

The Parish of St Mary and St John the Divine

Balham

Annual Report and Accounts

For the year ended

31st December 2024



St Mary and
St John the Divine

BALHAM

Charity Registration Number: 1139488

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

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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

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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 ecumenical. 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 2024, the members of the PCC were:

Appointment	Name		Committee
Until 2026 APCM Resigned September 2023	Ms Kamalini Arul		
Until 2026 APCM Resigned August 2024	Ms Lynn Beattie		Giving Group
Until 2026 APCM	Mr Graeme Calf		Lettings, Giving Group
Until 2026 APCM	Ms Julia de Cruz		
Until 2026 APCM	Ms Karen Gray		Lettings
Ex Officio Churchwarden Until 2025 APCM	Ms Diane Holmes		Standing, Lettings
Until 2026 APCM Deanery Synod	Mr Bruce Knight		
Until 2027 APCM	Ms Pauline Lamunu		
Until 2026 APCM	Mr Jack Lawson		
Until 2026 APCM Treasurer	Mr John A Lloyd IV		Standing
Vicar, Chair	Fr Jonathan MacNeaney		Standing
Ex Officio Churchwarden Until 2025 APCM	Ms Nicky Morton		
Until 2026 APCM	Ms Margaret Olasebikan		
Until 2027 APCM	Ms Wendy Newall		Giving Group
Until 2027 APCM Deanery Synod Vice-Chair	Mr Andrew Purkis		Standing, Giving Group
Until 2026 APCM	Ms Dorothy Tay		
Until 2026 APCM Deanery Synod	Mr Sedgil Wartemberg		

Names in **bold** are the trustees at 31 December 2024 and at the date of this report.

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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 2021-2 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 154 members on the Church Electoral Roll at the end of 2024. Average Sunday attendance in October 2024 was 98. Collective Worship for Trinity St Mary's CofE Primary School took place when possible every Thursday in term-time. Other services, including baptism, weddings, and funerals, were conducted in the church.

Review of the year

St Mary's saw fruitful mission throughout 2024. Our core worshipping community continues to grow and this has enabled us to serve the wider parish effectively. In the summer of 2024, we engaged Karen Gray as Parish Nurse and began regular healing Eucharists and health talks. This ministry is thriving.

We are blessed to be able to baptise new Christians, prepare children to receive communion and this year we have prepared a number of teenagers and adults for confirmation.

We thank God for the faithful moving of the Spirit among us and pray that we may continue to serve as he calls us.

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

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Review of the year (continued)

Unrestricted income declined in 2024 to £163k (2023: £242k) primarily due to large legacies coming in prior year. However, we continued to see significant uptake in room lettings of £47k (2023: £40k). Unrestricted expenditure declined to £146k (2023: £166k), primarily as a result of a decline in building and fabric repairs to £23k (2023: £50k).

More information about our activities and mission is found on our website: www.stmarybalham.org.uk.

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.

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Stewardship and other forms of giving

Income from Stewardship decreased to £58k (2023: £73k), primarily as a result of a couple of givers moving away. A further £16k (2023: £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 £25k.

Risk management

The PCC has appointed two Safeguarding officers (one of which was appointed in 2024) 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 £163k (2023: £242k). The main reason for the decrease in income from the previous year is primarily attributed to a decrease in large legacies. However, room lettings continued to grow, increasing to £47k (2023: £41k).

Restricted income (including gift aid thereon) totalled £4k .

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

Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024

Finance report (continued)

Expenditure

Expenditure for the year from the unrestricted fund amounted to £146k (2023: £166k). The decrease of £29k is mainly due to the unexpected replacement of the boiler heating system and higher energy costs in the prior year.

Charitable Giving

Donations totalling £1.6k (2023: £3k) were made to 11 (2023:12) 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 £16k (2023: Surplus of £75k).

Transfer between Funds

During the year, designated funds nil were utilized and released to the unrestricted general fund. The designed fund was increased in 2024 with the approval of the PCC. The current balance is £50k.

Reserves

As at 31st December 2024, the PCC has £50k in a designated fabric reserve, £106k in the general fund and £8k 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 £6k held in restricted funds at the year end, this includes a new grant (£805) from Southwark Diocese to start a Parish Nurse Scheme. (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 £106k, is in excess of this figure.

The PCC considers that a designated fabric reserve of £50k is an appropriate sum to hold aside for repairs required to the Grade II listed building.

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

Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 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



John Lloyd IV
Treasurer

Date 9th May 2025

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 2024 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

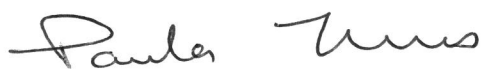
My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or 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 BSc FCA CTA

25 Westcote Road, London SW16 6BN

Date: 13 June 2025

THE PARISH OF ST MARY AND ST JOHN THE DIVINE, BALHAM
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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
for the year ended 31st December 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
INCOME					
Voluntary income	2(a)	101,362	2,662	104,024	194,667
Church Activities	2(b)	9,174	1,387	10,561	8,939
Activities for generating funds	2(c)	49,751	-	49,751	43,110
Income from investments	2(d)	2,570	-	2,570	958
Total income		<u>162,857</u>	<u>4,049</u>	<u>166,906</u>	<u>247,674</u>
EXPENDITURE					
Church Activities	3(a)	146,312	2,524	148,836	169,353
Raising Funds	3(b)	196	1,377	1,573	1,071
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		<u>146,508</u>	<u>3,901</u>	<u>150,409</u>	<u>170,424</u>
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		<u>16,349</u>	<u>148</u>	<u>16,497</u>	<u>77,250</u>
 Total Funds brought forward	8	 140,118	 7,470	 147,588	 70,338
 Total funds carried forward	8	 <u>156,467</u>	 <u>7,618</u>	 <u>164,085</u>	 <u>147,588</u>

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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BALANCE SHEET

At 31 December 2024

		2024	2023
	Notes		
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	6	21,459	24,663
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>149,205</u>	<u>150,192</u>
		<u>170,664</u>	<u>174,855</u>
LIABILITIES			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	7	<u>6,579</u>	<u>27,267</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>164,085</u>	<u>147,588</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS		<u>164,085</u>	<u>147,588</u>
PARISH FUNDS			
Restricted	8	7,618	7,470
Designated	8	50,000	20,078
General	8	<u>106,467</u>	<u>120,040</u>
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>164,085</u>	<u>147,588</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 9th May 2025 and signed on its behalf by


Jonathan MacNeaney
Vicar Chair of PCC


John Lloyd IV
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

Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2024

I 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 2025 and set a budget for the year which reflects a surplus of £107, after transfers from restricted and designated funds. This will be absorbed by the general fund, leaving approximately £106k at the end of 2025 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 recognized 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
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31 December 2024

2 INCOMING RESOURCES

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2024 Total	2023 Total
2(a)	Voluntary Income				
	Planned Giving	58,265	-	58,265	73,255
	Gift Aid recovered	16,448	232	16,680	17,620
	Communion alms	6,114	-	6,114	4,927
	Bequests inc Benjamin Weir				400
	Donations, appeals, etc	17,199	1,330	18,529	22,417
	Grants	-	1,100	1,100	1,933
	Listed Places of Worship VAT Recovery Scheme	2,837	-	2,837	6,978
	Legacies	500	-	500	67,137
	Total	101,363	2,662	104,025	194,667
2(b)	Church Activities				
	Fees & charges for services	4,327	-	4,327	3,402
	Fundraising events	3,045	1,377	4,422	3,914
	Coffee donations	549	-	549	522
	Candle donations, etc	1,252	10	1,262	1,101
	Total	9,173	1,387	10,560	8,939
2(c)	Activities for Generating Funds				
	Parking	2,460	-	2,460	2,128
	Use of church and rooms	47,291	-	47,291	40,982
	Total	49,751	-	49,751	43,110
2(d)	Income from Investments				
	Interest and dividends	2,570	-	2,570	958
	Total	2,570	-	2,570	958
	Total Income	162,857	4,049	166,906	247,674

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

Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2024

3 EXPENDITURE

		Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	2024 Total	2023 Total
3(a)	Church Activities					
	Missionary & Charitable Giving	595	-	1,613	2,208	2,541
	Ministry: Diocesan parish share	57,900	-	-	57,900	45,458
	Accommodation for Curate	-	-	-	-	6,000
	Insurance & Water Rates	9,253	-	-	9,253	8,588
	Heat & Light	12,340	-	-	12,340	13,051
	Telephone & Broadband	851	-	-	851	1,975
	Church – repairs & maintenance & decoration	23,381	-	-	23,381	50,522
	Flowers	644	-	11	655	724
	Other expenses inc refreshments	1,290	-	-	1,290	1,575
	Fees payable	2,250	-	-	2,250	1,817
	Cleaning wages & materials	9,774	-	-	9,774	9,013
	Music inc Organ tuning	1,060	-	-	1,060	989
	Organists	9,836	-	-	9,836	7,831
	Altar requisites	1,182	-	-	1,182	1,524
	Junior, Senior church & creche	490	-	-	490	235
	Garden & grounds	202	-	-	202	1,946
	Staff expenses and training	-	-	295	295	508
	Vicar's expenses	42	-	-	42	43
	Parish Administrator	6,680	-	-	6,680	6,048
	Bookkeeping services	3,975	-	-	3,975	3,795
	Postage, printing & stationery	2,846	-	-	2,846	3,450
	Independent Examination fees	300	-	-	300	250
	Bank charges	110	-	-	110	284
	Equipment and software	1,311	-	-	1,311	1,186
	Organ repairs					-
	Total	146,312	-	2,524	148,836	169,353
3(b)	Raising Funds					
	Fundraising costs/publicity	196	-	1,377	1,573	1,071
	Total	196	-	1,377	1,573	1,071
	Total Expenditure	146,508	-	3,901	150,409	170,424

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

4	STAFF COSTS	2024	2023
	Wages and salaries	21,476	16,718
	Average no of employees	4	4

5 RELATED PARTIES

There were salary payments made to one member of PCC during the year. No other PCC members or persons closely connected with such members received payments, by St Mary's Church or any closely related organisation, except for expenses incurred on behalf of the church. The members of the PCC made donations to St Mary's totalling £18k (2023: £22k).

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 2024

6 DEBTORS

	2024	2024	2024	2023
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Gift aid tax recoverable	4,204	140	4,344	5,511
Sundry debtors	15,549	-	15,549	18,381
Accrued income	1,566	-	1,566	771
Prepayments	-	-	-	-
	21,319	140	21,459	24,663

7 CREDITORS – amounts falling due within one year

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
Total				
Independent Examination	300	-	300	250
Other creditors	4,840	-	4,840	22,924
Accruals and deferred income	435	1,004	1,439	4,093
	5,575	1,004	6,579	27,267

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
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31 December 2024

SUMMARY OF FUND MOVEMENTS

FUNDS	1 Jan 2024	Income less expenditure (utilizations)	Transfers	31 Dec 2024
	£	£	£	£
Restricted				
Children's Choir	90	-	-	90
Psalters & Music in Church	446	(103)	-	343
Healey Willan Memorial	100	-	-	100
Robes and Albs	40	-	-	40
Building	2,000	-	-	2,000
Bibles for TSM	358	(51)	-	307
Wandsworth BC	2,656	(70)	-	2,586
Sunday School grant	900	-	-	900
LED Brighter Greener	880	(433)	-	447
Parish Nurses Scheme		805	-	805
Total Restricted	7,470	148	-	7,618
Unrestricted				
Designated				
Fabric Reserve	50,000	-	-	50,000
Total Designated	20,078	-	29,922	50,000
General Fund	120,040	16,349	(29,922)	106,467
Total Unrestricted	140,118	16,349	-	156,467
Total Funds	147,588	16,497	-	164,085

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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9 CHARITABLE GIVING

	Overseas 2024	Home Mission 2024	Total 2024	Total 2023
From Restricted Funds				
Bishop's Lent Appeal	-	50	50	666
Crisis	-	765	765	446
St Thomas with St Stephen PCC	-	-	-	268
Friends of TSM	-	180	180	142
Poppy Appeal	-	49	49	127
Box on High Road	-	21	21	-
RNLI	-	13	13	-
Wandsworth Support for Refugees	36	-	36	-
Water Aid	296	-	296	-
	-	-	-	+
Little Village	144	-	144	225
Mercy Ships	53	-	53	171
B.O.N.A.	-	-	-	243
World Aids Day	5	-	5	10
Wandsworth Work & Play	-	-	-	243
Total Giving	534	1,078	1,612	2,541



2024

Annual Parochial Church Meeting Report

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12. Music at St Mary's Report
13. Brownies and Guides Report
14. Sunday School Report
15. Deanery Synod Report
16. Churches Together Report
17. Vicar's Report

1. Finance Report

The main audited finance report for the year to 31 December 2024 is available elsewhere in this document. In summary, during the year the church's unrestricted general fund income totaled £163k (2023: £242k). The main reason for the decrease in income from the previous year is primarily attributed to a decrease in large legacies. However, room lettings continued to grow, increasing to £47k (2023: £41k).

Restricted income (including gift aid thereon) totalled £4k. Expenditure for the year from the unrestricted fund amounted to £146k (2023: £166k). The decrease of £29k is mainly due to the unexpected replacement of the boiler heating system and higher energy costs in the prior year.

Donations totalling £1.6k (2023: £3k) were made to 11 (2023:12) missionary or charitable organisations during the year, from funds raised by special collections.

The PCC reports a surplus on the unrestricted fund of £16k (2023: Surplus of £75k). During the year, designated funds nil were utilized and released to the unrestricted general fund. The designed fund was increased in 2024 with the approval of the PCC. The current balance is £50k.

John Lloyd, Treasurer

2. Parochial Church Council and Standing Committee Report

The PCC met throughout the year, usually once every two months, maintaining a systematic overview of the church's activities and mission, and of the management of its resources and staff.

I confirm that the PCC has complied with the duty under the Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 to have regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

The PCC's Standing Committee comprises the Vicar, Churchwardens, Treasurer and PCC Secretary. It has met a few days before each PCC meeting to prepare the agenda and plan how best the issues before the PCC are to be presented for decision (including preparing the Budget and other financial information).

Peter Assor

3. Report of the Electoral Roll Officer

This year saw the revision of the Electoral Roll (every 6 years). Parishioners could fill in forms online or in person and the total number on the new register is 89.

The old register had 154 on the list but that included many who had, over the previous 6 years, moved away, left the church, or passed on.

Graeme Calf

4. Church Wardens Report: Fabric and Ornaments

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.

Permission was finally given by the Diocesan Board that repairs could go ahead to stop rain water coming in through the Nave ceiling and Baptistry. This was completed in November and appears to be successful. We are still awaiting Diocesan permission to proceed with repairing the plaster work in the Baptistry and Holy Family chapel.

The Stone Masons Boden and Ward repaired the stone pillar hit last year by Hornsby House Minibus in January 2024.

We have Smart Metres installed so regular readings can be taken. A brand new back door into the school playground has been fitted - many thanks to Martin for doing this. One of the garden planters had to be removed due to old age and space has now been given to the Cherry Tree planted in memory of Emese Bito.

We have also had 3 new smoke detectors fitted and a new St George's flag installed.

We would like to thank Margaret Olasebikan and Jack Lawson for their monthly reports on the Church building. We also thank Martin for his continued dedication to maintaining this beautiful building. Throughout the year we have organised several working parties to do extra cleaning and repairs and we would like to thank everyone who has helped make St Mary's so special.

Diane Holmes and Nicky Morton
Church Wardens

5. Safeguarding

Julia remains as Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) and works closely with Jonathan in covering safeguarding responsibilities. Since the last APCM we are still searching for a second PSO, so if anyone is interested please contact Julia or Jonathan to find out more. Jonathan and Julia completed the Parish Safeguarding Audit in February 2025.

Safeguarding Incidents

Since the previous APCM last year there have been 2 safeguarding incidents reported, 1 enquiry, and 2 historic submissions that have been passed to the Diocese.

DBS

6 DBS checks (new and renewal) were completed since last year. These were for PCC members and our Children's Ministry. There are an additional 5 applications ongoing.

Training

All of those currently required to undertake safeguarding training will have been notified of the course/courses required and the level required based on their role (paid or voluntary).

For the future

Jonathan is still exploring the possibility of a Safeguarding Training Day at St Mary's, so that all those who are eligible and/or interested can achieve a Foundation Level Certificate, but anyone can complete the course online at anytime by using this link:

<https://southwark.anglican.org/safeguarding/training/>

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 D'Cruz
Parish Safeguarding Officer

6. Giving Group

The Giving Group meets every 6 to 8 weeks, and corresponds between meetings, in its role of maintaining an overview of, encouraging and inspiring, the raising of funds to support the worship and mission of our church. Lettings are the subject of a separate report. The Giving Group's remit covers: stewardship, legacies, grant applications, collections and sales, raffles and other events with a significant fund-raising dimension. It reports regularly to the PCC. We liaise with Nigel Collier and his team who organise the wonderful free concert series which give such pleasure to many people within and beyond the church community and attract significant donations.

Lynn Beattie stepped down from the Group during the year with our warm thanks for her contribution since its inception. Members at the year end were: Fr Jonathan, Graeme Calf, Wendy Newall, Fiona Symes and Andrew Purkis. We would warmly welcome additional members, not least anyone with an interest in outreach and marketing.

The strategic priority of the Group is to increase regular and reliable giving through stewardship, as ideally we would spend less time and effort on other fundraising and more on the priorities in our Mission Action Plan. Our annual Stewardship Appeal is in June and is key to the success of our Mission. We also seek to maintain a drip-drip of awareness about the importance of making a will, and remembering St Mary's in it as so many have done on whose shoulders we now stand.

In addition we strongly support church events which produce funds whilst also helping to enrich our community and reach out to others: our annual Garden Party, our concerts (including in the past year a memorable and high profile Westenders Concert in August), our Tea and Hymns, and regular favourites including Pancakes and Beetle Drive, Harvest Supper, and selective talks in church, including in the past year one by two Policemen and one by a well known advocate of good health and well-being. And both Christmas and Easter at St Mary's would not be quite the same without our well-supported raffles.

It is a sadness that The Grapevine, conceived in the Group, has temporarily ceased because of the lack of a co-ordinating editor. There is no shortage of contributors and enthusiasm for this simple newsletter to enhance our communal life and how

we can support it, and we hope that it will soon awake from its current hibernation.

We thank sincerely all who support the work of the church through their giving of money and time, and all who organise, support and participate in the initiatives that the Group helps to inspire and co-ordinate.

Andrew Purkis
Chair, The Giving Group

7. Lettings Committee report

Lettings have been going very well this year, as the financial report indicates. We receive about 3-5 email requests a week to use our church. The enquiries led to us making bookings for: parties, first aid classes, business meetings, counselling service, GP surgery away day, sound healing sessions, school concerts, school health hearing and vision testing, wakes, singing/ musical instrument practice.

We secured 4 new regular lets including a private fitness class; a dance class and 2 new AA groups, (we now have 6 AA groups using our church regularly).

We offered Central London Community Healthcare NHS Trust our rooms once a week for child health care clinics, this only lasted a few months as they said the rooms were not suitable, unfortunately they left without paying & we are still trying to recover the debt.

Balham in Bloom was held at St Mary's in June 24 and was a great success.

We have lost a couple of regular bookings including a large choir who used the Narthex every week, she was asked to leave as she owed over £1,000. We are still trying to recoup the payment.

As well as our paid users we also offer a variety of community outreach support, including School Councillor meetings; The sewing club; The repair shop; Wandsworth World refugees and the Retired clergy meetings. TSM school use our space for meetings and services once a week. Our own Little Lambs meet once a week. Once a month we also have a One Stop Organiser to offer later life advice.

We introduced new lettings policies and increased fees from September 2024. As a rough calculation we now get about £2,700 a month from lettings.

Melinda our administrator sadly left us in December 2024, we thank her for all the work she did with lettings and keeping up with regular users. Happily, we now welcome Mella as our new administrator. She will be taking on all new booking

requests and one-off lettings from Karen in May 25, as well as managing all regular users. In addition to room hire we have five weekday parking permits. If you drive to church during the week, please do not park in the 5 marked spaces.

The letting committee meet regularly, to discuss safety, storage, health concerns and any complaints from users. Thanks to Jonathan, Graeme and Diane. Melinda/Mella for their support. Thanks to Jonathan who welcomes most of our one off and new lets and opens up for them, also to Colin, Bruce and Graeme who are there when needed. Thanks also to Margaret our financial advisor who coordinates the invoices & payments.

Our current regular classes

Monday

9.15 – 10.50am	Narthex	Tappy Toes
7-8pm	MR	AA

Tuesday

8 – 2pm	Narthex	Baby Sensory
9.30-10.30pm	Balcony	Music lesson
3.45 – 6.45pm	MR	Kumon Classes
12-1pm	Balcony	Councillor
7.30 – 9pm	Narthex	Popchoir
7pm -8pm	Balcony	Martial Arts
8-9pm	MR	AA

Wednesday

7 – 9.30pm	MR	AA
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Thursday

9.50 – 11.50am	Narthex	Monkey Music
12-1pm	Balcony	Councillor
3.45 – 6.15pm	MR	Kumon Classes
8 - 9.45pm	MR	AA

Friday

9.30 – 10.50am	Narthex	Tappy Toes
6.30 – 7.30pm	Narthex	Dance Class

Saturday

1.30 – 4pm	MR	Kumon Classes
6-8 pm	MR	AA

Sunday

1 – 3pm	Narthex	Messiah Church
6 – 7.30pm	Narthex	AA

Karen Gray – Lettings Coordinator

8. Parish Nursing

In September 2024 I was blessed to become the Parish Nurse here at St Mary's. I have worship here for over 30 years and been an NHS nurse for nearly 50 years. For the last 4 years I was Parish Nurse at St Michael's Church in Camden.

Parish Nursing is community healthcare based from the church that aims to enable people to maintain physical, mental and spiritual health. It provides an additional layer of nursing support to people with existing health problems, those nearing the end of life or who are at risk in some way.

Parish Nursing Ministries UK (PNMUK) provide training and clinical support and oversees the service. There is about 100 Parish Nurses throughout United Kingdom. 2025 marks a significant milestone for PNMUK as they celebrate 20 years of training, supporting and promoting holistic care to communities across the nation.

I would like to thank the Parish Nursing Support team who help me to deliver the service within this community. Thanks to Fr Jonathan for his love and vision in supporting me in bringing the Parish Nurse service to St Mary's. Together we deliver a monthly Healing Service followed by Health Advice Sessions covering first aid at home and cancer awareness to name a few.

If you require any further information, support or health advice please speak to me or contact me via email parishnurse@stmarybalham.org.uk.

Karen Gray

9. Health and Safety

Although COVID 19 has not featured much in the news lately, the congregation consists of very few mask wearers and there are fewer people seeking to be socially distanced during the service. Church attendance is up however there are still areas where people can socially distance if they wish. 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

10. The Church Garden

They say, if you make a garden, you believe in the future. Much of the fun of gardening is planning and looking ahead to the next season, while enjoying the current season. The long bed in front, under the pavement wall, was restored and gaps replanted. The vital, annual top dressing of farmyard manure was applied in the autumn, to ensure stronger growth, drought resistance and weed suppression in all the beds. The neglected North bed was planted with hellebores and the irises continued to do well. The bulbs in beds and containers gave a good show in the spring. The lawn in the Oasis Garden was treated throughout the season by Green Thumb (a gift from a generous member of the congregation). However, drought and hard wear do make it look tired and we have to accept these conditions.

We gardeners are very few, so do join us on a Saturday morning. Knowledge is built up with experience. The activity of gardening embodies hope, which may partly account for its therapeutic effect.

Marian Shaw

11. Trinity St. Mary's School

As has been the case with many schools in Wandsworth and elsewhere, TSM have had another difficult year, mainly due to falling demand for school places. However, this problem is largely outside the control of individual schools and thanks to the hard work and good management by Headteacher Lynn Anderson, her deputy Chloe Keys and all the teaching and support staff, TSM remains one of the leading primary schools in the country. The school's strong links with St. Mary's Church provide valuable support and as always, Father Jonathan has made a considerable contribution through his presence as a governor and elsewhere.

Lynn and her team continue to successfully motivate the school and also arrange many successful and enjoyable 'out of school' activities. The PTA and many parent helpers are also to be thanked for their many contributions to the life of what is a happy and successful school.

'Nurturing minds, filling hearts, flourishing together.'

Mark Synge

12. Music at St Mary's

Church Choir

We run two rehearsals per month. The choir now regularly has between 9 and 11 singers per service, sometimes reaching 12 or 13. Twice-monthly sight-reading sessions were launched in November which have been very well attended by the six people registered. The feedback has been excellent.

Children's Choir

The children's group is still in a fragile state, with only four members at the moment, but they are very motivated and sing once a month with the adult choir at the Sunday Eucharist.

Sophie Garbisu, Music Director

Saturday Concerts

In the summer of 2024 we hosted six evening concerts ranging from individual song and instrumental recitals to excerpts from popular West End shows and a jazz quartet. Audience numbers range from 22 to 100 with an average of about 50 attending. In 2025 we are part way through a similar programme.

The intention of these concerts is to extend the long musical tradition at St Mary's to a wider local audience, making use of what is a unique space in Balham. Entrance is usually low cost or free so that no one is excluded. Donations are collected and any profits passed on to the PCC general account.

Nigel Collier

13. 5th Balham Brownies and Guides

Unit numbers continue to improve: 7 Guides, 20 Brownies and 1 Young Leader. We also have a new Duke of Edinburgh Helper, Edie and a new leader, Cammy.

This year, Hannah and Charlotte were both awarded Jack Petchey Awards. These are £300 grants which have to be spent on the unit. Hannah decided to commission special '5th Balham Guide Hoodies' which the girls wear with pride. Charlotte decided on bowling, the Escape Room and pizza night out. Both attended a presentation evening in March and received a certificate and medal. We have joined in District Events including a trip to London Zoo and Thinking Day. The girls have worked on different badges including Skills Builder Level 3 and 4 Innovate and Interest Badges including Jobs, Painting, Back-Wood Cooking and Mixology. The Brownies have learnt many skills and attempted many challenges including tracking signs, making a zipwire for teddies and constructing towers out

of marshmallows and spaghetti! Guides have learnt about ember cooking, construction, public speaking and shopping on a budget.

Many thanks to Helen, Henna, Cammy and Church Volunteers who ensure the girls are safe and happy.

Diane Holmes Brownie and Guide Guider

14. Sunday School

We have had a good year in Sunday School, getting to know our regular attendees better and growing closer to God together. It is exciting and refreshing to be able to tell them the stories of the bible that we know so well, but which they are often hearing for the first time. We have also been focussing on teaching them about the fundamental elements of our faith, such as prayer and the meaning of Easter. A few highlights have been:

- Making fishing boats out of cardboard boxes
- Using star stickers to each represent a prayer and creating a beautiful starry sky of all the children's prayers
- Easter party complete with egg and spoon race, musical bunnies and bunny in the middle

We currently have 8 volunteers and are looking for more to join the team. Our attendance is up slightly from last year with between 5 and 12 children each week, and an average of 8/9. The age range of our regular attendees is currently 4-12yrs.

Going forward we are discussing further ways that we can support our neurodivergent children and are trying to link in our learning from week to week. We continue to use the Roots resource which provides good ideas for activities based around the lectionary readings. I would like to try and support others to use this resource to be able to lead sessions so that this responsibility can be shared more between volunteers.

15. Deanery Synod

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 four or five 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 5 meetings during 2024. Topics included Environment (including the growing concern about an Eco-crisis), Diocesan Synod Elections, Racial Justice in the Church, promoting the Lay Ministry, and the importance providing a Ministry for Older People. 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

16. Churches Together in Balham and Upper Tooting (ChBUT)

Churches Together in Balham and Tooting have shared another packed year of events, including:

A group visit to the Shrine of Julian of Norwich, two coffee mornings, selling cakes and refreshments at the BATCA Fun Day in Tooting, spirituality, prayer and learning for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, and two hugely popular concerts: Prelude to Advent and Prelude to Holy Week.

A special thank you to representatives of St Mary's who have supported Churches Together over the past year as members of our very own ChanTons Choir, helping to step in at the last minute to ensure the Coffee Morning last October went ahead as planned, and to those who join us at meetings and events.

At the time of writing we are preparing to witness and worship together on Good Friday 18th April at 10.30am at Bedford Place at the back of Sainsbury's.

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

Julia D'Cruz

17. Vicar's Report

It is a privilege to lead this parish as we proclaim Christ afresh in this generation and seek to serve our community. 2024 witnessed the embedding of a number of initiatives which had started the year before alongside continued growth of our regular worshipping life. I have been delighted to witness how ready is our congregation to expend energy, time and resources in pursuit of our shared vision.

Additionally, 2024 saw some changes in personnel. Karen was commissioned as our parish nurse. Beginning in the summer a ministry in Balham which she has already been carrying out in Camden for some years. In December Melinda our administrator handed in her resignation as she moved on to fuller time opportunities. I am grateful for all her work particularly in revitalizing the lettings after the pandemic.

Our presence makes Balham a better place to be. We reach out to lives young and old and especially those on the margins. And our greatest gift is the opportunity we offer season by season, week by week and day by day for people to encounter the living God and see their lives transformed.

The activities enumerated above bear testimony to our thriving community and I offer my thanks to those who take responsibility to lead different parts of our church's life. Rather than list the 100 names who all deserve praise each year I pick out just a couple of people to whom to pay tribute.

Janet is faithful in fellowship, the breaking of the bread and prayers. She supports the ministry to children on Sunday and on Thursday afternoons alongside Sally. She prepares the altar for our midweek Eucharists and cleans up after them. She cares for me like a mother and gently enables my pastoral ministry by freeing me from practicalities. If ever you don't see her, it is because she is replacing candles, straightening a cloth or quietly serving in some unseen capacity.

Martin: sands, paints, affixes weatherboarding and rehangs doors; fixes taps and replaces washers; sets the clock; hangs fresh flags; replaces lightbulbs; examines roofing leaks; has mastered the sliding doors; replaces bricks and in general saves the church thousands of pounds of repair costs. All this he does in a spirit of prayerful service with good humour and his price is a coffee and a thank you. He is good value.

These two individuals stand in the stead of many I could write about. I am blessed to be spending my life with you all. As always, I am indebted to the PCC, standing committee and particularly the wardens, Diane Holmes and Nicky Morton. With my love.

Father Jonathan