

The Parish Church of St Mary and St Gabriel

in the Totnes Mission Community, Diocese of Exeter
www.stokegabrielchurch.co.uk

Annual Report and Financial Statement of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31st December 2024

Incumbent & Team Rector: Rev'd Jim Barlow

Associate Priest: Rev'd Chris Martin

Bankers: Lloyds Bank, Palace Avenue, Paignton

Independent Examiner: David Blood FCCA

4, Yonder Meadow, Stoke Gabriel, Totnes TQ9 6QE

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary and St Gabriel is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956 and the Church Representation Rules 2006) and a Registered Charity (No:1138315). Its address for correspondence is The Vicarage, School Hill, Stoke Gabriel, Totnes TQ9 6QX

AIM and PURPOSE

The Parochial Church Council of St Mary and St Gabriel (PCC) cooperates with the Incumbent and the Associate Priest in promoting the mission and ministry of the church in the parish of Stoke Gabriel.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The PCC is committed to keeping the church at the centre of parish life, providing a range of services, both BCP & CW, said and sung, and opportunities for worship that put faith into practice through prayer, scripture, reflection, music and sacrament. It is also committed to bringing people together in fellowship, providing care for the community, and marking significant events in the life of individuals, the community and the nation.

The PCC manages the care, finances and administration associated with its Grade 1 listed church building and churchyard, and also for its other properties, the Old School Room (Church Hall), the Verger's Cottage and the Church House Inn. Together with the Exeter Diocesan Board of Finance, the PCC (via the Incumbent and two Churchwardens) has absolute title to the Church House Inn. The PCC has possessory title to the Old School Room and the Verger's Cottage, which can be converted into an absolute title in 12 years. The Church House Inn ceased trading in December shortly before the tenant's lease came to an end in January 2025. Trading is due to re-commence once a new tenant has signed a lease later in 2025. The Verger's Cottage continues to be occupied by the Verger Emeritus with the full consent of the PCC.

The PCC encourages members of the congregation to live out their faith as part of the family of Christ, supporting the missional and pastoral objectives of the church and contributing to its day-to-day care and administration. The church enjoys a warm sense of community which is reflected in the parish as a whole. Central to church life is the support, nurture, protection and safeguarding of every individual.

STUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

The method of appointment of the trustees, that is the PCC members, is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The PCC comprises ex officio members and members who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. The PCC met six times during the year.

Members who served during 2024 were as follows, with two new members joining the PCC at the AGM but one subsequently resigning.

Ex Officio Members	
Incumbent & Team Rector	Rev'd Fr Jim Barlow
Associate Priest (Stoke Gabriel)	Rev'd Chris Martin
Churchwardens	Mr Mike Stott
	Mr Gerald Watson
Deanery Representative, Safeguarding Officer & PCC Secretary	Mrs Liz Ball

Deanery Representative	Mrs Sue Roach
Elected Members	
Reader	Mr Alan Hill
PCC Treasurer	Mr Ian Potham
	Mr Norman Betts
	Mrs Evelyn Watson
	Mrs Val Proctor
	Mr Michael Brown
	Mrs Nickie Jones (Until July)
	Mr Mark Yallop
	Mrs Sue Clement (From March)
	Mrs Jan Nott (From March)

Mr Norman Betts, the vergers, was on sick leave throughout the year although he continues to carry out a handful of duties. In recognition of a lifetime's commitment and service to the parish church, the title of Vergers Emeritus was conferred upon him in December. The Gift Aid Officer, Mr John Ball, performed the role of vergers until he resigned in August 2024, following which the duties were allocated among a number of volunteers.

The succession plan is to be re-activated and more people encouraged to stand for election to the PCC.

ACHIEVEMENTS and PERFORMANCE

Residing in the vicarage with his wife and black labrador, Welly, the year 2024 was the first full calendar year in which Rev'd Chris Martin was the Associate Priest for the parish. Established as the local face of the church, he is widely respected by parishioners, whether of the faith or not. He led all the services apart from a few occasions when they were led by another member of the Totnes Team Ministry. Under the excellent joint leadership of the Team Rector, Fr Jim Barlow, and Rev'd Chris Martin, the parish church is now optimally placed to flourish.

The range of services was extended in 2025 with the addition of several new forms of service including a new service of Morning Worship for baptisms, a new Quayside Easter service at the break of dawn, and an Advent Service of Lessons and Carols.

Performance Metrics (with the corresponding 2023 figures in brackets):

Membership of the church electoral roll was 105 (107) while the number of participants was 83 (82).

The usual attendance at our principal Sunday services increased to 55 (52) although a notable difference in attendance (about 10) exists between Choral Eucharist and Choral Matins with the former being favoured. While overall attendance remains healthy, younger members of the parish continue to be under-represented. Three new services of Morning Worship with baptism proved to be popular and were attended by 75 people of mixed ages.

The usual attendance at the Sunday 8.15 Service of Holy Communion remains the same at 13. Monthly services of Choral Evensong/Compline were attended by an average of 25 people. The Wednesday 10.00 services of Holy Communion were attended by about 10 people.

The new Advent Service of Lessons and Carols was attended by 56 people. The services at Easter and Christmas increased on the previous year with numbers of 149 (142) and 145 (127) respectively. The new Quayside Easter service was attended by 31 people. The Crib service on Christmas Eve continues to attract the largest number of attendees of any service with some 175 (171) adults and children, for whom many families see this event as an integral part of their Christmas celebrations.

A D-Day Commemoration service was held on 6th June and attended by some 40 people.

During the year, there were 3 (3) baptisms, 1 (1) wedding, 8 (5) funerals. There are eight burial plots remaining before the churchyard is full although there is sufficient space for the interment of ashes for another decade. An application to close the churchyard was postponed given the slow uptake of burial plots, with none taken up at all during the past year.

A Lent course was held in the village with about 15 (8) in attendance. A weekly meditative opportunity of "quiet waiting" was offered in church during Advent with about 10 in attendance. A Saturday afternoon was spent with the Team Rector and Associate Priest discussing the mission of the church in Stoke Gabriel. The aim of the meeting was to take stock of where the parish church was at this time and about 40 people attended. A second meeting is planned for the 2025 to discuss where we should be headed.

PARISH OUTREACH

Under the leadership of the Associate Priest, the church continued to bring the Good News to the younger members of the parish. Contact was maintained with the village primary school and scout group. Tailored for children, Crafty Events were held on six occasions. Three were held during Lent, Easter and Advent, one to celebrate Harvest, one to celebrate Pentecost and was held in summer on the theme of friendship. On average 17 children attended these events with an average of 33 adults and children attending the associated services in church.

The lonely, bereaved and vulnerable in the community were supported through regular one-to-one visits, telephone calls and social events, and through home communions offered by the Associate Priest. In particular, lunches for the senior folk of the parish continue to grow in popularity. There were 11 lunches at Emma's with more than 50 (30) people at each one, necessitating two sittings. There was also one New Year's lunch in the Village Hall with about 60 people.

The church continued its support of charities locally and further afield. Locally, it included Stepping Stones in Totnes. Further afield, it included the Mission to Seafarers, Children's Society, Royal British Legion, Christian Aid and Water Aid. We also continue to sponsor a young Ugandan girl, Winny Angel, through World Vision.

Regular monthly collections were made in support of Stepping Stones and the CRUK (Christian Response to Ukraine).

MEDIA & TECHNOLOGY

An important medium of communication with the parish and beyond, the parish magazine has a print run in excess of 420 copies, of which about 350 are hand delivered to households and the remainder are sold through local outlets. Focusing on church services and events, a weekly Pew Sheet is emailed to over 100 recipients with about 50 copies being printed and made available at the principal Sunday service. Online communication to a wider audience is provided by the church web site, stokegabrielchurch.co.uk, ACNY (A Church Near You) and the social media platform, Facebook, the church group of which has a membership of 400 (330). Posters are displayed around the parish on telephone poles and notice boards to inform the wider community of church events and to keep the mission of the church alive in the public eye.

SAFEGUARDING, GDPR & SAFETY

The church continues to commit itself to the support, nurture, protection and safeguarding of every individual, especially the young and vulnerable. The PCC has complied with the duty under Section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to comply with the House of Bishops' on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). It is also GDPR and safety compliant.

CARE OF CHURCH AND OTHER PROPERTY

The church building continues to be open from about 9.00 to 17.00 every day for visitors and locals requiring an opportunity for peace and reflection. During the year, the following works were undertaken:

- Restoration of collapsed west churchyard wall
- Installation of new intruder alarm system and lock safe in vestry, and repair of safe
- Removal of ivy from monuments during May churchyard working party
- Repairs to organ following damp weather & installation of small organ heater
- Automation of church tower clock
- Provision of ramps for disabled access to OSR
- Installation of new church notice board in car park
- Re-print of updated church guide
- Commission of Book of Remembrance of Stoke Gabriel Servicemen and Servicewomen

VOLUNTEERS

The church is blessed with an army of loyal and committed volunteers from among and beyond the church membership who give generously in support of the church and its mission to the community of Stoke Gabriel. In particular, the Friends of Stoke Gabriel Church raises much-needed funds for the repair of its church building. The PCC thanks them all wholeheartedly.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Receipts of £121,505 and payments of £121,511, resulted in a deficit of just £6.

Regular giving increased by £27,753 to £74,411, which was particularly boosted by a single Gift Aided donation of £12,215 towards the automation of the church clock.

The successful launch of the Parish Giving Scheme in June, produced nearly £9,000 for the year, and despite this, the traditional methods of giving held up well.

We are well supported by the Friends of the Church, who covered the costs of churchyard wall repairs £4,000.

The church clock was fully automated at a cost of £14,494, covered by a single donation and refund of VAT, through the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme.

We continued to meet in full our Common Fund Request of £54,046, up 8.5% on last year.

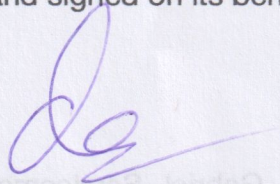
The year ahead will be particularly challenging, in the short term, as we will have considerable expense relating to a new 15-year lease for the Church House Inn, where the existing tenant of 32 years is retiring. We have earmarked £10,000 for these costs, and have already withdrawn this sum from our M & G Charifund investment, now valued at £33,000.

We look forward to receiving an annual rental income of £18,000 from the new lease, payable monthly, from spring 2025, to stabilise our finances.

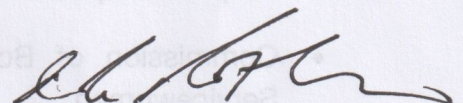
RESERVES POLICY

To build a reserve of £50,000, so that the Church and its assets, are kept in a good state of repair, and to meet our Common Fund commitment in full. This to be reviewed in Nov 2025.

This Annual Report and Financial Statement was approved by PCC on 19th March 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



Rev'd Chris Martin
Associate Priest (Stoke Gabriel)



Mr Ian Potham
PCC Treasurer

Report of the Independent Examiner to the Trustees of the charity on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023 which have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) and with the Financial Reporting Standard 102, (effective 1st January 2016) adapted to meet the needs of unincorporated organisations, as modified by FRS 102 SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities) 2015, (as amended by the Bulletin issued in February 2016), (The SORP), published by the Charity Commission in England & Wales (CCEW), and under the historical cost convention and the accounting policies set out on page .

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the Independent Examiner and the basis of the report

As described on page , you, the charity's Trustees, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and all other applicable law and with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, applicable to smaller entities, and for being satisfied that the financial statements give a true and fair view.

The Trustees consider that the audit requirement of Section 144(1) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) does not apply, and that there is no requirement in the Governing Document for the conducting of an audit. As a consequence, the Trustees have elected that the financial statements be subject to independent examination.

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements are not required to be audited under any legal provision, or otherwise, and are eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:-

a) examine the financial statements of the charity under Section 145 of the Act;

b) follow the applicable procedures in the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement and scope of work undertaken

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under s145 of the Act. In carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act setting out the duties of an independent examiner in relation to the conducting of an independent examination. An independent examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and of the accounting systems employed by the charity and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements, and seeking explanations from you, as Trustees, concerning such matters. The purpose of the examination is to establish as far as possible that there have been no breaches of charity legislation and that, on a test basis of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures made, the financial statements comply with the SORP.

The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and information supplied by the Trustees in the course of the examination is not subjected to audit tests or enquiries and does not cover all the matters that an auditor would consider in arriving at an opinion. The planning and conduct of an audit goes beyond the limited assurance that an independent examination can provide

Consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the financial statements, and in particular, I express no opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view of the affairs of the charity, and my report is limited to the matters set out in the statement below.

I planned and performed my examination so as to satisfy myself that the objectives of the independent examination are achieved and before finalising the report I obtained written assurances from the Trustees of all material matters.

Independent Examiner's Statement, Report and Opinion

Attention is drawn to the accounting policy stating that, notwithstanding the explicit requirement in the extant statutory regulations, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the SORP 2005, in view of the fact that the SORP 2005 has been withdrawn, and in order to accord with current best practice, the Trustees have determined to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the FRS 102 SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities) 2015, (as amended by the Bulletin issued in February 2016), (The SORP). I concur with this approach, and any references in my report to the regulations should be read subject to this comment.

Subject to the limitations upon the scope of my work as detailed above, I have completed my examination: and can confirm that:-

This is a report in respect of an examination carried out under 145 of the Act and in accordance with Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act which may be applicable;

and that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:-

accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by with Section 130 of The Charities Act 2011;

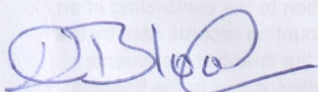
the financial statements do not accord with those records; or

the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination;

have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles set out in the FRS 102 SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities) 2015, (as amended by the Bulletin issued in February 2016), (The SORP).

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

David Blood FCCA - Independent Examiner



Chartered Certified Accountants

4 Yonder Meadow
Stoke Gabriel
Devon
TQ9 6QE

This report was signed on

The Parish of St Mary and St Gabriel - Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2024

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2024

	SORP Ref	Current year Unrestricted Funds	Current year Restricted Funds	Current year Total Funds	Prior Year Total Funds
		2024 £	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £
Income & Endowments from:					
Donations & Legacies	A1	84,929	-	84,929	72,323
Charitable activities	A2	-	-	-	-
Other trading activities	A3	-	2,845	2,845	5,482
Investments	A4	13,814	-	13,814	12,410
Other	A5	18,569	1,348	19,917	20,628
Total income	A	117,312	4,193	121,505	110,843
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	B1	-	5,376	5,376	3,753
Charitable activities	B2	114,450	1,685	116,135	117,528
Total expenditure	B	114,450	7,061	121,511	121,281
Net gains on investments	B4	-	-	-	-
Net expenditure for the year		2,862	(2,868)	(6)	(10,438)
Transfers between funds	C			-	-
Net movement in funds		2,862	(2,868)	(6)	(10,438)
Reconciliation of funds:-	E				
Total funds brought forward		42,241	9,062	51,303	61,741
Total funds carried forward		45,103	6,194	51,297	51,303

The Parish of St Mary and St Gabriel - Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2024

	SORP Note Ref	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Investments held as fixed assets	A4	31,042	40,204
Total fixed assets		<u>31,042</u>	<u>40,204</u>
Current assets	B		
Cash at bank and in hand	B4	20,255	11,099
Total current assets		<u>20,255</u>	<u>11,099</u>
Net current assets		<u>20,255</u>	<u>11,099</u>
The total net assets of the charity		<u>51,297</u>	<u>51,303</u>
Restricted Revenue Funds	D2	6,194	9,062
Unrestricted Revenue Funds	D3	45,103	42,241
Total charity funds		<u>51,297</u>	<u>51,303</u>

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of charity legislation with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The charity is subject to Independent Examination under charity legislation, and the report of the Independent Examiner is on page -1.

The Trustees are satisfied that, although the charity is not registered under the Companies Acts, if it were so registered, it would be eligible to prepare accounts in accordance with the provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006, applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

Reverend Chris Martin
Trustee

Approved by the board of trustees on

Mr Ian Potham

Treasurer

The Parish of St Mary and St Gabriel

Detailed analysis of income and expenditure for the year ended 31 December 2024 as required by the SORP 2015

This analysis is classified by conventional nominal descriptions and not by activity.

Donations and Legacies

	Current year Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Current year Restricted Funds 2024 £	Current year Total Funds 2024 £	Prior Year Total Funds 2023 £
Donations and gifts from individuals				
Donations and gifts from individuals				
Small donations individually less than £1000	10,810	-	10,810	8,080
Donations over £1,000	11,757	-	11,757	-
Total donations and gifts from individuals	22,567	-	22,567	8,080

This row and the five rows above will autohide

Legacies receivable

Small legacies individually less than £1000	-	-	-	-
legacies over £1000	-	-	-	2,835
Total legacies receivable	-	-	-	2,835

This row and the five rows above will autohide

Planned giving and gift aid

individual amounts under £1,000	51,844	-	51,844	35,744
Total Planned giving and gift aid	51,844	-	51,844	35,744

Other voluntary receipts

Individual amounts under £1,000	10,518	-	10,518	8,755
donations over £1000	-	-	-	16,910
Total Other voluntary receipts	10,518	-	10,518	25,665

Total Donations and Legacies

	84,929	-	84,929	72,324
--	---------------	----------	---------------	---------------

Income from other, non charitable, trading activities

	Current year Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Current year Restricted Funds 2024 £	Current year Total Funds 2024 £	Prior Year Total Funds 2023 £
Concerts	-	2,845	2,845	5,482
Total from other activities	-	2,845	2,845	5,482

The Parish of St Mary and St Gabriel

Detailed analysis of income and expenditure for the year ended 31 December 2024 as required by the SORP 2015

Investment income

	Current year Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Current year Restricted Funds 2024 £	Current year Total Funds 2024 £	Prior Year Total Funds 2023 £
Property rental Income	11,000	-	11,000	9,500
Dividend Income	2,814	-	2,814	2,910
Total investment income	13,814	-	13,814	12,410

Other income and gains

	Current year Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Current year Restricted Funds 2024 £	Current year Total Funds 2024 £	Prior Year Total Funds 2023 £
Statutory fees	4,430	-	4,430	5,247
Summary of Other income				
Church magazine	6,668	-	6,668	6,744
Old school room	6,670	-	6,670	6,520
Refund clergy expenses	-	-	-	-
Outreach, Choir and Sundries	801	1,348	2,149	2,117
Total other income	18,569	1,348	19,917	20,628

Expenditure on charitable activities - Direct spending

	Current year Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Current year Restricted Funds 2024 £	Current year Total Funds 2024 £	Prior Year Total Funds 2023 £
Gross wages and salaries - charitable activities	7,187	-	7,187	7,094
Mission	5,118	922	6,040	4,308
Diosean parish share	54,046	-	54,046	49,765
Team clergy expenses	1,898	-	1,898	1,837
Magazine expenditure	5,109	-	5,109	5,522
Insurance	3,941	-	3,941	3,814
Other running costs	6,997	513	7,510	13,086
Organ Repairs				12,200
Total direct spending	84,296	1,435	85,731	97,626

Premises Expenses

Light heat and power	2,833	-	2,833	2,415
Old school room and verger's cottage	4,519	-	4,519	10,230
Churchyard and church walk maintenance	6,167	250	6,417	6,479
Church house inn expenses	2,141	-	2,141	-
Clock repairs	14,494	-	14,494	778
Total support costs	30,154	250	30,404	19,902

The Parish of St Mary and St Gabriel

Detailed analysis of income and expenditure for the year ended 31 December 2024 as required by the SORP 2015

Total Charitable expenditure

	Current year Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Current year Restricted Funds 2024 £	Current year Total Funds 2024 £	Prior Year Total Funds 2023 £
Total direct spending	84,296	1,435	85,731	97,626
Total charitable trading costs	-	-	-	-
Total grantmaking costs	-	-	-	-
Total support costs	30,154	250	30,404	19,902
Total Governance costs	-	-	-	-
Total charitable expenditure	114,450	1,685	116,135	117,528
Expenditure on raising funds and costs of investment management				

	Current year Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Current year Restricted Funds 2024 £	Current year Total Funds 2024 £	Prior Year Total Funds 2023 £
Concerts	-	5,376	5,376	3,753
Total fundraising costs	-	5,376	5,376	3,753

Salary Costs

Salary costs include verger, organist and cleaner.

Investments

Investments have been valued as at 31 December 2024

Investment	2270 M and G Charifund Income units
Cost	£31,042.00
Market Value	£33,423.00

Properties

The church through Trusteeship owns the following properties:

- a) Church House Inn. Buildings insured for £1.61 million with RSA from renewal 19.05.24
- b) Church cottage. Buildings insured by Ecclesiastical at £364,474 from 29th September 2024.
- c) Old School Room Buildings. Building insured by Ecclesiastical at £511,285 confirmed via e mail 7th October 2024

Restricted Fund summary 31 December 2023

	£
Concerts	1,319.30
Choir fund	1,440.98
Kildare James Legacy	2,250.00
Outreach	910.49
Totnes Deanery	272.86
	6,193.63