

THE PARISH OF ST MARY AND ST JOHN THE DIVINE, BALHAM

Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

**The Parish of St Mary and St John the Divine**

**Balham**

**Annual Report and Accounts**

**For the year ended**

**31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**



St Mary and  
St John the Divine

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BALHAM



THE PARISH OF ST MARY AND ST JOHN THE DIVINE, BALHAM  
Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

Charity Registration Number: 1139488

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Legal and administrative details

Charitable status

The Parish Church Council of St Mary and St John the Divine, Balham, was previously a charity exempted from registration with the Charity Commission. In 2010 as required by charity legislation, the Parish Church Council completed registration with the Charity Commission and gained its charity registration number: 1139488.

Location of the Church

St Mary's Church is on Balham High Road, London SW12 9BS.

Incumbent

Incumbent priest from 30th January 2023 Revd Jonathan MacNeaney

Bankers

National Westminster Bank Plc, Balham High Road, London SW12 and  
CAF Bank Limited, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ

Independent Examiner:

Mrs Paula Thomas, Chartered Accountant, London SW16



## THE PARISH OF ST MARY AND ST JOHN THE DIVINE, BALHAM

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### The Parochial Church Council (PCC)

The PCC of St Mary and St John the Divine has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting within the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and eumenical. It is also responsible for maintaining and developing the building for the parish.

### Trustees (being the members of the PCC)

Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representational Rules. Those elected bring the skills required for the PCC and ensure the diversity reflects that of the parish.

The PCC normally meets seven times per year. During 2023, the members of the PCC were:

Appointment	Name	Committee
Until 2024 APCM Resigned September 2023	Ms Kamalini Anil	
Until 2026 APCM	Ms Lynn Beattie	Giving Group
Until 2026 APCM Resigned May 2024	Mr Berkeley Brandon	
Until 2026 APCM	Graeme Calf	
Until 2026 APCM	Julia de Cruz	
Until 2024 APCM Secretary, resigned July 2023	Ms Dawn Dukar	Standing
Ex Officio Resigned June 2023	The Revd Berni Excell	Standing, Giving Group
Until 2026 APCM	Ms Karen Gray	Lettings, Giving Group
Until 2023 APCM Deanery Synod	Ms Rose Harley	
Ex Officio Churchwarden Until 2024 APCM	Ms Diane Holmes	Standing
Until 2026 APCM Deanery Synod	Mr Bruce Knight	
Until 2024 APCM	Ms Pauline Lamunu	
Until 2026 APCM	Jack Lawson	
Until 2026 APCM Treasurer	Mr John A Lloyd IV	Standing
Vicar, Chair	Fr Jonathan MacNeaney	Standing
Ex Officio Churchwarden, resigned October 2023	Ms Sarah McDermott	Standing
Until 2026 APCM	Margaret Olasebikan	
Until 2024 APCM	Ms Wendy Newall	
Until 2026 APCM Deanery Synod Vice-Chair	Mr Andrew Purkis	Standing, Giving Group
Until 2023 APCM Treasurer Resigned April 2023	Mr Colin Snaddon	Standing, Building and Fabric
Until 2026 APCM	Ms Dorothy Tay	
Until 2026 APCM Deanery Synod	Mr Sedgil Wartemberg	

Names in **bold** are the trustees at 31 December 2023 and at the date of this report.

## THE PARISH OF ST MARY AND ST JOHN THE DIVINE, BALHAM

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### Committees

The PCC operates through several committees that meet between full meetings of the PCC and prepare reports for those full meetings. Emergencies that arise are dealt with by the Standing Committee which comprises the Incumbent, Churchwardens, Secretary, Treasurer, and one other member of the PCC appointed by the PCC (in 2022-3 the Vice-Chair).

### Standing Committee

This is the only committee required by law. It has power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the PCC. It also prioritises and prepares the agenda for PCC meetings.

### Building & Fabric Committee

This committee oversees the physical resources of the Church attending to matters relating to the Church building, grounds, fabric, and equipment. Having met irregularly, in 2023 this committee was abolished. Its work is covered by the churchwardens supported by two members of the PCC who undertake monthly site inspections.

### Lettings Committee

This committee attends to matters relating to the letting and maintenance of the space available for hire.

### Giving Committee

This committee maintains an active overview of financial support for the church's mission via stewardship, legacies, and fundraising from events or Trusts and other funding agencies

### Church attendance

There were 148 members of the Church Electoral Roll at the end of December 2023. Average Sunday attendance in October 2023 was 90. Collective Worship for Trinity St Mary's CofE Primary School took place when possible every Thursday in term-time. Other services, including baptism (25), weddings, and funerals, were conducted in the church.

### Review of the year

We bade farewell to our curate, Revd Berni Excell who took up post as vicar of Roundshaw and Beddington. Her contributions to the life of the church and local community particularly in offering leadership through the interregnum most gratefully received.

Participation in worship has grown numerically by a third. Balham continues to be a community in flux. Too often it feels we bid farewell to old friends but we are also blessed by new faces in the congregation most weeks. There have been fifteen baptisms. Ten children were admitted for First Communion and four adults Confirmed. The mission of the church has continued to grow steadily in its outward focus; encouraged by nurturing and active lay members. Particularly: the breadth of music and seminar events; deepening relationship with our church school; and with the offering of twice weekly warm hubs.

Unrestricted income increased in 2023 to £242k (2022: £142k) largely due to legacies of £67k (2022: £10k) as well as continued uptake in room lettings and an increase in planned giving. Unrestricted expenditure increased to £166k (2022: £135k), primarily as a result of the unexpected replacement of the boiler heating system.

More information about our activities and mission is found on our website: [www.stmarybalham.org.uk](http://www.stmarybalham.org.uk).



# THE PARISH OF ST MARY AND ST JOHN THE DIVINE, BALHAM

## Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

### Public benefit statement

The PCC has considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. Working cooperatively with the clergy and other members of the congregation, it strives to enable all people to live out their faith as part of our parish community. This means facilitating opportunities for worship, prayer, and study, as well as encouraging service to and care for members of the wider community of which we are a part.

### Community

The Church Building is used by church groups and the local community. Users include Guides & Brownies, St Mary's Choir, St Mary's Children's Choir, a concert series, Lent and Advent courses, Alcoholics Anonymous, Warm Hubs twice weekly and various social and fundraising events. Other groups who have used the building regularly include the United Church of the Messiah, children's' music, movement and drama groups, after school tuition, dance classes, and various exercise and wellness classes.

### Stewardship and other forms of giving

Income from Stewardship increased to £73k (2022: £66k). A further £18k (2022: £18k) was recovered on gift aid donations, including under the Small Donations scheme. Stewardship giving primarily includes monthly standing orders and a blue envelope scheme.

The community generously supported (in excess of stewardship income described above) various donation appeals and fundraising events with online talks, concert series, tea parties, dinners and quizzes, raffles, jumble sales and the like raising around £26k.

During the year significant legacies were received totaling £67k.

### Risk management

The PCC has appointed two Safeguarding officers (one of which was vacant from October 2023) to ensure full attention is paid to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults whilst in the building and attending events and services. This is a key practice to minimize the risks identified in the risk review conducted by the Churchwardens.

The PCC updated the Health and Safety policy and lettings policies, including ensuring risk assessments were completed by all those conducting activities within the Parish Church of St Mary and St John the Divine. Safeguarding training is undertaken as stipulated by diocesan policies and the Safeguarding Officer keeps a record of its timely completion.

Other risks (eg financial, or related to Health and Safety, etc) were regularly reviewed by the Health and Safety Officer, the PCC and its Standing Committee.

### Finance report

#### Income

During the year the church's unrestricted general fund income totaled £242k (2022: £142k). The main reasons for the increase in income from the previous year is attributed to legacies of £67k (2022: £10k), room lettings of £41k (2022: £26k), and planned giving of £73k (2022: £66k).

Restricted income (including gift aid thereon) totaled £6k (2022: £8k). This decrease is mostly due to a decline in new grant funding.

#### Expenditure

Expenditure for the year from the unrestricted fund amounted to £166k (2022: £135k). The increase of £31k is mainly due to the unexpected replacement of boiler heating system and higher energy costs.

# THE PARISH OF ST MARY AND ST JOHN THE DIVINE, BALHAM

## Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

### Charitable Giving

Donations totaling approximately £3k (2022: £5k) were made to 10 (2022:12) missionary or charitable organisations during the year, from funds raised by special collections. (Details are given in note 10).

### Deficit

The PCC reports a surplus on the unrestricted fund of £75k (2022: £7k).

### Transfer between Funds

During the year, designated funds nil (2022: nil) were utilized and released to the unrestricted general fund.

### Reserves

As at 31st December 2023, the PCC has £20k in a designated fabric reserve, £120k in the general fund and £7k in restricted funds. The restricted funds represent a number of funds expendable only in accordance with the specific wishes of the donor(s). Of the £7k held in restricted funds at the year end, the majority reflects a grant from Wandsworth Borough Council (Further details are given in Note 8).

### Reserves policy

The PCC's general reserves policy is to hold reserves equal to a minimum of three months' expenditure. The current level of general reserves £120k, is in excess of this figure.

The PCC considers that a fabric reserve of £31k is an appropriate sum to hold aside for repairs required to the Grade II listed building. The current balance is £20k. The PCC intends to replenish the balance remaining of £11k in 2024.

### Statement of PCC members' responsibilities

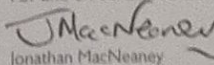
The law requires PCC members to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the financial activities of the Parochial Church Council of St Mary and St John, Balham during the year and its financial position at the end of the year.

In preparing those financial statements, we are required to:

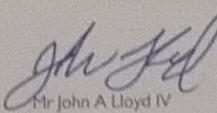
- 1 Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- 2 Make judgements that are reasonable and prudent;
- 3 State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed; subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- 4 Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Parochial Church Council of St Mary and St John the Divine, Balham will continue in operation.

The PCC members are responsible for keeping accounting records, for safeguarding the assets of the organization, and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities, should they exist.

For and on behalf of the PCC

  
Jonathan MacNeaney

Vicar and Chair of PCC

  
Mr John A Lloyd IV

Treasurer

Date 4th May 2024



THE PARISH OF ST MARY AND ST JOHN THE DIVINE, BALHAM  
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**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT**

**TO THE PCC OF ST MARY AND ST JOHN THE DIVINE, BALHAM**

This report is on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2022 which are set out on Pages 11 to 18.

**Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the Independent Examiner**

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

It is my responsibility to:

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

**Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an opinion as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent Examiner's Statement**

In connection with my examination no matters have come to my attention which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with Section 130 of the Charities Act 2011; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records.

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

*Paula Thomas*

Paula Thomas BSc FCA CTA

25 Westcote Road, London SW16 6BN

Date: *4 May* 2024

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**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023

	Note	Unrestrict ed Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
<b>INCOME</b>					
Voluntary income	2(a)	188,936	5,731	194,667	114,020
Church Activities	2(b)	8,939	-	8,939	9,083
Activities for generating funds	2(c)	43,110	-	43,110	27,239
Income from investments	2(d)	958	-	958	96
<b>Total income</b>		<b>241,943</b>	<b>5,731</b>	<b>247,674</b>	<b>150,438</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
Church Activities	3(a)	166,199	3,154	169,353	138,937
Raising Funds	3(b)	38	1,033	1,071	1,287
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>166,237</b>	<b>4,187</b>	<b>170,424</b>	<b>140,224</b>
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>75,706</b>	<b>1,544</b>	<b>77,250</b>	<b>10,214</b>
<b>Total Funds brought forward</b>					
	8	64,412	5,926	70,338	60,124
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	8	<b>140,118</b>	<b>7,470</b>	<b>147,588</b>	<b>70,338</b>

The notes on pages 11 to 16 form part of these financial statements

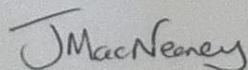


THE PARISH OF ST MARY AND ST JOHN THE DIVINE, BALHAM  
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**BALANCE SHEET**  
At 31 December 2023

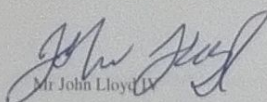
		2023	2022
	Notes		
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Debtors	6	24,663	21,355
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>150,192</u>	<u>57,265</u>
		<b><u>174,855</u></b>	<b><u>78,620</u></b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	7	<u>27,267</u>	<u>8,282</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b><u>147,588</u></b>	<b><u>70,338</u></b>
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>		<b><u>147,588</u></b>	<b><u>70,338</u></b>
<b>PARISH FUNDS</b>			
Restricted	8	7,470	5,926
Designated	8	20,078	20,078
General	8	<u>120,040</u>	<u>44,334</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>		<b><u>147,588</u></b>	<b><u>70,338</u></b>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024 and signed on its behalf by



Fr Jonathan MacNeaney

Vicar and Chair of PCC



Mr John Lloyd

Treasurer

The notes on pages 13 to 18 form part of these financial statements

THE PARISH OF ST MARY AND ST JOHN THE DIVINE, BALHAM  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
For the year ended 31 December 2023

**1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**Basis of preparation**

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of the PCCs, and with the Regulations' "true and fair view" provisions, together with FRS 102 (2017) as the applicable accounting standards and the 2017 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities, (SORP (FRS 102)). The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

**Going concern**

The Trustees have considered income and expenditure for 2024 and set a budget for the year which reflects a net surplus of £6k, after transfers from restricted and designated funds. This will leave approximately £96k at the end of 2024 in the general fund as a reserve. The PCC are confident that this indicates that the charity is a going concern.

**Fixed assets**

Purchases are written off in the year of purchase.

**The Church building**

The activities of the PCC take place at St Mary's Church in Balham which is owned by the Church of England (Southwark Diocese). The PCC is responsible for the repair of the Church building and for safeguarding the Church building and assets. All repairs and development expenditure is charged to the income and expenditure account.

**Funds**

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

Restricted Funds are those funds which must be spent on specific purposes.

Details of the funds held, and movements during the year, are in note 8.

The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law.

**Incoming Resources**

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax recoverable under Gift Aid is recognised when the incoming resource to which it relates is received.

Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable, and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is reasonably certain.

Interest entitlements are accounted for as they accrue.

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

**Resources Expended**

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



# THE PARISH OF ST MARY AND ST JOHN THE DIVINE, BALHAM

Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 31 December 2023

### 2 INCOMING RESOURCES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2023 Total	2022 Total
<b>2(a) Voluntary Income</b>				
Planned Giving	73,255	-	73,255	66,243
Gift Aid recovered	17,430	190	17,620	18,233
Communion alms	4,927	-	4,927	2,500
Bequests inc Benjamin Weir	400	-	400	400
Donations, appeals, etc	18,809	3,608	22,417	11,228
Grants	-	1,933	1,933	4,400
Listed Places of Worship VAT Recovery Scheme	6,978	-	6,978	1,016
Legacies	67,137	-	67,137	10,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>188,936</b>	<b>5,731</b>	<b>194,667</b>	<b>114,020</b>
<b>2(b) Church Activities</b>				
Fees & charges for services	3,402	-	3,402	3,940
Fundraising events	3,914	-	3,914	3,254
Coffee donations	522	-	522	509
Candle donations, etc	1,101	-	1,101	1,380
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,939</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,939</b>	<b>9,083</b>
<b>2(c) Activities for Generating Funds</b>				
Parking	2,128	-	2,128	1,365
Use of church and rooms	40,982	-	40,982	25,874
<b>Total</b>	<b>43,110</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>43,110</b>	<b>27,239</b>
<b>2(d) Income from Investments</b>				
Interest and dividends	958	-	958	96
<b>Total</b>	<b>958</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>958</b>	<b>96</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>241,943</b>	<b>5,731</b>	<b>247,674</b>	<b>150,438</b>

# THE PARISH OF ST MARY AND ST JOHN THE DIVINE, BALHAM

Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 31 December 2023

### 3 EXPENDITURE

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	2023 Total	2022 Total
<b>3(a) Church Activities</b>					
Missionary & Charitable Giving	-	-	2,541	2,541	4,560
Ministry: Diocesan parish share	45,458	-	-	45,458	55,000
Accommodation for Curate	6,000	-	-	6,000	12,000
Insurance & Water Rates	8,588	-	-	8,588	7,914
Heat & Light	13,051	-	-	13,051	5,776
Telephone & Broadband	1,975	-	-	1,975	2,082
Church - repairs & maintenance & decoration	50,140	-	382	50,522	12,732
Flowers	685	-	39	724	578
Other expenses inc refreshments	1,575	-	-	1,575	869
Fees payable	1,817	-	-	1,817	1,596
Cleaning wages & materials	9,013	-	-	9,013	8,343
Music inc Organ tuning	797	-	192	989	914
Organists	7,831	-	-	7,831	6,616
Altar requisites	1,524	-	-	1,524	1,756
Junior, Senior church & creche	235	-	-	235	24
Garden & grounds	1,946	-	-	1,946	3,491
Staff expenses	508	-	-	508	49
Vicar's expenses	43	-	-	43	-
Parish Administrator	6,048	-	-	6,048	5,588
Bookkeeping services	3,795	-	-	3,795	3,520
Postage, printing & stationery	3,450	-	-	3,450	3,712
Independent Examination fees	250	-	-	250	250
Bank charges	284	-	-	284	265
Equipment and software	1,186	-	-	1,186	1,302
Organ repairs	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>166,199</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,154</b>	<b>169,353</b>	<b>138,937</b>
<b>3(b) Raising Funds</b>					
Fundraising costs/publicity	38	-	1,033	1,071	1,287
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,033</b>	<b>1,071</b>	<b>1,287</b>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>166,237</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,187</b>	<b>170,424</b>	<b>140,224</b>

A further analysis of missionary and charitable giving is given in Note 9

### 4 STAFF COSTS

	2023	2022
Wages and salaries	16,718	13,888
Average no of employees	4	3

### 5 RELATED PARTIES

There were no payments or other benefit made to any member of the PCC or persons closely connected with such members, by St Mary's Church or any closely related organization except for expenses incurred on behalf of the church. The members of the PCC made donations to St Mary's totaling £21,097 (2022: £22,118)



# THE PARISH OF ST MARY AND ST JOHN THE DIVINE, BALHAM

## Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 31 December 2023

#### 6 DEBTORS

	2023	2023	2023	2022
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Gift aid tax recoverable	5,377	134	5,511	4,295
Sundry debtors	18,381	-	18,381	1,879
Accrued income	771	-	771	14,692
Prepayments	-	-	-	489
	<b>24,529</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>24,663</b>	<b>21,355</b>

#### 7 CREDITORS – amounts falling due within one year

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
Total				
Independent Examination	250	-	250	250
Other creditors	22,732	192	22,924	3,420
Accruals and deferred income	4,093	-	4,093	4,612
	<b>27,075</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>27,267</b>	<b>8,282</b>

Creditors consist of accrued expenses and other amounts due in the normal operations of the church.

#### 8 FUNDS

Restricted Funds are those expendable only in accordance with the specific wishes of the donor(s)

Designated Funds are those ear-marked by the PCC for a particular project or purpose.

Unrestricted and Not Designated Funds are expendable at the discretion of the PCC, in furtherance of the objects of the Church.

# THE PARISH OF ST MARY AND ST JOHN THE DIVINE, BALHAM

## Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 31 December 2023

#### SUMMARY OF FUND MOVEMENTS

FUNDS	1 Jan 2023 £	Income less expenditure (utilizations) £	Transfers £	31 Dec 2023 £
<b>Restricted</b>				
Children's Choir	90	-	-	90
Psalters & Music in Church	638	(192)	-	446
Healey Willan Memorial	100	-	-	100
Robes and Albs	40	-	-	40
Building	2,000	-	-	2,000
Bibles for TSM	220	138	-	358
Wandsworth BC	2,838	(182)	-	2,656
Sunday School grant	-	900	-	900
LED Brighter Greener	-	880	-	880
<b>Total Restricted</b>	<b>5,926</b>	<b>1,544</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7,470</b>
<b>Unrestricted</b>				
<b>Designated</b>				
Fabric Reserve	20,078	-	-	20,078
<b>Total Designated</b>	<b>20,078</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>20,078</b>
<b>General Fund</b>	<b>44,334</b>	<b>75,706</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>120,040</b>
<b>Total Unrestricted</b>	<b>64,412</b>	<b>75,706</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>140,118</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>70,338</b>	<b>77,250</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>147,588</b>



# THE PARISH OF ST MARY AND ST JOHN THE DIVINE, BALHAM

Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended 31 December 2023

### 9 CHARITABLE GIVING

	Overseas 2023	Home Mission 2023	Total 2023	Total 2022
<b>From Restricted Funds</b>				
Bishop's Lent Appeal	666	-	666	164
Crisis	-	446	446	901
St Thomas with St Stephen PCC	-	268	268	366
Friends of TSM	-	142	142	61
Spires	-	-	-	43
Christian Aid	-	-	-	466
RNLI	-	-	-	311
Trinity Hospice	-	-	-	121
Popchoir re Ukraine Emergency Fund	-	-	-	1,886
DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal	-	-	-	65
Little Village	225	-	225	-
Mercy Ships	171	-	171	101
Poppy Appeal	-	127	127	75
B.O.N.A.	243	-	243	-
World Aids Day	10	-	10	-
Wandsworth Work & Play	-	243	243	-
<b>Total Giving</b>	<b>649</b>	<b>1,892</b>	<b>2,541</b>	<b>4,560</b>

# THE PARISH OF ST MARY AND ST JOHN THE DIVINE, BALHAM

Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

## Safeguarding Report

Julia remains as Parish Safeguarding Officer and works closely with Jonathan in covering safeguarding responsibilities. It would be helpful to have a PSO, so if anyone is interested please contact Julia or Jonathan to find out more.

### Safeguarding Incidents

There have been no safeguarding issues and 4 safeguarding enquiries raised over the past year.

Pam Chisholm from the Diocese Safeguarding Team completed the report towards the end of last year (2023) on the major incident in May 2022 and submitted it to the Charities Commission.

### DBS

The reintroduction of the Sunday School and Children's Ministry has required additional checks and training for those who support and run the sessions. DBS checks have also been done for our new Director of Music, Sophie, and new Church Warden, Nicky, as well as all eligible PCC members. We have one DBS renewal outstanding, but this is being actioned. Julia continues to review those checks that are due to expire – including her own!

### Training

All of those currently required to undertake safeguarding training will have been advised, but I am offering advance warning here that it will have been 3 years this August when Mother Bernie conducted a successful Foundation Level training session which will need to be renewed.

I would also ask all those who are required to complete the 'Raising Awareness of Domestic Violence' course to do so. This includes Churchwardens, PCC members, those in Leadership roles with children and/or vulnerable adults. Further details and links to the training can be found here:  
<https://southwark.anglican.org/safeguarding/training/>

If you have any questions please email me: [safeguarding@stmarybalham.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@stmarybalham.org.uk). Please contact Julia de Cruz at the same email address with any questions.

I can confirm that the PCC has complied with the duty to have due regards to the House of Bishop's policies and guidance in relation to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults.

Julia de Cruz

## Health and Safety Report

Although COVID 19 has not featured much in the news lately, the congregation consists of very few mask wearers and the current level of attendance still allows for distancing for those who wish to be socially distanced. The Eucharist/Holy Communion is offered in both kinds with the majority of people opting for receiving in both kinds. Also for those parishioners who cannot make it up to the altar rail to receive Communion, we do provide the option of receiving Communion at their seats. Thanks to the new Music Director the Choir has increased in size such that the parishioners can enjoy a regular sung Sunday mass.

Bruce Knight



## THE PARISH OF ST MARY AND ST JOHN THE DIVINE, BALHAM

### Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

#### Deanery Synod Report

Deanery Synod is a church council comprising of clergy from the deanery and elected lay members from the local churches. Synod comprises 11 parishes with a geographical boundary that ranges from The Church of the Ascension in Balham Hill to St. Mary's in Summerstown. It also includes Wandsworth Prison, Springfield Hospital, and St. George's Hospital. It acts as a source of information and decision-making for Diocesan Synod and, more importantly, a support to the parishes and other institutions within it.

The Deanery Synod meets three or four times a year, discussing ways to fulfil the mission of the Deanery, and hosting guest speakers on topics that are important to the Deanery or wider Diocese. There were 4 meetings during 2023. At one of the meetings we welcomed the new Bishop of Kingston, Martin Gainsborough. Topics included Environment (including the growing concern about an Eco-crisis), Community Outreach (what can be done to help the wider community), Southwark Vision and the Diocesan Investment Programme for 2023 to 2025 part of which includes promoting the Lay Ministry incentive in 2024. The meetings are open to everyone in the Deanery, whether Synod members or not. Feedback on discussions and any pressing Deanery matters are subsequently shared with the PCC.

Bruce Knight

#### Churchwardens Report Fabric and Ornament

The Fabric and Ornaments of the building have been well maintained with the regular servicing of the lift, fire extinguishers, alarms, electrics, sound system, gutters and floor polishing.

In July we had our Quinquennial Inspection which sets out a 5 year plan of maintenance. Our most urgent problem is rain water getting into the Baptistry and Nave ceilings we have quotes for this and are awaiting Diocesan permission to proceed with the roof repairs and then we can tackle the Baptistry plaster work.

We were delighted to receive the gift of two wooden flower stands in remembrance of Marion and Peter Andrews long-time members of St Mary Balham.

We now have new pigeon deterrents on the windows and new fire extinguishers. Our new boilers were installed and finally started heating the church in November 2023.

We said good bye to Mother Berni who left us in June for her new parish in Wallington and enjoyed an excellent tea party with lots of cake.

Our two cherry trees in the front garden became diseased and were taken down in September. The loss of pink blossom in spring is sad but other plants are thriving as they have more light.

Our thanks to Margaret Olasebikan and Jack Lawson who meet on the first Saturday of the month to walk the church buildings and grounds and report back any problems they spot.

We also thank Martin for his dedication in maintaining this wonderful building. He has been gradually changing our light bulbs over to LEDs which helps us become greener. Along with plumbing jobs, keeping the clock telling the right time and setting the heating.

Throughout the year we have organised several working parties to do extra cleaning and repairs to the Church and we would like to thank everyone who help to make St Mary's a special place.

Diane Holmes and Nicky Morton

## THE PARISH OF ST MARY AND ST JOHN THE DIVINE, BALHAM

### Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

#### 5th Balham Brownies and Guides Report

Unit numbers have grown as I now have 23 Brownies, 4 Guides and Hannah has become a Young Leader. We also have a new D of E helper Lauren who gets on well with the girls.

Guiding is about learning skills for life through fun. This year we have learnt knotting, sewing on buttons, tying bandages, cooking eggy bread on a wood fire and origami.

We have joined in District events including a trip to Lego land and a Thinking Day celebration. Six Brownies went on camp to Faurfold for a weekend with Brownies from 8th Upper Tooting.

The Guides have worked on interest badges including Be Prepared, The History of Guiding and Meditation. While the Brownies worked on Feel Good, Grow your own an Archaeology and now know that the Roans marched through Balham! Did you know that the A24 follows Stane Street. They also took part in designing a new uniform competition.

My thanks to Helen, Hena and Church volunteers who ensure the girls are safe and happy.

Diane Holmes

#### Churches Together in Balham & Tooting (ChTBT) Report

Churches Together Balham and Tooting continues to successfully bring together people from a diverse range of churches at a wide range of events; some are long standing such as the Good Friday gathering outside Sainsbury's in Balham, while others such as the concert for Prelude to Holy Week, and Prelude to Advent are relatively recent additions which are gaining popularity year on year.

Highlights include our own Father Jonathan being part of an engaging Q&A at the AGM on being a new vicar, and leading the recent Good Friday gathering. Thanks also to St Mary's choir members who are part of our ChanTons choir.

We continue to be grateful to all our churches for supporting all we do in bringing the Christian communities of Balham and Tooting together and, hopefully, making new friends along the way.

Plans going forward include a trip to the Shrine of Mother Julian in Norwich on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2024. Please email [wrightpetere@gmail.com](mailto:wrightpetere@gmail.com) for more details.

Please support us by keeping a regular eye on our events on the pew sheet and our website <https://www.ctbut.co.uk/>

Julia de Cruz

#### Electoral Roll Report

Since the last APCM in 2023, the number on our Electoral Roll has increased by 4 from 148 to 152, as at 02/05/24. We lost some people, including, sadly, Norman McLean and Alice Brown, but we have gained others, including 4 over recent Sundays.

Graeme Calf



## THE PARISH OF ST MARY AND ST JOHN THE DIVINE, BALHAM

### Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

#### Trinity St. Mary's CE Primary School (TSM) Report

In common with many schools, TSM has had a difficult year with demand for places falling but, thanks to very hard work by Headteacher Lynn Anderson, her deputy Chloe Keys and all the teaching and support staff, TSM has continued to make good progress. Father Jonathan has also made a considerable contribution to the school and his presence on the PCC has been invaluable. In addition he maintains strong links between TSM and St Mary's Church through services each week and on other 'special' occasions such as Easter and Christmas.

A successful OFSTED inspection was carried out on 6 and 7 February this year and I believe I can best just repeat the Headteacher's comment 'Once again thank you to everyone for your continued hard work and dedication to making TSM so brilliant!'

Lynn and her team continue to successfully motivate the school with an amazing range of 'out of class' activities, including Summer and Christmas Fayres, musical concerts and trips to the London Eye, the Globe Theatre and elsewhere. The PTA and the parent helpers are also to be thanked for their considerable contributions. Money has also been raised for good causes in many different ways.

All in all, not so much a school as a loving community.

Mark Syngé

#### The Balham Community Sewing Bee

The Balham Community Sewing Bee meets from 1-4pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month at St Mary's. It is organized by Paula Reynolds, with support from Caroline Lock and Christine McCluskey. Occasionally it coincides with the Restart, as on 20 Jan, 18 May and 21 Sept 2024. The Sewing Bee repairs church vestments (an on-going support as and when needed), as well as attendees getting involved in larger projects (the quilts). The Bee is open to all, to drop in or attend regularly, and provides a social space for people whilst they work on sewing, mending, knitting or alterations. Christine has recently created a flier to highlight the Bee and our meeting dates. Our sewing machine has broken and cannot be repaired and a long term goal is to replace it.

Caroline Lock

#### Giving Group

"The Giving Group has comprised the Vicar, Wendy Newall, Lynn Beattie, Sarah MacDermott until her move to Worcestershire, and Andrew Purkis as Chair. Its role has been to maintain an encouraging oversight of stewardship, collections, donations, legacies, fundraising from Grants, and social or musical events which have a significant fundraising dimension.

The Group puts forward an outline plan for the year for PCC approval and sometimes takes the initiative in organising appeals, talks and other events. Other events are organised by members of the congregation with the Group assisting if necessary. We are extremely grateful to all those who put heart and soul into the collective work of ensuring sound financial support for our worship and mission, through volunteer help in so many ways.

The Group, and the PCC have shared the reflection that, the more the running costs of our church and mission can come from regular giving, the more our collective energies can be focused on the priorities of our Mission Action Plan rather than on fundraising for its own sake."

Andrew Purkis

## THE PARISH OF ST MARY AND ST JOHN THE DIVINE, BALHAM

### Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

#### Sunday School Report

Sunday school has been flourishing since restarting post-pandemic in September 2023. We have 9 volunteers, with 3 on the rota for each Sunday. 16 children attend quite regularly, ranging in age from 2-12, with an average of about 7 each Sunday. There have also been numerous children that have attended once, usually due to being here for a baptism. We use a resource that follows the lectionary so that we can learn from the same texts as the rest of the congregation. We pray, sing songs, play, and make things together. The children also engage in discussion about the reading. It is very encouraging to hear their insights and I think they appreciate being listened to, and having the opportunity to learn in a more interactive way.

We arranged a training day for the volunteers in December with a member of the Children and Youth team at the diocese. This helped us to consider our vision for the Sunday school and gave us the tools to try and achieve this. We subsequently discussed our values with the children and composed the following:

- Learn about God and worship Him
- Listen to each other and be kind
- Have fun and join in
- Care for each other

Since the training we have also collected key contact and health information for the children who attend regularly.

Currently two of our volunteers are unable to be on the rota, but hope to be back in action in September, when we will restart after a break over August. If anyone would like to join the team please speak to Jonathan or Helen, or any of the current volunteers. It is a very enjoyable and rewarding role!

Helen MacNeaney

#### PCC and Standing Committee Report

"The PCC met on average every six weeks or so and received regular reports from the Vicar, who chairs the PCC, from the Churchwardens, the Safeguarding Officer, and from the Committees and individual representatives who maintain an overview of different aspects of the church's organisation and mission, including Trinity St Mary's school. An important duty is to ensure the sound financial management of the church under the leadership of our Hon. Treasurer.

Since Father Jonathan's arrival as Chair, and in addition to starting and ending each meeting in prayer, the PCC devoted part of each meeting to reflecting on an aspect of our faith, so that the Committee does not fall into the temptation to become a solely "business" committee that does not have our fundamental religious purposes suffusing our work. Since Sophie's arrival as Director of Music we also discuss her regular report on our musical life and growth.

The Standing Committee of the PCC has a role enshrined in the Church of England's statutes. It is elected each year after the APCM to provide a small group that plans the PCC's agenda, and deals with urgent matters that come up in between PCC meetings. The Standing Committee has normally comprised the Vicar, the deputy Chair of the PCC, the Hon Treasurer, the Churchwardens and the PCC Secretary. It usually meets about three weeks before each PCC meeting and maintains contacts informally between meetings."

Andrew Purkis



## THE PARISH OF ST MARY AND ST JOHN THE DIVINE, BALHAM

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#### The Church Garden Report

While it was sad to see the cherry trees cut down last year, this has had the effect of opening up the front view of the church from the street. It has also given existing plants more light. We have pruned the shrubs in the front border and we are planting grasses and flowers that have a better chance of survival in drought. One benefit of tidying that border is that there is far less litter being thrown over the wall. The north side of the church (unlit at night) suffers badly from a variety of rubbish, mostly left by the homeless who shelter there. Nevertheless, we have made an effort to plant up that north border and it now looks a little more loved. We receive encouraging remarks from passers-by and one local resident has donated some wild strawberry plants which will provide ground cover.

The constant battle with the weeds is largely due to a hungry soil and we suggest that the PCC commits to spending £200-£300 p.a. on rich compost. In the meantime, we have supplied compost to encourage new plants, but much more is needed. Otherwise, we are wasting our time.

The Oasis Garden continues to provide a peaceful resting point for the local community, thanks largely to its basic structure. This side of the garden is also used at night and all sorts of personal possessions are left behind the trellis partition. The large wooden containers, now a good twenty years old, are coming to the end of their life. The right hand one is on the point of collapse and will need rebuilding in the near future. We think it could be built to a lower height so that children can plant things there.

Generally speaking, we hope to see more flowers this year and next, to encourage insects and give pleasure to the congregation and the community. We thank the PCC for supporting us in our endeavours; I thank our small team of gardeners (Lillian, Caroline and Sue); also Mike and Bruce who mow the lawn; and Caspar and Lois, the new generation of gardeners.

Marian Shaw

## THE PARISH OF ST MARY AND ST JOHN THE DIVINE, BALHAM

### Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

#### Vicar's Report

I have enjoyed each and every day. This community has made my first year as vicar a blessing. Every day I am thankful for your commitment to our parish.

I am indebted to Diane Holmes and Sarah McDermott without whose gifts of hospitality and administration this church would not be half of what it is. They are exemplary wardens. It was therefore with sadness that we bid Sarah farewell. My ministry of pastoral care, teaching, preaching and presence is only possible because of the hours that they among others dedicate to the church.

We also said goodbye to Mthr Berni and welcomed her to her new parish, doing our best to fill every empty seat at her induction. I would have liked longer to minister alongside her but am pleased that she has found a fulfilling ministry.

We welcomed Sophie Garbisu as our director of halfway through 2023. Sophie is has boundless energy to see the music grow and improve. Our regular Sunday choir often reaches triple the number it was when she arrived and she has grown our children's choir from scratch. We appointed Kelly (Tsz Kei Yeung) as organist towards the end of the year. She has been instrumental in our worshipping life and acted with magnanimity when the vicar has changed hymn tunes at the last minute.

In the Autumn we welcomed Dami Bamidele. Dami is training for ordained ministry and will be worshipping with us for three years. We have already benefitted from her preaching, leadership and pastoral skills.

Finally Daphne Clarke retired from her role as Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary. She continues in an emeritus role and her wisdom remains a valuable resource.

Beyond the transfers in and out that are too many people to thank. Highlighting just a few does a disservice to the rest so forgive me if you don't get a mention but I'm going to pick out one or two anyway.

Karen Gray provides pastoral care to many people in the parish and we are delighted that that role with be solidified in the coming year with the launch of the parish nursing scheme. Karen also monitors the one off lettings. This year we saw a significant increase in our lettings thanks to her tireless work alongside Melinda. In her spare time she sits on the PCC and on occasion can be found in the choir.

Berkeley Brandon offers his halcyon perception on the PCC whilst welcoming people to church on Sunday when not serving as crucifer. During the week you can spot him in church refilling the oil candles and keeping the brass shining.

There are dozens more names I could list each with a catalogue of ways they serve God at this church and in his world. For all that you offer seen and unseen I am grateful.

We should be careful in the church judging ourselves on our perceived successes. After all many people turned away from Jesus because of his teachings and even his closest disciples deserted him at the end. Nevertheless it has been pleasing to see St Mary's grow in the breadth and frequency of the worship we are offering, numerically in terms of the number of bums on pews and in depth of discipleship and spirituality. This is a joyful season to be in leadership. Long may the Spirit continue to lead us on this path.

Jonathan MacNeaney



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