

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elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend our services are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. New members receive initial training into the workings of the PCC.

The full PCC met six times during the year with an average level of attendance of 65%. The APCM for 2022 was held in May.

Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has a number of committees each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life. These committees, which include The Parish Development Group, Restoration Management Committee and fabric and finance, are all responsible to the PCC and reporting back to it regularly with minutes of their decisions being received by the full PCC and discussed as necessary.

Administrative information

St James and Emmanuel Churches are situated in the parish of New Brighton which is part of the Diocese of Chester within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Vicarage, Albion Street New Brighton CH45 9LF. The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and a charity currently excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

Incumbent: The Reverend Heather Atkinson (Chairperson)

Wardens: Mr. John Timms and Mrs. Helen Jones (St James)
Mr. Colin Jones (Emmanuel)

Representative on Deanery Synod Mrs. Helen Harvey until APCM
Representatives on Deanery Synod Mr. Fred Aspbury and Mrs. Sue Chadwick

Readers: Mr. Ronald Jones, Mr. Michael Collins, Mrs. Elizabeth Cooper Clarke

Elected members: St James

Angela Adams
Allyson Brown
Lynn Lloyd
Vanessa Martlew
Richard Wilberforce

Elected Members: Emmanuel

Ann Barlow
Carol Cliff Wilcock
Sally Giles
Sarah Merrill
George Merrill

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Organisational Reports

Vicarage Housegroup

In 2023 we met fortnightly either in one of the quieter pubs in New Brighton or in Allyson's and Maureen's homes towards the end of the year. There are 9 members.

We have discussed various themes by Fr Richard Rohr which include, holiness, purity, the afterlife, who we are in Christ.

We have also started Bible studies on the popular series The Chosen.

We went to see three films 'Jesus Revolution' (this was an open invitation to the congregation) 'Corrie Ten Boon the Hiding Place' and 'Mrs Harris goes to Paris' which had forgiveness and kindness as major themes. Some members of homegroup went to the Filling Station, an evening of worship and prayer which is run on a regular basis.

We met for a shared meal at Christmas.

Vicarage Prayer Group

There are 6 members.

We have prayed using WhatsApp usually on Tuesdays but if this hasn't happened due to other commitments in people's lives, prayer requests have been sent to the group and we have prayed individually.

Heather does morning Prayer with Fred on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays unless there are other appointments. Other people can come if they wish. Liz and Ron have come at times.

Liz and I meet to pray at other times, often doing Evening Prayer together. Morning and Evening Prayer is an essential part of being a parish priest and where we pray for the parish and the congregation. It is great to be able to share this ministry now.

Vestry Prayer Group

Here is a very short summary for the year for the vestry prayer group.

Although it's not easy to pray together on zoom, we have met in this way on most occasions during the year.

Starting from the personal needs and concerns of all those in our parish, we have focused our attention on local, national, and international issues, and on the health of our planet, where having recourse to prayer is one way in which we hope to make a difference.

All good wishes,

Angela

Youth Group

The group is led by Heather, Liz & Tom.

We meet on Mondays at 6pm at Emmanuel church and begin the sessions with a meal together which enables us to catch up with what is happening in the lives of the young people(11-16) and is a great start to the evening. We finish at 7.30.

This last year has seen the youth group meeting on a monthly basis due to some of the older members having extra commitments towards school work in preparation for exams this summer.

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The number of young people attending has risen to 8 on some weeks but generally the group is around 4-5.

We have followed the Alpha Course for part of the year which was very thought provoking and led to some interesting discussions.

On other weeks we have focused on different topics, designed to question what faith is and how we can encourage God in our lives and feel his love and influence. Prayer, courage, self-identity have been some of the topics we have dealt with, but also some sessions have explored trust and teambuilding.

Not everything happens at Emmanuel, we have gone bowling in New Brighton and also attended the pantomime, Cinderella at The Floral Pavilion. We have also experienced a musical evening which was based on A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens and attended a musical production of Mathilda performed by pupils from Weatherhead School on their campus.

In our September session we looked at Who God Is? Through a variety of games and discussion, using the bible to familiarise ourselves with the text and to see what he has done for us and all people.

In October we looked at the role of Jesus. Who he was and what part he played in our lives. We referred again to the bible and to what happened in our own lives that gave us the confidence to believe in him.

In November we recapped on the last two sessions and asked what God is? What Jesus is? We also took part in an number of games and did a quiz based on the nativity story to see what was real and what wasn't real and there were some surprises.

We began the New Year with a prayer walk. Walking from Emmanuel Church to Morrison's where we managed to get a cup of hot chocolate. Starbucks was shut which was a real disappointment! The walk was successful and thoroughly enjoyed by all those that took part. We were pleased to take our faith out onto the streets.

Our numbers are growing slowly but whilst on our prayer walk we prayed that more young people would join the group over the coming year. Pray with us that this will happen Amen.

Liz

St James Foodbank Distribution Centre

Since the pandemic, we have found our numbers remain down but that is largely because Seacombe Children's Centre is now open for three days a week and St Vincents Centre in Birkenhead is open 5 days. We usually help 3 families a week.

Whilst the food comes pre-packaged from the warehouse into child and adult packs, we give clients more choice by the many additional baskets we put out each week. We continue to give bread, spread and eggs to all clients coming to St James and so remain grateful for the donations we receive to cover this.

Thank you to all our volunteers from St James, Claremount Methodist and those who just come along to help, some like Nick Hilton who comes every week. Whilst we are not a particularly busy centre, we are so pleased that we can once more help families in need.

Sue Chadwick

Fun Food and Friendship/Bridging the Wallasey Gap

We still managed to support needy families in school holidays in 2023 by again joining forces with the other churches that form Bridging the Wallasey Gap to apply for grants from Wirral Council (using funds from the Department of Work and Pensions Household Support Fund). We ask our 12 local primary schools to each nominate 10 families in greatest need each holiday period. We use the funds obtained (usually £20k from each of the 2 funding rounds each year) to provide hampers of food and activities direct to families thanks to Lorraine Aizlewood Threlfall from St Andrews and Sand Colin Gillooly. During the

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summer, fresh produce was purchased by member churches and families were then invited to church to pick up their hampers and offered a small meal and craft activities.

Member churches: St Alban's, St Joseph's, St James and Emmanuel, St Andrews, St Mary's, Seacombe United Churches

Sue Chadwick

Parish Development Group

The Parish Development Group consists of equal representations from both churches which looks at all aspects of the parish plan and adapting thereof, which looks at mission, worship, pastoral care and community engagement. It includes Leading your Church into Growth and Diocesan Vision. It is chaired by Reverend Heather and Readers Ron and Liz also attend. Rev Fran Skinner attended in the early part of 2023

St James Members: Angela Adams, Sue Chadwick, Helen Harvey to April, Vanessa Martlew, Helen Jones
Emmanuel Members: Ann Barlow, Rob O'Neill, Sara Sullivan, Cath Tunstall

Because it meets bimonthly alternating with the Parochial Church Council, it allows for debriefing and planning in a timely manner, particularly looking at major events such as Christmas and Easter and of course assisting with national events such as celebrating the Coronation of King Charles in May. It has been involved in supporting Open Table planning. We have continued our journey on becoming an eco-friendly church.

Minutes of PDG meetings are sent to the Parochial Church Council.

Sue Chadwick

Parish Eco Church Group

Eco Church is a scheme run by A Rocha UK, a charity seeking to assist churches in caring for God's creation. Churches reflect on their worship, buildings, use of land, community engagement and lifestyles and in so doing try to improve their care for the environment. Changes such as LED lighting and dual flush toilets have been incorporated at Emmanuel, whilst St James has become part of a local composting scheme. As part of our efforts the first Green Fair was held at Emmanuel in October. Speakers included Energy Projects Plus and the New Brighteners. There were stalls on green themes, local producers and ethically sourced goods and a home-made soup lunch. It is hoped that this first venture can be built upon in the future.

In 2023 both churches achieved a Bronze Award and are now working towards Silver. The Eco Church group comprises folk from both Emmanuel and St James and would welcome new members.

Sally Giles

St James Restoration Management Committee

The RMC had to get to grips with the fact that Kay Kendall of the NLHF virtually ruled out our application for a capital repair grant. Capital projects were dismissed as a side issue.

The premise that we are improving and conserving the heritage of the Church had insufficient clout with the main emphasis on actual engagement and participation with groups of people who would not normally be involved and in a restoration project with external contractors this is not practicable.

It was agreed to move to Plan "B". Adrian Pearson prepared costs for a much pared-down phase of work, to be largely funded from the Church's restoration fund and by applying for external minor grants which

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offered funding for repairs.

The garden development and relocation of the stained-glass window and provision of interpretation panels would be removed from the schedule, concentrating on just what was necessary to eliminate damp intrusion.

This meant that the garden development plan would continue independently as much good work has led to significant improvements in the Church Yard.

The revised cost estimate from the architect was £220,634.

Later in the year, Sheena Wilson, newly appointed as the Buildings for Mission Advisor from Chester Diocese, visited St James. She was fully appraised of the problems we face. She gave some advice for funding sources.

At the end of the year several building issues had arisen that required immediate attention.

Following some wild and windy weather there was serious evidence of degraded stonework falling from the Rose window on the south transept and increased detritus from the west window. This was considered so severe that areas within and without the Church have been cordoned off for safety reasons.

Advice was taken from our architect regarding close inspection and a report from a specialist stonework contractor to cost the necessary repairs.

The position of chair the RMC was relinquished by John Codling at the end of 2023 due to health issues.

John wants his thanks to be recorded to all members of the RMC and especially Adrian Pearson, our long serving Church Architect.

John Codling

RMC Chair (Retired).

St James Garden Project

Community activity in the garden last year:

Involvement from Charlotte's Brightside, who donated some materials from their old site in Molyneux Drive (now based in the former Community Centre in Hope St.), including a shed. Staff & youngsters from the charity enjoyed using our outside space during the Summer Holidays, on pre-booked dates.

Community composting scheme began in earnest, under the guidance of Minna from the eco-charity "Compostworks"; around 25 households from the immediate area are using this facility, as a way of recycling un-cooked kitchen waste, as well as "dry" waste, eg shredded cardboard or paper. This scheme prevents a great deal of household waste from going to landfill. When the composted material in Bin 1 was revealed in mid-March '24, the rich, organic compost (for gardeners, at least!) was a marvel to behold. Some of the compost has already been shared with fellow composters, and some has been stored, ready for use in Spring planting. Minna has now formally handed over the running of the scheme to the Parish Compost Team, although she remains on hand for advice.

Young people from the local LIFE School, Victoria Rd., helped out on a number of projects, eg weeding, setting up some bird boxes, cultivating potatoes, sowing wild flowers, watering (and eating!) the tomatoes. They also sanded & varnished the newer bench, so that it could be placed outside. This was particularly welcome on Coronation Day, for the picnic in the garden.

On-going work in the garden has been carried out by George (mainly mowing, a weighty task, which he carries out so skilfully, and some valuable clearance work), local gardener Brigid, one of our neighbours, who has planted a number of shrubs & bulbs over the last year, as well as some of the containers, with me as assistant. We aimed for a patriotic red/white/blue scheme in the planters, which we felt was appropriate in a Coronation year. The small apple trees which Brigid & I have planted, adjacent to the

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Vicarage are about to blossom as I write, offering nectar for pollinating insects. Parishioners may also have noticed that Brigid has removed a great deal of ivy from the church walls (Fowell Road & Albion St.), so that potential damage to the stonework can be avoided.

In the Autumn, we noticed that one of the old sycamore trees, close to the Victoria Rd. wall, had died. This posed a serious threat to pedestrians and/or vehicles, as well as the church wall, and with seasonal storms approaching, a local tree-surgeon was engaged to cut it down.

Wallasey Gardening Society continues to meet at St James, on the 3rd Thursday of each month. Members conducted the first Garden Show at St James in July '23; the exhibits made a wonderful sight in the Narthex. Some of the members manned a stall at the October Green Fair, making a valuable contribution to the proceedings. They welcomed the opportunity to join in with the Parish in this important field, and were glad to hear from the other Eco contributors. The WGS Committee expressed a wish to take part in any other similar event in future.

Going Forward

With urgent structural repair work due to begin at St James fairly soon, maintaining the garden will be a challenge. Areas near to the Albion St & Fowell Rd walls & the Mini-Orchard have been marked out as reduced mowing areas, to provide greater habitat for insects & invertebrates, protection for the small shrubs & bulbs already planted, and to allow further nectar-rich perennials/annuals to be planted.

And Finally....

Many church folk have assisted with donations of seeds, tools, pots, and help, so thank you all very much. John C can view the Composting Scheme as a real community success; to my knowledge, our scheme is currently the only one in North Wirral. Thank you also to Allyson Brown's family, for their kind gift of the solar -powered fountain, which provides a pleasant tinkling sound on a nice day. Appreciation must also go to John T, not just for his role as a regular Compost Champion, but also for his technical skills. Ally, as one of the Compost Champs, does an amazing job with that, too. Valuable support & advice from Helen H and Sue C is highly appreciated along with Anthony Bakewell; there are many aspects of this work which just cannot happen without them. (I hope I haven't forgotten anyone; many apologies if I have unintentionally left anyone out).

Let us thank our Creator for all of His bounty...and pray for soft rain & warm sunshine!

Lynn Lloyd

Emmanuel Arts and Crafts Group

Our first meeting took place on the 10th of January 2023. Seven ladies and four gentlemen came along. We agreed to meet on Tuesdays from 12.30 until 2.30pm. This continued for several weeks. The group was really enjoying the meetings and asked if we could stay longer, so now we finish at 3.30pm.

We do knitting, crochet, embroidery, cross stitch, painting etc. We also enjoyed a quiet day at Foxhill.

We have a caring, helpful group enjoying helping each other, and taking part in the 'Warm Spaces' project during the two winters.

We had a table at the Summer and Christmas Fairs, and also have had tables at the back of the churches displaying some of our products for sale/donation. We would like to thank those people who have donated many gifts of wool, material and equipment, which helped us produce many of the items on the tables.

Our numbers have increased since we opened and we hope to continue giving opportunities to those who want to learn new skills and contribute to good causes.

Ann Barlow

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Inspire Report

1.WIRRAL HISTORY & HERITAGE FAIR on Saturday 23rd March

Raised **£214.00** from sales of Lesley McLellan's Easter chicks plus heritage booklets.
(total amount also includes booklet sales from Heritage Open Days as below *)

2.IAN TRACEY ORGAN RECITAL on 22nd April

Always immensely popular, Professor Ian Tracey was once again a sell out. The recital raised **£1,387**

3.MUSICAL CREAM TEA on Saturday 19th August.

An afternoon of superb music was provided by our own very talented pianist/organist Katinka Mitchell whilst visitors enjoyed a delicious cream.

A Bring-and-Buy Stall was also available. The event raised **£621.00**.

4.CHARITY FOLK NIGHT on Saturday 2nd September

Co-ordinated by Anthony Bakewell with John Owen. The musicians very kindly waived their fee which meant that we were able to raise **£1,025.00**. A splendid evening with music to suit everyone.

5.*NATIONAL HERITAGE OPEN DAYS: September 8th – 17th

6.“SWING, STRING & SING” : on Saturday 18th November

A wide ranging musical evening including SingMe, The SpinOff Ukuleles & Tony Crotty.
A thoroughly enjoyable evening which raised **£624.00**

A special **THANK YOU** goes to Lesley Mc. for the time & effort (plus expense) she spends producing these extremely popular items. **THANK YOU LESLEY.**

MISCELLANEOUS FUNDS RAISED:

Preserves & Easter Chicks	£412.00
Christmas Card Opt-Out Scheme	£10.00
“inSpire” Blue Tube	£617.00

TOTAL RAISED FOR “inSpire” RESTORATION FUND = £4,910.00

As always my thanks go to the magnificent “inSpire” Team – Lesley McLellan, Angela Adams, Wendy Wilberforce, Rev Heather, Janet Budworth & Carole Hille for their hard work, creative talents and their time.

Julia Codling

“inSpire” Chair

Sunday Schools

Mustard Seeds at St James

Our Sunday School group is very small but faithful. We have three families who regularly attend church on a Sunday, and we wouldn't be without them. Our activities are usually based on the day's Gospel reading but we also talk about what is happening in church, answering the many asked questions as best as we can.

Our children add another dimension to our church family, often raising a smile at the end of a service when they share what they have been doing. It is lovely to see them growing in confidence when speaking at the front or reading a prayer.

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The highlight of our year must be the Queen's Jubilee weekend. Our services were lively and the party in the grounds later was so enjoyable on what turned out to be a very sunny afternoon.

Lynn continues to share leading the Sunday morning sessions with me. We would be delighted for any adult offers to lead Sunday School, especially now Messy Church is also being offered on a Sunday.

Please continue to pray for our children and the families within our local community.

Helen Jones

Young Church at Emmanuel

Unfortunately, we have struggled for numbers this year with up to 3 children but consistently only 1. This doesn't matter as any child willing to hear the word of God is worth planning for. As usual we have made gifts for the congregation for Valentines Day to remind everyone of Jesus' love for us. We helped with the flowers for Mothering Sunday and gifts for Father's Day. We also invited our community into church for Easter and Christmas Crafts which are always popular and getting the message to more children. At Christmas many stay and help decorate our tree with their families, which for many is the start of Christmas. My thanks go to everyone who helps out at these and for the Music group for playing our Carols.

We help at the church fairs, selling toys in the summer and helping Father Christmas at the grotto.

We had some sad news this summer as Carol Cliff-Wilcock decided to retire after many, many years. Thank you so much for everything you have done on a weekly basis, you have shaped many lives over the years and you will be missed.

Thank you also for everyone's prayers each week and we pray for more children to attend. Also thank you to Cath for stepping in when needed and Carol for continuing to help when asked.

Sarah Merrill

Messy Church

Messy Church is a family time for having fun, for being creative, for exploring faith and for sharing a meal together. We were very excited to launch our Messy Church in September.

A willing band of helpers, from both churches, help to lead craft activities based on a bible theme. These are taken into church where the theme is developed further through worship and the worship area is dressed accordingly with child friendly artefacts.

The themes covered so far include The Mustard Seed, This Light of Mine, and Waiting. We are grateful to the PCC for funding the purchase of 'Follow The Star' advent calendars this year, enabling every child to hear the real Christmas Story.

A small number of families have joined us so far, but it is a beginning and with continued prayer and dedication we hope to grow.

Helen Jones

St James Choir

In accordance with recent annual choir reports, the activities relate to those within the calendar year of 2023. As much of the choir's work needs considerable forward planning, I cannot help it if I include a mention of some events scheduled for 2024 for which we are already preparing.

I think it is fair to say that we have reached as near the point of "Post-Covid normality" as we are going to get. There still seem to be more coughs and colds around and these take longer to clear up. All this makes even more difficult to plan for future events and services. Thanks must once again go to John and John

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along with Katinka who together make a team that any church would envy. This ensures that our primary role, to accompany the liturgy at St. James, is fulfilled and we ensure that this is always done to the best of our ability using the available resources.

We sing at almost all the Sunday services and work closely with the clergy and readers to ensure that any new music is fully learned by all. One of our musicians finds recordings of many of the new musical items on sites such as U-Tube and circulates the choir. This saves time at rehearsals and choir members get to know the music more fully. Once a month we have choral evensong; usually with a setting of the evening canticles and an anthem as well as a psalm. Our congregations for these services have held steady over the winter and we hope for increases as the weather improves.

As well as regular services, we have special music for the main festivals of the year. Formerly in Holy Week we would sing a full passion cantata but in recent years we have sung an extended Evensong on Good Friday. Now it seems to have established itself and one is planned for 2024. We celebrate the joys of Easter Sunday with all the well-known hymns and an anthem, usually sung during the administration of communion.

In April we had a visit from Dr. Ian Tracey, the well internationally acclaimed organist at Liverpool Cathedral, who played a recital on our magnificent instrument. While a student in the 1970's Ian practised on this organ when it was in St. John's Church in Egremont. It now has a new lease of life at St. James after the closure of its original home just after the millennium. Several members of the choir were involved with putting this recital on and ensuring that the evening went smoothly.

In May we had our latest cathedral visit. Wakefield Cathedral in Yorkshire is not one of our most famous buildings, but it provided a magnificent setting for Evensong and we were made most welcome by the cathedral authorities. Our regular evening congregation, several of whom made the trip to Yorkshire, would have recognised some of the music which we had used earlier in the year at St James. A visit to Hereford is planned for 2024, again in May.

As part of our wider duties we sing at weddings and funerals. The latter are always sad events as many of those being commemorated are great friends of the choir. Two members in particular, were in this category this year.

The choir is affiliated to the Royal School of Church Music which oversees music used within the Anglican liturgy both in the UK and wider afield. They organise many events during the year, usually a diocese-wide evensong with a variety of music both ancient and modern. Choirs will prepare music which may be unfamiliar to them and sing it in a cathedral setting along with other groups from their area. We took part in the Chester event in October and it was great to see such events back into full operation after the best part of four years' break. October sees the annual lifeboat service at which we give thanks for the commitment of our crew and all their supporters. We also joined with Emmanuel Choir in November to sing at the annual Cenotaph service on the promenade. This continues to attract large numbers of people, young and old, to pay tribute to our service men and women lost during the many conflicts in our recent history.

The singing of traditional carols and songs at Christmas time is still a part of many people's lives and the choir enjoys encouraging this at the carol service. Probably our biggest "outreach" of the year, we hope that our service will encourage those less regular members of our congregation to return to the Lord through the carols and readings appropriate the season. Midnight Communion on Christmas Eve is another service when we welcome those less familiar with our services and we try make them welcome with well known music.

A couple of events at which the choir takes an important role have become established in recent years. These are memorial events around All Saints' Tide and the "Light up a Life" service organised by St. John's Hospice. Both give us the opportunity to be part of a contemplative service (at which words are as important as music) when we remember those who were close to us, but whom we see no longer, and those who make their final months easier. The St. John's Service comes just before Christmas, a very

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appropriate time for such sentiments.

I began with saying we are always looking ahead and we hope that the coming year will see the choir leading the music (and spoken parts) of the services and being involved in many of the activities of the church. These are sometimes joyous, often less so; whichever they are we hope that they will be undertaken to the glory of God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Stephen Cottam

Parish Music Group

The band continues to practice once a week when possible and have continued to play at Emmanuel parade services and the annual Christmas Tree service. It was lovely to welcome a number of former young members joining us for the tree service, Ted, Milo, Esther and Rachael, some now married with children. We would love to play at St James but as I have stated before, because we are now few in number, one person missing makes a huge difference to the sound, so if someone phones in sick on the day, the band sound will not be good. At Emmanuel there is a back up system but at St. James there would be no organist in attendance to step in.

During the year it was wonderful to welcome Marie to the band, adding a second guitar, always good to have two so there is cover if one can't make it.

Once again, my grateful thanks to the members of the band who diligently attend weekly practice, and as the band now consists of all adults, life can sometimes get in the way.

As always, anyone who plays an instrument would be most welcome to come and join us, this is a **Parish band**, not an Emmanuel band as sometimes it is referred. Providing you have some knowledge of reading music and have limited playing ability this is a good opportunity to regularly play with others and hone your gift, which is always better than playing on your own.

We practice in Emmanuel on Thursday evening, 7.00pm – 8.00pm.

Currently the band consists of:

Keyboard

Guitar x 2

Trumpet

Saxophone

Clarinet

Colin Jones

Little Hands at Emmanuel

What a year we have had!

We have made excellent use of our brand-new shed, which was secured in place with a firm foundation and fully fitted out with capacious shelves and secure door fasteners by our friends Mark, Ann and Caroline ... who also managed to purloin some sturdy vinyl covering for the floor. Unfortunately, it is such a homely place that Boris and Boris mark 2 have also taken up residence in it and this does cause some problems for our otherwise intrepid leader, Cath, when getting stuff out on a Monday/Tuesday and stuffing it back in after we are finished at Tuesday lunchtime. We are grateful to our arachnofearless Marcus for his help with the latter.

Staff wise we have struggled a bit because Kizzie has not been always able to join us and we are so grateful to Caroline for filling the gaps. We have so missed Kizzie and hope that she will be able to be with us more often next year.

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We have had some marvellous craft sessions led by Julie with the help of Marie and the children have enjoyed making Easter, Christmas, Valentine, and Mothering Sunday cards as well as bird feeders, party placemats and crowns.

We do enjoy going into church at special festive times and singing along to lovely songs Heather puts up on the screen for us and we had another interactive rendition of the Hungry Caterpillar at our "Graduation service" in the summer when we said goodbye to Ava, Noah, Talia, Reggie, Skip, Fox, River and Daisy. We wished them all God's Blessings as they started big school and/or nursery.

Please continue to support us in your prayers (both children, carers **and** staff!) as we believe we are very much a part of the mission and caring hub of our two churches.

Cath, Kizzie, Gill, Julie, Marie, Jenny, Caroline and Sarah

Women's Fellowship

The first ever meeting of our fellowship took place in September 1984, which makes this year our 40th Anniversary, not bad going all things considered.

We meet as always on 2nd Thursday of the month in the coffee area at Emmanuel and all are welcome.

2023 has been another successful year in which we have learned a little of

" Wirral's Wondrous History "

Courtesy of Barry Humphries and learned about the work of the Mission Aviation Fellowship a charity not many had been familiar with previously.

'So the child may live' is affiliated to Alder Hey Children's hospital and Carmel Dersch spoke very movingly about her visits to Nepal to the only hospital just for children in that country and her efforts to help both practically and financially. In June

Liz Cooper Clark gave us a very uplifting talk when she spoke of her sister Jane's life with Downs Syndrome.

This year Eurovision came to Liverpool and we

had a Eurovision Extravaganza conducted by Mike Jones without leaving the coffee area. A visit from Spartacus a therapy dog came next and reminded us all just how intelligent these animals are.

We are a very social and talkative group and when no speaker is available enjoy coffee and a chat.

Finally, I am pleased to be able to say we have been able to make several worthwhile donations to lesser known charities. A custom we hope to continue.

Vivienne Lythgoe.

Men's Lunch Munch

The men reserve a table-for-twelve at the Pilot Boat on the second Friday of each month, from 12.30pm onwards, although most Fridays it hovers around half full. As well as discussing things going on at church that we ought to get involved with, we also find out the state of health of everyone present, and as much as possible about the people absent, and whether they need help. Not forgetting the usual football advice for the team managers, and the 'goings on' in New Brighton/Wirral from the Globe.

There is no set agenda, the conversation continues in the direction people want to talk about. And all men are invited, you don't need a special invitation, and you can stay as long or as short as you like, there are no set rules. Let's see if we can fill the reserved tables.

George Merrill

28th Wallasey (Emmanuel) Guide Group Rainbows

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Rainbows has remained steady in numbers this year and as always we have an increasing waiting list of girls eager to join (so please contact me early if you have a potential member).

The girls completed a number of badges this year including;

In November, we celebrated Parliament Week as usual, this year's theme was all about Elizabeth Tower, we made a clock tower twist toy and voted on our favourite games to play. Bonfire night was incredibly exciting, with thanks to our visiting scout, the girls enjoyed building a bonfire, toasting marshmallows and campfire songs. Finishing the evening with some glow stick dancing.

In the run up to Christmas we completed our winter wildlife challenge, looking at lots of animals who enjoy the cold, from penguins to Santa's reindeer. Finishing the term with a Christmas party and enrolment.

In summer we started working on our nature badge, getting out and about as much as possible. We went on a Picture Hunt around Vale Park and along the promenade, we collected leaves, twigs and other materials and created some wild art, went on a bug hunt around the church grounds and finally a trip to the park to visit the Fairy Vale with four lucky rainbows making their promise.

During the holidays many of the girls completed their Book Lovers badge with help of the library summer reading challenge and also rose to the challenge of 50 days of summer, completing 50 different activities to earn their badge.

The girls enjoyed a fabulous day out at 'Gullivers World', Warrington, with other girls from around the district, it was lovely to get back to trips out with the girls again. Thankfully the British weather was kind and an ice cream was welcomed by all.

We have attended all Church parades and successfully led a number of these. We helped to decorate the Church for Harvest with colourful tractors. At Christmas we assisted the Sunday school in the annual nativity performance providing lots of shepherds and angels.

All this would not have been possible without the dedication and support of our team that help make the pack enjoyable and fun. As ever I would like to thank Jennifer Long, Bev Lindsay and our willing Guide and Ranger helpers Maisie, Daisy and Ellie for their continued hard work, and look forward to a successful year ahead.

Rainbow Guider – Sparkle (Gillian Leigh)

Brownies

In March the Brownies enjoyed an Easter Eggstravaganza at our local campsite, Hadlow Fields. The girls enjoyed lots of Easter activities as well as an Easter Egg Hunt. A good time was had by all.

In June we took part in a Giant Tea Party at West Kirby Grammar School, with other Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Rangers and Leaders from across Wirral. There was face painting, colouring, and lots of activities outside. The girls were given a special badge, some coronation sweets and some coronation seeds to plant. Later on in June, we enjoyed a trip to the Catalyst museum, Widnes. The girls enjoyed the hands-on exhibits in the Interactive Gallery, with some of them having a go at being a weather forecaster. The girls were amazed at the view from the Observatory Gallery and more hands – on exhibits. To finish of the day we had a space talk, which was really interesting.

In the summer we had a sleepover at our Guide HQ, with the Guides. The Brownies slept indoors while the Guides camped. This was the 1st time some Brownies had been away and the 1st time some of the Guides had camped.

The girls have also completed a variety of activities learning about the environment.

In October some of the Brownies enjoyed a hands-on science evening at Birkenhead School.

We rounded of our year in December with a trip to the cinema to see 'Wish'.

Thanks to all the leaders who help.

Kate Long (Brown Owl)

2023 Report and Accounts for the Parochial Church Council St James and Emmanuel Churches, New Brighton

Guides

2023 started with 16 girls aged 10-14 on register. We have enjoyed many activities on a Friday night including Chinese New Year with food and games practicing our chopstick skills.

We have also made rainbow keyrings and fudge for the summer fair and bracelets and peppermint creams for the Christmas fair. These activities among others help the girls to earn badges and awards. 2 girls gained their Bronze awards and 2 Silvers. Well done!

We have been on a few trips including a Coronation Tea Party in West Kirby and many other groups from across the Wirral. We went to the Catalyst Museum with the Brownies and Rainbows and went to Blackpool where 5 girls made their promise. I don't recommend going on the Big One while it is raining! We finished the year with a joint trip to the cinema to watch Wish.

5 girls went to Wellies and Wristbands which is a festival for Guides, Rangers and Leaders. During the day there were adventurous activities including canoeing, axe throwing and raft building. There were art activities, science activities and bumper cars for a change if they wanted. 1 girl entered the talent competition singing. Unfortunately, she didn't win but sang brilliantly. At night up and coming artists performed and on the last night there was a fireworks display. 2 girls made their promise.

A couple of days later we had a sleepover in tents at Wallasey HQ having a campfire and doing camp activities.

None of this would be possible without Cath and Lisa who volunteer each week and help with trips/camps. Also thank you to Kate for providing joint activities. Thank you so much for your support and we look forward to next year.

Sarah Merrill

3rd Wallasey (Emmanuel) Scout Group

Beavers

The past year, our Beavers have done some amazing things:

Learning how to use a flint and steel on an exciting Beaver Sleepover.

Creating a fire and roasted some marshmallows to make s'mores.

Using pH testing strips to examine different liquids.

Working as a team to create some amazing inventions using recycled objects.

Found many new ways to communicate, such as talking into cups connected by string.

Learning about people with Special Needs by wearing 'funny' glasses with parts blanked out.

Learning to Resuscitate using a dummy.

Doing First Aid on each other.

Learning about road safety.

Doing a Treasure Hunt in Vale Park.

Planting Sunflowers seeds at the side of the church.

Making Christmas decorations.

And I'm sure many more activities I've missed out.

Thomas Shennan took over as Beaver Leader from his mum, Sheila at the beginning of September and we would like to thank Sue and George and the 'Young Leaders', Warrick, Harry, Ellis, and any others I've missed. We look forward to another adventurous year.

Tom Shennan

2023 Report and Accounts for the Parochial Church Council St James and Emmanuel Churches, New Brighton

Cubs

From January 2023 to December 2023 the Cubs have enjoyed completing badges, especially their photography badge, where they learnt how to use a camera properly.

The Cubs wrote letters to the local fire-station asking if we could visit. We received a reply and then went for a lovely visit. They had a great time looking around the fire-station and learning how everything works. They then had a look at a fire engine and enjoyed having a sit in it. The Cubs were so excited when it came down to having a squirt of the hose. They were amazed at how powerful they were.

In October a few of our cubs joined our scouts and another scout group on a trip to Paris. They had the most amazing time and made some brilliant memories that will stay with them forever. We travelled to Paris by coach and boat which was very tiring and a few young members and leaders didn't take well to sea sickness. Whilst there we had a day in Disneyland. We also enjoyed some sightseeing around Paris and a trip up the Eiffel Tower. For tea one night we all enjoyed trying a French delicacy of snails. Well, when I say enjoyed I for one WON'T be eating them again. On the way home we had a visit to a Hypermarket before making the long journey home. Arriving back at Wallasey for midnight where the Cubs, Scouts, Young Leaders and Leaders were looking forward to a few hours sleep before returning back to school and work. For Christmas we finished off with a joint Beaver, Cub and Scout annual Christmas party. The highlight of the night was the young members wrapping the young leaders up like Christmas presents. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the other leaders and young leaders for all their continuous support. Also thank you to all the young members and their parents.

Kim (Akela)

Scouts

Another year without any time to rest on my laurels. We have finally got a regular volunteer, Kieran, at Scouts meaning which means the load is beginning to be spread among more people across the group.

There are a lot of pressures in people's lives which has really exposed how short we are of adults. A slight restructure has allowed Allan and Lynne into the fold officially and so they have taken roles of supporter and Chairperson.

We have linked up with 12th again for numerous activities, the most exciting being our trip to Paris which enabled 57 young people to earn their International Badge and necker.

We visited the Eiffel Tower, EuroDisney and sailed the Seine amongst other regular activities with a French twist.

For this trip we partly sponsored some young leaders and paid toward some members who were struggling to cope with the cost.

We have camped at Tawd again and at Emmanuel, but also added a trip to Serpentine Family Church as we firm up our links.

We have been bowling, walking, gardening, map reading, fire lighting, whittling, enjoying scout lead activities and analysing how their delivery can be improved to progress their ability to be positive role models in the world. We enjoyed photography, film making, badge design, paddle boarding and notably celebrated the coronation of our new King.

We have organised and taken part in many district level events, such as climbing, a fashion show and the Gang Show. The best of all being the District Derby Day in which 80 young people navigated Wallasey to conquer several challenges in teams. These have helped the scouts find new friends within the district and further afield.

We are hoping to sponsor a Scout in her world championship bid in China to go up against other young biathletes (laser shooting and running).

2023 Report and Accounts for the Parochial Church Council St James and Emmanuel Churches, New Brighton

As a group we are very grateful for the venue you provide us to make these wonderful things possible. Until next time.....
Graham

PARISH OF NEW BRIGHTON - ST JAMES WITH E
Income & Expenditure Accounts - Year ended 31 D

<u>2022</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
£	<u>General Account</u>	£	£
63032 Parish Share		64923	52,234
2210 Vicarage Council Tax & Water Charges		2583	1,135
1380 Clergy Expenses inc Car Allowance		1353	5,187
490 Wine, wafers, candles, lamps		401	0
5021 Heating, Lighting & Water		10327	14,414
7661 Insurance Premiums		8227	72,970
3190 Organist's fees		3579	3,799
491 Refreshments /Cleaning Expenses		869	
1287 Photocopier rental and use (excl magazine)		1009	3,120
1358 Sundries		1298	28
367 Magazine Costs		842	941
1774 Vestry phone and internet		1433	1,998
553 Music Worship Expenses		975	1,089
6070 Contribution to Charities Account		6030	2,100
36 Website		408	0
390 Defib pads and batteries		0	
0 Vestry PC		597	
0 Renewal of white lines outside St James		176	
<u>95,310</u>		<u>105,030</u>	<u>86,045</u>
<u>Fabric Reserve Account @ Emmanuel</u>			
134 Bailey & Birch Ltd – Lighting Modifications		3042	98
37 Claughton Fire Protection - Servicing		92	2,523
0 Able Group drains		210	104
150 Elmwood Boiler service		150	0
2500 MD Driveways Patio		0	0
0 JABirch & Son Church Maintenance		198	30
128 Gardening and jet washing		0	984
350 Makin Organs Ltd Tuning		0	
0 Roof/structural Repairs		80	
0 Locksmiths		117	
0 Replacement shed		820	
0 Dual flushes on all toilets		456	
0 Pestokill		97	
90 Wallasey carpets repair to flooring		0	
300 Hayes & Finch Ciborium		0	
113 Microphone repair /replacement		49	
62 The Church Noticeboard Co		0	
<u>3,864</u>		<u>5,311</u>	<u>3,739</u>
99,174	Expenditure Carried Forward	110,341	89,784

PARISH OF NEW BRIGHTON - ST JAMES WITH E
Income & Expenditure Accounts - Year ended 31 Decemb

<u>2022</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
£		£	£
99,174	Expenditure Brought Forward	110,341	89,784
<u>St James Restoration Fund</u>			
1463 Randall Thorpe Scheme Fees		0	2,154
259 School Initiative timber & topsoil		0	1,247
72 Heritage Weekends expenses		22	877
0 Gift for Guest Organist		300	2,217
0 Concerts Expenses		259	636
0 Cream Tea Expenses		130	

1,794	732	7,131
<u>Repairs Account @ St James</u>		
180 General church maintenance	123	2,000
328 Bailey & Birch Ltd – Elec Repairs & Tests	356	21
1111 E Bound - Roof Alarm Servicing and parts	1260	150
0 Replacement dehumidifier	286	0
562 Gardening and tree removal	450	0
0 New signage	90	0
816 Organ Tuning	1224	
88 PAS Sound Engineering repairs	128	
0 Replacement projector screen	80	
180 M Lewis gas / plumbing	78	
76 Claughton Fire Protection - Servicing	50	
278 Plastix Extruders replacement mat	0	
714 Furber Roofing	624	
4,333	4,749	2,171
<u>Charities Account</u>		
2361 The Church Overseas	2584	1,319
1382 Home Missions	1196	6,070
4786 Secular Charities	5225	1,140
8,529	9,005	8,529
113,830 Expenditure carried forward	124,827	107,615
PARISH OF NEW BRIGHTON -ST JAMES WITH EMMA		
Income and Expenditure Accounts - Year Ended 31 December 20		
2022 Expenditure	2023	2022
£	£	£
113,830 Expenditure brought forward	124,827	107,615
<u>Churchwardens Legacy Account</u>		
733 GCS - C/Heating Service Contract St James	1745	9,122
0 Transfer to St James Repairs Account	5000	
733	6,745	9,122
<u>Vicar's Discretionary Fund for Youth</u>		
307 Youth outings and resources	299	294
240 Messy Church / Sunday School resources/ food	163	800
743 Setting up Kids Corner St James	0	90
		0
		0
1,290	462	1,184
<u>Ledder Cornish Brace Trust</u>		
984 Transfer to Fabric Reserve Account		51
		142
984	0	193
1,277 Excess of Income Over Expenditure	0	0
118,114	132,034	118,114

PARISH OF NEW BRIGHTON - ST JAMES WITH EM
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 202

<u>Liabilities and Fund Balances</u>					
<u>2022</u>				<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
£		£	£	£	£
<u>Fund Balances</u>		<u>INCOME EXPENDITURE</u>			
Unrestricted:					
40,675	General Account	84,066	105030	19,711	152,000
235,501	Churchwardens Legacy Account	10802	6745	239,558	
Restricted:					
10	Charities Account	9005	9005	10	106,850
1,376	Repairs Account	5552	4749	2,179	100
15,591	Fabric Reserve Account	3487	5311	13,767	
4,650	Vicars Discr'y Fund for Youth	731	462	4,919	107,696
0	Ledder Cornish Brace Trust	0	0	0	
61,699	St James Restoration Fund	<u>12280</u>	<u>732</u>	73,247	
359,502		<u>125923</u>	<u>132034</u>	353,391	
7,144	Monies Held On Account			7,822	
<u>366,646</u>				<u>361,213</u>	<u>366,646</u>

C.J.JONES
H. JONES
A. J. TIMMS
CHURCHWARDENS

APPROVED BY THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH
COUNCIL ON
SIGNED ON ITS BEHALF BY
REVEREND HEATHER ATKINSON (PCC CHAIRMAN)

H. ATKINSON

PARISH OF NEW BRIGHTON - ST JAMES WITH EMMANUEL
CHARITABLE GIVING

<u>2022</u>	<u>Charity Payments</u>		<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
£	<u>Collections in Church</u>	£	£	£
208	Children's Society	0		560
0	DEC Turkey/Syria Quake appeal	893		560
90	Chester Clergy Family Charitable Trust	0		0

314 RNLI NB	368	560
474 Claire House	0	560
192 3 rd Wallasey Cub Scouts	0	560
40 Wirral Hospice	0	560
<u>1,319</u>	<u>1,262</u>	560
		560
<u>Other Collections</u>		560
233 Wirral Foodbank (includes Bread & Spread)	346	240
130 Leprosy Mission	148	0
90 Barnabas Fund	105	165
366 Claire House	0	500
100 DEC Ukraine Appeal	0	125
221 Bible Society	0	0
0 Christian Aid	651	6,070
0 RNLI NB	463	
<u>1,140</u>	<u>1,713</u>	<u>8,529</u>

PARISH OF NEW BRIGHTON - ST JAMES WITH EM

Notes

2022	<u>Analysis of Monies held on Account</u>	2023	2022	
			<u>St James</u>	<u>Emmanue</u>
£		£	£	£
605	Vicar's Fund	605	614	857
163	Youth Account	0	0	1,531
449	Church Ball	449	295	0
478	Lunch Club	0	0	0
198	Lighting Project	324	29	0
2046	Bread & Spread Project	2604	113	0
251	Fun food and Friendship	465	0	0
0	PCC Away Day	91	0	0
224	SJ Garden Fund	1224	721	0
1608	Wave Café & Kitchen Project	1608	150	0
1122	Choir Fund	452	295	0

7144

7822

0 135
0 0

2,217 2,523

EMMANUEL
December 2023

	<u>Income</u>	<u>2023</u>
	£	£
<u>General Account</u>		
Net Gift Aided Givings	52,238	
Direct Givings Schemes	1,184	
Other Givings	4,424	
Digital Givings	56	
Tax Recovery on Givings	14,710	
	<u>72,613</u>	
PCC Fees	1,697	
Lettings:- Emmanuel £ 3174		
Lettings:- St James £989	4,163	
Interest	56	
Magazine sales and advertising	943	
Refreshment sales	2,294	
Energy grant from Chester DBF	0	
Energy donations from Wirral Foodbank	0	
Warm spaces grant for heating	2,300	
		<u>84,066</u>
<u>Fabric Reserve Account @ Emmanuel</u>		
Donations	349	
Fund Raising	2,187	
Interest	599	
Ecclesiastical Insurance donation	130	
Eco Fair Proceeds	222	
Organ use	0	
Balance of closed account Emmanuel	0	
		<u>3,487</u>
Income Carried Forward		87,553

EMMANUEL
December 2023 (Continued)

	<u>Income</u>	<u>2023</u>
	£	£
Income Carried Forward		87,553
<u>St James Restoration Fund</u>		
Gift Aid pledges	2,374	
Donations	2,720	
Tax recovery	1,125	
Fund Raising	4,910	
(LPOW) VAT Recovery	1,151	

	12,280

Repairs Account @ St James

Donations	0
Interest	149
Organ Use	51
Ecclesiastical Insurance donation	130
Eco Fair Proceeds	222
Transfer from legacy Account	5,000

	5,552

Charities Account

Collections in Church	1,262
Transfer from General Account	6,030
Other Charitable Collections	1,713

	9,005

Income carried forward	114,390
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NUEL

2023 (Continued)

Income	2023
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	£	£
Income brought forward		114,390

Churchwardens Legacy Account

Interest	10,802
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	10,802

Vicar's Discretionary Fund for Youth

Interest	345
Sunday School Grant	0
Donations	50
Christmas/Easter crafts	172
Fundraising Dec 2022	164

	731

Ledder Cornish Brace Trust

Interest /Appreciation	
Sale of shares	

	0

Excess of Expenditure Over Income	6,111
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	132,034

MANUEL13

<u>Assets</u>		<u>2023</u>
	£	£
Church of England		
Central Board of Finance:		
Shares at Cost	152,000	
(Value as at 31/12/23 = £305,167.48)		
Deposit Fund	<u>110,209</u>	262,209
Petty Cash Imprest		100
Cash at Bank:		
Current Accounts	<u>98,904</u>	98,904
		<u>361,213</u>

S.C.GILES
HON. TREASURER

I CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE BALANCE
SHEET AND ANNEXED INCOME AND
EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS ARE IN
AGREEMENT WITH THE BOOKS AND
RECORDS SUPPLIED TO ME.

C. TAYLOR

JEL

	2023	
<u>Direct Contributions from General A/C</u>	£	£
Christian Aid	560	
Claire House Hospice	560	
St Andrews Building Fund	30	

Wirral Debt Advice	560	
St John's Hospice	560	
Water Aid	560	
Tear Fund	560	
Wirral Churches Ark Project	560	
RNLI (New Brighton)	560	
Wirral Women and Children's Aid	560	
Toilet Twinning	0	
New Brightoners	200	
Daily Bread Ministries	135	
DEC Appeals	500	
A Rocha Eco Church	0	
Inclusive Church Network	125	
	<u>6030</u>	
	<u>9,005</u>	

MANUEL

<u>Analysis of Fundraising</u>	2023	
	<u>St James</u>	<u>Emmanuel</u>
!	£	£
Summer Fair & Book Sale	0	745
Christmas Fair	0	1,442
Inspire Blue Tube	617	0
Swing, String and Sing	624	0
Microlight sponsorship	0	0
Christmas Card opt out scheme	10	0
Organ Concert	1,387	0
Folk Night	1,025	0
Miscellaneous sales (Preserves, chicks, etc)	412	0
Wirral History and Heritage Fair / weekend:	214	0
Tram Evening	0	0

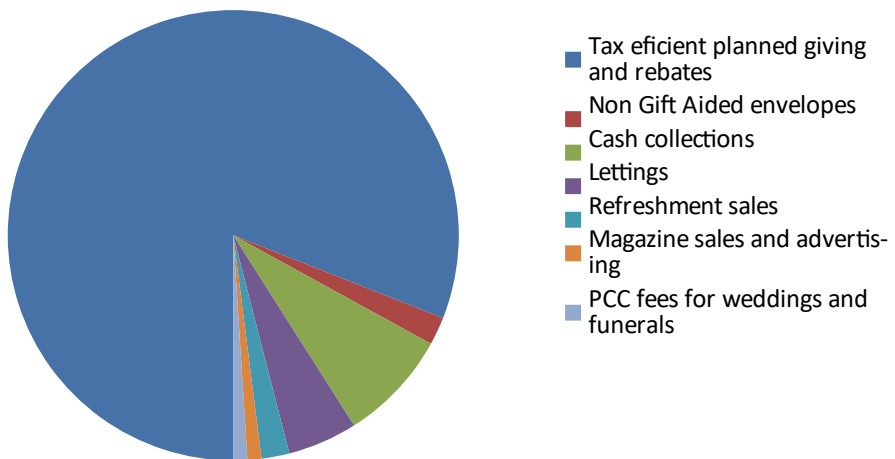
Queen Bee Drive	0	0
Cream Tea	621	0

4,910	2,187
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Tax efficient planned giving and rebates	81
Non Gift Aided envelopes	2
Cash collections	8
Lettings	5
Refreshment sales	2
Magazine sales and advertising	1
PCC fees for weddings and funerals	1

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Sources of income 2019



Income & Expenditure Accounts - Year ended 31 December 2023

3,487

99,174	Expenditure Carried Forward	110,341	89,784	Income Carried Forward	87,553
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PARISH OF NEW BRIGHTON - ST JAMES WITH EMMANUEL
Income & Expenditure Accounts - Year ended 31 December 2023 (Continued)

<u>2022</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
£	£	£	£	£
99,174	Expenditure Brought Forward	110,341	89,784	Income Carried Forward
				87,553

St James Restoration Fund

1463	Randall Thorpe Scheme Fees	0	2,154	Gift Aid pledges	2,374
259	School Initiative timber & topsoil	0	1,247	Donations	2,720
72	Heritage Weekends expenses	22	877	Tax recovery	1,125
0	Gift for Guest Organist	300	2,217	Fund Raising	4,910
0	Concerts Expenses	259	636	(LPOW) VAT Recovery	1,151
0	Cream Tea Expenses	130			
0	Temporary License Fee	21			

<u>1,794</u>	<u>732</u>	<u>7,131</u>	<u>12,280</u>
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Repairs Account @ St James

180	General church maintenance	123	2,000	Donations	0
328	Bailey & Birch Ltd – Elec Repairs & Tests	356	21	Interest	149
1111	E Bound - Roof Alarm Servicing and parts	1260	150	Organ Use	51
0	Replacement dehumidifier	286	0	Ecclesiastical Insurance donation	130
562	Gardening and tree removal	450	0	Eco Fair Proceeds	222
0	New signage	90	0	Transfer from legacy Account	5,000
816	Organ Tuning	1224			
88	PAS Sound Engineering repairs	128			
0	Replacement projector screen	80			
180	M Lewis gas / plumbing	78			
76	Cloughton Fire Protection - Servicing	50			
278	Plastix Extruders replacement mat	0			
714	Furber Roofing	624			
<u>4,333</u>		<u>4,749</u>	<u>2,171</u>		<u>5,552</u>

Charities Account

2361	The Church Overseas	2584	1,319	Collections in Church	1,262
1382	Home Missions	1196	6,070	Transfer from General Account	6,030
4786	Secular Charities	5225	1,140	Other Charitable Collections	1,713
<u>8,529</u>		<u>9,005</u>	<u>8,529</u>		<u>9,005</u>

113,830	Expenditure carried forward	124,827	107,615	Income carried forward	114,390
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PARISH OF NEW BRIGHTON - ST JAMES WITH EMMANUEL
Income and Expenditure Accounts - Year Ended 31 December 2023 (Continued)

	2022 £	2023 £	2022 £	2023 £	2023 £
Expenditure					
113,830 Expenditure brought forward		124,827	107,615	Income brought forward	114,390
<u>Churchwardens Legacy Account</u>					
733 GCS - C/Heating Service Contract St James	1745		9,122	Interest	10,802
0 Transfer to St James Repairs Account	5000		<u>9,122</u>		<u>10,802</u>
<u>733</u>	<u>6,745</u>				
<u>Vicar's Discretionary Fund for Youth</u>					
307 Youth outings and resources	299		294	Interest	345
240 Messy Church / Sunday School resources/ food	163		800	Sunday School Grant	0
743 Setting up Kids Corner St James	0		90	Donations	50
			0	Christmas/Easter crafts	172
			0	Fundraising Dec 2022	164
<u>1,290</u>	<u>462</u>		<u>1,184</u>		<u>731</u>
<u>Ledder Cornish Brace Trust</u>					
984 Transfer to Fabric Reserve Account			51	Interest /Appreciation	
<u>984</u>	<u>0</u>		<u>142</u>	Sale of shares	<u>0</u>
			<u>193</u>		
1,277 Excess of Income Over Expenditure	0		0	Excess of Expenditure Over Income	6,111
<u>118,114</u>	<u>132,034</u>		<u>118,114</u>		<u>132,034</u>

PARISH OF NEW BRIGHTON - ST JAMES WITH EMMANUEL
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2023

<u>Liabilities and Fund Balances</u>		<u>Assets</u>	
2022	2023	2022	2023
£	£	£	£
<u>Fund Balances</u>		<u>Church of England</u>	
Unrestricted:		Central Board of Finance:	
40,675	15,591	Shares at Cost	152,000
235,501	4,650	(Value as at 31/12/23 = £305,167.48)	
		Deposit Fund	110,209
Restricted:		Petty Cash Imprest	100
10	9005	Cash at Bank:	
1,376	5552		
15,591	3487		
4,650	731	Current Accounts	98,904
	0		
61,699	12280		
359,502	125923		
7,144	7,822		
366,646	361,213		361,213

C.J.JONES
H. JONES
A. J. TIMMS
CHURCHWARDENS

APPROVED BY THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH
COUNCIL ON
SIGNED ON ITS BEHALF BY
REVEREND HEATHER ATKINSON (PCC CHAIRMAN)

S.C.GILES
HON. TREASURER

I CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE BALANCE
SHEET AND ANNEXED INCOME AND
EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS ARE IN
AGREEMENT WITH THE BOOKS AND
RECORDS SUPPLIED TO ME.

H. ATKINSON

C. TAYLOR

Ukaylo

H.Atkinson

19.3.24

CHARITABLE GIVING

6030
9,005

PARISH OF NEW BRIGHTON - ST JAMES WITH EMMANUEL

Notes	2022	Analysis of Monies held on Account	2023	2022		Analysis of Fundraising	2023	
				St James	Emmanuel		St James	Emmanuel
£			£	£	£		£	£
605	Vicar's Fund		605	614	857	Summer Fair & Book Sale	0	745
163	Youth Account		0	0	1,531	Christmas Fair	0	1,442
449	Church Ball		449	295	0	Inspire Blue Tube	617	0
478	Lunch Club		0	0	0	Swing, String and Sing	624	0
198	Lighting Project		324	29	0	Microlight sponsorship	0	0
2046	Bread & Spread Project		2604	113	0	Christmas Card opt out scheme	10	0
251	Fun food and Friendship		465	0	0	Organ Concert	1,387	0
0	PCC Away Day		91	0	0	Folk Night	1,025	0
224	St Garden Fund		1224	721	0	Miscellaneous sales (Preserves, chicks, etc)	412	0
1608	Wave Café & Kitchen Project		1608	150	0	Wirral History and Heritage Fair / weekends	214	0
1122	Choir Fund		452	295	0	Tram Evening	0	0
				0	135	Queen Bee Drive	0	0
				0	0	Cream Tea	621	0
			<u>7822</u>					
7144								
				2,217	2,523		4,910	2,187