

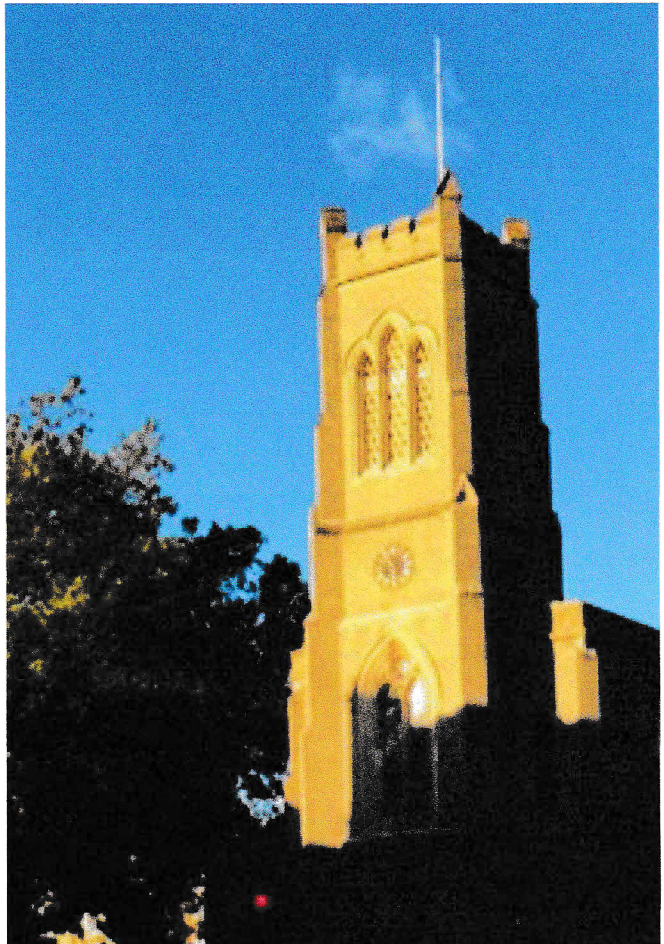


The Parochial Church Council of
the Ecclesiastical Parish of
St John with St James, Walham Green

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31st December 2024

Aim and Purposes – What we are here for...

- To enable all people to encounter and worship the living God, Father Son and Holy Spirit.
- To live the love of God – Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth
 - living God's love in generous action and patient care
 - working for justice and peace and the integrity of creation
- To know God and ourselves more truly, through God's only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ
 - growing as disciples, faithful to the call and teaching of Jesus.
 - enabling all people to live lives that fulfil the unique potential created in each of us.
- To build loving community through God the Holy Spirit - strength, guide, defender, inspirer
 - welcoming all people regardless of age, wealth, ability, race, culture, sexuality or gender
 - providing healthy fellowship, where everyone can find friendship, care and belonging,
 - working with others to build a just society in which all can live life to the full and make a difference in the world



The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the church building with its rooms and halls, used as a resource for the fulfilment of the church's aims and purposes.

Objectives and Activities – How are we living that out...

Worship and Encounter

St John's seeks to enable worship and encounter with God 365 days a year: Sung Mass with children's activities on Sundays; and weekdays with daily prayer and mass. The sacrament chapel is always open each day and the Calvary and grounds, for people to be still in themselves and with the God of our Lord Jesus. Sunday worship and festivals are supported by music provided by St John's choral scholars under the leadership of a director of music.

We provide opportunities for encounter and worship through the seasons – with special services for Advent and Christmas; Lent, Holy Week and Easter; All Souls and Remembrance. St John's also helps people to mark moments of lament and celebration as households, community and nation, including baptisms weddings and funerals.

Living the Love of God – care, generosity and justice

St John's Church creates opportunities to provide care and support and opens its facilities to enable other groups and organisations whose aims and objectives are in common, or at least not contrary, to our own – frequently groups are offered a preferential rate, especially for groups run by volunteers and new businesses. Our own projects include working with the Glassdoor Homeless Charity – providing a meal and shelter on Thursday evenings from November to April, alongside a large number of other churches. This year began an experiment of a community meal on a Wednesday evening providing a dinner and a warm environment for those that ask. In common with conscientious nations and communities and the worldwide Church, we are committed to being at least carbon neutral by 2030 – especially as we develop and restore our building and grounds.

To Know God and ourselves more truly – enabling potential

St John's provides programmes that give people the opportunity to explore questions of faith and life. There are weekly and seasonal groups – Wednesday Café church/bible study group; Lent Groups; and occasional events such as the pilgrimage to Walsingham. We also provide materials in printed and online media.

We have a deliberate policy of enabling people to discover their potential; to this end, we have created eight choral scholarships – we are immensely grateful to a donor who helps us achieve that. We also provide space for young musicians to practice; and host concerts that are open to the public on a donation basis.

Our facilities are used by many community groups, including activities for children and adults in art, dance and ballet, health and fitness and martial arts/self-defense. We are delighted to be the home for the Peques Nursery which started at St John's and has expanded beyond our walls and community.

We are very proud of our primary school – St John's, Walham Green – and their work with and for the children and staff. There are three church members who serve on the governing body, and the vicar leads collective worship for Early Years, Key Stage 1 and Key stage 2 each week; and provides support for the curriculum.

Welcome, Fellowship and Community

Worship is consciously open to everyone; we have level access from the street, a hearing loop, and large print; we are part of the Inclusive Church Network; families are provided for, with changing facilities for babies and sensory play, activities for primary age children, and opportunities to participate through children's choir, bible reading and servers. Children are able to make their first holy communion from age 7. We provide communion at home and livestream Sunday and weekday services for those not able to join us in person.

We maintain a newsletter, website and Facebook page through which we keep people connected with what is happening. Each Sunday there is the opportunity to gather for refreshments. The St John's Music Association stages concerts and recitals at the Church which attract members of the public.

St John's works with and alongside a number of local organisations, including the Stoll Foundation for veterans, the Farm Lane Nursing Home, Fulham Primary School, and several local churches. We are pleased to welcome Community Payback to work with us – they do a significant amount of work and we seek to provide opportunities that make a worthwhile contribution and which values and enables skills and experience.

Achievements and Performance – What we have done this year...

When planning our activities for the year, the PCC have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular the specific guidance on 'charities for the advancement of religion'.

Strategy

There has been a shared level of dissatisfaction with our progress and standards on several fronts and the last six months of the year involved an exploration of the circumstances that we find ourselves in, the issues and obstacles that get in the way, a seeking of God's vision and call, and experimenting with strategy and process. The outworking of that process saw its launch to the church over Christmas 2024, with a report to the church on the impact of significant events on the life and mission of the church, and the publishing of a vision and strategy for the renovation of the life, mission and responsibilities of the church. The core aim being to have moved the church from maintenance and crisis management to being enabled for mission by the end of 2025. The content of the published documents is included at the end of this report.

Worship

Sundays: Congregations are growing steadily; we have been pleased to welcome twenty people who are new to the church and three returning. The average numbers at the 10.30 mass have taken another small step upwards and the evening family mass and choral evensong appears to have established stable numbers.

Weekdays: We have continued to maintain a daily morning and evening prayer and mass – with a small congregation for each – we would like to express our thanks to Mother Tina who continues to provide cover on Monday and Saturday, and to those who by their regular attendance help keep the prayer of the church going.

Ministries: During the year we have continued slowly to develop the children's activities at mass, and we are encouraged by the recruitment of four volunteers to support this on a Sunday morning. Refreshments are a ministry where we seem to be modelling something of what we would like for all our ministries – a group of people working together and supporting one another, and encouragingly have been making moves to be self-sustaining under their own steam. Through our growing number of volunteers in worship, we have been able to maintain the livestream for Principal and Weekday services, grow a team of Ministers of Holy Communion, a group of intercessors, expand the team of readers.

Music: We have bid farewell to Domenico Gioffre and consequently the choral scholars in the summer this year. Domenico joined us in 2018 and has had a major impact on the scope of the music in worship, along with the work of the deputy director Matthew Price and the choral scholars themselves. We remain committed to the choral tradition, but we are not rushing into the next stage of our musical journey. For the moment we need to resolve the financial issues that we have faced to ensure that any development is secure. Our expectation is that we will be launching the recruitment process for a new director of music in March 2025 – there is encouraging interest from the recruitment of temporary organists. Special thanks to Matthew Price who supported us to Christmas.

Mission and Discipleship

St John's School

Following the church building being out of action for six months, the school has returned to its pattern of coming to church twice a term for worship we were able to welcome Juniors for mass three times over the year the infants for their harvest festival, Infants and Juniors for each of their Christmas Carol Services, the infants also came for their Candlemas Celebration, and the juniors for the Year 6 Leaver's Service. The vicar leads collective worship for Early Years, Key Stage 1 and Key stage 2 each week; and provides support for the curriculum.

This year saw the school take on both OFSTED and SIAMS inspections – in both these case the inspectors spoke in the highest terms about the quality of care, the ethos of the school and the high standard of education. With the end of the summer term Barbara Wightwick retired as head teacher, she has contributed an immense amount to the life of our school and we are grateful for her service and ministry. We congratulate Hannah Abu-Ghaida who has been our deputy head teacher for the last four years and is now appointed head teacher. There are three

church members who serve on the governing body, our thanks to Marin Daley and Jacquetta Picton who have stepped forward to fill our foundation places on the governing body.

Mission Outreach

We have been immensely pleased to announce the return of the Glassdoor nightshelter. The setting up of a women's night-shelter has obviated the problems with the structure of the building and allowed us to offer support when the charity needed help. Glassdoor have also continued the daytime drop-in support facility for homeless women; piloted last year, this has proved very successful and off the back of this may be rolled out more widely across London. Our thanks to Zanni for supporting this work.

We have also welcomed a small group of volunteers who have launched a community meal through the winter months – the Drop-in Diner on a Wednesday evening. It has been a slow start while it gets known, but we are seeing growing numbers into the new year, and there is a vision to grow a much larger ministry in partnership with them to reach out to families and to provide day-time drop in facilities for the community. For the moment, we are excited to see a third outreach event launched at St John's.

Buildings and Maintenance

During the year we replastered and painted one of the walls in the upper hall; sorted out the Schedule B permissions to enable the nursery to redecorate the walls and strip and varnish the upper hall floor. Research was done into the restoration of the pigeon spikes and a competitive quote agreed from one of our reliable contractors – work is booked for the new year.

We completed the testing and servicing on Fire alarm and extinguishers, tower clock, gas services, boiler, lighting conductor, central heating for the main church nave and lower hall. The light fittings were re-focused and re-commissioned at high level at the church area. Gutters, downpipes and hoopers were cleaned twice last year.

Refurbishment of interior of Church

The end of the year saw us able to begin to move on the Stage 1 development again, with the required meetings completed by PCC and with architects. We are looking forward to seeing drawings in the Spring 2025.

Renewal of the Contract with Peques Nursery

This is our biggest contract, and its renegotiation was a major piece of work taking almost the whole year. We contracted the services of a surveyor and over the year the nursery and the church have been able to negotiate through a number of issues that have been problematic over the years and achieve a significant uplift in the income received. It will take some time to see how much extra profit there is in that for us, as we have also changed the way in which utilities are charged to a fairer system – 'fairer' being that advised by the surveyor.

Deanery Synod

During the year, the Synod met four times this year. Topics included "Our Encounters with Christ" testaments as to God's intervention in our lives to create change, encouragement, growth and salvation in us as disciples of Jesus; Continuing challenges of running a Foodbank; Sunday Suppers outreach programme and report on the Diocesan Synod; the Rt Rev Graham Tomlin, our previous area bishop, came to speak about the work of the Centre for Cultural Witness which aims to "inspire a renewal in the public understanding of the Christian faith" focusing on Communication, Leadership and Research.

Electoral Roll

We currently have 52 people on our new electoral roll.

Log Book, Terrier and Inventory

We rely on Margaret Kardacz, our Administrator, to maintain the Log Book which relates to the repairs required in the building and is up to date. A full review of the Terrier and Inventory has been undertaken – our thanks to Margaret and Mother Tina who have completed that significant piece of work.

Safeguarding

The care and protection of children young people and adults involved in church activities is the responsibility of everyone who participates in the life of the church. The PCC is committed to promoting a safer church in accordance with the House of Bishops 'Policy Statements 'Promoting a Safer Church '(2017) and 'Protecting All God's Children '4th edition (2010) and the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy 'Promoting a Safer Diocese '(2018); in particular:


- Promoting a safer environment and culture.
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church.
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons.
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.

If anyone does have cause for concern, please use the contacts on the "Promoting a Safer Church" poster, talk to Fr Chris or phone 999 if there is concern of immediate danger. Do not delay reporting.

The council has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, fully recognising its duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

Approved by the Parochial Church Council and signed on its behalf by:

Signed:

 Date: 24 February 2025

The Reverend Christopher Rankine

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
The Parochial Church Council Of
The Ecclesiastical Parish Of St John
With St James, Walham Green**

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Parochial Church Council Of The Ecclesiastical Parish Of St John With St James, Walham Green

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Parochial Church Council Of The Ecclesiastical Parish Of St John With St James, Walham Green (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust 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 Trust's accounts carried out under Section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all 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 Trust 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.



Gareth Owen Hughes ACA
The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

Garside and Co. Limited
Suite 631, Linen Hall
162-168 Regent Street
London
W1B 5TG

Date: 7/5/25

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
for the year ended 31st December 2024

		Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total	Total
	Note	£	£	£	£	2023	2024
RECEIPTS							
Donations & Gifts received		16,571	—	1,312	—	17,883	22,607
Grants received	2(a)	704	—	5,365	—	6,069	5,794
Tax refunds under Gift Aid	8	3,699	—	343	—	4,041	4,032
Rental income	8	111,802	—	—	—	111,802	112,296
Other church activities		1,931	—	414	—	2,345	3,598
Investments	2(b)	905	—	4,354	—	5,259	7,503
Other receipts	2(c)	1,623	—	-	—	1,623	440
Total receipts		137,235	—	11,788	—	149,023	156,270
PAYMENTS							
Raising funds		8,115	—	1,524	—	9,639	
Diocesan parish contribution	2(d)	58,260	—	—	—	58,260	58,260
Clergy & Staffing costs	6	31,481	—	—	—	31,481	45,749
Cost of services		20,408	—	3,685	—	24,093	
Mission & Outreach		1,192	—	—	—	1,192	
Church & Hall running costs	8	14,519	—	1,626	—	16,145	36,406
Church & Hall utility costs	8	5,094	—	—	—	5,094	
Office costs		2,383	—	205	—	2,589	20,994
Mission giving & Donations		40	—	—	—	40	190
Governance costs		1,197	—	—	—	1,197	
Major building works	2(e)	700	—	8,322	—	9,022	55,471
Other payments		59	—	—	—	59	1,925

Total payments		143,450	—	15,362	—	158,812	218,995
Excess of receipts over payments		(6,215)	—	(3,574)	—	(9,789)	(62,725)

TRANSFERS

Gross tr'fers between funds – in	3(a)	207	—	16	—	10,458	
Gross tr'fers between funds – out	3(a)	(16)	—	(207)	—	(10,458)	

Net receipts / (payments) before other gains

		(6,024)	—	(3,765)	—	(9,789)	
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Net movement in funds		(6,024)	—	(3,765)	—	(9,789)	
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RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS

All assets at 1st January		12,136	6,000	113,688	—	131,824	See Note 1(a)
All assets at 31st December		6,112	6,000	109,922	—	122,034	131,824

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
at year ended 31st December 2024

		Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	Total
		funds	funds	funds	funds		
	Note	£	£	£	£	2023	2024
Current assets – Cash at bank and In Hand							
‘Community’ Current Account		8,286	—	382	—	8,669	3,690
‘Building’ Current Account DGW Trust Current Account		264	—	9,974	—	10,238	15,693
‘Music Assn’ Current Account pending		171	—	1,850	—	2,021	1,463
General Deposit Account		(1,197)	6,000	9,166	—	13,969	28,065
‘Building’ Deposit Account		—	—	88,934	—	88,934	84,580
Cash In Hand		80	—	-	—	80	12
		7,606	6,000	110,306	—	123,912	133,504
Liabilities							
Agency payments	4(a)	—	—	384	—	384	181
Key Deposits	4(b)	1,494	—	—	—	1,494	1,499
		1,494	—	384	—	1,878	1,680
Total assets less liabilities		6,112	6,000	109,922	—	122,034	131,824

Represented by:

Unrestricted

General Fund		6,112	—	—	—	6,112	12,136
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Designated

	3(b)						
Vicarage Fund		—	6,000	—	—	6,000	6,000

Restricted

3(c)

Building Development Fund	—	—	98,908	—	98,908	100,273
Lunch Club Fund	—	—	7,502	—	7,502	7,502
Music Association Fund	—	—	1,848	—	1,848	1,463
Robert Presley Fund	—	—	1,039	—	1,039	3,824
Steinway Fund	—	—	625	—	625	625
Assets retained for church use	6,112	6,000	109,922	—	122,034	131,824

The notes on pages 11 to 16 form part of these accounts

Approved by the Parochial Church Council and signed on its behalf by:

Signed:  Date: 24 February 2025

The Revd Christopher Rankine

The Parish of St John with St James, Walham Green
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
for the year ended 31st December 2024

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1(a) Basis of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the *Church Accounting Regulations 2006*, and the *Charities Act 2011*. Within the scope of these requirements, the financial statements of the PCC have been prepared using the Receipts and Payments basis. Particular liabilities have been included in the Receipts and Payments account, so that the year-end bank account balances may be properly understood.

The financial statements for 2023 and years preceding were prepared on an accruals basis. Therefore, the comparative data for 2023 in the Receipts and Payments account, which has been obtained from the 2023 accounts, should not be regarded as providing an exact comparison. The Receipts and Payments in the 2024 accounts have been segmented in a more detailed way than hitherto; consequently, especially for some expenditure items, direct comparison with previous categorisation may be misleading. Detailed information regarding the 2023 accruals is given in Note 8.

St John with St James constitutes a public benefit entity within the meaning of the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor to those that are informal gatherings of church members.

1(b) Fund Accounting

Unrestricted Funds are funds that are available to be spent on the PCC's general purposes in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Designated Funds are general funds set aside by the trustees for use in the future. Designated funds remain unrestricted, and the trustees may move any surplus to other unrestricted funds. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in Section 3(b) of these notes.

Restricted Funds comprise revenue donations or grants for a specific activity intended by the donor. Any balance within a restricted fund remaining at year-end is carried forward within that fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in Section 3(c) of these notes.

1(c) Tangible Fixed and Movable Assets

For accounts prepared on the 'receipts and payments' basis, no valuations are required for any non-monetary assets. All major fixed and movable assets used by the Church are listed in Section 5.

1(d) Current Assets

Short term deposits comprise cash held in the PCC's main current accounts at Barclays Bank. Monies not likely to be required during the short term are placed in deposit accounts operated by CCLA investment management.

1(e) Investments

The Church does not possess any long-term investments.

1(f) Liabilities

Monies collected on behalf of other organisations, and placed into the PCC's bank account pending disbursement are shown in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities as 'Agency collections'. Also shown in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities are Key Deposits taken from hirers of the Church Hall and held as security against loss or damage. Any debts owed by the church or amounts that the church is committed to paying at some time after the end of the 2024 financial year, other than normal routine expenditure, are listed in Section 4 of these notes.

2 FURTHER DETAILS OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ITEMS

2(a) Grants received

During 2024, two grant payments totalling £6,069 were received from the Listed Places of Worship grant scheme, these being reimbursement of VAT payments on previously-settled building contractors' invoices.

2(b) Investments

Investment income was received from two bank deposit accounts.

2(c) Other receipts

Other receipts included insurance claims for accidental damage in the church, totalling £1,473.

2(d) Diocesan parish contribution

The Parish offered to pay a total of £58,260 to the Diocese of London during 2024, as its Common Fund contribution. This was paid in monthly instalments, in full, and on time.

2(e) Major building works

Major repairs to the church high-level plasterwork were carried out during late 2023, together with decorating. The final invoices were not settled until 2024. See also Note 8.

3 FUNDS

3(a) Fund Movements

The movements in funds during the year were:

	Brought Forward £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	Gains & Losses £	Carried Forward £
Unrestricted						
General Fund	12,136	137,235	143,450	191	—	6,112
Total Unrestricted Funds	12,136	137,235	143,450	191	—	6,112
Designated						
Vicarage Fund	6,000	—	—	—	—	6,000
Total Designated Funds	6,000	—	—	—	—	6,000
Restricted						
Building Development Fund	100,273	9,969	11,128	(207)	—	98,908
Lunch Club Fund (Note 8)	7,502	—	—	—	—	7,502
Music Association Fund	1,463	919	550	16	—	1,848
Robert Presley Fund (Note 8)	3,824	900	3,685	—	—	1,039
Steinway Fund	625	—	—	—	—	625
Total Restricted Funds	113,688	11,788	15,362	(191)	—	109,922
Grand Total	131,824	149,023	158,812	—	—	122,034

The **General Fund** represents the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any special restrictions regarding use and are available for application to the general purposes of the PCC. The General Fund excludes funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC.

3(b) Designated Fund Details

The **Vicarage Fund** contains monies set aside by the PCC to assist the Diocese with future repairs and renewals of the Vicarage fabric.

3(c) Restricted Fund Details

The **Building Development Fund** has been established to receive grants and other income to be expended solely for the purpose of renovating the church building of St John's, Walham Green.

The **Lunch Club Fund** contains monies originally donated by the Dr Edwards and Bishop King's, Fulham Charity (DEBK) to support the operation of a weekly lunch club at St John's. Lunch Club activities ceased at the time of the Covid pandemic, but have not yet resumed. It is the intention to re-launch the Club at some future point, and the donated funds are therefore being retained for the time being.

The St John's **Music Association Fund** receives money donated for the purpose of bringing music to a wider public audience. During 2024 the Fund was used to support the costs of lunchtime and evening music concerts at the Church.

The **Robert Presley Fund** receives money donated for the purpose of supporting the work of music vocal performers. During 2024 resources from this Fund have been expended on music recording sessions, and musicians' performance fees.

The **Steinway Fund** has been established to receive donations towards the major repair of a valuable Steinway piano that belongs to the Parish.

4 LIABILITIES

4(a) Agency payments

Agency payments are monies held within Parish bank accounts that have been collected or aggregated on behalf of other organisations pending remittance. Such monies, which typically include charitable collections and fees payable to the Diocese, are not part of Church funds.

As at 31/12/24 funeral fees collected during 2024 on behalf of the Diocese and awaiting disbursement amounted to £384.

4(b) Key deposits

Key deposits are taken from regular and occasional hirers of church premises, and held during the period of hire in the 'Community' current account as security against loss or damage to church property.

4(c) Diocesan parish contribution

The payments made to the Diocese of London known as 'Common Fund' represent a share of the total cost of clergy stipends, clergy housing, and Diocesan support.

The Parish has offered to pay a total of £58,260 as its Common Fund contribution for 2025.

5 FIXED AND MOVABLE ASSETS USED BY THE CHURCH

Fixed assets

The church building at St John with St James comprises a combined church and church hall suite. The church hall suite comprises a narthex area, known as the Lower Hall, immediately outside the main worship area, and a further Hall at first-floor level. On opposite sides of the main entrance to the church are a lady chapel and the parish office.

Moveable church furnishings

All items are included in the Church's inventory. Small items of any significant value are stored in the church safe. There were no significant non-monetary assets of this type requiring a narrative description in these notes.

Equipment for use by the church

Office equipment, including computing equipment, reprographic machine, and office furnishings, is provided in the parish office.

6 STAFF COSTS AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

During 2024 the Parish had 2 direct employees: a Parish Administrator and a Director of Music, both being part-time. In addition to salary payments for these posts, the PCC made payments totalling £1,706 reimbursing the working expenses of the incumbent (on the payroll of the Diocese of London) and settling Vicarage water charges.

7 RELATED PARTIES

Mrs Lucilla Royden, a member of the PCC, used the Lower Hall for individual dancing practice during 2024 without prejudice to existing or potential Hall usage. In return for the use of this spare capacity the PCC received regular donations from Mrs Royden.

No other payments, expenses, or other benefits were granted to any PCC member, persons closely connected to them, or related parties.

8 2023 ACCRUALS

The 2023 Financial Statement contained the following accrual items:

Debtors

	£
Income Tax recoverable	925
Lettings and other	11,148
Total Receivables	£12,073

Both the above items have been included within 2024 receipts.

Creditors (amounts due within one year)

	£
Goods and services	15,897
Building renovation works	9,778
Grant from DEBK Fund received in advance	7,502
Robert Presley Bursary	3,824
Total Creditors	£37,001

Except as follows, these creditor items have been discharged within 2024 payments:

- £1,039 of the Robert Presley Bursary remained unspent at 31/12/24, the Fund having received £900 during 2024.
- The Grant from DEBK was received in 2019, and remains unspent in the Lunch Club (restricted) Fund. For further details, see Section 3(c).

Vision and Strategy 2025

History and Vision

St John's Church will be 200 years old in 2028: what will have done, what will the state of play be for God to be able to say, well done, good and faithful servant? Gospel of St Matthew 25.23a

In 1828 Parliament supplied a grant of money to grow the number of churches and parishes, responding to the population shifts brought by the industrial revolution. It was part of a wave of national thanksgiving following the Battle of Waterloo. St John's was one of those churches, built in response to thanksgiving, vision and care.



The original building could seat over a 1000, which was an extraordinary vision, given that it was built in the hamlet of Walham Green in the midst of farm land; it was only much later that it became an urban area. In 1836, the church added a primary school for the parish.

In 1880, in the now busy Fulham, the Batty brothers, vicar and curate, started the church on the journey to the tradition we have now, declaring that light, colour, movement and joy should be the marks of Christian worship and make churchgoing as attractive as comedian Dan Leno made his theatre in Walham Green.

The parish hall built in 1912, became a hub for local groups. Right through the 1950's and 60's—people remember going to dances, youth going to a club called Boanerges— Jesus' nickname for Ss James and John, it means 'Sons of Thunder'; what great name for a youth club! There was a boys brigade, Mother's Union, Scouts, a new school building, a robed choir, study groups, and much more.

Stories of Adversity

Recent history comes not from studies but from powerful stories that are told:

It was raining in church in 1985, plaster and paint peeling. The use of the parish hall was leased away for a 100 years so the church could be restored. The changes were controversial. While Church Architect magazine described it as "a new church of gentle simplicity which positively encourages stillness and attentiveness." and members returned valuing warmth and light; many, then and now, described it as vandalism.

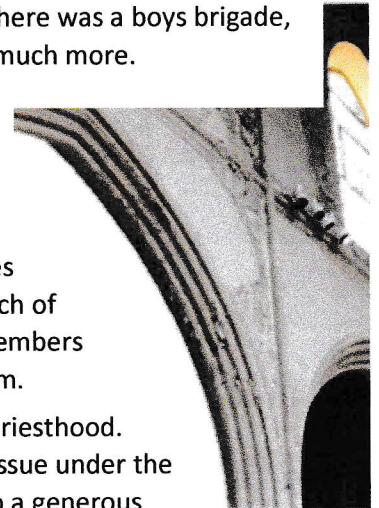
The church divided only a few years later over the ordination of women to the priesthood. The vicar 'went to Rome' and took many with him; the church had to revisit the issue under the guidance of Fr Mark, choosing in reflection and prayer that the church is called to a generous inclusivity. Even so, it took time and resource, there was a lot of pain and more people left.

It was raining in church again, after only twenty years, plaster and paint were peeling; and the tower about to be declared unsafe! The church faced financial crisis again.

A different kind of renovation began, more careful and collaborative, including a restoring of our heritage as a vibrant heart for the community. The roof and tower were made sound, but we also became the home to a nursery, the founding place of an opera company; we host a night-shelter and a drop-in for the homeless, a community supper; we've grown a new choral tradition, done a lunch club for older people and more.

2015/16: many key people and priests move away from the area: no angst, just life. It left ministries like parish lunch and Sunday school without volunteers; socials closed.

COVID and the Cost of Living crisis. Covid was beyond the experience of any of us: some died, many didn't return, we found ourselves cut off by the lack of contact details and the work to keep the church going; we lost most of our volunteers. The PCC decided again and again that it could not go to the church to raise giving, and focused on increasing rentals—it was successful, but it drained more time resource as we negotiated and supported.



The Plaster Fall in 2022 came just when we were finding our feet. The worship space was closed, activities hindered, it took six months of time resource and £50,000 to sort.

Growing Beyond the Barricades.

Fifty years of adversity has meant that, while core safety and safeguarding are secure, there is not a single area of church life that does not require major overhaul—add the loss of volunteers and we can see that the challenge has been massive. It is a testament to the goodness of God, the resilience of the church and the commitment of members that despite fifty years of attrition we are not just ‘still here’, but we are growing in numbers, volunteers and opportunities.

A Moment to Grasp

Signs of sustainable growth in the church have been around for some time now: we are seeing a diverse range of people joining us, with a particular emphasis on families. The Sunday evening family mass has got some traction after a shaky year. Twelve adults signing up for the Pilgrim course, many exploring the possibility of confirmation—the first since before Covid. Children and Young People want groups and activities as well.

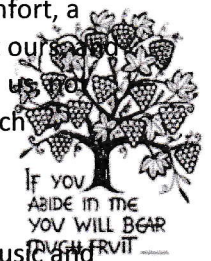
Three ministries of compassion started this autumn: a daytime drop-in and a night shelter for homeless women, and a community supper open to all. For the second year running we have had a social event, last year a strawberry tea, this year a parish lunch – they were both popular events that generated the desire for more.

Substantial growth in volunteers: to support children’s ministry; website and media; ministries at mass: intercessions, Holy Communion; children wanting to serve and read; people are interested in a choir; each member of PCC has felt moved to commit to support a particular area of ministry; July saw a successful organic handover of ministry for Sunday refreshments; that it has sustained itself is an really good sign of growth.

There is Healthy Discontent: Healthy in that it is causing us to offer and to agitate, because we recognise that things are not as they should be. Respectful discontent is a holy thing, it creates a willingness in us to be changed and to be part of change.

The Vision for 2025

Vision is “a picture of the future that produces passion in us.” It starts with a deep sense of discomfort, a conviction that things are not as they should be: Holy Discontent. Vision must be God’s vision, not our. It is rooted in the future, not in the present, it should inspire us, not discourage us; it should challenge us, not leave us unmoved. This vision was developed at the October and November meetings of our Church Council.



- To be an actively welcoming church, enabling everyone to belong.
- To offer varied opportunities to worship God in the Catholic tradition, some with ‘classical’ music and some with ‘popular’ music, some mixed, supported by a new director and choir
- To develop children’s participation in ways that enable everyone’s encounter with God.
- To be a Community Hub with increasing participation in compassionate and pastoral ministry.
- To be developing opportunities for fellowship and discipleship: groups for growth and prayer, outings and events – we want to be strengthened to be disciples in our whole lives.
- To reset as a community and as a leadership, finding ways to root our life in our stated values; developing a code of conduct that enables healthy debate and disagreement and community life: striving to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
- To restart the building renewal as a resource for mission and the glory of God.
- To have ensured the church is a Safe Space at the heart of the community, having upgraded safeguarding, health and safety, and GDPR to support the growing mission of the church.

- that the administrative, stewardship, and communications infrastructure of the parish will be running smoothly and efficiently, with people and teams maintaining them easily.
- to be communicating effectively so that people know what is going on, know what the expectations of the church are, and want to get involved.

These last three are not last to be completed but will run alongside everything else.

The Strategy 2025

A vision remains only a nice thing to hang on the wall if not accompanied by a plan to deliver. To be honest, the vision has been around for quite a while, it's been the strategy that has been the difficulty— there have been several attempts, but none have borne real fruit of the quality needed.

Prayer and discipleship: to Christians this is a 'no brainer'. All our plans and hopes are nothing if they are not rooted first in our relationship with God. Psalms 127 The Way always begins here.

Asking for help: to release Fr Chris to focus time on the plan, Mother Tina has kindly agreed to preach once a month, we will look for one other preacher per month and he will reduce his other external commitments. We need to look for outside support to resource more areas of ministry. We are catholic Christians and we recognise that we are part of the whole Church, not an independent entity. We also need to be seeking advice and wisdom to do better what we are resourcing ourselves.

Enabling others: we invest this time in those who are volunteering; participation builds engagement, we want to be part of good things happening, we can be part of the partnership that St Paul describes in his letter to the Philippian church Philippians 1.1-11. As a byproduct, we are adding to the time available for investing in the plan and realising the vision. While each person may take on a small thing; small amounts can add up to a substantial total. Some of that time that is freed up is reinvested in inviting and enabling others to share ministry.

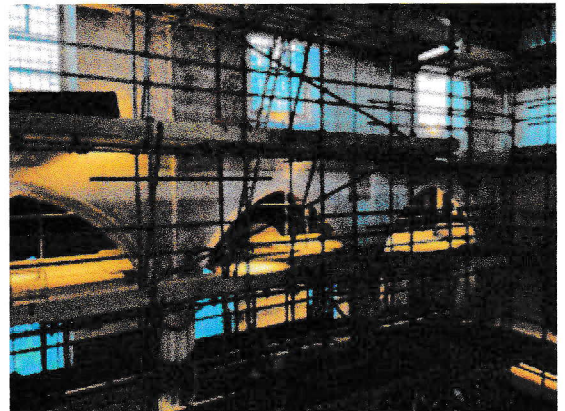
Employees: We need to ensure that we are both investing in them and that we are deploying them wisely.

Tackle lettings issues: significant time is spent on issues related to lettings. By overhauling our lettings business, resolving issues and unwanted behaviour, and streamlining processes we can significantly reduce the time spent by the vicar, administrator, PCC and committees. In the process we will also be fulfilling our responsibilities under law and moral responsibility, and probably raise our income.

Being transparent: we need to share with the church and stakeholders the situation that we are facing; people need to know the potential that we have, the issues we face and our plan to resolve it. It doesn't matter how good a fist we make of the circumstances, St John's probably just looks chaotic if we don't communicate. People may not like what we have to say, but at least they will understand what is happening and see that there is a plan. They are likely to be more patient, more supportive, and more appreciative of what is being delivered.

Renovating the infrastructure: Throughout the year there needs to be an upgrading, in some cases a building, of key elements of the administrative, stewardship, ministry and mission infrastructure. By ensuring the foundations are in place, and by building good habits and procedures: we reduce the number of incidents that force us to respond immediately, often demanding extra time, leadership and money resources; we make sure that each area is running smoothly and easily, so that it is simple for volunteers to take responsibility; we are able to free our resources on what is really important, care and healing for those in need, proclaiming the gospel in word and action, being good stewards of God's creation, sharing in God's work to build the Kingdom in this place and time.

Communication: The strategy itself, of what will be done and when, needs to be a public statement in the church, and it needs to be kept up to date with progress reports – most often a tick to indicate it's



completed. We will also need to ensure that we keep people up to date about what we are doing in the more complex areas, so people can see the plan and the timescales. Communication and successful delivery of parts of the vision builds encouragement and invites participation, which itself builds success and encouragement.

Divine Renovation

St Francis of Assisi stopped at the ruined church of San Damiano to pray, kneeling in prayer before the cross he heard God's word, "Rebuild my house", which he proceeded to do. It was only later that he realised that what he heard was a much greater call: to rebuild the church that is the people of God.

Now is the Time Cf 2 Cor 6.1-2

In the bible, the word we translate as 'time' can be that of the clock, 'chronos'; but it can also be the word 'kairos' meaning a significant moment in time, a God moment, a God-given opportunity and favour, a moment of grace.

The Vicar and PCC believe that this year is such a moment; that we are called as God's people to a divine renovation to restore the life of the church so that it is able to fulfil its purpose and mission in this parish, to enable that fullness of life that is its heritage.

This is no small thing: for all that things are underway, the challenge, the sheer number of things that need to be done will only be possible under God, but they are possible. After all, we wouldn't have the building we have today, if someone hadn't had the extraordinary vision of a 1400 seat church in a hamlet.

What if we're wrong? We could be. There is a sailing term, steerage way, unless the boat is moving through the water you cannot steer it; it doesn't matter if you start off the wrong direction, what matters is enough forward direction to be able to able to steer to the right course. We must trust our merciful God who looks on faithful seeking and commitment and will redirect rather than rebuke.

We all need to be committing ourselves to a deeper relationship with Jesus. When we know him well, we are able to hear his call, and responding to his leadership is the best way to know what we are supposed to be doing and how we are supposed to be doing it. We will find that we have made mistakes, and discovering that we will need to repent – in a literal sense, a change of mind, a change our direction – in order that we may more faithfully follow Christ in his Way.

Fr Chris

Feast of St Agnes, child martyr at Rome

21 January 2025

