

## **We have had a solid and productive year here at St George's.**

Let me draw your attention to some of the significant moments from the past year.

Just before Advent, we held our very well-attended All Souls' Requiem Mass. It was the Mozart Requiem. Sam and his colleagues did us proud as we entered this evening of prayer for the dead, carried by wonderful and emotional music. This day seems to have become a firm fixture in many people's calendars, and the attendance was very encouraging.

Advent began with a parish day retreat at St Katharine's Foundation in Limehouse, which I led. The talks focused on prayer and mindfulness.

Attendance at church during Advent was steady and slightly increased. Our Advent Carol Service and Christmas Carol Service were both richly attended. We were delighted to welcome our new Bishop, Anderson Jeremiah, as our preacher. Fr Demytro from the Ukrainian Church sang the Gospel from John. Both Christmas Eve and especially Christmas Day were very well attended.

During the winter months, we continued our partnership with C4WS, offering shelter and food to people experiencing homelessness. I am very grateful to Patricia Cobb for organising the volunteers and to everyone who contributed by cooking or donating food. The guests often mention how much they appreciate being at St George's—not just for the meals, but also for the underfloor heating, which is very cosy indeed.

Ash Wednesday was well attended, with beautiful music. During Lent, I invited members of the congregation to lead sessions on characters from Paula Gooder's book *Women of Holy Week*. The sessions were well attended, and everyone was able to participate.

Our Wednesday evening services have continued, though I must express some disappointment that attendance has declined from the initially enthusiastic response. Each Wednesday offers a different kind of liturgy—from silence to sung evening prayer—designed to provide 25 minutes of peace and prayerfulness in the midst of the week's noise.

Holy Week and Easter offer the divine invitation to enter more fully into the Paschal Mystery through Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Day. Services on Thursday and Friday were beautiful, although attendance was slightly lower than usual. Easter Day was a joyous celebration with a packed church.

Fifteen of us enjoyed our annual pilgrimage to Walsingham, and we look forward to returning this June.

We continue to benefit from the presence and ministry of the Revd Phillip Dawson, the full-time curate at St Giles-in-the-Fields. We are grateful that he visits us monthly to preach and for the personal support he offers me.

The Korean community continues to worship at St George's, and we are glad to have them among us.

We also continue to host the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. They use the church extensively during the week and on Sunday mornings before our Eucharist. Many in their congregation are refugees, having fled the ongoing Russian invasion. We continue to pray for them and welcome them warmly.

At the heart of our parish life is the rhythm of the Sunday-by-Sunday Eucharist, a worship experience enhanced by our choral scholars under the capable leadership of our Director of Music, Mr Sam Bardsley. We are truly grateful to him for all his contributions to church life.

We were pleased to join St Giles during Holy Week for a joint service of Tenebrae, and we look forward to welcoming our neighbours for a joint Ascension Day celebration on May 29th.

An assortment of social events over the year went well: quizzes, cream teas, book clubs and talks.

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**There are many people to whom I want to extend my thanks, both personally and on behalf of the whole congregation:**

To our churchwardens, Julian Sharpe and Helena Roden, for their personal support and deep commitment to the life of St George's—I am sincerely grateful. Julian, as an architect, takes particular responsibility for the church building, which presents some unique and ongoing challenges. Helena brings an eye for the social life of the church and supports events that bring us together.

To the PCC—Claire Barraclough, Carmen Bailey, Neil Handley, Dorothy Connell, Mabel Sharpe, and Sara Payne—many thanks for taking time to meet, discuss, and plan. Special thanks to Mabel for her work as treasurer, which is often time-consuming; to Sara for her service as PCC secretary and safeguarding officer; and to Dorothy for representing us as our lay deanery representative.

Thanks to Dr Neil Handley for his contributions as our reader and for offering help with the practical side of future pilgrimages. Thanks also to Dr Jack Highton, who continues to serve faithfully at the altar and as a reader, and to Esther, who serves faithfully on Sundays.

Thank you to Eva Driskell, who continues to support our publicity, Sunday sheets, and also dedicates time to tending our garden and for everybody who helps with its watering and upkeep.

Thank you to everyone who reads lessons, rings the bell, greets people at the door, and especially to Tim Fairclough for sweeping the steps! I am so grateful for all of you being there, Sunday by

Sunday. Thanks to Kathryn Hughes for organising the reading rota, and to all who read or lead the intercessions. Thanks also to Carmen Bailey for looking after the cleaning and linen, preparing Sunday tea and coffee, and keeping me on the straight and narrow!

We said goodbye in March to Noel Gordon, who served as our caretaker for many years. We're very grateful for all he contributed and for doing it so cheerfully. Though he has formally stepped down, he still lives just around the corner and has kindly agreed to help out when needed. Thank you very much, Noel!

We warmly welcome his successor, Justin Pawley, who brings with him a wealth of experience from the Imperial War Museum. He has begun his work with enthusiasm and imagination, and we look forward to all he will bring to the role.

Thank you again to Pat in the office who works on the accounts and is having to deal with a transition in the online accounting system.

We remain grateful to our church volunteers who open the building and support the concert programme.

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I would also like to thank the church for supporting my work as a psychotherapist. On Tuesdays, I work at St Marylebone Church, which has a Christian therapy centre, offering support to ordinands and others involved in church life who are facing emotional challenges. I hope that this work also informs my pastoral care and preaching here at St George's.

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## **Finances and Future Projects**

Most of our income comes from letting the crypt to the Leicester Square Theatre Company and renting the hall to various community groups. Our finances are generally stable, though unexpected costs—like a recent £10,000 bill to repair the lift—can disrupt our budget. Congregational giving has remained steady over the past few years. If you haven't reviewed your giving recently, perhaps now is a good time to consider increasing your contribution to help support all that St George's offers and hopes to share.

Looking ahead, we aim to improve the interior of the church by commissioning new altar frontals in the liturgical colours and purchasing new vestments. I am also exploring the idea of

installing a large icon-style crucifix on the reredos behind the altar to provide a stronger visual focus for worship.

We will soon launch a £15,000 fundraising appeal for a new piano. Our current one is nearing the end of its life, and the cost of overhauling it exceeds the price of a new instrument. Donations are, of course, very welcome!

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### **In Closing**

There is much to be thankful for and much to look forward to. We move ahead in hope and prayer, encouraged by recent research that suggests people are returning to church, looking for spaces where they are welcomed and can discover that, in Christ, they are deeply loved.

# Profit and Loss

PCC Of St George Bloomsbury

(Reg. Charity: 1139695)

January-December, 2024

DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT	TOTAL
Income	
Collections	£5,221.72
Collection - Other	2,286.00
Gift Aided	£9,604.41
Weekly giving scheme	2,352.20
Yellow Envelopes	2,314.20
<b>Total for Gift Aided</b>	<b>£14,270.81</b>
Plate	2,598.00
Tax recovered	
GASDS recovered	543.26
<b>Total for Tax recovered</b>	<b>£543.26</b>
<b>Total for Collections</b>	<b>£24,919.79</b>
Dividend Income	20,356.04
Fundraising	540.00
Gifts and Donations Income	-£310.00
Unrestricted	500.00
<b>Total for Gifts and Donations Income</b>	<b>£190.00</b>
Income - Church and Hall Hire	£28,115.00
Church	20,030.00
Donations for use of space	£6,885.00
Donation for use of E courtyard	1,230.00
<b>Total for Donations for use of space</b>	<b>£8,115.00</b>
Musician fees	1,050.00
Upper Meeting Room	350.00
UVH (Upper Vestry hall)	4,970.00
<b>Total for Income - Church and Hall Hire</b>	<b>£62,630.00</b>
Income - Concerts	4,365.00
Income - Licences granted	£911.69
Lower Vestry Hall Licence	52,570.00
Undercroft Licence	66,652.75
<b>Total for Income - Licences granted</b>	<b>£120,134.44</b>
Interest Income	1,056.24
Parochial Fees	531.00
<b>Total for Income</b>	<b>£234,722.51</b>
Cost of Sales	
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>£234,722.51</b>
Expenses	
1004 Donation to Charities	
C4WS night shelter	845.66
<b>Total for 1004 Donation to Charities</b>	<b>£845.66</b>
2001 Common Fund	73,000.00

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January-December, 2024

DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT	TOTAL
2002 Clergy Expenses	
2002 Books	138.00
2002 Courses and retreats	2,080.00
2002 Office equipment	520.99
2002 Postage and stationery	48.01
2002 Rector discretionary fund	244.00
2002 Rector's pastoral work	1,264.70
2002 Sundry	46.95
2002 Telephone	330.00
2002 Travel	178.07
2002 Working lunches & coffees	533.18
<b>Total for 2002 Clergy Expenses</b>	<b>£5,383.90</b>
2003 Rectory Expenses	£57.96
2003 Rectory Repairs	14.45
2003 Rectory Water Rates	292.29
<b>Total for 2003 Rectory Expenses</b>	<b>£364.70</b>
2005 Church Running Expenses	
2005 Churchyard	37.50
2005 Cleaning General	7,788.46
2005 Cleaning Stone Floor	1,740.00
2005 Electricity	14,237.76
2005 Gas	10,284.79
2005 Gifts	69.98
2005 Insurance	17,079.81
2005 Licence fees	224.99
2005 Newsletter	12.00
2005 Sanitary Supplies	1,354.70
2005 Water Rates	2,698.60
Wifi equipment and maintenance	158.00
<b>Total for 2005 Church Running Expenses</b>	<b>£55,686.59</b>
2006 Church Maintenance	
2006 Boiler Maintenance	121.50
2006 Key cutting	121.00
2006 Lift Maintenance	1,071.00
2006 Misc	413.41
2006 Piano Tuning	170.00
2006 Refuse Collection	1,984.26
2006 Security	72.00
<b>Total for 2006 Church Maintenance</b>	<b>£3,953.17</b>
2007 Upkeep of Services	
2007 Candles	171.94
2007 Giving Envelopes	181.69
2007 Honoraria	120.00
2007 Music Extra	2,798.26

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January-December, 2024

DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT	TOTAL
2007 Music for High services	8,852.45
2007 Music Licensing	238.50
2007 Music sheets	124.90
2007 Publicity	1,621.00
2007 Repair and Replacement	96.00
2007 Sacristy Supplies	1,118.41
2007 Service Sheets	729.84
other	1,344.66
<b>Total for 2007 Upkeep of Services</b>	<b>£17,397.65</b>
2016 Salaries & Support	
2016 Accounts Manager	7,910.00
2016 Book-keeping services	680.00
2016 Cantors	
Scholar deputies	4,205.00
<b>Total for 2016 Cantors</b>	<b>£4,205.00</b>
2016 Caretaker	12,540.60
2016 Organists	6,888.50
<b>Total for 2016 Salaries &amp; Support</b>	<b>£32,224.10</b>
4000 Church Administration	
4000 Computer Software	84.00
4000 IT Services	95.88
4000 IT Support	2,633.99
4000 Stationery/IT Consumables	913.23
4000 Telephone & broadband	1,190.29
<b>Total for 4000 Church Administration</b>	<b>£4,917.39</b>
6000 Musician Fees	1,775.00
6120 Bank Service Charges	305.07
6140 Gifts and Honoraria	990.00
6160 Dues and Subscriptions	259.20
6270 Professional Fees	
6650 Accounting/Audit Fees	600.00
<b>Total for 6270 Professional Fees</b>	<b>£600.00</b>
6560 Payroll Expenses	1,008.00
6690 Reconciliation Discrepancies	481.70
Concerts & Events	
Concerts - core expenses	
PRS tariff for concerts	246.14
<b>Total for Concerts - core expenses</b>	<b>£246.14</b>
<b>Total for Concerts &amp; Events</b>	<b>£246.14</b>
Parish Events	4,986.11
Repairs & Renewals	735.00
<b>Total for Expenses</b>	<b>£205,159.38</b>
<b>Net Operating Income</b>	<b>£29,563.13</b>

Profit and Loss

PCC Of St George Bloomsbury

(Reg. Charity: 1139695)

January-December, 2024

DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT	TOTAL
Other Income	
Increase in value of investment	17,783.24
<b>Total for Other Income</b>	<b>£17,783.24</b>
Other Expenses	
<b>Net Other Income</b>	<b>£17,783.24</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>£47,346.37</b>



## **Independent examiner's report to the PCC of St George's, Bloomsbury**

This report on the accounts of the St George's, Bloomsbury for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024, which are set out on the annexed pages, is in respect of an examination carried out under Regulation 3(3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 to 2005 ('the Regulation') and s.43 of the Charities Act 1993 ('the Act').

### **Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner**

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 3(3) and section 43(2) of the Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of Regulation 25.

### **Basis of this report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43(7)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2005 edition, issued by the Finance Division of the Archbishops' Council. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering 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 an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

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**Katie Schofield ACA**  
Leon Charles Ltd

**15 December 2025**