

**St Paul's Church, Harold Hill**

**Annual Report and Financial Statements of  
the Parochial Church Council**

**for the year ended 31 December 2022**

**Incumbent:**  
Rev Richard Power  
The Vicarage  
Redcar Road  
Harold Hill

<b><u>Trustees:</u></b>	
Mr R Power	(Incumbent)
Ms J Walkcraft	(PCC Secretary)
Mr C Ekwona	(Term expires 2024)
Mr R Annis	(Term expires 2024)
Mrs J Aldridge	(Term expires 2024)
Mrs H Callaghan	(Warden)
Mrs E Smith	(Warden)
Mr D Shipway	(Term expires 2023)
Mr G Fenn	(Term expires 2023)
Mr A Devades	(Term expires 2023)
Mr J Oladunjoye	(Term expires 2023)
Mrs C Denham	(Treasurer)

**Bankers:**  
TSB Bank  
Hilldene Avenue  
Harold Hill

**Independent Examiner:**  
Alan Gray

Registered Charity No: 1159458

## **Aims and Purposes**

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, in promoting the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic and social. The PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of the church complex of St Paul's, Harold Hill.

## **Objectives and Activities**

The PCC is committed to preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ to as many people as possible and to enabling Christians and seekers to worship with our Church and to become part of our Church community. The PCC maintains an overview of worship and demands accountability from the Incumbent. It also makes suggestions on how our services can engage with the many groups that live within our designated parish area. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer, scripture, music, sacrament, and hospitality. When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. We try to enable ordinary believers to live out their faith as part of our local community through:

- Worship and prayer: learning about the gospel of Jesus Christ from the Bible and growing in faith and obedience.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the area.
- Missionary and outreach work

## **Worship and Prayer**

Our new vicar, Richard Power, was installed on 4th July 2022. We pray that his ministry among us would be full of faith and joy in Christ Jesus.

**We desire to be a church that is rooted in God's word, the historic faith of God's people. We want to be a church that is growing as we feed on God's word, share our lives with each other and pray for each other. We want to be a church that is serving our community in genuine love and sharing the good news about Jesus.**

The church has continued to meet at 10:30am on Sundays, with a time of prayer beforehand and a time of fellowship afterwards. In 2022, we have followed preaching series on 1 Corinthians, Parables in Luke, James, Malachi and Matthew. The Sunday Bible passage is then studied and applied in depth at Men's and Women's Bible studies during the week. We currently celebrate the Lord's Supper on the last Sunday of it

Prayer meetings were initially held on zoom during the lockdowns. People have been keen to continue and we have found online meetings on Tuesday evenings an effective way to keep praying together as a church family. There have also been more extended times of prayer for the appointment of the new vicar and for the future of the building project.

## **Deanery Synod**

We are represented on the Deanery Synod and hope to have 2 representatives alongside the Incumbent in 2023. The Deanery Synod continues to be an opportunity to interact with other nearby local churches and to encourage them in prayer and worship. In one meeting, the Bishop of Barking spoke about her background and her interest in ministry in areas of social deprivation.

## **Pastoral Care**

The leadership team meets on a weekly basis, every Tuesday night, to pray for individuals, to discuss pastoral issues and how we can lead and care for the church well.

The vicar is very keen to visit everyone in the congregation and get to know them and pray with them and support them. He is also getting to know the local community.

There are weekly study groups which provides the opportunity for interaction, Bible study and mutual care. Church members continue to encourage and support one another including providing practical support when necessary.

## **Mission and Evangelism**

We want to be a church where sharing the good news about Jesus is part of our daily life. We want all our services to be accessible for people who are not yet Christians and want to understand about Jesus.

We have put on 2 Christianity Explored courses over the year. We have also run the course as a 1-to-1 with various seekers.

We have a weekly Lunch club on Tuesdays, reaching out to the community with a short gospel talk and fellowship over lunch. We run food nights on the last Wednesday of every month. We have also had some bigger events aimed at drawing people in from the wider community: bonfire night, the Christingle service, the Christmas day lunch.

A monthly service at the residential care home, Painesbrook Court, has restarted

Weekly parents and toddlers' group have continued. Links with schools have restarted and the vicar has been invited into Pyrgo, Brookside and Bradford schools. He is also a governor at Drapers Pyrgo.

Men's and women's bible studies have both had seekers attending over the year and this continues to be a key part of our outreach. We look forward to holding a church weekend away in 2023 which always has an evangelistic focus to it.

## **Financial Review**

Regular giving for 2022 was up on 2021. Other giving totalled £4225, and £16401 was recovered in Gift Aid, this represented 2 years of Gift Aid claims and was higher than anticipated.

We did not meet the significantly increased Parish Share requested by the Diocese in 2022, however, we continued to pay at the 2021 rate and contributed £26122

We start 2023 with £35396 in General funds, an increase of £15330 on the start of the year.

The Parish share has now been reviewed and agreed at £24272 for 2023

## **Reserves Policy**

We attempt to hold a level of reserves equivalent to one month's expenditure to protect against the risk of being unable to support essential expenses should forecasted income be reduced.

## **Volunteers**

We believe that God has given each of us gifts to use for the building up of the church family. We would like to thank everyone who worked so hard to make our church the lively and vibrant community that it is. In particular, we want to thank our churchwardens and the PCC who have worked so tirelessly on our behalf. We want to thank those who poured their time and hearts into the various midweek ministries: little stars, men's and women's bible studies, SPY, English Club, and prayer meetings.

## **Electoral Role Report**

There are currently 60 members on the St Paul's electoral roll.

## **Structure, Governance and Management**

The method of appointment of PCC members who are also Trustees of the charity is set out in the Church Representation Rules.

At St Paul's the membership of the PCC consists of the Vicar, the churchwardens, treasurer and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the electoral roll and to stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish, including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. The full PCC aim to meet at least 4 times during the year.

## **Administrative Information**

St Paul's Church is situated on Petersfield Avenue, Harold Hill. It is part of the Church of England, under the extended oversight of the Bishop of Ebbsfleet. The correspondence address is The Vicarage, Redcar Road, Harold Hill RM3 9PT.

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956 and Church Representation Rules 2006) and is now a charity registered with the Charity Commission, number 1159458 (registered December 2014)

The PCC is made up of representatives from St Paul's members who have served at any time from 1 January 2022 until the date this report was approved are:

## **Vicar's Report to the APCM 16<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

*"By day the Lord went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night. Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people."* Exodus 13:21-22

Isn't it comforting to know that the Lord is with us, every single moment, leading us on? When there are times of uncertainty or change, he is our rock. What a difference it makes to know that Jesus has forgiven our sins and that he is leading us, and he will never leave us. We can face anything with him.

This is my first report as vicar. As I look back, I'm so grateful to the Lord for leading me to be part of St Paul's here in Harold Hill. I'm so grateful for the way fellow Christians, brothers and sisters, have welcomed me here and encouraged me and strengthened me. There's no place I'd rather be.

My licencing service on 4<sup>th</sup> July was very moving for me. It was powerful having many brothers and sisters there praying for me and for the ministry of the gospel here. Please keep praying for me that I would be a prayerful, faithful and loving pastor. I take very seriously the promises I made that day to remain loyal to the faith revealed once and for all in God's word and to teach everything that Christ has commanded us.

I'm really grateful for the leadership team at St Paul's. I've appreciated the wisdom of James, Gus and Dan so much this past year, especially in pastoring and caring for people. Thank you in particular for the way each of you stepped up during the vacancy to run services and care for the church family.

My main focus so far has been getting to know people and praying with them. I have really enjoyed getting to know everyone and the local area. If you haven't met up with me for a cup of tea yet, please come and complain to me!

My other focus has been on Sunday services. Sundays have been a real joy. We have preached through Jonah, Luke's parables, James, Malachi and we have begun Matthew. It has been a privilege to work through these parts of God's word together. One of the things I also love about St Paul's is way people are welcomed, no matter who they are. Let's keep growing in that and let's keep encouraging each other and pointing friends and newcomers to Jesus.

There are reports here for all our mid-week activities in 2022, our prayer meetings, our lunch club, our outreach, Women's and Men's Bible Studies and youth and children's work. Please read them and please encourage those who are serving Jesus and loving people in these ways. Pray that God would use us to grow his kingdom.

I've run a couple of small Christianity Explored courses over the year. The course is not the be all and end all, but it is a simple way to explain the gospel step by step and to explain what it means to be a Christian. There are many people in Harold Hill who need to hear about the Saviour and haven't heard yet. I'd love us more and more to be a church where we are listening well to people and sharing Jesus in everyday conversations and calling people to find life in him.

We've also had a number of bigger events over the year. Monthly evangelistic food nights have been well attended. Over two hundred people joined in with the bonfire night on 5<sup>th</sup> November. And there were nearly a hundred of us at the Christmas lunch after the service on 25<sup>th</sup> December.

Schools ministry has picked up. I have been into Pyrgo School to help with a Christmas assembly and I am now a school governor there. I have recently spoken to classes at Broadford Primary and Brookside. Our monthly service at Painsbrook court has also restarted and it has been great serving the community there.

We want to be a church that is *rooted* in God's word, the historic faith of God's people. We want to be a church that is *growing* as we feed on God's word, share our lives with each other and pray for each other. We want to be a church that is *serving* our community in genuine love and sharing the good news about Jesus. Pray that we would remain faithful to this calling. And above all, be bold – because the Lord Jesus is leading us. Just like the pillar of cloud and pillar of fire, he will never leave us, and we can face anything with him.

## **Fabric committee**

Fabric committee currently consists of Carmen Denham, Arta Power, Ron Annis, Helene Callaghan and Emma Smith. This year sofas have been kindly purchased by individuals within the church, Richard's office has been replastered professionally and then repainted by himself. Dan also kindly repaired the outside patio.

We have also had a work day where the hall was repainted. Thank you to everyone who worked very hard to get it painted, source the equipment and find the very best deal of paint. There was also general tidying and cleaning done that day.

Thanks to everyone who works hard to keep the church maintained.

Emma, Helene, Carmen, Arta and Ron

## **SPY Update (St Paul's Youth)**

*'I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So, neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.'* 1 Corinthians 3 v 6&7

What goes on?

We meet every Friday evening in term time at the Fenns. Most weeks follow a similar structure. Food, Bible time, Games. In Bible times, we have:

- Used Video Bible Talks to do a series on the Sermon on the Mount
- Used a series created by the Christian Institute called Living Christianity Youth
- 2x 6 week series on 'Big Questions' where the youth ask the big questions of life and we discuss the answer

Encouragements

It has been encouraging this year to see numerical growth with the addition of Lucy, Steph and Chimam as regulars. It is also encouraging that Timi and Tobi continue to attend consistently and seem to enjoy it. With a group of 5, discussion feels more natural, and this has been encouraging, particularly in the Bible slot.

Pray

Please pray:

- For continued spiritual growth in the kids.
- That spiritual growth would impact on their whole lives, away from Sundays and SPY.
- That the age gap would be something of a strength and not something that the older ones get frustrated by.
- That as SPY stay in church for the Sunday sermons, they would listen well and have soft hearts.

## **Sunday school**

Over the last year Sunday school has been fantastic. We finished off the New City Catechism program and have since followed the preaching timetable. It has been a privilege to think about some crazy deep

questions that the kids have had (Why did God create the devil?; How do we know the Bible is true?; Why did God allow divorce?) and to be able to teach them whole books of the Bible like Malachi.

It has been discouraging to almost lose one or two from Sunday school and has sometimes been tricky to negotiate very different numbers each week but, mostly, I'm so thankful to be able to do it. I'm also thankful for others who have been willing to lead Sunday school occasionally because I think the kids prefer different people!

Please keep praying for these small people - wonderfully made in the image of God as examples to us. Please also pray for my dependence on God in prayer. Thanks.

### **English Club Update 2023**

What goes on?

We meet every Monday during term time in the morning from 9.30-11.00. On average we have between 10-15 ladies who have attended our classes so far. The number we get each Monday varies greatly but on average we have 6-8 consistent attenders. Our classes are informal and relaxed. We usually begin our time with some vocabulary games and then progress onto grammar work in the form of worksheets or guided conversation. We end our time together with a Bible passage which we read aloud and discuss together.

This is a great opportunity not only to help our local community by providing a language class, but also to share Christ's love for them through our interactions together and through God's Word. The ladies who come along seem to really enjoy being there and it is a joy to be able to serve in this way.

Thank you to Richard and Arta and all those who often come along to help with the children or to be an extra native speaker and join in on the class.

Prayer Points

Please pray:

- For the volunteers at English Club to continue to show Christ's love to those who come along.
- For opportunities to share the gospel.
- That the ladies would come to know Christ.
- For the general running of the class – for time to prepare well, for children who come along to be content with being there and for patience with distractions (mainly Reuben.)

### **Food Night**

It's been great to see more and more people come into our church building each month on a Wednesday evening. Food night really seems to be a great way to share the good news of Jesus. Please continue to pray for opportunities to share the gospel through conversations whilst sharing food together. A special thanks to Keilly and Arta who have cooked for us this year and for the many people who have helped with clearing, washing up, giving testimonies or talks, welcoming and loads of other things only seen by our Father in heaven - who will reward! It's great to share meals together in order to welcome people from the community and share Jesus in the busyness of life. Please pray that God would use Food Night to draw people to Him.

### **Men's Bible Study**

Each week a few men have met together to read the Bible and discuss it, it's been a real encouragement as we ask questions and look for the answers in the God's word. Although there have only been a few of us, Jesus says "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." Although it may not seem like much, to know that Jesus is with us and speaking to us as we meet is truly life changing and it has been a great encouragement. Please continue to pray that God would raise us up to be godly men for his praise and glory.

### **Safeguarding report**

Thank you to everyone who got their details over to me for db's checks so we are up to date with all our checks. Myself, Gus and Richard are up to date with our safeguarding training

Me and Gus Fenn can be approached with any concerns as well as Richard- it is always better to mention something than not to. Our details are on the church website as well as the safeguarding poster up in the church.

Emma Smith and Gus Fenn

### **Prayer Meetings**

Charles Spurgeon (a 19th century London preacher) called the prayer meeting the Engine Room Of The Church. He said: "If the engine room is out of action, then the whole mill will grind to a halt". Prayer is critical for our ministry as we focus and depend on God and seek his will in all things. Meeting together each week to pray is therefore vital if we want to see God's kingdom grow and our lives changed by Jesus. Praying together is encouraging and we have so many needs to bring to our Father - not to mention thanks and praise. We still meet on Zoom but would appreciate prayer and feedback on whether to meet in person or continue online.

### **Health & Safety Report**

We have had no major incidents; we have first aid boxes in the kitchen and incident reports just outside the kitchen. We passed our annual gas and fire safety checks; we were not due an electrical check this year. Our fire plan has been looked at as well and the fire exits are clear.

The concrete on the patio outside has been repaired thanks to Dan, which has made the entrance to the church safer. Thank you to the congregation for helping to maintain the health and safety of those in the church.

Emma Smith and Gus Fenn

**Approved by the PCC on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2023 and signed on their behalf by the Incumbent**

Signed:



Dated:

16/4/23



# St Paul's Church, Romford

## Balance Sheet detailed

	As at 31/12/2022	As at 31/12/2021
<b>Current assets</b>		
6501: Bank General Account - 00079368	39,714.58	29,472.97
6510: CCLA(CBF) deposit account	193.23	190.72
6600: Diamond Project Account	17,916.14	17,316.14
<b>Total Current assets</b>	<b>57,823.95</b>	<b>46,979.83</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
6699: Agency collections	-	-
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net Asset surplus (deficit)</b>	<b>57,823.95</b>	<b>46,979.83</b>
<b>Reserves</b>		
Excess/(deficit) to date	10,844.12	879.76
Z01: Starting balances	46,979.83	46,100.07
<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>57,823.95</b>	<b>46,979.83</b>

Represented by Funds		
General (Unrestricted)	35,396.12	20,065.75
Designated	-	-
Restricted	22,427.83	26,914.08
<b>Total</b>	<b>57,823.95</b>	<b>46,979.83</b>

**St Paul's Church, Romford**  
**Statement of Financial Activities**  
**For the period from 01 January 2022 to 31 December 2022**

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
<b>Receipts</b>				
Planned giving	32,429.60	600.00	33,029.60	26,060.00
Collections and other giving	2,550.64	500.00	3,050.64	11,317.80
Other voluntary receipts	1,175.00	-	1,175.00	43,472.00
Gift Aid recovered	16,401.47	-	16,401.47	-
Other receipts	(360.00)	-	(360.00)	2,060.59
Investment Income	2.51	-	2.51	0.10
Receipts from church activities	950.00	-	950.00	-
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>53,149.22</b>	<b>1,100.00</b>	<b>54,249.22</b>	<b>82,910.49</b>
<b>Payments</b>				
Cost of generating funds	-	-	-	25.00
Missionary and Charitable Giving	1,389.31	-	1,389.31	145.77
Parish Share	26,122.92	-	26,122.92	26,123.00
Clergy and Staffing costs	3.99	4,073.79	4,077.78	41,457.03
Church Running Expenses	8,844.66	1,358.16	10,202.82	8,187.53
Hall Running Costs	-	-	-	78.00
Hall Repairs & Maintenance	1,112.37	499.90	1,612.27	-
New Building work	-	-	-	6,014.40
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>37,473.25</b>	<b>5,931.85</b>	<b>43,405.10</b>	<b>82,030.73</b>
Gains/losses on investment assets	-	-	-	-
<b>Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer</b>	<b>15,675.97</b>	<b>(4,831.85)</b>	<b>10,844.12</b>	<b>879.76</b>
<b>Transfers:</b>				
Gross transfers between funds - in	-	345.60	345.60	7,659.19
Gross transfers between funds - out	(345.60)	-	(345.60)	(7,659.19)
<b>Other recognised gains / losses</b>				
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	-	-	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>15,330.37</b>	<b>(4,486.25)</b>	<b>10,844.12</b>	<b>879.76</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>				
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>	<b>20,065.75</b>	<b>26,914.08</b>	<b>46,979.83</b>	<b>46,100.07</b>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>35,396.12</b>	<b>22,427.83</b>	<b>57,823.95</b>	<b>46,979.83</b>
<b>Represented by</b>				
Unrestricted				
General fund	35,396.12	-	35,396.12	20,065.75
Designated				
Restricted				
Building Project Fund	-	17,916.14	17,916.14	17,316.14
Evangelical Fund	-	87.50	87.50	87.50
Maintenance Fund	-	1,913.21	1,913.21	3,271.27
Return to Employment Small Loans	-	750.00	750.00	750.00
Staff Fund - Youth ministry	-	-	-	3,728.19
Youth Ministry	-	1,760.98	1,760.98	1,760.98
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>35,396.12</b>	<b>22,427.83</b>	<b>57,823.95</b>	<b>46,979.83</b>

Independent Examiner's report to the members/trustees of St Paul's Church Harold Hill  
Parochial Church Council.

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on the  
attached pages

### **Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the Independent Examiner**

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2)  
of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

1. Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
2. Follow procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity  
Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
3. State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **Basis of Independent Examiners Statement.**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the  
Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a  
comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of  
any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the  
management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not  
provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not  
express an audit opinion on the accounts.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me  
reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep  
accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or to prepare accounts, which  
accord with these accounting records have not been met; or to which, in my opinion,  
attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be  
reached.

**Signed:**



**Date:** 6th April 2023

**Alan Gray**  
73 Shepherds Hill  
Harold Wood  
RM3 0NP