



**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE  
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST EDYTH'S**

known as

**St Edyth's Church, Sea Mills**

**ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**31 DECEMBER 2024**

**Charity Number 1141128**

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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## Objectives, Values and Activities

### Objectives

Our objectives as followers of Jesus at St Edyth's are to invite others and urge ourselves on to:

**Belong** – to the Way of Jesus

**Believe** – in the Truth of Jesus

**Become** – filled with the Life of Jesus

As a church community, our calling to be the Body of Christ in this place means that, following a vision planning process in 2024, we are now walking forward together with:

- A renewed attitude to receive newcomers as precious in God's eyes – actions focus on our welcome process, accessibility and community engagement.
- A renewed boldness to share our faith with others in the power of the Spirit and under the authority of God's Word – actions focus on new and existing outreach, teaching and training.
- A renewed commitment to whole-life discipleship that impacts every part of our daily lives – actions focus on small groups, prayer and learning alongside each other.

### Values

Our key values, which help describe **how** we turn plans into action are:

- **Loving** all, above all, despite our differences
- Offering generous **hospitality**
- Being a place of **sanctuary** for the lost, lonely and broken
- Having our roots deep in the **Word** of God
- Being empowered by the Holy **Spirit**
- Giving **prayer** a top priority
- Being **authentic** in our relationship with God and each other.

### Activities

#### *Church Services*

We have a regular pattern of Sunday services which play a key part in achieving our objectives outlined above.

*The Early Service (8.45am)* – alternates between communion (sat) usually led by the vicar, and Word, Worship and Prayer – usually led by lay members of the congregation. On average, 8-10 people attend.

*The Main Service (10.30am)* – also alternates between Holy Communion and Morning Worship. The fourth Sunday is an All Together Service, and this is often followed by a church family meal. On average, 55-65 people attend this service.

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*Deeper (5pm)* – an informal joint service on the first Sunday of the month with St Andrew's Avonmouth and St Peter's Laurence Weston (some of our partners in Avonside Mission Area). This alternates location and leading between St Edyth's and St Andrew's.

*Tuesdays (10am)* – Holy Communion service. On average 14 people attend. In Autumn 2024, a conversation began about a change to this service, which would incorporate a Life (Bible study) Group.

### ***Staff Team (paid)***

This primarily consists of our Parish Administrator (Katharine Wiltshire) and our Children and Families Minister (Jemima Downing) who was appointed during the year and started work in early July 2024. Jemima has made an excellent start in her role and is developing our ministry to children and their families in exciting new ways. Our Sunday provision for children is now called The Lighthouse Club and has on average 7-8 children. Our toddlers group, Seedlings, is thriving and Jemima has taken various initiatives to help children feel welcomed and accepted at St Edyth's, as well as engaging with them beyond our walls.

We also have a paid cleaner for a few hours per week, who has taken on the cleaning of the church in addition to that of the church hall premises and we are grateful to the small team of church members who cleaned the church so willingly over many years before that.

### ***Leadership Team (voluntary or placement roles)***

We continue to benefit from the ministry of our Permission to Officiate retired minister (Hartmut Kopsch) and our Licensed Lay Minister (Elizabeth Fry). We are also blessed by a large number of the congregation in leadership roles. Strategic direction is initiated by the 'Standing Committee' (which comprises the Vicar, Treasurer and Churchwarden), which presents its proposals to the Parochial Church Council for consideration. We miss having two wardens and acknowledge our gratitude to Heather Daw who stood down at the APCM in April 2024.

Our worship in music has been developing over the last year or so, and Neil Thomas who carries the leadership of this ministry has been assisted by a number of musicians and singers in leading our worship on Sundays and at other times. Nearly twenty members of the congregation helped to lead the singing at our Carol Service.

A number of individuals lead our home/house groups, which are now renamed Life Groups, to reflect our core objectives, as they are groups to help people become full of the Life of Jesus. Most groups are flourishing, despite some setbacks due to ill-health or injury.

Following a Vision Day in March 2024, and subsequent planning and prayer by working parties, three members of the PCC led us in preparing vision plans for Belong, Believe and Become, which were presented at our Vision Action Day in September 2024 and have been preached on in that term. These groups are continuing to meet for prayer, planning and leading us further on in these objectives. New signage has been designed and rolled out across our publicity and website to reflect these objectives.

We are grateful for the work of the Fabric Team, at a time when there are significant and expensive issues to address regarding weather proofing our building. As ever, we are helped enormously by the time and effort of Barrie Haven in numerous practical ways.

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We are extremely grateful for our Hospitality Team, led by Barbara Hewer, and acknowledge what a strength this brings to our community. It is through them that we are able to help people feel truly welcomed.

Following the ordination of our previous ordinand (Graham Baker), we have been delighted to welcome two new ordinands on placement with us from Trinity College – Archie Torbett and Steffanie Nantes. We are enjoying the different contributions they bring to our community.

### ***Implementation of Objectives***

#### **Belong**

We have introduced a new Welcome Pack, a term card and other materials, and are growing an enlarged Welcome Team, with different responsibilities to enable newcomers to be made as welcome as they would like to be. We are reviewing new ways to help people have a real sense of belonging and of entering a place that is safe and a real sanctuary for those who need that.

#### **Believe**

Alongside the Alpha course which is beginning in the Spring term 2025, we are encouraging prayer for revival, for our community and for our outreach in the broadest sense. We are looking ahead to our centenary in 2028 and praying about ways to celebrate this which will increase our contact with and our mission to our neighbours. A new team is meeting to consider how we support mission beyond our own doors – the External Mission Team, led by Rebecca Cross.

#### **Become**

We have taken various steps towards deepening our discipleship at St Edyth's, including helping our Life Groups to find appropriate material to study, encouraging prayer triplets to spring up – there are now several meeting monthly or more frequently - and reviewing our prayer ministry and pastoral care, as well as developing our prayer life further. There are plans for three termly extended prayer times in 2025.

### ***Partnerships***

#### **ASMA**

We continue to enjoy the fellowship and support of the other Avonside Mission Area (ASMA) churches. We have been able to offer a venue for a Bereavement Course, have appreciated the ministry of the two ASMA curates and the new ASMA Ministry Experience Scheme student, and we have provided, via our Parish Administrator, some joint safeguarding training for others in the Mission Area. Two or three times a year, we have joined in celebrating our partnership and some of us have appreciated taking part in the ASMA Lent course.

#### **SMCI**

SMCI (Sea Mills Community Initiative) activities (including the Café on the Square, whose bakers use our kitchen on a regular basis), Kintsugi Hope, Dancercise, and Transforming Lives for Good which offers a free breakfast once a week during school holidays on the premises at Sea Mills Primary School, have all been thriving as extensions of our mission to our community in Sea Mills and Coombe Dingle.

## TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

### *Highgrove*

Our relationship with Highgrove Church is flourishing as we work together in various ways, including leading assemblies and lessons at Sea Mills Primary School, and for a joint service at dawn on Easter Day. The vicar of St Edyth's and the leaders of Highgrove meet regularly to pray with one another.

### *Diocese of Bristol*

We have a helpful partnership with the Diocese of Bristol and appreciate the support of our Archdeacon (Rev Becky Waring) who preached at our 2024 Remembrance Day service. Two members of our PCC are on Deanery Synod. The vicar and another member of the PCC (Elizabeth Marks) became members of the Diocesan Synod in 2024. The Diocese provided a Triennial Inspection by the Archdeacon as well as a Quinquennial Inspection by our newly appointed Church Architect. This raised a number of issues regarding our fabric which are being addressed by the Fabric Team.

### *Community outreach*

Our premises are available to the community and in February 2024 we were able to respond to a tragedy that unfolded in a property within the parish, offering a space for grieving to the whole of the neighbourhood and to the school staff who were dramatically affected by this; we appreciated the support from Bristol City Council.

We have also provided space for the local health centre to help their patients access the new online booking system; a local dementia support group has provided information to the community; various other groups hire our halls for Pilates, Quilting and Slimming activities; we receive a modest but helpful income from the hire of the hall for this and for parties and other occasional events.

## **Financial Review**

The Financial Statements for 2024 have been prepared on the Receipts & Payments basis, in line with practice from prior years.

The total income for the year was £ 146,505 (2023: £155,850) and the total expenses amounted to £147,255 (2023: £138,292), resulting in a net deficit of £750 (2023: surplus of £17,558).

Our Parish Share Contribution for 2024 amounted to £53,148 (2023: £53,148) and represents our major expense commitment. This contribution funds the salaries and other employment costs of clergy, payable by the Church of England.

The other Designated & Restricted Funds' balances have also continued to track their balances, as expected, in line with planned activities and expected charges/liabilities during 2024.

The Closing Balances for the various Main Funds were as follows:

General Fund	£47,100 (2023: £57,925)
Fabric Fund	£36,793 (2023: £29,527)
CYFM Fund	£40,204 (2023: £36,831)

The total Fund position as at 31<sup>st</sup> December is £129,764 (2023: £130,514).

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### Reserves Policy

The policy of the PCC is to retain sufficient cash reserves in the General Fund equivalent to between 6 and 9 months projected General Expenses. For 2025, this range is estimated to be between £45,000 and £67,500. The PCC had agreed to transfer £15,000 (2023: £8,000) from the General Fund to the Fabric Fund to pay for planned (such as repointing) or unforeseen expenditure on the fabric of the Church.

The trustees have considered the going concern status of the charity and conclude that there are no material uncertainties affecting the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. This has also been considered in the context of the cash position at the date of signing along with future cash projections.

### Administrative Information

St Edyth's Church is situated in Sea Mills, part of the Diocese of Bristol within the Church of England. The correspondence address is Avonleaze, Sea Mills, Bristol, BS9 2HU.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity which is registered with the Charity Commission No: 1141128 as "The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Edyth's"

### Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are the trustees of the charity.

### PCC members' responsibilities in respect of the financial statements

The PCC members are responsible for keeping sufficient accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the parish and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the parish and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 3rd March 2025

Signed on their behalf by: Rev Sally Thomas

Rev Sally Thomas, Vicar

## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

<b>Charity name</b>	The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Edyth's known as <i>St Edyth's Church, Sea Mills</i>		
<b>Charity registration number</b>	1141128		
<b>Principal office</b>	Avonleaze, Sea Mills, Bristol, BS9 2HU		
<b>Registered office</b>	Avonleaze, Sea Mills, Bristol, BS9 2HU		
<b>Trustees</b>	<p><b>Officers</b></p> <p>Rev Sally Thomas (Vicar)</p> <p>David Spottiswoode (Churchwarden)</p> <p>Heather Daw (Churchwarden, resigned April 2024)</p> <p><b>Ex Officio</b></p> <p>Elizabeth Marks, Deanery Synod rep.</p> <p>Chris Wright, Deanery Synod rep</p> <p><b>Elected members</b></p> <p>Teresa Goodall</p> <p>Zac Abraham (Treasurer)</p> <p>Peter Marks</p> <p>Emma Speakman</p> <p>Chris Woodhouse Appointed 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024</p> <p>Graham Baker Resigned 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024</p> <p>Mark Temple Resigned 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024</p> <p><b>Co-opted members</b></p> <p>Elizabeth Fry (Licensed Lay Minister)</p>		
<b>Independent Examiner</b>	Joshua Kingston, BSc ACA Burton Sweet Limited The Clock Tower, 5 Farleigh Court, Old Weston Road, Flax Bourton, Bristol BS48 1UR		



## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

### Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of The PCC St Edyth's, Sea Mills

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The PCC St Edyth's, Sea Mills (the Charity) for the year ended 31 December 2024.

### Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

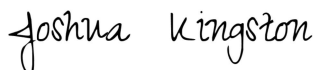
I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

### Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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



Joshua Kingston BSc ACA  
Burton Sweet Limited  
The Clock Tower  
5 Farleigh Court  
Old Weston Road  
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Bristol BS48 1UR

Date: 3 March, 2025

# THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST EDYTH'S

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

## RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£
<b>RECEIPTS</b>				
Grants received	6,795	725	7,520	2,752
Donations	71,650	15,119	86,769	106,938
Gift Aid received	15,076	4,688	19,764	19,231
<i>Charitable activities</i>				
Fees for services	908	-	908	656
Church activities	575	2,293	2,868	913
Hall rental	13,581	-	13,581	10,405
Investment income	5,180	-	5,180	2,973
Other income- from transmitter and solar panels	9,915	-	9,915	11,982
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<u>123,680</u>	<u>22,825</u>	<u>146,505</u>	<u>155,850</u>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>				
<b>Charitable activities</b>				
<i>Grants made:</i>				
Parish Share	53,148	-	53,148	53,148
Other giving	2,740	1,180	3,920	27,914
Ministry expenses	1,704	2,402	4,106	3,187
Capital expenses	1,651	-	1,651	7,795
<b>Costs of charitable activities</b>				
Wages and other staff costs	25,262	15,574	40,836	17,233
Heat, light & cleaning	11,633	627	12,260	9,486
Repairs & maintenance	16,602	-	16,602	2,952
Insurance	4,936	-	4,936	4,550
Office expenses	4,295	123	4,418	4,355
Governance Costs	3,880	-	3,880	4,074
Bank charges	138	-	138	139
Miscellaneous expenses	1,250	110	1,360	3,459
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<u>127,239</u>	<u>20,016</u>	<u>147,255</u>	<u>138,292</u>
<b>NET RECEIPTS/(PAYMENTS)</b>	(3,559)	2,809	(750)	17,558
<b>Transfers between funds</b>	-	-	-	-
Cash funds 1 January 2024	87,452	43,062	130,514	112,956
<b>Cash funds 31 December 2024</b>	<u>83,893</u>	<u>45,871</u>	<u>129,764</u>	<u>130,514</u>

# THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST EDYTH'S

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

## STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
<b>Cash funds</b>				
Bank and cash balances	83,893	45,871	129,764	130,514
<b>Other monetary assets</b>				
Gift Aid not yet claimed	1,213	-	1,213	3,564
	1,213	-	1,213	3,564
<b>Assets retained for the church's own use</b>				
Solar panels (cost £20,870)	1,217	-	1,217	3,304
Equipment (cost £18,570)	4,280	-	4,280	6,004
	5,497	-	5,497	9,308

### Cash fund balances at 31 December 2024

	Balance 1 January 2024	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance 31 December 2024
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
General fund	57,925	116,835	(112,660)	(15,000)	47,100
Fabric fund	29,527	6,845	(14,579)	15,000	36,793
	87,452	123,680	(127,239)	-	83,893
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
Flower fund	158	-	(158)	-	-
Mums and tots	777	1,403	(1,265)	-	915
Solar panels	627	-	(627)	-	-
Youthwork	36,831	18,619	(15,246)	-	40,204
Make Lunch	4,446	1,695	(1,780)	-	4,361
Vicar's discretionary fund	223	208	(40)	-	391
Giving fund	-	900	(900)	-	-
	43,062	22,825	(20,016)	-	45,871
<b>Total</b>	<b>130,514</b>	<b>146,505</b>	<b>(147,255)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>129,764</b>

These financial statement were approved by the trustees on 3 March, 2025 and are signed on their behalf by:

*Rev Sally Thomas*  
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Rev Sally Thomas, Vicar