

Charity Registration No. 1147737

**ST CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH, HINCHEY WOOD
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S
PLATINUM JUBILEE
Celebration of Faith & Service
1953 - 2023



SUNDAY 5TH FEBRUARY

CONSECRATION ANNIVERSARY

SATURDAY 15TH / SUNDAY 16TH JULY

SUMMER FESTIVAL

SUNDAY 15TH OCTOBER

YOUR FUTURE CHURCH

A JUBILEE IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO:

- LOOK BACK AT WHAT WE HAVE BEEN
- CELEBRATE WHAT WE ARE NOW
- LOOK FORWARD TO WHAT WE COULD BE

www.stchristopherschurch.org.uk

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LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Parochial Church Council

Ex-Officio Members:

Vicar: Revd. Peter Jenner

Associate Minister: Revd. Caroline Mullins

Churchwardens: Mr Simon Crome (From APCM 2020 until APCM 2023)

Mrs Jane Barnett (from APCM 2022)

Deanery Synod Representative: Mrs Jean Hoseason (from APCM 2020)

Elected Members:

Mrs Heather Allen

Mr John O'Neill (until APCM 2023)

Miss Stephanie Post

Mrs Margaret Thompson

Co-opted members

(None)

Charity Number 1147737

Independent examiner	Frances Wilde FCCA DChA Warner Wilde Chartered Certified Accountants 4 Marigold Drive Bisley Surrey GU24 4QS
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Bankers	Co-operative Bank Plc P.O. Box 250 Delf House Southway Skelmersdale WN8 6WT
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	Lloyds Bank plc Surbiton Branch 1 Claremont Road Surbiton Surrey KT6 4QS
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ST CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH, HINCHLEY WOOD PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The PCC meets six times a year to take the main policy decisions of the church. The Standing Committee is a statutory group which consists of the Church Warden, Vicar and Officers of the PCC. It meets when necessary to conduct the day-to-day business and implement the policies of the PCC, and reports to the PCC.

The Parochial Church Council have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks. Maintenance, repair, or replacement of essential installations is carried out periodically so that key operational objectives of St Christopher's are delivered. Fire safety inspections occur annually ensuring that high-risk areas are adequately supplied with fire safety equipment. All building and liability insurances are in place reducing financial risk. The PCC has ensured that the church complies with the latest safeguarding policies and practices for children and vulnerable adults issued by the House of Bishops and has a safeguarding officer to whom any concerns can be directed.

Objectives and activities

The charity's objectives are to co-operate with the vicar, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC also has maintenance responsibilities for St Christopher's. The Parochial Church Council have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake. A summary of the activities carried out has been incorporated within the 'Achievements and Performance' section of the PCC report.

Achievements and Performance

Overview of 2023

This was a year when we celebrated our Platinum Jubilee: 70 years of services at St Christopher's. In February we celebrated our Consecration Service, the first service held in the church, by commencing proceedings in the hall as they did 70 years ago. We welcomed people who had been at that service and others who were married or baptised in the early years of our church building. Our Patronal Festival was celebrated in July and our final Jubilee Celebration Service was in October when we looked forward to the future.

Sunday morning services have continued in hybrid format throughout the year. There are a few people who like the option of being able to join in the worship from their home. In addition to services based on the liturgical calendar, we have celebrated Climate Sunday and Safeguarding Sunday.

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There have been extra services to the Sunday Eucharist on: Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, All Souls Sunday, Remembrance Sunday, the Nine Lessons and Carols Service, the Christmas Eve Crib Service, Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve and a Eucharist on Christmas Day. Messy Church sessions were held to celebrate Christingle in January for Epiphany, Good Friday and Pentecost.

Together@Ten Services began for Harvest and continued on 1st Sundays, celebrating All Saints Day in November and Christingle in December.

Social events began with a Winter Poetry and Music evening organised by Heather Allen. An event that has been held before and appreciated for its restful, calm and inspiring atmosphere. There were two very successful Quiz Nights, organised by Derek and Jane Barnett, that were both attended by over one hundred happy people and raised a large sum of money on both occasions. The King's Coronation on May 6th was marked with an indoor street party when we watched the whole proceedings on a large screen. It was great to welcome people from the wider community. In mid-July, as part of our Jubilee celebrations, we held a very successful Fun Day with an animal petting farm that included a snake, goat, tortoises, miniature pig and other small animals. The event was held inside due to the very high winds but everyone enjoyed the bouncy castle in the church! The event attracted several hundred people that included friends, the families of our congregation and children from the Nursery and Primary School. Everyone enjoyed the refreshments and side shows.

We held a Macmillan Coffee Morning at the end of September; great coffee and great cakes all donated by our congregation. In October, we sponsored a Zumbathon in memory of Maria Mitchell (one of our hirers); the event raised money for the mental health charity Mind. Anthony Cairns gave us an amazing Jubilee Organ Recital. It was evident from the number of people attending that this was something very much appreciated. Our Christmas Lunch, held at The Angel Pub, was very successful, a great meal and no washing up for any of us! Thank you to Simon Crome for organising. A group from our congregation went along to Gibson Court, a retirement housing complex, to sing carols with the people who live there. A festive evening with refreshments provided for us after the singing.

Parish life depends on many more people than just the clergy, churchwarden and PCC. There are those who help out on the various rotas for readers and intercessors, chalice assistants and welcomers, and for serving refreshments after services. There are a number of areas of parish life that other people organise and which they can describe better than me, and I am grateful to them for their reports below: Tea & Hymns, Together@Ten, Safeguarding, Hearing Clinic, Baptisms, Fabric of the Church, the Choir, a Hearing Clinic, Pastoral Ministry, Prayer Chain, the Mothers' Union, Deanery Synod, the Men's Group and Eco Church. Ann Ellis continues to maintain the electoral roll. As I look back over the last year, there is the unfortunate certainty that I will have overlooked others whose contributions deserve particular appreciation.

Jane Barnett, Church Warden

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THE PROCEEDINGS OF ST. CHRISTOPHER'S PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL, 2023

PCC meeting 16th January 2023

Ben Bartlett, CEO of the Hinchley Wood Learning Partnership, was welcomed to the meeting. He informed the PCC of a plan to erect a canopy in the senior school playground next to the boundary fence with the church. We supported his proposal.

There was a discussion regarding the need to update our church development plan.

The PCC made plans regarding the Jubilee Services and events.

The treasurer had circulated the finance report and we were delighted to note a very healthy surplus at the year end. This was brought about, in part, by the vaccination centre hiring our premises.

The Churchwarden reported on the difficulty of finding a cleaner who would be happy to work at weekends. Feedback was provided on our Christmas lunch at the Angel and on our Christmas Café event.

A list was drawn up indicating who would write particular reports for the forthcoming APCM.

A maintenance report was circulated indicating an expensive amount of electrical work needed, mainly in the hall roof space.

A proposal was circulated for a replacement church sign/noticeboard.

PCC meeting 27th February 2023

Peter had attended a webinar on stewardship and Caroline had attended the Bishops' Study Day for the Clergy which concentrated on Creation and Eco-friendly practices.

There was much discussion with regard to the forthcoming APCM.

The treasurer gave an updated report on finances.

A report was given on the closing down of Hinchley Wood Fellowship and this was to be included in the Church's Annual Report.

PCC meeting 2nd May 2023

The PCC is concerned with the vacancies for one Churchwarden and six elected members for the PCC.

In addition to requesting approval of her Safeguarding Report – February 2023 from the Parish Dashboard (Guildford Diocese), Julia Bowden, the Safeguarding Officer for St Christopher's, had raised a number of points for consideration and reporting on. The PCC discussed all the issues involved and agreed on the necessary action. The PCC voted to adopt the Statement of Safeguarding Policy and the Safeguarding Report by majority.

The treasurer reported on current income and expenditure. Expenditure on gas was colossal at £5,810.62 as opposed to that of the first quarter of 2022 (£1,883), despite attempts to cut the heating.

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It was decided that Heather, Peter, Margaret and Jane would be cheque signatories for the Co-Op Bank this year. Margaret and Heather already held debit cards for expenditure on e.g. social events, decorations etc. and maintenance items such as light fittings. Jane would also be issued with a debit card.

Jane reported on the plans for the Jubilee Fun Day on Saturday 14 July. She had organised the stalls and arranged for people to run them. She sought the PCC's opinion on charges. A discussion followed. Jane was pleased to report that local traders had been very generous with fourteen promises of raffle prizes.

A maintenance report had been circulated and included details of:

- ☐ Failure of hot water dispenser in the hall kitchen.
- ☐ Implementation of the Heatmiser App for all heating.
- ☐ Need to hire a scaffold for a day or two to replace the batteries in the fire sensors at the top of the church ceiling.
- ☐ John O'Neill was dealing with some small areas of repainting following electrical works.
- ☐ Forthcoming Portable Appliance Testing.
- ☐ Safety issue with the hall solar panels, and there seemed to be a problem with the metering of the church ones.

PCC meeting 19th June 2023

PCC members were reminded to check their certificates/records to see if they needed safeguarding re-training after three years.

We had a discussion for topics/themes for our forthcoming Vision Day. The Parish Needs Process suggests that that each Church should set up small cell-groups. These would not be prayer groups but house-groups lasting for nine months or a year, after which they should split to form new groups - like cells. It was decided that everyone should prepare a five-minute presentation on ideas for vision for the growth of our church.

The treasurer had provided a report, including the balance sheet and details of income and expenditure up to 31 May 2023. Use of the Heatmiser App for controlling the heating in the hall and the church allowed for better control of usage and would hopefully lower future gas bills.

The red stacking chairs were very comfortable but the racks on the chairbacks for putting hymn books in them had prevented efficient stacking and several chairs had been damaged as a result. The PCC agreed that the racks should be removed.

It was agreed that one welcomer should be sufficient for services, with a second welcomer in place for special services e.g. Christmas, Easter, baptisms. A duty Churchwarden should also be in place to check on everyone who has a role to play in the service, e.g. Intercessors, tea/coffee makers. Whoever is there as a welcomer or

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duty Churchwarden should at least be aware of the Church's Postcode and the whereabouts of the First Aid Kit.

A maintenance report had been circulated, a digest of the Quinquennial Report and a list of tasks following the report in order of urgency. Some of these had already been completed. An estimate was received from heating engineer, Jason Amendt for fixing the Hall water heater involving freezing the pipes to isolate them, fixing valves and installing a pump to remove the water from the cylinder. Everyone agreed that this should be done.

The PCC agreed that thought should be given to removing two WCs and hand wash basins, in the hall near the stage, which were not in use.

The portable appliance testing had been done. Simon had arranged for electrical work to be completed on the roof in the Hall. The PCC also agreed that thought should be given to de-commissioning the present fire-alarm system in the church.

Appreciation was expressed for John O'Neill's maintenance work.

PCC meeting 25th September 2023

Details were shared about the forthcoming Christmas community event in the Memorial Gardens on Thursday 30th November. We were also given all the 2024 dates for our diaries for the Parish Needs Process in 2024.

The PCC agreed to sponsor the Zumbathon being held in memory for Maria Mitchell in aid of Mind.

A detailed financial report was given by the treasurer that included an unbudgeted electrical expense of £11k+

It was decided to get our solar panels serviced and updated.

PCC meeting 13th November 2023

Time was spent discussing the response from the congregation on a recent survey regarding the future of St Christopher's. The focus of the discussion was about growing our congregation, particularly to include families with children.

It was reported that the new noticeboard, costing £2,510.62 (from Bob Filby's legacy money) was installed and looks very smart.

Our treasurer was pleased to report a surplus of nearly £3,000 for the months January – October and it was possible that St Christopher's would break even, and on-budget, by the end of the year. However, heating costs remained a serious concern, and any increase in income from hiring would be highly desirable to offset these.

Peter confirmed that he had commissioned an energy audit and now needed to fix a date for both the Church and the Hall.

Simon Crome had provided a very comprehensive report of works done since the last maintenance report and those yet to be carried out. Work was being done to increase the efficiency of the solar panels. Further thought was needed on repairing or replacing the hall kitchen boiler.

Jane Barnett, Church Warden

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SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding training and practices continue to be regularly updated at St Christopher's. The PCC has complied with the duty to have "due regard" to the House of Bishops' guidance in relation to safeguarding. All members of our PCC are aware of our safeguarding policy/guidance and are offered appropriate training for their roles. The House of Bishops' 'Promoting a Safer Church' safeguarding policy statement continues to be adopted as the Parish Safeguarding Policy.

Details about how to contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor and the Parish Safeguarding Officer are on display in the church and easily accessible on our parish website. To help keep St Christopher's a safe space for all, risk assessments, including consideration of safeguarding risks, are completed and agreed for all church activities. DBS checks are also applied for, or renewed, using an online platform.

In line with updated guidance from the diocese our records have been updated to reflect the fact that that Pastoral Workers and Occasional Preachers will no longer be required to complete Leadership Safeguarding Training. It was also confirmed with the diocese that communion assistants did not require any safeguarding training.

St Christophers' joined in with the national Safeguarding Sunday event on 19th November 2023 in order to promote our community's positive awareness of safeguarding.

Guildford Diocese continues to use a safeguarding dashboard, an online tool to assist each parish to maintain a record of all safeguarding issues and it automatically keeps us up to date with local and national changes in safeguarding requirements. The safeguarding audit is also contained in the dashboard and action plans are produced which are discussed at PCC meetings and are used to inform all safeguarding decisions.

Julia Bowden, Parish Safeguarding Officer

HEARING CLINICS

After retraining at Kingston Hospital, Caroline re-started the NHS Hearing Clinics at St Christopher's Church. These are a partnership between Guildford Diocese and Kingston Hospital NHS Trust. This is a FREE service for people with NHS hearing aids and includes basic maintenance, battery supply, cleaning and re-tubing, troubleshooting and advice.

Caroline Mullins, Associate Minister

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BAPTISMS

Baptism enquiries picked up this year after 3 years of Covid restrictions, and it was a joy to baptise 5 children and one adult in 2023. It has also been lovely to be able to visit the families in their homes and to get to know them a bit.

I have continued to send out anniversary cards from the St Christopher's Church family on the anniversary of each child's baptism, which we do for 4 years. It is also great to see some of the baptism families coming along to services on a Sunday morning.

Caroline Mullins, Associate Minister

TOGETHER@TEN

This is a new initiative that we began in October. The idea is to worship together as single people, families, children, and older people in a different format from the normal 10am service and in a relaxed way. We noticed that services where people know what to expect (e.g. Harvest and Christingle) have been better attended than others. To date, the services have all been Eucharistic, but we all sit at tables with plenty of activities to do and receive either communion or a blessing in a wide circle. There are also opportunities for children and adults to join in with the reading, prayers, bringing up the communion, to sing with the choir and to tell us what they like and anything else they'd like to see. We plan to conduct a review after T@T has been running for a year and see where we go next.

Caroline Mullins, Associate Minister

TEA & HYMNS

We were able to restart Tea & Hymns in 2022 after Covid restrictions eased, and it has continued in 2023 to be popular, not only with St Christopher's regulars but with others who have heard about it and those who aren't able to get to the 10 am service. Tea & Hymns is on the 4th Sunday of each month, 4-5pm. We sing familiar, well-loved hymns (with a bit of explanation about some of the hymns' themes); we drink tea and eat homemade cake; and we finish with the Lord's Prayer in the traditional version and a blessing. The service is intentionally dementia-friendly, but open to everyone. The hymns are usually a mix of those chosen by me and those requested by people who come. We follow the Church year's seasons to some extent. We were also blessed in 2023 by a teenager (accompanied by his mother) from Hinchley Wood School who came to volunteer as part of his Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award and who offered us his time and learnt some new baking, table setting and waiting skills.

Caroline Mullins, Associate Minister

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FABRIC OF THE CHURCH

A. Inspecting, testing and servicing

The routine annual tests, inspections and servicing were carried out. So far as any remedial works were identified by those tests, etc., they were addressed in the course of those tests, etc.

There were no other periodic inspections due in 2023 (and none are due in the coming year).

Exceptional inspections were conducted of the solar power, for both the church and the hall, and an advisory energy efficiency and zero carbon survey was also conducted, again of both the church and the hall.

- ☐ The testing of the solar panels identified a defective meter in the church, which has now been replaced.
- ☐ The energy efficiency survey has identified a number of possible measures, at various levels of expenditure, for the PCC to consider.

There was more work than usual on the major musical instruments. The usual tuning and servicing was conducted, but later a problem with the blower arose and had to be fixed, and a further tuning was required to bring the organ to its best for Anthony Cairn's Jubilee Organ Recital in October.

B. Matters arising from inspecting, testing and servicing

2023 started with a flurry of work arising from the five-yearly fixed electrical testing of the church and hall. There was a substantial amount of work required, both in the church and the hall. We took the opportunity to make some minor improvements as well, including putting the boilers and the organ each on its own dedicated electrical circuits and improving access to power points in the church. A happy discovery was that the power points on the far side of the hall had been reconnected when the squirrel damage had been addressed in the previous year, saving some work and expense.

The 2022 Quinquennial Inspection Report was finalised in February. Those matters identified as needing attention by the end of 2023 have been addressed. The matters prioritised for 2024 are receiving attention now. A looming concern is that the flat roof around the church will need replacing at some point, at which time we should look at improving the insulation under it. Fortunately, we have benefited greatly from the professional skills of John O'Neill, who has managed to keep the flat roof going on a make do and mend basis.

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C. Other maintenance jobs in the budget for 2023

The old Youth Room in the hall is now, and has for some time, been used only as a storeroom. The wooden steps that used to provide a fire escape were rotten, and even if replaced they served no practical use as a fire escape. The steps have been removed and work is under way to complete the task by disabling the old fire door and rectifying the now misleading escape signage. In the event of fire, on the odd occasion anyone is in that storeroom, there are several escape routes through the main hall.

The old church notice board fell down in a gust of wind and was then run over by a vehicle. A new notice board has been put up, in a better position where it is easily readable by passers-by on Claygate Lane.

We had hoped to sweep up and dispose of the gravel on the front car park but, whilst it would be a nice thing to do, it has not yet been a sufficiently urgent or important task to get done.

We looked at repairing the drainage of the font, but the plant required to hoist the font put the cost and effort of the job outside the scope we had originally foreseen.

D. Matters arising in the course of 2023

As the year progressed, unanticipated problems arose. The catering water boiler in the hall kitchen failed and was beyond economical repair. Whilst it was a desirable piece of equipment when the kitchen was being used for large scale catering, those occasions were very rare. For the time being, a couple of electrical kettles an adequate provision while we consider the cost and the benefit of replacing the machine.

John O'Neill kindly supplied covers for the rainwater drains around the church, to avoid the drains becoming clogged with leaves, etc.

Our plumber, Jason Amendt, assisted by the technical expertise of Fr. Peter and the drive of Jane Barnett, succeeded in installing a Heatmiser thermostat in the Hall, allowing the heating there to be controlled remotely via a 'phone app.

The redundant hot water tank in the hall boiler room was removed.

A vehicle caught and damaged the post at the end of the fence on the left of the vehicle exit onto Claygate Lane. John fixed the post but, as it has received a number of blows over the years, he also shortened the fence slightly, by 6" or so, to help drivers miss the fence when they drive through.

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Hinchley Wood School had approached the PCC about erecting a canopy to shelter pupils when they took breaks outside, alongside the old fence by the hall on the southern side of the church. The first stage was to replace the fence with a new, taller, mesh fence, with a 2 metre fabric screen running along it. This also involved removing a number of scrubby trees that ran along the boundary, which is a great benefit to us as their leaves fouled the hall's gutters every autumn. Those works have been completed, by the school, and the school is currently applying for planning permission for the canopy itself.

The church was finally empty long enough for John to perform the extremely noisy task of replacing the defective sections of the internal cast iron rainwater pipe in the bell tower.

The decking outside the hall had rotted, producing a hazardous hole, John repaired it, including providing access hatches to drains which had been covered over by the decking, and treated the whole surface with decking oil, before the return of the nursery school after the summer holidays.

John also put a considerable amount of work into clearing the guttering of the hall to remove debris and improve flow. The guttering near the canopy over the decking is particularly hard to reach. He has also been installing 'hedgehog' brushes in the gutters, to stop debris getting in in future. (He would have finished installing the hedgehogs by the end of 2023, but the weather turned foul, so the last lengths should be installed soon.)

There has long been a problem with the backs of the chairs in the church needing repair. It was realised that this was caused by the book racks fixed to the rear, which were forcing the chair backs away from the frames as the chairs were stacked. The racks have now been removed from the chairs and they stack far better.

In the hall, the kitchen boiler, which provides the hot water for the sink, stopped igniting, so had to be repaired.

In the church, the water heater in the rear WC burst its tank and had to be replaced. Later, the one in the disabled WC fell off the wall and had to be re-fixed in place.

The external lighting along the drive stopped working. Hinchley Wood School's electrician kindly had a look and suggested it was the result of rodent damage to wiring alongside the outside of the hall. We got an electrician in to repair the cabling and put it in protective conduiting, and John then went to repair the wooden housing along the outside of the hall.

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This proved to be a major task, as the original job had a multitude of defects, such as having been built directly on bare earth, and covering over a drain but providing no access hatch to clear the drain. John was working in really cold and wet conditions to get the job done and the wires and pipes properly boxed in and insulated, so he deserves our great thanks.

December ended the year with gusto. Both the boilers in the church failed together just as the weather was getting really cold. The boilers were out of warranty, but the problem was of a scale which needed the manufacturers to come in and repair them.

And then ... the main lighting in the hall developed a general but erratic fault. Some lights would fail to switch on or had prolonged delays in their illumination. John erected the tower and examined them, but it turned out that the fluorescent tubes were all working, and the starter units could not be found. An electrician examined them, and his diagnosis was that the lighting units had all come to the end of their life. They would need to be replaced, but fluorescent lighting was being phased out so they should be replaced with more eco-friendly LED lighting. This has been done, and happily the electrician could do the job between Christmas and New Year, and the hall is marvellously and reliably bright.

E. Gardening

Once more, many thanks are due to Derek Barnett for his labours in keeping the Garden of Remembrance mown, and to him and Jane for keeping the Garden of Remembrance in a respectable state. They have also been responsible for dealing with some of the problems with ivy damaging the boundary fences. Fortunately, Chris Beaney, who keeps the general vegetation around the church in check once a month, was able to deal with the ivy on the fencing beside the hall, about which a neighbour was complaining.

A general appreciation of the fabric of the church at the end of 2023

The church is wind and watertight. It is usable, but it definitely would benefit from a spa treatment to make it look its best – to make it look as though it was thriving, rather than fading away. The general structure, though, is sound even though bits of it are feeling their age.

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The electrical systems have been put in a good state, although the solar power part probably ought to be brought more fully into our inspection and testing routine. Apart from the problem with the draining of the font (which is readily worked around) the plumbing seems in an adequate state, although there remains a mystery as to the whereabouts of the mains stopcock.

The hot water systems are working and the central heating is working, although we are still looking into quite why the boilers did fail and what could be done to avoid a future failure of that kind. With Heatmiser controls in both church and hall, the temperature can be regulated from a mobile 'phone app, resulting in improved control and efficiency.

There are issues with the insulation in the church and hall. When the heating is off, the residual heat disperses quickly. An energy efficiency survey was conducted at the end of last year, and the report has now been received and can be considered. One obvious cause for concern is the use of steel framed, single-glazed, Crittall windows, which let heat pass nearly as readily as light. A start has been made on obtaining an initial estimate for double glazing the church. Without that, we are in the dark as to the whole scope of such an undertaking, but with it we could set up a suitable project to address the glazing.

A similar bit of work, but rather more advanced, has been conducted on replacing the 'rainwater goods': the gutters, hoppers and downpipes. The existing cast iron gutters and drains can be kept going, but that involves work to keep them adequate, and a great deal of work to make them fully presentable visually. Replacement with new, PVC, guttering would seem to have many advantages.

As was mentioned earlier, at some point the flat roof will need to be replaced, but that is not yet imminent.

It was noted well before the pandemic, but remains true, that the church does need redecoration. The most part of that is internal, but externally the gutters and pipes are due repainting and the oak doors need sprucing up. By now they will probably soak up oil by the gallon. There is also work needed on the bell tower: the outsides of the windows are not accessible from inside, so a tall scaffold would be required.

St. Christopher's has chosen to be an eco-church. We look to what may be saved in the future, but in the short term we must remember that that is not a cheap commitment.

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We are very grateful to John O'Neill for all the work he does for the church, much of it without any recompense, and especially for his guidance as to what is sufficient to fix a problem. Unfortunately, most tradesmen are reluctant to make do and mend, because their only way to be sure there will be no come back on them is to do the full job and do it thoroughly (which would be nice were money no object). However, the number of people who can take an active part in maintaining the church does grow fewer with age, and we need to bear in mind that John, despite being retired, not only has other things to do but also has not yet discovered the secret of eternal youth.

Thanks should also go to Jason Amendt for the kindness and attentiveness with which he deals with our plumbing and heating problems. Lately his wife has been assisting him, so our thanks should also go out to her.

For information - My term as churchwarden came to an end on 31st August 2023. Since then, I have held no formal post or responsibility in the church, but I have been assisting our remaining churchwarden, Jane Barnett, with the maintenance part of the role.

Simon Crome

ELECTORAL ROLL

Each year, in the month leading up to the APCM, a formal revision of the Electoral Roll is undertaken. Certain updates may take place during the year, but the annual revision is my opportunity to consolidate these, and to publish the revised Roll. During the revision new applicants may be added. Parishioners who have died, moved out of the area, or requested to leave the Roll are removed. Personal details of those remaining on the Roll can be updated.

In the last year, since April 2023, we have received 3 new applications. However, sadly, we have said goodbye to 2 long-standing parishioners, who have passed away. So, as Electoral Roll Officer, I can report that as of 23rd March 2024 the number on the Electoral Roll of St. Christophers' Church is 67.

Looking forward, next year (2025), a revision will not take place. Instead, a completely new Electoral Roll will be compiled. This process occurs every 6th year. At this time everyone on the current Roll needs to complete a new application form. Anyone who does not do so will be removed from the Roll.

It is therefore important that I have up to date contact details, particularly postal addresses, for everyone on the Roll. Please contact me at any time if you need to update your personal details.

Further information about this process will, of course, be communicated next year. In the meantime, if you have any queries about the Electoral Roll generally, please get in touch with me at the email address below.

Ann Ellis

ST CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH, HINCHLEY WOOD PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

PASTORAL

During 2023 pastoral work has continued to be an important part of church life, although by its very nature it usually takes place behind the scenes.

Regular monthly home communion services for those who cannot get to church are held in people's homes, and due regard to safeguarding is followed.

Regular contact is kept with the more vulnerable members of St Christopher's, either by visiting when this is possible, or by telephone when more appropriate. Now that Covid restrictions are more relaxed this is becoming easier, although caution is always needed.

I am very grateful to members of St Christopher's Church who engage unofficially in this valuable pastoral ministry by offering lifts to those who need them, and to the many people who provide help and support to others.

My thanks to all those who help and give a listening ear to others.

Liz Hammond

PRAYER CHAIN

The Prayer Chain consists of members of St Christopher's, current and past, who commit to praying for others who would like us to pray for them. This can be because of illness or other difficulties. Requests are usually made by phone, email or personal contact and co-ordinated by Liz Hammond. Great care is taken to ensure that these requests are kept confidential to the group. Regular updates of changes or deaths etc are sent to all members.

We also meet quarterly after the morning Eucharist on 1st Sundays to pray together. Please contact Liz Hammond in the first instance, to pass on any requests or to join the prayer chain, by email on: prayerchain@stchristopherschurch.org.uk

Liz Hammond

DEANERY SYNOD

The first Meeting of the year was held on 14th March 2023 in our Church of St Christopher's, Hinchley Wood. The Speaker was Mr. Ray Lee, the Strategic Director for Elmbridge Borough Council, who is also a Member of Ewell Parish in Epsom Deanery.

He explained to us how Elmbridge Borough Council is open to utilising buildings to help cater for the needs for St. Peter's Church Hub in Molesey for a peppercorn rent

ST CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH, HINCHLEY

WOOD PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL'S

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

in the Henrietta Parker Centre – the Church provides the volunteers and the Council subsidizes the rent for the premises which covers the Food Bank, Night Shelter, Youth Club, Day Centre and many other activities. Volunteers for all these activities at the Henrietta Parker Community Centre do not necessarily have to come from St. Peter's Church Hub.

The vicar of St. Peter's Church, Molesey also spoke to the Synod about how the Church Hub works. Not all church premises are suitable for such an arrangement with Elmbridge Borough Council, but St. Christopher's might well be, but we would not wish to lose out on our hire arrangement with the National Blood Transfusion Service. A very interesting meeting.

The second Deanery Synod of the year was held in June at St. Mary's, Oatlands when Rev. Richard Lloyd the head of the Diocesan Mission Enabler Team, came to speak about the Parish Needs Process which is being rolled out across the Diocese. Emly Deanery was one of the first deaneries to undertake the PNP and we were to hear how it has been modified before we go through the next stage. Richard also spoke on how small groups (or home groups) can be effective in growing discipleship.

The third and last Meeting of the year was held via Zoom on Wednesday, 11th October, when David Senior, a member of the Diocesan Enabler Team with a special focus on stewardship and evangelism, spoke to us via Zoom. I found this meeting very interesting and especially relevant to our parish of St Christopher's.

David spoke about how very helpful the Parish Giving Scheme is to those Parishes who have a shortage of volunteers who are able to undertake all the complications required to reclaim the Gift Aid Tax on behalf of the parish for all those parishioners who so generously donate funds on a monthly basis. The Parish Giving Scheme does all that for the donor's parish and automatically forwards the tax rebate each month, which means the parish does not have to wait, possibly a whole year, to receive a rebate.

Another great advantage to the Parish Giving Scheme is that each May (if the donor agrees) the scheme will calculate the cost of inflation and let the donor know by how much their donation would need to increase by, to take into account the rate of inflation. This is optional, but it does do away with having to have a Stewardship Campaign every few years because donations have been drastically eroded by inflation.

I would like to take the opportunity afforded by this report to urge any parishioners who do not currently donate via The Parish Giving Scheme to move over to it as soon as possible. It is very easy to do this. Simply put Parish Giving Scheme into your Search Engine and follow the instructions.

Jean Hoseason

ST CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH, HINCHLEY

WOOD PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL'S

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

MOTHERS' UNION

On January 22nd 2023 we held our AGM in the Lady Chapel. Through the year we met, had tea, watched the film Edie and had some excellent discussions around Sunday Worship and how we are all rich compared to so many others in our world – we have running, clean water, food and clothing, warmth through the cold times and shelter from the hot sun (when it appears!).

Members attended the Coronation Party in church in June, as well as the two Members' Meetings held at All Saints Church in Woodham in May and November. We held a Deanery Bring and Share Supper in July – attended by 19 members from 6 different deanery churches. Pippa Cramer from Holy Trinity Claygate spoke to us about the new 'Hymns We Love' series available for all to use. Each session discusses a well-known hymn with analysis of its origins, author and composer. Many hymns have very surprising histories. Caroline Mullins also spoke about our Tea & Hymns held on the fourth Sunday of the month. It was an excellent evening and we hope that future such suppers will be attended by more and more deanery members, along with their friends.

In August we had a small but select outing to Loseley Park for lunch and a lovely walk. Some members also helped out at the Summer Party given for families in need and families from the refuges around our Diocese. Members gave generously so that we could feed all those families who attended with a very varied picnic and to provide entertainment from a brilliant magician.

In September MU members from across the diocese joined the Annual Gathering in York. This was attended by over 750 members from all corners of the UK. Our Worldwide President Sheran Harper gave a heartfelt and impassioned talk, and other leaders presented in a variety of ways. The evening service in York Minster was a wonderful occasion, with the Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, preaching an energetic and engaging sermon.

As has become the annual mission of Hinchley Wood we put together 50 Christmas Bags for the ladies in the refuges. We are very grateful for the generous donations from local members and from members of the St. Christopher's congregation towards our Christmas Bags for Ladies in the Refuges. These comprise goods worth nearly £10 per bag, including a hot water bottle, a scarf plus chocolate/biscuits and a range of toiletries. We received many thanks and appreciation from the ladies, sent via the trustees.

Jean Hoseason

ST CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH, HINCHLEY

WOOD PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL'S

REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

ECO CHURCH

We are committed to ensuring that our church is as environmentally friendly as possible. We achieved our Silver Award under the A Rocha Eco Church scheme in 2021 and are continuing to look at how we can reduce our carbon footprint. The PCC discussed the Church of England's "Route Map to Net Zero" in September and voted to commit itself as far as possible to becoming net-zero by 2030 in the light of the climate emergency.

We completed our Energy Footprint return to the Diocese in August 2023 and also commissioned ESOS Energy to undertake energy audits of our church and hall in November 2023, as recommended by the Diocese. The audits made a number of recommendations. We have already implemented one of these, replacing all the strip lighting in the hall with LED replacements, and we will need to look at implementing those others that are currently affordable and consider how funds might be raised for the larger capital projects in the future.

We have continued to incorporate awareness of environmental issues into our worship in our prayers and hymns and held a special Climate Sunday service in September 2023. We have particularly prayed for The Great Green Wall project in Africa, which seeks to re-green a vast swathe of Africa affected by drought and a degradation of natural resources, helping communities mitigate and adapt to climate change as well as improve food security.

Our Lifestyle Group have continued to provide useful eco-tips to go into our weekly briefing that is sent to our wider community and also displayed them on our website and Facebook page; they also organised once again an e-Christmas Card to go to everyone on our distribution list.

The Buildings and Land Group have built a composting enclosure to deal with any green waste on site, which was one of their goals.

Heather Allen

CHURCH MUSICIANS

This year St. Christopher's Church Choir and Musicians have continued to support all the regular services. We are immensely grateful to our musicians, Dave Ellis and Anthony Cairns, who take turns to provide music on alternate Sundays. Their skills are very much appreciated. Both are able to get the best out of our small choir and enable us to vary the style of hymns to suit both the guitar and organ. As an added bonus, Dave and Anthony also join us in the choir when they are not playing.

ST CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH, HINCHLEY

WOOD PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL'S

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

St. Christopher's Jubilee year began in February with a Consecration Anniversary Service, which began in the Hall with Dave on guitar. During the second hymn the choir and congregation transitioned into the church, where the organ took over from the guitar. It was a very special service and having both the guitar and the organ was a treat.

As part of our Jubilee Celebrations, in October Anthony held an organ recital, treating the audience to a fascinating account of the workings of the organ, as well as introducing us to the various composers whose pieces were featured. The programme ranged from early composers such as J. P. Sweelinck (1562-1621) to William Matthias (1934-1992) and included some of the greats such as Mozart and Bach. It was an extremely popular event and a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon. The music that Anthony chose was lovely and it was fascinating to learn something about each of the composers.

As usual, the Choir took part in many annual events, such as the All Souls' service, where we sang Howard Goodall's version of 'The Lord is My Shepherd', and the Remembrance Sunday service, joining the Hinchley Wood community at the Memorial Gardens. This service was very well-attended.

Other major events were the Christingle Service, the 9 Lessons and Carols Service, the Crib Service and the Christmas Day service. Many thanks go to Nicola Ellis, who once again played piano for us at the Crib Service.

We debuted a new version of The First Nowell by Bob Chilcot at the 9 Lessons and Carols Service, which had been championed by the diocese, and the carol 'Gaudete' at the Gaudete Sunday service as well as the 9 Lessons and Carols Service. Both of these débuts went down very well.

Unfortunately, the 9 Lessons and Carols Service seemed to be fated: first the Church heating broke down so we had to postpone our rehearsals, then Anthony and Ann both caught Covid shortly before the service and we had to find an alternative organist; then, on the morning of the service, Fr. Peter came down with a nasty cold. Jane and Simon, with Margaret's assistance, saved the day and the service went very smoothly. Grateful thanks go to Robert Stewart, who played for us at the service, and an honourable mention goes to Robert Woolley, St. Mary's organist, whose help in finding a substitute organist was invaluable. We were extremely grateful that Anthony was well enough to play for us at the Christmas Day service.

It was lovely to return again to Gibson Court for the carol singing and to catch up with our friends there. We also enjoyed the mince pies and mulled wine they provided for us.

As a small choir, we rely heavily on the commitment of every member to turn up early on Sundays and I am indebted, once again, to the dedication shown by my fellow choristers. Sadly, though, John O'Neill has decided to retire from the

ST CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH, HINCHLEY WOOD PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Choir with effect from January 2024. The rest of us continue to work together with a great sense of cohesion, commitment and friendship – which hopefully will continue in 2024.

It would be lovely to have a few more members, so if anyone feels that they would like to join us, please get in touch with me.

Mandy Ali

MENS GROUP [Formerly Theology at the Angel]

The Men's Group has continued meeting regularly at 8pm on the first Monday of each month, at The Angel on Giggs Hill Green, to discuss the weighty and not so weighty matters of life, the universe and everything.

A sub-set of the group went on a glorious summer's day for a visit to the Hayne's Motor Museum, near Yeovil. Thank you, Brian, for organising it and for doing the driving there and back. In November a number of us took an excursion to the Everyman in Esher to see *Napoleon*. It was a good outing, even if some of the history seemed a touch improvised.

In December we prepared for Christmas with dinner at Côte in Esher, and celebrated again on Ted's return, at Panshi in the village. Realising that we think better on full stomachs, John O'Neil has been organising our subsidiary, the Pudding Club, dedicated to a search for the best steak and kidney pudding around. The aim is to lunch mid-week at a new venue every month. We have been a touch erratic getting going, but we have made a good start. We might be able to reach some tentative conclusions in the course of 2024.

We are not an exclusive organisation. We are delighted to welcome new members so, if you would like to join, do get in touch with Roger Thompson, John O'Neill or Simon Crome.

Simon Crome

St. Christopher's Church – 2023 Financial Report (Updated)

Key figures:

Unrestricted Funds **£26,497** (as at 31/12/2023)

Restricted Funds **£5,192** (From HWF, Vicars Community Projects Fund) Designated Funds **£34,593** (Legacy Projects Fund)

Jan to Dec 2023 – Budgeted Income & Expenditure: deficit of **£11,107**

Jan to Dec 2023 – Unbudgeted Expenditure (Reserves): deficit of **£17,219**

ST CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH, HINCHLEY WOOD PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Report

The final Income and Expenditure report for **2023** indicates that we were short of the predicted **£1.71** breakeven point budgeted for and ended 2023 with a deficit of **£11,107**. This includes several invoices for urgent maintenance work of **£1,600**.

Both income and expenditure were higher than budgeted for in 2023, but roughly in line with expectations. The greatest challenge for the budgeting process is obtaining expected Maintenance costs. As a result the provision for Maintenance is often understated in the Budget. The PCC took the decision in early 2023 that some additional unbudgeted and funded from reserves Maintenance was essential, so this is shown separately in the reports. It should also be noted that Church building running costs were higher than budgeted at **£15,953** actual and we had budgeted **£13,249**. Gas was a major part of this cost at **£10,850** for both church and hall combined. Church electricity was £2,327 and hall electricity was £2,126.

Total hall running costs were slightly lower than budgeted at **£3,896**; budgeted was **£4,064**.

With the exception of the extra costs incurred for the hall electrical work and the unfortunate hit we took with the Church boilers needing repair we have managed to absorb various other fluctuations throughout the year. In particular, please note the payments for these unforeseen events have been funded from 'capital and reserves'. These amount to approximately £17.2k+ which we will have to work extremely hard to recoup next year and onwards. However, the fact the costs are assigned to 2023 accounts gives us a clear, clean start for 2024. We also did very well in being in a position to absorb them.

Accounts

Looking at the 'bottom line' of the Income & Expenditure (Surplus/Deficit) for the year we have ended the year with a **£11,107** deficit, as already highlighted.

Hire income for the Church was beyond budget expectations at **£16,272** actual (budgeted £13,000) and the hall less so with **£34,989** actual (budgeted £38,000). This reflects that family parties in the hall have not recovered to pre-pandemic levels.

Planned Giving was £2,500 higher than budgeted at **£47,000** for the year. This reflects the continued move of planned givers from the standing order scheme to the Parish Giving Scheme. We remain extremely grateful to those who generously continue to maintain and increase their contributions each year.

ST CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH, HINCHLEY

WOOD PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL'S

REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Summing up

We started 2023 on a good financial footing and we reported at the beginning of the year that this would give us a reasonable foundation which would better prepare us for the several realities we expected to face during 2023. A major concern was energy costs. We have shown that with realistic budgeting and the monitoring and efficient use of the heating app we have managed to contain some of the costs and will continue to do so. Fortunately the cost of energy has reduced slightly, reflected in the price we pay through the 'Energy Basket' via the Parish Buying Scheme. However, standing charges increased by the full effect of inflation.

Unforeseen maintenance work, resulting in high costs have followed us through from 2022 into 2023, particularly electrical work and these have been, by far, the biggest item of expenditure for this year, impacting our finances disproportionately. Inevitably, payment for the various works has depleted our reserves somewhat and as already mentioned we will have to work extremely hard to replace these funds in 2024 and beyond.

Our major source of income is from parishioner contributions and Community Hub lettings. We must focus on a serious push in 2024 to increase the hire of St. Christopher's facilities to the community as this income is vital to maintain. As our parishioners have already continued to support the church year by year in generously increasing contributions it would be unfair to further burden those generous individuals. Therefore an action plan to increase Community Hub lettings is recommended.

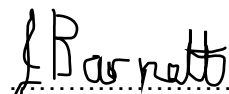
Our retiring treasurer observed that we are currently just about holding our own but 2024 will be much shakier than 2023, factoring in the increase in Parish Share fees to £77,203 from £74,196 and increased wage costs which, although modest, have to be covered.

The PCC took the decision during 2023 to reduce the provision for Reserves to 3 month expenditure following a review of our liabilities. We currently hold **£26,497** in unrestricted reserves against a provision of **£29,500**.

Based on the final report of Margaret Thompson, retiring Treasurer.

Updated by Peter Jenner, Vicar (dated 01/03/2024).

Approved by the PCC on 25TH March 2024 and signed on their behalf by:


.....
Churchwarden


.....
Associate Minister

ST CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH, HINCHLEY WOOD

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH, HINCHLEY WOOD

I report to the Parochial Church Council on my examination of the financial statements of St Christopher's Church, Hinchley Wood (the charity) for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Parochial Church Council of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act).

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

Independent examiner's statement

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared financial statements in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn.

I understand that this has been done in order for financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no 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 2011 Act; or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements 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 financial statements to be reached.



Frances Wilde FCCA DChA

Warner Wilde
Chartered Certified Accountants
4 Marigold Drive
Bisley
Surrey
GU24 9SF

Dated: ..8th April 2024

ST CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH, HINCHEY WOOD**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

Current financial year		Unrestricted funds general 2023 £	Unrestricted funds designated 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
	Notes					
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	3	65,960	-	-	65,960	46,553
Charitable activities	4	4,957	-	-	4,957	3,325
Other trading activities	5	3,244	-	-	3,244	3,819
Investments	6	52,219	-	-	52,219	67,821
Other income	7	-	-	-	-	240
Total income		126,380	-	-	126,380	121,758
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	8	3,519	-	-	3,519	2,123
Charitable activities	9	133,701	-	267	133,968	108,608
Total expenditure		137,220	-	267	137,487	110,731
Net income/(expenditure)		(10,840)	-	(267)	(11,107)	11,027
Transfers between funds		(15,000)	15,000	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(25,840)	15,000	(267)	(11,107)	11,027
Reconciliation of funds:						
Fund balances at 1 January 2023		52,337	19,593	5,459	77,389	66,362
Fund balances at 31 December 2023		26,497	34,593	5,192	66,282	77,389

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

ST CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH, HINCHLEY WOOD**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

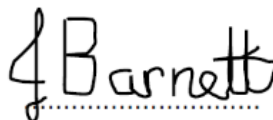
Prior financial year		Unrestricted funds general 2022 £	Unrestricted funds designated 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
	Notes				
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3	46,058	-	495	46,553
Charitable activities	4	3,325	-	-	3,325
Other trading activities	5	3,819	-	-	3,819
Investments	6	67,821	-	-	67,821
Other income	7	240	-	-	240
Total income		121,263	-	495	121,758
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	8	2,123	-	-	2,123
Charitable activities	9	107,950	170	488	108,608
Total expenditure		110,073	170	488	110,731
Net income/(expenditure) and movement in funds		11,190	(170)	7	11,027
Reconciliation of funds:					
Fund balances at 1 January 2022		41,147	19,763	5,452	66,362
Fund balances at 31 December 2022		52,337	19,593	5,459	77,389

ST CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH, HINCHLEY WOOD**BALANCE SHEET****AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023**

		2023		2022	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	14		2,716		3,196
Current assets					
Debtors	15	998		420	
Cash at bank and in hand		72,727		82,394	
		<u>73,725</u>		<u>82,814</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	10,159		8,621	
		<u>10,159</u>		<u>8,621</u>	
Net current assets			63,566		74,193
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>66,282</u>		<u>77,389</u>
The funds of the charity					
Restricted income funds	17		5,192		5,459
Unrestricted funds - general			26,497		52,337
Unrestricted funds - designated	18		34,593		19,593
			<u>66,282</u>		<u>77,389</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Parochial Church Council on 7th April 2024


Associate Minister,
Caroline Mullins
Trustee



Churchwarden
Jane Barnett
Trustee

ST CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH, HINCHEY WOOD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

St Christopher's Church, Hinchley Wood is a charity registered with the Charity Commission, constituted under the PCC Powers Measure Act 1956, Church Representation rules 2006.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, [modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value]. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Parochial Church Council have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Parochial Church Council continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Parochial Church Council in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised when the PCC becomes entitled to them, this is usually on receipt of notification from the executor.

ST CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH, HINCHLEY WOOD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Irrecoverable VAT is allocated in the same manner as the expenditure to which it relates.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s.96(2) Charities Act 1993. Moveable church furnishings held by the vicar and church wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed on the church inventory, which can be inspected at any reasonable time. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £100 or less are written off when the asset is acquired. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Plant and machinery	15% straight line
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	25% straight line

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.8 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.9 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

ST CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH, HINCHLEY WOOD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.10 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the Parochial Church Council are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

ST CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH, HINCHEY WOOD**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**3 Income from donations and legacies**

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Donations and gifts	54,960	-	54,960	44,928	495	45,423
Legacies receivable	10,000	-	10,000	-	-	-
One-off Grants	1,000	-	1,000	1,130	-	1,130
	<u>65,960</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>65,960</u>	<u>46,058</u>	<u>495</u>	<u>46,553</u>
Grants receivable for core activities						
Ecclesiastical Insurance	-	-	-	130	-	130
Guildford Diocesan Board of Finance Energy Grant	1,000	-	1,000	1,000	-	1,000
	<u>1,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,130</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,130</u>

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
Charitable activities		
Social and cafe events	3,143	1,245
Sale of goods	1,814	2,080
	<u>4,957</u>	<u>3,325</u>

5 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
Fundraising events	<u>3,244</u>	<u>3,819</u>

ST CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH, HINCHLEY WOOD**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**6 Income from investments**

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
Rental income	51,521	67,754
Interest receivable	698	67
	<u>52,219</u>	<u>67,821</u>

7 Other income

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
Solar energy credits	-	240
	<u>-</u>	<u>240</u>

8 Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
Fundraising and publicity		
Staging fundraising events	3,519	2,123
	<u>3,519</u>	<u>2,123</u>

ST CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH, HINCHEY WOOD**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**9 Expenditure on charitable activities**

	Ministry 2023 £	Church 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Ministry 2022 £	Church 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Direct costs						
Depreciation and impairment	480	-	480	-	566	566
Diocesan Parish Share	74,196	940	75,136	72,658	883	73,541
Clergy and vicarage expenses	2,268	-	2,268	2,158	-	2,158
Church running expenses	-	15,953	15,953	-	12,893	12,893
Church maintenance	-	18,904	18,904	-	6,424	6,424
Church services	-	2,359	2,359	-	2,061	2,061
Hall running expenses	-	13,624	13,624	-	6,034	6,034
	<u>76,944</u>	<u>51,780</u>	<u>128,724</u>	<u>74,816</u>	<u>28,861</u>	<u>103,677</u>
Grant funding of activities (see note 10)	882	-	882	955	-	955
Share of support and governance costs (see note 11)						
Support	3,012	-	3,012	2,686	-	2,686
Governance	1,350	-	1,350	1,290	-	1,290
	<u>82,188</u>	<u>51,780</u>	<u>133,968</u>	<u>79,747</u>	<u>28,861</u>	<u>108,608</u>
Analysis by fund						
Unrestricted funds - general	82,188	51,513	133,701	79,747	28,203	107,950
Unrestricted funds - designated	-	-	-	-	170	170
Restricted funds	-	267	267	-	488	488
	<u>82,188</u>	<u>51,780</u>	<u>133,968</u>	<u>79,747</u>	<u>28,861</u>	<u>108,608</u>

ST CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH, HINCHLEY WOOD**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**10 Grants payable**

	Ministry 2023 £	Ministry 2023 £
Grants to institutions:		
East Elmbridge Foodbank	540	540
Disasters Emergency Fund - Emergency Appeal	-	245
MU Appeal	-	170
The Children's Society	36	-
The Childrens Trust	6	-
Zumbathon	74	-
MacMillan Cancer Support	226	-
	<u>882</u>	<u>955</u>

11 Support costs allocated to activities

	2023 £	2022 £
General expenses including copier lease and ICT	2,763	2,477
Printing and stationery	249	209
Governance costs	1,350	1,290
	<u>4,362</u>	<u>3,976</u>
Analysed between:		
Ministry	<u>4,362</u>	<u>3,976</u>

12 Parochial Church Council

None of the Parochial Church Council (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration, one (2022: two) were reimbursed travel, subsistence, telephone, books and journals and attending events expenditure of £1,631 (2022: £516).

13 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

ST CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH, HINCHLEY WOOD**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**14 Tangible fixed assets**

	Plant and machinery	Fixtures, fittings & equipment	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 January 2023	13,034	1,500	14,534
At 31 December 2023	13,034	1,500	14,534
Depreciation and impairment			
At 1 January 2023	9,852	1,486	11,338
Depreciation charged in the year	477	3	480
At 31 December 2023	10,329	1,489	11,818
Carrying amount			
At 31 December 2023	2,705	11	2,716
At 31 December 2022	3,182	14	3,196

15 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Other debtors	998	420

16 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	8,559	6,971
Other creditors	250	360
Accruals and deferred income	1,350	1,290
	10,159	8,621

ST CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH, HINCHLEY WOOD**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023****17 Restricted funds**

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes, funds in deficit only exist where spending is in advance of restricted grant income received:

	At 1 January 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 31 December 2023
	£	£	£	£
Eco Fund	4,207	-	-	4,207
Vicar's Community Fund	100	-	-	100
Hinchley Wood Fellowship	1,152	-	(267)	885
	<u>5,459</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(267)</u>	<u>5,192</u>
	<u><u>5,459</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>(267)</u></u>	<u><u>5,192</u></u>
Previous year:	At 1 January 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 31 December 2022
	£	£	£	£
Eco Fund	4,207	-	-	4,207
Vicar's Community Fund	100	-	-	100
Hinchley Wood Fellowship	1,145	495	(488)	1,152
	<u>5,452</u>	<u>495</u>	<u>(488)</u>	<u>5,459</u>
	<u><u>5,452</u></u>	<u><u>495</u></u>	<u><u>(488)</u></u>	<u><u>5,459</u></u>

The Ecofund provides for fabric improvements to increase the efficiency of the church buildings.

Agency Collections are donations for specific charities.

Hinchley Wood Fellowship is a sub group of the church which provides social interaction and fellowship for its members.

ST CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH, HINCHEY WOOD**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**18 Unrestricted funds - designated**

These are unrestricted funds which are material to the charity's activities.

	At 1 January 2023	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 December 2023
	£	£	£	£
Legacy projects fund	19,593	-	15,000	34,593
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Previous year:	At 1 January 2022	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 December 2022
	£	£	£	£
Legacy Projects fund	19,763	(170)	-	19,593
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

The Legacy Projects fund ring fences legacy gifts to be used in specific projects rather than absorbed into the day to day running costs of the Church.

19 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds general 2023 £	Unrestricted funds Designated 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Fund balances at 31 December 2023 are represented by:				
Tangible assets	2,716	-	-	2,716
Current assets/(liabilities)	23,781	34,593	5,192	63,566
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	26,497	34,593	5,192	66,282
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Unrestricted funds general 2022 £	Unrestricted funds Designated 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Fund balances at 31 December 2022 are represented by:				
Tangible assets	3,196	-	-	3,196
Current assets/(liabilities)	49,141	19,593	5,459	74,193
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	52,337	19,593	5,459	77,389
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

ST CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH, HINCHLEY WOOD**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023****20 Unrestricted funds**

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 January 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 December 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	52,337	126,380	(137,220)	(15,000)	26,497
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Previous year:	At 1 January 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 December 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	41,147	121,263	(110,073)	-	52,337
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>