

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST CAMBRIDGE

England & Wales · Charity number 1155126

Details

Other names	THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHERRY HINTON CAMBRIDGE, CAMBRIDGE ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST PCC
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2013-12-24
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

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Activities

Objects: PROMOTING IN THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH THE WHOLE MISSION OF THE CHURCH.

Activities: We are a Church of England parish within the South Cambridge Deanery of the Diocese of Ely.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Cambridgeshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£158,193	£182,202	-	-
2023-12-31	£168,049	£136,409	-	-
2022-12-31	£180,998	£129,244	-	-
2021-12-31	£139,532	£121,131	-	-
2020-12-31	£127,627	£135,199	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev JAMES DOUGLAS GEOFFREY SHAKESPEARE	Chair	2017-06-12
ELIZABETH CLARE TRENCHARD		2013-12-10
Elizabeth Joy Radice		2025-05-11
Grant Hawthorne		2026-05-10
Jane Elizabeth Gardiner		2024-05-19
Jonathan Edward Pott		2025-05-11
Joseph Philip		2026-05-27
Michael Carl Leslie Brown		2025-05-11
Miles Baillie		2025-05-11
ROGER GUNNING LILLEY		2013-12-10
Rev Ceri Jane Payne		2024-10-20
Tabitha Sophie Smith		2025-05-11
Tessa Kate Segaren		2024-05-19

Accounts



Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 11 May 2025

Annual Report 2024-2025

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical
Parish of St John the Evangelist, Cambridge

St John the Evangelist Church
Hills Road
Cambridge, CB2 8RN

St John the Evangelist Vicar's Report, 2024-2025

St John the Evangelist seeks to be a 'Transforming Christian presence' in South Cambridge, sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ, offering life-giving worship and pastoral care, hospitality through our St John's Centre, and wide-ranging partnership with our local community. 2024-2025 has been another full year, further consolidating our mission and congregational life, as well as seeing various changes in our ministerial team.

Most recently, on 5 January 2025, the Revd Nell Whiscombe completed her curacy at St John's, after 2 ½ years, having been appointed as the new Chaplain of St Catharine's College, University of Cambridge. Nell began her new role shortly afterwards, at the start of the Lent Term. Nell has contributed widely to our ministry at St John's, including her insightful preaching, oversight of eco church, children and youth ministry, schools links, and being a key part of our relationship with the student body at Homerton College. Nell, Alexander and Austin will be much missed.

Early in 2024, we were approached about a potentially enhanced relationship with Homerton College, following the retirement of their lay Chaplain, Miss P.M. Maude. Mid-year, I led St John's PCC in envisioning a new, self-supporting Associate Vicar role, with a range of key duties including Chaplaincy to Homerton's Charter Choir, sharing in pastoral care of St John's, preaching and worship leadership, and leading on discipleship development, among others. In due course interviews were held, and the Revd Ceri Payne was appointed, announced on 8 August, as our new Associate Vicar. This followed Ceri's earlier curacy at St John's (2021-2023) and a year's ministry at St Mary the Great, Cambridge. Ceri was licensed by the Ven. Alex Hughes on 20 October 2024.

Also in the autumn of 2024, St John's was joined by a part-time placement curate, the Revd Edward Cearn, who spent 12 weeks in our Parish, contributing in many ways, including through his art-work, which featured in a special exhibition held at St John's before Christmas. Having begun his curacy at St Clement's, Ed is now finishing his curacy at St Bene't's, Cambridge.

On 3 July I completed 25 years of ordained life and it was a blessing, in early autumn, to be appointed as an Honorary Canon of Ely Cathedral. I was licensed at the Cathedral on 25 September and have enjoyed having the opportunity to preach several times, as well as continuing to serve as Rural Dean of Cambridge South, and Bishop's Adviser for Spirituality. In view of a likely extended period without a curate at St John's – having had three curates, only a year earlier – it is greatly appreciated having our new Associate Vicar, sharing in the ministry.

Otherwise, our wider ministry team continues to make a fantastic contribution to the life of St John's, including Canon Kate Aylmer LLM, the Revd John Hillier, Anne Rigby ALM, Jane Gardiner LLM, Suzanne Barton ALM, and our ordinands, Sian Binley, and – for a second year – Daniel Krawczyk, and the Revd Dr Muthuraj Swamy. The Revd Peter Heslam has been living out of the area, in recent months.

In terms of our St John's staff team, I am most grateful to Elizabeth Trenchard, our Choir Director and Director of Music – St John's Choir continues to thrive and has several new adults and trebles – as well as Michael Fincham, our dedicated Facilities Manager, and Liz Hurst, our highly skilled Communications Officer. As regards our volunteer team, Julia Margretts has done St John's proud both as Churchwarden and volunteer administrator; she will retire from both roles this year. Joseph Philip has been a dedicated Churchwarden and is stepping down. Roger Lilley continues as our volunteer Treasurer, and as the Deanery Treasurer; and our PCC Secretary, Janet Tankard, stepped down in autumn 2024, having ably serving in this role for several years. As ever I am so grateful to all our ministers, paid staff and volunteers, who make life at St John's possible.

Some other highlights, in the past year, apart from the celebration of the major Christian festivals, have been our Eco-Fest on 12 October; many concerts throughout the year, including ongoing links with Perse School students; all of our regular Small Groups, and other occasional courses, such as – early in 2025, a youth Confirmation course, and in 2024 an Admission of Baptised to Communion course. We also continue to offer ongoing outreach to local schools; support to our overseas mission links, one of whom (the Bethesda Project in Burundi) sent a representative to tell us about their pioneering work recently; Children's Church, as well as Toddle Along, St John's Youth Group, and various outings; as well as day-by-day pastoral care, Baptisms, weddings and funerals. St John's Friendship Café met weekly from January to March 2025, and we continue to attract many people to our monthly Community Lunches, ably led by Anne Rigby and her team.

As ever, I would like to thank all members of St John's for your dedicated participation in the life, work, teaching, worship and outreach of our local Christian community, seeking God's guidance and blessing on the year ahead. May God's holy will be sought, in all things, for the furtherance of his Kingdom, on earth as it is in heaven.

Revd Canon James Shakespeare
Vicar, St John the Evangelist Cambridge

Associate Vicar's Report, 2024-2025

After completing my curacy training at St John the Evangelist, and following a year on secondment to Great St Mary's in the centre of Cambridge from September 2023 to September 2024, I have been greatly enjoying being back at St John's, since 22 October 2024, as Associate Vicar.

In this new role, my ministry focus is on our vision and strategy for mission and outreach to the people who live, work and study in the parish. Developing learning and discipleship within and beyond the existing congregations (including through small groups and inquirers' groups) is a key responsibility in this ministry.

In addition, together with the Vicar and the wider ministry team, I am involved in the pastoral care and nurture of the congregations and the wider parish. I also share in the leading of prayer and worship, and in the preaching, at all our services, including weddings and funerals.

I also have a new and distinct role as Homerton College's Choir Chaplain, facilitating and developing the existing link between St John's and Homerton College, which I report on elsewhere.

In 2024 I completed a Diocesan-run training course on spiritual care for older people, and I will be commissioned as an Anna Chaplain at St John's on 11 May. With so many of us living for much longer and having such diverse experiences as we grow older, there are wonderful opportunities for ministry amongst older people, including both those with a strong faith and those with little or no faith. I hope as an Anna Chaplain to bring best practice and creativity to our ministry to older people, both in our congregations and in the wider parish.

Revd Ceri Payne
Associate Vicar

Licenced Lay Minister's Report

Life as an LLM continues to be varied and interesting. I preach, serve as deacon and occasionally lead services but most of my work is behind the scenes. I am part of the Sacristan team and spend time with individuals as and when needed. I have also started to be involved in funerals. Away from St John's I am a volunteer chaplain at Addenbrooke's and do an occasional morning at Arthur Rank Hospice.

Jane Gardiner, LLM

Electoral Roll Report

On 1 April 2025 the number on the Electoral Roll was 200, having been reduced by the deaths of four members during the year (Bill Bainbridge, Pat Heap, Beryl Johnson and Mary O'Flynn).

2025 is a year in which, under the Church Representation Rules, every parish is required to prepare a completely new Electoral Roll. The Rules require reasonable steps to be taken to inform members of the existing Roll that they must complete new application forms, and this was done by email letters (which also went to non-Roll members on the email circulation list), or, for those not online, hand-delivered letters (with the exception of a very small number of people not resident in the parish who were thought no longer to fulfil the requirements of membership); announcements were also made at most services during the preparation period and in the weekly e-news. I am very grateful to the clergy and to Liz Hurst and Julia Margretts for their help with this process.

The number on the new Roll, published on 26 April 2025, is 140. Of these, approximately 59% are resident within the parish.

Cherry Hopkins
Electoral Roll Officer

PCC Secretary's Report of PCC Meetings, 2024-2025

PCC members are clergy, churchwardens and others elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) of the parish. The principal function of the PCC is "promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical." St John's PCC is a charity registered with the Charity Commission, its members being trustees.

St John's annual report contains a review of the year in the vicar's report, statutory reports and accounts and individual reports on the activities of the parish generally. Thanks are given to all those who have contributed to this year's annual report.

St John's PCC membership 19 May 2024 – 11 May 2025

Clergy

Revd Canon James Shakespeare, Vicar and Chair

Revd Nell Whiscombe, Assistant Curate (July 2022-January 2025)

Revd Ceri Payne, Associate Vicar (from October 2024)

Ex-officio

Jane Gardiner, LLM

Roger Lilley, Treasurer

Julia Margretts, Churchwarden and Vice-Chair

Joseph Philip, Churchwarden

Janet Tankard, PCC Secretary (until September 2024)

Elizabeth Trenchard, Organist and Director of Music

Deanery Synod Representative

Amanda Taylor (from May 2024)

Co-opted

Revd John Hillier, Retired with Permission to Officiate

Elected members

Alison Baillie, elected 2022, standing down 2025

Brian Heap, elected 2023, standing down 2026

Hilary Pennington, elected 2023, standing down 2026

Joseph Saunders, elected 2023, standing down 2026

Tessa Segaren, elected 2024, standing down 2027

Don Simpson, elected 2023, standing down 2026

Jacqueline Watkins, elected 2023, standing down 2026

Alastair Wilkinson, elected 2023, standing down 2026

One new PCC member, Tessa Segaren, was elected at the 2024 APCM, to serve until 2027.

Janet Tankard stepped down as PCC Secretary in September 2024. We are extremely grateful for her excellent work in this role. Liz Hurst was appointed as PCC Secretary, on an hourly paid basis, from January 2025.

Ali Baillie is stepping down from PCC membership at the 2025 APCM, having completed her three year term. We are very grateful for her valuable contribution to the PCC.

Our thanks go to all the members of the PCC, who have generously given their time to supporting our church life in this way.

Six meetings have been held in person at St John's since the APCM in May 2024. After a prayer and bible reading, meetings include regular reports from the churchwardens, treasurer and safeguarding officer, as well as reports on health and safety, the deanery and diocesan matters. Other updates are given on ministry, music and worship, children, youth and families, eco church and the mission committee. Particular areas of interest are also discussed on a one off basis. Amongst these items, in the last year, we have discussed the dispute with Wave Utilities, Chaplaincy to the Charter Choir of Homerton College and the new PCC committee structure. You will find more information about these topics elsewhere in the Annual Report.

Approved minutes from PCC meetings are available for parishioners to read, copies of which are placed on the St John's noticeboard in the lobby and on file for reference in the Parish Office. Meeting dates are in E-news, on the church website calendar and in the PCC minutes.

We are currently entitled to nine elected members on the PCC and will have two vacancies at the APCM on 11 May 2025. We are entitled to two further deanery synod representatives, although we are already well represented on the synod by our existing representative, plus our Vicar as Rural Dean, and our Treasurer as Deanery Treasurer.

Please consider whether you would like to represent St John's as a PCC member or on Deanery Synod. The PCC would welcome new members and nomination forms can be found at the back of church, online from the parish resources website <https://parishresources.org.uk/pccs/apcms/>, or alternatively ask one of the clergy.

Liz Hurst

PCC Secretary

Safeguarding Report 2024-2025

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

Church Representation Rules: Part 9, Section A, APCM, M5(3) Business; reports etc,

The Importance of Safeguarding

Safeguarding is the action that is taken to promote the welfare of children and vulnerable adults, protecting them from abuse or maltreatment and preventing harm to their health or development.

Proverbs 31v 8 says “Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute.”

As a church we want to ensure that the children and vulnerable adults in our community are protected and recognise our calling and duty to love and care for the vulnerable and marginalised, protecting all from abuse.

Parish Safeguarding Officer

This time last year, I had audited safeguarding processes and paperwork at St John the Evangelist church and identified historic and more recent gaps. By June 2024, the St John’s Church safeguarding dashboard showed that we were up to date on 57% of mandatory safeguarding actions; by the end of March 2025, we had completed 97% of such actions.

Over the past year, the PCC has:

- read and understood the C of E Code of Safer Working Practices & Safer Environments. This document has also been disseminated to all church volunteers working with children and vulnerable adults.
- approved a policy statement on the recruitment of ex-offenders
- approved Social Media guidance
- reviewed the list of church activities on the Safeguarding dashboard for completeness
- reviewed & approved ‘Responding to Allegations’ – the C of E recommended process
- approved the safe storage of Safeguarding information
- approved the list of non-church activities taking place in the Wilkinson Room
- considered what makes a Safe & Healthy culture in relation to safeguarding at St John’s and identified development points
- taken note of C of E guidance on Responding well to Victims and Survivors

Safer Recruitment

Over the past year, I have focused on ensuring that all DBS checks, references and requisite safeguarding training for volunteers working with children are in place. I have also worked to make sure that we have the policies and procedures to ensure that safeguarding is an integral part of the way in which we work with children and vulnerable adults at St John the Evangelist church. Paperwork relating to the safer recruitment of volunteers has been drafted and is in the process of being reviewed by the Executive Committee. Though policies are in place, more work still needs to be done to embed safer recruitment practices so this will be an on-going focus over the coming year.

Safeguarding Policies

We continue to have Safeguarding as a standing agenda item for all PCC meetings and regular safeguarding reports have been made to the PCC.

The PCC approved a procedure for Responding Promptly to Safeguarding Concerns or Allegations at the PCC meeting on 13 March.

Safeguarding Training

All those on the PCC have completed the 'core pathway' training required - Basic, Foundation and Domestic Abuse modules. Some longer standing members of the PCC have completed refresher training, since Church of England guidance states that this should be undertaken at 3 yearly intervals. I have run safeguarding training for those not able to complete the training on-line.

A Safe and Protective Environment

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, not because 'we have to', but because we care.

Mark 12:30-31 says: "And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

Jacqui Watkins

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Treasurer's Report 2024

The financial report for the church is certainly a lot healthier than it has been for many years in spite of the fact that our reserves are only just sufficient to meet all foreseeable needs. However, that is the limit of our resources at the moment and to meet longer term objectives there will need to be a significant boost to our income.

There are many reasons why our income should fluctuate from year to year. Our income from lettings of the St John's Centre and the church has remained very steady. Of more concern has been a fall in the income we receive through the Parish Giving Scheme (PSG), the most significant part of the regular donations the congregation makes. This has been the first fall for some years; if it continues then it will certainly be a cause for concern.

Once again, could I ask all of you who don't contribute via the PGS to consider doing so. I would like to be in a position to announce that we are phasing out all other means of making regular donations to our church funds. There may be exceptional reasons why the PGS is not a good vehicle for a few, but for so many reasons - privacy of data, speed of collection of gift aid and administrative burden - any other method of regular payment into our church funds is inefficient.

Our Gift Aid Officer spends many hours each quarter processing the figures involved in donations outside the PGS scheme. It should be possible to reduce this workload drastically if 95% of our voluntary donations were to go through the PGS scheme.

Prompt action has always ensured that our maintenance costs have been kept to a minimum. The major works recorded in the financial statement refer to the audio-visual installation which was largely covered by a generous legacy. This is a reminder of the impact that such a gift can make and we urge all of you to consider St John's in your wills. Many of you will be quite surprised to learn how little income the church at large derives from legacies in contrast to days gone by. We would be very happy to discuss with you how your legacy could make a difference to St John's and its community.

A very big thank you to all those who have made the running of the finances at St John's so smooth. Those who count the collections, put out the card readers everything is done so efficiently.

And thank you, the congregation, whose regular donations, support for appeals, for concerts, coffee money etc etc, when all added together place us in an enviable position compared to many parishes.

As always, please feel free to contact me with questions about the minutiae of the financial statement or church finances in general.

Roger Lilley
Treasurer

Churchwardens' Report 2024-2025

Life at St John's has continued on an upward trajectory in 2024-2025, with good levels of attendance at services, further expansion of the Choir and a continuing increase in external bookings for rooms in the St John's Centre and the church itself.

1. Committee Structure of the PCC

Over the course of the year we have reviewed and updated the Committee Structure of the PCC.

A formal Standing Committee has been set up, which is able to make decisions between PCC meetings, on the occasions when it is not possible to consult the full PCC.

The work of the PCC is now supported by four Committees, which each provide leadership and direction for the following areas:

- Executive Committee – for the Ministry team; Choir; Home Groups; Children, Youth and families work; Homerton Charter Choir; Finance; Safeguarding; Health & Safety and Fundraising
- Employment Committee – for the appointment and work of Administrative staff; Communications Officer; Caretaker/Premises Manager and volunteer helpers in the Office and Church
- Mission Committee – for the Eco Group; Arocha Church and donations to and support for charities

- Site Management Committee – for the care and maintenance of the church buildings, gardens, grounds and St John’s Centre, including relevant Health & Safety issues; the Premises team, including contractors and volunteers; preparation for and follow up to Quinquennial Inspections; external bookings and preparing to reduce St John’s carbon footprint

Membership of each Committee includes representatives of the clergy, churchwardens, members of the PCC and appropriate specialist expertise when needed, for example in areas such as safeguarding and human resources.

Each committee reports to the PCC, has Terms of Reference agreed by the PCC, and has started a programme of regular meetings of at least three per year.

We are extremely grateful to all those members of the congregation who share their expertise and give up their time to support the work of St John’s, by serving on the PCC and associated committees. It is early days as yet but the updated system has got off to a good start and is working well.

2. Wave Utilities

We are pleased to report that, after 18 months of negotiation, the dispute with Wave Utilities, reported in last year’s Churchwardens’ report, has, with the help of the Consumer Council for Water, now been resolved.

Whilst Wave Utilities at no point accepted any responsibility for their failure to contact St John’s from 1 April 2017 to May 2023, we did discover more about the circumstances that resulted in this complete breakdown of communications for a period of six years. Although Wave Utilities refused to acknowledge any shortcomings in the quality of their customer service provision, the company did finally reassess the sum owed for the provision of sewerage services at St John’s, from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2025, reducing it from £11,770.99 to £2,432.44. This sum is much more in line with the sums charged by Pennon Water (now Source for Business) for the supply of water to St John’s over that period, so it has been paid and the dispute finally settled. Although it was promised, no apology to Sue Mawby has been received from Wave Utilities.

The account was then switched from Wave Utilities to Source for Business, with effect from 31 March 2025. This will be much more convenient as charges for the supply of water and sewerage services will now be levied on the same bill each year.

3. Quinquennial Inspection, on behalf of the Diocese of Ely

The Quinquennial inspection was carried out by Karen Lim, of Cowper Griffith, on 18 July 2023.

Overall the premises are in good repair, including the main roof areas. However work needs to be done on the below ground drainage associated with the north aisle and the north aisle buttress and water damage to brick work on the south-western buttress of the church. All the gutters and rainwater pipes are cast iron and now in need of redecoration and refurbishment, over the next three years.

Lodge & Sons have been appointed to undertake this work and will be starting on site after Easter 2025. The total cost of their quotation is £51,689, but this is likely to be increased as a result of the inflation that has taken place since it was prepared in January 2024. 50% of this sum is the cost of the necessary scaffolding. It is likely that the work will be done one elevation at a time, over the next three years, in order to spread the cost.

The Site Management Committee has recommended that support should be sought from Karen Lim with the monitoring and final inspection of this work.

4. Maintenance and repairs

As much of this work has Health & Safety implications, it has been reported in the Churchwardens' Health & Safety report.

Organ

As in previous years, the organ has been tuned by Norman Hall & Sons three times this year, in September and December 2024, and March 2025.

Signage

The main church noticeboard was replaced very successfully in June 2024 with an attractive green board made by a specialist firm.

Clip frames have been attached to the West Door and church gates, to accommodate posters advertising church events and activities. The result is a much neater appearance and the posters are better protected from the weather, giving them increased longevity.

Care of the gardens and grounds around the church

A part-time gardener has been employed for the first time this year, for three hours every two weeks. Matthew Wolff covered the role in the autumn of 2024 and Clare Donovan took over in March 2025. They are assisted by a hardworking team of volunteers from the church congregation and local community, led by Erica Lowry, Katie Knapton and Angela Fincham. Michael Fincham continues to lead a very committed team of excellent grass cutters.

The garden in the centre of the courtyard continues to be much admired by visitors and special thanks go to Clare Donovan for all her hard work on keeping it looking so attractive.

The range of wildlife continues to develop in the grounds, well supported by the Youth Group, the Guides and the Brownies. Although small, the pond has been a great success resulting in the sighting of a newt for the first time this year.

Caretaking and cleaning

Michael Fincham (Caretaker/Premises Manager), continues to ensure the church and St John's Centre are maintained to a very high standard. The entire premises are always clean, well presented and much appreciated by both the congregation and external hirers of rooms and facilities.

In a voluntary capacity, he also continues to look after all the bookings, which make a huge contribution to the financial status of St John's. The number of both regular and one-off

hirers has expanded again this year, as a result of the excellent service Michael provides. His outstanding work and continuing commitment are much valued and appreciated.

Many thanks are also due to Joseph Philip, Cherry Hopkins, Jane Blackmore, Liz Tavner and Pat Chapman who assist him in the church.

5. Fundraising

For a variety of reasons the Fundraising Group has not met this year, so fundraising activities are being included in this report.

A range of events raised over £8,000 for St John's in 2024. They included a number of evening concerts by a range of choirs, orchestras and groups, a series of lunchtime concerts by the very talented pupils of The Perse School, a Plant Sale in May, a pottery sale in June, an Eco Fest in October and Christmas Stalls in December.

Outstanding issues to be attended to in 2025/2026

- Repairs are needed to the fence between the church grounds and the EF Language School next door. It has been agreed that the cost of this will be shared between EF and St John's and it will be carried out by The Cam Handyman in the next few weeks.
- The rotting sleepers in the car park need to be replaced by bollards, to prevent cars reversing over the sill.
- A damaged gate post, at the entrance to the car park, needs to be repaired.
- Some painting work needs to be done to window frames and external cupboard doors, such as that of the door to the shed that houses the organ blower. It is hoped that a group of volunteers can be recruited to complete these and other minor repairs.

Julia Margretts and Joseph Philip
Churchwardens

Churchwardens' Health and Safety Report

16 July 2024

Several broken tiles on the roof of the south aisle were repaired by Lander & Linsey, after one fell into the courtyard on Sunday 14 July. The Courtyard was closed on Sunday and Monday 14 & 15 July, but was reopened on 17 July. Pointing above the Boiler House was also repaired by Lander & Linsey, while they were on site.

10 September 2024

UK Safety Management completed PAT testing on all portable appliances.

11 October 2024

Lander & Linsey repaired the gutter above the Vicar's Vestry, which had fallen off its mounting and the consequent water flow on the flat roof caused a leak in the Vicar's Vestry.

7 November 2024

Alan Marshall carried out the annual service on the church boiler.

13 November 2024

Briar Security carried out the annual service on the CCTV and alarm systems.

4 February 2025

Alan Marshall serviced the boilers in the kitchen, Wilkinson Room and Vestry.

11 February 2025

The Cam Handyman temporarily repaired the fence between church property and the EF Language School next door, to make it safe pending permanent repair, the cost of which will be shared with EF.

25 February 2025

UK Safety Management conducted a full fixed wire testing procedure on both circuits, (which operate from the control boards in the Vicar's Vestry and the table storage cupboard in the Wilkinson Room), for the EICR Certificate, which is now required every five years. One circuit breaker needs to be replaced, which will be done by DS Electrical early in April 2025.

3 March 2025

Lander & Linsey cleaned all the gutters accessible by ladder and washed the canopy in the Courtyard.

6 March 2025

Camfire serviced the Fire Extinguishers, replacing two due to their age.

21 March 2025

Capital Doors repaired the doors from the Lobby to the Courtyard, replacing the sensors in the Courtyard.

3 April 2025

Safety Audit of the site carried out by two member of the Site Management Committee

4 April 2025

Loose paving slabs in the car park were repaired by the Cam Handyman.

6 April 2025

A Fire Practice was held during the Sunday morning 10.00am service.

Monthly checks

Regular monthly checks continue to be carried out on the:

- Smoke Alarms
- Fire Extinguishers
- Emergency Lighting
- Carbon dioxide detectors

Outstanding issues to be dealt with shortly:

- A loose paving slab outside the front entrance to the Lobby will be re-laid
- A proud drain cover in the car park will be re-seated
- A damaged gatepost at the entrance to the car park will be repaired
- Some high lights bulbs in the church need replacing
- Bollards will be installed along the eastern edge of the car park, to prevent cars reversing over the sill

I am grateful to Julia and Michael for all that they have done in organizing the work schedule.

*Joseph Philip
Health and Safety Officer*

Cambridge South Deanery Synod Report 2024-2025

This has been a full and engaged year for our Deanery, with James leading as Rural Dean. In the earlier part of the year there were two vacancies, St Bene't's, Cambridge plus Newnham and Grantchester. Last autumn two new incumbents were licensed, the Revd Devin MacLachlan and the Rev Jim Robinson. More recently there has been a vacancy at St Barnabas, Mill Road, and following Easter Sunday, 20 April 2025, St James' Church, Wulfstan Way will fall vacant, as our near neighbour, the Revd Steven Rothwell, moves into a full-time Diocesan post heading up curate training and clergy development. Our Deanery Chapter meets regularly, as a place for clergy to connect, share and pray for one another's ministries. Deanery Synod met on three occasions, one of them a joint Synod with Cambridge North. We had a recent Synod focused on Eco Church/ Net Zero, another included a presentation on the Diocesan Open Learning Platform. Otherwise James, as Rural Dean, with Canon Nick Moir, Rural Dean of Cambridge North, has been part of a working group, meeting with Iain Osbourn, Diocesan Director of Strategy, to begin to formulate a Greater Cambridge Strategy, not least concerned with new housing developments in the area, and how as parishes we can work together to ensure a Christian presence.

*Revd Canon James Shakespeare
Rural Dean*

ACTIVITY REPORTS

Children, Youth and Families

Children's Church

It is wonderful to see growing numbers of children joining in with Children's Church, together with all the trebles who have joined the Choir. We are very grateful to our very dedicated team of Children's Church leaders (Philip Wood, Mel Boyle and Nat Segaren) and assistants (John Hillier, June Huntsman and Beth Christie). We continue to pray that more people would join our Children's Church team, as leaders or assistants. This would make it easier for the children to be in smaller groups so that all the children could be involved in activities, and could be engaging with material, that was better tailored to their age (which currently ranges from 5 to 13 years). It would also provide more opportunities for interacting with individual children, both growing their confidence and helping them to develop their own faith.

Revd Ceri Payne, Associate Vicar

Toddle Along

Our group continues to grow with 25 plus children registered. We have been using material from 'Go Teach' which is a resource comprising of 13 sessions of God's word for under 3's. For example:- 'Houses Jesus visited' and 'Heroines in the Bible '. The stories are very short and the text is easy for the children to understand. The children learn a new worship song every term and it is wonderful to see them enjoy this activity.

I am grateful as always for the help by our dedicated volunteers – we could not operate without the continual support from, Monica, Marian, Katie, Janet, Liz and Michael and support from the clergy, James and Ceri.

We are grateful to Liz for the publicity on the church website which has brought us to the attention of families in the area.

We continue to support Mary's Meals with the monetary contributions from parents and grandparents of the children. Looking forward to our Summer term when we will be looking at the series 'Animals in the Bible'.

Anne Rigby, ALM (Pastoral Care)

Youth Group

St John's Youth Group, which caters for the 11-16 age group, met regularly over the past year, on a Sunday afternoon. Usually we meet in the Cavendish Room, and leadership of St John's Youth was shared between Revd Nell Whiscombe, Revd James Shakespeare, and our theological college ordinands, Dan Krawczyk and Ben Sheridan. A range of topics were discussed, relating to Christian faith and to life in society or ecological concerns, as well as food, fun and fellowship being enjoyed! More recently, into 2025, the regular Youth Group has transmuted into a 'Questions about Faith' cum 'Youth Confirmation Course', and some of our 12+ young people are being confirmed at St Bene't's Church, Cambridge, on 10th May. However, it is anticipated that our regular Sunday afternoon or evening Youth Group will continue, thereafter, alongside regular activities at Children's Church (and St John's Choir) during worship on Sunday mornings. It is a joy to empower our youngsters to grow in faith and confidence, as well as in active engaging with the issues shaping our daily lives.

Revd Canon James Shakespeare

St John's Church Choir

2024 was a great year for St John's Church Choir We sang at many community events and supported the worship of other churches in addition to recruiting even more choristers!

We are delighted to build on our chorister recruitment campaign and currently have sixteen trebles singing on the top line. Having the new children in the choir has boosted our energy and enthusiasm levels. Throughout the year the trebles have continued to follow the RSCM

Voice for Life training scheme. Many former choristers maintain a strong link with St John's and we are always delighted to welcome them back especially for the Christmas services.

The choir have continued to lead the music at all the main services. We stretched our repertoire this year by singing anthems by Stanford for a whole month, including a choral evensong, to commemorate 100 years since he died.

Outreach and Community

We started our year with a trip to St Mary's church in Sawston where we sang evensong for Candlemas, kindly hosted by the Revd Petra Shakeshaft. The following month we sang choral evensong at St Mary's church in Bury St Edmund's and had a fascinating tour of their huge, ancient church.

We were delighted to join our partnership church choirs at St James' for Ascension Day this year.

We participated in the Diocesan Choir Festival in Ely Cathedral where one of our choristers read the second lesson. We hosted the preliminary rehearsals for this event at St John's.

We hosted a young voices event in partnership with the RSCM. This was aimed at singers under the age of 16 who enjoyed coming together from beyond the Diocese to sing with children of the same age. They entirely led evensong for us – including readings and prayers as well as the music.

The choir family enjoyed a trip to Chippenham Fen to feed the water buffalo and a visit to Ely Cathedral to see the amazing illuminations. We had a number of social activities, including socials post evensong, and we are grateful to James and Alison for hosting the summer party in the vicarage back garden.

On Advent Sunday we enjoyed singing an Advent Carol Service with the Revd Andrew Hurst at Grantchester parish church. We had hoped to sing Christmas Carols at Wimpole Hall but this event was unfortunately cancelled due to a severe weather forecast. We were lucky to have relatively mild weather for our annual carol singing on the punts in association with "Let's go punting". We raised a total of £1400 for the Cambridge Community Fund and we donated £250 to Wintercomfort. We ended our year with a lovely (if very wet) evening of carol singing around the parish when we brought Christmas cheer to members of the congregation who enjoyed carols sung on their doorstep.

Future

We continue to enjoy leading the worship at St John's. We hope that our trebles will continue to work through the RSCM training scheme and go on to achieve awards from Ely Diocese. We look forward to continuing to host and visit our partnership choirs and choirs from the Diocese (who may join our rehearsals for Diocesan events) next year.

We are extremely grateful to Roger Lilley for acting as Assistant Director of Music throughout the year. We are also grateful to our choir chaperones Jacqui, Suzanne and Catriona who enable and support our work with young children.

We are truly a choir family and we still have room for new members. If you are aged 7 years or older and enjoy singing please give us a try. We rehearse every Thursday evening and we have lots of fun as well as leading the worship.

Elizabeth Trenchard
Organist and Director of Music

Community Lunches

The Community Lunches have grown in popularity over the past year. Our numbers now are 60 -70 each month. At our Christmas lunch in 2024 the room was full and we served at least 70 meals. We have had excellent feedback from the attendees which proved it is a worthwhile project, meeting the needs of the community.

This venture could not operate without the invaluable help from the team of volunteers. I extend my grateful thanks to Janet, Jane, Joseph, Don, Hilary, Monica, Marian, John, Mary Ellen, Cathy, Liz, Peter and Michael. A fantastic team.

I also extend my gratitude to Mike Payne for continuing to head up the lunches during March and April while I have been away caring for family in Lancashire. We continue to cover costs with the £5 charge and have also been able to purchase more equipment for the kitchen. We look forward to providing another year of Friendship and Food for our Community outreach.

Anne Rigby
ALM (Pastoral care)

Eco Church Team

The team has nine members, Matthew Wolff and James Sims Williams joining in early spring 2024. We were led by the Revd Nell Whiscombe for most of her curacy at St John's and she is sadly missed. The Revd Canon James Shakespeare is now acting as interim chair, and other members are Lyn Guy, Brian Heap, John Hillier, Katie Knapton, Roger Lilley and Erica Lowry. We are now working towards an A Rocha silver award, having achieved bronze in 2021. The two assessment areas that most need our attention are the lifestyle and community sections. Other dimensions, buildings, worship and land, we believe are already reaching silver level. In the current APCM report The Gardens at St John's covers the compliance with land issues, including our local wildlife support.

Following the successful screening of the film *Pure Clean Water* and panel discussion early in 2024, we have developed a valuable link with John Latham, Chair of Hobson's Conduit Trust. We publicise their annual Bioblitz Weekend in June involving school-age children, and are now planning a biodiversity walk along the Conduit for members of St John's led by John Latham. We are aware that our sophisticated A V system will enable further film showings with a green agenda.

In early October 2024 we hosted a successful Eco Festival with 17 groups from within and outside the church represented. The primary objective was to share, along with others, commitment to practical action in caring for God's earth. Income of over £1200 was though a welcome bonus. Participants were roughly estimated at 250-300. In late November Nigel Blackmore, a member of St John's, gave an evening presentation with slides on *Climate Adaptation: Food, Energy and Water*. He shared his considerable understanding of these topics, encouraging our engagement rather than negativity and despair. In February 2025 a member of our team visited a Cambridge Carbon Footprint Swish (used clothing exchange) event in Great Shelford, with a view to running such an initiative at St John's in early spring 2026. A good number of helpers would be required, plus supporting stalls and refreshments to attract sufficient participants.

We are currently planning our third Eco Festival in late September 2025 with a mix of familiar participants and some new ones. A sincere thank you to all the team members and to our congregation for their valuable support. Through the year we aim to regularly highlight local and national green issues via e-news and maintain the profile of Eco Church with lobby displays/information.

We would welcome others to the team as we address the requirements needed for further progress.

Erica Lowry

Eco Church Team

Facilities

In 2024/2025 we saw much local use of St John's Centre: leisure activities (Zumba, yoga, drama), musical activities (choirs and orchestras), local interest groups (ornithology, gardening, history, art, tapestry), parties (birthday and anniversary), toddler groups, Brownies and Guides. In addition, the Wilkinson Room was used for wakes for funerals and breakfasts for weddings. Many local organisations, including the Addenbrookes Charitable Trust, the City Council and Queen Edith's Forum used our facilities during the year.

There has also been interest from groups from further afield who wish to arrange events in somewhere as attractive as Cambridge. We offer excellent facilities, a location easy to get to by train and car, complete with a car park and, at the weekend, free on-street parking. The Wilkinson Room is versatile and has excellent kitchen facilities, a lovely courtyard garden and well-maintained lawns at the front. One highlight is the monthly Community Lunch (the last Wednesday of each month except over the summer and Christmas) which regularly draws in around 60 people who enjoy a two-course lunch for £5, freshly prepared by Anne Rigby and her team. We also have the smaller Gray Room upstairs with its large picture window and view over our front garden. Use of this room has increased during 2024. It makes an excellent space for smaller groups, whether they are teaching, counselling, meeting or playing music.

The excellent acoustics of the church are appreciated by various groups who put on concerts. At Christmas time, Saturday evenings are booked up long in advance by groups such as Out of the Shadows Choir, New Cambridge Singers, Cambridge Wind Band, Cambridge Sinfonietta and the Mawson Road Community Orchestra. These concerts are well attended and appreciated by locals whether they regularly attend the church or not. We also put on a very well attended screening of *Pure Clean Water* during 2024 (with a question-and-answer session) about water supply issues in the ever-expanding Cambridge, using our new audio-visual system. We have also seen a substantial increase this year in young people keen to practise on the organ. Students from Homerton, pupils from the Perse, and members of St John's number amongst those learning to play the organ, grateful to be able to practise on an organ as fine as ours. For the first time, in November, we hosted an artist in residence (Debbie Baxter), who gave us an excellent talk about painting in Finland, under the aegis of the Cambridge Drawing Society, before displaying her paintings in the church.

All of this puts a strain on our facilities so it will come as no surprise that some of the money we earn from letting out our facilities goes towards maintenance. Often these things go unnoticed, unless they go wrong, but you may have appreciated new LED uplighters in the lobby (brighter and more eco-friendly than the originals which had come to the end of their life), new PIR lights down the side of the Wilkinson Room, silver A3 clip frames for the posters on the gates advertising our many activities, a set of new display boards for our lobby displays and powerful spotlights for the church to allow us to light up the area at the front of the church for concerts.

In 2025 for the first time (I think!), we will be hosting two or three local artists as part of Cambridge Open Studios on the first, second and fourth weekends of July. I shall report on that next year.

Michael Fincham
Operations Manager

The Gardens at St John's

As always, it has been a busy year in the gardens at St John's. Our wild areas continue to thrive and take on a wild and natural shape of their own. We try not to be too controlling of what nature does best left to itself. A 'manicured look' isn't our aim! Hence the profusion this year of many self seeded primulas which have naturalised nicely after a few being planted several years ago.

Pond

Our mini-pond has settled in well in the quiet corner outside the Wilkinson Room. With its escape ladder in case of stranded creatures and pond plants still establishing themselves, we hope to attract more wildlife to the area, in line with our eco-church credentials. We are encouraged by reports of occasional sightings of frogs and newts. Perhaps dragonflies, butterflies and even a hedgehog will also be attracted by the water and come for a drink.

Autumn gardening party

In November we were joined by volunteers for an autumn clearance, preparing the garden for the onset of winter. Weeding, leaf clearing and removing self-set trees and shrubs took most of our time, with welcome coffee and cake to finish the session.

2025 Plant Sale

We look forward to our 2025 plant sale on 18 May. Following some glorious spring weather we expect plants to have grown more robustly than usual and hope to have an abundance of attractive flowers, vegetables and house plants to sell.

Large areas of the garden were mulched in the autumn and a few plant casualties were removed. We would like to thank the mowing team, now reduced to four only, for their hard work, the bird feeding team, and also the Brownies for their supervision of the hedgehog shelter and some planned upgrading of the bug hotel. Thanks also go to Matthew Wolfe who was taken on in the summer for several months to help out in the gardens.

At times the size and demands of the garden can be a challenge, but the pleasure given to the congregation, to outside groups using St John's and to the local community is a bonus. Hide-and-seek and frisbee challenges take place, flat-sharing students come for a restful change of scene and parents bring a sleeping baby to enjoy the shelter of the courtyard. All are welcome.

Clare Donovan, Gardening Team

Groups Activities

Book Group

The St John's Book Group completed its third year in 2024, with another five books read and discussed. We mainly enjoy reading modern fiction, which has taken us from *Moon Tiger* by Penelope Lively with its grand sweep across twentieth century history, to *A Town called Solace* by Mary Lawson telling a touching domestic story set in a remote Canadian town. We also tried some non-fiction: memoirs including *The Salt Path* by Raynor Winn, with a intimate portrait of walking the glorious coast of Devon and Cornwall against great personal obstacles.

The Friday evening meetings are very informal, with everyone having something to say over a glass of wine (or something softer). It continues to be a lovely way to get to know some of you from St John's and the wider community. We are always keen to recruit more members.

For 2025 our plan is a variety of modern novels after a detour to some Thomas Hardy, so there is lots to look forward to. The group has certainly helped me to pull my eyes away from a screen and keep up the habit of reading!

We are thankful to the PCC for letting us have use of the Wilkinson Room for our meetings.

Miles Baillie

Men's Group

The Men's Group meets every two months for a variety of social activities. These include pub nights, which in the past have been either at the Rock on Cherry Hinton Road or the Queen Edith, curry nights which have been at the Taj and, occasionally, a cooked breakfast. Each event is advertised in E-News, generally for three weeks before the scheduled date, and everyone is welcome to attend. It has been very encouraging this year to have had a diverse group of people attending each event and to see how well everyone has interacted – a genuine demonstration of our love for our brothers in Christ. If you have not joined us for previous events and/or feel nervous about doing so but would like to give it a try, I would recommend that you join us for one of the pub nights as you can stay for as long or as short a time as you wish. Also, if you would like to suggest alternative activities for future events, particularly if they might appeal to a different demographic and/or a larger number of participants please do come and discuss these with me.

Mike Payne

Walking Group

We are a small, committed group who love to walk and explore the countryside. The Vicar is one of our most enthusiastic members! I plan a monthly walk of up to four miles in length, either in Cambridge or the local villages and countryside.

In 2024 we walked on Royston Down with our friends Kay and John Blayney, around Hadstock, Bartlow, Wandlebury, Grantchester and the Cherry Hinton Beech Woods.

Most walks take place on a Thursday morning, meeting at church at 9.30. We offer some alternative dates for those who cannot make Thursday. Walking together gives us a great opportunity to build friendships as well as to get outside and exercise in the fresh air. We are always looking for more members.

Please do come and join us! Details of upcoming walks can be found in the weekly email or from the church office.

Cathy Davies

Homerton College Choir Chaplain's Report

The Charter Choir has been singing a weekly service of Choral Evensong at 6.30pm on Tuesday evenings during university terms since 2012. With the retirement of Trish Maude, who served for many years as the much-loved Lay Chaplain to the Choir, we had the opportunity to create a new link with the Choir and with Homerton College. We are delighted that Homerton College agreed to my appointment to the new role of Choir Chaplain.

My role includes responsibility for planning the services, together with the Director of Music, and overseeing the leading of the services, which involves liaising with the College

fellowship. There's also a pastoral aspect which connects me with the College's tutorial system and the College's provision for student wellbeing.

I've greatly enjoyed getting to know all the students who sing in the Choir, the two organ students, and the Director of Music. A particular highlight was the trip to Hampton Court Palace in March 2025 for the Choir to sing Evensong in the Chapel Royal.

Revd Ceri Payne

Homerton College Choir Chaplain

Lobby Displays

Lobby displays have continued into a fourth year. They aim to acknowledge and share some of the important activities that take place within the church and our local community and to mark the ecclesiastical seasons like Lent, Easter, Harvest, Advent and Epiphany. Throughout the year at the appropriate times the focus has been on charities supported during Lent, Christian Aid Week in May and the Big Brew Coffee Morning for Transform Trade. A regular feature now is the exhibition of art produced by Denise Schoenberg's students, which lifts our spirits over the mid-winter months.

In 2024 Cambridge: Past, Present and Future displayed details of their Nature Festival with outdoor activities open to all through the early summer period. The 5th Cambridge Brownies then treated us to a vibrant display celebrating 100 years of local activity. Beyond this, Kate Aylmer and Liz Hurst accepted the challenge of representing the work of Small Groups at St John's. They illustrated so well that metaphorically from tiny shoots in a bible study group, large trees can grow and flourish. On a similar if practical theme, the Cambridge Garden Club offered eco-friendly garden tips with an invitation to join their programme of events. Very recently Michelle Peters, coordinator of our local Fairbite Food Club, used colourful photos, enabling us to appreciate this important work being carried out at St James' Church, Wulfstan Way.

Whilst recognising the outreach now achieved via on-line communications, we hope there remains a place for eye catching material that heralds and supports one-off events in and around the St John's Centre. To this end lobby displays have linked into the October 2024 Eco Festival, to Nigel Blackmore's talk on Climate Adaptation and to the art exhibition and Cambridge Drawing Society talk by Welsh artist Debbie Baxter. Of late we have reminded people of the membership and role of the Eco Church Team, working now for a silver award, and linked this to relevant events in the Cambridge Literary Festival. We hope that others will be encouraged to join the Team and we would also welcome another coordinator for lobby displays in the future.

Finally, a big thank you to Michael Fincham for his support throughout the year and to all the participants in the kaleidoscope as pictured above.

Erica Lowry

Mission Committee

This small committee meets three or four times a year to discuss, mostly, issues concerning our overseas mission partners. Our meetings are still conducted by Zoom which we continue to find convenient. We are James Shakespeare (Chair), Roger Lilley (Treasurer), Katie Knapton (Secretary), Dominic Barton, Anne Jarvis and Matthew Wolff. During the year we were sorry that Roger Lilley withdrew from the committee but are very pleased to have been joined by John Hillier.

The PCC has delegated to the Mission Committee the decisions about charities for the congregation's personal support during Lent each year. By tradition one local and one national/international are chosen. The nominated charities in 2024 were Blue Smile and Friends of the Holy Land and in 2025 Centre 33 and Mercy Ships.

It was noted during the year that funding to the Bethesda Project in Burundi was less than that given to our other Mission Partners and, with the agreement of the PCC, this was rectified.

This small charity, part of the Kepplewray Trust in the UK, works with some of the poorest people in the world, many of whom were born with severe disabilities. In February one of the Trustees, Marian Browne, accepted with her husband Rory our invitation to speak during a Parish Communion service about the valuable work carried out at Bethesda and some of the severe cases being treated. Talk continued during coffee and further during a bring-and-share lunch which we provided for our visitors. A retiring collection was donated to the charity and several people signed up to regular giving, for which the charity was hugely grateful. We are very grateful to Marian and Rory for coming to St John's and strengthening our links with Bethesda and we continue to pray for the country and the people, guided by prayer points left for us by Rory.

We have also invited Ultan McCabe, our Church Mission Society Mission Partner to make a second visit to St John's and await his reply. Ultan works with Middle East Concern in support of persecuted Christians in the Middle East and North Africa, assisting them with relocation, visa applications and finance, and drafting reports to highlight the situation at the UN, Westminster and elsewhere.

Our second charity in Burundi is Great Lakes Outreach (GLO) which was established by Simon Guillebaud who has an open invitation to return to speak at St John's. His powerful talk during his last visit left a lasting impression on the whole congregation as they learned about more amazing work helping the people in Burundi.

In line with the Environmental Agenda at St John's and its Eco Church credentials, the fourth charity receiving our financial donations is the World Wildlife Fund where our funding helps to fund the work with local communities to monitor snow leopard movements and reduce human-snow leopard conflict, and to fund other work around the world. Snow leopards, an endangered species, were the choice of Children's Church and the Youth Group.

Collections at Toddle Along help to offset the regular donations sent to Mary's Meals which now comes under the umbrella of the Mission Committee.

All Mission giving and Partners will be reviewed annually at our Autumn meetings.

Finally, we liaise closely with the Eco-Church team to encourage work towards obtaining the A Rocha Silver Award. Following the success of last year's Eco-Festival, another is being planned for Saturday 27 September.

Katie Knapton

Parish Communications

The Communications Officer continues to focus each week on the production of Friday's E-newsletter and Sunday's pewsheet. The circulation list for E-news has risen from 145 in March 2024, to 168 in March 2025, maintaining the same encouraging open rate of around 75%. It remains one of our primary means of communicating with the congregation.

In addition, time is spent promoting events and seasonal services, keeping the website up to date and posting on the St John's social media pages. Since December 2024 we have activated our previously dormant Instagram account, and stepped back from our X account. Both the Facebook and Instagram can be run together using the Meta interface, which makes them less time consuming to manage.

Highlights this year have included:

Promoting events and activities

- April 2024 - Earth day photo story in the Cambridge Independent, with a focus on the swift boxes and other eco-projects.
- September 2024 – Revd Nell Whiscombe radio interviews about the 'Blessing of the Backpacks' service on BBC local radio and Cambridge 105 radio.
- September 2024 – Revd Nell Whiscombe radio interview, Cambridge 105 radio re: Eco-Festival.

Website

- February 2025 - Review meeting between St John's representatives and website providers, Hubb Church, resulting in a streamlined home page and improvements to other aspects of the site.
- February 2025 – Google Analytics was set up, with the first full month of data being March 2025:

Month	Views	Active Users
1-31 March 2025	2236	530

Photography and video

In December 2024 a camera phone was bought for St John's use, to enable good quality photos and video to be taken and kept in one place. The camera phone is available for the choir and church events, so that any photos with Safeguarding implications can be managed appropriately.

To launch the Instagram account, four short videos were compiled to promote the Advent, Christingle, Carol and Nativity services. These were time consuming to create but an effective marketing tool.

Social media

The social media data has been encouraging.

FACEBOOK	Reach	Interactions	Link clicks	Followers	Top 3 posts (number of views)
2023-2024	4,300 (+238%)	446 (+265.6%)	40 (+207.7)	147	1 Easter flowered cross 2 Easter Sunday services 3 Community Lunch invite
2024-2025	9,200 (+114.2%)	860 (+94.6%)	57 (+42.5%)	167	1 Nell's farewell (557), 2 Nativity promo video (549) 3 Thanks after Carol Service (514)
INSTAGRAM					
2024-2025	1,700 (+100%)	153 (+100%)	2 (+100%)	127	1 Choir punting video (1,600) 2 Convoy4Ukraine drop point (337) 3 Advent Sunday video (270)

This year we also replaced the wooden noticeboard in the church grounds with a new, green noticeboard, which displays information about regular service times and who to contact.

Liz Hurst, Communications Officer

Fairtrade at St John's

Following the demise of Traidcraft plc we now have a reduced presence at St John's, raising funds in a smaller way for the Fairtrade charity Transform Trade (formerly Traidcraft Exchange), with reminders that we are a still Fairtrade Church.

In March we held another successful Big Brew event, publicising fair trade and attracting many old and new friends to enjoy tea, coffee, cakes and friendly company. The event was enhanced this year by the display of pottery which John Hillier kindly sold on our behalf. Huge thanks to the team who ran the event, to the bakers who made so many delicious cakes, to John for his generosity and to all those who came along to make it such a happy event. We were able to donate the magnificent sum of £500 to Transform Trade and have displayed a thank you certificate in the lobby.

We took a stall at the Eco-Fest last autumn and were pleased to add to the diversity of this annual event. Our Christmas and Easter cards, which we sell in the run up to these festivals, continue to be popular and are another reminder of our Fairtrade status, as is our serving Fairtrade tea, coffee and sugar, and biscuits where possible, at church events.

From the outset we have had our own bank account, with our end-of-year accounts published alongside the church accounts. With reduced income and expenditure coinciding with the bank introducing charges for community accounts, we now carry out our transactions within the church accounts.

Katie Knapton

Small Groups

Monday small group

The Monday night small group meets fortnightly in a local home. Topics covered in 2024-2025 have included different approaches to prayer, the letter to the Hebrews, and the book of Jonah. After Easter the group will be looking at Luke. It is a diverse group, with a range of different people taking part in preparing and leading bible studies. Meetings always feature coffee and cake and, in the week of Ash Wednesday, included pancakes.

Mike Payne

Tuesday small group

We meet on a Tuesday morning, during term-time, in one of the church's small rooms. This year we have focused on a number of subjects which have been approached in a variety of ways:

- Nehemiah: getting to know better the story of Nehemiah and his relationship with God
- Water: tracing the instances of water being mentioned throughout the bible and its different significance in each case.
- The Messiah – George Frideric Handel: listening to some extracts of how this composer portrays the life of Jesus, setting the music to biblical text.
- The Kingdom of God: A particularly reflective session where we created a visual display of all the different images we find Jesus giving to his listeners helping them to understand what God's kingdom is like.
- The Lord's Prayer: taking a slow and steady reflection of this prayer.

In September, the group also prepared a display for the church foyer, explaining what we do when we meet, along with information about the other small groups. We created a leaflet for people to take away. There are now copies at the back of church, so please do give one to newcomers who are interested.

Our grateful thanks to members of the Ministry Team who have guided us in our meetings. Also, to those who have provided refreshments – and washed up! *Canon Kate Aylmer, LLM*

Wednesday small group

We are a group of fourteen who meet on Zoom on alternate Wednesday evenings. We have found this to be more convenient than meeting in person, especially for those who are housebound or who prefer not to go out after dark.

This last year we have covered a number of subjects, the most recent being based on a course written by a local Theologian, Michael Schluter, titled "Lessons from the Ten Encounters with Jesus as recorded in the Gospel of Mark."

It has proved to be a very engaging and uplifting course from which we all feel we have benefited. We are open to new members by emailing peter.heslam@gmail.com

Revd John Hillier



Financial Statement

For the year ending 31 December 2024

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of
St John the Evangelist, Cambridge

St John the Evangelist Church
Hills Road
Cambridge, CB2 8RN

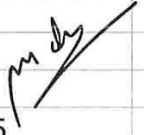
Approved by the PCC on 11 March 2025

Signed: 

Revd Canon James Shakespeare, Vicar

Independent Examiner: *Professor Martin Dove*

Treasurer: *Mr Roger Lilley*

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT									
To the PCC of St John the Evangelist, Cambridge									
This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2024, which are set out on pages 2 to 11, is in respect of an examination carried out under Regulation 3 (3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 and section 43 of the Charities Act 1993.									
Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner									
As trustees and members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of the regulation 3 (3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 and section 43 (2) of the Charities Act 1992 (the Act) do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of Regulation 25 of the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 and Regulation 7 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 1995.									
Basis of Independent Examiner's report									
My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43 (7) (b) of the Act and to be found in the guidance from the CBF. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.									
Independent Examiner's Statement									
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:									
1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements									
• to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and • to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the requirements of the Act, as also contained in the Church Accounting Regulations 1997, have not been met; or									
2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.									
Signed and dated  20 March 2025									

St John the Evangelist, Hills Road, Cambridge

Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ended 31st December 2024

	Notes	Unrestrict ed Fund	Restricted Fund	Total 2024	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	Total 2023
		£	£	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES:							
Income from regular donors	(2a)	81,855	0	81,855	83,718	0	83,718
Other donated resources	(2b)	23,094	2,880	25,974	33,082	3,654	36,737
Mission activities	(2c)	256	0	256	140	0	0
St John's Centre	(2d)	27,501	0	27,501	27,604	0	27,604
Other incoming resources	(2e,6a)	22,322	284	22,606	19,551	300	19,851
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES:		155,029	3,164	158,193	164,095	3,954	168,049
RESOURCES EXPENDED:							
Ministers' expenses	(3a)	1,908	0	1,908	1,942	0	1,942
Church maint., servs.,mission, admin.	(3b)	41,472	65	41,537	31,569	273	31,842
St John's Centre maint & admin	(3b)	17,281	0	17,281	11,024	0	11,024
Payments outside the Parish	(3c)	86,140	2,880	89,019	85,469	3,681	89,150
Major Works	(3d)	31,890	0	31,890	0	0	0
Costs of generating Traidcraft funds	(6b)	567	0	567	2,452	0	2,452
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED:		179,258	2,945	182,202	132,455	3,954	136,409
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES		-24,229	220	-24,009	31,640	0	31,640
BALANCES BROUGHT FORW. AT 1 JAN.		132,637	1,035	133,672	100,997	1,035	102,032
BALANCES CARRIED FORW. AT 31 DEC.		108,408	1,255	109,663	132,637	1,035	133,672

St John the Evangelist, Hills Road, Cambridge							
Balance Sheet at 31 st December 2024							
	Notes			2024 Total £		2023 Total £	
CURRENT ASSETS:							
Barclays Bank PLC Accounts				106,119		130,035	
Church of England CBF Deposit Account				1,249		1,201	
CBS Deposit Account (Traidcraft)				608		384	
Petty Cash (Traidcraft)				25		27	
Stock (Traidcraft)				121		65	
Debtors	7			1,542		1,960	
				109,663		133,672	
LIABILITIES:							
Amounts falling due within one year							
Creditors	8			0		0	
				0		0	
NET CURRENT ASSETS:				109,663		133,672	
FUNDS:							
				2024 Total £		2023 Total £	
Unrestricted							
General Fund Reserves				34,362		48,868	
Traidcraft				754		476	
Restricted (r) & Designated (d)							
Choir Fund (r)				4,547		4,328	
Future Works Fund (d)				70,000		80,000	
Total Restricted & Designated				74,547		84,328	
TOTAL FUNDS				109,663		133,672	

St John the Evangelist, Hills Road, Cambridge

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st December 2024

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 as amended by the Church Accounting (Amendment) Regulations 2001 together with applicable accounting standards and the

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Funds

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC.

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law.

Incoming resources

Voluntary income and capital sources

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.

Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised only when received.

Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt is reasonably certain.

Other income

Rental income from the letting of the church premises is recognised when the rental is due.

Income from investments

Interest entitlements are accounted for as they accrue.

Resources used

Activities directly relating to the work of the Church

The diocesan parish share is accounted for when paid.

Fixed assets

Consecrated property and movable church furnishings

St John the Evangelist, Hills Road, Cambridge							
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)							
For the year ended 31st December 2024							
2 INCOMING RESOURCES							
	Unrestrict ed Fund	Restricted Fund	2024 Total	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	2023 Total	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	
VOLUNTARY RECEIPTS:							
2a INCOME FROM REGULAR DONORS							
Parish Giving Scheme	46,719	0	46,719	49,166	0	49,166	
Other regular giving	22,223	0	22,223	19,705	0	19,705	
Tax recovered and recoverable	12,913	0	12,913	14,847	0	14,847	
Total	81,855	0	81,855	83,718	0	83,718	
2b OTHER DONATED RESOURCES							
Service cash collections	7,717	0	7,717	5,032	0	5,032	
Gift Day incl. tax recovered and recoverable	5,308	0	5,308	1,705	0	1,705	
Legacy and gifts in memoriam	1,500	0	1,500	13,000	0	13,000	
Occasional donations incl. Gift Aid/CAF	8,565	0	8,569	13,345	0	13,345	
Collections for charity	0	2,880	2,880	0	3,654	3,654	
Total	23,094	2,880	25,974	33,082	3,654	36,737	
2c MISSION ACTIVITIES							
Donations	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Magazine (subs & adv.)	0	0	0	140	0	140	
Other income incl. events	256	0	256	0	0	0	
Total	256	0	256	140	0	140	
2d ST JOHN'S CENTRE INCOME							
Letting income (prev. 2e)	25201	0	25201	25,304	0	25,304	
Church use of St John's Centre	2300	0	2300	2,300	0	2,300	
Other income (prev. 2e)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total	27501	0	27501	27,604	0	27,604	
2e OTHER CHURCH INCOMING RESOURCES							
PCC fees	460	0	460	1,704	0	1,704	
Service fees	623	0	623	876	0	876	
Letting income (church)	10,594	0	10,594	8,510	0	8,510	
Interest	32	0	32	39	0	39	
Fund raising events	8,104	0	8,104	6,093	0	6,093	
Choir Fund	0	284	284	0	300	300	
Sundry income	1,662	0	1,662	942	0	942	
Residentials	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Parish Share Rebate	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total	21,475	284	21,759	18,165	300	18,465	

St John the Evangelist, Hills Road, Cambridge						
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)						
For the year ended 31 st December 2024						
3 RESOURCES EXPENDED						
	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	2024 Total	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	2023 Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
3a THE MINISTRY:						
Clergy expenses incl. Travel	1,908	0	1,908	1,942	0	1,942
Total	1,908	0	1,908	1,942	0	1,942
3b CHURCH BUILDINGS, SERVICES & GENERAL ADMINISTRATION:						
Property charges (Church)						
Gas (50%)	4,957	0	4,957	1,117	0	447
Electricity (20%)	501	0	501	455	0	455
Water (20%)	16	0	16	16	0	16
Insurance (50%)	2,510	0	2,510	2,140	0	2,140
Repairs & maintenance	8,106	0	8,106	4,593	0	4,593
Total	16,090	0	16,090	7,650	0	7,650
Property charges (St John's Centre)*						
Gas (50%)	4,957	0	4,957	1,117	0	1,787
Electricity (80%)	2,004	0	2,004	1,819	0	1,819
Water (80%)	66	0	66	63	0	63
Insurance (50%)	2,510	0	2,510	2,140	0	2,140
Repairs and maintenance	2,491	0	2,491	1,728	0	1,728
Total	12,028	0	12,028	7,536	0	7,536
Salaries and fees (Church)						
Salaries	11,535	0	11,535	7,452	0	7,452
Chair	272	0	272	315	0	315
Total	11,807	0	11,807	7,767	0	7,767
Salaries (St John's Centre)*						
Salaries	4,776	0	4,776	3,052	0	3,052
Total	4,776	0	4,776	3,052	0	3,052
Service overheads						
Service expenses and books (incl. new altar)	1,279	0	1,279	561	0	561
Youth work incl. Children's Church	407	0	407	0	0	0
Service fees	525	0	525	749	0	749
Organ & piano	375	0	375	764	0	764
Chair Fund	0	65	65	0	273	273
Total	2,586	65	2,651	2,073	273	2,694
Mission overheads						
Youth work incl. Messy Church	0	0	0	65	0	65
Events	1,822	0	1,822	2,174	0	2,174
Other expenses incl. printing	0	0	0	455	0	455
Total	1,822	0	1,822	2,694	0	2,694
Other costs (Church)						
Subscriptions & copyright licence	2,694	0	2,694	2,483	0	2,483
Telephone & email (50%)	477	0	477	435	0	435
Printing and stationery incl. mag. and post.	2,354	0	2,354	4,616	0	4,616
Use of St John's Centre	2,300	0	2,300	2,300	0	2,300
Gifts	0	0	0	0	0	0
General expenses incl. training	366	0	366	574	0	574
Residentials	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fund raising events	670	0	670	77	0	77
Office equip e.g. computer	304	0	304	899	0	899
Total	9,167	0	9,167	11,385	0	11,385
Other costs (St John's Centre)*						
Telephone and email (50%)	477	0	477	435	0	435
Printing and stationery	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other costs	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	477	0	477	435	0	435
Total buildings, services and admin.	58,753	65	58,818	42,592	0	42,592
3c PAYMENTS OUTSIDE THE PARISH:						
The Diocese - Parish Share	80,976	0	80,976	78,646	0	78,646
Missions & Charities	5,164	2,880	8,044	6,823	3,681	10,504
Total	86,140	2,880	89,019	85,469	3,681	89,150
3d MAJOR WORKS						
Major Works	31,890	0	31,890	0	0	0

St John the Evangelist, Hills Road, Cambridge

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 31st December 2024

4 MISSIONS AND CHARITIES SPECIFIC COLLECTIONS

	Unrestrict ed Fund	Restricted Fund	2024 Total	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	2023 Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Combat Stress	0	182	182	0	187	187
Blinds Veterans UK (St Dunstan's)	0	182	182	0	187	187
Wintercomfort	0	709	709	0	656	656
The Children's Society	0	1,078	1,078	0	701	701
Samaritans	0	60	60	0	0	0
Toms Trust	0	150	150	0	0	0
Green Hedges	0	152	152	0	0	0
Trade Transform	0	0	0	750	0	750
Arthur Rank	0	0	0	0	250	250
Camsight	0	0	0	20	0	20
Christian Aid	0	0	0	0	799	799
Emmaus	0	0	0	0	95	95
Dementia UK	0	0	0	350	0	350
UNICEF	0	0	0	1,041	0	1,041
Addenbrookes	0	0	0	0	300	300
Alzheimer's	0	0	0	0	506	506
Breast Cancer	0	0	0	250	0	250
Hobson's Conduit	28	242	270			
Friends of the Holy Land	0	50	50			
Blue Smile	0	75	75			
Total	28	2,880	2,908	2,411	3,681	6,092

5 OVERSEAS MISSION COMMITTEE

	2024	2023
Payments		
5c WWF UK	1,200	500
5c Keppleway Burundi	936	912
5c CMS: Middle East	1,200	1,200
5c Marys Meals	900	600
5c Great Lakes Burundi	900	1,200
Total	5,136	4,412

St John the Evangelist, Hills Road, Cambridge									
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)									
For the year ended 31 st December 2024									
6 FairTrade@StJohns (formerly TRAIIDFAIR ST JOHN'S) ACCOUNTS (UNRESTRICTED)									
		2024	2024	2023	2023				
		£	£	£	£				
6a Income									
Sales			847		1,386				
6b Cost of sales									
Opening stock at cost		65		709					
Purchases (net of donations)		523		418					
Total		588		1,127					
Less closing stock at cost		121		65					
			467		1,062				
Gross Profit			380		324				
Donations									
6b Summer & Xmas Fairs		0		10					
6b Gift Day		0		0					
6b Traidcraft projects		0		0					
6b Easter eggs		0		30					
6b Donations to Traidcraft/Transform		100							
			100		1,390				
Nett Profit			280		-1,066				
Balance brought forward			476		1,538				
Balance carried forward			756		472				
Represented by									
Stock in hand			121		65				
CBS account			608		384				
Cash in hand			25		27				
Total			754		476				
Donations in kind to St John's of tea, instant coffee and sugar for Sunday mornings and church events & and chocolate eggs for Easter Sunday.									
Fairtrade St Johns accounts prepared by Katie Knapton									

St John the Evangelist, Hills Road Cambridge									
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)									
For the year ended 31 st December 2024									
7 DEBTORS						2024	2023		
						£	£		
Income tax recoverable (estimated)						1,542	1,960		
Outstanding receipts						0	0		
Total						1,542	1,960		
8 LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR									
						2024	2023		
						£	£		
Outstanding payments						0	0		
Total						0	0		

Accounts



Annual Parish Meeting to elect Churchwardens and Annual Parochial Church Meeting

**Sunday 19 May 2024
11.30am following the 10am service**

	<i>Pages</i>
- 2024 Agendas and 2023 minutes for approval	ii-viii
- Annual Parish Meeting to elect Churchwardens including APM 2023 minutes for approval	
- Annual Parochial Church Meeting including APCM 2023 Minutes for approval	
- Annual Reports 2023-24	1-26
- Vicar's Report	
- Statutory Reports	
- Annual Activity Reports	
- Financial Statement 2023	



Annual Parish Meeting to elect Churchwardens

Sunday 19 May 2024
11.30am following the 10am service

Agenda

Opening prayers

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Sunday 21 May 2023
3. Matters arising
4. Election of Churchwardens
5. Any other business



Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting to elect Churchwardens Sunday 21 May 2023

Present: Rev'd James Shakespeare (Chair)
Janet Tankard (PCC Secretary)
Joseph Philip (Churchwarden)
21 Parishioners

The meeting began at 11.45am with prayers from James.

1. **Apologies:** Ruth Rule, Tricia James, Julia Margretts, Katie Knapton, Sue and Trevor Mawby, Catriona Ball, Pamela Abbott, Susan Philip, Richard Eccles, Martin Dove, Denise Wilkinson, Elizabeth Trenchard, Roger Lilley, Sarah Talmage
2. **Minutes of the meeting held on Sunday 22 May 2022:** The minutes were approved by those present and signed by James.
3. **Matters arising:** none

4. Election of Churchwardens

James expressed his thanks to Julia and Joseph for all their work as churchwardens and for agreeing to stand for election again.

Two churchwarden nominees were proposed:

Nomination	Proposer	Seconder
Joseph Philip	Sian Binley	Peter Tavner
Julia Margretts	Nell Whiscombe	Liz Radice

The voting was unanimous in favour, and both Joseph Philip and Julia Margretts were duly re-elected to the posts of Churchwardens. James congratulated Joseph and Julia on their appointments and thanked them on behalf of St John's.

5. **Any other business:** none.

The meeting closed with prayers at 11.50 am.



Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 19 May 2024

11.30am following the 10am service

Agenda

Opening prayers

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church meeting held on Sunday 21 May 2023
3. Matters arising
4. Vicar's Report
5. Presentation of all other reports
 - a. Electoral Roll Report
 - b. PCC Secretary's Report of PCC Meetings
 - c. Safeguarding Report
 - d. Finance Report St John the Evangelist Cambridge 2023
 - e. Churchwardens' Report
 - f. Cambridge South Deanery Synod Report
 - g. Annual Activity Reports of the Parish
6. Elections
 - a. Election of lay representatives to Deanery Synod
 - b. Election of lay members of the Parochial Church Council
 - c. Sidespeople – for appointment by the PCC
 - d. Independent Examiner
7. Any other business

Closing Prayers



Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting Sunday 21 May 2023

Present: Rev'd James Shakespeare (Chair)
Janet Tankard (PCC Secretary)
Joseph Philip (Churchwarden)
21 Parishioners

The APCM began at 11.50am directly following the Annual Parish Meeting to elect churchwardens

The meeting began with prayers from James.

1. **Apologies:** Ruth Rule, Tricia James, Julia Margretts, Katie Knapton, Sue and Trevor Mawby, Catriona Ball, Pamela Abbott, Susan Philip, Richard Eccles, Martin Dove, Denise Wilkinson, Elizabeth Trenchard, Roger Lilley, Sarah Talmage
2. **Minutes of the meeting held on Sunday 22 May 2022:** The minutes were approved by those present and signed by James.
3. **Matters arising:** none
4. **Vicar's Report**

James welcomed all those who were in attendance, and remembered those unable to attend and hoped all had been able to read the Vicar's report, curates, church officers and volunteers' reports.

James began by referring to our new banner on Hills Road produced in partnership with the Cambridge School of Visual and Performing Arts, with the message "A transforming Christian presence, a place for everyone" and felt it was a welcoming message of nurture for all who come through our doors.

James wanted to express his thanks and thanksgiving to God for all the church volunteers and all that God is doing here. He mentioned the wonderful concerts alongside our worship, witness and groups as well as our amazing congregation and families. Thanks were given to our ministry team and clergy who unexpectedly had to fill in while James was temporary Archdeacon and said he could not have done this without the help from all individuals including Ceri, Nell and the wider ministry team. Considerable thanks also go to Julia and Joseph, Churchwardens, with Julia also voluntarily manning the Parish office. James expressed his gratitude to Michael as our caretaker as well as his volunteer roles helping with the livestream, interacting with all user groups, introducing new groups and booking administration. James expressed thanks to Elizabeth and the choristers and for the training of young people with Voice for Life. Thanks were also given to all who served on the PCC and Deanery Synod over the last year, to Nell for her youth work, those who work in pastoral care, the home groups, all other groups and the gardeners, the sidespeople, sacristans, coffee rota and Friendship Café.

James said although he has been distracted by his other responsibilities in our diocese at present he is hopeful this will reflect on St John's. He will be back to full time ministry in July.

James said it was important to pay tribute to wonderful past members of our church. Peter West who did so much over so many years, Angus Murdoch, Millie Barraclough, Janet Stein and Marie Burrows. We pray and give thanks for them and all past members of our Parish.

5. Presentation of Reports

- a. **Electoral Roll Report:** Cherry announced that 3 more people have joined the roll since the report was published. We now have 206 members. James thanked Cherry for her report and work as our Electoral Roll Officer.
- b. **Report of PCC Meetings:** Janet thanked those who had contributed to the annual report enabling us to see all that goes on at St John's; the reports are much appreciated. James thanked Janet for her work as PCC secretary and she has agreed to continue for a further year in this role.
- c. **Safeguarding Report:** In Sarah's absence Ceri gave a brief report. In consultation with the diocese Sarah will work out how we make sure our Safeguarding policy is workable with those working with the vulnerable (highest level) and occasional helpers such as a parent on a youth group outing. Sarah is pleased that all those needing training are keeping up to date, thank you very much.
- d. **Treasurer's Report:** In Roger's absence James reported that financially things were looking much healthier due to the generosity of the church, use of the Parish Giving Scheme, Michael's work in attracting new user groups and good management of budget. Thanks were given to Joseph as Gift Aid Secretary, and to Julia and Michael for their increasing oversight of invoices, bookings and management of cash.

It was queried why covid seemed to have had only slight effect on our income, and whether there might be any insight into that. James responded that St John's has a tradition for stewardship and whilst we shut down physically, we still had members giving by direct debit, PGS and electronically which enabled stability. James thanked all for their generosity, and said we must continue in our stewardship and giving. Contactless giving has had a significant effect on our income, cash much less so.

- e. **Churchwardens' Report:** Julia was not present and Joseph asked if there were any further questions regarding the churchwarden report and no further comments were given. Joseph reported that we have our quinquennial inspection coming up in June.

Following on from the churchwarden report James wanted to pay particular tribute to Ron Huntsman and his many years of care given to the sound system he developed. We are now building on his work with our new updated audio-visual system with thanks to legacies from Michael Johnson, Lois Strangeways and Janet Stein. Keystone Sound was found to be the best contractor for us and thanks were given to the PCC, Ceri and others who worked with Simon on this project, and all those past and present who have contributed to this.

- f. **South Cambridge Deanery Synod Report** Richard had sent apologies and there were no further comments on the deanery synod report.

James reported that it had been a sad time for clergy in Cambridgeshire and beyond, and paid tribute to Anna Matthews who had recently died. It was a time to be mindful of the vulnerability of both clergy and us all. James is currently involved in the appointment of a new Vicar of St Bene't's in his role as Interim Archdeacon.

We should rejoice in the diversity of churches in the deanery. The future planning group has one priority, serving new areas of population with an increase of approx. 30% over the next

10 years, how we work in partnership together with others such as St James and St Andrews, how we support each other spiritually and help other churches with less resources. Finally what do we discern in respect of our wider community, ie homelessness. Deanery Synod is important with regard to planning in the wider area.

- g. Annual Activity Reports** James said the annual reports give us a flavour of the enormous range of activities going on. James asked if there were any comments.

Ceri commented that having expressed thanks for the volunteers of the Friendship Café, there is a need for those to be welcomed on a Sunday morning and we hope to re-deploy the café volunteers as welcomers. She was impressed with how well the volunteers had engaged with our visitors and we would like to build this into Sunday morning coffee. Thanks were given to the sidespersons for their welcome - coffee makers and more welcomers were needed as new families need to feel welcomed. The Friendship Café was significant in that we were there for the community. Please pray that we can restart next winter; a commitment of about six months.

Ceri also reported that a new website is needed to make it more welcoming and easier for those familiar with St John's and we hope to make progress in the next couple of months. Regarding the website, Nell wanted to say a big thank you to Kate Aylmer for her work so far.

Nell gave her thanks for a great first year and she had found St John's very welcoming. Nell also reported that children's church is growing and so we are thinking of splitting early years and older children into smaller groups as in the past, and we have older children coming back to help. James said that all churches have struggled to build back after covid, but we are rebuilding, thanks to Nell and also toddle along. Thank you to all.

Joseph Saunders reported that he was sorry there was no sacristans report this year and announced he was stepping down from the sacristan rota having done it for 12 years, leading that group of very dedicated providers. It is a regular commitment each month and they provide a service for all of us. Joseph wanted to thank them all for the work they have done and said the members have changed over the years but it is a job that puts one into the high mind when you come to a eucharist service. We now need more sacristans and Joseph would like to encourage others to come forward. He thanked those who have supported them over the years.

In response James thanked Joseph for all his dedicated work as a sacristan over the last 12 years for which we are very grateful.

June wanted to pay tribute to Suzanne for Prayer 48, and said that it was a marvellous weekend and a great joy with deep spiritual thinking. James added his thanks to Suzanne, as well as Jane Gardiner.

Further thanks were also given to the community lunches which were pronounced phenomenal and a great success - thank you Anne.

6. Elections

- a. 2023 Election of Deanery Synod Representatives:** Richard Eccles has completed his term as Deanery Synod Representative, for which thanks were given. Nominees were invited for the 2023 Election of Deanery Synod Representatives but no new nominees came forward. James reminded the congregation of the role of deanery synod representatives and that there were only 3 or 4 meetings a year. It was noted that it would be possible to be co-opted on at a later date.
- b. PCC Members:** James thanked the PCC for the last year. Outgoing members were thanked: Richard Eccles, Liz Radice and Sian Binley. New membership elections took place.

Seven nominations were received in advance of the meeting:

Nomination	Proposer	Second
Brian Heap	June Huntsman	Peter Heslam
Jacqueline Watkins	Sheena Almquist	Alison Baillie
Alastair Wilkinson	Michael Fincham	Joseph Philip
Ruth Rule	Catriona Ball	Pamela Abbott
Hilary Pennington	Joseph Philip	Richard Lyon
Don Simpson	Hilary Pennington	Janet Tankard
Joseph Saunders	Elizabeth Trenchard	Suzanne Barton

James asked for votes in favour of the nominees to be elected – there was a unanimous vote in favour of each nominee and all were duly elected. Thanks were given to the new PCC members for standing for election. There were no further nominees.

- c. **Sidespersons:** James thanked all those who currently serve as duty wardens and sidespersons:

Duty wardens: Cherry Hopkins, David Waterhouse, Denise Wilkinson, Joseph Philip, Julia Margretts, Peter Tavner

Sidespersons: Cherry Hopkins, Don Simpson, Janet Tankard, Kate Dove, Liz Tavner, Michael Fincham, Olive Langley, Pat Chapman, Sarah Seed, Susan Philip, and Hilary Pennington was thanked for agreeing to be a cover duty warden if needed.

No new people came forward to join the sidespersons rota at this meeting.

- d. **Independent Examiner:** Thanks were given to Professor Martin Dove for taking on the role of Independent Examiner. Approval was expressed by those present for Martin to continue in this role next year if he was happy to do so.

7. Any Other Business

Hilary asked if the intercessors could be given a note to pray for those in our congregation who are sick. As we no longer have a service sheet the congregation do not know who is in need of prayers. James asked if Nell and Ceri could look into this.

Joseph Philip thanked Joseph Saunders for his years of service as a sacristan. The congregation were informed that the sacristans were now down to three people and new volunteers were needed.

Rosemary wanted to thank all those who worked behind the scenes unnoticed and who take part in this act of faith, family and friendship - we do not see all that goes on in the background.

It was asked if the sound system was now on the insurance policy. Joseph Philip said he was currently in conversation with the insurers and they are due to visit soon for their 5 year inspection. June added that we have had thefts in the past and we need to be mindful of security. Joseph was thanked by James for all his work as our parish Health and Safety Officer.

James closed the meeting with prayers and grace at 12.45 pm



Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 19 May 2024

Annual Report 2023-24

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of
St John the Evangelist, Cambridge

St John the Evangelist Church
Hills Road
Cambridge, CB2 8RN

St John the Evangelist Vicar's Report, 2023-2024

St John the Evangelist seeks to be a 'transforming Christian presence' in South Cambridge, sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ, offering life-giving worship, pastoral care, hospitality through our St John's Centre, and wide-ranging partnership with the local community, in all its diversity. By the grace of God, it has been a further year of growth and consolidation, at various levels, not least with a number of new families joining our congregation, embedding several significant developments in our resourcing, and continuing to offer activities for all ages.

Interestingly, at the start of this year (April 2023), James Shakespeare was appointed interim archdeacon of Cambridge, to cover Ven. Alex Hughes' sabbatical. This was only possible due to an existing strong curate, officer & warden team, able to manage our local church ministry in James' absence. James had an enriching three months on the Bishop's Staff team, assisting with personnel, parochial appointments, support to parishes, and Diocesan strategy. One positive spin-off, since his return, has been an enhanced awareness of tried & tested tools to support local church growth, and wider church resources to help enable this.

In terms of our clergy and ministry team at St John's, September saw the departure of our self-supporting curate, the Rev Ceri Payne, to join the team at Great St Mary's, the University Church, supporting their newly appointed vicar, the Rev Jutta Brueck. Ceri had given a great deal at St John's, adding hugely to our common life, and she is greatly missed. One of Ceri's legacies, before her move, was leading – with Canon Kate Aylmer and the Rev Nell Whiscombe – on the development of a new parish website. Following PCC approval, this was launched, successfully, in early autumn 2023; and is already bearing much fruit.

In July 2023 Nell was ordained priest, and celebrated the eucharist for the first time, with guest preacher, the Rev Canon Rob Mackley. Nell continues to enrich St John's in many and various ways, not least in heading up our children, youth and families' ministry, which has involved – among other things – regularising our weekly Children's Church, facilitating seasonal Messy Church events, convening our Youth Group, and working with local schools. In addition, at the start of 2024, Nell succeeded Roger Lilley – who has done fine work – in chairing our St John's eco-church committee, with various associated initiatives ongoing.

In January 2024 our other self-supporting, part-time, curate, the Rev Dr Muthuraj Swamy, was signed-off as curate, at the end of his 3+ years in this training role at St John's. We are grateful for the richness of perspective, from the Church of South India and world Christianity, that Muthuraj has brought to St John's, not least as our congregation becomes more diverse, and continues to welcome health workers – at Addenbrooke's – from all over the world. Muthuraj will remain at St John's, in an associate role, whilst he majors on his roles as Director of the Cambridge Centre for Christianity Worldwide, and with the Anglican Communion.

Otherwise we were glad to mark the completion of Jane Gardiner's training, as a Licensed Lay Minister, and she was licensed and commissioned by Bishop Dagmar Winter, at a special service in St John's, during Advent 2023. Jane is involved in ministry with our Home Groups, in regular preaching and worship leadership, and in pastoral care. Alongside Jane's development, we were delighted to mark Sian Binley's recommendation for Ordination training, in summer 2023. Sian began her part-time training with the Eastern Regional Ministry Course, and continues to minister at St John's, her now placement parish, as part of our team.

Also ministry team wise, Canon Kate Aylmer continued to contribute much, as did Anne Rigby, not least in terms of leading Toddle Along, and our monthly Community Lunches, so much enjoyed by increasing numbers of local residents. The Rev John Hillier returned to more active priestly and pastoral ministry, following the sad passing of his wife, Audrey Hillier, who is much missed by us all. Suzanne Barton contributes widely, not just in terms of St John's Choir and supporting the Trebles in particular, but also in terms of All Age ministry. And we continued to receive ordinands, this year Ben Sheridan and Daniel Krawczyk, from Westcott House.

In terms of other exciting developments in our parish resourcing this year, in addition to our reinvigorated website, we were pleased to install a new audio-visual system, thanks to some generous legacies, in memory of former members of St John's (Lois Strangeways, Michael Johnson and Janet Stein, in particular), not least transforming our capacity to offer regular weekly live-streamed worship. Furthermore, on the back of our enhanced online presence, St John's PCC decided to hire a part-time Parish Communications Officer, and we were delighted to appoint Liz Hurst to this role. Liz has wide experience in Church communications, began in post in December, and is already making a significant impact, in terms of publicity & drawing people in. We are most grateful for Liz's expertise.

St John's continued to offer life-giving worship, ably supported by St John's Choir, as well as musical input by Ali Baillie. We remain so grateful to our Musical Director Elizabeth Trenchard, and her team, and it's been wonderful to see a number of new Trebles welcomed into our Choir. Alongside regular Sunday sermons, our Home Groups continue to be a source of nurture and Christian fellowship for many (there are currently three regular home groups: Tuesday mornings, Monday alternate evenings, and Wednesday alternate evenings online), and our ordinand Ben Sheridan also led (in early 2024) a 'Being with' course, from St Martin-in-the-Fields, his sending parish in London Diocese.

In the past year we had our share of baptisms, weddings and funerals, and were very sad to lose three much loved members of our congregation, Audrey Hillier, Tricia James, and Janet Slade. All are much missed, and our condolences go to their families.

During February-March 2024, the St John's Friendship Café reconvened, offering hospitality and welcome to members of our congregation and local community, in the late winter period. Our events team also continued to offer a brilliant calendar of concerts in Church, throughout the year; this was supplemented by our established termly set of lunchtime community concerts by the Perse School. Finally, St John's continued to enjoy partnership with Homerton College, including weekly Choral Evensong, sung by its dynamic Charter Choir, during term-time.

Finally, having assisted in the archdeacon role, in September 2023 James was appointed Rural Dean of South Cambridge, and it's exciting to be supporting and partnering with other local parishes in our city deanery, alongside our existing links with St James' Wulfstan Way and St Andrew's Cherry Hinton. In addition, James is acting as an external training incumbent and supervisor for the Rev Bethan Rodden, curate of Newnham & Grantchester, during its vacancy.

I would like to give thanks, to our Churchwardens, Julia Margretts and Joseph Philip, as well as Julia specifically for her Office admin role; our facilities manager, Michael Fincham; our Parish Treasurer, Roger Lilley; our Director of Music, Elizabeth Trenchard; to our curates, Nell Whiscombe, Ceri Payne (former) & Muthuraj; to Jacqui Watkins, new Parish Safeguarding Officer; to Janet Tankard, our PCC Secretary; to our wider St John's Ministry Team; our dedicated volunteers, indeed all who constitute the Body of Christ in St John's Hills Road.

The Revd James Shakespeare, Vicar



Statutory Reports

2023–2024

1. Electoral Roll Report
2. PCC Secretary's Report of PCC Meetings
3. Safeguarding Report
4. Finance Report St John the Evangelist Cambridge 2023
5. Churchwardens' Report
6. Cambridge South Deanery Synod Report

Electoral Roll Report 2023-24

There are currently 201 members listed on the Electoral Roll. Of these, approximately 62% are resident within the parish.

Over the previous twelve months, no new members have been added and five have been removed. Two people have moved away and three members have died (Audrey Hillier, Tricia James and Janet Slade).

*Cherry Hopkins,
Electoral Roll Officer,
27 April 2024*

PCC Secretary's Report of PCC meetings 2023-24

PCC's members are clergy, churchwardens and others elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) of the parish. The principal function of the PCC is "promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical." St John's PCC is a charity registered with the Charity Commission, its members being trustees.

St John's annual report contains a review of the year in the vicar's report, statutory reports and accounts and individual reports on the activities of the parish generally. Thanks are given to all those who have contributed to this year's annual report.

St John's PCC membership 21 May 2023 – 19 May 2024

Rev'd James Shakespeare	Vicar and Chair
Rev'd Nell Whiscombe	Assistant Curate (from July 2022)
Rev'd Ceri Payne	Assistant Curate (from July 2021-September 2023)
Julia Margretts	Churchwarden (ex-officio)
Joseph Philip	Churchwarden (ex-officio)
Roger Lilley	Treasurer (co-opted)
Elizabeth Trenchard	Organist and Director of Music (co-opted)
Janet Tankard	PCC Secretary (co-opted)
Cherry Hopkins	Elected 2021, stand down 2024
David Waterhouse	Elected 2021, stand down 2024
Alison Baillie	Elected 2022, stand down 2025
Ruth Rule	Elected 2023, standing down 2024 APCM
Alastair Wilkinson	Elected 2023, stand down 2026 (co-opted 2022-23)
Hilary Pennington	Elected 2023, stand down 2026
Jaqueline Watkins	Elected 2023, stand down 2026
Don Simpson	Elected 2023, stand down 2026
Joseph Saunders	Elected 2023, stand down 2026
Brian Heap	Elected 2023, stand down 2026

Seven new members were elected at the 2023 APCM; Ruth Rule, Alastair Wilkinson, Hilary Pennington, Jacqueline Watkins, Don Simpson, Joseph Saunders and Brian Heap.

Outgoing members this year are Cherry Hopkins and David Waterhouse who have completed their three years of service as PCC members, and Ruth Rule who will be stepping down at this year's APCM due to leaving the parish. St John's is extremely grateful to those serving on the PCC and our thanks go to all members who have generously given their time to attend our meetings and contribute to our church life in this way.

Six meetings were held in person at St John's over the year. After a prayer and bible reading, meetings include regular standing items; churchwarden and treasurer reports, safeguarding, health & safety

and deanery & diocesan reports. Other updates are also given on ministry team, music and worship, children and families, youth and schools, eco church and mission committee. Particular areas of interest are also discussed on a one off basis under Special Items on the agenda.

Please find below a brief overview of some items discussed over the last year:

- Following PCC approval earlier in the year the new audio/visual system, generously funded by legacies, was installed by Keystone Sound in May 2023. This has greatly enhanced our capabilities for both church and community use as well as updating our online presence.
- A new 65" TV screen was installed the Wilkinson Room and has been well used by both church and community groups using the Wilkinson Room. Our most grateful thanks are given to those who generously donated towards its funding.
- The Quinquennial inspection took place on 18 July which went well generally, and plans to implement the work needed is now in process. The PCC is also considering a proposal for a long term estate conservation management strategy to manage the building in the long term. The churchwarden's report will have full detail of the church works and maintenance carried out this year.
- The PCC agreed to the revival of the Friendship Café during the months of February and March to be run independently by the church. This proved to be a successful project and was enjoyed by those using it.
- At our meeting in June Ceri gave an initial presentation of the new proposed website/app/church management system. This system was finally approved to go ahead in September and went live in the same month. The PCC is grateful to Ceri and all those involved in setting up the system. An overview of this process is kindly provided by Kate Aylmer.
- At our meeting in September a new part-time Communications Officer post was proposed to assist with the increasing need for good internal and external communications. We are pleased to report Liz Hurst was appointed as our new part-time Communications Officer and began in post in December.
- The annual Parochial church fees and Music Director Fees were reviewed and approved.
- Sarah Talmage stepped down as our Parish Safeguarding Officer after 5 years of service and we thank her for all the work she has done on safeguarding at St John's during that time. The PCC are happy to report that in January Jacqui Watkins was appointed as our new Parish Safeguarding Officer and we are very grateful to Jacqui for agreeing to take on this role. Jacqui has written this year's Safeguarding Report for the APCM.
- We have had a very positive report from our Treasurer regarding our financial position of which further details can be found in our Treasurer's report and accompanying accounts.

Approved minutes from PCC meetings are available for parishioners to read, copies of which are placed on the St John's noticeboard, on file for reference in the Parish Office and with the PCC Secretary. Meeting dates are displayed on the Parish noticeboard, the church website calendar and PCC minutes.

We are currently entitled to 12 elected members on the PCC and will have 5 vacancies at the APCM. In addition we have 3 vacancies for deanery synod representatives. Please consider whether you would like to represent St John's either as a PCC member or Deanery Synod Representative as the PCC would welcome new members. Nomination forms can be found at the back of church, online from parish resources <https://parishresources.org.uk/pccs/apcms/> or from the PCC Secretary.

*Janet Tankard,
PCC Secretary,
March 2024*

Safeguarding Report

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

Church Representation Rules: Part 9, Section A, APCM, M5(3) Business; reports etc,

Importance of Safeguarding

Safeguarding is the action that is taken to promote the welfare of children and vulnerable adults, protecting them from abuse or maltreatment and preventing harm to their health or development.

Proverbs 31v 8 says '*Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute.*'

As a church we want to ensure that the children and vulnerable adults in our community are protected and recognise our calling and duty to love and care for the vulnerable and marginalised, protecting all from abuse.

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Thanks are due to Sarah Talmage, who has been the parish safeguarding officer for St John the Evangelist Church over the past few years. Sarah has done much to put St John's on the right path to compliance with the Church of England guidance on safeguarding outlined in *Promoting a Safer Church* and *Code of Safer Working Practices*; amongst other things, she initiated the parish safeguarding dashboard, ensured safeguarding posters were displayed and collated information on safeguarding training.

Jacqui Watkins was appointed in January 2024. Since then, she has completed all the required training for Parish Safeguarding Officers, including Leadership training.

In addition to this, she has:

- audited safeguarding records, identifying gaps in training
- met with Nell Whiscombe to find out about safeguarding in Children's Church
- communicated with Elizabeth Trenchard to find out about safeguarding in the choir
- updated the safeguarding dashboard
- updated, with the help of Liz, and displayed safeguarding posters
- reported to the PCC on safeguarding
- organised the safeguarding records so that they are easier to access and update
- begun to draft an action plan to build on the work undertaken by Sarah Talmage

Having identified historic and more recent gaps in Safeguarding paperwork, Jacqui is now focused on ensuring that our paperwork reflects a serious commitment to ensuring that our church is a safe, loving place in which all can flourish and the vulnerable are protected.

Safer Recruitment - DBS Checks

Thanks are due to Michael Fincham who is responsible for carrying out DBS checks in line with the Church of England's *Safer Recruitment and People Management Guidance*. The Church of England now requires DBS checks to be carried out every 3 years (instead of every 5 years). Michael has good records of all the checks he has carried out and is beginning to process 'refresher' checks for those still undertaking work with young people or vulnerable adults whose DBS certificates are more than 5 years old.

Safeguarding Policies

We continue to have Safeguarding as a standing agenda item for all PCC meetings.

The PCC approved a procedure for Responding Promptly to Safeguarding Concerns or Allegations at the PCC meeting on 5th March.

Safeguarding Training

Basic safeguarding training is ongoing; The Diocese of Ely has an online learning platform which means that basic courses can be completed electronically. All those who have joined the PCC since 2021 have completed the 'core pathway' training required of PCC members - Basic, Foundation and Domestic Abuse modules. Some longer standing members of the PCC have completed refresher training, since Church of England guidance states that this should be undertaken at 3 yearly intervals.

Jacqui will be encouraging those who work with children to update their safeguarding training where necessary, so as to sustain a protective culture at St John's and ensure that everyone is mindful of the importance of safe behaviours and systems.

A Safe and Protective Environment

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, not because 'we have to', but because we care.

Mark 12:30-31 says: *"And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."*

Acting on concerns or seeking advice is rarely a bad idea. People often question 'What if I'm wrong?' but we have to also ask ourselves 'what if I'm right?'. We can't assume that someone else has seen what we may have seen or will pass on concerns. Jacqui is available if anyone has safeguarding concerns they want to share or discuss.

*Jacqui Watkins,
April 2024*

Finance Report St John the Evangelist Cambridge 2023

The financial position of St John's is stronger than it has been for well over a decade. There has been a significant recovery in income from outside groups using both the St John's Centre and the Church. This has been encouraged by a very active fundraising group whose overall achievement is not immediately obvious in this report as the income is split between letting income, charitable and events income. But the most important area of financial strength is the steady growth of income through the Parish Giving Scheme. As in past years, I urge everyone who has not yet joined the Parish Giving Scheme to do so. If you need more convincing, please speak to me.

Our major expense in 2023 has been on our new audio-visual system, close to £40k. We are very grateful for the legacies and gifts which have covered the lion's share of this cost, although the actual payment of the balance has been deferred into 2024 and 2025. Our Parish Share continues to increase as it reflects the need to increase clergy salaries in line with inflation. We have been very successful in controlling and reducing our overall church general expenses. However we do need to plan for long term investment in maintaining the quality of church infrastructure as well as strategic development.

Our charitable giving, both regular and occasional, in 2023 reached around £10k. The regular donations managed by the Mission Committee have reached over £4k, which is around the 5% of regular donations authorised by the PCC several years ago.

Our participation in the Cambridge South Synod should also be noted; its funds, derived from successful payment to the diocese of the ministry costs of member parishes, have built up over the past few years such that it is now able to make a significant contribution towards the running costs of the Cambridge Churches Homeless Project.

I thank you as a congregation for your support, both in your regular giving, your support for our occasional appeals and for our events. I thank also all those who are involved in the efficient handling and oversight of our finances. Joseph, for continuing to be our Gift Aid officer, although many of you could do him a great favour by switching to the Parish Giving Scheme. To our church wardens for sharing the responsibility of processing on-line payments which has saved us significant sums in

banks fees by avoiding the issuing of cheques. To our duty wardens and clergy for being so meticulous in accounting for our collections at services etc even though their handwriting leaves a little to be desired at times.

Finally, if you would like to talk to me about how your money is spent both by St John's and the Church of England, or how a major gift or legacy could be used, I would be very happy to find the time.

Roger Lilley, April 2024

Churchwardens' Report

2023-2024 has been another busy year at St John's in terms of rising attendance at services, an expanding choir, an increasing number of bookings for rooms in the St John's Centre and the church itself and some significant improvements to our facilities.

1. Installation of the new Sound System by Keystone Sound Systems

Funded by a number of generous legacies and donations, a new audiovisual system was installed in the church, by Keystone Sound Systems, between 9 and 16 May 2023. On 6 May, prior to the commencement of the work, Norman Hall, (the organ tuners) 'wrapped' the organ to protect it from dust.

The work included:

- installation of a drop down screen, mounted behind the chancel arch
- installation of a control desk, which controls the sound and visual projection, including live streaming
- replacement of all the speakers
- installation of a TV screen to the left of the West Door, so that those taking services can see what is showing on the screen
- provision of new microphones
- all necessary rewiring required, including linking the system to the internet

While the work was being done services were relocated to the Wilkinson Room when required, but the disruption was less than anticipated. Some Homerton services were also moved to other venues. The work was done very efficiently and effectively, by an excellent team of skilled engineers and the new system is working well. Keystone have been helpful in the resolution of a number of 'snagging issues', particularly in relation to provision for those using hearing aids. A well planned payment system is enabling us to spread the £40,000 cost of the installation over a number of months.

Michael Fincham has taken the lead in terms of liaison with Keystone regarding technical issues and the churchwardens wish to record their particular thanks to him for his initiative and commitment in learning how the system works, teaching and supporting others and providing technical backup, particularly in relation to the monitoring and storage of live streams. Grateful thanks are also extended to Oscar Hart, who mans the Control Desk during Sunday services and some special events.

2. Installation of a TV in the Wilkinson Room

On 11 May 2023 Keystone also installed a 65" TV in the Wilkinson Room, following a suggestion by Denise Schoenberg, who regularly runs art classes in the room. She offered to contribute to the cost and further generous donations were made by Michael Fincham and Joseph Philip.

The installation has been a great success and has already been well used for the Art Courses, visiting speakers, Toddle Along and other groups using the Wilkinson Room.

3. Wave Utilities

On 15 May 2023, Sue Mawby, a former Treasurer of St John's, (who retired from this position in 1997), received a County Court Claim for the sum of £7,720.23 from Wave Utilities, in respect of

‘sewerage and or drainage services’ at St John’s. Trevor and Sue Mawby immediately sent a defence report to the County Court. It appears that when Anglian Water split off the supply of sewerage and drainage services to Wave Utilities on 1 April 2017 it incorrectly transferred the address on the account as Sue’s old address in Luard Road, which she left in 2003. Wave Utilities claim that invoices for their services have been sent to that address, but we have no evidence that this ever actually happened. No contact with the church was made between April 2017 and the issuing of the County Court Claim in May 2023.

Roger Lilley, the current Treasurer, contacted Wave Utilities, in June 2023 and was assured that the account would be ‘sorted out’ and they would be in touch. However, we heard nothing from them until July 2023, when a second County Court Claim was issued to Sue Mawby. Wave Utilities were immediately contacted by Julia Margretts, Churchwarden, and they eventually agreed to withdraw the County Court Claim, which has now been officially withdrawn by the Court.

The formal complaint procedure to Wave Utilities was launched in August 2023 and negotiations about the actual sum owed have continued since then. Whilst we have received useful general information about changes in the Water industry we have not received copies of any documentary evidence specific to the St John’s account, (formerly with Cambridge Water), regarding:

- the migration of the provision of sewerage services to Wave Utilities in April 2017
- the specific charges levied to the account for each year since that migration, together with a clear explanation regarding their calculation

We are asking for recognition to be made, in the calculation of the charges being levied, of the complete failure of Wave Utilities to contact St John’s Church from the date of migration on 1 April 2017 to May 2023. We are also requesting an official apology to Sue Mawby, for the distress caused by the issue of two County Court Claims, particularly as they were made without any prior contact or warning.

Having received no satisfactory response to any of these requests, the complaint has now been escalated to the Consumer Council for Water. If this fails the complaint will be escalated to OFWAT, the regulator for the water industry.

4. Quinquennial Inspection, on behalf of the Diocese of Ely

The Quinquennial inspection was carried out by Karen Limb, of Cowper Griffith, on 18 July 2023. Overall the premises are in good repair, including the main roof areas. However urgent repairs were needed on roof of the church porch. These were done by Lander & Linsey on 12 December 2023. Other areas requiring investigation include a possible area of water ingress on the parapet wall to the Nave (above the chancel arch), the below ground drainage associated with the north aisle and the north aisle buttress and water damage to brick work on the South-Western Buttress of the church.

The gutters and rainwater pipes are cast iron and now in need of redecoration and refurbishment over the next five years.

On the recommendation of Karen Limb, two contractors were contacted and invited to quote for the work that needs to be done over the next five years. Both have been to look at what needs to be done but, so far, only one has quoted. A third contractor has been contacted but has not yet been to visit.

It is hoped that the anticipated expenditure of around £50,000 could be spread over several years. Around half of this sum is the cost of the necessary scaffolding.

5. Maintenance and repairs

- **Organ**

As in previous years, the organ has been tuned by Norman Hall & Sons three times this year, in September and December 2023, and March 2024.

- **Boilers**
A K Marshall serviced the gas boiler for the central heating in the church in November 2023 and the boilers in the kitchen, Wilkinson Room and Vestry in January 2024.
- **Plumbing**
In November 2023 R A Downes replaced the expansion chamber in the upstairs kitchen, which had started to leak and repaired a leaking toilet in the St John's Centre. The toilet needed further attention in March 2024 but is now fixed.
- **Dishwasher**
Proton serviced the dishwasher in the kitchen in February 2024.
- **Care of the gardens and grounds around the church**
A team of volunteers continue to maintain the gardens and grounds around the church very effectively. In addition to Michael Fincham and his team of grass cutters, particular thanks go to Clare Donovan, Erica Lowry, Katie Knapton, Angela Fincham, Matthew Wolff and a lovely group of volunteers from the local community. The grounds are much admired by visitors, particularly the garden in the courtyard.
- **Caretaking and cleaning**
Assisted by a small team of volunteers, the Caretaker, Michael Fincham, continues to ensure the church and St John's Centre are maintained to a very high standard. In a voluntary capacity, he also continues to look after all the bookings, which make a huge contribution to the much improved financial status of St John's. His excellent work and continuing commitment are much valued and appreciated. Many thanks are also due to Joseph Philip, Cherry Hopkins, Jane Blackmore and Liz Tavner, who assist him in the church.

6. Insurance

A representative of Ecclesiastical Insurance visited St John's in July 2023, to conduct a 5-yearly review of the insurance cover. All is in order but there were some advisory recommendations regarding the updating of some of the paperwork e.g. the Fire Risk Assessment. The policy was renewed in February 2024.

7. Outstanding issues to be attended to in 2024/2025

In addition to the follow up to the Quinquennial Inspection, some loose paving slabs in the car park need attention. We will also be reviewing the provision of notice boards, as we have been given an additional one and others need repair. The Fire Risk Assessment needs to be updated and a Fire Drill undertaken during a Sunday morning service.

*Julia Margretts , Joseph Philip
Churchwardens
9 April 2024*

Cambridge South Deanery Synod Report

On 18th September 2023, following the appointment of the Rev Rachel Rosborough (formerly Rural Dean) as Vice Principal of Westcott House, James was licensed as the new Rural Dean, by Alex Hughes, the Archdeacon of Cambridge.

Over the past year, before & after James became Rural Dean, the Deanery Synod has met every three months, the Deanery Chapter has met more regularly, and the Deanery Officers have sought to support the smooth running of the Deanery – not least in terms of payment of Parish Share – to develop our Deanery Development Plan, and to initiate particular projects, where relevant, as well as supporting Parishes in vacancy, and the appointment of new incumbents.

Following the publication of our draft Deanery Development Plan, feedback from the Acting Bishop, the Rt Revd Dagmar Winter, and the Archdeacon, was really positive. They were keen to affirm our desire to strengthen Deanery and Parish engagement with children, young people and schools; they affirmed our desire to engage with significant new housing estate developments; as well as our desire to continue to reach out to the marginalised, including the homeless. In addition, Parishes variously engaged with the ecological agenda, as well as care homes, students and other groups.

Recently, following good news of a significant left-over accrued sum in our Deanery pot, due to Parish Share rebates for full payment of our Share – managed by our Deanery Treasurer – the Deanery Synod voted to make a one-off payment to support the appointment of a new full-time Bishop's Homelessness Officer for Cambridge. James was on the panel, and an excellent appointment has been made, in partnership with the Cambridge Churches Homelessness Project. The new appointee will start, full-time, in September 2024.

Lay members were elected to Synod, and James has been engaged, at various levels, supporting local Parishes and clergy, and assisting with new appointments, imminently, at St Bene't's (following the tragic death of Canon Anna Matthews, in March 2023), and Newnham & Grantchester. Finally, Cambridge South Deanery is now working more closely with Cambridge North, in order to facilitate some joint training events, for clergy, and to work together on the wider agenda of mission to new housing areas, which are a key challenge for the whole of greater Cambridge and Ely Diocese. It is good to be enacting a more co-ordinated city-wide approach to this key local challenge of mission.

*Rev James Shakespeare,
Rural Dean
April 2024*



Annual Activity Reports

2023–2024

1. Children, Youth and Families at St John's
2. Community Lunches
3. Eco Church
4. Facilities
5. Fundraising and Events
6. Gardens at St John's
7. Group Activities
8. Health and Safety
9. Home Groups
10. Lobby Displays at St John's
11. Ministry Team and Ordinands
12. Mission Committee
13. Parish Communications
14. St John's Church Choir
15. The Charter Choir of Homerton College
16. Traidcraft

Children, Youth and Families at St John's

Toddle Along

I am really pleased to report that the group continues to grow and thrive. We have a regular attendance of 15 to 20 children accompanied by mums, dads and grandparents.

In the Summer term of 2023 we had a seven week theme about God's Great Creation, followed by four weeks of Old Testament heroes. In Autumn 2023 we concentrated on skills and connecting them to Bible stories, eg. learning to share - Feeding the Five Thousand. We continued up to Advent with the stories Jesus told eg. The Lost Sheep. In the Spring term of 2024 we had a series of stories that helped the children to say Thank you and Please and about Taking Turns and Excuse Me. In our service time we sing Hello, naming every child present and we continue with a worship action song. The addition of the TV screen in the Community Room has been really appreciated for this activity and the children have learnt a new song each term.

We were very sad when our lovely helper, Tricia, passed away in October 2023 and we held our own little service with prayers and thanks for all that Tricia meant for us.

The group could not function without the invaluable help from our volunteers and so I extend my thanks to Monica, James, Nell, Marian, Janet, Katie and Liz for their help in this important ministry.

Finally we continue to support Mary's Meals charity with the donations we receive from the group.

*Anne Rigby,
ALM Pastoral Care*

Children, Youth and Families

The children's church has continued to grow this year, with several new families joining us as well as new volunteers. The children have particularly enjoyed incorporating music into their sessions, learning a song for our Christmas Day all age service. We have also been able to buy some outdoor equipment, thanks to a grant from the Church Schools of Cambridge Trust, and have enjoyed outdoor games when the weather permits. Messy church also continues, with a successful Christmas event and our next one planned at Pentecost as part of a prayer day.

The youth group has also been very active, with lots of lively discussion and activities/games. Some highlights include our nature photography challenge in the University Botanic Garden last summer, and a bowling trip in July, which we are repeating this weekend to celebrate the start of the new term. Two members of youth group have left this year, and two new members have joined us. We have recently changed our age range from 11-18 to 10-14, to allow some of our younger members of the congregation to take part, and are hoping to create a new group for our older young people as time goes on.

We have a small but very dedicated team running the children's activities at the moment, ably supported by our ordinands. Many thanks indeed to everyone who has volunteered or helped out in any way with children's and youth activities this year, including Ali Baillie, Suzanne Barton, Sian Binley, Mel Boyle, Beth Christie, Kate Dove, Jane Gardiner, Dan Krawczyk, Ben Sheridan and Philip Wood. More volunteers are always welcome – please do get in touch if you would like to help out or learn more.

Rev Nell Whiscombe

Community Lunches - Friendship and Food

The monthly lunches are becoming more popular and we are now serving upwards of 55 meals each time. It is a team effort and I have a great support team to whom I extend my sincere thanks: Janet, Jane, Joseph, Don, Hilary, Marian, Monica, Mary Ellen, John, James, Nell and Michael.

We express our sadness at the loss of Tricia last October, she was with us from the beginning of the project and is very much missed. It was Tricia who came up with the name Friendship and Food and when I observe all the participants deep in conversation as they eat, I know it is a very fitting title.

I try to source ingredients that are Fair-trade, British, local and in season, in keeping with the eco ethos of the Church. Even the vegetable peelings are taken by Jane to feed her chickens, so we have minimal waste.

I am grateful for all the support we have from the church and look forward to another successful year.

*Anne Rigby,
ALM in Pastoral Care*

Eco church

The eco-church team has met twice since January, to revise our answers to the A Rocha questionnaire and look at ways in which we can improve our engagement with the lifestyle and community aspects of their suggested plan. In early April 2024, we hosted a screening of the locally created film *Pure Clean Water* and a panel discussion, which was a great success, and are planning to host similar events in future. We are currently planning a summer family litter-pick, as well as this autumn's eco-festival at St John's, so watch this space!

Many thanks indeed to everyone on the eco-church committee: Lyn Guy, Brian Heap, John Hillier, Katie Knapton, Roger Lilley, Erica Lowry, Joseph Philip, James Sims-Williams and Matthew Wolff. If anyone would like to join the committee, please contact Nell.

Rev Nell Whiscombe

Facilities

We continued throughout 2023 to enjoy the support of our regular hirers who make up the bulk of the use of our Centre. Some of these are weekly, such as the Brownies and Guides, Collegium Laureatum Choir and the Mawson Road Community Orchestra, and others only come two or three times a year, but which all add up to a varied use of our facilities bringing us a welcome income and ensuring that St John's has a presence in our local community. This is most apparent when it comes to elections when we have a regular Hustings evening where all the candidates have the chance to put forward their manifestos and answer questions, and the elections themselves when the Wilkinson Room becomes a Polling Station for the Queen Edith's Ward. In addition there is an increasing number of birthday and anniversary parties held in the Wilkinson Room, mostly for young children. Some parents have started booking for the following year! We get very positive feedback from our hirers regarding the facilities, the ambience and, especially during the summer, the courtyard and front garden. It all adds up to a really attractive space for all sorts of activities. The availability of parking is a bonus too.

In 2023 there were many concerts held in the Church and we have regular bands, orchestras and choirs who return to use the Church for rehearsals and concerts. They all agree that St John's has an excellent acoustic – not too dry and not too reverberant. I would encourage you to come to one of these concerts if you haven't had the chance yet. We also host Lunchtime Concerts given by pupils from The Perse, four or five times a term. These are held on Tuesdays or Wednesdays at 1.15pm and last a little over half an hour, as the time is restricted by the Perse school day. These concerts are free with a retiring collection and all are agreed that the standard of music playing from the Perse pupils is astonishing. Some pupils go on to play in the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain, who perform annually at the BBC Proms in the Royal Albert Hall. There is a wide variety of music played at St John's from the formal classical to lighter jazz and contemporary music.

Of course, the Church is principally there for worship and the Centre for the use of the Parish. Other activities, whether they raise money for us or not, are secondary to the main purpose of a Parish

Church. But any activity that brings local people, and others from further afield, into the Church or the Centre contributes to the success of St John's.

Michael Fincham
Deputy Churchwarden

Fundraising and Events

The year 1 April 2023 to 30 March 2024 was another busy year for the Fundraising Group. A variety of events were held, which were again as much about developing links with the local community around St John's as raising money.

A total of £7,266 was generated through fundraising events and the letting of the church for concerts. A further £1,484 was raised for other charities, including The Pakistan Floods Appeal, UNICEF Children in Ukraine Appeal and WWF.

We have much enjoyed a series of 14 lunchtime concerts by pupils from the Perse School, whose high quality performances have impressed us all. At the end of each concert, those who came to listen to the music expressed their appreciation by donating to a retiring collection in aid of St John's. The total collected over the academic year was £954.

Financially, the three most successful single events were the Annual Plant Sale in May, which raised £1,019; the Eco Festival in September, which raised £926 and the Art Exhibition/Pre-Christmas Fair in November, which raised £613.

Over the year, a series of concerts raised £2,857. In April The Erasmus Chamber Choir presented a programme of music for Lent and the Great Bowden Recital Trust Flute Choir charmed us with a range of classical and popular music specially arranged for flutes. In May, Pavlo Petrychenko, who is a member of the St John's Choir, delighted us with his piano playing, including several of his own compositions in the programme. On a sunny Saturday afternoon in June, while enjoying tea and cake, we relaxed to a programme of popular songs performed in the Courtyard by Roger Lilley and two of his friends. The Erasmus Chamber Choir returned in July and we tapped our feet to folk music played by Thursday's Band and John Meed in September. In October the Take Five Quintet treated us to variety of Jazz pieces, which kept us spellbound for the evening. In February 2024 Ali Baillie and Toby Heath presented an engaging lunch time recital for flute and piano, while in March we tapped our feet again to a great programme of folk music composed and played by The String Section and Kelly & Woolley.

Many thanks are due to all those have helped organise and run events, plus, all who have contributed by attending and spending their money. Special mention must be made of Roger Lilley for his major contributions to the musical events and the Plant Sale. Other valuable contributions have been made by Erica Lowry, without whose organisational skills we could not manage and Richard Eccles who keeps the financial records. These two also spearhead our publicity by distributing posters for all the events, to sites around the local area. John Hillier also deserves our particular thanks as the sale of his beautiful pottery has made a very significant contribution to the success of our fund raising events over the year.

We would welcome new members to the group to help us continue to raise funds to support the running of the church, and other well deserving causes. Another interesting and varied programme is in preparation.

Julia Margretts
26 April 2024

Gardens at St John's

As the Land Team we have continued to make progress and see success with our green spaces and re-wilding areas. We are continuing to work in conjunction with Eco Church and have seen increased wild flower numbers and varieties eg. yellow rattle, cowslips, corncockles and even a rare pyramid orchid.

We had a very successful Plant Sale in May, again raising over £1,000. With Nell's encouragement the Youth Group got stuck in to successfully growing some summer veg - beans, tomatoes, herbs and strawberries. A very efficient watering team kept all the plants alive during the summer. Although there are still no resident swifts in our "5 Star Hotel" swift boxes we remain hopeful for occupancy this summer!

In the autumn, as part of the Eco Church initiative, a mini pond was put in at the side of the Wilkinson Room. In December we had a very productive work day with helpers not only from the church but also from the wider community. We also had a team to move the 'Bug Hotel' to the church from Joy's garden.

A big thank you to all for everyone's efforts and for all the unseen work of committed volunteers. It is certainly very rewarding work!

Clare Donovan

Group Activities

St John's Book Group

The St John's Book Group continued to thrive in 2023. We meet roughly every other month to discuss a book, and tend to focus on modern fiction, although we also tried some Dickens (*A Tale of Two Cities*), and a memoir (*The Hare with the Amber Eyes*). We finished the year with *Hamnet* (by Maggie O'Farrell).

The Friday evening meetings are very relaxed, and we split into two small groups for discussion so that everyone gets a chance to contribute. It is always fascinating to find out what everyone loved (or hated) about a book, to gain insights from others, and to learn interesting snippets about group members as great writing prompts us to talk about our lives and experiences. It has proved a wonderful way to get to know some members of the church.

We are thankful to the PCC for letting us have use of the Wilkinson Room for our meetings. We continue into 2024 with a mixture of modern novels and non-fiction to get us all reading and thinking!

Miles Baillie

St John's Walking Group

A small but enthusiastic group of walkers meet monthly to walk in the local area. Cathy Davies and David Waterhouse plan the programme. We aim to walk for 4-5 miles either in local villages and countryside, or around Cambridge.

In 2023, we walked from Newnham, Knapwell, Clayhythe and Quy among other places. Until this year, the walking group met on Thursdays but following requests for alternatives, we will be trialling Wednesday and Saturday walks in 2024.

Walking gives us great opportunity to build friendships as well as getting outside and exercising in the fresh air. Please do come and join us! Details of upcoming walks can be found in the weekly email, from Cathy Davies or the church office.

Cathy Davies

Health and Safety

April 2023

Camfire serviced the fire extinguishers.

June 2023

DS Electrical repaired the PIR lights outside the Wilkinson Room and in the car park.

July 2023

Ecclesiastical Survey did a period insurance survey. Specific issues- they were happy for the lightning conductor to be tested every 4 years, unless there are specific issues, or the reading consistently exceed 510 ohms.

September 2023

PAT testing of electrical appliances was done by UK Safety Management

November 2023

Risk Management Regional Manager for Ecclesiastical insurance visited the church to undertake a routine valuation only audit of the church following the visit of colleague in July. This was a routine check to ensure consistently high and accurate valuations.

March 2024

Bacon Lighting and Protection Ltd inspected the lightning conductor. A conditional certificate has been awarded with some advisory provisions. A quote for this work is awaited.

I am grateful to Julia and Michael for all that they have done in organising the work schedule.

*Joseph Philip
Health and Safety Officer*

Home Groups

Vicarage Home Group

Following Ceri Payne's move to Great St Mary's, the Home Group that used to meet at the Payne's home moved to St John's Vicarage. The group shifted to meeting in person, Monday evenings, once a fortnight, from September 2023. The good news is that James is enjoying leading this group, with participation - in Bible study facilitation - also, variously, from Rev John Hillier, Miles Baillie and Steven Ridley. In the autumn we looked at Isaiah; in Lent term, Paul's Letter to the Ephesians; and in the summer term, we are anticipating a series on ways of praying, linked to particular Bible texts.

The group is thriving, well attended & any are welcome to join us! Just contact Rev James Shakespeare.

Rev James Shakespeare

Tuesday morning home group

The group has a fairly stable membership but we are always delighted to anyone who would like to join us, so do let me know if that appeals to you. We vary between studying specific parts of the bible - we looked at Acts recently, and also looking at themes - the structure of the liturgical year, as well as studying specific types of theology - Lent saw us examining the theology of CS Lewis. It's all very low key and friendly with plenty of discussion of how the bible and our lives are interwoven.

Jane Gardiner LLM

Wednesday evening home group

Our fortnightly Wednesday evening home group has continued to meet on Zoom. One advantage of meeting online has been that Peter and Judith have been able to continue to lead this group, in spite of having had to temporarily move out of the parish during their house renovations.

We started last year with The Bible Course, produced by the Bible Society. We have found the associated book, videos and other study materials to be very high quality – professionally produced and academically rigorous but very accessible. It opened our minds and hearts to the bigger picture of God's salvation story and the role part of the Bible plays in that story.

Against this background, we decided for our next series of homegroup meetings we would focus on The Romans Course, also produced by the Bible Society. Some of the group were able to travel together to London in September for an inspiring and fun introductory day at the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity. Although Romans is a dense and complicated book, we have learned to see it as a journey up a mountain, taking in the beautiful vistas from the summit of Romans 8 and gradually travelling back down again as we learn to apply what we have learned to our own individual and communal contexts.

Rev Peter Helslam

Lobby Displays at St John's

Lobby displays are now into their third year. There has been a delightful mix of the old and the new, and it is always fascinating to observe the different presentation styles embraced by the groups invited.

Church activities have been highlighted. An exposition of Prayer 48 in April 2023 was simple but arresting. Recently Fair Trade Fortnight was marked by the regular Big Brew information, updates on Fair Trade issues and a focus on the seldom considered area of fairly traded gold. Charities supported by St John's – Blue Smile, Friends of Palestine and Christian Aid – have had background information displayed.

Many outside groups who use the St John's Centre have shared their particular passions with us. These have included the Mawson Road Community Orchestra, the Cambridge Local History Society and the local Brownie Group. Back by popular demand, the watercolour art class run by Denise Schoenberg mounted another brilliant exhibition of their compelling work through December and January. Shelly Thake, who heads up Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust Management Team, shared with us the work of the Trust at a time of ever-present financial demands on health care delivery.

As an A Rocha Eco Church working towards a silver award, St John's held its first Eco Festival in September 2023. A display ahead of this focused on the recycling and bicycle repair opportunities available at the event, together with information about local groups and small enterprises working with the environment in mind. Linking well to this theme, Cambridge Past, Present and Future had already promoted their summer Cambridge Nature Festival.

Important also are periods when we focus displays on events in the church calendar and on the seasons of the year. This is achieved by images to catch the eye and foliage of a seasonal nature to enliven the spirit. Clare Donovan is often involved at these times. In conclusion it is interesting that people indicate they miss the vibrancy displays offer when the space is unoccupied.

Erica Lowry

Ministry Team and Ordinands

Rev Nell Whiscombe

Having been ordained priest last July, an important aspect of my year has been the joy of celebrating the eucharist at St John's on Wednesdays and Sundays. I have particularly enjoyed using the Prayer Book liturgy on a Wednesday morning, and of course continuing to preach. I have also taken a few services at St Mark's, Newnham, during their vacancy, and have had the opportunity to preach at several Cambridge colleges. A highlight was acting as deacon for Bishop Dagmar, when she visited St John's to license Jane Gardiner as LLM. Christmas and Easter services were also highlights of this year, and I particularly enjoyed introducing a Tenebrae service to St John's as part of our Holy Week worship, as well as planning and leading the crib service on Christmas Eve. It has also been good to engage with different styles of contemplative worship in our Sacred Space service once a month, and to continue working with the Honorary Lay Chaplain at Homerton to plan the weekly evensong services.

People are as important as worship in the life of St John's, and I have enjoyed engaging with many different visitors as well as regular members of the congregation, at our winter Friendship Café, Toddle Along and at local meetings held in the church. I have also enjoyed visiting some of our parishioners in a local care home, and at home around the parish. It has been a delight to take part in a home group, as well, and since February this year to join the Being With group on occasion, to explore thoughts and issues around the Christian faith. I have also taken several baptisms and funerals this year, and am preparing a couple for marriage in 2025.

Working with the Rev Ceri Payne, our previous curate, to manage the day-to-day running of the parish during the vicar's secondment was very interesting, and provided a good insight into the range of issues that incumbents deal with. I have also been supervising one of our ordinands on placement from Westcott House this year, to gain some experience of working in a supervisory role. As mentioned in James' report, in January 2024 I became chair of the St John's eco-church committee.

I have continued working with local schools, running sessions at three Reflection Days for different age groups at St Bede's, as well as taking assemblies. We have also had several primary school visits to the church, including the Pelican at Christmas and Morley at Easter. I am a school governor at Cherry Hinton Church of England Primary School, which has also provided me with valuable insights into how churches and schools can work together. Other extra-parish commitments include acting as Day Chaplain at Ely Cathedral once a month, and helping to plan and run a diocesan vocations event for young women, held at Ridley Hall in March.

Rev Nell Whiscombe, Assistant Curate

Rev John Hillier

St. John's Ministry Team comprises our Vicar, curate, and lay and other ordained ministers. We meet regularly to review our individual and corporate ministries. In particular, each liturgical season is planned. Pastoral visits are reviewed and information shared to support both those visited and those visiting.

Reflecting on the changes that have been made to our ministry since the end of the pandemic, we are happy that Zoom meetings are continuing and that they are particularly helping those who are unable to attend church. We are also pleased to hear and learn from feedback on our new livestream installation. The installation was only possible following some generous donations and has received enthusiastic support. We are especially grateful for the time given by our young systems operator, Oscar Hart who has managed most of our Sunday morning transmissions.

We try to be continually alert to the parish's needs and welcome questions from parishioners and congregation to enable and promote the Gospel message.

Rev John Hillier

Jane Gardiner

I was licensed when Acting Bishop Dagmar visited St John's in November rather than in Ely as planned because I had Covid at the critical moment. I've continued to help lead the Tuesday morning group since then as well as preaching, acting as deacon and leading some services. Most of my work is behind the scenes – I've been delighted to join the Sacristan team and to spend time with individuals as and when needed. I'm still finding my way as an LLM and I'm sure that more things will come along in God's time.

Jane Gardiner LLM

Sian Binley

Unfortunately, I haven't been able to attend any Ministry Team meetings due to work commitments; however, due to my Ordination training my ministry roles have increased.

I am about to start the last term of my first year's training as an Ordinand. It has been going well, if at times very difficult to juggle working and studying. My roles in Sunday worship services have increased with me learning how to Deacon and preach at Holy Communion services leading and preaching at Evensong and I continue to have led and given the talk at All Age Services. I am still involved in Children's Church and Youth Group and with Nell to run Messy Church.

As my training continues, I look forward to learning about and being involved in more aspects of Ministry at St John's.

I thank everyone for their support and encouragement during my training.

Sian Binley ALM

Daniel Krawczyk

I loved every minute of my placement at St John's Hills Road and very quickly managed to feel part of this great community/congregation. I learn a lot from the whole of the ministry team and members of St John's in many various ways, all things helpful for my own spiritual growth and future ministry.

As an ordinand at St John's Hills Road I took part in the variety of activities:

- Preaching at the main Sunday service as well as Evensong
- Deaconing for the Eucharist, leading Evensong
- Leading Intercessions and reading lessons
- Helping at the services during the Holy Week and the Triduum
- Leading and helping with Children's Church and Youth Group
- Helping with the Community Lunch
- Regular supervision with Rev'd Nell Whiscombe
- Pastoral conversations with members of the congregation

Daniel Krawczyk

Mission Committee

Our committee meets three or four times a year. Members are James Shakespeare (Chair), Roger Lilley (Treasurer), Katie Knapp (Secretary), Dominic Barton, Anne Jarvis and Matthew Wolff. We are occasionally joined by another member of the clergy or an ordinand. Meetings are conducted over Zoom which we continue to find convenient.

At our first meeting in 2023 one of our Agenda items was to decide, on behalf of St John's, which charities would be the recipients of our Lenten giving for those in the congregation who wished to make personal donations. After discussion, the Besom in Cambridge, part of the Besom network, and

the UNICEF Horn of Africa Appeal were the chosen charities. Publicity material was obtained from both and at the beginning of Lent a display was exhibited in the lobby. In addition, Felix Hearn, the Coordinator of the Besom, joined us with colleagues in worship at St John's and told us about the valuable work the charity does in providing a bridge between those who want to give time, money, skills or things, to those in need.

The opportunity arose during the year to add another charity as a Mission Partner and since the Eco Church Group had asked us to 'review and recommend to the PCC ongoing financial support for a charity doing environmental work', several options were considered. A feeling was expressed that we could combine our efforts with those of the Eco Church Group by choosing an eco-charity and one with a broad appeal to all ages in the congregation. Support for the WFF was agreed for a fixed term of one year and Children's Church and the Youth Group were invited to choose which species to support.

Our other Mission Partners continue to be The Bethesda Project in Burundi, our CMS mission partner, Ultan McCabe, working for Middle East Concern to support persecuted Christians in the Middle East and North Africa, and Great Lakes Outreach, Burundi. Support for Mary's Meals continues, backed by Toddle Along.

Katie Knapton

Parish Communications

Communications Officer

The 8 hour per week Communications Officer started at the beginning of December 2023, working from the Church Office on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, and sometimes from home. The focus has been on keeping the Hubb website up to date, publishing the weekly E-news, designing posters for church festivals and activities, and promoting these via the church's social media as well as via the local media, where possible. A new A5 Sunday pew sheet was introduced in February 2024, with information about the day's services, selected notices and church contact details.

There are some figures below to benchmark our current position.

Website - www.stjohntheevangelistcambridge.org

Hubb metrics count simple 'page requests' only. Google Analytics can be set up to provide more detail in future. The website was established on Hubb in June 2023 and the monthly figures began to stabilise from October onwards.

1 October 2023 – 31 March 2024	
Average monthly page requests	16,998

E-news

Recipients as at 31 March 2024	145
Average 'read rate':	108 (74.48%)

Facebook - www.facebook.com/stjohnhillsroad

1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, showing % increase on same period 2022-2023

Reach	Content interactions	Link clicks	Followers
4,300 (+238%)	446 (+265.6%)	40 (+207.7)	147

X (formerly Twitter) - <https://twitter.com/stjohnhillsroad>

1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024. Note that the account was unused from January to November 2023.

Impressions	Engagement rate	Link clicks	Followers (at 31 March 2024)
1395	3.9%	5	139

YouTube - www.youtube.com/@StJohntheEvangelistHillsRoadCa/

YouTube is in use for live stream services.

Subscribers (April 2024):	62
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Note: An unused Instagram account exists for the church and it is hoped to activate this in a considered way before the end of 2024.

I'd like to thank everyone for the warm welcome I have received at St John's. It is a pleasure to be part of such a lively and effective team.

Liz Hurst
Communications Officer

St John's Website Development

Reasons for development

With natural geographical movement of members of congregation, we found ourselves with insufficient people with the necessary digital skills and availability to maintain our website as a 'living', up-to-date method of communication with our congregation and community. We started considering creating a Communications Officer post.

Along the way, (Dec 2022) some Homerton College students offered their IT skills to update the current site. In preparation, some of the Ministry team had drafted a plan for the information we would need on the site: marking up areas to be retained and refreshed; those to be archived; and creating new areas. The Homerton students found that the website was not very adaptable and would require more time than they had available to work on it. They suggested a newer style product would be easier for the church to maintain. However, they helped us think about the end user experience and suggested how to prioritise aspects of our plan on what was most important, what needed to be easily accessible and how quickly information could be found.

Four main areas of work

1. Research: possible suitable web sites specifically for churches.

The first one gave many facilities for administration data, probably more complex than we needed and with no website included. We did a trial period, but in the meantime found a different one which included web hosting with a basic structure provided. We sought advice from another local church using the software. They had found it to be manageable by someone with good basic IT literacy. Good support had also been experienced from the provider.

Therefore, we ended the first trial and went with the second - **Hubb.Church** – a local website design company. Our assistant curate, Ceri Payne, became the main link for the development.

We opted for a set of basic functionalities – the ability to widen the scope later if required – and decided not to use Financial or Calendar for room bookings to begin with, as we are confident in these areas at present.

2. Working towards Parish directory transferred to On-line facility:

- Needed categorizing - as costings based on size of active congregation:
 - Active congregation
 - Those who have moved away but like to be kept in touch
 - Wider contacts we have as a church e.g. Queen Edith Community Forum / Schools.
- Security of personal data
 - Complete review of consents on using / storing personal data - checking that they comply with the rules under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)
 - Updating 'Use and storage of personal data' policy and writing an explanatory sheet and FAQs for congregation
 - Obtaining consent to storage and use of personal information and to how information is communicated.

3. Populating New Website:

- Gradually transferring / adding content to new website.

4. Registration of Congregation to website:

- 1 to 1 support from Ministry Team – Sunday after service – Wednesday morning after communion.
- Explaining procedure and creating personal access to website if desired
- Checking extent of use of their personal data

Personnel involved:

- Executive group
- Ministry team
- PCC
- Group assessing the content of the website
- Task groups: Mon, Tues & Thurs Home groups as trial data testing facilities
eg Rotas: Readers and Intercessions, Sidespersons, Tea & coffee hosts.

What we have now...

Administration

- Distribution of rotas with automatic reminders
- Weekly e-news globally sent
- Management of Electoral Roll
- Internal use of on-line email for contact with teams
- External – invitations to 'happenings' – e.g. opening of St John's Centre

Website www.stjohntheevangelistcambridge.org

About us - Areas of church life

What's going on at St John's

Advertisements, Invitations: concerts, films, discussion forums

Archived sermons

Latest news eg choir expeditions

Room booking information

Church Calendar

Links to Social Media

Communication Officer Appointed

In December, Liz Hurst was appointed as our part-time Communications Officer. We are delighted to see her work in updating and developing the website, managing the website admin system, and updating our social media accounts. Since then, our social media presence has increased dramatically, we are welcoming newcomers to the congregation, and seeing growth in room bookings and attendance at events.

*Canon Kate Aylmer,
Licensed Lay Minister*

St John's Church Choir

The year 2023 was a great year for St John's church choir as we hosted several events and recruited more choristers!

Membership

Following a successful recruitment campaign we are delighted to have five new probationers in the choir. We have visited the local Brownie unit and managed to advertise the choir to parents at Morley Memorial School. Having the new children in the choir has boosted our energy and enthusiasm levels. Throughout the year the trebles have continued to follow the RSCM Voice for Life training scheme.

We currently have twelve children (under the age of 18) in the choir. We were pleased to welcome two new sopranos (Suzanne and Mel), an alto (Elizabeth), and two basses (Pavlo and Chris) to the choir family. As we welcomed new members we also celebrated some long service achievements. Pamela celebrated 30 years of service to St John's Choir, and was awarded with the Archbishop's Certificate for Music in King's College Chapel. Theo sadly left us as he moved to Bristol University to read Music. Many former choristers maintain a strong link with St John's and we are always delighted to welcome them back especially for the Christmas services.

The choir have continued to lead the music at all the main services. We stretched our repertoire this year by learning Byrd's four part mass which we sang to commemorate 400 years since he died.

We shared a variety of social activities this year including a choir family trip to Chippenham Fen National Nature Reserve to feed the water buffalo. We celebrated Jacqui and Brian's 40th wedding anniversary, Peter's 60th birthday, and Joseph's 80th birthday. We held impromptu gatherings in the church grounds during the summer months and had a summer party in the vicarage garden.

Our main sources of income this year have come from wedding fees, cake sales and a choir concert. Our main expenditure was attending the Diocesan choir festival.

Outreach

We were delighted to host our partnership church choirs from St Andrew's and St James for Ascension Day this year. We sang evensong with the choir from St Mary's church Bury St Edmunds, and we visited St Mary's church in Ashwell to sing evensong with our former curate Revd. Chris Campbell. We participated in the Diocesan Choir Festival in King's College Chapel and hosted the preliminary rehearsals at St John's.

We hosted a young voices event in partnership with the RSCM. This was aimed at singers under the age of 16 who enjoyed coming together from across the Diocese to sing with children of the same age. We also organised a young voices event in partnership with Little St Mary's aimed at recruiting new choristers in Cambridge.

We enjoyed singing Christmas carols on the punts in association with "Let's go punting" and raised a total of £1400! We donated £1250 (via the punting company) to Tom's Trust (supporting children with brain tumours) and £150 to Wintercomfort. Our photograph appeared in local media and even in The Guardian this year. We ended our year with a lovely evening of carol singing around the parish when we brought Christmas cheer to members of the congregation who enjoyed carols sung on their doorstep.

Future

We continue to enjoy leading the worship at St John's. We hope that our trebles will continue to work through the RSCM training scheme and go on to achieve awards from Ely Diocese. We look forward to continuing to host and visit our partnership choirs and choirs from the diocese (who may join our rehearsals for Diocesan events) next year.

We are extremely grateful to Roger Lilley for acting as Assistant Director of Music throughout the year. We are also grateful to our choir chaperones Suzanne and Catriona who enable our work with young children. When Roger is away we are fortunate to have others in the choir to conduct us from time to time – Pamela, Tabitha and Pavlo.

We are truly a choir family and we still have room for new members. If you are aged 7 years or older and enjoy singing please give us a try. We rehearse every Thursday and we have lots of fun as well as leading the worship.

Elizabeth Trenchard
Organist and Director of Music

The Charter Choir of Homerton College

April 2023 – March 2024

The Charter Choir has enjoyed a full and active year. There are normally six services of Choral Evensong on Tuesdays each term at 6.30 pm in St John's, along with other services both in St John's and further afield.

In the past year these included Choral Evensong in St Paul's Cathedral and at Girton College; in addition, the Choir performed at Homerton's annual Charter Dinner, undertook a commercial recording (settings of the Psalms by composers across the ages, entitled *Psalms, Stars & Light*, to be released on the Convivium label in June 2024), and went on tour to Iceland. Owing to installation works taking place in St John's at the beginning of May, Tuesday Evensong took place for the first time in Homerton's Great Hall, accompanied on the piano. Later in May, on a very temperate Sunday afternoon, were given a warm welcome to Girton College – the first joint service that the Charter Choir had been involved in since before Covid and, as far as we know, it was the first time that choirs from the two furthestmost Colleges have collaborated – a truly historic occasion! This was supplemented by a return visit by Girton to Homerton in January 2024. The Charter Choir also inherited a set of cassocks and surplices, and now wears these on special occasions.

Other services at St John's included Choral Eucharist on Ash Wednesday in March, Sunday Evensong for Christ the King and our annual Advent and Christmas Carol service.

We greatly appreciate our unique partnership with St John's and the support of James, Nell, Cherry, Liz and Michael and all members of the congregation, who participate in the services.

*Trish Maude,
Hon. Lay Chaplain
Homerton College*

Traidcraft at St John's

Early in 2023 we heard the sad news that Traidcraft PLC had entered into administration. From that point we were unable to purchase more goods from them but continued our stalls on an occasional basis to sell our remaining stock.

The annual Big Brew Coffee Morning, raising awareness of Fair Trade and raising funds for Transform Trade (Traidcraft's Charity), was well attended and enjoyed by many from the congregation and the wider community. A stall at the September Ecofestival and another at the Art and Craft Exhibition proved popular, with displays publicising some of Transform Trade's projects and at the latter a selection of Christmas cards and small items for sale.

A number of companies sell Fairtrade and/or Ethically produced items but, to buy at wholesale prices, an account would have to be opened with each of them. This would be unnecessarily complicated so instead, a careful eye is kept on their sales and free postage offers in order to build up small stocks to sell at church events. As we no longer require a large bank balance to pay for regular purchases we have transferred, via the church, a generous sum to Transform Trade to support its various campaigns, for example to ensure that workers producing fast fashion items for the western markets work in safe conditions and are paid a fair wage.

St John's is a Fairtrade Church and we will continue to fly the Fairtrade flag. To date in 2024 we have had another successful Big Brew Coffee Morning with the added interest of a talk by Alice Rochester from the Harriet Kelsall Bespoke Jewellery team who gave us an insight into Fairtrade gold.

*Katie Napton
March 2024*



Financial Statement

For year ending 31 December 2023

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of
St John the Evangelist, Cambridge

St John the Evangelist Church
Hills Road
Cambridge, CB2 8RN

Approved by the PCC on 15 April 2024

Signed 

Rev'd James Shakespeare, Vicar and Chair

Independent Examiner: *Professor Martin Dove*

Treasurer: *Mr Roger Lilley*

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT															
To the PCC of St John the Evangelist, Cambridge															
This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 st December 2023, which are set out on pages 2 to 11, is in respect of an examination carried out under Regulation 3 (3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 and section 43 of the Charities Act 1993.															
Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner															
As trustees and members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of the regulation 3 (3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 and section 43 (2) of the Charities Act 1992 (the Act) do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of Regulation 25 of the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 and Regulation 7 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 1995.															
Basis of Independent Examiner's report															
My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43 (7) (b) of the Act and to be found in the guidance from the CBF. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.															
Independent Examiner's Statement															
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:															
1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements															
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the requirements of the Act, as also contained in the Church Accounting Regulations 1997, have not been met; or															
2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.															
Signed and dated															
26 March 2024															
															
Martin Dove															

St John the Evangelist, Hills Road, Cambridge							
Statement of Financial Activities							
For the year ended 31 st December 2023							
	Notes	Unrestrict ed Fund	Restricted Fund	Total 2023	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	Total 2022
		£	£	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES:							
Income from regular donors	(2a)	83,718	0	83,718	83,428	0	83,428
Other donated resources	(2b)	33,082	3,654	36,737	44,510	1,697	46,207
Mission activities	(2c)	140	0	140	361	0	0
St John's Centre	(2d)	27,604	0	27,604	30,507	0	30,507
Other incoming resources	(2e,6a)	19,551	300	19,851	20,314	180	20,495
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES:		164,095	3,954	168,049	179,121	1,877	180,998
RESOURCES EXPENDED:							
Ministers' expenses	(3a)	1,942	0	1,942	928	0	928
Church maint., servs.,mission, admin.	(3b)	31,569	273	31,842	33,182	71	33,182
St John's Centre maint & admin	(3b)	11,024	0	11,024	9,747	0	9,747
Payments outside the Parish	(3c)	85,469	3,681	89,150	79,118	1,721	80,840
Major Works	(3d)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Costs of generating Traidcraft funds	(6b)	2,452	0	2,452	4,547	0	4,547
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED:		132,455	3,954	136,409	127,522	1,721	129,244
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES		31,640	0	31,640	51,598	156	51,754
BALANCES BROUGHT FORW. AT 1 JAN.		100,997	1,035	102,032	49,399	879	50,278
BALANCES CARRIED FORW. AT 31 DEC.		132,637	1,035	133,672	100,997	1,035	102,032

Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ended 31st December 2023

	Notes	Unrestrict ed Fund	Restricted Fund	Total 2023	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	Total 2022
		£	£	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES:							
Income from regular donors	(2a)	83,718	0	83,718	83,428	0	83,428
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Mission activities	(2c)	140	0	140	361	0	0
St John's Centre	(2d)	27,604	0	27,604	30,507	0	30,507
Other incoming resources	(2e,6a)	19,551	300	19,851	20,314	180	20,495
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES:		164,095	3,954	168,049	179,121	1,877	180,998
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St John's Centre maint & admin	(3b)	11,024	0	11,024	9,747	0	9,747
Payments outside the Parish	(3c)	85,469	3,681	89,150	79,118	1,721	80,840
Major Works	(3d)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Costs of generating Traidcraft funds	(6b)	2,452	0	2,452	4,547	0	4,547
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED:		132,455	3,954	136,409	127,522	1,721	129,244
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BALANCES CARRIED FORW. AT 31 DEC.		132,637	1,035	133,672	100,997	1,035	102,032

St John the Evangelist, Hills Road, Cambridge									
Balance Sheet at 31 st December 2023									
	Notes				2023 Total			2022 Total	
					£			£	
CURRENT ASSETS:									
Barclays Bank PLC Accounts					130,035			95,894	
Church of England CBF Deposit Account					1,201			1,164	
CBS Deposit Account (Traidcraft)					384			775	
Petty Cash (Traidcraft)					27			45	
Stock (Traidcraft)					65			493	
Debtors	7				1,960			4,453	
					133,672			102,824	
LIABILITIES:									
Amounts falling due within one year									
Creditors	8				0			1,827	
					0			1,827	
NET CURRENT ASSETS:					133,672			100,997	
FUNDS:									
				2023 Total	2023 Total		2022	2022 Total	
				£	£		£	£	
Unrestricted									
General Fund Reserves					53,868			39,987	
Traidcraft					476			1,529	
Restricted (r) & Designated (d)									
Choir Fund (r)				4,328			4,481		
Quinquennial Works Fund (d)				75,000			55,000		
Total Restricted & Designated					79,328			59,481	
TOTAL FUNDS					133,672			100,997	

Balance Sheet at 31st December 2023

	Notes				2023 Total		2022 Total
					£		£
CURRENT ASSETS:							
Barclays Bank PLC Accounts					130,035		95,894
Church of England CBF Deposit Account					1,201		1,164
CBS Deposit Account (Traidcraft)					384		775
Petty Cash (Traidcraft)					27		45
Stock (Traidcraft)					65		493
Debtors	7				1,960		4,453
					133,672		102,824

LIABILITIES:

Amounts falling due within one year							
Creditors	8				0		1,827
					0		1,827

NET CURRENT ASSETS:

FUNDS:					2023 Total	2023 Total	2022	2022 Total
					£	£	£	£
Unrestricted								
General Fund Reserves						53,868		39,987
Traidcraft						476		1,529
Restricted (r) & Designated (d)								
Choir Fund (r)					4,328		4,481	
Quinquennial Works Fund (d)					75,000		55,000	
Total Restricted & Designated						79,328		59,481
TOTAL FUNDS						133,672		100,997

[illegible]

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st December 2023

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 as amended by the Church Accounting (Amendment) Regulations 2001 together with applicable accounting standards and the

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Funds

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC.

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law.

Incoming resources

Voluntary income and capital sources

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.

Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised only when received.

Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt is reasonably certain.

Other income

Rental income from the letting of the church premises is recognised when the rental is due.

Income from investments

Interest entitlements are accounted for as they accrue.

Resources used

Activities directly relating to the work of the Church

The diocesan parish share is accounted for when paid.

Fixed assets

Consecrated property and movable church furnishings

St John the Evangelist, Hills Road, Cambridge

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 31st December 2023

2 INCOMING RESOURCES

	Unrestrict ed Fund	Restricted Fund	2023 Total	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	2022 Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£

VOLUNTARY RECEIPTS:

2a INCOME FROM REGULAR DONORS

Parish Giving Scheme	49,166	0	49,166	41,838	0	41,838
Other regular giving	19,705	0	19,705	23,660	0	23,660
Tax recovered and recoverable	14,847	0	14,847	17,929	0	17,929
Total	83,718	0	83,718	83,428	0	83,428

2b OTHER DONATED RESOURCES

Service cash collections	5,032	0	5,032	4,611	0	4,611
Gift Day incl. tax recovered and recoverable	1,705	0	1,705	5,650	0	5,650
Legacy and <i>gifts in memoriam</i>	13,000	0	13,000	20,000	0	20,000
Occasional donations incl. Gift Aid/CAF	13,345	0	13,345	14,250	0	14,250
Collections for charity	0	3,654	3,654	0	1,697	1,697
Total	33,082	3,654	36,737	44,510	1,697	46,207

2c MISSION ACTIVITIES

Donations	0	0	0	0	0	0
Magazine (subs & adv.)	140	0	140	0	0	0
Other income incl. events	0	0	0	361	0	361
Total	140	0	140	361	0	361

2d ST JOHN'S CENTRE INCOME

Letting income (prev. 2e)	25304	0	25304	28,207	0	28,207
Church use of St John's Centre	2300	0	2300	2,300	0	2,300
Other income (prev. 2e)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	27604	0	27604	30,507	0	30,507

2e OTHER CHURCH INCOMING RESOURCES

PCC fees	1,704	0	1,704	1,184	0	1,184
Service fees	876	0	876	798	0	798
Letting income (church)	8,510	0	8,510	6,350	0	6,350
Interest	39	0	39	2	0	2
Fund raising events	6,093	0	6,093	6,392	0	6,392
Choir Fund	0	300	300	0	180	180
Sundry income	942	0	942	984	0	984
Residentials	0	0	0	125	0	125
Parish Share Rebate	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	18,165	300	18,465	15,835	180	16,016

St John the Evangelist, Hills Road, Cambridge

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 31st December 2023

3 RESOURCES EXPENDED

	Unrestrict ed Fund	Restricted Fund	2023 Total	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	2022 Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£

3a THE MINISTRY:

Clergy expenses incl. Travel	1,942	0	1,942	928	0	928
Total	1,942	0	1,942	928	0	928

3b CHURCH BUILDINGS, SERVICES & GENERAL ADMINISTRATION:

Property charges (Church)

Gas (20%)	447	0	447	303	0	303
Electricity (20%)	455	0	455	318	0	318
Water (20%)	16	0	16	15	0	15
Insurance (50%)	2,140	0	2,140	1,956	0	1,956
Repairs & maintenance	4,593	0	4,593	10,260	0	10,260
Total	7,650	0	7,650	12,853	0	12,853

Property charges (St John's Centre)*

Gas (80%)	1787	0	1787	1,212	0	1,212
Electricity (80%)	1819	0	1819	1,273	0	1,273
Water (80%)	63	0	63	61	0	61
Insurance (50%)	2140	0	2140	1,956	0	1,956
Repairs and maintenance	1728	0	1728	1,826	0	1,826
Total	7536	0	7536	6,328	0	6,328

Salaries and fees (Church)

Salaries	7,452	0	7,452	6,813	0	6,813
Choir	315	0	315	180	0	180
Total	7,767	0	7,767	6,993	0	6,993

Salaries (St John's Centre)*

Salaries	3,052	0	3,052	3,070	0	3,070
Total	3,052	0	3,052	3,070	0	3,070

Service overheads

Service expenses and books (incl.new altar)	561	0	561	1,860	0	1,860
Youth work incl. Children's Church	0	0	0	0	0	0
Service fees	749	0	749	358	0	358
Organ & piano	764	0	764	375	0	375
Choir Fund	0	273	273	0	0	0
Total	2,073	273	2,347	2,593	0	2,593

Mission overheads

Youth work incl. Messy Church	65	0	65	106	0	106
Events	2,174	0	2,174	426	0	426
Other expenses incl. printing	455	0	455	437	0	437
Total	2,694	0	2,694	970	0	970

[illegible]

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 31st December 2023

4 MISSIONS AND CHARITIES SPECIFIC COLLECTIONS

		Unrestrict ed Fund	Restricted Fund	2023 Total	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	2022 Total
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Combat Stress		0	187	187	0	95	95
Blinds Veterans UK (St Dunstan's)		0	187	187	0	90	90
Wintercomfort		0	656	656	0	287	287
The Children's Society		0	701	701	0	860	860
Durrell Foundation		0	0	0	0	10	10
Cambridge Reuse		0	0	0		128	128
DEC Pakistan		0	0	0		250	250
Trade Transform		750	0	750	0	0	0
Arthur Rank		0	250	250	0	0	0
Camsight		20	0	20	0	0	0
Christian Aid		0	799	799	0	0	0
Emmaus		0	95	95			
Dementia UK		350	0	350			
UNICEF		1,041	0	1,041			
Addenbrookes		0	300	300			
Alzheimer's		0	506	506			
Breast Cancer		250	0	250			
Total		2,411	3,681	6,092	0	1,721	1,721

5 OVERSEAS MISSION COMMITTEE

							2023	2022
Payments								
5c WWF UK							500	0
5c Keppleway Burundi							912	912
5c CMS: Middle East							1,200	1,200
5c Marys Meals							600	600
5c Great Lakes Burundi							1,200	1,200
Total							4,412	3,912

St John the Evangelist, Hills Road, Cambridge

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 31st December 2023

6 FairTrade@StJohns (formerly TRADFAIR ST JOHN'S) ACCOUNTS (UNRESTRICTED)

	2023	2023	2022	2022
	£	£	£	£
6a Income				
Sales		1,386		4,479
6b Cost of sales				
Opening stock at cost	709		493	
Purchases (net of donations)	418		4,473	
Total	1,127		4,966	
Less closing stock at cost	65		709	
		1,062		4,257
Gross Profit		324		222
Donations				
6b Summer & Xmas Fairs	10		40	
6b Gift Day	0		0	
6b Traidcraft projects	0		250	
6b Easter eggs	30			
6b Donations to Traidcraft/Transform	1,350			
		1,390		290
Nett Profit		-1,066		-68
Balance brought forward		1,538		1,313
Balance carried forward		472		1,245
Represented by				
Stock in hand		65		709
CBS account		384		775
Cash in hand		27		45
Total		476		1,529

Donations in kind to St John's of tea, instant coffee and sugar for Sunday mornings and church events & and chocolate eggs for Easter Sunday.

Fairtrade St Johns accounts prepared by Katie Knapton

[illegible]

Accounts

St John the Evangelist Church

Churchwardens' Statutory report for the APCM on 21 May 2023

2022-2023 has been a busy year at St John's as life returns to 'normal' following the Covid 19 Pandemic in 2021 and 2022. Congregations are swelling as people get used to coming out again and re-engaging in group events and activities. The regular programme of services is now back in place and Children's Church is once more a weekly event.

There has been a substantial increase in bookings for the rooms in the St John's Centre, resulting in a significant increase in income for the parish. We have been able to complete all the outstanding work on the buildings and grounds listed in last year's report and are now moving forward with a major project on the upgrading of the audio-visual systems in the church. Funded by a number of legacies from past members of the congregation, this exciting project will be completed in May 2023.

Repairs and maintenance

- (i) Two swift boxes were installed on the wall outside one of the Office windows on 13 May 2022. Recorded bird song is played at intervals to attract the swifts, but it is likely to be two or three years before the boxes are occupied.
- (ii) TR Cleaning cleaned the cantilever canopies over the perimeter paths of the courtyard and the surrounding gulleys on 30 May 2022.
- (iii) In July 2022 English Building and Restoration:
 - rebuilt the west gatepost at the entrance to the car park, reinforcing it considerably to take the weight of the relatively heavy gate - in addition to repairing the other two gateposts
 - repaired the brickwork on the upper third of the parapet wall between the car park and the courtyard, above the Boiler Room
 - re-pointed the walls of the Boiler RoomA highly skilled bricklayer did an excellent job on all three tasks.
- (iv) In early July David Waterhouse kindly refurbished the notice board on the front lawn.
- (v) Childs Plumbing and Heating have dealt with a number of plumbing issues that needed attention, including:
 - Replacement of two leaking taps in the Choir Vestry, on 20 July 2022
 - Updating of the urinals to reduce unnecessary automatic flushing, on 20 July 2022
 - Replacement of both a faulty mixer tap and a leaking water heater in the upstairs kitchen, on 29 September 2022
- (vi) On 3 August 2022, Briar Security replaced a faulty power supply on the alarm system, which was causing intermittent bleeping much annoying staff and students from the EF Language School, who were working in the Cavendish and Gray Rooms at the time.
- (vii) Following the failure of two of the lighting units in the Wilkinson Room, DS Electrical attended on 28 November 2022 and replaced all the units with LED fittings. This has significantly improved the lighting in the room, while at the same time considerably reducing the consumption of electricity.

Upgrading of the Office

On the recommendation of Mike Nettleton, of Eagle Analysis, a new computer was installed in the Office on 17 June 2022. This purchase was generously funded by one of the families in the congregation. Both the computer it replaced and an old one on the second desk in Office were recycled, after being 'cleaned' by Eagle Analysis.

On 7 November 2022 a new carpet was fitted in the Office, which prompted a reorganisation of the room and some clearing out. One filing cabinet was replaced and another one was moved in from the Cavendish Room. One large cupboard was moved into the Gray Room. This has transformed and much improved this workspace.

Following numerous failures over the last two years, the seven year old Kyocera photocopier was replaced by a more compact and up to date Sharp machine on 6 December 2022. The cost of copying per sheet has been halved and at £1998, this has probably been the most significant investment of the year, in terms of the efficient and effective running of St John's.

Organ

As in previous years, the organ has been tuned by Norman Hall & Sons three times this year, in September and December 2022, and March 2023.

Care of the gardens and grounds around the church

A team of volunteers continue to maintain the gardens and grounds around the church very effectively. In addition to Michael Fincham and his team of grass cutters, particular thanks go to Clare Donovan, Erica Lowry, Katie Knapton and Angela Fincham. Much watering was needed during several very hot spells in the summer of 2022.

In June 2022 the prunus trees overhanging the pavements on Blinco Grove and Hills Road were trimmed by Town & Country. Sadly a number of plants and shrubs did not survive a very cold spell in December 2022, when the temperature dipped as low as -11°C.

Caretaking and cleaning

Assisted by a small team of volunteers, the Caretaker, Michael Fincham, continues to ensure the church and St John's Centre are maintained to a very high standard. In a voluntary capacity, he also looks after all the bookings, making a huge contribution to the current financial success of St John's. His excellent work and continuing commitment continue to be much valued and appreciated.

Outstanding issues to be attended to in 2023/2024

Contact needs to be made with the Cambridge City Council about a large pothole in the pavement in the entrance to the car park. Another smaller pothole has appeared within the car park, which also needs attention.

Two of the PIR lights are not working – one near the front entrance the other in the car park.

Quinquennial Inspection

The next Quinquennial Inspection on behalf of the Diocese of Ely, due this year, has been arranged for 9.00am on 20 June 2023.

Julia Margretts
Joseph Philip

31 March 2023

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

To the PCC of St John the Evangelist, Cambridge

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2022, which are set out on pages 2 to 11, is in respect of an examination carried out under Regulation 3 (3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 and section 43 of the Charities Act 1993.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

As trustees and members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of the regulation 3 (3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 and section 43 (2) of the Charities Act 1992 (the Act) do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of Regulation 25 of the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 and Regulation 7 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 1995.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43 (7) (b) of the Act and to be found in the guidance from the CBF. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

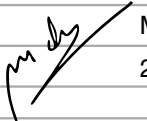
Independent Examiner's Statement

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

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the requirements of the Act, as also contained in the Church Accounting Regulations 1997, have not been met; or

2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed and dated



Martin Dove

28 February 2023

For the year ended 31st December 2022

2

St John the Evangelist, Hills Road, Cambridge									
Balance Sheet at 31 st December 2022									
	Notes				2022 Total		2021 Total		
					£		£		
CURRENT ASSETS:									
Barclays Bank PLC Accounts					95,894		49,283		
Church of England CBF Deposit Account					1,164		1,148		
CBS Deposit Account (Traidcraft)					775		775		
Petty Cash (Traidcraft)					45		45		
Stock (Traidcraft)					493		493		
Debtors	7				4,453		3,486		
					102,824		55,230		
LIABILITIES:									
Amounts falling due within one year									
Creditors	8				1,827		4,952		
					1,827		4,952		
NET CURRENT ASSETS:									
					100,997		50,278		
FUNDS:									
				2022 Total	2022 Total	2021	2021 Total		
				£	£	£	£		
Unrestricted									
General Fund					39,987		9,664		
Traidcraft					1,529		1,313		
Restricted (r) & Designated (d)									
Choir Fund (r)				4,481		4,301			
Reserve Fund (d)				55,000		35,000			
Total Restricted & Designated					59,481		39,301		
TOTAL FUNDS									
					100,997		50,278		

Balance Sheet at 31st December 2022

	Notes				2022 Total		2021 Total
					£		£

CURRENT ASSETS:

Barclays Bank PLC Accounts					95,894		49,283
Church of England CBF Deposit Account					1,164		1,148
CBS Deposit Account (Traidcraft)					775		775
Petty Cash (Traidcraft)					45		45
Stock (Traidcraft)					493		493
Debtors	7				4,453		3,486
					102,824		55,230

LIABILITIES:

Amounts falling due within one year							
Creditors	8				1,827		4,952
					1,827		4,952

NET CURRENT ASSETS:

FUNDS:				2022 Total	2022 Total	2021	2021 Total
				£	£	£	£

Unrestricted

General Fund					39,987		9,664
Traidcraft					1,529		1,313

Restricted (r) & Designated (d)

Choir Fund (r)				4,481		4,301	
Reserve Fund (d)				55,000		35,000	
Total Restricted & Designated					59,481		39,301

TOTAL FUNDS

TOTAL FUNDS							100,997		50,278
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St John the Evangelist, Hills Road, Cambridge												
Notes to the Financial Statements												
For the year ended 31st December 2022												
1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES												
The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 as amended by the Church Accounting (Amendment) Regulations 2001 together with applicable accounting standards and the												
The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.												
Funds												
General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC.												
The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law.												
Incoming resources												
<i>Voluntary income and capital sources</i>												
Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.												
Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised only when received.												
Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.												
Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt is reasonably certain.												
<i>Other income</i>												
Rental income from the letting of the church premises is recognised when the rental is due.												
<i>Income from investments</i>												
Interest entitlements are accounted for as they accrue.												
Resources used												
<i>Activities directly relating to the work of the Church</i>												
The diocesan parish share is accounted for when paid.												
Fixed assets												
<i>Consecrated property and movable church furnishings</i>												
Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993.												
Movable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's Inventory. No new inalienable property is known to have been acquired by the church in the last ten years.												

[illegible]

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)							
For the year ended 31st December 2022							
2 INCOMING RESOURCES							
	Unrestrict ed Fund	Restricted Fund	2022 Total	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	2021 Total	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	
VOLUNTARY RECEIPTS:							
2a INCOME FROM REGULAR DONORS							
Parish Giving Scheme	41,838	0	41,838	33,462	0	33,462	
Other regular giving	23,660	0	23,660	31,288	0	31,288	
Tax recovered and recoverable	17,929	0	17,929	14,820	0	14,820	
Total	83,428	0	83,428	79,570	0	79,570	
2b OTHER DONATED RESOURCES							
Service cash collections	4,611	0	4,611	4,399	0	4,399	
Gift Day incl. tax recovered and recoverable	5,650	0	5,650	14,329	0	14,329	
Legacy and <i>gifts in memoriam</i>	20,000	0	20,000	2,000	0	2,000	
Occasional donations incl. Gift Aid/CAF	14,250	0	14,250	8,624	0	8,624	
Collections for charity	0	1,697	1,697	0	2,627	2,627	
Total	44,510	1,697	46,207	29,352	2,627	31,978	
2c MISSION ACTIVITIES							
Donations	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Magazine (subs & adv.)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Other income incl. events	361	0	361	0	0	0	
Total	361	0	361	0	0	0	
2d ST JOHN'S CENTRE INCOME							
Letting income (prev. 2e)	28207	0	28207	5,254	0	5,254	
Church use of St John's Centre	2300	0	2300	0	0	0	
Other income (prev. 2e)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total	30507	0	30507	5,254	0	5,254	
2e OTHER CHURCH INCOMING RESOURCES							
PCC fees	1,184	0	1,184	2,437	0	2,437	
Service fees	798	0	798	3,023	0	3,023	
Letting income (church)	6,350	0	6,350	4,535	0	4,535	
Interest	2	0	2	1	0	1	
Fund raising events	6,392	0	6,392	8,043	0	8,043	
Choir Fund	0	180	180	0	481	481	
Sundry income	984	0	984	144	0	144	
Residentials	125	0	125	0	0	0	
Parish Share Rebate	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total	15,835	180	16,016	18,182	481	18,662	
St John the Evangelist, Hills Road, Cambridge							

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)							
For the year ended 31st December 2022							
3 RESOURCES EXPENDED							
	Unrestrict ed Fund	Restricted Fund	2022 Total	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	2021 Total	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	
3a THE MINISTRY:							
Clergy expenses incl. Travel	928	0	928	1,122	0	1,122	
Total	928	0	928	1,122	0	1,122	
3b CHURCH BUILDINGS, SERVICES & GENERAL ADMINISTRATION:							
Property charges (Church)							
Gas (20%)	303	0	303	143	0	143	
Electricity (20%)	318	0	318	184	0	184	
Water (20%)	15	0	15	15	0	15	
Insurance (50%)	1,956	0	1,956	1,909	0	1,909	
Repairs & maintenance	10,260	0	10,260	10,333	0	10,333	
Total	12,853	0	12,853	12,584	0	12,584	
Property charges (St John's Centre)*							
Gas (80%)	1212	0	1212	572	0	572	
Electricity (80%)	1273	0	1273	736	0	736	
Water (80%)	61	0	61	59	0	59	
Insurance (50%)	1956	0	1956	1,909	0	1,909	
Repairs and maintenance	1826	0	1826	1,336	0	1,336	
Total	6328	0	6328	4,611	0	4,611	
Salaries and fees (Church)							
Salaries	6,813	0	6,813	7,980	0	7,980	
Choir	180	0	180	288	0	288	
Total	6,993	0	6,993	8,268	0	8,268	
Salaries (St John's Centre)*							
Salaries	3,070	0	3,070	3,008	0	3,008	
Total	3,070	0	3,070	3,008	0	3,008	
Service overheads							
Service expenses and books (incl.new altar)	1,860	0	1,860	615	0	615	
Youth work incl. Children's Church	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Service fees	358	0	358	1,975	0	1,975	
Organ & piano	375	0	375	375	0	375	
Choir Fund	0	0	0	0	71	71	
Total	2,593	0	2,593	2,965	71	3,036	
Mission overheads							
Youth work incl. Messy Church	106	0	106	126	0	126	
Events	426	0	426	624	0	624	
Other expenses incl. printing	437	0	437	935	0	935	
Total	970	0	970	1,685	0	1,685	
Other costs (Church)							
Subscriptions & copyright licence	1,941	0	1,941	1,190	0	1,190	
Telephone & email (50%)	349	0	349	342	0	342	
Printing and stationery incl. mag. and post.	1,992	0	1,992	493	0	493	

St John the Evangelist, Hills Road, Cambridge									
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)									
For the year ended 31 st December 2022									
4 MISSIONS AND CHARITIES SPECIFIC COLLECTIONS									
		Unrestric ted Fund	Restricted Fund	2022 Total	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	2021 Total		
		£	£	£	£	£	£		
Combat Stress		0	95	95	0	222	222		
Blinds Veterans UK (St Dunstan's)		0	90	90	0	75	75		
Wintercomfort		0	287	287	0	186	186		
The Children's Society		0	860	860	0	987	987		
Durrell Foundation		0	10	10	0	0	0		
Cambridge Reuse		0	128	128					
DEC Pakistan		0	250	250					
Toilet Twinning		0	0	0	0	320	320		
Arthur Rank		0	0	0	0	65	65		
Lois Strangeways Funeral Collection		0	0	0	0	85	85		
Christian Aid		0	0	0	0	933	933		
Total		0	1,721	1,721	0	2,873	2,873		
5 OVERSEAS MISSION COMMITTEE									
						2022	2021		
Payments									
5c CMS: India						0	100		
5c Happiness Nursery School Uganda						0	1,205		
5c Kepplewray Burundi						912	912		
5c CMS: Middle East						1,200	600		
5c Marys Meals						600			
5c Great Lakes Burundi						1,200			
Total						3,912	2,817		

St John the Evangelist, Hills Road Cambridge											
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)											
For the year ended 31 st December 2022											
7 DEBTORS								2022	2021		
								£	£		
Income tax recoverable (estimated)								2,507	3,486		
Outstanding receipts								1,946	0		
Total								4,453	3,486		
8 LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR											
								2022	2021		
								£	£		
Outstanding payments								1,827	4,952		
Total								1,827	4,952		

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

To the PCC of St John the Evangelist, Cambridge

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2022, which are set out on pages 2 to 11, is in respect of an examination carried out under Regulation 3 (3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 and section 43 of the Charities Act 1993.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

As trustees and members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of the regulation 3 (3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 and section 43 (2) of the Charities Act 1992 (the Act) do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of Regulation 25 of the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 and Regulation 7 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 1995.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43 (7) (b) of the Act and to be found in the guidance from the CBF. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

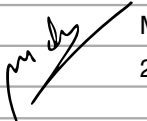
Independent Examiner's Statement

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

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the requirements of the Act, as also contained in the Church Accounting Regulations 1997, have not been met; or

2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed and dated



Martin Dove

28 February 2023

Statement of Financial Activities							
For the year ended 31 st December 2022							
	Notes	Unrestrict ed Fund	Restricted Fund	Total 2022	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	Total 2021
		£	£	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES:							
Income from regular donors	(2a)	83,428	0	83,428	79,570	0	79,570
Other donated resources	(2b)	44,510	1,697	46,207	29,352	2,627	31,978
Mission activities	(2c)	361	0	361	0	0	0
St John's Centre	(2d)	30,507	0	30,507	5,254	0	5,254
Other incoming resources	(2e,6a)	20,314	180	20,495	22,249	481	22,729
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES:		179,121	1,877	180,998	136,425	3,107	139,532
RESOURCES EXPENDED:							
Ministers' expenses	(3a)	928	0	928	1,122	0	1,122
Church maint., servs.,mission, admin.	(3b)	33,182	0	33,182	31,266	71	31,297
St John's Centre maint & admin	(3b)	9,747	0	9,747	8,170	0	8,170
Payments outside the Parish	(3c)	79,118	1,721	80,840	76,883	2,873	79,756
Major Works	(3d)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Costs of generating Traidcraft funds	(6b)	4,547	0	4,547	3,730	0	3,730
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED:		127,522	1,721	129,244	121,131	2,944	124,075
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES		51,598	156	51,754	15,294	163	15,457
BALANCES BROUGHT FORW. AT 1 JAN.		49,399	879	50,278	34,105	716	34,821
BALANCES CARRIED FORW. AT 31 DEC.		100,997	1,035	102,032	49,399	879	50,278
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St John the Evangelist, Hills Road, Cambridge									
Balance Sheet at 31 st December 2022									
	Notes				2022 Total		2021 Total		
					£		£		
CURRENT ASSETS:									
Barclays Bank PLC Accounts					95,894		49,283		
Church of England CBF Deposit Account					1,164		1,148		
CBS Deposit Account (Traidcraft)					775		775		
Petty Cash (Traidcraft)					45		45		
Stock (Traidcraft)					493		493		
Debtors	7				4,453		3,486		
					102,824		55,230		
LIABILITIES:									
Amounts falling due within one year									
Creditors	8				1,827		4,952		
					1,827		4,952		
NET CURRENT ASSETS:									
					100,997		50,278		
FUNDS:									
				2022 Total	2022 Total	2021	2021 Total		
				£	£	£	£		
Unrestricted									
General Fund					39,987		9,664		
Traidcraft					1,529		1,313		
Restricted (r) & Designated (d)									
Choir Fund (r)				4,481		4,301			
Reserve Fund (d)				55,000		35,000			
Total Restricted & Designated					59,481		39,301		
TOTAL FUNDS									
					100,997		50,278		

Balance Sheet at 31st December 2022

	Notes					2022 Total		2021 Total
						£		£

CURRENT ASSETS:

Barclays Bank PLC Accounts					95,894		49,283
Church of England CBF Deposit Account					1,164		1,148
CBS Deposit Account (Traidcraft)					775		775
Petty Cash (Traidcraft)					45		45
Stock (Traidcraft)					493		493
Debtors	7				4,453		3,486
					102,824		55,230

LIABILITIES:

Amounts falling due within one year							
Creditors	8				1,827		4,952
					1,827		4,952

NET CURRENT ASSETS:

FUNDS:				2022 Total	2022 Total	2021	2021 Total
				£	£	£	£

Unrestricted

General Fund					39,987		9,664
Traidcraft					1,529		1,313

Restricted (r) & Designated (d)

Choir Fund (r)				4,481		4,301	
Reserve Fund (d)				55,000		35,000	
Total Restricted & Designated					59,481		39,301

TOTAL FUNDS

TOTAL FUNDS							100,997		50,278
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St John the Evangelist, Hills Road, Cambridge												
Notes to the Financial Statements												
For the year ended 31st December 2022												
1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES												
The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 as amended by the Church Accounting (Amendment) Regulations 2001 together with applicable accounting standards and the												
The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.												
Funds												
General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC.												
The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law.												
Incoming resources												
<i>Voluntary income and capital sources</i>												
Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.												
Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised only when received.												
Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.												
Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt is reasonably certain.												
<i>Other income</i>												
Rental income from the letting of the church premises is recognised when the rental is due.												
<i>Income from investments</i>												
Interest entitlements are accounted for as they accrue.												
Resources used												
<i>Activities directly relating to the work of the Church</i>												
The diocesan parish share is accounted for when paid.												
Fixed assets												
<i>Consecrated property and movable church furnishings</i>												
Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993.												
Movable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's Inventory. No new inalienable property is known to have been acquired by the church in the last ten years.												

[illegible]

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)							
For the year ended 31st December 2022							
2 INCOMING RESOURCES							
	Unrestrict ed Fund	Restricted Fund	2022 Total	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	2021 Total	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	
VOLUNTARY RECEIPTS:							
2a INCOME FROM REGULAR DONORS							
Parish Giving Scheme	41,838	0	41,838	33,462	0	33,462	
Other regular giving	23,660	0	23,660	31,288	0	31,288	
Tax recovered and recoverable	17,929	0	17,929	14,820	0	14,820	
Total	83,428	0	83,428	79,570	0	79,570	
2b OTHER DONATED RESOURCES							
Service cash collections	4,611	0	4,611	4,399	0	4,399	
Gift Day incl. tax recovered and recoverable	5,650	0	5,650	14,329	0	14,329	
Legacy and <i>gifts in memoriam</i>	20,000	0	20,000	2,000	0	2,000	
Occasional donations incl. Gift Aid/CAF	14,250	0	14,250	8,624	0	8,624	
Collections for charity	0	1,697	1,697	0	2,627	2,627	
Total	44,510	1,697	46,207	29,352	2,627	31,978	
2c MISSION ACTIVITIES							
Donations	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Magazine (subs & adv.)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Other income incl. events	361	0	361	0	0	0	
Total	361	0	361	0	0	0	
2d ST JOHN'S CENTRE INCOME							
Letting income (prev. 2e)	28207	0	28207	5,254	0	5,254	
Church use of St John's Centre	2300	0	2300	0	0	0	
Other income (prev. 2e)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total	30507	0	30507	5,254	0	5,254	
2e OTHER CHURCH INCOMING RESOURCES							
PCC fees	1,184	0	1,184	2,437	0	2,437	
Service fees	798	0	798	3,023	0	3,023	
Letting income (church)	6,350	0	6,350	4,535	0	4,535	
Interest	2	0	2	1	0	1	
Fund raising events	6,392	0	6,392	8,043	0	8,043	
Choir Fund	0	180	180	0	481	481	
Sundry income	984	0	984	144	0	144	
Residentials	125	0	125	0	0	0	
Parish Share Rebate	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total	15,835	180	16,016	18,182	481	18,662	
St John the Evangelist, Hills Road, Cambridge							

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)							
For the year ended 31st December 2022							
3 RESOURCES EXPENDED							
	Unrestrict ed Fund	Restricted Fund	2022 Total	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	2021 Total	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	
3a THE MINISTRY:							
Clergy expenses incl. Travel	928	0	928	1,122	0	1,122	
Total	928	0	928	1,122	0	1,122	
3b CHURCH BUILDINGS, SERVICES & GENERAL ADMINISTRATION:							
Property charges (Church)							
Gas (20%)	303	0	303	143	0	143	
Electricity (20%)	318	0	318	184	0	184	
Water (20%)	15	0	15	15	0	15	
Insurance (50%)	1,956	0	1,956	1,909	0	1,909	
Repairs & maintenance	10,260	0	10,260	10,333	0	10,333	
Total	12,853	0	12,853	12,584	0	12,584	
Property charges (St John's Centre)*							
Gas (80%)	1212	0	1212	572	0	572	
Electricity (80%)	1273	0	1273	736	0	736	
Water (80%)	61	0	61	59	0	59	
Insurance (50%)	1956	0	1956	1,909	0	1,909	
Repairs and maintenance	1826	0	1826	1,336	0	1,336	
Total	6328	0	6328	4,611	0	4,611	
Salaries and fees (Church)							
Salaries	6,813	0	6,813	7,980	0	7,980	
Choir	180	0	180	288	0	288	
Total	6,993	0	6,993	8,268	0	8,268	
Salaries (St John's Centre)*							
Salaries	3,070	0	3,070	3,008	0	3,008	
Total	3,070	0	3,070	3,008	0	3,008	
Service overheads							
Service expenses and books (incl.new altar)	1,860	0	1,860	615	0	615	
Youth work incl. Children's Church	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Service fees	358	0	358	1,975	0	1,975	
Organ & piano	375	0	375	375	0	375	
Choir Fund	0	0	0	0	71	71	
Total	2,593	0	2,593	2,965	71	3,036	
Mission overheads							
Youth work incl. Messy Church	106	0	106	126	0	126	
Events	426	0	426	624	0	624	
Other expenses incl. printing	437	0	437	935	0	935	
Total	970	0	970	1,685	0	1,685	
Other costs (Church)							
Subscriptions & copyright licence	1,941	0	1,941	1,190	0	1,190	
Telephone & email (50%)	349	0	349	342	0	342	
Printing and stationery incl. mag. and post.	1,992	0	1,992	493	0	493	

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St John the Evangelist, Hills Road, Cambridge									
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)									
For the year ended 31 st December 2022									
4 MISSIONS AND CHARITIES SPECIFIC COLLECTIONS									
		Unrestriced Fund	Restricted Fund	2022 Total	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	2021 Total		
		£	£	£	£	£	£		
Combat Stress		0	95	95	0	222	222		
Blinds Veterans UK (St Dunstan's)		0	90	90	0	75	75		
Wintercomfort		0	287	287	0	186	186		
The Children's Society		0	860	860	0	987	987		
Durrell Foundation		0	10	10	0	0	0		
Cambridge Reuse		0	128	128					
DEC Pakistan		0	250	250					
Toilet Twinning		0	0	0	0	320	320		
Arthur Rank		0	0	0	0	65	65		
Lois Strangeways Funeral Collection		0	0	0	0	85	85		
Christian Aid		0	0	0	0	933	933		
Total		0	1,721	1,721	0	2,873	2,873		
5 OVERSEAS MISSION COMMITTEE									
						2022	2021		
Payments									
5c CMS: India						0	100		
5c Happiness Nursery School Uganda						0	1,205		
5c Keppleway Burundi						912	912		
5c CMS: Middle East						1,200	600		
5c Marys Meals						600			
5c Great Lakes Burundi						1,200			
Total						3,912	2,817		

St John the Evangelist, Hills Road Cambridge											
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)											
For the year ended 31 st December 2022											
7 DEBTORS								2022	2021		
								£	£		
Income tax recoverable (estimated)								2,507	3,486		
Outstanding receipts								1,946	0		
Total								4,453	3,486		
8 LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR											
								2022	2021		
								£	£		
Outstanding payments								1,827	4,952		
Total								1,827	4,952		

Accounts



Annual Parish Meeting to elect Churchwardens and Annual Parochial Church Meeting

**Sunday 22 May 2022
11.30am following the 10am service**

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Annual Parish Meeting to elect Churchwardens

Sunday 22 May 2022
11.30am following the 10am service

Agenda

Opening prayers

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Sunday 30 May 2021
3. Matters arising
4. Election of Churchwardens
5. Any other business



Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting to elect Churchwardens Sunday 30 May 2021

Present: Rev'd James Shakespeare (Chair)
Janet Tankard (PCC Secretary)
Peter Tavner (Churchwarden)
18 Parishioners

The meeting began at 12.30pm with prayers from James.

- 1. Apologies:** Katie Knapton, Elizabeth Trenchard, Marie Burrows, Tricia James, Erica Lowry, Gail Kenney, Audrey Hillier, June and Ron Huntsman, Chris Campbell.
- 2. Minutes of the meeting held on Sunday 15 March 2020:** The minutes were approved by those present and signed by James.

3. Matters arising:

James wanted to thank two people in particular:

Michael, our Deputy Churchwarden. James said that he makes a massive contribution to the church, including the duty rotas, running of St John's Centre, and acting caretaker. A gift was presented to Michael with thanks.

Peter, Churchwarden for the last three years. James said that Peter had been a huge support to him, had been very encouraging, and had helped him in professional mentoring for which James was very grateful. Peter was handing over very thoroughly to the next team. A gift was presented to Peter with thanks.

4. Election of Churchwardens: Two nominees were proposed:

Nomination	Proposer	Seconder
Joseph Philip	Chris Plunkett-West	Pat Chapman
Julia Margretts	Michael Fincham	Anne Rigby

The vote was unanimous and Joseph Philip and Julia Margretts were duly elected to the posts of Churchwardens. James congratulated Joseph and Julia on their appointments.

James announced that Michael Fincham had agreed to continue as Deputy Churchwarden and support was given for Michael to continue in this role.

5. Any other business: none.

The meeting closed with prayers.



Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 22 May 2022

11.30am following the 10am service

Agenda

Opening prayers

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church meeting held on Sunday 30 May 2021
3. Matters arising
4. Vicar's Report
5. Presentation of all other reports
 - a. Electoral Roll Report
 - b. PCC Secretary's Report of PCC Meetings
 - c. Safeguarding Report
 - d. Treasurer's Annual Financial Report and Financial Statement 2021
 - e. Churchwardens' Report
 - f. South Cambridge Deanery Synod Report
 - g. Annual Activity Reports of the Parish
6. Elections
 - a. Election of PCC Members
 - b. Election of Deanery Synod Representatives
 - c. Sidespeople – for appointment by the PCC
 - d. Independent Examiner
7. Any other business

Closing Prayers



Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting Sunday 30 May 2021

Present: Rev'd James Shakespeare (Chair)
Janet Tankard (PCC Secretary)
Peter Tavner (Churchwarden)
18 Parishioners

The APCM directly followed the Annual Parish Meeting to elect churchwardens.

The meeting began with prayers from James.

1. **Apologies:** Katie Knapton, Elizabeth Trenchard, Marie Burrows, Tricia James, Erica Lowry, Gail Kenny, Audrey Hillier, June and Ron Huntsman, Rev Chris Campbell.
2. **Minutes of the meeting held on Sunday 15 March 2020:** The minutes were approved by those present and signed by James.
3. **Matters arising:** none
4. **Priest-in-Charge Report**

James reported on what had been an astonishing and difficult year.

As a Parish we have been involved in working to reassess what is safe and responsible to do. The covid safety reopening group was set up to take responsibility for doing things and being safe while we have had times of lockdown and times of worship. Within the community we have worked with other partners such as setting up the foodbank and James' hospital chaplaincy. Various people set up a telephone link scheme in the parish and people have generally tried to help. James thanked Kate for her work with Partnership for Missional Church and what God has been saying through the pandemic. We have had wider involvement from those not usually involved. We have built on our partnerships with the Homerton Charter Choir, also with the Theological Colleges which sends us brilliant ordinands. We have partnerships also with St James Church, Wulfstan Way and St Andrews Cherry Hinton, as well as the hospital.

With regard to staffing, James announced that Chris is coming to the end of her 3rd year term and is likely to leave during the Autumn. Ceri Payne will be ordained and join us in July. At the end of last year we reached the difficult decision to make the Parish Administrator post redundant with regard to our financial situation, following due consultation. We will now manage our administration through volunteers. A highlight of the parish in recent weeks was James' collation as vicar on 23 May 2021. James offered his thanks to all on the ministry team.

With regard to our online provision, James wanted to thank Chris, Iain and team for all that they have done. The learning curve has been amazing and a huge gift and James will thank Chris when she moves on. Thanks were given to Iain and Henry, particularly as Iain has lent us all the equipment needed. We must now look to invest in livestream for the future.

5. Presentation of Reports

- a. **Electoral Roll Report:** James thanked Cherry Hopkins for offering to become our new Electoral Roll Officer, having taken over from Fiona Richards. It was noted that we have 208 members on the electoral roll.
- b. **Report of PCC Meetings:** Janet had nothing further to report and asked if there were any comments but there none.
- c. **Safeguarding Report:** James reported that he and Chris were working with Sarah regarding safer recruitment. Sarah was thanked for all her work on safeguarding in her absence.
- d. **Treasurer's Report:** (Roger Lilley) Roger reported that our finances for the past year had been unpredictable and it has been well known to the PCC regarding our tricky financial situation for the last 2–3 years, but covid has made it worse. Roger thought we would run out of money, but have not because we are only paying half of our parish share that we should be paying to the diocese. We need to make decisions on whether to default to the diocese, but would be one of only a small minority of churches to do so, A return to normality would help, but we need to work to fundraise to bridge the gap in our finances. We are still in a perilous financial situation and must work as a team over the next few months to address this.

James added that due to the effect of church closure, we have had no collections, less fundraising and no group hiring and we hope fundraising action will start in the Autumn. Gift-day is good, but we need to plan further with a fundraising campaign. We also need the church to grow, we have a very good level of ministry and non-stipendiary ministry, but could be doing better. Joseph Saunders wondered if bookings would give us information as to whether we have an attractive venue to users.

Roger explained the money stopped coming in after we fell into the trap 10 years ago due to relying on the language school bookings. We must not just rely on rental, it must also come from regular giving and fundraising to sustain us and hopefully the end of covid will mean we can. The plant sale was very successful as local people came; they are desperate to do things and attend events such as concerts etc. We should build on this.

James said that Sian Binley has some fundraising ideas and we will re-establish the fundraising committee, Michael Fincham is liaising regarding enquires for centre.

James thanked Roger for being a brilliant treasurer. We have a challenge ahead but must go for it. Thank you to Martin Dove as our independent examiner.

- e. **Churchwarden's Report:** (Peter Tavner) Peter had nothing further to add to his report and there were no further questions. James thanked Peter for his 3 years of service as churchwarden.
- f. **Deanery Synod Report** In the absence of any Deanery Synod representatives Roger Lilley had written the report. Roger said little has happened this year and there were no further comments. It was announced that the Rev Rachel Rosborough was the new Rural Dean. The congregation were reminded of the vacancies available for Deanery Synod Representatives.
- g. **Annual Activity Reports**

James said that a huge amount had been going on and asked if there were any questions regarding the reports, of which there were none. James asked Kate Aylmer from the Ministry team to say something about Partnership for Missional Church. Kate said that we have been meeting as a whole congregation and there has been lots going on with the steering group and looking at different ways of doing things, which her report picks out. The message is that ideas are bubbling up from different places, i.e. online and together, generational groups, eco church and more – watch this space.

James said that with all age and adult services, and online, looking forwards we hope to do things as discerned.

6. Elections

- a. **PCC Members:** James thanked the PCC for the last year. New membership elections took place.

Two nominations were received at the meeting:

Nomination	Proposer	Secunder
Cherry Hopkins	John Hillier	Roger Lilley
David Waterhouse	Amanda Taylor	Pat Chapman

James asked for votes in favour of the nominees to be elected – there was a unanimous vote in favour of each nominee and both were duly elected. Thanks were given to the new PCC members for standing for election.

- b. **Deanery Synod Representative.** James asked if there was anyone who would like to take up this role but there were no nominees. There were three vacancies available.
- c. **Sidespersons:** James thanked all those who currently serve as duty wardens and sidespersons.

Duty wardens: Julia Margretts, Cherry Hopkins, David Waterhouse, Denise Wilkinson, Hilary Pennington, Michael Fincham, Peter Tavner. Cathy Davies has recently rejoined.

Sidespersons: Don Simpson, Joseph Philip, Susan Philip, Liz Tavner, Olive Langley, Pat Chapman, Rosemary Woodley, Sarah Seed, Janet Tankard, Kate Dove.

No new people came forward to join the sidespersons rota at this meeting.

Kate Aylmer wanted to say a particular thank you to the Duty Wardens, as they have had to cope with longer hours and extra tasks due to the two services each morning over the past year,

- d. **Independent Examiner:** Thanks were given to Professor Martin Dove for taking on this role. Although not yet asked, all those present expressed support for him should he agree to continue.

7. Any Other Business

Rosemary said that it had meant a lot to her personally that we have had our church to turn to this year, and offered a big thanks to those who have given support as well as prayers and thanksgiving for all we have now and in the future. James agreed that everyone had been keen to support each other.

Joseph wanted to thank Elizabeth in her absence, and also Roger who was present. Elizabeth had worked exceptionally hard, organising the choir with members singing alone to music and sending the choir recordings. Joseph described how choir members have been recording on their phones, which was how the music was together. It has been an enormous amount of work He reiterated his thanks to both Elizabeth and Roger. James also added his thanks for the choir and music.

James remembered those who had died, Margaret Owen, Mary Piggot and Lois Strangeways. We miss them and think of their families.

Trish Maude wanted to thank James saying that we have benefitted hugely from online services and brilliant inspiration. She also conveyed thanks for the partnership with Homerton which is hugely valuable and said James lead with such care and devotion to duty,

The meeting closed with prayers and the Grace at 1.22pm



Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 22 May 2022

Vicar's Report 2021–22

Rev'd James Shakespeare

St John the Evangelist Vicar's Report, 2021–2022

In many ways the past year, May 2021-April 2022, has been characterised as a second year of living within the restrictions of the Covid-19 pandemic, and I would like to pay tribute (once more, as I did in 2020-2021) to all in our congregation who contributed, so kindly, to supporting us all. This includes our Churchwardens, Ministry Team, Covid-safety group, St John's Choir, and those who have enabled our worship to be live-streamed, for the benefit of those unable to be in Church, but who remain still very much part of our congregation.

Inevitably we are still living with the effects of Covid, and the long shadow it has cast, but formal restrictions have ended, and we have gradually welcomed many people back to Church, over the past nine months and more. It is my sincere hope that we come out of this two year period strengthened, in faith, hope and love, as a Christian community.

On 23rd May 2021, at the start of the past 12 months, we had a fine Pentecost service, presided over by the Bishop of Ely, at which our congregation was commissioned for service, and I was collated and inducted as Vicar, following a first four years as Priest in Charge. It was an opportunity to celebrate all that is best about St John's, in terms of worship, music, hospitality, and the participation of a wide variety of people, old and new. As I continue in ministry at St John's, I am so grateful to our Ministry Team, for their support and share in this ministry.

A week later, on 30th May, we had our APCM, and it was good to elect two new Churchwardens, Julia Margretts and Joseph Phillips. Our new team has worked really well and conscientiously, over the past 12 months, and I am deeply grateful to them; as I am, also, to our Treasurer, Roger Lilley, and our entire PCC, as well as our Ministry Team and other volunteers, for their faithful service.

Staying with Church officers and staff, in January 2022 the PCC was pleased to appoint Michael Fincham as our new St John's Caretaker, part-time, following his performance of this role in an acting capacity, since October 2020. Julia Margretts also kindly took on the role of managing our St John's Parish Office on a voluntary basis, working principally on Tuesday mornings.

Another significant development in 2021, was the departure of the Rev Chris Campbell, who completed her three year curacy with us and finished her ministry at St John's on Sunday 22nd August, before being licensed as Rector of Ashwell with Hinxworth and Newnham (St Albans Diocese) on 29th September 2021. A number of our congregation attended Chris' installation service, with the Bishop of St Albans, and it was wonderful to see Chris embarking on a new ministry, following her generous and wide-ranging impact on our ministry here in Cambridge.

Alongside Chris' departure, we were delighted to welcome our new Assistant Curate, the Rev Ceri Payne, who was ordained deacon, by the Bishop of Huntingdon, in Ely Cathedral, on 4th July 2021, before commencing her ministry at St John's. Ceri joined us following her training at Ridley Hall, and a career in the law. That same weekend also witnessed the ordination as priest, by the Bishop of Ely, of our part-time Curate, Rev Dr Muthuraj Swamy, on 3rd July. Muthuraj is Director of the Cambridge Centre for Christianity Worldwide, alongside his ministry at St John's. Muthuraj presided at Holy Communion at St John's, for the first time, on 11th July, in the presence of special guest, the Rt Rev Dr Graham Kings, former Bishop of Sherborne and Mission Theologian.

St John's is fortunate to be seen as a major training parish in Ely Diocese, and on Easter Sunday 2022, 17th April, we also announced the appointment of a further new Assistant Curate, Nell Whiscombe, who will be ordained deacon at Ely Cathedral, on 3rd July, joining us at St John's thereafter. Nell is training at Westcott House, following a career in publishing.

As always, we continue to benefit much from the presence of our ordinands in training, who contribute so much to our worship. In June 2021 we bid farewell to Will Lyon-Tupman, Tom Owen and Louise Bryson; and in September 2021 we welcomed our new ordinands, Daniel Newman, Kenson Li, and Peter Pathikrit Das. In the summer of 2021 we also had a theological student on placement with us, Pete Leith.

In the past year, alongside our ongoing ministry of Sunday and mid-week worship, occasional offices, teaching, pastoral care and the building up of our congregation, there have been a number of new developments. Firstly we have given much attention to the further strengthening and building up of our Home Study Groups. This has included the creation of a new Home Group on Thursday mornings, led by Canon Kate Aylmer, as well as a new Home Group on a Monday evening, led by Rev Ceri Payne. It is our desire to support as many people as possible through regular Home Group fellowship and Bible Study, and we are pleased to report the expansion of this ministry.

Secondly, in the autumn of 2021 we deepened our commitment to Eco Church, by way of following the Church of England's Creationtide season, with weekly Creation- themed Sunday worship. We also initiated a number of Eco special events, including an inspirational talk by Dr Jo De Pledge, prior to the COP-26 Glasgow Conference, as well as a post-COP discussion panel, with Dr De Pledge, Professor Michael Grubb, and Mr Robin Greenwood, formerly of Christian Aid. Both events were well attended, and enabled an informed debate on the all-important Climate summit, COP-26.

As always St John's attracts, alongside its established local congregation, a range of new members drawn from our university institutions, as well as staff at Addenbrooke's Hospital. In the light of this several 'welcome lunches' were held, for new members and visitors from overseas, between autumn 2021 and winter 2022. It is always a joy to welcome worshippers from all around the world, a diverse cultural mix contributing significantly to our common Christian life.

Our lively partnership with Homerton College, and the Charter Choir in particular continued, not least in terms of some wonderful mid-week Choral Evensongs, as well as their participation in several special services, including Advent Sunday and Ash Wednesday. It was a joy to welcome Homerton's new Principal, Lord Simon Woolley, in October 2021. And Rev James Shakespeare was also elected as an Associate Fellow, in November 2021. St John's welcomes a number of Homerton students to our services, and we intend to continue to strengthen our links with the College, and support to students and staff alike.

Other groups at St John's have continued to thrive, including our wonderful St John's Choir, to whom we are indebted, including our Director of Music and Organist, Elizabeth Trenchard. Our Youth Group continued to re-group, post-pandemic, and our Children's Church and Toddle Along continued to thrive – see reports elsewhere. Schools work went on hold during the pandemic, but began to re-emerge this past year, with joint events with the following institutions: Hills Road Sixth Form College, the Perse School, the Cambridge Academy of Science and Technology, Morley School, the YMCA Nursery, the Pelican and Homerton Nursery.

Alongside of our worship, teaching and specific group activities, we also continued to develop our vision and mission outlook at St John's, during the past year, through our 'Partnership for Missional Church' development process. I am grateful to our Steering Group, and Canon Kate Aylmer in particular, for leading this process, on behalf of our congregation.

Lastly, we were sad this year, to bid farewell to a number of special members of our congregation, and our prayers remain with their loved ones. These include: Lois Strangeways, Greta Blake, Michael Johnson, Ron Huntsman, and Peter Magill. We are so grateful to each of these persons for all that they have contributed to our Christian life at St John the Evangelist.

We were also deeply saddened by the untimely death of 2nd year Homerton student and a member of St John's, Daniel Fry, who died in March 2022, and will be greatly missed by his family, many friends, and indeed our St John's congregation.

There are many other aspects of our ministry and mission reported on elsewhere, but I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for your presence, support, generosity and enthusiastic share in our ministry. May God bless us, and our commitment to the proclamation of the Gospel and the service of those in need, throughout the year ahead of us.

Rev James Shakespeare



Statutory Reports

2021–2022

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Electoral Roll Report 2021-22

There are currently 208 members listed on the Electoral Roll, which is the same number as last year. Of these, approximately 65% are resident within the parish.

Over the previous 12 months, nine new individuals have been added to the list and nine have been removed. Five people have moved away or worship elsewhere and four members have died (Greta Blake, Ron Huntsman, Michael Johnson and Peter Magill).

Cherry Hopkins
Electoral Roll Officer
27 April 2022

PCC Secretary's Report of PCC Meetings, May 2021 – May 2022

PCC's members are clergy, churchwardens and others elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) of the parish. The principal function of the PCC is "promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical." St John's PCC is a charity registered with the Charity Commission, its members being trustees.

St John's PCC 30 May 2021 – 22 May 2022

Rev'd James Shakespeare*	Vicar and Chair
Rev'd Christine Campbell	Curate (until August 2021)
Rev'd Ceri Payne	Assistant Curate (from July 2021)
Rev'd Peter Heslam	Honorary Clergy
Julia Margretts*	Churchwarden (ex-officio)
Joseph Philip*	Churchwarden (ex-officio)
Richard Eccles	Deanery Synod Representative, elected 2021, stand down 2023
	Elected as PCC member in 2020, stand down 2023
Roger Lilley*	Treasurer (co-opted)
Elizabeth Trenchard	Organist and Director of Music (co-opted)
Janet Tankard*	PCC Secretary
	Elected 2019, stand down 2022
Sarah Seed	Elected 2019, stand down 2022
Lucy Holden	Elected 2020, stand down 2023
Liz Radice	Elected 2020, stand down 2023
Sian Binley	Elected 2020, stand down 2023
Cherry Hopkins	Elected 2021, stand down 2024
David Waterhouse	Elected 2021, stand down 2024
Dan Talmage	Elected 2021, stand down 2024

In accordance with Church Representation Rules 2020, some members of the PCC* are appointed to a Standing Committee and may transact the PCC's business between meetings.

New members elected at the 2021 APCM were Cherry Hopkins and David Waterhouse. At our first PCC meeting in July Dan Talmage was elected as a PCC member and Richard Eccles was elected to the role of Deanery Synod Representative, having originally been elected as a PCC member in 2020.

Outgoing members this year are Sarah Seed and Janet Tankard who have both completed their three years of service as PCC members. St John's is extremely grateful to all those who put themselves forward to serve on the PCC and our thanks go to all those who give their time to attend our meetings.

Due to the ongoing pandemic our July meeting was held on zoom but all five further scheduled meetings were at held St Johns, with a total of six meetings over the year.

PCC meetings usually begin with prayer and a Bible reading. Regular standing items include Treasurer and Churchwarden reports, Safeguarding, Health & Safety and Deanery & Diocesan Synod reports. Other regular updates and reports given were Ministry Team, Music and Worship, Children and Families, Mission Committee, Partnership for Missional Church, Eco Church and the newly formed Fundraising Group. Special interest areas are also discussed on a one off basis.

During the last year St John's has negotiated the change from being church during the pandemic to the gradual re-opening and reinstatement of church and parish life, as and when safety precautions allowed.

A brief overview of some items discussed is included below:

- The PCC supported the safety committee as they led St John's' back to reopening and thereafter supporting any safety precautions that was felt necessary.
- Finance: ongoing discussions of our financial situation which has improved from last year. Full details are given in our Treasurer's report and accompanying accounts. Due to our improved financial status the PCC approved full payment of parish share after a temporary break. The PCC has discussed the need for continual fundraising as well as donations moving to electronic forms of giving such as the Parish Giving Scheme, Good Plate and online.
- A new fundraising group was agreed at our July meeting which has since proved invaluable in contributing to our income and providing events for both parishioners and the local community. Our thanks are given to the fundraising team for all their hard work.
- Annual review of Parochial church fees approved.
- St John's Centre has become more strategic and we have gradually increased community use following the pandemic. The PCC recognises the need to build up our use of the centre and to build on our current community engagement.
- Approval of Gift Day appeal to raise monies for roof repair, essential tree works, equipment for livestream and the Good Plate. PCC approved works on the church roof and other repairs.
- Livestream strategy: the PCC recognises the need to keep livestream going and our thanks go to all on the tech team who have been involved in continuing to provide this. As we look to the future new volunteers will be needed.
- Eco Church is going well which the PCC supports. Events and activities have now taken place which have helped foster continued engagement between our church and local residents.
- Kate Aylmer attended our November meeting to give an update on Partnership for Missional Church which is in its third year. Kate supplies a full update in the annual report.
- The PCC approved employment of a part-time caretaker following improvement in our finances. Michael Fincham was appointed following due process by the Employment Committee.
- Approval of Safeguarding Action Plan Level 2 and updated policies. The PCC has complied with safeguarding training as necessary. Sarah Talmage, our Safeguarding Officer, has written St John's annual safeguarding report.

Once approved, minutes from PCC meetings are available for parishioners to read, copies of which are placed on the St John's noticeboard and on file for reference in the Parish Office. Meeting dates are listed in the minutes and displayed on the parish noticeboard. The full annual report contains detailed statutory reports and accounts, a review of the year in the Vicar's report as well as individual reports on the activities of the parish generally.

We are currently entitled to 12 elected members on the PCC and will have 6 vacancies at the APCM. We also have vacancies for 2 Deanery Synod Representatives. Please contact Revd James Shakespeare or Janet Tankard, PCC Secretary, if you would be interested in any of these roles. The PCC would welcome new members to help us in our decision making as St John's looks to the future

*Janet Tankard
PCC Secretary
April 2022*

Safeguarding Report

Safeguarding is a key focus at St John's and we continue to work to integrate our understanding of the issues within every aspect of church life. We continue to use the Parish Dashboard scheme to monitor our compliance with safeguarding requirements and to generate action plans for future implementation.

All PCC members have carried out Basic Awareness training and we are grateful to everyone for taking time out in their busy lives to prioritise this. In January 2022, new guidance was put in place which requests that those with roles which oversee the welfare of children and vulnerable adults within the church undertake additional Foundation and Domestic Abuse safeguarding training and we are working to comply with this guidance.

All new volunteers working with vulnerable groups in the church are asked to complete a confidential declaration form and DBS check, to undergo a safer recruitment interview and to have references taken up. This is to ensure that anyone seeking to do harm to children or vulnerable adults is discouraged from attempting to gain access to these members of the church community. A video outlining the Church of England's position on the importance of safer recruitment can be found at: <https://www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding/safeguarding-e-manual/safer-recruitment-and-people-management-guidance>

At the PCC meeting on 27th April 2022, two policies were approved:

- St John's Safeguarding policy
- the procedure for dealing with safeguarding allegations or concerns

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

Anyone with a concern about safeguarding in St John's should contact Rev. James Shakespeare (jshakespeare@btinternet.com) or Sarah Talmage (s.e.ward.95@cantab.net). All concerns will be taken seriously and, if necessary, will be passed to the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor. If you're not sure, it's always better to say something.

Sarah Talmage
Parish Safeguarding Officer

Treasurer's Annual Financial Report 2021

The last two years have brought considerable financial uncertainty - uncertainty over our income, cash flow and likely carry forward. We have had to make considerable savings and sacrifices, and for several months we suspended the payment of our Parish Share to the Diocese. But, as at the end of 2021, I can report that our caution and precautions have paid off and St John's has returned to a position of solvency with a positive cash flow.

The rebuilding of the St John's Centre had left us in a very weak position financially. Years of an annual deficit meant that the essential overspend on the St John's Centre construction budget, to deal with the appalling state of the church drainage, left us without any cushion coming into the pandemic.

But the consistent generosity of the congregation, expressed in your giving via the Parish Giving Scheme and by Standing Orders, enabled us to maintain, even increase, our core income. In addition the seizure of every window of opportunity to raise money in all manner of activities, as well as a sharp reduction in expenses on major works and salaries, has meant that we have come out of 2021 with a significant surplus – producing a general fund balance of £49k as opposed to £34k the year before.

The significance of this is that we can, with some confidence, predict that in this and future years, we will see a surplus, barring more pandemics or catastrophes. If we now, in almost normal times, can

seek to maximise not only our fundraising opportunities, but also the bookings of the St John's Centre and of the church, and also try to persuade as many as possible to switch their giving to the Parish Giving Scheme, then we can look ahead with optimism to being able to fund the role that St John's has the potential to play within the parish and beyond.

The PCC has now got a substantial sum, £35k, in its Quinquennial Fund, set up to tackle major essential and unavoidable building works. But we also have a surplus which, rather than be frittered away on excessive colour printing and the like, could be used strategically in ways which the PCC are already discussing.

I feel obliged to note the very low income we have derived from legacies over the years. I would urge parishioners to think about the benefit and value that a legacy or equivalent lifetime gift could make to the work of St John's in its parish. If anyone would like to talk to the treasurer about this in confidence, they would be very welcome.

Another important contribution to our financial well-being are the sound finances of the Diocese of Ely. Although they have had a big hit from the pandemic, this has been absorbed and budgeted for within the Diocese, and in no way passed on to parishes. The Parish Share we pay to Ely represents extraordinary value for money, given the benefits, in particular curates in training, we get at no extra cost.

I would like to thank all those who contribute to the financial health of the St John's. Joseph, our church warden and gift aid officer, everyone who counts money after services and other events, and those who help with our fundraising activities. But in particular I would like to thank all those who take the trouble to review their giving year by year in the light of their own resources and the needs of the church, and in particular those who have moved to the Parish Giving Scheme. As many of you know already, one of the results of the pandemic has been to advance the momentum towards a cashless and chequeless economy. Handling cheques and cash now costs us £1.50 per cheque and 1% of all cash deposited. I'm afraid the digital economy is here to stay.

Roger Lilley
Treasurer

Churchwardens' Report

Although 2021-2022 has been another eventful year in terms of the Covid 19 Pandemic, with periods of Lockdown and Covid restrictions, the church's financial position has improved and we have been able to catch up on a number of outstanding issues from the last two years.

Safety requirements

An electrical inspection of the church and St John's Centre in 2018, revealed a number of issues that needed attention. The most urgent were addressed immediately but a number were postponed. All the recommended works, including replacement of the Consumer Unit in the Vicar's Vestry, were completed by DS Electrical in May 2021 and an NICIEC Safety Certificate has been issued. PAT testing of all portable appliances in the office, kitchen, church and vestries was carried out by UK Safety Management on 17 August 2021. Lightning conductor earth tests are still outstanding and must be done in 2022.

The annual servicing and testing of fire safety equipment was completed by Camfire on 30 March 2022. This included the replacement of 3 fire extinguishers, which had reached the end of their ten year life. Now that Covid restrictions have been eased, a practice fire evacuation of the church must be held before the end of 2022.

Servicing and inspection of the main gas boiler, that heats the church, was completed on 9 November 2021. Servicing and inspection of the other gas heating appliances in the Kitchen, Wilkinson Room and Vestry was completed on 31 January 2022 by AK Marshall. A fault identified in the operation of the boiler in the kitchen was eventually rectified by Worcester Bosch on 4 March 2022, under the

warranty. A remaining issue, regarding the height of the cooker hood over the gas hob in the kitchen, is to be addressed by the installer, Soham Engineering.

Fabric of the buildings

I. Roof repairs

The 2018 Quinquennial Inspection highlighted number of issues about the south facing leaves of the roof of the nave and south aisle. Matters were brought to a head on 13 August 2021, when, in very windy conditions, a couple of tiles fell from the south roof of the nave into the courtyard.

In the interests of safety, the courtyard was closed on 10 September 2021, following the advice of P S Dean Roofing. Entry to the church from the car park was diverted round the Wilkinson Room, to the front entrance to the building. However, a thorough inspection by drone revealed no other major issues with the roof, so the courtyard was reopened on 1 November 2021.

Four contractors were invited to quote for repairs to tiles on both the north and south roofs of the nave, loose and cracked tiles on the roof of the south aisle, gaps in the valley between roof of the Wilkinson Room and the roof of the Lobby and the clearing of high gutters. This work was completed in December 2021 by Impington Roof Services. All four contractors who quoted considered that, as there are no signs of any leaks, full replacement of the south aisle roof, as suggested by the Quinquennial review, does not need to be considered for another 10 to 15 years.

II. Repairs to brickwork

- In December 2021, it was discovered that the west gatepost at the entrance to the car park has become unseated, due to interference from the roots of a large lime tree on Blinco Grove, and will need to be rebuilt.
- Brickwork on the upper third of the parapet wall between the car park and the courtyard, above the roof of the Boiler Room, is crumbling and needs repair and re-pointing.
- The walls of the Boiler Room need re-pointing, as the mortar has been attacked in many places by masonry bees.

Three building contractors have quoted for this work. The PCC has just agreed that English Building & Restoration should be invited to undertake these repairs.

III. Maintenance of the West Door

During August 2021, David Waterhouse very skilfully sanded and re-oiled the West Door and adjacent side door, which were both much in need of attention.

IV. Servicing of the automatic doors

The automatic doors to the Lobby began to operate erratically in June 2021. They were repaired and serviced by the installer, Easy Open, on 30 June 2021. However, the issues have not been entirely solved, particularly in the case of those doors opening into the Courtyard, which continue to operate erratically. This problem needs to be addressed in 2022.

V. Cleaning of the cantilever canopy over the perimeter paths of the courtyard

A contractor now needs to be engaged, to clean the cantilever canopy over the perimeter path of the courtyard, as it is becoming increasingly affected by algae and moss.

Care of the gardens and grounds around the church

Essential tree works, including pollarding of the large lime tree in the car park, were carried out by Jack Austin Tree Surgery on 4 and 5 November 2021. Further trimming of the prunus trees overhanging the pavements on Blinco Grove and Hills Road, will be done in June 2022.

The gardens continue to be very well maintained by a group of volunteers from the congregation. Particular thanks must go to Clare Donovan whose design, planting and care of the courtyard gardens has been a great success and is much enjoyed by both visitors and members of the church community.

Caretaker

Following the retirement of David Biggs in early 2021, Michael Fincham covered the duties of the Caretaker in an acting capacity for a year, before being formally appointed to the role on 1 February 2022. In addition to looking after the buildings to a very high standard, Michael undertakes many routine maintenance duties, such as clearing accessible gutters and down pipes. His hard work and commitment are much valued and appreciated. His contribution to the upkeep of the church and the St John's Centre is outstanding.

Volunteer teams

Many thanks also go to all the various volunteer teams who play a vital role maintaining the upkeep of the church and ensuring that all the services and events run smoothly. Olive Langley deserves special mention as she has taken charge of the church flowers for the whole year, almost entirely on her own. A rota of volunteers will be re-established from 1 May 2022. A new group has taken on the organisation of displays in the Lobby, which make the entrance to the church both welcoming and informative.

Grand piano

Due to the need for space to ensure more social distancing, the PCC decided in the autumn that there was no longer room in the church for the grand piano, on loan for many years, from Mr Peter Chan. It was therefore returned to Mr Chan on 16 December 2021.

Our first year as churchwardens seems to have gone by very quickly. We have much enjoyed working with James, Ceri, Michael, Roger, Peter, Elizabeth, other members of the Clergy team, the PCC and of course, all the many volunteers who make such a vital contribution to the life and work of St John's.

Julia Margretts, Joseph Philip
Churchwardens
19 April 2022

South Cambridge Deanery Synod Report

Cambridge South Deanery Synod has held two formal meetings (October 2021 and February 2022) and also held a meeting in February 2022 with Bishop Stephen on Deanery Development Planning.

Financial matters

Cambridge South Deanery provides about one-third of the diocese's total income from the parish share. The share was paid in full by the deanery parishes in 2020, but there was a slight shortfall for 2021, caused by problems in two churches. It is hoped that the share for 2022 will be paid in full. The deanery has an uncommitted balance in its own account of c.£40K. Decisions will have to be made on how this might most effectively be used.

Recovery from the pandemic

Parish representatives exchanged views on, and experience of, the effect of the pandemic and the resumption of more normal church life after the easing of restrictions. Much was obviously missed while they were in place, such as receiving the Sacrament and the general corporate aspects of worship including singing. The rapid development of online offerings has been beneficial, both for the short-term and for the longer term. Continuation of live-streamed services may affect attendance. Children's ministry is an area which has suffered during restriction and appears to be taking longer to recover.

Ministry to the Homeless

The Bishop's Advisor to the Homeless gave a presentation to the October meeting outlining efforts made by the Cambridge Churches Homeless Project, in conjunction with the local authority, to accommodate the homeless in the winter 2020–2021, using a Travelodge hotel and a pop-up hostel. Plans for winter 2021–22 included proposed use of another pop-up hostel and the need for volunteers to support this.

Eco-Church

Parishes are encouraged to continue their efforts to make all aspects of parish work and life conform more nearly to the principles of Eco-Church, with information regularly exchanged on a number of relevant events or organisations. Just Love, a Christian student organisation, gave a presentation at the February meeting on an Eco-Church Festival for 30 April. They sought help with this and also offered to give support and help to any church in Cambridgeshire which was seeking Eco-Church accreditation.

Deanery Development Planning

All dioceses are undergoing a process of review and planning, based on its deaneries: there are no plans to reduce clergy numbers in Cambridge South Deanery Synod.

Bishop Stephen addressed a special meeting of the synod in February 2022 to outline the purposes of the planning exercise. The Deanery was encouraged to develop 'hopes and plans for the future', taking account of circumstances such as demographic changes and the experience and consequences of the pandemic, in order to grow God's kingdom both for all. The diocese does not intend a top-down approach; it recognises the considerable differences between deaneries and between parishes within each deanery. What emerges from the process must be based on local aspirations and needs.

Deanery Synod members have discussed and considered issues and aspects that would be part of the new Plan. The main consideration is to identify what would be most effectively done on a deanery-wide basis rather than by individual parishes. A Steering Group consisting of Clergy and Laity members has met regularly to take the Plan further, before discussing in details with members. Deaneries are enjoined to report back to the diocese in the autumn of 2022.

Roger Lilley

Deanery Treasurer

(adapted from St Bene't's report)



Activity Reports

2021–2022

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Children, Youth and Families at St John's

Toddle Along 2022

The group has grown steadily from September when we reopened after the lockdown. We now have 15 children registered, with weekly attendance between 9 and 12. We have a range of activities during the 90 minute session – open play, short service and bible story, snacks for the children with tea, coffee and cakes for Mums, Grandparents and carers. There is a craft related to the story and ending with the singing of children's songs. It's really inspiring to see the development of the little ones - ages range from 4 months to 3 years.

We have a voluntary giving collection and the money is donated to Mary's Meals – a charity providing breakfasts and lunch for school children in the world's poorest countries such as Syria, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe and Lebanon. We aim to contribute £60 each month to the charity.

We are blessed with help from Monica Taylor who organises the weekly crafts and from Tricia James who has joined us recently to welcome the Mums and children. I am also grateful for the help from Liz Tavner and Janet Tankard who assist with refreshments for the group.

I feel that we are helping to meet some of the needs of Mums and young children in our community. This group is their CHURCH.

Anne Rigby

Messy Church

We have held three Messy Church's since the last APCM. We held an Eco Messy last summer. We had about ten attendees which was not great but perhaps understandable given we were able to hold outdoor events but still in Covid restrictions. We held a Harvest Messy which had about 15 attendees which again was understandable given the Covid restrictions. Our biggest success was the Messy Nativity which saw 26 attendees some of which were not church attendees but families from Homerton and YMCA nurseries. We are preparing to hold a Messy Easter on 9th April and are hoping for a similar success as the Nativity one.

Children's Church

Children's Church is taking a little time to get going again. We have about eleven attendees, not always all at the same time, with ages ranging from five to 11 years of age. The Children's Church team are trying to find ways to engage with the children at a level that is right for their age. This has proven tricky as they are all in a group together at the moment, but we think a solution has been found. We are having to keep them all together as there aren't enough children of each age bracket to have the separate groups like we used to with Fountains, Waterfalls etc. We have received some feedback from parents which the team have taken on board and are trying to accommodate.

Children's Church have acquired the display board in the old children's corner and are looking forward to displaying the children's work and activities. We are also having the foyer for a display in April and are looking forward to sharing what we have been doing. It will probably be a display that will grow over the month as we do things.

Friday Parents Group

This is a very new group that is very small the moment. We have two parents who regularly come along. We focus on the Gospel for the upcoming Sunday and then discuss it. Inevitably we drift away from the Gospel and talk about other issues, normally what's going on in our lives or anything that comes to the surface, and this is very much what the group is about, a place where parents can talk about anything they are feeling they would like to discuss. We do, however, always start with the Gospel reading; we often find our conversations that have drifted away link in with the reading, and end with a prayer.

Sian Binley

Youth Group

Like most Church groups, St John's Youth Group moved online during the pandemic. It was then a joy, during Rev Chris Campbell's final months, to start meeting in person again. We took advantage of the Campbell family's creative skills to have various art work sessions, as well as camp fires, and outside games.

During the autumn of 2021, our Youth Group re-convened again, led by Rev James Shakespeare, Sian Binley and our Westcott House ordinand, Daniel Newman. We extended the age range from Year 6, and started to meet fortnightly, on a Sunday evening, in the Cavendish Room. Thankfully our Youth Group is gathering momentum again. We are focused on games and building relationships – a healthy space for relaxation, away from the demands of school – as well as discussing topical issues of concern (such as the pandemic, Ukraine & refugees), from a Christian perspective. This may lead into some practical action, led by our young people. As the Youth Group re-establishes again, with a younger cohort, we will put together a more bespoke programme of activities. Finally, we are booked to attend a youth activity holiday, at the Horstead Centre in Norfolk, during late August.

Rev James Shakespeare

Choir

2021 was another challenging year for St John's church choir as we continued to sing through a pandemic!

Membership

Throughout the year the trebles have continued to follow the RSCM Voice for Life training scheme. Alex achieved the Dean's chorister award this year (by taking an exam remotely over 'zoom') and was presented with her award at St John's as the Diocesan choir festival at Ely was cancelled. Leila has succeeded Sophie as Head Chorister and Alex was appointed as Team Leader. We currently have nine children (under the age of 18) in the choir. Seven of them make up the treble line and we are pleased to have two former trebles now singing tenor and bass. Two of our trebles, Charlotte and Emily left us in the summer when Chris Campbell (curate) and her family moved to Ashwell. Will (bass and ordinand) left us in the summer to start his curacy at St Neots. One of our former head choristers, and RSCM Gold Award singer Lottie left us in the autumn to go away to university and Nicole (soprano and organist) left us in the autumn to take up a post in Vienna. Luckily we have been joined by two new sopranos (Jacqui and May) and a new tenor (Peter), and the choir is thriving.

Despite the restrictions, the choir have continued to lead the music at all the main services at St John's. During lock down we have recorded our music at home and assembled it together for the on line services. We are very grateful to Roger and Chris for their help putting this all together. At the start of the year (when the church was open) we had two separate choirs for the two Sunday morning services. The trebles led the 9:30am service with no adult support. The adults led the 11am service with a socially distanced choir spaced out throughout the chancel and sanctuary. We were limited by the 'rule of six' and had to set up a weekly rota of singers. From September we were delighted to join the choir together again. We celebrated with a concert which was a great success (both musically and financially). We were also thrilled when restrictions were lifted to allow the congregation to join us in song once more.

Outreach

Due to the pandemic we have not sung outside of our parish and did not meet with our partnership churches or other choirs in the Diocese. We have, instead, been able to broadcast our services across the world! Our live streamed services have also been greatly appreciated by former choristers who no longer live in our parish and extended family members of current choristers. We are hugely grateful to the technical team who have made this all possible.

We were pleased to be able to sing Christmas carols on the punts and raised over £800 for Blue Smile charity. Sadly we were unable to sing at Morley primary school, or Christmas carolling around the parish due to Covid restrictions.

We were delighted to welcome back several former choristers who came to join us for our Christmas services.

Finance

Our main sources of income this year have come from wedding fees, one cake sale and a choir concert.

Future

We continue to enjoy leading the musical worship at St John's. We hope that our trebles will continue to work through the RSCM training scheme and some may achieve awards from Ely Diocese. We look forward to a time when it is safe for us to resume more of our outreach activities.

I am extremely grateful to Roger Lilley for acting as Assistant Director of Music throughout the year.

Elizabeth Trenchard
Organist and Director of Music

Curates: Assistant Curate

I began my curacy at St John's in July 2021 when all of us were acclimatising to the end of a period of COVID lockdown and to meeting in person again. I had a very gentle introduction to the requirements of curacy as Rev Chris Campbell was then still here as a full-time curate. I was able to learn a great deal from her before she left to become Rector at St Mary's, Ashwell.

St John's has a well-deserved reputation as a hub for training for ministry, and I have been very grateful for the patience shown by James and by many others in the congregation on the occasions when my learner plates have been particularly evident. One day, one of the mothers at Toddle Along referred to their child as a covid-baby, wary of close contact with other people, which set me thinking about the covid-curates who have, like me, been trained for ordination in the era of covid. Although we have unprecedented experience of helping to produce online services and activities, we have less familiarity with the nuts and bolts of in-person services and events. Sometimes, I am directing things that I have never seen done in person.

In my first six months at St John's, I helped to put together for the Creationtide season, a series of services exploring the theological aspects of God's concern for creation and our response and culminating in the Harvest Festival. Building on a concern for the environment that St John's shares with the local community, we hosted an excellent talk by Dr Jo DePledge, providing an invaluable understanding of the background to COP26 held in Glasgow in November 2021, and a panel discussion at which Jo, Prof Michael Grubb and Christian Aid's Robin Greenwood shared with the audience their insights into the implications of COP26, stemming from their considerable expertise regarding various aspects of climate change.

Throughout Advent it was a delight to be involved in so many in-person services, including Messy Church, Christingle and the under-5s nativity play. Christmas also brought other unforgettable experiences that were shared with the wider community, including preaching at the Hills Road Sixth Form College Carol Service held at Great St Mary's, dressing up as one of the Kings for the Christmas Story Trail at Homerton Early Years Centre, and helping the two- and three-year olds at YMCA Childcare Blinco Grove make Christingles.

Rev Ceri Payne

Curates: Part time NSM Curate

This is my second year curacy at St John's, and the year has been very good in spite of the ongoing pandemic challenges. Particularly, in the post-lockdown, meeting more congregation members face to face and getting to know each other has been wonderful. Myself as well as my family (Mahiba, Mona and Mano) feel more integrated in St John's community than in the last year, and our thanks to James, the Ministry Team and all St John's community.

I have had regular meetings with James, and his full kind support, as my training incumbent, to train me in various aspects of church ministry in CoE, has been very helpful. My sincere thanks to him.

On 3 July 2021 I was ordained as priest at the Ely Cathedral. It was a very blessed occasion. From St John's, James, Chris Campbell, Kate Dove and Joseph Philip joined the service which was wonderful. Sadly, due to the lockdown rules, we couldn't have more people from St John's.

It was a joy and privilege for me to have a picture of my priest ordination appearing on the front page of *Church Times*, on 9th July 2021.

My first Eucharist after ordination was on Sunday 11th July 2021, at our church here at St John's. It was indeed special to me, and a very blessed moment and service.

Thanks to the online technologies, my parents wider family in India and friends and colleagues from all over the world, as well as Bishop and his family in my home Diocese in India – Church of South India Kanyakumari Diocese – joined my ordination service as well as my first Eucharist, which was a wonderful experience. Thanks to God for God's provisions.

Since then I have got a number of opportunities to preside Eucharist at St John's, as well as preaching, which has been very good.

Also I (and my family) was able to visit at least one family in the congregation during last year. Such a meeting was the first time in the post-lockdown for that family and for us. We together thanked God.

I really wanted to participate more in the ministry of St John's, particularly in home groups, but given my full time job at the Cambridge Centre for Christianity Worldwide and at the Theological Education in the Anglican Communion, in which I am involved in preparing three books for the forthcoming Lambeth Conference, I often regret I am unable to spend more time. I hope I will be able to spend more time in the future.

My family and I remain very grateful for having us in St John's community and for your hospitality and generosity. We continue to look forward to our time with you all. Please continue to pray for us.

Rev Dr Muthuraj Swamy
April 2022

Deputy Churchwarden

In this year's report, I will concentrate on the hiring of St John's Centre. During the COVID lockdowns we lost most of our bookings, not just when the rules did not allow them, but also, once certain categories of meeting were allowed again, because many of our hirers were understandably cautious about meeting in person. The availability of the ubiquitous Zoom (other online meeting applications are available) made in-person meetings seem something of a luxury, or a gamble to look at it from another angle. We instituted various rules to minimise the spread of COVID, including the compulsory wearing of masks; sanitising of hands when people arrived; sanitising surfaces after use; and most importantly keeping the windows open, and when the weather permitted, the doors open so as to maximise ventilation. This last is probably the most effective way of keeping COVID transmission to a minimum.

Armed with these measures, and at all times following guidance from the Church of England, we re-opened our rooms earlier than many other places. This led us to acquire new hirers: groups that could not meet in their usual venue because they were still closed. There were limits on numbers and at various times the types of activity that were allowed. Risk assessments had to be submitted to show that the groups had thought about the COVID transmission risks and had in place measures to reduce the risks. Often they were based on our own risk assessment. Groups that belong to larger organisations, such as the Brownies and Guides, had their own rules to follow.

Slowly since the staggered opening up of society our regulars returned, although sometimes there were last minute cancellations depending on the prevailing local rate of COVID at the time. Some of the newcomers decided to stay with us so that by the end of 2021 there was healthy regular use of the Centre.

There are now a wide range of activities taking place at the St John's Centre including toddler groups, choir groups, music groups, yoga sessions, Brownies and Guides, birthday parties, Bible study groups, local interest groups, national charities, local residents associations, art groups, retired professional groups, local government (including being one of the city's polling stations), art groups and gatherings associated with services in church, including baptisms, weddings and funerals. We also hire out the church for concerts and other events.

The annual monitoring return required by Cambridge City Council Capital Funding Team was very well received. They are delighted with the development of the St John's Centre.

My thanks are due to all those who continue to volunteer on the duty warden and sidespersons' rota, particularly Hilary Pennington and Rosemary Woodley, who have recently 'retired' after many years of dedicated service. My thanks also to those who are on the lawn cutting rota and those who help to clean the church. These are all valuable contributions to the running of the church.

I have enjoyed very much working with James, Ceri, Peter, Julia, Joseph, Roger and many others during the year.

Michael Fincham

Eco Church

At the beginning of 2021 St John's started in earnest the process of assessment and development with a view to achieving an award under the A Rocha Eco Church Scheme. This required us to carry out an audit of our environmental performance under a range of headings such as energy efficiency and recycling, biodiversity, communication of environmental issues to our congregation and the wider community, and incorporation of issues such as biodiversity and climate change into our worship, prayer and liturgy.

Some areas were more challenging than others but the process was greeted with enthusiasm and many people willingly devoted time and energy to focus on these issues. As a result we now have a better idea across the whole range of church activities of how we can meet the many faceted demands of the environmental issues we all face.

We were fortunate to be able to reach the assessment target for the Bronze Award which is on display in the courtyard. The process is ongoing and during the course of this year we will revisit the audit and work out where we need to put our efforts in order to work towards the Silver Award. Our thanks go to all those who have been involved. Anyone is welcome to visit the A Rocha Eco Church site <https://arocha.org.uk> where they can sign up to participate in our own parish project and view the appraisal documents.

Roger Lilley

Fundraising Group

Opportunities for holding activities designed to raise money for church funds have been severely curtailed for much of the last two years, during the Covid pandemic. The total sum raised in 2020 was just under £1000. However as restrictions were eased, the situation improved considerably and just over £8000 was raised in 2021.

A fund raising group was established in September 2021, with the aim of setting up a regular programme of events each year, designed to generate a steady income that can be taken into account when setting the annual budget.

Successful events in 2021 included a Plant Sale, a Pottery Sale, several concerts, an Autumn Fayre and a Christmas Stall and Raffle. A similar programme is being developed in 2022. Two concerts have already been held, with a third unfortunately postponed due to one of the performers contracting Covid at the last minute. The next concert will be given by a Folk Band on 14 May. An Easter Raffle attracted much interest and plant sales will be held on 1 & 8 May. On 18 June there will be a Summer Fete, with all the usual stalls, games and a BBQ lunch. An innovation this year will be the opportunity to have bikes repaired and serviced by Owl Bikes of the Papworth Trust, alongside a children's bike sale. Planned future concerts include the postponed programme of sacred music, sung by the Erasmus Chamber Choir and a performance by the Osiligi Maasai Warriors in September. We are looking forward to celebrating harvest time with a Ceilidh on 1 October 2022.

Many thanks are due to all those who have helped organise and run events, plus, all who have contributed by attending and spending their money. We welcomed many members of the wider local community to the Autumn Fayre, which provided a great opportunity for people to have a clear out after all the Lockdowns. Generous donations included a huge number of books and many items of 'Bric-a-brac'.

Special mention must be made of Roger Lilley for his major contributions to the musical events and Plant Sales and John Hillier for so successfully selling his beautiful pottery, in aid of church funds.

Members of the group have enjoyed working together over the last eight months and look forward to continuing success raising funds to support the running of the church, over the next year.

Julia Margretts
21 April 2022

Gardens at St John's

2021 was a busy and fulfilling year in the garden which forms an integral part of our A Rocha Eco Church initiative. It was a time to further reset thinking from neat and tidy to a focus on gardening with nature. The well recognised impact of climate change and the deliberations around COP 26 in Glasgow provided an appropriate backdrop to this approach. The grounds are well used by church groups, other organisations and individuals, so their needs must be met too and balance kept. Outdoor life remained an important contributor to personal well-being as we moved into year two of Covid-19. A picnic table with seats to encourage people to linger was sited on the side lawn and it gives pleasure to see a regular garden user executing handstands on the front lawn.

Early in the summer two water butts were added to the existing one and proved their worth during the long, dry spells in summer. A bird feeding station was established and more recently nesting boxes added. Chemical use ceased and new planting carried out with bees and insects in mind. There were generous donations of bulbs, plants and seeds from church members, and financial donations towards larger items have been very much appreciated. Home-made compost was used to mulch flower beds and the courtyard garden, which all remained vibrant throughout the year. People's time is a precious commodity. The maintenance of the garden, including the lawns, has been carried out by many volunteers from within and beyond the church community, with Clare Donovan leading the way. We thank them all.

In April we reviewed the garden with Rebecca Jones from the Nightingale Avenue Community Garden. We wished to identify how we might further develop wild areas and where we could tame over-vigorous shrubs, whilst leaving good habitat cover and berries for birds. She cautioned against enthusiastic adoption of raised beds for vegetable growing or similar, as they require such regular attention and watering. We decided to leave unmown at least a metre strip along the lawn borders throughout the summer. Additional primroses and cowslips were planted here. In late autumn the borders were scarified and yellow rattle sown to weaken tough grasses, so allowing pollen-rich and insect friendly plants to thrive in the future. This will be a slow process. Following much needed pollarding of the lime trees and other pruning by outside contractors, the City Council responded quickly to a request to prune street trees over-hanging the garden. Autumn work sessions then focused on returning the shrubs in the side hedge to manageable proportions and clearing the area where the blighted box hedge had been removed.

In 2022 we hope to attract more wildlife into the garden and to keep learning as we go along. Hedgehog routes and homes, bug hotels and maybe even a small pond are on the agenda. Involving the children at St John's will be important and a pleasure, as they are the future for our sustainable gardens and our planet.

Erica Lowry

The Annual Plant Sale

Held in late April, the sale of home-grown plants came as a huge relief to those who had struggled to obtain summer bedding plants due to the intermittent closure of garden centres and the difficulty of importing plants during the pandemic. Thanks to the power of the Queen Edith's Community Forum weekly email, where we advertised the sale, we were inundated by customers from the church and the wider community who sought advice and bought plants at great speed while trying to observe social distancing. In fact, everything was sold in 1½ hours and we were sorry to disappoint those arriving later who found only empty tables. The amazing and best-ever total of £725 was raised for church funds. Successful follow-up sales were held of plants which were not mature enough to sell in April.

Erica Lowry/Katie Knapton

Health and Safety

I am grateful to Julia, Michael, and Peter for all that they have done in organising the work carried out during the year.

In summary:

Feb: we moved from ADT to Briar Security for our alarm system on account of ADT's excessive charges for emergency callouts.

Apr: DS Electrical replaced the Consumer Unit in the Vicar's Vestry as part of essential electrical works identified in an earlier survey of the electrics.

Apr & Oct: a mouse was discovered in the Brownies' outdoors store cupboard. A trap was put down, but no further mice appeared in the store cupboards. Another mouse appeared in the church in October. It was caught and relocated to a more suitable home.

May: the pads on the Defibrillator were replaced. The Defibrillator has its own internal self-analysis and raises an alert when something needs attending to.

Jun: there was an issue with ants appearing in the kitchen. However, with careful management of waste, the problem resolved itself.

Jun: there were issues with the electric porch doors. The installers (Easy Open) sent engineers to address the issue and an annual service was carried out. However, we have continued to have

problems throughout the rest of 2021 and even into 2022 especially with the ones into the courtyard. This needs resolving in 2022.

Jul: With the final ending of Covid-19 restriction at St John's, all hirers advised to produce their own risk assessment before using the centre and all attending Church encouraged if able to continue to wear mask/face covering inside Church, sanitise hands and open doors to maximise ventilation.

Sep/Dec: one of the PIR lights failed and after an unsuccessful internal attempt to repair it, DS Electrical replaced it. One of the internal emergency lights also failed and was replaced. A further one failed and had to be replaced (by Livewire).

Sep: a roof tile fell off the high south roof into the courtyard. Following this the courtyard was closed to through traffic in case there were further tile falls. Quotations were obtained for repair work and the repairs were eventually carried out in December. As part of the assessment of the roof, a drone survey was carried out (by Tim Smith) to ensure there were no more serious issues.

Dec: one of our regular casual visitors to the church set out and lit many candles in the church. As this was deemed a potential fire risk, it was decided to lock away all candles in the vestry.

Dec: the west pillar holding up one of the gates to the car park was damaged and became loose from its base. This meant that the car park gates could not be locked. It was decided that the pillar should be repaired early in 2022.

Joseph Philip

Home Groups

Glebe House Homegroup

The Wednesday evening homegroup, led by Peter and Judith, takes place for 75 minutes every fortnight. Since the start of the pandemic, we have been meeting on Zoom, which seems to have worked well.

Topics have included:

- A course on St Matthew's Gospel with material and videos by the theologian Tom Wright (continuation from last year);
- A course on Prayer with material and videos by the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby;
- A course on the biblical texts used in Handel's oratorio The Messiah.

We have around 14 members, with 8-12 at each meeting. We also have a "Homegroup at Prayer" Whatsapp group that includes all members. It allows them to share prayer requests (and answers to prayer) between sessions.

We continue to enjoy learning from God's word and from each other and spending time together, as well as supporting each other in prayer during the rest of the week.

Peter Heslam

The Tuesday, then Monday, homegroup

The homegroup that originally met on Tuesday evenings continued to meet exclusively online during 2021, save for one evening in August when we met outdoors. During the autumn term we switched to meeting on Mondays. In the first part of the autumn term, we explored in more detail some of the themes covered in our Creationtide series of sermons on Sunday mornings. Next, we worked through Paul's letter to the Philippians. Finally, we spent Advent reading poems chosen by Janet Morley for her book "Haphazard by Starlight" and connecting the ideas in them with seasonal bible passages.

Ceri Payne

Tuesday morning Bible Study Group

Where and When?

This group meets in the Wilkinson Room on most Tuesday mornings in term time – arrive at 10:15 in order to have a bit of a chat and a hot drink, sometimes even biscuits or cake, or by 10:30 when the study starts. The formal part of the study lasts until about 11:30.

Who?

All are welcome. We have regular members who come nearly every week, others who drop in when they can and some who come occasionally and that's fine.

What?

During the Lent term we have looked at some Psalms and read the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent book about Justice. We try to vary the materials between reading a book from the Bible and considering a theme or idea.

Why?

We meet to learn more about God through our reading but also to develop friendships and support one another as we move through our lives.

Interested? Contact Jane Gardiner via jgardiner@pobox.com or leave a message in the pigeon holes for me.

Jane Gardiner

Thursday morning Home Group

Something new is sometimes exciting, but also little daunting! What was becoming an exciting 'problem', turned into a new venture...

The number of people belonging to home groups had increased enormously over last year and others were wishing to join. Solution? – a new group! And so, we began on Thursday mornings in the Gray Room with a few intrepid 'pioneers'.

It has been lovely to gather together, get to know each other better, study the bible together and learn from one another. We've been looking at...

November: Creation-tide – we developed the topics presented in our sermon series and Climate Forum discussions

Advent: 'Image of the Invisible' – (Finding God in scriptural metaphor)
by Amy Scott Robinson

Over the four weeks of Advent we considered the different names by which God is seen and known, and through those discovered more of God's character.

Thanks to all the 'pioneers', and especially Anne Rigby helping to lead the group, and providing coffee and cake!

Kate Aylmer

Licensed Lay Minister

Homerton College Choir and Homerton Singers

Charter Choir of Homerton College

After a successful and enjoyable choir tour to Portsmouth, Truro and Wells Cathedrals at the end of August, the Choir looked forward to returning to St John's Church to sing Choral Evensong, socially distanced throughout the Michaelmas Term. In addition to welcoming fresher choir members, we also welcomed Lorenzo Bennett as Junior Organ Scholar and Shanna Hart as Assistant Organist. Shanna

was previously Organ Scholar at Selwyn College and she also spent a year as Graduate Organist at Robinson College. The term culminated in a Service of Readings and Carols on 30 November.

In the Lent Term the choir sang five Services of Choral Evensong at St John's Church, as well as Choral Evensong in Ely Cathedral and Choral Eucharist for Ash Wednesday at St John's Church.

We look forward to welcoming you to Choral Evensong next term, starting on 3 May.

Trish Maude

Homerton Singers

After the long "covid-enforced" break from meeting to sing in early 2020, Homerton Singers resumed, socially-distanced, in October 2021 and contributed three songs at the College end of term concert, as well as presenting a concert in their own right at St John the Evangelist, in collaboration with Dame Bradbury's School from Saffron Walden (which, incidentally, is directed by a Homerton alumna). It is very much hoped that a Christmas concert involving young people will become an annual feature.

In 2022, membership steadily increased as the Singers met each week, covered a wide repertoire (ranging from a Zimbabwean wedding song *Wai Bamba* to Leonard Cohen's *Hallelujah*) and sang at the end of term concert in March.

Do you enjoy singing for pleasure, with no audition? If so, please come along to Homerton College Porters Lodge on Monday 25 April, at 7.15 and you will be directed to our new venue in the North Wing Auditorium, where we will sing from 7:30 until 9.15pm. Musical Director, Dr Douglas Coombes MBE is planning a concert for the choir to be held on Saturday 11 June. You will be assured of a warm welcome. If you decide to join, the termly subscription is £25.

Carole Lindsay-Douglas/Trish Maude

Lobby Displays at St John's

The lobby of St John's Centre is spacious and bright and leads on to an attractive courtyard garden. It has been used intermittently for Fair Trade/Traidcraft displays and in 2018 by Roger Lilley for an exhibition of parishioners' involvement in the First World War. Clare Donovan has more recently been keeping the area decorated with attractive indoor plants and seasonal foliage. Events around the Glasgow COP 26 Conference in autumn 2021 presented an opportunity to display what St John's was doing to support biodiversity and the Green agenda via the A Rocha Eco Church initiative.

Once this last display was removed, the lobby seemed rather bare and thought was given to further use of the space. With support from James our Vicar, a plan emerged to offer exhibition opportunities to church groups and others in the local community. By doing this we hope to get to know better and to celebrate various activities that continue, sometimes unseen, within the church. We will also build a relationship with the groups that use our facilities regularly and potentially with some local charities as well. A nucleus group of Erica Lowry, Clare Donovan and Kay Blaney will liaise with people interested in this opportunity and give support.

The first to use the space in January 2022 was Denise Schoenberg, local Watercolourist and Art Tutor. She displayed work done by students throughout her 2021 classes. The quality and vibrancy of the paintings was very much appreciated by all who viewed them. Following Denise we have Fairtrade Fortnight, Lent Giving Charities and Messy Church/Children's Church. The rest of 2022 is almost fully booked, whilst periods will be left free to mark important Festivals in the church calendar. We hope people will stop, take time to appreciate the exhibitions and on occasions to learn something new. We welcome feedback and further suggestions.

Erica Lowry

Magazine: The Parish Voice

Over the past year, as we have come out of various degrees of lockdown and returned to worship in Church, the magazine too has come to settle into its new shape – published on-line, roughly every two months, and including a regular Reflections supplement of thought and prayer focussed on that particular time in the Church year. As editors we've enjoyed being able to spread beyond the former 28-page limit on occasion, and we hope that as readers you too have enjoyed a medium which allows some longer articles and shows some of the beautiful photographs we've been sent to such advantage.

As always, we're enormously grateful for the wealth and variety of material we've been sent, and for the range of thought-provoking, informative, reflective and sometimes humbling articles that have come our way. Special thanks of course go to those on the Ministry Team who have written for the (greatly valued) Reflections – and a very particular thank you to James and Ceri, for all their help and support.

Now that we're a bit more than a year into the new format, the time has come to review it, and so we'd very much welcome any feedback from readers as to what we should be aiming for in the future. Are we heading in the right direction, are there adjustments to be made, should we incorporate something else/abandon something new? Does the presentation work for you in the on-line format? Any and all suggestions would be most helpful and we do hope to receive some! Please send them to us at the magazine email address, parishvoicesje@gmail.com.

Liz Radice, Paula Wolff
10 April 2022

Mission Committee

The committee meets three or four times a year. Members are James Shakespeare (Chair), Roger Lilley (Treasurer), Katie Knpton (Secretary), Dominic Barton, and Matthew Wolff. Jane Henry has moved from the area, and we are delighted that Anne Jarvis has joined us.

Our Mission Partners

New Venture

After many years supporting Kylie and Bhim in North India we decided to move on and with the help of the Church Mission Society we chose **Ultan McCabe** as our new mission partner. Ultan, a lawyer, works with Middle East Concern, standing up for the rights of persecuted Christians in the Middle East and North Africa. Through working with, and lobbying governments to intervene he is bringing hope to those who have suffered unimaginable persecution because of the faith in Christ. Ultan joined our zoom meeting in June, when he explained more about his work helping believers who are imprisoned, under house arrest and even in danger of their lives. He hoped to visit St John's in 2021 but this finally came about in March 2022 when he gave an inspiring talk in church about his work. Afterwards he joined us for coffee followed by lunch which was shared with those particularly interested in his work.

The Bethesda Project, Muyinga, Burundi

In Burundi, the Bethesda Project continues to support young people struggling with disabilities. Provision of wheelchairs, crutches and home improvements has made an unbelievable difference to the lives of many who would otherwise be shut away. An appeal (to which St John's contributed) raised sufficient funds to buy a replacement 4 x 4 Toyota, enabling the team to reach out to more of those in need of their help, especially transporting them to clinics and sporting activities.

St Peter's Happiness Nursery, Arua, N Uganda

The committee agreed reluctantly that, since the school is no longer functioning due to losing its premises, we must withdraw our financial support. This was a difficult decision and we began working in the autumn to identify a new mission partner to replace St Peter's.

Great Lakes Outreach

After weighing the merits of many proposals, the committee's decision was to adopt a new, further, link with Burundi, one of the poorest countries in the world: the Great Lakes Outreach (GLO), in addition to the Bethesda Project. GLO was founded by Simon Guillebaud, a relative of Philippa and Rosemary Guillebaud who worshipped at St John's. More details of this initiative and our link with it can be read in the Mission Committee's report in the last issue of the Parish Voice.

Lenten giving 2021

Because the 2020 appeal had been so disrupted by coronavirus the same two charities were chosen for support in 2021: The Bethesda Project, Burundi and A Rocha.

Toilet Twinning

In January 2021 we took forward our earlier discussions about Toilet Twinning, a Tear Fund initiative to raise funds for the provision of latrines and clean water where none exist. The PCC agreed to fund two twinings and subsequently an appeal to the congregation enabled all six of our toilets to be twinned – in South Sudan (3), Uganda, Cote d'Ivoire and Malawi.

Environmental Agenda/Eco Church

During the year St John's gained the Bronze Award from Eco Church; the plaque can be seen in the courtyard. Once restrictions were lifted we agreed to progress towards the Silver Award. Much work has been carried out in the garden to encourage eco-friendliness and a sturdy picnic table was installed in the garden.

A series of lectures around the time of COP26 were well received by audiences which included the congregation and the community.

Katie Napton

Partnership for Missional Church

[Steering Group: Kate Dove, Matthew and Paula Wolff, Sian Binley, Kate Aylmer, Rev Ceri Payne, Rev James Shakespeare]

Last year I wrote...

Year 2 of our journey will see us reflecting further on the listening processes of last year to put flesh on the bones, and from there, as a church, we will be able to 'experiment' in small ways in collaboration with our community.

As you will realise, collaboration was restricted to on-line resources and phone. This not only affected our intention to work together with our community, but also the Partnership for Missional Church training also went on-line. May I especially thank those of the steering group who spent many days on Zoom during the year.

However, having started to think of ways that we could be open to positive change, we found the adaptations required for our Eco Church project, and to provide Church@Home in lockdown, encouraged us to be even more adventurous in promoting the church's involvement in community. We were encouraged by noticing what God was already doing to build links between church and community, and between different age groups and people with different backgrounds and cultures, as in our online quizzes and at Toddle Along. We are building on new links through the community lunches (temporarily halted by covid) and our banner project with the local arts college.

During lockdown we used the 'holy habit' of *Seeking God's Way Together* in writing our stories about how our worship of God had adapted. Here we found out:

- What our stories were telling us
- What we felt we had heard God saying
- Where might God be drawing us now?

Later in the year we gathered thoughts (in person this time) about 'Moving on in Worship', taking into consideration the new creative aspects we developed during lockdown. This will continue to be considered as service patterns develop now we are together again.

We presented our Missional Action Summary (covering the first two years of this project) to the PCC in November, and are now considering a 'Missional Vocations Statement', drawing together what God has shown us about who we are as his church family here at St John's. We have discovered the wealth of gifts God has given us in our parish and our congregation and from our history, and we will combine these to discern where God is leading us to focus our gifts and energies over the next few years. We will be doing this together, but that's a story for next year!

Kate Aylmer
Steering Group leader

Pastoral Care

During the pandemic we kept in touch with our parishioners who needed support via a telephone system. We regrouped again in October and our visitors now number 5 lay visitors plus the Ministry team. Each visitor has a named person to visit at least once a month and they have completed all the necessary checks.

Sadly we have had several deaths amongst our visitors. Michael Johnson, Greta Blake and Ron Huntsman. All very much missed.

Jane Gardner, Sian Binley and myself are now able to take home communion to people unable to get to church, which has helped to assist the clergy.

Pastoral care is also discussed regularly at Ministry team meetings, so that we are all aware of the needs of our parishioners.

Anne Rigby

Sacristan Rota

What can one say about a largely uneventful year for us sacristans? On the face of it, not much. Except perhaps to remember we have been able to enjoy celebrating the Last Supper (pretty well) uninterrupted throughout a turbulent year, when Covid restrictions have ebbed and flowed and which might otherwise have disrupted that continuity. How has it been possible? Setting aside the support of my colleagues (for whose dedication I am always grateful), it is perhaps as a consequence of the ingenuity of John Hillier. His design and fashioning of a graceful combined bread and wine chalice has enabled the celebrant to dip each wafer and serve us all whenever we have wanted to receive Communion. Thank you, John.

Joseph Saunders

Traidcraft

2021 proved to be another challenging year for Traidcraft in general and for our stall at St John's in particular. We were unable to function for the first three months but then had the opportunity to hold the stall outside with social distancing, between the two morning services. We spread tables round the lawn and provided 'clean' change for purchases.

By the end of June we were out of lockdown at last and continued our first Sunday trading the rest of the year. Our stall at the Autumn Fair our stall was very busy and we were able to donate £90 to church funds. Overall, despite the setbacks earlier in the year, we sold over £4,000 of goods, much the same as in 2020.

As usual we donated mini-eggs for distribution to the children on Easter Sunday and we continue to donate sugar, tea and instant coffee to church and supply ground coffee at cost. We encourage the congregation to support the Food Bank by offering 10% off goods purchased for the box.

Huge thanks to Team Traidcraft: Caroline and Peter Chamberlain, Pat Chapman, Erica Crouch, Jo Depledge, Mary Griffiths, Erica Lowry, Sarah Philip, Fiona Richards, Amanda Taylor, without whom none of this could happen.

Katie Knapton
March 2022



PCC Meetings 2022–23

APCM 22 May 2022

27 June 2022

6 September 2022

16 November 2022

16 January 2023



Financial Statement

For year ending 31 December 2021

St John the Evangelist Cherry Hinton
Hills Road, Cambridge

Approved by the PCC on 23 February 2022

Independent Examiner: *Professor Martin Dove*

Treasurer: *Mr Roger Lilley*

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

To the PCC of St John the Evangelist, Cambridge

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2021, which are set out on pages 2 to 11, is in respect of an examination carried out under Regulation 3 (3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 and section 43 of the Charities Act 1993.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

As trustees and members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of the regulation 3 (3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 and section 43 (2) of the Charities Act 1992 (the Act) do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of Regulation 25 of the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 and Regulation 7 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 1995.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43 (7) (b) of the Act and to be found in the guidance from the CBF. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the requirements of the Act, as also contained in the Church Accounting Regulations 1997, have not been met; or

2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed and dated



St John the Evangelist, Hills Road, Cambridge

For the year ended 31st December 2021

2

St John the Evangelist, Hills Road, Cambridge									
Balance Sheet at 31 st December 2021									
	Notes				2021 Total		2020 Total		
					£		£		
CURRENT ASSETS:									
Barclays Bank PLC Accounts					49,283		29,721		
Church of England CBF Deposit Account					1,148		1,146		
CBS Deposit Account (Traidcraft)					775		531		
Petty Cash (Traidcraft)					45		45		
Stock (Traidcraft)					493		400		
Debtors	7				3,486		5,186		
					55,230		37,030		
LIABILITIES:									
Amounts falling due within one year									
Creditors	8				4,952		2,210		
					4,952		2,210		
NET CURRENT ASSETS:									
					50,278		34,820		
FUNDS:									
				2021	2021 Total	2020	2020 Total		
				£	£	£	£		
Unrestricted									
General Fund Reserves					9,664		8,036		
Traidcraft					1,313		976		
Restricted (r) & Designated (d)									
Choir Fund (r)				4,301		3,808			
Quinquennial Works Fund (d)				35,000		22,000			
Total Restricted & Designated					39,301		25,808		
TOTAL FUNDS									
					50,278		34,820		

Balance Sheet at 31st December 2021

	Notes				2021 Total		2020 Total
					£		£
CURRENT ASSETS:							
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					55,230		37,030

LIABILITIES:

Amounts falling due within one year							
Creditors	8					4,952	2,210
						4,952	2,210

NET CURRENT ASSETS:

FUNDS:				2021	2021 Total	2020	2020 Total
				£	£	£	£
Unrestricted							
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Choir Fund (r)				4,301		3,808	
Quinquennial Works Fund (d)				35,000		22,000	
Total Restricted & Designated					39,301		25,808
TOTAL FUNDS					50,278		34,820

TOTAL FUNDS

St John the Evangelist, Hills Road, Cambridge												
Notes to the Financial Statements												
For the year ended 31st December 2021												
1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES												
The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 as amended by the Church Accounting (Amendment) Regulations 2001 together with applicable accounting standards and the												
The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.												
Funds												
General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC.												
The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law.												
Incoming resources												
<i>Voluntary income and capital sources</i>												
Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.												
Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised only when received.												
Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.												
Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt is reasonably certain.												
<i>Other income</i>												
Rental income from the letting of the church premises is recognised when the rental is due.												
<i>Income from investments</i>												
Interest entitlements are accounted for as they accrue.												
Resources used												
<i>Activities directly relating to the work of the Church</i>												
The diocesan parish share is accounted for when paid.												
Fixed assets												
<i>Consecrated property and movable church furnishings</i>												
Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993.												
Movable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's Inventory. No new inalienable property is known to have been acquired by the church in the last ten years.												

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)							
For the year ended 31st December 2021							
2 INCOMING RESOURCES							
	Unrestrict ed Fund	Restricted Fund	2021 Total	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	2020 Total	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	
VOLUNTARY RECEIPTS:							
2a INCOME FROM REGULAR DONORS							
Parish Giving Scheme	33,462	0	33,462	28,545	0	28,545	
Other regular giving	31,288	0	31,288	32,590	0	32,590	
Tax recovered and recoverable	14,820	0	14,820	17,967	0	17,967	
Total	79,570	0	79,570	79,102	0	79,102	
2b OTHER DONATED RESOURCES							
Service cash collections	4,399	0	4,399	3,166	0	3,166	
Gift Day incl. tax recovered and recoverable	14,329	0	14,329	17,410	0	17,410	
Legacy and <i>gifts in memoriam</i>	2,000	0	2,000	500	0	500	
Occasional donations incl. Gift Aid/CAF	8,624	0	8,624	6,009	0	6,009	
EOT incl. Gift Aid	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Collections for charity	0	2,627	2,627	0	1,489	1,489	
Total	29,352	2,627	31,978	27,086	1,489	28,575	
2c MISSION ACTIVITIES							
Donations	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Magazine (subs & adv.)	0	0	0	449	0	449	
Other income incl. events	0	0	0	426	0	426	
Total	0	0	0	875	0	875	
2d ST JOHN'S CENTRE INCOME							
Letting income (prev. 2e)	5254	0	5254	2,539	0	2,539	
Church use of St John's Centre	0	0	0	264	0	264	
Other income (prev. 2e)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total	5254	0	5254	2,803	0	2,803	
2e OTHER CHURCH INCOMING RESOURCES							
PCC fees	2,437	0	2,437	813	0	813	
Service fees	3,023	0	3,023	940	0	940	
Letting income (church)	4,535	0	4,535	4,460	0	4,460	
Interest	1	0	1	50	0	50	
Fund raising events	8,043	0	8,043	930	0	930	
Choir Fund	0	481	481	0	101	101	
Sundry income	144	0	144	612	0	612	
Residentials	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Parish Share Rebate	0	0	0	0	0	0	
HMRC Furlough Scheme	0	0	0	5,892	0	5,892	
Total	18,182	481	18,662	19,923	3,476	23,229	

St John the Evangelist, Hills Road, Cambridge

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 31st December 2021

3 RESOURCES EXPENDED

	Unrestrict ed Fund	Restricted Fund	2021 Total	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	2020 Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
3a THE MINISTRY:						
Clergy expenses incl. Travel	1,122	0	1,122	934	0	934
Total	1,122	0	1,122	934	0	934

3b CHURCH BUILDINGS, SERVICES & GENERAL ADMINISTRATION:

Property charges (Church)

Gas (20%)	143	0	143	403	0	403
Electricity (20%)	184	0	184	206	0	206
Water (20%)	15	0	15	14	0	14
Insurance (50%)	1,909	0	1,909	1,849	0	1,849
Repairs & maintenance	10,333	0	10,333	4,772	0	4,772
Total	12,584	0	12,584	7,245	0	7,245

Property charges (St John's Centre)*

Gas (80%)	572	0	572	1,612	0	1,612
Electricity (80%)	736	0	736	826	0	826
Water (80%)	59	0	59	58	0	58
Insurance (50%)	1909	0	1909	1,849	0	1,849
Repairs and maintenance	1336	0	1336	473	0	473
Total	4611	0	4611	4,818	0	4,818

Salaries and fees (Church)

Salaries	7,980	0	7,980	10,527	0	10,527
Choir	288	0	288	267	0	267
Total	8,268	0	8,268	10,793	0	10,793

Salaries (St John's Centre)*

Salaries	3,008	0	3,008	5,257	0	5,257
Total	3,008	0	3,008	5,257	0	5,257

Service overheads

Service expenses and books (incl.new altar)	615	0	615	664	0	664
Youth work incl. Children's Church	0	0	0	507	0	507
Service fees	1,975	0	1,975	204	0	204
Organ & piano	375	0	375	260	0	260
Choir Fund	0	71	71	0	184	184
Total	2,965	71	2,965	1,635	184	1,635

Mission overheads

Youth work incl. Messy Church	126	0	126	141	0	141
Events	624	0	624	423	0	423
Other expenses incl. printing	935	0	935	419	0	419
Total	1,685	0	1,685	982	0	982

Other costs (Church)

Subscriptions & copyright licence	1,190	0	1,190	1,219	0	1,219
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St John the Evangelist, Hills Road, Cambridge							
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)							
For the year ended 31 st December 2021							
4 MISSIONS AND CHARITIES SPECIFIC COLLECTIONS							
	Unrestrict ed Fund	Restricted Fund	2021 Total	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	2020 Total	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Combat Stress	0	222	222	0	0	0	
Blinds Veterans UK (St Dunstan's)	0	75	75	0	0	0	
Wintercomfort	0	186	186	0	0	0	
The Children's Society	0	987	987	0	1,553	1,553	
Arocha	0	0	0	0	25	25	
Toilet Twinning	0	320	320	0	0	0	
Arthur Rank	0	65	65	0	0	0	
Lois Strangeways Funeral Collection	0	85	85	0	0	0	
Christian Aid	0	933	933	0	0	0	
Total	0	2,873	2,873	0	1,578	1,578	
5 OVERSEAS MISSION COMMITTEE							
					2021	2020	
Payments							
5c CMS: India					100	1,447	
5c Happiness Nursery School Uganda					1,205	2,225	
5c Keppleway Burundi					912	979	
5c: CMS: Middle East					600	0	
Total					2,817	4,651	

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 31st December 2021

4 MISSIONS AND CHARITIES SPECIFIC COLLECTIONS

		Unrestrict ed Fund	Restricted Fund	2021 Total	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	2020 Total
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Combat Stress		0	222	222	0	0	0
Blinds Veterans UK (St Dunstan's)		0	75	75	0	0	0
Wintercomfort		0	186	186	0	0	0
The Children's Society		0	987	987	0	1,553	1,553
Arocha		0	0	0	0	25	25
Toilet Twinning		0	320	320	0	0	0
Arthur Rank		0	65	65	0	0	0
Lois Strangeways Funeral Collection		0	85	85	0	0	0
Christian Aid		0	933	933	0	0	0
Total		0	2,873	2,873	0	1,578	1,578

5 OVERSEAS MISSION COMMITTEE

							2021	2020
Payments								
5c CMS: India							100	1,447
5c Happiness Nursery School Uganda							1,205	2,225
5c Kepplewray Burundi							912	979
5c: CMS: Middle East							600	0
Total							2,817	4,651

St John the Evangelist, Hills Road, Cambridge

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 31st December 2021

6 TRADFAR ST JOHN'S ACCOUNTS (UNRESTRICTED)

	2021	2021	2020	2020
	£	£	£	£
6a Income				
Sales		4,067		4,064
6b Cost of sales				
Opening stock at cost	400		503	
Purchases (net of donations)	3,733		3,351	
Total	4,133		3,854	
Less closing stock at cost	493		400	
		3,640		3,454
Gross Profit		427		610
Donations				
6b Summer & Xmas Fairs	90		0	
6b Gift Day	0		0	
6b Traidcraft projects	0		730	
		90		730
Retained Profit		337		-120
Balance brought forward		976		1,084
Balance carried forward		1,313		964
Represented by				
Stock in hand		493		400
CBS account		775		531
Cash in hand		45		45
Total		1,313		976

Donations in kind to St John's of tea, instant coffee and sugar for Sunday mornings and church events & and chocolate eggs for Easter Sunday.

Traidfair accounts prepared by Katie Knapton

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Accounts



Annual Parish Meeting To Elect Churchwardens and Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 30 May 2021
12.30pm following the 11am service

- 2021 Agendas and 2020 minutes for approval	<i>page</i>
- Annual Parish Meeting to elect Churchwardens including APM 2020 minutes for approval	2
- Annual Parochial Church Meeting including APCM 2020 Minutes for approval	4
- Priest in Charge Report	10
- Statutory Reports	15
- Annual Activity Reports	21
- Financial Statement (bound with printed copy, else supplied as separate PDF)	



Annual Parish Meeting To Elect Churchwardens

Sunday 30 May 2021
12.30pm following the I I am service

Agenda

Opening prayers

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Sunday 15 March 2020
3. Matters arising
4. Election of Churchwardens
5. Any other business



Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting to elect Churchwardens Sunday 15 March 2020

Present: Rev'd James Shakespeare (Chair)
Janet Tankard (PCC Secretary)
Peter Tavner (Churchwarden)
18 Parishioners

The meeting began at 11.42am with prayers from James.

1. **Apologies:** Katie Knapton, Amanda Taylor, Cherry Hopkins, Wendy and Andrew Bennett, Erica Taylor, Lyn Harrison, Matthew and Paula Wolff, Tricia James, Marie Burrows, Alistair and Denise Wilkinson, Trish Maude, Richard and Anne Lyon, Margaret Willis, Kate Dove.
2. **Minutes of the meeting held on Sunday 24 March 2019:** The minutes were approved by those present and signed by James.
3. **Matters arising:** James thanked the Churchwarden, Peter Tavner for all his work over the past year and also to Gail Kenney who stepped down mid-June after 2 ½ years of service. Much of what Churchwardens do goes unnoticed, particularly Peter's service to James and the Church as a whole.

James thanked the Duty Wardens: Cathy Davies, Michael Fincham, Cherry Hopkins, Tricia James, Gail Kenney, Julia Margretts, Hilary Pennington, Alex Riding, Peter Tavner, David Waterhouse and Denise Wilkinson.

4. **Election of Churchwarden:** Peter Tavner had agreed to stand for a third and final year and was duly thanked by James. There were no other nominations.

Nomination	Proposer	Seconder
Peter Tavner	Joseph Philip	Susan Philip

The vote was unanimous and Peter Tavner was duly elected to the post of Churchwarden. James congratulated Peter on his appointment.

It was also announced that Michael Fincham had agreed to become Deputy Warden. As it was not a legal position a vote did not need to take place but support was asked of those present for Michael to take up this role, and all agreed. There was real thanks expressed from James and the church for both Michael and Peter and all that they do.

5. **Any other business:** none.

The meeting closed with prayers at 11.49am.



Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 30 May 2021
12.30pm following the 11am service

Agenda

Opening prayers

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church meeting held on Sunday 15 March 2020
3. Matters arising
4. Priest in Charge's Report
5. Presentation of Other Reports
 - a. Electoral Roll Report
 - b. PCC Secretary's Report of PCC Meetings
 - c. Safeguarding Report
 - d. Treasurer's Report
 - Financial Statement and Annual Accounts 2020
 - e. Churchwarden's Report
 - f. South Cambridge Deanery Synod Report
 - g. Annual Activity Reports of the Parish
6. Elections
 - a. Election of PCC Members
 - b. Election of Deanery Synod Representatives
 - c. Sidespeople – for appointment by the PCC
 - d. Independent Examiner
7. Any other business

Closing Prayers



Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting Sunday 15 March 2020

Present: Rev'd James Shakespeare (Chair)
Janet Tankard (PCC Secretary)
Peter Tavner (Churchwarden)
18 Parishioners

The meeting began at 11.50am with prayers from James.

1. **Apologies:** Katie Knapton, Amanda Taylor, Cherry Hopkins, Wendy and Andrew Bennett, Erica Taylor, Lyn Harrison, Matthew and Paula Wolff, Tricia James, Marie Burrows, Alistair and Denise Wilkinson, Trish Maude, Richard and Anne Lyon, Margaret Willis, Kate Dove.
2. **Minutes of the meeting held on Sunday 24 March 2019:** The minutes were approved by those present and signed by James.
3. **Matters arising:** none
4. **Priest in Charge Report:** James read through his 2020 Priest in Charge Report on pages 17-18 of the APCM report. The full report is printed below:

“As I write this report I look back on a significant year of change and development at St John’s in 2019-2020, my third as Priest in Charge. From this vantage point I give thanks for all that has been, I acknowledge some difficult points in the change process, and I commit our future to God – seeking his mercy and guidance, as we seek (in 2020) to attend to ‘being, believing, belonging’. I also pray for unity, renewal, common purpose, and for the fruits of growth and new life. Isaiah says, ‘Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?’ (*Isaiah 43.19*) May we all have open eyes, to see what God is doing, and be generous, in living as one family, in order to play our part in God’s plans for the future of St John’s, building one other up in love.

Last year saw the conclusion of the first year in our ‘partnership for missional church’ development process, supported by the Diocese and the Church Mission Society. This was a dedicated process of ‘listening’, to our history, congregation and our local community, as we sought to understand ‘where we are now’ (as reported elsewhere). There will be many fruits of this process, as we stand back to ‘notice’ what God is doing and the story of our journey as a Parish Church. In 2021 St John’s will mark 125 years as a Parish Church (founded in 1896), and I hope that next year will be able to celebrate this significant anniversary of our local Christian witness in Hills Road and beyond.

A major part of the change process in 2019 was the completion of our ‘Enlarging our Tent’ building works, to create a new kitchen and toilets (including disabled toilet), to improved disabled access into St John’s, to re-develop our cloister garden, and refurbish the Wilkinson Room and re-decorate our lobby area. This was a complex and demanding process. But it was also a process rooted in a clear vision of accessibility, and blessed by the procurement of significant grants, generous contributions from our congregation, and supported by a generous legacy from long-time member of St John’s, Timothy Whitworth. I give thanks for all those who enabled the completion of EOT. I acknowledge the sensitivities of those for whom this was a difficult process. And I am thankful that we can now move on, inhabiting the gift of our new facilities, and continuing in mission.

Alongside the building process, I headed up an equally significant community engagement process, which led to the 'Official Opening' of our new St John's Centre on Saturday 28th September 2019, by the Mayor of Cambridge (herself in a wheelchair, Councillor Gerri Bird) and our Bishop, the Rt Rev Stephen Conway. This was a wonderful highlight of 2019, with displays in the Church by a wide range of community groups, performances by St John's Choir and Homerton Choir, as well as refreshments through the day, in the Wilkinson Room. We were blessed with good media coverage, in the Cambridge Independent, as well as the local Cambridge TV news, in which we were the top story!

Alongside seeking to advertise our facilities, and attract new users, a Community sub-group, has worked hard to develop new policies and procedures for the St John's Centre, in order to ensure that the place is maintained to the highest standard. Among other new activities and partnerships, one of our exciting new developments – growing out of the success of Companions – has been the new monthly Community Lunch, launched in December, and fast becoming, in early 2020, a significant local gathering, drawing many from beyond St John's, to make friends and enjoy fellowship.

Worship remains at the heart of our Christian life at St John's, and we have been blessed with an exciting year of worship, animated by our wonderful St John's Choir, as well as our Ministry Team and ordinands. This academic year we were joined by two new ordinands from Westcott House, Will Lyon Tupman and Sam Duckhouse, and Freya Bradley from Ridley Hall has continued with us (her husband, Josh Richards, was also accepted for ordination training, and is now also at Ridley).

We are much blessed by all that our ordinands, as well as our Ministry Team, give us in so many exciting and varied ways. Specific to the future development of our worship, we initiated a worship questionnaire and review, which was conducted successfully, and will lead to further enhancements in our worship, including the producing of new worship booklets during 2020. Training was also offered for intercessors, and in terms of enhancing our welcome as a parish church, not just by sides-persons, but by the whole congregation.

The Rev Chris Campbell was priested in a wonderful service at Ely Cathedral, on 29th June 2019, and held her first Eucharist as a priest the following day at St John's, 30th June, before a parish picnic in the Vicarage garden. It was a special occasion to give thanks for all Chris' ministry and to pray for her future work. I remain so thankful for the great many ways in which Chris contributes so creatively, generously and faithfully to our local mission and worship.

Alongside worship, lots of work has taken place, this past year, in offering high quality Children, youth and families ministry at St John's, for which we give heartfelt thanks, including: Children's Church, Toddle Along (which is drawing many new families), St John's Youth Group, Messy Church, and wider networking with local families. Chris Campbell has continued overseeing our whole ministry in this area, as well as developing a new vision - which was adopted by the PCC - and re-developing the Children's Area at St John's. In August 2019 a successful youth pilgrimage to the Horstead Centre in Norfolk was held, and enjoyed by everyone. Work with a wide range of local schools and sixth form colleges also continued, as well as our partnership with Homerton College, their weekly Choral Evensong in academic term.

Various courses and home groups met during 2019, and a wide range of pastoral care and support to individuals and families took place, through the care of the ministry team, clergy and especially our pastoral ALMs, for whom I give heartfelt thanks. During winter we also participated, for a third year, in the Cambridge Churches Homelessness Project, hosting a pop-up night shelter for five nights in December-January. In addition, in partnership with our locally linked parishes – St James' Wulfstan Way and St Andrew's Cherry Hinton – we successfully bid for funding from the Cinnamon Network, to facilitate a parenting course (in three venues) during 2020, starting on 24th February.

Otherwise, a series of fundraising events were held in 2019, partly to build up our social fellowship, but also to raise necessary funds, alongside a stewardship campaign in the autumn. In this context members of St John's were especially encouraged to sign up to the new Parish Giving Scheme, which

enables us to plan ahead, with greater confidence, for everyone's benefit. Financial giving remains a key challenge, in order to stabilise and develop our ministry into the future.

We reviewed our overseas mission links, settling on our three major parish links – with the Bethesda project with the disabled in Berundi, the St Peter's Happiness Nursery in Arua Uganda, and our CMS mission partners Kylie and Bhim in North India (working in the area of human trafficking). Toddle Along and Children's Church adopted our historic South Africa link, Christ the Saviour, Cape Town, for which dedicated fundraising will also be held. And the Mission Committee also made steps towards developing a new ecological framework at St John's.

Finally, in 2020 St John's 'partnership for missional church' is implementing a second year phase of 'mission experimentation', especially around working with local 'people of peace', to serve the common good, which ties in well with the further development of our St John's Centre, and the ongoing vision of 'enlarging our tent', as well as enhancing our fellowship, inclusion, welcome and hospitality as a Parish Church. We have noticed that our local context is increasingly diverse and we are typically welcoming students and visitors from all over the world, as well as a wider range of local residents.

Going back to where I started, I acknowledge that it has indeed been a very significant year of change and development, but I believe God is doing a new thing, and as we seek to deepen our spiritual roots in 'being, believing, belonging', as well as being an increasingly recognised training hub for ministry, I have confidence that God has much in store for us – proclaiming his love, serving our parish and building confident disciples of Jesus Christ – in this new decade.

Lastly, I give thanks to God for all who contribute, so generously and sacrificially, to our Parish life, including wardens, PCC members, project volunteers, ministry team, paid staff, and a host of dedicated volunteers and wonderful exemplars of loving human kindness. *Deo gratias.*"

- James asked if there were any comments or suggestions regarding the report and there were none.

5. Presentation of Reports

- Electoral Roll Report:** (Fiona Richards) James thanked Fiona as Electoral Roll Officer and as she was not present he briefly summarised the electoral roll report. There are 206 members on the Roll, which is the same as last year. James wished to remember those who had died: John Davidson, Sarah Tasker, Betty Thurley and Timothy Whitworth. There were no other comments.
- Report of PCC Meetings:** (Janet Tankard) Janet asked if there were any comments but there were none. Hilary Pennington thanked Janet on behalf of the church for taking on the role of PCC Secretary (having taken over the role from Catriona Ball last year).
- Safeguarding Report:** (Sarah Talmage) James thanked Sarah as Safeguarding Officer who had taken over from Suzanne Barton last year. As Sarah was not present, Chris, who works alongside Sarah and James with regard to safeguarding, gave a brief follow up to Sarah's report. It was reiterated how much work had gone into upgrading all the new Safeguarding policies to bring the Church up to date, particularly as requirements in this area had now moved on significantly.
- Churchwarden's Report:** (Peter Tavner) Peter had nothing to add to his report. The question was asked if 500K was the correct figure for the church roof. Peter explained that this was an estimate figure given by a former churchwarden and therefore we don't know the exact figure, but that it would be a big job. James thanked Peter for standing for a third and final year as Churchwarden. James thanked Michael Fincham for all his work as well.
- Treasurer's Report:** (Roger Lilley) Roger thanked Professor Martin Dove for taking on the role of Independent Examiner and noted that the 2019 Financial Statement had been signed off. Roger pointed out that the numbers in the report were bigger than normal

because of EOT and said he would be happy to answer any questions about this or people could arrange to see him another time. With regard to the current Covid-19 situation, Roger thought we should be alright as practically everyone now gives through the Parish Giving Scheme or Direct Debit. We will have to cancel fundraising due to Covid-19, but he requested that we have a resurgence of events after this. We are still running at a deficit and falling short of running costs and unless we overcome this it will make our church running costs and mission difficult. Roger gave a list of requests in his report which he wanted to emphasise. Although there were not many people in attendance at the meeting, Roger requested all those present to please pass on the list:

- i. Join the Parish Giving Scheme: please think about this, Roger said he would be happy to talk through this.
- ii. Please support our fundraising activities.
- iii. Talk about money. People do not understand how the C of E is funded and it was explained we pay for all and fund ourselves. Please talk to Roger.
- iv. Banks now charge for cash and cheque which wasn't the case a year ago. Please move to electronic payments.
- v. Legacy: this is a difficult subject but please think of this as it can form a significant part of our finance planning.

Rosemary Woodley asked if we would have to cancel room lettings because of covid-19; Roger didn't know as yet but lettings have increased since the EOT work had been done. Liz Tavner mentioned hearing how much the Baptist church members give and wondered if it would help if we gave out the figures of what some churches expect, or display what the average figures of giving are. James explained that non-conformist churches are different as they have a financial membership, which is different to C of E membership. It was noted that this was a good point to make and Liz was thanked for this. James said that it was very much in the mind of the PCC that they have to increase giving and fundraising. We do ask in a worship push each year and clearly we are all this together in our giving. Thanks were given to Joseph Philip in his role as Gift Aid Officer. James and the Church thanked Roger for all his work as Treasurer.

Joseph Saunders asked regarding the roof cost of 500K and whether we were planning for that in the future as he thought it a considerable problem given we will have to raise it. Roger explained that we can set aside monies if we have a surplus but unless we start generating this into a fund for a new roof, we can't address the serious long term cost. Hilary mentioned that as a hypothetical figure we would need to know the real figure going forward. Peter reiterated that the figure was given by a former churchwarden and there was no estimate as there had been no survey. We will need to spend money on a survey probably about £2-3,000, which would be a big undertaking. James said that we were taking this seriously both in terms of liability and fundraising. Peter noted that the roof has no leaks at the moment; the tiles are facing the sun on south facing roof and the lining underneath is difficult. James said this will be on the future agenda.

- f. **Deanery Synod Report** (Tricia James) Tricia had sent her apologies and James presented the report on her behalf and asked if there were any comments. There were none. It was noted that Tricia finishes as Deanery Synod Rep this year and was thanked for her three years of office. James also mentioned that he was now Deputy Rural Dean in the event that the Rural Dean becomes ill with coronavirus. He also reminded those present that Roger Lilley was also Deanery Treasurer for which he was thanked.

g. **Annual Activity Reports**

Thanks were given to Elizabeth Trenchard, Director of Music, and no further comments were made regarding the report. Chris was asked if she wanted to speak about her reports but said she had nothing extra to add and requested that all just read the reports. James said that he was very grateful to all leaders and groups, and that there were so many activities going on with too many to mention for which the church was extremely grateful. Rosemary asked what Moveable Feasts was and James explained it was a study group that

met on a Monday evening. There were no other questions or comments and James said the APCM reports were on the church website.

6. Elections

- a. **PCC Members:** James thanked the whole PCC for the past year, particularly those who were standing down this year: Matthew Wolff, Hilary Pennington, Kate Dove, Don Simpson and Joseph Saunders who was co-opted during EOT. Joseph was thanked for all his hard work and for the success of EOT. On thanking those that were stepping down, James said all were welcome to come back in the future. He also thanked Tricia James who finishes as Deanery Synod Rep this year.

Four nominations had been received in advance of the meeting and no further nominations were received:

Nomination	Proposer	Seconder
Lucy Holden	Don Simpson	Tricia James
Richard Eccles	Michael Fincham	Liz Tavner
Elizabeth Radice	Hilary Pennington	Rosemary Woodley
Sian Binley	Sarah Philip	Joseph Saunders

James asked for votes in favour of the nominees to be elected – there was a unanimous vote in favour of each nominee in turn and all were duly elected. Thanks were given to the new PCC members for standing.

- b. **Deanery Synod Representative.** James asked if there was anyone who would like to take up this role but there were no nominees. James said he would bring it up at the next PCC meeting.
- c. **Sidespersons:** James thanked all those who currently serve as sidespersons: Caroline Broomfield, Pat Chapman, Kate Dove, June Huntsman, Olive Langley, K C Lin, Joseph Philip, Susan Philip, Sarah Seed, Don Simpson, Janet Tankard, Liz Tavner and Rosemary Woodley. James reported that due to a change of procedure sidespersons are no longer appointed at the APCM, but appointed by the PCC. No new sidespersons put themselves forward for appointment by the PCC.
- d. **Independent Examiner:** Thanks were given to Professor Martin Dove for taking on this role, he was happy to continue and those present expressed agreement with this.

7. Any Other Business

It was noted that due to an error the date of 10 June 2020 was missing off the list of PCC meetings on the back of the APCM report. All new PCC members were asked to take note.



Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 30 May 2021

Priest-in-Charge's Report 2020–2021

Rev'd James Shakespeare

Priest in Charge's Report on 2020-2021

1. REV JAMES SHAKESPEARE BECOMING VICAR

On 25th September 2020, the Diocese of Ely confirmed that the 'Suspension of Presentation' to the Benefice of St John the Evangelist, Cherry Hinton – our legal name – was terminated, that therefore I, the present Priest in Charge, would be collated and inducted as Vicar of the Parish. Originally this was scheduled to take place on 22nd November 2020. This was later cancelled, due to the second Covid-19 lock-down. Subsequently it was rearranged, and I will officially be made Vicar on 23rd May 2021, almost four years since my original licensing as Priest in Charge, on 12th June 2017. Whilst in some ways a formality, I hope that this special service, with Bishop Stephen and the Archdeacon present, will be opportunity to renew and celebrate the life and ministry of St John's, after a year of significant challenge and change.

2. INTRODUCTION: MINISTRY AT A TIME OF PANDEMIC

If anyone had told me, a year ago, as I wrote last year's Annual Report, the extent to which our Parish life, worship and mission would be upended by the global pandemic, I would have scarcely believed it possible. Already in February 2020 we could see the impact of Covid-19 in China, and starting to affect other countries worldwide, including Italy, but none of us knew what was coming. As it happens our last APCM, in 2020, was held on 15th March, the final worshipping Sunday before the first major national lock-down. It is impossible to over-state the impact of what has transpired in this past 15 months, as we anticipate this year's APCM, on 30th May 2021.

The first thing to say is that our priority throughout, as a local Christian community, has been a loving, prayerful and pastorally intelligent response, to the suffering and dislocation of Covid-19. We are part of a wider humanity, locally, nationally and globally, and share concern for all who have suffered; but locally, in Cambridge, the impact was serious too – whether in terms of sickness and death, mental health, the strain on families, education, work patterns, and normal community life.

Early on, in partnership with other church & voluntary sector partners, we sent out a letter to every local resident in Queen Edith's Ward, encouraging local street-level mutual aid, as well as offering our support as church and community leaders. This was picked up by the local media, and was part of a varied local community response across Cambridge. Within a short time however, we joined a collaborative effort, with the Queen Edith's Forum, to set up a more co-ordinated community response, which became known as the 'Happy to Help Scheme'. So whereas initially I had found myself literally responding to multiple calls from the public, to assist with food or medicine deliveries, during lockdown, a dedicated volunteer scheme rapidly kicked in. No doubt this has aided multiple individuals, over the past year, helping people to access essential supplies.

The next phase in our community response, as Churches, working with the Queen Edith's Forum, was in the setting up a local Food Hub, at St James' Wulfstan Way. I found myself on the steering group of this important initiative, which again led to a remarkable inter-agency, community and volunteer effort, enabling meals to be provided to dozens of people each week in food poverty. Whereas many people who were furloughed to lost jobs were able to access Government support, others were not so fortunate, and the pandemic has seen a huge rise in food poverty nationally.

In terms of pastoral care at St John's specifically, early on we decided to set up a telephone links scheme, operating as a pyramid, so that a range of ministry team and church volunteers would regularly phone key members of our congregation, who in turn who phone others, to keep in touch and ensure that everyone was OK, or provided with support, if this were needed. It is remarkably easy to become isolated, at an extended time of lockdown.

Bearing in mind the dedicated professional work of members of our St John's congregation, as doctors, scientists, nurses, carers and teachers, the next aspect of our pastoral response to the pandemic involved a decision to offer myself as part of the Chaplaincy Team at Addenbrooke's Hospital – which is, after all, in our Parish. It felt the right thing to do, in terms of my pastoral

training, to offer to support the NHS, at a time of acute pressure. Not least with experience of working at the Leicester Royal Infirmary in 2010. I was enabled to minister to a number of local parishioners, whom I would not have had the opportunity to visit otherwise, a wide range of patients, as well as supporting exhausted NHS staff. I also conducted several emergency bedside weddings. Joining the Chaplaincy team has been one of the most rewarding aspects of my ministry, and I'm delighted to be continuing, albeit on a less frequent basis as we come out of lockdown.

3. ST JOHN'S: CHURCH ONLINE & GATHERED WORSHIP

During the pandemic, which has involved three lock-downs – meaning that for nearly 7 months out of 12 worship services have been suspended (almost 60% of the year) – we formed a Covid-safety planning group, acting on behalf of the PCC. Consisting of myself, Rev Chris Campbell, the wardens (Dr Peter Tavner and Michael Fincham), and treasurer (Roger Lilley), we met regularly to consider what forms of ministry were possible, including the phased and safe re-opening of St John's Church, when legislation permitted it.

At times the flurry of Government announcements seemed almost over-whelming, as well as the Church of England and Ely Diocese interpretation of what was safely permitted, within strict Covid guidelines. So as well as discerning our balance of worship and other Parish activity, we entered a world of more regular Risk Assessments, social distancing, 'Test and Trace', the obligatory mask wearing, and the prohibition of congregational singing.

For some the joy of returning to gathered worship, from July-October 2020, outweighed the frustration of sitting apart, with less congregational participation, and limited congregations. Others preferred to remain online, with our excellent pre-recorded services, as well as a significant number of services and Home Groups meeting on 'Zoom'. Attempts were also made to support those unable to access technology, either by raising funds to buy equipment, or delivering material to their homes, as well as signing up to various telephone schemes, such as 'Dial a Sermon'. Overall we have discovered the importance of maintaining an online presence, many new people having joined St John's during the pandemic, and Zoom having provided a vital link to many. And once we moved back into Church, with a new pattern of morning worship (two morning services, 9.30am All Age and I Am), we endeavoured to continue a weekly online act of Sunday worship via live-stream.

It is impossible to do justice to the hard work of those responsible for preparing our worship, during the pandemic – St John's Church Online **and** gathered services – and I am especially grateful to the Rev Chris Campbell, Henry Wolff and Dan Talmage, for their video editing skills; to Iain Campbell for his generous work in live-streaming our services; and to Elizabeth Trenchard, our Director of Music, for her oversight of music. I would also like to acknowledge the vital contribution of our St John's Ministry Team and Ordinands, as well as the wide range of members of our congregation who have contributed to online series. There really has been a wealth of talent. Such creativity and vision has sustained and strengthened our Christian faith and witness, during a traumatic year for everyone.

4. ST JOHN'S MINISTRY TEAM AND STAFFING: CHANGES

2020-2021 saw some significant changes to our Ministry Team and Staffing, the latter sadly impacted by the pandemic itself. To start with staffing, therefore, it was with great sadness – as well as gratitude for services offered, over 18 years – that the PCC made a reluctant decision, in November 2020, to explore the route of making the Parish Administrator post redundant. This was due to a number of factors, principally the drastic reduction of income, during the pandemic, as a result of the Church and Centre's closure, physically. For some months the Administrator had been placed on the Furlough scheme, but a decision was made that we did not anticipate having the resources to continue with this post, unless our share of ministry was to be reduced from a full-time priest. The PCC argued that, for the foreseeable future, Parish admin would need to be covered by volunteers. Mrs Lyn Harrison has made a very significant contribution to St John's Church over many years, since her appointment began in April 2002. It therefore followed, after due consultation, that Mrs Harrison completed her duties prior to Christmas 2020. A special presentation was made to Lyn, on 17th January 2021, to thank her for all she has done, over many years, to further the ministry of St John's Church. Lyn Harrison continues as a member of St John's congregation.

Another staffing change, in 2020, not specifically related to the pandemic, was the retirement of our Caretaker, Mr David Biggs, after more than 25 years in post. David began his duties in March 1995, and over these years has also made a substantial contribution to the smooth running of St John's, and especially our Community Rooms, in his wide-ranging caretaking duties. David's service to our community and many user groups, cannot be under-estimated. David completed his duties in September, and he and his family will remain important members of our local parish community.

Otherwise our St John's Ministry Team saw some changes in 2020, in terms of personnel. We welcomed two new members, Sian Binley, who successfully trained as an Authorised Lay Minister, with a focus on pioneer ministry. In addition, we were joined by Jane Gardiner, who recently joined St John's from another Church, and has been recommended for Licensed Lay Ministry training. We are delighted to have Sian and Jane in our Team. Also, during 2020, Mrs June Huntsman, who has had a very significant pastoral ministry at St John's over many years – including the oversight of lay visiting, and setting up Companions – retired from her leadership role. We are grateful to June for all that she has achieved, over many years.

In addition, we were joined by two new ordinands, in October 2020, Tom Owen, in his final year at Ridley Hall, and Louise Bryson, in her first year at Westcott House. Alongside of them we were pleased to have Will Lyon Tupman and Sam Duckhouse both continuing as Westcott ordinands.

In terms of clergy changes, we were delighted, in July 2020, to be joined by a new self-supporting Assistant Curate, the Rev Dr Muthuraj Swamy, the Director of the Cambridge Centre for Christianity Worldwide. Muthuraj was ordained deacon, and joins us with his family, Mahiba, Mano and Mona. And we were pleased to announce the appointment of a further new self-supporting Curate, Mrs Ceri Payne, presently at Ridley Hall, who will be ordained, and join as a new deacon, in July 2021. Furthermore, another member of our Ministry Team, Mr Andrew Hurst, who had been training with the Eastern Regional Ministry Course, was ordained deacon, in July 2020, and has joined the Ministry Team in the Parishes of Newnham and Grantchester.

5. OTHER ASPECTS OF MISSION

Under the leadership of Canon Kate Aylmer we continued our participation, as a Parish, in the next phase of the 'Partnership for Missional Church' project. Acknowledging all the restrictions of the pandemic, it was good to have spaces for structured reflection on 'what has God been up to, during this pandemic?' Surprisingly this discernment and reflection process helped us to notice a great many things that the Holy Spirit has been doing, over this challenging year. In addition, whilst being restricted in our face-to-face meetings, we noticed how our Parish, with our partners at St James' Wulfstan Way and St Andrew's Cherry Hinton (the 'Three Saints Partnership'), discovered lots of new external partnerships with 'people of peace', as we each sought to serve the wider community in various ways. We are in the process of discerning the way forward into this final formal year of the P.M.C. project. I am so grateful to Kate for her leadership.

Another initiative, which was set in motion in 2019 via our 'Three Saints Partnership', is the 'Kids Matter' parenting project, of which I chair the Management Team. Originally we had planned, during 2020, to roll-out three parenting courses, one in each parish. The pandemic prevented that, although an online course took place at St James' Wulfstan Way, and plans are afoot to roll out the second phase of the course in Cherry Hinton, in summer 2021, and hopefully the third phase at St John's, in autumn 2021. It is great to see a range of families being supported through this project.

Closer to home, in 2020 St John's began its significant journey towards becoming an eco church, under the A Rocha accreditation scheme. Having already decided, in 2019, under the auspices of the St John's Mission Group, to embark on this vital project, in the past 12 months St John's begun to draw together an eco church team, to further the various strands of environmental engagement, under the leadership of Mr Roger Lilley. There is also a synergy with an emerging key theme of 'Partnership for Missional Church', as well as it being a timely recognition of the moral imperative of environmental stewardship, and a tool for enhancing local community engagement. It will be fascinating to see how this project develops, as we develop our green spaces, promotion of

sustainable lifestyles, global engagement – in the run up to COP26 in Glasgow, in November 2021 – enhance our worship and teaching, music, and stewardship of our buildings.

6. OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES

Finally, I would like to acknowledge one or two other aspects of my ministry, beyond St John's; ways in which I can contribute – on behalf of our Parish – to the wider Church. During 2020 I have been assisting as Deputy Rural Dean, including helping to support fellow clergy during the pandemic. I also continue as an Assistant Director of Ordinands, which ties in well with our role at St John's as a ministry training hub, working with curates and ordinands, and in developing vocations. Finally, I am a spiritual director, and chair a working group looking at the development of spirituality and prayer across the Diocese of Ely.

7. CONCLUSION

It has been a strange year, with lots of struggle and suffering for many, a radical dislocation of our ordinary patterns of Parish life and ministry, but also a discovering of some of the remarkable new ways that God is at work amongst us, and that Jesus Christ remains active in our midst. Inevitably our children's work, and our work with local schools and colleges was substantially curtailed, and many projects begun in 2019 – such as our Community lunch club, and St John's Centre community strategy – were put on hold. We hope to return to them, in the near future, and especially to reinvigorate our work with children, young people and families (although this did continue, in various subtle ways, during the pandemic). Nonetheless, despite a difficult year, I remain full of hope in all the possibilities of renewal, community building, and transforming mission, as we grow in faith and hope and love, into the year that lies ahead of us. **'The One who calls you is faithful and will do these things.'** (1 Thessalonians 5.24)

May I, finally, offer profound thanks to my colleagues, including Rev Chris Campbell, for her incredible ministry, creativity and support to me, Dr Muthuraj Swamy, for his profound theological vision, as well as to Dr Peter Tavner, loyal Churchwarden, Michael Fincham, dedicated Deputy Churchwarden, Mrs Elizabeth Trenchard, Director of Music, Mr Roger Lilley, Treasurer and Deputy Musical Director, Mrs Janet Tankard, our PCC Secretary, and to our wonderfully dedicated Ministry Team, and indeed to all our volunteers and dedicated Church members, as well as former staff, Lyn and David. Thank you all.

The Revd James Shakespeare MA, MTheol, DipTh, CTM



Statutory Reports

2020 – 2021

1. Electoral Roll Report
2. PCC Secretary's Report of Meetings
3. Safeguarding Report
4. Treasurer's Report
Financial Statement and Annual Accounts 2020
5. Churchwarden's Report
6. South Cambridge Deanery Synod Report

Electoral Roll Report 2020-21

There are 208 members listed on the Electoral Roll. Of these approximately 60% live within the parish.

Over the last 12 months, five names have been added to the Roll and six have been removed. Four people have moved or worship elsewhere and two have died (Margaret Owen and Mary Pigott).

I should like to pay tribute to my predecessor Fiona Richards, whose meticulous record-keeping has made it easy for me to step into her shoes.

*Cherry Hopkins
Electoral Roll Officer
7 May 2021*

PCC Secretary's Report of PCC meetings March 2020 – May 2021

PCC's members are clergy, churchwardens and others elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) of the parish. Its powers and duties can be found in the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956, under which the principal function of the PCC is "promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical." St John's PCC is a charity registered with the Charity Commission, its members being trustees.

St John's PCC 15 March 2020 – 30 May 2021

Rev'd James Shakespeare*	Priest-in-Charge and Chair
Rev'd Christine Campbell	Curate
Rev'd Peter Heslam	Honorary Clergy
Peter Tavner*	Churchwarden (ex-officio)
Roger Lilley*	Treasurer (co-opted)
Elizabeth Trenchard	Organist and Director of Music (co-opted)
Vacancies 3	Deanery Synod Representative
Janet Tankard*	PCC Secretary
	Elected 2019, stand down 2022
Sarah Seed	Elected 2019, stand down 2022
Joseph Philip	Elected 2019, stand down 2022
Lucy Holden	Elected 2020, stand down 2023
Richard Eccles	Elected 2020, stand down 2023
Liz Radice	Elected 2020, stand down 2023
Sian Binley	Elected 2020, stand down 2023

In accordance with Church Representation Rules 2020, some members of the PCC* are appointed to a Standing Committee and may transact the PCC's business between meetings.

This year our thanks go to Tricia James who completed her term as Deanery Synod Representative in September 2020; with thanks also to Peter Magill and Amanda Taylor who both stepped down as PCC members in 2020. Special thanks are given to Peter Tavner who finishes in his role of Churchwarden, having completed his third year of service. St John's is extremely grateful to all those who put themselves forward to serve on the PCC.

Due to the pandemic all meetings this year were held on zoom. One informal catch up meeting took place in March 2020 just after the first lockdown, followed by 7 scheduled meetings.

PCC meetings begin with 'Dwelling in the Word', and items such as Treasurer and Churchwarden reports, Safeguarding, and Health and Safety are always on the agenda. There are also reports from various sub-committees and special interest areas which this year included Ministry Team, Music and

Worship, Children and Families, Mission Committee, Partnership for Missional Church, Deanery and Diocesan Synod, with Eco Church as a new addition. Discussions this year mainly focussed on how to be church during the pandemic but also other specific items. Subjects discussed included:

- Church closure in March 2020 during the initial lockdown: thereafter PCC matters focussed on supporting the Clergy, Churchwardens and the many other church members involved in distanced church, worship and pastoral plans both online and phone, as well as support for church and local community help initiatives.
- Re-opening of church with detail delegated to the re-opening working group with special regard to health and safety. Support of ongoing planning due to further lockdowns/re-opening, with a mixed economy of socially distanced worship and online worship. Services, with input from the congregation were pre-recorded to YouTube with other events via zoom during lockdown, and services livestreamed when church re-opened. The PCC acknowledged, with thanks, all involved including the work of the dedicated technical team.
- Finance, with particular regard to loss of income from rental and fundraising opportunities, the deficit and how to address this. Decisions on staffing were made. Full details are included in the Treasurer's report and accompanying accounts.
- PCC approval of the lifting of suspension of presentation to the benefice. James Shakespeare will formally become Vicar on 23 May 2021, following earlier postponement due to lockdown.
- Appraisal of the re-opening of church and post covid strategy, looking forward to the eventual safe re-opening of St John's Centre, and gradual return of church and community use to our facilities.
- The overall need to look at church growth, membership, stewardship and fundraising.
- Safeguarding: PCC approval of the St John's safeguarding action plan, and individual safeguarding policies. The completion of safeguarding courses for PCC members. The annual safeguarding report has been written by our Safeguarding Officer.
- PCC approval of the annual parochial church fees and new St John's Centre hire fees.
- Approval for essential electrical works to be carried out.
- Support for St John's new eco church initiative with A Rocha UK.

Once approved, minutes from PCC meetings are available for parishioners to read, copies of which are kept on file for reference in the Parish Office and with the PCC Secretary. Meeting dates are listed in the minutes and displayed on the parish noticeboard. In addition to the overview on the proceedings of PCC meetings, the annual report contains further detailed statutory reports and accounts, a review of the year in the Priest-in-Charge report as well as individual reports on the activities of the parish generally.

We are currently entitled to 12 elected members on the PCC and have 5 vacancies; we also have vacancies for 3 Deanery Synod Representatives. Please contact Revd James Shakespeare or Janet Tankard, PCC Secretary, if you would be interested in any of these roles. The PCC would welcome new members to help us in our decision making as we look forward to an exciting period of development for St John's post pandemic.

*Janet Tankard, PCC Secretary
April 2021*

Safeguarding Report

Safeguarding continues to be a priority at St John's and work on fulfilling diocesan requirements has continued throughout lockdown.

In November, with the agreement of the PCC, we opted into the Parish Dashboard scheme, which is an enormously useful tool in monitoring our compliance with safeguarding requirements and generating action plans for future implementation. In January we were promoted to Level 2 in recognition of our hard work in this area. Volunteers (including children's leaders, choir leaders, PCC, church wardens and lay ministers) all have up-to-date DBS checks and most of the essential safeguarding training has been carried out. We are enormously grateful to everyone for their recognition of the importance of this subject and the time they have taken with on-line and Zoom training.

At the PCC meeting on 21st April 2021, two policies were approved:

- Safeguarding
- Recruitment of Ex-Offenders

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

Anyone with a concern about safeguarding in St John's should contact Rev. James Shakespeare (jshakespeare@btinternet.com), Chris Campbell (chris@revcc.uk) or Sarah Talmage (s.e.ward.95@cantab.net). All concerns will be taken seriously and, if necessary, will be passed to the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor. If you're not sure, it's always better to say something.

Sarah Talmage
Parish Safeguarding Officer, 2021

Treasurer's Report Financial Statement and Annual Accounts 2020 (attached)

2020 has been a challenging year for the finances of St John's. Were it not for the committed regular giving of the congregation topped up by the generosity of HMRC we would have ended the year in a far worse position. The lack of opportunities for major fundraising events, absence of income from our community rooms and occasional giving at services, impacted significantly on our cash flow. By the end of the year we were looking over a financial precipice and urgent decisions were needed.

Our major outlay is our annual contribution to diocesan ministry costs of £74k. We met those in 2020 but for 2021 we have had to significantly curtail our regular contributions until normal life can resume. We have had to examine every way we can to reduce our running costs and as a result we have reduced our paid staff and looked at numerous others ways to make savings.

Whilst, as I write this in mid April, normality appears to be returning to society at large, St John's can only look forward to resuming normal service to the community once our long term finances are secure. The assets we had at the end of 2020, £35k, are totally inadequate for a church such as ours to be able to plan for a few months of financial disruption, let alone the possibility of a need for significant repairs, maintenance or building works. Keeping an adequate bank balance at the expense of our proper contribution to diocesan expenditure is also not viable, as it would inevitably mean the subsidy of our activities by neighbouring parishes.

By the time you read this, I hope the situation will have improved. By the end of the year, there will be an urgent need for the kind of activities we have all missed for so long, social activities that we will all welcome, but will also bring sorely needed income. This will be vital if we are to going to be able to look forward to a future in which St John's plays the part it should in our local community.

I thank everyone who has contributed to the smooth running of the finances at St John's: Joseph, our Gift Aid secretary, the church wardens, those who staff the office, those who count collections, our Independent Examiner, and all those who have made sacrifices during this emergency to help things at St John's run just that little bit more smoothly. As always, if you would like advice or information on how you can support St John's financially, please do speak with me in confidence.

Roger Lilley - Treasurer - April 2021

Churchwarden Report

Following completion of the St John's Centre EOT Works warranty period work, the following has been done:

- i. Building works documentation stored in marked folders in the Parish Office;
- ii. New keys for the St Johns Centre issued to individuals against a register, including a set for Daniel Trocme-Latter of Homerton for organ-practice access. Some keys have been returned, notably from David Biggs, Lyn Harrison, Gail Kenney and Petra Shakeshaft. No Key Audit for Church and St John's Centre has been conducted in 2019-2020, for COVID reasons, but is recommended for 2021-2022;
- iii. We experienced some difficulties with the ADT Alarm. Michael kindly arranged the transfer of the contract to a local firm, Briar, cheaper than ADT & more attentive. They fixed the post-EOT issues, however, we still have some intermittent alarms, which will be resolved by Briar as we progress through the year;
- iv. The foyer defibrillator beeps at intervals, indicating a slightly depleted battery, replacement is not yet necessary, as the defibrillator remains operational, but replacement will eventually be necessary.

No practice Church fire evacuations have been conducted in 2021, for COVID reasons, but Camfire has successfully conducted our annual inspection & check of fire safety equipment and notices. AK Marshall has also successfully completed our statutory annual gas inspections of boiler systems in the Choir Vestry Kitchen, Main Boiler Room, Wilkinson Room, EOT Kitchen and Upstairs Kitchen.

The following safety checks have been deferred for COVID or Church's financial position reasons:

- i. In 2018 we had an electrical inspection by Thompsons of the whole Church & St Johns Centre. They provided an NICEIC report, highlighting a number of issues that needed correction, at a cost of c£12k, none of the highest risk category. It was agreed by the PCC to defer the work until we were in stronger financial state. We had preliminary work done satisfactorily by DS Electrical, and they have now quoted to resolve the NICEIC report issues at lower cost of £2k, this is planned for May;
- ii. Electrical appliance checks were deferred for 2 years. As we start to open after the pandemic, I recommend these should be done and we have agreed they could be done by a firm of professional testers, Thompsons or DS Electrical, costing approximately £500;
- iii. Lightning conductor earth tests were deferred. Again, these should be done as we move out of the pandemic;

The APCM is reminded of the following outstanding issues from the late 2018 Quinquennial Inspection, recommended by the Diocesan architect. Some effective remedial work was done immediately after the Inspection, cutting back shrubs against S wall, clearing and protecting guttering, but 1 item, below, was set aside because of the Church's financial position:

- i. Repair South Facing leaves of Church roof. This had been investigated by previous Churchwardens. It could involve a considerable amount of work, possibly a drone survey, substantial scaffolding, removal of tiles, relining beneath tiles and relaying or replacement of many tiles. So costs could be high. The current Church Warden and Deputy Church Warden can confirm that we have experienced no leaks in that area since the inspection. However, the issue will require attention by the time of the next Quinquennial in 2023. Note some small

leakage has occurred in the Vicar's Vestry, not raised by the Quinquennial Report, but repaired by Michael and Peter during the year, using waterproof compound on the roof. We retain a tin of the compound for reapplication if needed.

Finally can I express thanks to James, Chris, Joseph & Michael for their help.

P J Tavner, Churchwarden, 16th April 2021

South Cambridge Deanery Report

2020 brought significant disruption to the working of the Deanery. Meetings in March were cancelled and the Deanery Synod only finally met in December. In brief:

The Deanery met its allocation of Ministry Costs for 2020 though this did require some outlay from Deanery funds. Whilst the financial impact on the Deanery and the Diocese has been less than might have been anticipated, the real long term effect has still to be assessed, both in the deanery and beyond.

The Cambridge Churches Homeless project has been affected by Government intervention during the pandemic. The Deanery still has a financial commitment to support the work of the project, but the actual shape and function of the project has changed and we need to see what its future requirements will be.

The Deanery is now providing financial services for the Ministry Experience Scheme.

The Deanery Plan was agreed not to require amendments.

Lay members were elected.

There was an interesting discussion about the A Rocha Eco-Church scheme which would result in more communication in 2021.

In March 2021 it was announced that Fr Robert Mackley was to step down from the position of Rural Dean at the end of his customary term of office, 31.3.2021. the new Rural Dean was still to be announced.

Roger Lilley - Deanery Treasurer - April 2021



Activity Reports

2020 – 2021

1. Children, Youth and Families at St John's
2. Choir
3. Curate's Report
4. Deputy Churchwarden
5. Glebe House Group
6. Healing Prayer Group
7. Homerton College Choir and Homerton Singers
8. Mission Committee
9. Moveable Feasts
10. Parish Voice
11. Partnership for Missional Church
12. Part-time NSM Curate
13. Sacristans' Rota
14. St John's Knitting Group
15. The Gardens at St John's
16. Traidfair St John's
17. Tuesday Bible Study Group

Children, Youth and Families' Ministry at St John's

Developing our welcome of and ministry with children, young people and their families is at the heart of our mission and ministry at St John's. We believe that children and young people are as fully a part of the church today as the adults are; equal and valued. We want to grow as Christian disciples with them, learn from their experiences of God and minister together. At St John's we have much to celebrate and our worshipping community (those who are regular or semi-regular attendees of church) includes over 50 children and young people. Many of these attend on a Sunday morning, often taking part in Children's Church or Choir, but others belong to Youth Group, Messy Church and Toddle Along; each of which is church to those who attend.

As can be imagined, the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted all of our ministry with children, young people and their families, and though there has been much this year to celebrate, we also know that there are many things that we had planned, that weren't able to take place.

One of the saddest moments of 2020 for the team, was packing away our newly created children's area in church. Early in 2020, we celebrated that we had funding (from the Church Schools of Cambridge Trust, matched by our own PCC) to create a new children's area in the church. This space was particularly designed to enhance the spirituality of the youngest members of our congregation. As well as new resources to aid this (include a soft-play church, play materials relating to church, a wooden finger labyrinth and new books), the area was also moved from the back, into the body of the church – thus enabling the young people and their families to feel a greater connection with the service. The children's team joyfully put this area together during February half term, and it was blessed during the following service. But only a month later, we had to pack it away – knowing that covid- restrictions meant that shared resources such as these couldn't be used.

Being part of the family of God, is an amazing journey, which starts from birth and continues the rest of our lives. At St John's, our Children, Youth and Families team look to support those on every step of that journey, and different members of the team are involved in different aspects of that ministry. Chris Campbell oversees the team, which in 2020 included Sian Binley, Mel Boyle, Lyn Harrison, Jo Hart (as a parent rep), Lucy Holden, K C Lin, Sarah Philip, Anne Rigby, Sarah Talmage and Elizabeth Trenchard (representing the choir).

During the pandemic, the team have continued to meet together regularly on zoom – both to think about practical ways we can adapt our ministry, but also to support each other and to reflect on what God has been doing in the lives of children, young people and their families during this time.

Toddle Along

Toddle Along is our weekly group for the Under 5s, along with their parents/ carers. For many, Toddle Along is the first experience a baby, toddler and their parents have of St John's and it includes free play, a short gathering (with songs, a bible story and a time of thankfulness), a sit down snack, more free play and then another song time at the end. 2020 started well, and Toddle Along was really flourishing; with lots of regular families and a steady trickle of new attendees.

However, due to the pandemic, we have now had a full year of not being able to meet physically. During the first lockdown, we sent out regular messages of support and in May and June, Anne recorded two messages which went out on our Church website and were well received. In September we decided to take activity bags to the families for their toddlers. The first bags were to celebrate Harvest. They contained a book with a Bible story for very young children, a variety of crafts from Monica (our craft lady) and a sweet treat! These were very well received and in 2020, we then continued the idea for other celebrations including Remembrance Day and Christmas.

The bags have continued to be received with much enthusiasm and the feedback from the families has been really good with a number sending us pictures of the completed crafts. Each month we are giving out around 15 packs to local families.

Although 2021 has started with us continuing to send out 'toddle along at home' packs, we are hoping to plan a short outdoor meeting after Easter.

Messy Church

Messy Church Messy is a worldwide form of church, which involves creativity, celebration and hospitality and it continues to be the way that many local families engage with St John's. Pre-pandemic, we aimed to run Messy church bi-monthly, and it was usually attended by 20-25 children, many of whom don't otherwise attend St John's.

However, Messy Church had to be done very differently for most of this past year. We had our last 'normal' Messy Church on Saturday 8th Feb; which included scientists and engineers in the congregation sharing their skills and knowledge with the younger generation, after which we all celebrated God's wonderful creation. But after that everything had to change.

During the first period of full lockdown, we did trial one 'online' Messy church (with suggestions of activities, and a video service) – however this was not very well used, considering all the effort. As we began to emerge from lockdown, we returned to a gathered model. To comply with covid-safety, we had to move from an 'open-door' policy to a booking system for a maximum of 12 families. Our first Messy Church like this was at Harvest and was a great success. We had a full house with 12 families and the feedback was very positive and it was enjoyed by all. The Christmas Messy Church was again fully booked, and again the feedback was very positive. We had hoped that we might have been able to hold these events outdoors, but in the end the weather didn't make it possible. Instead, each family was well spaced out in the church, with their own little zone. They each were given a tray of activities (instead of going round the church to do them) and we started and finished the one hour session, with stories and prayers from the front. Although COVID-regulations meant we couldn't have our usual 'Messy Tea', Anne made sure that each family had some edible goodies to take home!

Messy Church still continues to be a great outreach event but also a great community event for the families of our church. We look forward to being able to offer an open door policy soon but in the meantime the booking system seems to be working really well.

During the year, Sian has become part of the Messy Church leadership team, and she took on responsibility for the Christmas event. Although Messy Church in this format requires less personnel, we are really grateful to members of the children's team for helping out, and ensuring it could happen safely.

Children's Church, All Age Services and Sunday provision for children and young people

Like everything else, there have been many changes to children's church over the past year.

We started 2020 with our usual Epiphany Party, which was a joint event with all the children's church groups. For the next 2.5 months, we ran two children's church groups; Waterfalls for the older children (ages 10+) and a joint Raindrops and Fountain group for the under 10s. However, sadly from mid-March, children's church has been unable to run in its usual format.

For the Waterfalls group, we were pleased to see several of the children joining the Youth Group Zoom meetings, along with some new faces.

For the raindrops and Fountains groups, the children's church team decided that Zoom meetings were unlikely to work well. Instead, these groups have been supported by the provision of Faith at Home resources. These have included ideas on our website, all age introductions on our Church at Home online services, and some wonderful 'at home' packs put together and delivered by Lyn at various points during the year. We have also endeavoured to keep in touch with children and their families by both emails and cards.

As the church emerged from the first lockdown, the decision was taken to hold a weekly All Age Service in the new 9:30 slot, instead of Children's Church. This was mainly due to the difficulties with to regard mixing bubbles, and the challenges and risks of keeping Children's Church COVID secure. These services have had pros and cons; some have worked really well, although we know they are not always as 'all age' as we might have hoped them to be. Likewise, although we have been pleased to see many families at these services, we know there are some families who have continued to shield, and others who have found that All Age services don't work so well for them. In 2021, the team hope to review and reflect more on the best pattern of Sunday provision for our children and young people.

Youth Group

At the start of 2020, the Youth Group continued to be a fun and supportive environment for our young people (aged 10 – 16+) to grow in faith and fellowship. In the spring we had a number of fantastic sessions, all of which focused on the theme of Generosity and Hospitality, including a 'poverty supper' and a pancake party.

After the first lockdown began, Youth Group (held jointly with Waterfalls) moved onto Zoom. During 2020 we had a number of zoom youth group sessions, which often included games and quizzes, alongside discussions and support. In the autumn we did manage a couple of 'in person' Youth Group meetings; outside church with a fire pit! We hope that in 2021 we might be able to do more of these.

Sadly, our 2020 Youth Group residential, to the Horstead Centre, had to be cancelled.

Confirmation Classes

In Lent 2020 we began confirmation classes with some of our Waterfalls/ Youth Group cohort. Sadly, halfway through these had to be put on hold. We are now hoping that they will all be confirmed in June 2021.

Chris Campbell
Curate

Choir

2020 was a very different year for St John's church choir as we attempted to sing through a pandemic!

Membership

Throughout the year the trebles have continued to follow the RSCM Voice for Life training scheme. Harriet and Nicole both achieved the Bishop's chorister award this year and were presented with their awards at St John's as the Diocesan choir festival at Ely was cancelled. Sophie has succeeded Adrienne as Head Chorister. We currently have fourteen children (under the age of 18) in the choir. Twelve of them make up the treble line and we are pleased to have two former trebles now singing tenor and bass. Two of our former head choristers Robert and Emilie left us in the autumn to go away to university and it was lovely to have them singing with us again at the carol service. It is a delight to see our children grow at St John's, developing their musical skills and deepening their faith.

The choir adults started the year with a fantastic shared meal but unfortunately all other social events have been cancelled. The adults have kept in touch with weekly zoom calls throughout lockdown when we have been unable to meet to rehearse together. The trebles have met occasionally on line.

Despite the restrictions, the choir have continued to lead the music at all the main services at St John's. During lockdown we have recorded our music at home and assembled it together for the online services. In the summer we were able to have a soloist leading the services in church and from September we were able to have a 'socially-distanced' choir singing together in church. Due to space

restrictions and the separate services held on a Sunday, for the first time we split the trebles away from the adults. The trebles rose to the challenge and impressed us all by leading the 9:30am service with no adult support. The adults led the I am service with a socially distanced choir spaced out throughout the chancel and sanctuary. We came together to record an act of remembrance ahead of Remembrance Day and sang together at the carol service.

Outreach

Due to the pandemic we have not sung outside of our parish and did not meet with our partnership churches or other choirs in the Diocese. We have, instead, been able to broadcast our services across the world! Our live streamed and pre-recorded carol services were both watched by over 300 viewers from across the UK and as far afield as Washington DC and California, USA. Our on line services have also been greatly appreciated by former choristers who no longer live in our parish and extended family members of current choristers. We are hugely grateful to the technical team who have made this all possible.

Finance

Unfortunately we have not managed any fund raising this year due to restrictions.

Future

We continue to enjoy leading the musical worship at St John's. We hope that our trebles will continue to work through the RSCM training scheme and some may achieve awards from Ely Diocese. We look forward to a time when it is safe for the whole choir to sing together and lead the congregation in worship.

I am extremely grateful to Roger Lilley for acting as Assistant Director of Music throughout the year.

Elizabeth Trenchard

Curate's Report

Well what a strange year to be writing a report about. A year which has been filled with so many challenges and frustrations, but which has also given opportunities to explore new ways of ministry.

2020 started as we expected, and I enjoyed a varied ministry of preaching, leading, teaching and pastoral support. We had bible study groups with lots of delicious cakes, youth group meetings with pancakes, we sang with gusto during our Sunday services. I felt settled in the usual bread and butter of life in our parish.

In January, it was a privilege to be involved in the Cambridge Churches Homelessness Project again, and to team lead for some of the St John's evenings.

It was also great fun to run our Messy Science event in February, and to encourage some of the scientists and engineers in the congregation to share their knowledge with the families. Again, it showed the diversity of gifts at St John's, and it was a really good opportunity for us to make connections between our the church and the everyday faith of her members.

Another highlight of February was putting together our new Children's Area in the church; although, as discussed in the Children's and Families' report, this soon had to be packed away, due to covid-safety guidance.

At the beginning of the year, I also led our worship review; as we began to explore both the variety of the services we offer, and whether it was time to refresh our usual service booklets. Who was to know that only a couple of months later, we would have completely changed the way we worship!

But by mid-March everything had changed; the things we took for granted (like singing in church) were no longer possible and, from then on, the majority of 2020 became dominated by the pandemic. For me, as with all church leaders, it became a steep learning curve, as we discovered

new ways of running services and 'being church' together. Alongside this learning curve, was the mixed joy of many working parents - suddenly needing to home-school our children!

At St John's we soon decided to concentrate our online services in a weekly 'church at home' service of the word, and one of my main roles in 2020 became driving these online offerings. Looking back at the first few, it is amazing to see how much we all learnt about filming, editing and general online presentation. What has been a real joy for me, is how willing so many people were to try out this new technology and to join in with our online services; indeed we've had people read and lead prayers online, who hadn't previously done it in church. I have been really grateful to everyone who has contributed so generously to our online worship, and particularly to my family who have supported me; not just by giving up areas of our house to be a recording studio, but also by learning to film and record themselves!

Of course, we didn't stop at just our Sunday morning online service; and over the year we have developed a varied approach, which has included weekly bible studies, Sunday evening prayer and regular morning prayer online. These have been supplemented by an increased use of our website, to share both information and reflections. Indeed, fairly early in the pandemic, I asked a number of you to help review our current website, and then spent time giving it a fresh look, which helped with its usability. Alongside online worship, we've also kept up regular social events online; such as Sunday morning coffee and conversation and our very popular zoom quizzes (which I've loved devising and which have also helped to raise a small amount of money for church funds). To support those who weren't online, we've also worked hard to keep a telephone network alive, and have sent out printed materials to anyone who wanted them.

Like everyone, I really missed our fellowship of being gathered together, and this was particularly true during the strictest times of lockdown when, living a few miles away, I was unable to spend time physically in the parish. So it was a real joy in the summer when we could begin emerging from that first lockdown, and amongst other things, return to gathered worship, for those who felt able. From that point on, we have tried to retain a mixed economy of worship in church and online; moving fully online again in November, when again we were in a period of tighter restrictions. It was fantastic that we were able to have a range of services for Advent and Christmas; including two very special carol services (one online and one in church, which we also successfully livestreamed).

Another element of the year has been continuing to be involved in the Partnership for Mission Church process. One of the key PMC questions is 'what is God doing?' and that, for me, has been a really good question for 2020. In a year when many of us became increasingly tired and frustrated with the ever-changing restrictions and where we often felt out of control of the world around us, being able to stop and reflect on God's presence and action in the world, helped to keep me grounded and to realise that there were signs of hope and growth amongst all the difficulties. And talking about that question in our PMC reflections, in our bible and home groups and with our children and youth, has shown me that we have all, as a church, become more aware of God's provision in the wilderness of the pandemic.

One of the other things I have enjoyed in 2020 is continuing to be involved in education and training. In the Autumn I took on supervising two of our wonderful ordinands and during the year I also led some training at Westcott on ministry with children and young people in church. I also began an MA in Biblical Interpretation, which I'm really enjoying!

2020 was not the year any of us had been expecting, but despite its challenges there have been many positive things to look back on; perhaps most notably the care and support which we have shown each other as a church community during this difficult time. For that, I thank you all.

Chris Campbell
Curate

Deputy Churchwarden

The year 2020 has been dominated, as for everyone else, by COVID. As soon as we had an inkling that churches would be allowed to hold services again after the first lockdown, we began the preparations for once more opening our doors. This required a whole raft of measures to be introduced. First we had to remove every other row in the church so as to ensure a 2m gap between members of the congregation who were not in the same household. Signs went up reminding people of the need to keep their distance and to sanitise their hands on entry. Anyone who showed symptoms of COVID – a persistent cough or a fever (anosmia and ageusia came later) were asked not to enter. A new one-way entry/exit system was devised with floor arrows to guide the congregation. Hand sanitisers, spare face masks and cleaning materials were acquired, and a risk assessment was prepared by the churchwarden, Peter Tavner. NHS Track & Trace required us to keep a list of those attending services and this was added to the tasks of the duty warden. The capacity of the church was much reduced, and we decided as a result we would need two morning services, at 9.30am and 11am, the earlier service being more targeted at the younger congregation. Singing was stopped, initially of any sort, and then gradually opened up to a single cantor and subsequently to a reduced capacity choir. A programme of sanitisation of surfaces after services, carried out by duty warden and sidespersons, was implemented to reduce the risk of fomite transmission. All of this was carried out under the auspices of the PCC by a small committee set up to review the policies and their implementation.

The re-opening of the St John's Centre required similar preparations. The normal capacity of the Wilkinson Room of well over a hundred was reduced to 22. A one-way system was implemented and myriad signs put up advising the wearing of masks, the sanitising of hands and, most importantly, keeping the windows open at all times, even during the winter, to maximise ventilation. For much of 2020, use of the centre was restricted to certain sorts of groups, such as those providing children's services, and educational activities. The kitchen was closed, a substantial blow given what a wonderful facility it is, and coffee after services was suspended. In addition, the office was closed during much of 2020. By the end of 2020 we had been through various stages of opening and shutting, but the essential rules outlined above have barely changed. As I write in mid-April 2021, the church is open once again but the centre is still closed until mid-May.

Much of the usual church activity through the year was not possible in 2020, including holding fundraising and social activities, and this resulted in a substantial drop in our income. As a result we had to find ways to save money. When David Biggs retired after many years' employment as St John's caretaker, he was not replaced. Very sadly we had to commence the process of making Lyn Harrison redundant as we could no longer afford to fund a Parish Administrator. Both David and Lyn have made a valuable contribution to the church over very many years, and we were sorry to see them go. We implemented some other changes to save money, such as changing our contract for the alarm system to a local company, Briar Security, who are much more affordable than our previous supplier.

Necessity being the mother of invention, we have been introduced in 2020 to some new practices that may well continue after things return to some sort of normality. For many, 2020 was the first introduction to Zoom which has been used successfully for many services and meetings which otherwise could not be held. An excellent online provision has allowed those shielding to attend services, and has meant the continuation of church services throughout the lockdowns. This has been enhanced by the live streaming of certain services, which was enabled by our upgrading our Wi-Fi.

My thanks are due to all those who continue to volunteer on the duty warden and sidespersons' rota. This has been a heavier burden this year because of the longer Sunday morning and 11am very grateful to those who have continued to help out. My thanks also to those who are on the lawn cutting rota.

I have enjoyed very much working with James, Chris, Peter and Roger during 2020.

Michael Fincham

Glebe House Homegroup

This homegroup, led by Peter and Judith Heslam, continues to flourish. Recent bible-study courses have included the Environment, the Gospel of Matthew, and the Purpose-Driven Life. We also had a session in Advent focusing on theological themes in C.S. Lewis' children's novel *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*.

As the group has reached capacity at around sixteen members, it is sadly having to turn down new enquiries. But this is a positive sign and could act as a spur to the formation of additional homegroups.

The group meets on Wednesday evening for 75 minutes every fortnight. For more than a year it has been meeting on Zoom, which seems to have worked well.

The group sessions include a short time for prayer. This is supplemented by a 'Homegroup at Prayer' WhatsApp group, which allows group members to share prayer requests (and answers to prayer) between sessions.

Despite the wonders of modern technology, the group looks forward to the time it can meet in person again!

Peter Heslam

Healing Prayer Group

We have continued to pray for one another and for clergy and parishioners and any other requests using the medium of WhatsApp. This has happened on a regular basis and has we believe, felt to be a valuable source of support and comfort.

Chris Plunkett-West

Homerton College Charter Choir and Homerton Singers

Homerton College Charter Choir

The final term of the 2019-2020 academic year found the Choir not able to rehearse or to sing the planned Services, due to lockdown and the closure of the College. In spite of this, they prepared music for a celebratory 'virtual' Evensong to end the year

The academic year 2020 started in October with considerable uncertainty as to whether the Choir would be able to gather in St John's to sing Evensong. Fortunately, we were able to hold the first Service, appropriately socially distanced and fulfilling the other safety requirements. The second Evensong Service was said, with organ music accompaniment. Thereafter, although it was not possible to meet, the choir prepared the music for another virtual service of Readings and Carols to mark the end of the Michaelmas term and the beginning of Advent which was released on Tuesday 1st December 2020. Warm thanks to Rev James for his encouragement. Thanks, too, to Rev Chris for her guidance and for all her technical expertise in filming the spoken recordings in Church and for putting the service together for release on You Tube. The service has travelled far and wide and to date there have been more than 950 views.

In January 2021, Dr Douglas Coombes again took on the role of acting musical director for the choir, rehearsing throughout the term by Zoom to prepare music for the Festal Evensong for Easter April 2021. The text parts of the Service were recorded in St John's Church and the Choir having rehearsed by Zoom, submitted their individual recordings from home or from College for the few

students in residence. Much has been learnt about rehearsing, singing solo, without hearing other singers, which was for most a new experience.

Thanks and warm appreciation to Rev Chris Campbell for her assistance in undertaking the filming in Church and for her work with Dr Daniel Trocme-Latter in completing the production.

We are most grateful to Rev James Shakespeare for his support and encouragement throughout our absence from St John's and we look forward to returning next term.

Homerton Singers

The Homerton Singers have remained positive about the possibility of being able to rehearse, throughout the year. Our Director, Dr Douglas Coombes has kept in touch with encouraging emails. However, meeting together was not to be, and we now await the time when we will be able to resume our combined College and Community singing, with concerts in Church and in Homerton, to share our experience.

Plans for the future include a combined concert with a school choir and a day for conductors who will be able to work with the Singers under the guidance of Douglas and then in the evening, conduct the choir in concert conditions. Please look out for these and other plans, when we shall also be recruiting new members.

Homerton Singers is a non-auditioned choir for all those who enjoy singing and meets weekly during University terms.

Trish Maude

Mission Committee

The committee meets three times a year, usually in January, May and October. Members are James Shakespeare (Chair), Roger Lilley (Treasurer), Katie Knapton (Secretary), Dominic Barton, Jane Henry and Matthew Wolff.

Our Mission Partners

St Peter's Happiness Nursery, Arua, N Uganda

All schools have remained closed since March 2020 and the children do not have the luxury of home schooling. St Peter's Happiness Nursery has been allowed a rental holiday but the building has suffered the ravages of termites. The first of the 2021 grants enabled the teachers to repair chairs and desks and prepare the building for reopening, whenever that might be. It is unlikely that many parents will be in a position to pay a contribution for schooling because of the impact of the lockdown and because, as refugee families, their food ration has been reduced from 12 kilos to 8 kilos for 2 months.

During the first lockdown many hundreds of young teenage girls in Arua and Koboko were subjected to rape and now their babies are being born. Under the guidance of the school Head, Loice Kokany, the teachers have been ministering to the girls both materially and spiritually to avoid attempted suicides, abortions and abandoned babies. They are helping through the first weeks and months of motherhood for which the girls are ill-prepared. We sent a donation to help buy essentials.

The newest blow to the school is a one-year notice from St Peter's church to quit the buildings and land which is now required for the construction of the new Archdeacon's office. Land and property are very expensive and we pray that Loice succeeds in locating land for the school at an affordable price.

The Bethesda Project, Muyinga, Burundi

In Burundi, one of the poorest countries in the world, the Bethesda Project continues to support young people struggling with disabilities. Provision of wheelchairs and crutches to several individuals

has made an unbelievable difference to their lives. Outdoor activities, so vital to their welfare, will resume as soon as the pandemic allows. The project has been struggling with lack of suitable transport since the 4 x 4, so vital for the work there, broke down beyond repair. However, the fundraising target of £20,000 is at last within sight. The Project is one of the charities nominated for the St Johns' Lenten giving and we hope our personal donations will have contributed greatly to the fundraising effort.

CMS Partners in N India

Having supported Kylie and Bhim in India for many years we are now collaborating with the Church Mission Society to identify a new mission partner whom we will help to fund with our donations.

Toilet Twinning

For those of us who take for granted the convenience of toilets in our homes and public places, the thought of not having access to them hardly bears thinking about. But this is the case for some two billion people around the world. A new proposal from the Mission Committee, which the PCC has agreed to fund, is Toilet Twinning, an initiative of Tear Fund. By donating £60 for each of the toilets at the St John's Centre we are helping to fund a project in a poor community that will enable families to build a basic toilet, have access to clean water and learn about hygiene. We are now signed up for our Twinning and have received two certificates, one to hang on the door of each of the two twinned toilets. These show a photograph of our overseas toilet twin and GPS coordinates so we can look up the location on Google Maps. It would be a great achievement if we could raise enough funds to twin the other four toilets in the church buildings. For more information see <https://www.toilettwinning.org/>

Katie Knapton, April 2021

Moveable Feasts

Movable Feasts have been continuing to meet weekly via zoom throughout lockdown and continuing. We have enjoyed following courses in books like 'Advent in Narnia' and Justin Welby and Hannah Steele's Lent book 'Living His Story'. Being able to meet via zoom was great for our group and was a good support through the lockdown. We are happy to be continuing as a home group.

Sian Binley

Parish Voice

The 'Parish Voice' has provided an important means of keeping the Church family together during the pandemic. While the regular content – reports, future events, etc – was to some extent curtailed during the periods of lockdown, the 'Parish Voice' was used to provide people with a series of reflections by the ministry team for people to use at home during these festive periods. These reflections were very well received and appreciated and we are grateful to everyone involved for taking the additional time to put these together.

The magazine is now available online and via email. We print only a few copies for those members of the congregation who are not able to access digital content. There is therefore no longer a charge for the magazine.

Looking to the future, we are in discussions about moving some of the 'news' content to the weekly online e-news, to the website and in print in the weekly pew slips (when we resume regular face-to-face worship). The 'Parish Voice' will become a bi-monthly publication tied to religious festivals in order that we can continue to include material for reflection at home.

We are grateful to all for your continued support.

Paula Wolff / Liz Radice

Partnership for Missional Church

[Steering Group: Kate Dove, Matthew and Paula Wolff, Sian Binley, Kate Aylmer, Rev Chris Campbell, Rev James Shakespeare]

During this particularly 'strange' year, the Partnership for Missional Church Steering group has been continuing to ask the questions...

- Where are we?
- What have we been doing?
- Where is God in all of this?
- Where might God be leading us now?

We have continued to consider these in the light of the 'adaptive challenge' which was discerned, during an 'away-day' earlier on in the project, by a varied group representing different areas of our church life.

Under the guidance of God's Spirit, how can we identify or make spaces where different ages and diverse groups come together, help each other and have fun?

The 'coming together' bit has been problematic, and activities such as the community lunches, that were seeking to respond to the challenge, have needed to be put on hold for some time. However, other get-togethers have been possible via Zoom, including home groups and the great quizzes that have been enjoyed by families and groups of friends.

In June, we asked the whole congregation to think about these questions so that we could 'Seek God's Way Together'. Many responded so helpfully by telling stories in the light of living in a pandemic. It was the opportunity stop and reflect, and discern how God is calling us onwards.

These are some of the recurring themes:

Nurturing own faith

- Spiritual renewal – gratitude for time and space
- Growing desire to pray for the world
- Renewal through prayer and Bible reading – provision of on-line daily reflections

Community experience

- Coming together to help others
- New encounters, meeting and greeting neighbours
- Awakened appreciation of those who serve us day by day.

Not being able to worship in church

- Missing gathered physicality, singing, Eucharist
- Sadness of fragmentation

But Online...

- Meeting new people / hearing a greater diversity of voices / ease of access (for some)

Natural world

- Wider awareness – senses awakened – greater appreciation and outdoor encounters
- Desire for healing of the natural world

Wellbeing

- A time of greater awareness of others' hardships
- Isolation – opportunity to reconnect – telephone network – making new friendships
- Slowing down – being more in-tune with nature and spiritual life. (Not so easy for those home-schooling)

Things that have prayerfully 'bubbled up to the surface':

- How to continue to nurture this growing relationship with God?
- How to support those not able to come to church or access it otherwise?
- Missing the children – (limitations for All-Age worship) – how to restore those relationships?
- Eco agenda – how can we protect and help to care for God's creation.
- How we can continue to engage with the community 'mindfully' - common concerns; where needed and where it makes a difference?

Through this project, we have been learning various practices which will help us in God's mission. This coming year we will continue 'Seeking God's way together', grow closer partnerships with our local community, and develop our gift of hospitality.

During the year we have been meeting (online) with partner churches in this project, and being resourced by the Diocesan Team. We are very grateful for their mentoring and encouragement. My thanks also goes to the Steering Group, for their contributions and prayerful discernment.

Kate Aylmer LLM (Chair of the Steering Group)

Part-time NSM Curate

It has been wonderful eight months now for me at St John's since I was ordained as Deacon in the Ely Cathedral in September 2020. Like many people, who have had quite challenging new beginnings during the current Covid-19 pandemic, have experienced, I too have had a slow beginning, and a feeling that I am still in the process of getting integrated into the life and ministry of St John's! However, in spite of the challenges of the pandemic, I (as well as Mahiba, Mona and Mano, whenever they were able to join St John's community for worship in the church or online or other activities), have had a very blessed time at St John's, thanks to James, Chris, St John's Ministry Team and the congregation members whom we have been able to briefly meet so far, as well as all who are praying for us.

The primary way I have participated in St John's community has been mainly in terms of preaching in worship Sunday services a few times now, and occasionally leading the worship, and joining a few Home Groups meetings online. In addition, it is always a joy to learn several things from James as my training incumbent. Particularly as someone new to the parish ministry context in this country, and coming from the Church of South India, I enjoy learning about ministry and mission in this country and in the Church of England. Also, my ministry at St John's contributes hugely to my regular job as the director of the Cambridge Centre for Christianity Worldwide (www.cccw.cam.ac.uk), and Project Manager for Theological Education for Mission in the Anglican Communion, in which I am involved in preparing three books for the forthcoming Lambeth Conference.

<https://www.lambethconference.org/resources/reading/>

And on the other hand, I can also feel the many ways my work with CCCW and ACO also shape my engagement with St John's and community.

It was also a wonderful experience to lead a study day on Global Anglicanism at St Bene't's Church Cambridge in February, and to participate in the Chrism eucharist service at the Ely Cathedral on the Maundy Thursday on 1st April.

I am really pleased to be part of St John's and enjoy especially its diversity and hospitality. As I am now preparing for my Ordination as Priest in the month of July, I request your continued prayers for my ministry.

Thank you very much.

Dr Muthuraj Swamy

Sacristans' Rota

Is a sacristan a 'key worker' providing an essential service?

Like so many questions, the answer depends on context. Certainly, we would all agree that celebrating Holy Communion is fundamental to our faith and Christian lives. In that sense of course, the sacristan is an essential member of a core team that makes it possible. But we would also all agree the foolhardiness of celebrating conventionally in the current circumstances. Indeed, restrictions apart, common sense dictates restraint. It is doubtful many would expect otherwise. And so it is that, with the exception of a couple of months last year and the gradual easing of restrictions this year (when muted celebrations reduced us to a partial service), the Sacristans' Rota has been barely essential.

Accordingly, for the past year we cannot reasonably claim 'key worker' status. It will change, of course! Of course, it will!!

Joseph Saunders

St John's Knitting Group

On Wednesday afternoons in the Wilkinson Room the invitation to [click here](#) has nothing to do with computer technology but everything to do with the rhythmic sound of needles clicking together to create the 24 six-inch woollen squares that are needed for each blanket that the St John's group produces not only for international charities but also for local community requests if there's a need (like Cambridge Convoy Refugee Action Group).

In 2020 amidst all the changes to many aspects of people's lives because of coronavirus restrictions things didn't really change for St John's knitters. Our happy little band has continued to knit for charity albeit individually at home rather than meeting together weekly for our two-hour knit and natter session. Our delight at being able to meet 'mask-to-mask' in the St John's Centre at the end of September when restrictions were lifted was short lived, however, with only three sessions in person before the second lockdown was imposed. But we have knitted on regardless! We have kept in touch virtually and by 'phone and as long as we could source wool supplies we've clicked away to build a small stock pile of knitted and crocheted baby blankets which we will donate to charity as soon as channels are re-opened, and as we have done since the group was established at St John's in 1984.

Tricia James, APCM 2021

The Gardens at St John's

During this last year the church gardens have been a place of calm for reflection and relaxation more than ever before. The newest addition (in place of the former courtyard which was tended for years by June, Joan S, Jane Bett and Erica L) has been the beautiful new cloister garden, created after the completion of the St John's Centre. With the help of David Waterhouse, Clare and June carried out most of the planting which flowered abundantly and colourfully during last summer and beyond, giving so much pleasure to many in this treasured enclosed space.

The borders are always admired by all who pass by, especially in the spring when the bulbs are at their best, with snowdrops taken over by yellow and purple crocuses then daffodils and narcissi in their various hues of yellows and creams, followed by the blues of muscari, scillas, ipheion and forget-me-nots. Then the roses come into their own and bloom throughout the summer. The bed under the window contains a wonderful display of hellebores in winter and spring and the lavender always attracts bees. Clare cares for this bed as well as the courtyard and has brought added interest to the outside borders by planting donated daffodils. The square bed near the car-park gate, known as Windy Corner, has been brought to life by Erica L and our neighbour Jane Bett.

The team of mowers, organised by Michael, has continued to keep the grass short and neat though they have been frustrated by the crows who dig up the grass in search of chafer grubs.

It is always a pleasure to see families playing in the garden, people taking a short cut through the garden to Blinco Grove and others sitting on the benches admiring the gardens and enjoying the sunshine. Thank you to all the gardeners.

A feature of late spring for many years, and a very successful fundraiser, has been the annual Plant Sale organised by Roger and Katie and held early in May in the church garden. Geraniums and Roger's vegetable seedlings fly off the shelves as do the many varieties of perennials and shrubs. An organisational rethink was necessary in 2020 when the pandemic made a plant sale at church out of the question. Instead, Roger took early orders for his seedlings which were later collected from his garden by arrangement while Katie used a private car parking space behind her house to sell her plants from tables spread over a wide area to enable social distancing. Despite the cold and wet weather, the overall sale was financially the most successful to date.

Katie Knapton

Traidfair St John's

Not long after we had hosted the 2020 Big Brew coffee morning we were all in lockdown, including the church. Fortunately there was time to move all the Traidcraft stock to my home and from there, once we had all settled down to this new life and learned its rules, a doorstep 'click and collect' service was offered. This proved to be very popular and successful and provided some distanced socialising as well as sales supporting Traidcraft.

In October it was deemed permissible to hold a stall in the Wilkinson Room with tables spread well apart, windows open, limited numbers and 'clean' change. There was a steady stream after both services and things began to look a little more normal again. Then came lockdown number two for a month but in December we were able to set up stall and meet the demand for Christmas items as well as the usual products.

Since January selling from home has been popular again and thanks go to all those who have been regular supporters of this service, ensuring a steady income stream for Traidcraft. The figures at the end of 2020 are, for obvious reasons, lower than for 2019, but we have still been able to donate £700 to Traidcraft Exchange, the linked charity which supports and trains people in developing countries, helping them to get a fair deal for the work they do.

Writing this report at the end of March it is difficult to know when we will be able to return to our regular 'first Sunday' stalls but we hope that will happen by the summer. Thank you to the Traidcraft Team of helpers for their flexibility and to them and our many customers for their support.

Katie Knapton, March 2021

Tuesday morning Bible Study Group

It has been lovely to have been joined by a number of new friends in our Bible Study group this year. However, not so lovely was that from March we were required to stop gathering in church. Zoom has become our alternative meeting place, but it does not make such good cakes and coffee as we were used to! From then on we have learned to enjoy one another's company and fellowship in different ways, for which we are grateful.

This is what we have been up to...

- ❖ **The Creeds** – part of the Church of England 'Pilgrim' Course
- ❖ **Isaiah** -
- ❖ **A Way through the Wilderness** (Isaiah) – Experiencing God's help in times of crisis
(Paula Gooder)
- ❖ **Being Church?**
- ❖ In parallel with other Home Groups, we took part in the Partnership for Missional Church - Corporate discernment process – '**Seeking God's way together**'.
- ❖ **'I am' sayings of Jesus**
- ❖ **Daniel** – Not an easy read, but a challenge we have relished.
- ❖ **'Advent in Narnia'** – by Heidi Haverkamp; including the appearance of the White Queen and the lion, Aslan. You'll have to ask one of the group for an explanation of this, but it shows we have fun as we learn!

What has been even more exciting / encouraging is seeing more people being willing to take responsibility for leading our studies occasionally. Thank you all.

10.30 – 11.30am on a Tuesday morning, whether at home on Zoom, or meeting in church together, God is teaching us and blessing us. Do join us.

Kate Aylmer (Licensed Lay Minister)



PCC Meetings 2021-22

APCM 30 May 2021

5 July 2021

14 September 2021

17 November 2021

17 January 2022

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT															
To the PCC of St John the Evangelist, Cambridge															
This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 st December 2020, which are set out on pages 2 to 11, is in respect of an examination carried out under Regulation 3 (3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 and section 43 of the Charities Act 1993.															
Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner															
As trustees and members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of the regulation 3 (3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 and section 43 (2) of the Charities Act 1992 (the Act) do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of Regulation 25 of the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 and Regulation 7 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 1995.															
Basis of Independent Examiner's report															
My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43 (7) (b) of the Act and to be found in the guidance from the CBF. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.															
Independent Examiner's Statement															
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:															
1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements															
• to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and • to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the requirements of the Act, as also contained in the Church Accounting Regulations 1997, have not been met; or															
2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.															
Signed and dated															

St John the Evangelist, Hills Road, Cambridge									
Statement of Financial Activities									
For the year ended 31 st December 2020									
	Notes	Unrestrict ed Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Total 2020 £	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Total 2019 £		
INCOMING RESOURCES:									
Income from regular donors	(2a)	79,102	0	79,102	73,355	0	73,355		
Other donated resources	(2b)	27,086	1,489	28,575	160,891	167,909	328,800		
Mission activities	(2c)	875	0	875	3,592	0	3,592		
St John's Centre	(2d)	2,803	0	2,803					
Other incoming resources	(2e,6a)	17,761	101	17,861	24,135	3,476	27,611		
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES:		127,627	1,590	129,217	261,973	171,385	433,358		
RESOURCES EXPENDED:									
Ministers' expenses	(3a)	934	0	934	1,433	0	1,433		
Church maint., servs.,mission, admin.	(3b)	24,415	184	24,599	43,215	3,476	46,691		
St John's Centre maint & admin	(3b)	10,407	0	10,407					
Payments outside the Parish	(3c)	78,762	1,578	80,340	75,973	3,499	79,472		
Major Works	(3d)	16,497	0	16,497	110,328	299,017	409,345		
Costs of generating Traidcraft funds	(6b)	4,184	0	4,184	4,256	0	4,256		
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED:		135,199	1,762	136,961	235,204	305,992	541,196		
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES		-7,572	-172	-7,745	26,769	-134,606	-107,837		
BALANCES BROUGHT FORW. AT 1 JAN.		41,677	888	42,565	14,908	135,494	150,402		
BALANCES CARRIED FORW. AT 31 DEC.		34,105	716	34,820	41,677	888	42,565		

St John the Evangelist, Hills Road, Cambridge									
Balance Sheet at 31 st December 2020									
	Notes				2020 Total £			2019 Total £	
CURRENT ASSETS:									
Barclays Bank PLC Accounts					29,721			35,742	
Church of England CBF Deposit Account					1,146			1,143	
CBS Deposit Account (Traidcraft)					531			511	
Petty Cash (Traidcraft)					45			30	
Stock (Traidcraft)					400			503	
Debtors	7				5,186			7,912	
					37,030			45,840	
LIABILITIES:									
Amounts falling due within one year									
Creditors	8				2,210			3,275	
					2,210			3,275	
NET CURRENT ASSETS:									
					34,820			42,565	
FUNDS:									
				2020 £	2020 Total £		2019 £	2019 Total £	
Unrestricted									
General Fund Reserves					8,036			15,590	
Traidcraft					976			1,084	
Restricted (r) & Designated (d)									
Choir Fund (r)				3,808			3,891		
Quinquennial Works Fund (d)				22,000			22,000		
Total Restricted & Designated					25,808			25,891	
TOTAL FUNDS									
					34,820			42,565	

Balance Sheet at 31st December 2020

	Notes				2020 Total		2019 Total
					£		£
CURRENT ASSETS:							
Barclays Bank PLC Accounts					29,721		35,742
Church of England CBF Deposit Account					1,146		1,143
CBS Deposit Account (Traidcraft)					531		511
Petty Cash (Traidcraft)					45		30
Stock (Traidcraft)					400		503
Debtors	7				5,186		7,912
					37,030		45,840

LIABILITIES:

Amounts falling due within one year							
Creditors	8					2,210	3,275
						2,210	3,275

NET CURRENT ASSETS:

FUNDS:					2020	2020 Total	2019	2019 Total
					£	£	£	£
Unrestricted								
General Fund Reserves						8,036		15,590
Traidcraft						976		1,084
Restricted (r) & Designated (d)								
Choir Fund (r)					3,808		3,891	
Quinquennial Works Fund (d)					22,000		22,000	
Total Restricted & Designated						25,808		25,891
TOTAL FUNDS						34,820		42,565

TOTAL FUNDS

St John the Evangelist, Hills Road, Cambridge

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st December 2020

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 as amended by the Church Accounting (Amendment) Regulations 2001 together with applicable accounting standards and the

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Funds

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC.

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law.

Incoming resources

Voluntary income and capital sources

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.

Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised only when received.

Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt is reasonably certain.

Other income

Rental income from the letting of the church premises is recognised when the rental is due.

Income from investments

Interest entitlements are accounted for as they accrue.

Resources used

Activities directly relating to the work of the Church

The diocesan parish share is accounted for when paid.

Fixed assets

Consecrated property and movable church furnishings

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993.

Movable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's Inventory. No new inalienable property is known to have been acquired by the church in the last ten years.

St John the Evangelist, Hills Road, Cambridge							
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)							
For the year ended 31st December 2020							
2 INCOMING RESOURCES							
	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	2020 Total	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	2019 Total	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	
VOLUNTARY RECEIPTS:							
2a INCOME FROM REGULAR DONORS							
Parish Giving Scheme	28,545	0	28,545				
Other regular giving	32,590	0	32,590	58,973	0	58,973	
Tax recovered and recoverable	17,967	0	17,967	14,382	0	14,382	
Total	79,102	0	79,102	73,355	0	73,355	
2b OTHER DONATED RESOURCES							
Service cash collections	3,166	0	3,166	8,666	0	8,666	
Gift Day incl. tax recovered and recoverable	17,410	0	17,410	13,293	0	13,293	
Legacy and <i>gifts in memoriam</i>	500	0	500	9,724	0	9,724	
Occasional donations incl. Gift Aid/CAF	6,009	0	6,009	129,208	0	129,208	
EOT incl. Gift Aid	0	0	0	0	164,849	164,849	
Collections for charity	0	1,489	1,489	0	3,061	3,061	
Total	27,086	1,489	28,575	160,891	167,909	328,800	
2c MISSION ACTIVITIES							
Donations	0	0	0	409	0	409	
Magazine (subs & adv.)	449	0	449	1,183	0	1,183	
Other income incl. events	426	0	426	2,000	0	2,000	
Total	875	0	875	3,592	0	3,592	
2d ST JOHN'S CENTRE INCOME							
Letting income (prev. 2e)	2539	0	2539				
Church use of St John's Centre	264	0	264				
Other income (prev. 2e)	0	0	0				
Total	2803	0	2803				
2e OTHER CHURCH INCOMING RESOURCES							
PCC fees	813	0	813	944	0	944	
Service fees	940	0	940	429	0	429	
Letting income (church)	4,460	0	4,460	12,866	0	12,866	
Interest	50	0	50	170	0	170	
Fund raising events	930	0	930	5,044	0	5,044	
Choir Fund	0	101	101	0	411	411	
Sundry income	612	0	612	470	0	470	
Residentials	0	0	0	0	3,065	3,065	
Parish Share Rebate	0	0	0	0	0	0	
HMRC Furlough Scheme	5,892	0	5,892				

Total		13,697	101	13,797	19,923	3,476	23,229	
St John the Evangelist, Hills Road, Cambridge								
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)								
For the year ended 31st December 2020								
3 RESOURCES EXPENDED								
		Unrestrict ed Fund	Restricted Fund	2020 Total	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	2019 Total	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	
3a THE MINISTRY:								
Clergy expenses incl. Travel		934	0	934	1,433	0	1,433	
Total		934	0	934	1,433	0	1,433	
3b CHURCH BUILDINGS, SERVICES & GENERAL ADMINISTRATION:								
Property charges (Church)								
Gas (20%)		403	0	403	2,687	0	2,687	
Electricity (20%)		206	0	206	2,461	0	2,461	
Water (20%)		14	0	14	68	0	68	
Insurance (50%)		1,849	0	1,849	3,611	0	3,611	
Repairs & maintenance		4,772	0	4,772	4,499	0	4,499	
Total		7,245	0	7,245	13,326	0	13,326	
Property charges (St John's Centre)*								
Gas (80%)		1612	0	1612				
Electricity (80%)		826	0	826				
Water (80%)		58	0	58				
Insurance (50%)		1849	0	1849				
Repairs and maintenance		473	0	473				
Total		4818	0	4818				
Salaries and fees (Church)								
Salaries		10,527	0	10,527	18,436	0	18,436	
Choir		267	0	267	439	0	439	
Total		10,793	0	10,793	18,875	0	18,875	
Salaries (St John's Centre)*								
Salaries		5,257	0	5,257				
Total		5,257	0	5,257				
Service overheads								
Service expenses and books (incl.new altar)		664	0	664	1,111	0	1,111	
Youth work incl. Children's Church		507	0	507	223	0	223	
Service fees		204	0	204	525	0	525	
Organ & piano		260	0	260	529	0	529	
Choir Fund		0	184	184	0	472	472	
Total		1,635	184	1,635	2,388	472	2,388	
Mission overheads								
Youth work incl. Messy Church		141	0	141	420	0	420	
Events		423	0	423	492	0	492	
Other expenses incl. printing		419	0	419	1,054	0	1,054	
Total		982	0	982	1,966	0	1,966	

[illegible]

St John the Evangelist, Hills Road, Cambridge							
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)							
For the year ended 31 st December 2020							
4 MISSIONS AND CHARITIES SPECIFIC COLLECTIONS							
	Unrestrict ed Fund	Restricted Fund	2020 Total	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	2019 Total	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Combat Stress	0	0	0	0	322	322	
Blinds Veterans UK (St Dunstan's)	0	0	0	0	322	322	
Wintercomfort	0	0	0	0	535	535	
The Children's Society	0	1,553	1,553	0	1,671	1,671	
Arocha	0	25	25	0	0	0	
Hands Up Foundation	0	0	0	0	179	179	
Shepreth Wildlife	0	0	0	0	90	90	
Lymphoma Action	0	0	0	0	100	100	
Christian Aid	0	0	0	0	140	140	
Bishop's Lent Appeal	0	0	0	0	140	140	
Total	0	1,578	1,578	0	3,499	3,499	
5 OVERSEAS MISSION COMMITTEE							
					2020	2019	
Payments							
5c CMS: India					1,447	1,100	
5c Happiness Nursery School Uganda					2,225	1,650	
5c Keppleway Burundi					979	912	
Total					4,651	3,662	

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 31st December 2020

4 MISSIONS AND CHARITIES SPECIFIC COLLECTIONS

		Unrestrict ed Fund	Restricted Fund	2020 Total	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	2019 Total
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Combat Stress		0	0	0	0	322	322
Blinds Veterans UK (St Dunstan's)		0	0	0	0	322	322
Wintercomfort		0	0	0	0	535	535
The Children's Society		0	1,553	1,553	0	1,671	1,671
Arocha		0	25	25	0	0	0
Hands Up Foundation		0	0	0	0	179	179
Shepreth Wildlife		0	0	0	0	90	90
Lymphoma Action		0	0	0	0	100	100
Christian Aid		0	0	0	0	140	140
Bishop's Lent Appeal		0	0	0	0	140	140
Total		0	1,578	1,578	0	3,499	3,499

5 OVERSEAS MISSION COMMITTEE

							2020	2019
Payments								
5c CMS: India							1,447	1,100
5c Happiness Nursery School Uganda							2,225	1,650
5c Kepplewray Burundi							979	912
Total							4,651	3,662

St John the Evangelist, Hills Road, Cambridge

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 31st December 2020

6 TRAIDFAIR ST JOHN'S ACCOUNTS (UNRESTRICTED)

	2020 £	2020 £	2019 £	2019 £
6a Income				
Sales		4,064		4,212
6b Cost of sales				
Opening stock at cost	503		467	
Purchases (net of donations)	3,351		3,502	
Total	3,854		3,969	
Less closing stock at cost	400		503	
		3,454		3,466
Gross Profit		610		746
Donations				
6b Summer & Xmas Fairs	0		70	
6b Gift Day	0		0	
6b Traidcraft projects	730		720	
		730		790
Retained Profit		-120		-44
Balance brought forward		1,084		1,128
Balance carried forward		964		1,084
Represented by				
Stock in hand		400		503
CBS account		531		551
Cash in hand		45		30
Total		976		1,084

Donations in kind to St John's of tea, instant coffee and sugar for Sunday mornings and church events & and chocolate eggs for Easter Sunday.

Traidfair accounts prepared by Katie Knapton

[illegible]

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 31st December 2020

7 DEBTORS

2020

2019

£

£

Income tax recoverable (estimated)

5,186

7,912

Outstanding receipts

0

0

Total

5,186

7,912

8 LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

2020

2019

£

£

Outstanding payments

2,210

3,275

Total

2,210

3,275

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

To the PCC of St John the Evangelist, Cambridge

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Basis of Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43 (7) (b) of the Act and to be found in the guidance from the CBF. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

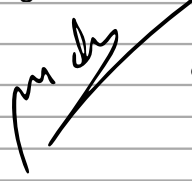
Independent Examiner's Statement

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

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the requirements of the Act, as also contained in the Church Accounting Regulations 1997, have not been met; or

2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed and dated

 8 March 2021