

ST. John The Evangelist Wembley Parish Church

REPORTS AND ACCOUNTS FOR 2024



CHARITY NUMBER 1140226

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2024

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THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF St. JOHN, WEMBLEY.

Annual report for the year ended December 31st 2024.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

St. John's Church is situated in the Harrow Road, Wembley, close to the corner of Crawford Avenue. It is part of the Diocese of London within the Church of England. The address for correspondence is The Vicarage, 3, Crawford Avenue, Wembley, Middlesex HA0 2HX. The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. John, Wembley is a charity registered with the Charity Commission, registration number 1140226.

The governing documents are the Parochial Church Council Powers measure (1956), as amended and the Church Representation Rules. The following trustees served as P.C.C. members in 2024.

Vicar	The Rev'd Chinenye Ngozi Njoku
Licensed Lay Minister (Reader):	Carole Bevis-Smith
Churchwardens:	Nkiru Egbochuku (To A.P.M.) DipathMuwonge (To A.P.M.) Uchechi Alioha (From A.P.M.) George Onyemekara (From A.P.M.)
Deanery Synod Representatives:	Carole Bevis-Smith Catherine Miller-Baldwin
Elected Lay Members:	Adetokunbo "Toks" Ajayi Ifeoma Arinze Robert Barker Leslie Bevis-Smith Rita Chiamonwu Monica Hinds (From A.P.C.M.) Shauna Clarke (To A.P.C.M.) Leda Yousif Hermine Barry-Clarke Obiorah Nwanonye Dr. Joan Telford Martina Vernon (From A.P.C.M.)

Nkiru Egbochuku and Yetunde Coker were co-opted to the P.C.C. at the May and November meetings respectively. One place for an Elected Lay Member is currently vacant.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

The method of appointment of P.C.C. members is as set out in the Church Representation Rules. All adults who attend services are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll, and stand for election to the P.C.C. The P.C.C. of a parish the size of St. John's, measured by having between 100 and 200 names on its Electoral Roll, may have 12 elected lay members. Members of the P.C.C. serve for a term of three years, and traditionally one third of the membership retires by rotation at each A.P.C.M. Obiorah Nwanonye, Dr. Joan Telford and Leda Yousif are due to retire by rotation in 2025. As the Electoral Roll is below 152, St. John's has two Deanery Synod representatives.

Throughout 2023, Ifioma Arinze has served as Treasurer, Robert Barker as Secretary and Dr. Joan Telford has been our Health & Safety Officer. Hermine Barry-Clarke was Safeguarding Officer until November 2024, when Yetunde Coker took over.

OBJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

St. John's P.C.C. has the responsibility of promoting within the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical, in co-operation with the Incumbent. It also oversees the operation of St. John's Community Centre, which it shares with representatives of the Incorporated Trustees of Workmen's Hall, through a joint committee.

The P.C.C. met on five occasions during 2024 for regular business meetings. Attendance at these meetings ranged between nine and thirteen, the average figure being eleven. Between one and four P.C.C. members unable to attend these meetings in person, participated through Zoom. A Special Meeting to consider the draft accounts for 2023 and the new lease to be granted to Wembley Central Nursery School took place on February 13th, through the medium of Zoom, in which ten members participated.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31ST 2024

The annual reviews of 2022 and 2023 had been much concerned with recovery of the Parish after the Covid 19 pandemic and the resultant lockdown. 2024 was the year of the "new normal". It has become accepted that we now stand before the communion rail, rather than kneeling, as before. We have continued to receive the Sacrament by intinction, rather than by using shared chalices wiped with a linen purificator after each communicant received the consecrated wine. The Peace is now exchanged by worshippers remaining in their places and waving, rather than circulating and shaking hands. The remaining change brought about by the need to protect us in the recovery phase after the pandemic had done its worst, was choristers not processing at the commencement and ending of services. It did not take place at all during 2024, but has been reinstated shortly before the 2025 Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

The "twin track" style of worship is long in our past, and while not all aspects of our 10.30 a.m. main service appeal to all worshippers, experience has shown we offer something for everyone on Sunday mornings. We have been fortunate to obtain the services of a talented young musician, Inenna Odoemam, to play the keyboard at our services, accompanied by our talented Music Group. The P.C.C. agreed that after Easter 2024, the hitherto Thursday 11.00 a.m. Holy Communion service should take place on Wednesdays for purely administrative reasons, as local clergy meetings are often scheduled for Thursdays. It has made no difference to attendance at what is a beautiful and intimate service for those able to attend.

It is good that the numbers attending our main service have recovered, but the most serious issues preoccupying the P.C.C. have been recovering our financial position, and arrears of maintenance, both of which are, of course, interlinked. It is a hard economic fact that offerings by the Congregation fall far short of what is needed to finance the Church. Both Gift Aided donations and offerings made "on the plate" reduced significantly from 2022 to 2023. It is pleasing to record that this has been reversed in 2024, with an additional £2,500 being offered. Those who have responded to economic reality are to be thanked, but it is not enough to keep us solvent. We must all be aware that in these inflationary times our current rate of expenditure is not sustainable, and offerings need to be increased by us all. Reminders of our financial position need to be included in the weekly sheet handed to worshippers, and to explain our situation in more detail, permanent notices placed at the rear of the Church. "Going cashless" should not be an excuse, and during the year we investigated the possibility of acquiring a card reader. This has been frustrated by the wrong equipment having been supplied.

Our biggest annual expense is our contribution to the Common Fund levied on all parishes by the Diocese, according to their means, to pay clergy stipends and many other expenses. The figure which we paid was substantially reduced during and after the pandemic, when it was appreciated that the scope for receiving income was much reduced. We are now being expected to revert to a pre-Covid level, and were asked to pay £59,500 for 2025. This represented an increase of almost 50% over the £43,200 given in 2024, in turn far more than the £28,000 which we paid in 2023. The request was subsequently reduced to £50,000. Our Accountant has advised that even this sum will be difficult to achieve. We have the Community Centre as a major source of income, and during the year took steps to increase our income from Wembley Central Nursery School. The Financial Advisor from London Diocese, our Accountant and Vicar met to resolve the situation, one suggestion being that we outsourced Hall bookings to an agency. The P.C.C. felt that our existing system with a part time Administrator was likely to prove more cost effective.

Yet again, the structure of the Church is being undermined by movement of the subsoil, this time affecting the column by the lectern. Monitoring studs were put in place during June, and an arboricultural survey will be needed to assess the extent to which surrounding trees are extending their roots under the foundations, and taking water from the ground. Routine maintenance has meanwhile to be paid for, and desirable new projects have not always been carried out for

financial reasons. The Fire Risk Assessment undertaken in 2023 recommended that the curtains in the Choir Vestry should be treated with fire resistant material, which would also be an opportunity to treat them to long overdue cleaning. Refurbishing our notice boards has also been put on hold, though they present a poor image of St. John's. The South facing one on the Harrow Road has become opaque and hard to read through exposure to sunlight, the one by the main entrance has been vandalised and the post mounted board has been removed.

A Freedom of Information request by the pressure group Countryside Alliance revealed that an average of eight crimes per day had been committed in churches between January 2022 and December 2024. Not all the 45 police forces contacted responded, including our own Metropolitan Police, so the true figure is likely to be higher. This mostly related to theft and vandalism, but included arson and satanic rituals. If a listed building like St. John's is affected, traditional replacement materials must be used, adding further to the cost. Early in 2024, we suffered damage to a window in the Memorial Chapel, which has been covered by insurance. We are indebted to Leslie Bevis-Smith for all his efforts in making the claim and arranging for Lincolnshire Stained Glass Studio to effect a repair. More recently, the door of the Choir Vestry has been damaged in a failed attempt to break in. Incidents of this character make it vital that our insurance is up to date and that we comply with all its terms. One of these is the marking of metal on the roof with Smartwater, a proprietary security product, the manufacturers of which have recently changed hands. After strenuous efforts by the Vicar and Secretary, a firm qualified to install it on the roof was located, and they promise to be a useful firm to work for us in future.

We can, as a congregation, do much to keep St. John's and its churchyard clean and presentable, but could do more. The team which cleans the Church every Friday needs more pairs of hands, an ideal way to serve the Lord by anyone in the "Active Retired" category. A major litter picking and tidying exercise was undertaken around the War Memorial before last Remembrance Sunday, and it was good that more young and fit members of the Congregation participated. The next exercise to be undertaken by a working party must be clearing the locked area North of the Church, and removing ivy which has colonised the West wall. Clearing the route from the Clergy Vestry external door to the two gates in the fence has a degree of priority as it is a fire escape route, and Spring growth is steadily making it impassible.

Independent Examiner's Report

to the PCC of St John, the Evangelist Church, Crawford Avenue, Wembley.

This report on the financial statements of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) for the year ended 31 December 2024, as set out, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and sections 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 preparing and producing the financial statements. You consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and section 43(2) of the Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue the independent examiner's report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

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 Acts and are to be found in the Church Guidance, 2006 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 financial statements 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

a) To keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and

b) To prepare financial statements 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 to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Recommendation:

None.

Signed: *Princess Christian-Iwuagwu*

Date: 02/05/2025

Print Name: Mrs Princess Christian-Iwuagwu

Qualifications: FCCA, CIPFA, MSc, BSc (Hons), Dip Theo, ICAN

Address: The Vicarage, 43A Village Road, Bush Hill Park, Enfield EN1 2ET

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. John, Wembley
Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 December 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<u>Incoming resources</u>					
Voluntary receipts	2a	40,110	0	40,110	37,552
Church statutory fees	2b	1,399	0	1,399	1,748
Church letting	2c	111,794	0	111,794	92,994
Grant	2d	0	0	0	5,507
Total receipts		153,303	0	153,303	137,801
<u>Less resources expended</u>					
Church activities	3a	123,550	0	123,550	146,705
Governance costs	3b	2,795	0	2,795	4,182
Total payments		126,345	0	126,345	150,887
Net income before depreciation		26,958	0	26,958	(13,086)
Less depreciation		0	4,000	4,000	6,664
Net income after depreciation		26,958	(4,000)	22,958	(19,750)
<u>Other receipts</u>					
Interest receivable	4	0	0	0	135
Income from investment	5	0	4,130	4,130	4,630
Net excess of income over expenditure		26,958	130	27,088	(14,985)

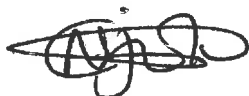
Statement of financial position as at 31st December 2024

		2024 £	2024 £	2023 £	2023 £
<u>Fixed assets</u>					
Tangible fixed assets	6		348,000		352,000
<u>Current assets</u>					
Debtors	7	18,475		14,416	
Cash at bank and short term deposits					
Lloyd bank current accounts		114,898		103,938	
CBF Church of England deposit fund	8	109,644		105,514	
		224,542		209,452	
Total current assets		243,017		223,868	
<u>Current liabilities</u>					
Less creditors due within one year	9	(5,286)		(17,225)	
<u>Net current assets</u>					
			237,731		206,643
Total assets less current liabilities	10		585,731		558,643
<u>Fund details</u>					
Unrestricted	11		209,959		183,001
Restricted	12		365,868		365,738
Endowment	13		9,904		9,904
Total Parish Funds			585,731		558,643

The attached notes form part of these financial statements

Approved by the PCC on

and signed on their behalf by



The Rev'd Chinenye Ngozi Njoku (Chairperson)

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. John, Wembley
Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

Notes

1 Accounting policies

The financial statement have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCCs, the Charities Act 2011, the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

Funds

Unrestricted funds represent the funds of the PCC that are available for general application purpose. The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their affiliation to another body or those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Restricted funds represent the funds of the PCC that are donated for the application of specific purpose.

Incoming resources

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. Planned giving receivables under Gift Aid is recognised only when received. Grant and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amounts due are quantifiable and their ultimate receipts by the PCC is reasonable certain. Funds raised by fairs and similar events and the sales of books and magazines from the church bookstall are accounted for gross. Income tax recoverable and all other income resources are recognised when it is receivable and accounted for gross.

Income from investments

Interest entitlements are accounted for as they accrue.

Resources expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

Expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and accounted for gross.

Activities directly relating to the work of the Church

The diocesan parish share is accounted for when paid. Any parish share unpaid at 31 December 2024 is provided for in these financial statements as an operational (though not a legal) liability and is shown as a creditors in the Balance Sheet.

Fixed assets

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the financial statements by section 10 of the Charities Act 2011.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the value of the assets on a straight line basis over the expected useful economic life as follows:

Church hall: - over 100 years

Fixture, fittings and equipment: - over 4 years

Individual items of fixtures, fittings and equipment with a purchase price of less than £1,250 are written off when the individual assets are acquired.

Current assets

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December 2024 in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.

Short term deposits including cash held on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Funds or at the bank.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. John, Wembley
Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
<u>Incoming resources</u>				
2a <u>Voluntary receipts</u>				
Gift aid donations	15,566		15,566	14,595
Collection open plate	4,369		4,369	4,454
Tax recoverable	3,891		3,891	4,423
Sundry donations	16,284		16,284	14,080
	40,110	0	40,110	37,552
2b <u>Church statutory fees</u>				
Funeral, wedding and other services	1,399	0	1,399	1,748
2c <u>Lettings receipt</u>				
Hall letting income	111,794	0	111,794	92,994
2d <u>Grant</u>				
Grant receipts	0	0	0	5,507
Total incoming resources	153,303	0	153,303	137,801
<u>Resources expended</u>				
3a <u>Church activities</u>				
Missionary and charitable giving	2,565		2,565	2,279
Ministry: London Diocesan Fund	40,944		40,944	26,900
Other ministry costs	180		180	135
Musicians and music	1,670		1,670	670
Organ repair and maintenance	0		0	210
Repair and maintenance	150		150	10,431
Utilities	9,925		9,925	14,806
Insurance	4,134		4,134	4,087
Music licence	933		933	871
Bank charges	269		269	283
Security and safety	1,306		1,306	1,872
Supplies and sundry expenses	3,670		3,670	5,458
Cleaning	550		550	0
<u>Church hall expenses</u>				
Salary, NI and pension	14,501		14,501	12,902
Stationary, printing and postage	1,656		1,656	1,527
Telephone and internet	2,307		2,307	1,850
Caretaker	4,000		4,000	3,272
Cleaning	9,738		9,738	6,845
Utilities	(2,464)		(2,464)	22,247
Insurance	1,879		1,879	2,091
Repair and maintenance	8,240		8,240	13,453
Security and safety	5,931		5,931	5,685
Supplies and sundry expenses	4,058		4,058	2,381
Waste and refuse	5,621		5,621	4,807
Equipment rental	1,787		1,787	1,643
	123,550	0	123,550	146,705
Total hall letting income	111,794	0	111,794	92,994
Total hall expenses	57,254	0	57,254	78,703
Hall letting gains	54,540	0	54,540	14,291

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. John, Wembley
Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
3b Governance costs				
Legal and professionals	0		0	(408)
Accountancy fees	2,675		2,675	4,500
Payroll costs	120		120	90
	<u>2,795</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2,795</u>	<u>4,182</u>
 Total resources expended	 <u>126,345</u>	 <u>0</u>	 <u>126,345</u>	 <u>150,887</u>
 <u>Other receipts</u>				
4 <u>Interest receivable</u>				
Interest - HMRC	0	0	0	135
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>135</u>
5 <u>Income from investments</u>				
CBF Church of England deposit fund	0	4,130	4,130	4,630
	<u>0</u>	<u>4,130</u>	<u>4,130</u>	<u>4,630</u>

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. John, Wembley
Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

6 Fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £
	Church Furniture & Equipment	Church Hall	
Cost			
At 1st January	45,693	400,000	445,693
Addition and/or revaluation	0	0	0
At 31st December	45,693	400,000	445,693
Depreciation			
At 1st January	45,693	48,000	93,693
Charge for the year	0	4,000	4,000
At 31st December	45,693	52,000	97,693
Net book value			
At 31st December 2023	0	352,000	352,000
At 31st December 2024	0	348,000	348,000

The expenditure in respect of St John's Community Centre has been capitalised and treated as restricted because the contribution made by The Incorporated Trustees of Workman's Hall in 2010 was on the basis that on the completion of the Community Centre, an underlease would be granted by Asra Greater London Housing Association Limited to the London Diocesan Fund (as trustee of the Parochial Church Council of Ecclesiastical Parish of St. John, Wembley) for a term of 125 years from December 2009.

	2024 £	2023 £
7 Debtors		
Tax recoverable (Gift aid)	7,540	3,649
Church insurance	345	343
CCLI licence	891	852
Church security costs	827	807
Church hall insurance	1,601	1,558
Church hall safety and security	1,145	1,081
Church hall rental	144	144
Power generation (Feed in Tariff) income accrued	5,982	5,982
	18,475	14,416

8 CBF Church deposit fund receipt

Balance 1st January	105,514	100,885
Interest receivable	4,130	4,629
Balance 31st December	109,644	105,514

9 Current Liabilities: amounts falling due within one year

Church bank charge	150	0
Church general expenses		
Church hall utilities	0	11,850
Church hall cleaning	869	261
Church hall caretaker costs	400	700
Church hall salary	422	1,006
Church hall repair and maintenance	350	58
Church hall safety and security	0	460
Church hall waste collection	300	300
Payroll costs	120	90
Accountancy fees	2,675	2,500
	5,286	17,225

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. John, Wembley
Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

10 Analysis of net assets by fund

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds £
<u>Fixed Assets</u>				
<u>Tangible fixed assets</u>				
Church furniture and equipment	0	0	0	0
Church hall	0	348,000	0	348,000
	0	348,000	0	348,000
<u>Current Assets</u>				
<u>Designated Funds</u>				
Structural repairs and long term maintenance of the community centre and for the community action General Funds	66,122			66,122
	149,123	17,868	9,904	176,895
	215,245	17,868	9,904	243,017
<u>Current Liabilities</u>				
General Funds	(5,286)	0	0	(5,286)
	209,959	365,868	9,904	585,731

Fund details

	1st Jan 2024 £	Excess income over (expense) £	Transfers £	31st Jan 2024 £
11 <u>Unrestricted Funds</u>				
Structural repairs and long term maintenance of the community centre and for the community action General fund	72,672	(6,550)	0	66,122
	110,329	33,508	0	143,837
	183,001	26,958	0	209,959
12 <u>Restricted Funds</u>				
Woolley Trust Fund	6,688	4,130	0	10,818
Sudbury, Wembley, Aplerton Youth project	7,050	0	0	7,050
Community Hall	352,000	(4,000)	0	348,000
	365,738	130	0	365,868
13 <u>Endowment funds</u>				
Woolley Trust Fund	9,904	0	0	9,904
	9,904	0	0	9,904
<u>Total Parish Funds</u>	558,643	27,088	0	585,731

The restricted funds comprise the dividends and interest of £10,818 received from the Woolley Trust Funds, restricted donations of £7,050 and £400,000 from the Workmen's Hall Trust (registered charity number 210454) less accumulated depreciation.

The endowment fund comprises the Woolley Trust Fund.

St. JOHN THE EVANGELIST, WEMBLEY,
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING,
HELD ON SUNDAY APRIL 21st 2024,
PRECEDED BY THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING.

Forty two church members, were present for the A.P.M., and the A.P.C.M.

No apologies for absence were received. A medical condition prevented Nkiru Egbochuku from attending the Meetings in person, but she was able to observe *via* Zoom.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Proceedings commenced with the Secretary reading the notice convening the Meeting, after which the Vicar reflected on the joys and sorrows of the past year, especially congratulating Mason and Leda Yousif on their wedding. There had also been members of the Congregation, who joined the ranks of the faithful departed during the year, and held in the memories of those present.

ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS: Nkiru Egbochuku had given notice in advance of the A.P.M. that she did not to stand for re-election. Dipath Muwonge, having been a Deputy Warden for two years, and completed a year as Churchwarden, and now wished to stand down for personal reasons. George Onyemekara was nominated as Churchwarden by Toks Ajayi, and seconded by Ifioma Arinze. Uchechi Alioha was nominated as Churchwarden by The Rev'd Ngozi Njoku and seconded by Helen Bagiere. No other candidates came forward, so they were both duly elected

Nkiru Egbochuku had been elected as Churchwarden no less than 14 times, with sabbaticals, including ensuring the smooth running of the Parish during the Interregum, and tribute was paid to her remarkable service. Dipath Muwonge was also thanked for the efficient execution of his warden's duties. The meeting was then closed.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

The notice convening the meeting was read by Robert Barker, the P.C.C. Secretary, at the end of the Annual Parish Meeting.

ACCEPTANCE OF 2022 MINUTES

The minutes of the 2023 A.P.M. and A.P.C.M. could not be considered or accepted as the annual report had only been circulated on the morning of the Meetings.

ELECTION OF LAY REPRESENTATIVES TO THE P.C.C.

Two elected lay members of the P.C.C., Leslie Bevis-Smith and Rita Chiamonwu, were due to retire by rotation, having served their statutory three year term. Before the Meeting, Leslie Bevis-Smith had been proposed for re-election by Robert Barker and seconded by Carole Bevis-Smith. Rita Chiamonwu had been proposed for re-election by Obiorah Nwanonye, and seconded by Ifioma Arinze. Both were duly elected. Shauna Clarke was offered the opportunity to rejoin to the P.C.C., but having served already two terms, she did not wish to return. Martina "Tina" Vernon and Monica Hinds were both proposed as new P.C.C. members by the Vicar. Having consented verbally, they were seconded by Hermine Barry-Clarke and Catherine Miller-Baldwin respectively, and duly elected. Before her recent incapacity, Nkiru Egbochuku had informally expressed to the Secretary a wish to become an elected lay member of the P.C.C. on her retirement as Churchwarden, and a place was left vacant, allowing her to be co-opted at a future meeting.

ELECTION OF SIDESMEN AND SIDESWOMEN

Currently the only active sideswomen are Dr. Joan Telford and Kayleigh Telford. In their absence, they were invited to continue in post. No volunteers came forward to assist when they are unable to be present.

ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT

Toks Ajayi, the Electoral Roll Officer, presented his report, and a copy was given to the Secretary, Robert Barker. In 2022, the roll stood at 110, and in 2023 it contained 116 names. . In the last twelve months, three names have been added, but deletions had reduced it to 101. If the roll falls below 100, the number of lay P.C.C. members must be reduced. A *de novo* roll is due to be compiled next year.

REPORT ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

The Secretary, Robert Barker, was not called upon to summarise or answer questions upon the Review of the Year 2023, which parishioners had not had time to read and consider.

FINANCIAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS OF THE P.C.C. FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 2023

The Treasurer, Ifioma Arinze, began by thanking all those members of the Congregation who have continued to make financial offerings to St. John's, and especially those who have been able to give more at a time when the cost of living is increasing. She reminded the meeting that a major source of our income comes from letting the Community Centre both on a regular and occasional basis. If Church members were able to promote our meeting rooms to their friends and neighbours, it would be to the advantage of St. John's.

Leslie Bevis-Smith noted that the income from lettings appears in the financial statements as £92,994 for 2023, and was not broken down. He asked what was the portion of this income received from both Wembley Central Nursery School and Gujarati Christian Fellowship U.K.? A full answer would be made available at the next P.C.C. meeting, but G.C.F.U.K. paid £444 per calendar month throughout 2023, with them paying their own insurance premiums. Their rent will be increased from April 2024.

REPORT ON THE FABRIC AND ORNAMENTS

The Churchwardens mentioned briefly that there had been structural movement of the South East corner of the Church, behind the lectern, and the undercroft of the organ chamber. Leslie Bevis-Smith, on behalf of the Building Committee, was asked to explain further. Parts of the structure adjacent to an area which has already been underpinned is now sinking. The Committee has been aware that there has been a problem for some time, but it has recently worsened. Monitoring of cracks in the walls needs to begin well before the ground dries out in the Summer months, and he asked that it is given priority as an agenda item at the next P.C.C. meeting.

Robert Barker thought that it was time to refresh and update our notice boards. The one on the High Road still claims that we worship at 9.30 a.m., 11.00 a.m. and 6.00 p.m. It was agreed they present a poor image, and a cost effective way of updating them is being investigated.

DEANERY SYNOD

Carole Bevis-Smith, a St. John's representative on the Synod, pointed out that its prime function is to enable Brent's churches to know what is taking place in other parishes, and how they might learn from them, as well as to promote trends in the wider Anglican Communion.

APPOINTMENT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

This was the first year when Mrs. Princess Christian-Iwuagwu had undertaken Independent Examination of our accounts. This had been undertaken competently and completed by the end of February. It was felt that some of the work undertaken by our previous Examiner had been more appropriate to a full audit, and with a price to match. It was proposed by Robert Barker, seconded by Leslie Bevis-Smith, and agreed unanimously that Mrs. Princess Christian-Iwuagwu be reappointed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM OTHER REPORTS

AS THOSE PRESENT HAD NO OPPORTUNITY TO READ THE REPORTS IN DETAIL BEFORE THE MEETING, THEY WERE INVITED TO SEND ANY QUESTIONS TO THE REV'D NGOZI NJOKU OR ROBERT BARKER BEFORE THE NEXT P.C.C. MEETING.

MATTERS OF PAROCHIAL INTEREST

At the 2023 A.P.C.M., the precautions against the spread of Covid 19 were revised, and a year later, the time has come to abandon them altogether. The Congregation were happy to continue exchanging the Peace by remaining in their places and waving, and the Vicar felt it appropriate to bring the collection forward to be taken during the Peace.

She also wished more to involve the children who worship at St. John's to participate in services, laying the foundation of the next generation of practising Christians. Specifically she proposed that the elements are carried to the altar at Holy Communion services by children. Until the Covid pandemic, wine was distributed by a shared chalice, and those present were given the opportunity to decide whether or not to reinstate it. It was felt appropriate to continue with intinction. No decision was taken as to whether or not kneeling at the altar rail for those who are able, should be an option.

The midweek service of Holy Communion, which hitherto had taken place on Thursdays will in future be celebrated on Wednesdays at 11.00 a.m.

The end of the pandemic makes it possible to reinstate a range of outreach and social activities. In the past we had hosted SWAY (Sudbury, Wembley & Alperton Youth), an inter-denominational exercise in "soft evangelism" to ensure that young people did not lose touch with the Christian faith. Catherine Miller-Baldwin hoped to reinstate the Saturday morning breakfasts, and the possibility was also considered of offering appropriate health advice.

VICAR'S REPORT

The Rev'd Ngozi Njoku began by relating that the inspiration for her ministry came from influences as diverse as the prophet Nehemiah and C.S.Lewis. The parish to which she has come is, she has found, "Firmly grounded in Scripture and the Spirit of God", and blessed with members able to communicate the Message through their preaching. She also expressed her thanks for all who serve the St. John's community in any way, not least the Cleaning Team, the only thing wrong with which is that it needs more members. (Offers of help invited.)

The Vicar's vision for going forward remains

- i) To be seen as a prayerful Church
- ii) Preparing ourselves and the wider community to become more confident disciples through our worship, Bible study, evangelism and outreach.
- iii) To become a more compassionate community through acceptance of our diversity and charitable work.
- iv) To be proactive in looking after God's creation.

The meeting concluded with the sung Doxology at 1.15 p.m.

COMMUNITY CENTRE JOINT MANAGING COMMITTEE.

Unlike other committees of the P.C.C., this body has shared membership with another local registered charity, and its own legal existence. The Workmen's Hall Trust (Wembley), like St. John's Church, was founded by local philanthropists Frances and Anne Copland. From their inception, the two bodies have worked closely together, and currently the P.C.C. and Trust share the same Secretary. The Joint Committee is legally constituted to comprise four representatives of the Church, including the Incumbent, *ex officio*, Carole Bevis-Smith, and Catherine Miller-Baldwin, plus two members of the Trust.

Offerings by the congregation do not cover the running costs of St. John's Church; clergy stipend, building maintenance, heating and many other expenses. The Centre exists both to provide a social facility open to the wider community, and to subsidise the Parish Church. Three income streams are generated by the Community Centre, use of the Main Hall from Monday to Friday by Wembley Central Nursery School, hire of the smaller rooms on a regular once a week basis, and casual hire for private functions. Issues relating to the lease issued to the Wembley Central Nursery School have been resolved early in 2024, and this will be an assured income stream for three years. The Proprietrix has drawn to our attention the deteriorating condition of the floor surface in the Main Hall, which remains to be addressed. The Committee has already decided that the markings for Badminton, a game never played since the Centre was built, will not be reinstated when the floor is refurbished.

Late in 2023, a Fire Risk Assessment was undertaken in the Centre which was paid for by the Workmen's Hall Trust. Some anomalies in it were identified by Leslie Bevis-Smith, as a result of which it was not finalised until early in the New Year. Materials, including highly flammable materials were found stored in the Plant Room, a practice since prohibited. The area beneath the staircase was being used for storage, with a potential for fire risk. At a recent meeting, the P.C.C. examined the possibility of the area being boxed in using sheet metal, but accepted that this would be impracticable and unsightly.

The Workmen's Hall Trustees offered to fund the construction of a storage facility outside the main building, but nothing had been done about this major project by the end of the year. The Trustees also offered to buy an Evacuation Chair for the staircase, but we did not go ahead as models on the market were unsuitable for use by untrained personnel.

On December 10th 2024, a combined meeting took place between the Community Centre Joint Committee and the Buildings Committee, in response to a discussion paper concerning outstanding works submitted to the P.C.C. by Leslie Bevis-Smith. Of particular relevance to the C.C.Jt.C., were the degree security on the door of the Plant Room and the emergency exit gate from the Centre garden. The latter has to be designed bearing in mind that it must be of a height which makes it easily opened by adults but not small children, to comply with the recommendation of the Fire Risk Assessment. Conversely, it must not be capable of access by a potential intruder bent on violating a safe space. The agreed solution is a shoot bolt, secured by an FB padlock, the key being housed in a "Break Glass" container. There is also, within the Plant Room, a potentially dangerous situation on the control board, which incorrectly shows that the gas supply has been turned off. It came to light at the meeting that a current Electrical Safety Certificate had not been obtained by December, something which is a legal requirement and demanding urgent attention.

Reflection on My 2024–2025 Annual Report

Reflecting on the Heroes of World War II and the VE Day Poppy Exhibition

A tribute to sacrifice, resilience, and remembrance.



As I reflect on the period from 2024 into the present year, 2025, I do so with a sense of apprehension. Last year was incredibly challenging. It seemed that everyone I knew had lost a loved one—many to cancer and others by different means. This included my dear eldest sister, Victoria, who lived in the United States of America.

While grief is experienced differently by everyone, I cannot help but express my deep gratitude to all the Church members for your immense support. I am especially thankful for your understanding when I had to travel home to Nigeria during the Christmas season, entrusting Carole and the Church Wardens with ensuring everything at the parish continued to run smoothly.

I also take this opportunity to thank my esteemed colleagues, Revd Dr Joe Ajaefobi and Rev'd Gospel Iwuoha, for stepping in to preach and preside at the Eucharist during my absence.

Over the past week, I have been deeply moved while watching televised interviews and documentaries recounting the harrowing experiences of war veterans. Their testimonies continue to serve as powerful reminders of the unspeakable trials endured during World War II. These stories reflect an era defined by sacrifice, endurance, and the resilience of the human spirit.

As A.W. Tozer wrote in his book *The Pursuit of God*: “When religion has said its last word, there is little that we need other than God Himself.” Many of us live out our faith in a way that could be described as “God and...” — God and a good job, God and good health. These desires are not wrong in themselves, but when they become demands, they reveal where our true trust lies.

So we must ask ourselves: *Is God sufficient in our lives?* In the midst of all that happens, is He enough? At the deepest point of human suffering, there is room for no one else but the Lord our God. With all my heart, I say: He is enough and He is sufficient — and I hope you are able to say the same.

Our Wednesday Bible Study, held weekly from 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. via Zoom, continues to be a source of spiritual growth and encouragement. I encourage everyone who is able to make time to join us. My prayer and desire for us all echoes the words of St. Paul: “*That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection*” (Philippians 3:10). This is not merely intellectual knowledge but a deep, personal experience of Christ's resurrection power at work in our lives.

Meanwhile, the 2024 activities at St. John's have continued as usual. The Noah's Ark toddler group, led by Carole, and the Memory Café, led by Catherine, remain visible bridges into our community. We also recognize the ongoing work of the Wembley Central Nursery, led by Nkiru, which stands as a beacon of support and care for young families in our area.

I've taken time to read our Secretary Robert Barker's comprehensive report. I want to thank him for his dedication to the PCC and to the life of this church. I join him in thanking each one

of you for your contributions to the life and ministry of St. John the Evangelist Parish Church, Wembley.

Rev'd Ngozi
Vicar of St John the Evangelist Wembley.

Deanery Synod/Anglicans in Brent Report

There were three meetings of Deanery Synod/AIB in 2024.

In January our meeting was held at **St Michael's Church, Tokyngton**, where our speaker Pauline Mc Calla, who is the Willesden Area representative for The Mother's Union (London Diocese), presented an overview of the work of the Mothers Union in supporting families, prisoners, and refugees in the Area.

In June we met at **St Michael and All Angels in Stonebridge** to reflect on church's stewardship of God's creation. Brent Council gave a presentation on the Council's '*Faith Climate Action Plan*' – their climate charter with faith and community groups and advised of other projects happening in Brent. St Gabriel's, Cricklewood also told us how they achieved their Bronze Eco Church Award, and how churches can make small changes to help the planet.

At October's meeting at **All Soul's Church, Harlesden**, Angela Colman, the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer for Willesden Area led us in a biblical reflection on safeguarding and spoke about how we can all make our churches a safe place for everyone. This was a great opportunity to think about safeguarding ahead of Safeguarding Sunday on 17th November.

Unless there is a particular aspect of Diocesan business that needs attention, Deanery Synod meetings are regarded as an opportunity for information sharing and lay training. Meetings are open to all, not just those elected, so please attend any that are of interest to you.

Our Area Dean is Rev'd Sophie Schuil-Brewer of Holy Innocent's Church, Kingsbury, and the Assistant Dean is Rev'd James Yates of St Gabriel's Church, Cricklewood. Sharon Dunbar of All Soul's Harlesden is the Lay Chair. The Deanery Synod representatives for St John's are Catherine Miller-Baldwin and Carole Bevis-Smith.

Carole Bevis-Smith

The Church Wardens Report 2025

In all things we give God the glory

We give God the glory for protection and guidance through the past year.

We wish to thank everybody for their continued support, patience, and contribution during the past year.

We say a big thank you to Revd. Cannon Ngozi Njoku as she continues to lead us as the Vicar of St John the Evangelist Church. We pray for success for her ministry in this parish.

Our members are increasing in number gradual but steady. Glory be to God.

Congratulations to the Music Group for the improved performance during our church services making the services livelier and more enjoyable. Thank you to Maka Ejehu and Ikenna Odemelam on the keyboard and Hendy Nicholls on the drums. Special thank you to Revd. Ngozi for this success. We say thank you to all the members of the choir and Leslie Bevis-Smith as the leader and on the organ for their contribution during Sunday services.

Our gratitude also goes to Mason and wife, Lada for their technical support with the projector every Sunday.

Fabrics and ornaments of the parish church:

The Parish ornaments are in good condition and safely stored away.

The PCC have yet to discuss and approve more CCTV cameras to the back of the church as this hidden area needs the coverage. Door ring CCTV was approved by PCC.

We need to change the lighting around the outside of the church to energy saving bulbs to help save energy as well as provide lighting to the area.

Incidents are still happening around the church ground people are still gathering around the church entrance and the hall entrance drinking, smoking and leaving their mess around even though the caretaker has left bins all around to prevent this.

There was an incident in the year where unknown people vandalised the external door of the choir vestry but could not gain entry into the church. More in the building report.

We say thank you to the caretaker Mr George Dede for cleaning and looking after the church ground and the hall and for all the work he does opening and closing the hall doors for people who use it.

The installation and decoration of the Lychgate which was since approved by the PCC is still waiting to be done. The Brent Council did say they will sponsor this project. This is still outstanding.

There has been movement in the organ area. More in the building report.

The Gujarati church is now using the church every Sunday. There have been a few incidents: breakage of the pew book rest, and some other minor damages. They have been cautioned hopefully they will be more careful and the leader to take control of the congregation.

The broken stained-glass door on the entrance door to the south aisle of the church still need to be fixed. We need quotes from stained glass companies for this. More will hopefully be in the building report.

The Community Centre:

The income from the hall has now picked with more and more bookings

We say thanks to the hall committee members, the caretaker/cleaner Mr George Dede and the Administrator Evelyn who over sees to the hall bookings and running of the centre.

Car Park

It was agreed by PCC to rent out the church car parking spaces, to raise funds for the church.

Appreciation:

We wish to appreciate all the members of St John the Evangelist Church Wembley parish for all their contribution and support.

Our gratitude goes to Carole Bevis-Smith for making sure that our worship/services are aired via Zoom for people who are not able to attend physically. We hope the quality and the whole media will be upgraded in future. Thanks to Carole also for leading and coordinating the Christmas/New year services in our vicar's absence. Our special thanks to the guest pastors, Gospel and Efeobi who also blessed us with their ministry during this time.

We would like to say thank you in particular to the following:

- the Admin Staff – Evelyn Appiah, The PCC secretary – Robert Barker, the treasurer Ifeoma Arinze, our independent examiner Mrs Princess Iwuagwu, the new accountant Hon Mrs Princess Christian Iwuagwu for working tirelessly to get the financial report ready for the APCM and for the Charity Commission.
- Gwen and her team – Lil, Helen and Ikenna who have regularly cleaned the church
- All the side persons –Toks, Joan, Kayleigh, Lada and others who have contributed to this welcoming frontline service.
- To Gwen and her team: Lil, Mary, Lada, Mason and others for the hospitality, making sure people have tea, coffee, biscuits and cake before leaving. Special thank you to Gwen for provision of cakes and Helen for the biscuits.
- To Toks Ajayi for overseeing the electoral roll register which is an essential part of church records, the lent purse and the charities supported by the Parish.
- Rita Chiamonwu, Ruth Oghenekaro for counting our offerings and contributions each week and Evelyn Appiah for banking our money

- Shibu for looking after our gift aid claims and organising the gift aid envelopes.
- All the Sunday school teachers for the good work they are doing with our children especially Simbo Ajayi the lead.
- Special thank you to our Caretaker and cleaner – Mr George Dede. He maintains the cleaning of the Community centre, its surroundings and the church grounds. His dedication is well appreciated.
- A big welcome to new members who have joined us in within the last year. God will continue to guide and protect us all and bless His ministry

The club:

Thanks to Catherine, Len and their team for the memory cafe which is now operating on another level still providing food for the homeless in our community. We appreciate the new initiatives.

Thursday Services and Wednesday holy communion services and Bible Studies

Thanks to Revd. Ngozi Njoku for keeping these services/Bible study going.

We would like to appreciate our Licensed Lay Minister Carole Bevis-Smith, our commissioned Lay Minister Simbo Ajayi, our Pastoral Assistant Catherine Miller-Baldwin, and all our service leaders for leading our Sunday services. Thanks also to those who help out with communion.

Congregation

Special thank you to all the members of St John the Evangelist Church Wembley. We appreciate all of you and together we will keep worshipping and spreading the Gospel knowing that God is with us everywhere we go. Glory be to God.

George and Uche

Church wardens

St John the Evangelist Church, Wembley

BUILDINGS REPORT 05.05.025 amended 26.5.025 highlights deleted

Leslie Bevis-Smith for the PCC/Building Committee

IMPORTANT PRELIMINARY NOTE:

*It is recommended that readers refer to previous years Reports for background information to enable this document to be kept as brief as possible. This document advises of the current position **AS OF THE DATE ABOVE, not the end of 2024.***

1.CHURCH GROUNDS

1.2 As previously noted, it is essential that the ESCAPE ROUTES from the north (Porch) & north-east (Vestry) doors are cleared, levelled and cleared of all debris & regularly maintained in good order. This work is essential & has been noted before but is an item in the Fire Risk Report.

All must imagine the situation where an exit is blocked (for example – after dark at an evening event and all, including frail/elderly persons must be escorted out to safety.

1.2 The **fencing** looks dreadful where the black paint has failed.

1.3 Restoration works have to be carried to the **Lych Gate & High Road boundary** as previously advised.

1.4 The metal '**legal advice**' sign to the main pathway west access gate must be securely fitted (it could easily be targeted & stolen for scrap metal).

1.5 The **west perimeter gate** must be maintained in a closeable & lockable condition. During recent attempts to close & lock the gate, it was found that the lock would not engage due to movement of either the gate post, hinges or closure post, possibly due to subsidence: **This needs attention**

As this gate (although usually open) is on an escape route the code should be properly recorded by Vicar & Wardens and it is suggested be on an internal sign at each of the 3 west exit doors.

1.6 The **External Notice Boards** are seriously neglected. Although some permanent signing has been improved, the vandalised & weathered glazing(s) have not been replaced and are a **poor advertisement** for the church. The west 'post' signboard has not been replaced following its removal due to vandal damage for fixings safety reasons and still awaits attention. *The regular updating and proper use of the notice boards with magnet fixings are seriously neglected, and there seems to be some doubt as to who is supposed to look after them.*

2.CHURCH

2.1 The structural movement as previously noted continues to show at the SE corner & other places. The main indications are the progressive sinking of the pier adjacent to the lectern area, cracks in some internal walls, brickwork under the organ cracking and floor crack in front of the organ becoming more obvious. The movement between wall fixed parts of the organ and floor fixed items including wind ducting has illustrated this with wind leak requiring emergency repairs. As noted last year we remain concerned that debris from the cracks may fall on to pipes, windchests and organ mechanism.

Following revised & recommended action by our Architect & Engineers that 'tell-tale' markers are fixed, monthly checks are properly recorded over a period of at least a year as from June 2024 (LBS).

Whilst it is likely that the London Clay is an issue, tree roots sucking up moisture from the ground is likely to be significant, and the professional team strongly advise that we should seek advice from an arboriculturist in the first instance.

The Local Authority maintain the trees. A tree plan has been sent to the Engineers but up to date there has been no comment. *This item needs to be followed up (LBS/RB).*

2.2 Rainwater disposal is vital from all roof gulleys, gutters and ground level gulleys which must be kept clear and covered wherever possible. The gutters between each main roof are particularly vulnerable, and ideally interim checks should be made where the valleys drain into the downpipes.

2.3 Damp patches in some walls have been noted (especially adjacent to vestry/lounge door and S wall of organ chamber) and be kept under observation.

2.4 Security (a) An issue noted last year at the toilet window which has not been addressed as requested (NB some years ago someone got in through a small window such as this). **This needs action.**

2.5 Security (b) In January 024 there was an attempted break-in seriously damaging the lower part of a north-east chapel window. Progress on this issue has been very slow and is still ongoing:

2.5a The outside vestry/Lounge door has been seriously damaged. The Vicar has had a temporary panel installed in MDF, but the author has no idea of what is happening regarding this inadequate temporary repair.

2.5a Unfortunately & arising from discussion with the **stained-glass specialist**, it seems that there is no **photographic record** of the stained-glass windows.

2.5b This has been put in hand by the author of this document.

2.6 A Fire Risk Assessment was commissioned to cover the entire site. Whilst the church situation is reasonable and being addressed, there was a criticism regarding the lack of Emergency Lighting, both inside & out. Following the specialist's advice, a battery torch has been clipped by/on the external doors, *for use only in an emergency. The wardens must check every 6 months at least.*

2.7 Pew damage has been caused during a period of rent of the church, and organisation of repair is currently in hand. However the proposed method appears to have failed, and the use of old/unused book rests is being contemplated. (LBS)

3.CHURCH COMMUNITY CENTRE

3.1 The required Fire Risk Assessment inspection revealed some issues of concern, including:

3.1a Door locks & locking procedures for the Nursery is unacceptable & must be changed:

3.1b The emergency escape from the Nursery open area was completely blocked and must be made fully workable: Due to the writer being unable to inspect, the situation is unclear.

3.1c Storage under the stairs & in the plant room is criticised and must be reviewed.

3.1d There is no record of safety checks and certificates for the electrical system. It appears that this may be in hand with the Vicar and a contractor with which the author of this document has no knowledge.

3.2 QUALIFICATION for this section. A number of works have been carried out under the direction of the Vicar which the writer has no detail or knowledge of and therefore cannot comment on or discuss.

3,3 The east end main entrance doors security & auto lock system failed rendering the building insecure. *Whilst this was resolved at least on a temporary basis, the author has noted that the self-closer to this door either needs adjustment or replacement to ensure the doors ALWAYS close.*

NB Whilst there are other items arising for the Church & Community Centre, the above are the significant issues.

For information, the completion of the organ restoration is taking an extraordinary long time: *However substantial progress was made some weeks ago with the delivery & fixing of the new windchest for the choir organ 'Clarinet', and subsequently the return of its 49 pipes. The choir organ windchest is ready to receive it's set of 61 'Larigot' pipes, which will be finally voiced in situ, the electrical connections made, and the newly engraved stop knob fitted.* LBS

DOCUMENT ENDS LBS

Safeguarding Report for St John's the Evangelist Church, Wembley

Submitted to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

Greetings,

My name is Yetunde Coker, and I am writing to provide an update on the safeguarding measures being implemented at St John's the Evangelist Church in Wembley. We are committed to ensuring that our church remains a very safe place for all children and adults.

Introduction

In the past four years, St John's has not had a dedicated Pastoral Safeguarding Officer, which has resulted in several outstanding safeguarding issues that need to be addressed. However, we are determined to overcome these challenges and create a robust safeguarding framework for our community.

Current Safeguarding Initiatives

We have recently taken significant steps to enhance the safeguarding environment at St John's:

1. Engaging Workers

We have actively engaged all our church workers, including volunteers, staff, and clergy, to ensure they are aware of their safeguarding responsibilities. Training sessions and workshops will be conducted to educate them on the importance of safeguarding and the procedures they must follow.

2. Obtaining DBS Checks

We are in the process of obtaining Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks for all individuals working with children and vulnerable adults. This is a critical step in ensuring that all personnel are appropriately vetted and that their backgrounds are thoroughly checked to guarantee the safety of our community members.

3. Safeguarding Posters

We have displayed safeguarding posters prominently throughout the church premises. These posters provide essential information on safeguarding policies, procedures, and contact details for reporting any concerns. They serve as a constant reminder to everyone about the importance of creating a safe environment.

4. Dedicated Safeguarding Phone Line – 07983 806566

A dedicated phone line for safeguarding issues has been established. This phone line is monitored by me which means I can respond promptly to any concerns or reports. It provides a direct and confidential way for individuals to seek help and report any safeguarding issues.

5. Safeguarding Email Address – safeguarding@stjohnwembley.org

In addition to the phone line, we have set up a separate email address dedicated to safeguarding matters. This email address is regularly monitored, and all communication is treated with the utmost confidentiality. It allows individuals to report concerns in writing and provides an alternative means of communication.

Future Plans

While we have made some progress, there is still much work to be done to ensure that St John's the Evangelist Church is a safe and welcoming environment for all. Our future plans include:

1. Continuous Training and Development

Ongoing training and development sessions will be conducted for all church workers to keep them informed about the latest safeguarding practices and to reinforce their understanding of their responsibilities.

2. Regular Audits and Reviews

We will conduct regular audits and reviews of our safeguarding policies and procedures to identify gaps and areas for improvement to ensure compliance with national safeguarding standards.

3. Building a Support Network

We aim to build a strong support network within the church community, encouraging open communication and mutual support. This network will provide a platform for individuals to share concerns and seek advice.

Conclusion

We are committed to creating a safe and nurturing environment at St John's the Evangelist Church in Wembley. While there are challenges to overcome, we are confident that with the continued support of our community and the implementation of robust safeguarding measures, we will achieve our goal.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to your continued support and collaboration in ensuring the safety and well-being of all members of our church community.

Sincerely,

Yetunde Coker

Sunday School and Young People's Report

Sunday School is a safe, welcoming, and engaging environment where children and young people come together to explore Scripture in a meaningful and relevant way. Our teaching and learning emphasis are on helping the children connect biblical truths to their everyday lives.

Due to several families relocating, our current attendance has decreased, and we now have six active children participating regularly. Despite the smaller numbers, each session remains vibrant and spiritually enriching.

Every class begins with the children leading in prayer, encouraging them to develop their own prayer lives. This is followed by a Bible lesson or theme aligned with the main Church lectionary, which allows for a cohesive learning experience between the Sunday School and the wider Church family. Lessons are sometimes enhanced with simple, themed songs or choruses that help reinforce the message as well as through independent activities such as quizzes, colouring, and word searches. These are all centred around the Bible passage of the day. Each session concludes with everyone joining to share the grace together.

Some of the key biblical topics we've explored include Jesus' baptism, His temptation, and various miracles He performed. The children also take an active role in the main Church service. They regularly read Scripture, lead prayers and worship, and occasionally serve as ushers. One of the highlights of our year was the children's Mother's Day prayers and poems, and the Nativity skit which were delivered with great enthusiasm and talent—evidence of God's Spirit at work in our young people.

We are especially thankful to Nadia, who has stepped in as a Sunday School helper from time to time.

We are deeply grateful to all members of the congregation for their ongoing support of our Sunday School ministry. A special thanks to our vicar, Rev Ngozi whose encouragement and inclusion of the children in Church services has helped nurture their confidence and spiritual growth. Finally, we give thanks to God for the dedication and commitment of our fellow Sunday School Teachers and Assistants, Carol, Morin, Maka and Favour. May He continue to bless and guide this vital ministry.

Simbo Ajayi

On behalf of Sunday School and Young St John's

Noah's Ark
St John's Pre-school Toddler Group

Noah's Ark is St John's outreach mission to pre-school children and their parents and carers in the community. We offer structured 'stay-and-play' sessions, 10.00am – 12 noon and 1.00 – 3.00pm on Thursdays during school term time. Noah's Ark has been part of St John's ministry for over 40 years and meets in the Evans Room of the Community Hall.

We operate with an open door/drop-in policy, so people come when they are able. Although the sessions are structured, there is plenty of opportunity for children to have fun without realising they are learning; using their fine motor skills during pretend play and their gross motor skills for the half hour before departure when the slides and sit-on rides come out. There is always a break between these activities for refreshments during story and song time. At this point we also celebrate birthdays, achievements of the children and catch up on family news and church activities. Unfortunately, we do not do as many craft activities as we used to, as there is enough to clear up after a session without picking playdough or glue out of the carpet. On the positive side of using the Evans Room, when the weather is good the balcony extends the play area, and everyone can enjoy the fresh air and outdoors safely. At these times there is the opportunity to have 'Messy Play' with sand and water trays. At the end of each term, we hold a Service followed by a 'Bring & Share' party.

Noah's Ark was one of the founder members of the Brent Parent and Toddler Network, which has since grown to be London-wide and supported by the Diocese. Before the pandemic there were 53 stay-and-play groups in Brent, but since lockdown and the end of the restrictions there are now only 15. So many babies and young children are now missing out on a vital part of their development, and parents and carers on the support they need. As a governor in a local primary school, I am aware that many children from this area enter nursery education with lower-than-average basic skills, which worsened due to the isolation and lack of social interaction of the pandemic. The service that St John's provides for the children and parents of our community through the playgroup is vital, and has helped 76 families over the past year

At Noah's Ark we try to be the extended family for those who have none and encourage parents to engage and play with their children, and through the activities we provide, help children progress with their physical, emotional and social development. The group reflects the multi-cultural nature of the community in Wembley and is very friendly and inclusive of all needs and abilities.

Smith

Carole Bevis-

THE MEMORY CAFÉ AT SAINT JOHNS CHURCH
REPORT TO THE APCM SUNDAY 11TH MAY 2025

The Memory Café is a Community Project and supported by the Community Action on Dementia and Brent Health Matters. We are very grateful that the Church (PPC) has facilitated the Copland room, and over the years, the Memory Café has been going very well, and numbers are roughly 12 to 18 guests each week. Obviously, the numbers go down when guests have appointments or may forget their day due to their condition.

We provide Games quizzes, bingo, or guests can do any other activity they want as we provide a good stock of resources.

We provide access to Immigration advice, Referral to CAB and assistance for accessing food banks and money advice

We provide health checks, including blood pressure and diabetes advice. This is carried out here and any other café in the borough about every six weeks.

We invite other organisations to do presentations on other issues like, how to prevent scams, green doctor, who helps us with keeping our energy bills low. If need be, they contact our energy supplier on our behalf for installing gadgets that could help us monitor our energy usage.

As a network of cafes who are open on different days, we invite other cafes to our cafes for tea or games. Our funders allow a quarterly lunch at the Chalk hill Community Centre so that we meet up and enjoy a lovely lunch and activities like bingo and quizzes.

I have added a new activity to our group, and this is a knee up on the last Friday of the month, again, we invite other cafes, and we dance to 50's and 60s' music, and have hot food and lots of fun; join us if you are available.

We also celebrate every member's birthday with a cake and cards.

I am grateful to Lil who continues to help with dishes and cleanup even though she usually would have just finished her cleaning in the church. Bless her!

Myself as lead, I receive monthly training at the Ascension and we have just started a Lunch and Training Group with other churches, and the first one will be hosted by St Cuthberts. It's a good example to see that the priests take an interest in this important community work.

We at St John Memory Café covet your prayers and are grateful for the support from our Priest Rev Ngozi.

Thanks for reading this short Report.

Catherine

Café Lead

Treasurers Report for APCM – St John's the Evangelist 11th May 2025

Introduction and Appreciation

We begin by expressing sincere thanks to every member of our church family for their faithful financial giving this past year. Your generosity sustains the life and mission of our church and makes a real difference in our ability to serve our community.

Special thanks also go to those who volunteer behind the scenes—especially those who regularly count the offerings, and to our dedicated Administration Officer, **Evelyn**, for her continued diligence and service. Your time and commitment are deeply appreciated.

Giving Overview

We are pleased to report that **giving has increased** this year. This is a testimony to your commitment to the life and mission of our church. Thank you for responding faithfully and generously.

We also encourage those who give to consider **registering for Gift Aid**. If you are a UK taxpayer, Gift Aid allows the church to **reclaim 25p for every £1 you give**, at no extra cost to you. This is a significant way to help the church maximise every donation.

Expenditure Highlights

While giving has increased, so too have our expenses. For a detailed breakdown, please refer to the **Church Financial Accounts**, which are available for review.

One of the most notable increases has been our contribution to the **Diocesan Fund**:

- **2023:** £26,900
- **2024:** £40,944

This rise reflects our on-going commitment to support the wider work of the Diocese, and the increased costs associated with ministry and mission across the region.

Summary

In summary:

- We are grateful for your generosity—thank you.
- Giving has gone up—this is encouraging and much needed.
- Costs have also risen—especially our Diocesan contribution.
- Please consider **Gift Aid** to help your giving go further.
- Full accounts are available for anyone wishing to view the financial details more closely.

Together, let us continue to be good stewards of all that God has entrusted to us, as we build His kingdom here.