



St John's Church Preservation Group

Annual Report

2023 to 2024

Charity Registration 1164822

The Old School House, St John's Road, Kates Hill, Dudley,
DY2 7JT



CHARITY FORM

St John's Church Preservation Group is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. The governing document is the constitution.

Trustees are selected by invitation.

PATRON



Professor Carl Chinn, MBE, broadcaster, author, professor, Chair Birmingham University Community History

"I am proud to serve as patron"

PURPOSES OF THE CHARITY

St John's Church Preservation Group was formed in 2007 to save St John's Church which had been closed to the public in 2002. It was empty for 14 years until the group, after a lengthy campaign and process, was granted a lease to take on the restoration and re-opening in 2016.

The object[s] of St John's Church Preservation Group are:

- (a) to support the restoration and preservation of St John's Church, Kates Hill, Dudley, a place of historic and architectural importance with a view to supporting Christian worship and providing a facility for greater community use;
- (b) To advance the education of the public in the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment;
- (c) to advance the education of the public particularly but not exclusively by (i) educating the public in different religious beliefs including an awareness of their distinctive features and their common ground to promote good relations between persons of different faiths and (ii) by promoting knowledge and mutual understanding and respect of the beliefs and practices of different religious faiths;
- (d) to further benefit the residents of Dudley and its surrounding areas particularly but not exclusively those who are unemployed or unwaged and those who are without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, race or of political, religious or other opinions by associating together the said residents and the local authorities, voluntary and other organisations in a common effort to advance education and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare, recreation and other leisure time activities with the objective of improving the conditions of life for the residents;
- (e) to advance in life and help young people through providing support and activities which develop their skills, capacities and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as mature and responsible individuals.



St John's Church, 1840. Grade 11 listed in May 2009 following application by St John's Church Preservation Group

SUMMARY OF MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Maintenance and restoration of the church building
- Fundraising
- Church Open Day every Friday
- Assistance with family history research
- Six Anglican services per year.
- Graveyard and adjoining Nature reserve maintenance
- Event programme engaging with local and wider community
- Volunteering opportunities from age 16 years and in family or affinity groups
- Trustees meet on a regular basis, by Zoom

TRUSTEE STATEMENT PUBLIC BENEFIT

The trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit

TRUSTEES IN THIS PERIOD

Deborah Brownlee (Chair)
Maria Bottley (Secretary)
John Poole (Treasurer)
Martin Horwood
David Kerr
Ann Kerr
Paul Smith

Note during this period three trustees have suffered from significant health issues.

CONTRIBUTION MADE BY VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers increased during this period from 12 to 15 and during this period 2100 hours of volunteering were carried out. The volunteer team is beginning to stabilise following the Covid disruption and get back to the happy long term situation we had prior to the shutdowns.

SUMMARY OF THE MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE CHARITY DURING THIS PERIOD

The volunteers continued to work very hard to clear the church building of donated stock and begin to change the emphasis of the project from selling donated goods, to enhance the heritage preservation element of the project. During this period we remained fairly gridlocked with boxes and sacks, but with much hard work we have found that visitors and supporters notice a big difference every time they visit. They can see the direction of travel, and we gained new Friends of St John's bringing the total to 75. Unfortunately we lost several generous Friends now RIP and this reflected in our donations income.

We maintained our weekly Friday Open Day and also participated in the National Heritage Open Days. Amongst other projects 'getting going' again after the Covid lockdowns, was Tipton Canal Festival, and we were pleased to return to 'our spot', right next to the famous Tipton Slasher statue (he is buried at St John's). We also attended the Black Country Boating Festival, another project that was 'touch and go' but has survived to continue and we again took up our usual spot.

We continued to hold six services per year including the key events of Remembrance and Christmas, but this is under review. Trustees are currently discussing the future shape of events and services, and we agreed on a temporary name of St John's Heritage Project for the building, removing the word church, which anecdotally was putting some people off supporting the project. We have found an uplift in attitude and support since we emphasised the words 'Heritage and History', and more current and former local residents have been calling in.

During this period we had a new roof installed over the organ chamber. The previous roof was leaking and although it had not yet impacted the organ, some leaks were falling dangerously close to the organ workings. The restoration of the 1886 Peter Conacher organ is our proudest achievement to date, and the instrument would be irreplaceable if damaged.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

At the end of this period the charity had cash at bank and in hand of £10,006, down slightly from the previous year £10,238. In addition there is an insurance prepayment of £3,859.

Our events income was reduced, from £958 to £744, as we are still trying to rebuild an events team to take our stall out to more shows.

Sales income, was down, from £5,594 to £4,596. We intend in the future to concentrate on online selling, and we are recruiting helpers to assist with this. Over time this will bring the sale of donated goods figure back up, as we gain expertise.

The Friends of St John's and others continued to provide donations, which were decreased this year due to some Friend losses, from £10,247 to £9,351.

Our insurance cost increased from £6533 to £6551 and remains our largest expense.

Utilities appear reduced this year, however this was due to a refund due from our School House tenancy.

We spent £6,289 on building and grounds maintenance, up from £1210, and this includes the cost of the new roof over the organ chamber.

None of the trustees or volunteers claim any travel or other expenses, unless the volunteer incurs bus fare, which we do repay.

FUTURE

Although there are many difficulties, the resolve of the trustees, volunteers and Friends remains solid. We anticipated up to five years to recover from having to close the project for over two years, but the momentum is gradually building back up. Next year the building will be 185 years old, and we anticipate a programme of slow but gradual improvements and restoration.

We made an approach to the Diocese of Worcester, to purchase the church building. This was welcomed, but later withdrawn. We intend to revisit this again in due course.

We are also seeking new active trustees to strengthen our board.

Prepared and approved by the trustees of St John's Church Preservation Group

30th September 2025

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: CE005853 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1164822

Report of the Trustees and
Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 November 2024
for
St John's Church Preservation Group

Altus Business Consulting
Chartered Accountants
88-89 High Street
Wordsley
Stourbridge
West Midlands
DY8 5SB

St John's Church Preservation Group

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for the Year Ended 30 November 2024

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St John's Church Preservation Group

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 30 November 2024

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30 November 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

CE005853 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

1164822

Registered office

The Old School House
St John's Road
Kates Hill
Dudley
West Midlands
DY2 7JT

Trustees

D Brownlee
D Kerr
A Kerr
P Smith
M Bottley
J Poole
M Horwood

Independent Examiner

Richard Ashmore BA, BFP, FCA
Altus Business Consulting
Chartered Accountants
88-89 High Street
Wordsley
Stourbridge
West Midlands
DY8 5SB

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 1st August 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

D Brownlee - Trustee

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
St John's Church Preservation Group

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of St John's Church Preservation Group ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 30 November 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by Section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

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



Richard Ashmore BA, BFP, FCA

Altus Business Consulting
Chartered Accountants
88-89 High Street
Wordsley
Stourbridge
West Midlands
DY8 5SB

1st August 2025

St John's Church Preservation Group

Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 30 November 2024

	Notes	30.11.24 Unrestricted fund £	30.11.23 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies		9,351	10,247
Charitable activities			
Events Income		744	958
Sales Income		4,596	5,594
Commonwealth War Graves Comm		-	220
Recycling		146	111
Bank Interest		43	
Total		<u>14,880</u>	<u>17,130</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds		18	273
Charitable activities			
Administration		<u>15,094</u>	<u>18,573</u>
Total		<u>15,112</u>	<u>18,846</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(232)	(1,716)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward		14,097	15,813
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>13,865</u></u>	<u><u>14,097</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

St John's Church Preservation Group

Balance Sheet
30 November 2024

	Notes	30.11.24 Unrestricted fund £	30.11.23 Total funds £
CURRENT ASSETS			
Prepayments and accrued income		3,859	3,859
Cash at bank and in hand		10,006	10,238
		13,865	14,097
NET CURRENT ASSETS		13,865	14,097
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		13,865	14,097
NET ASSETS		13,865	14,097
FUNDS	4		
Unrestricted funds		13,865	14,097
TOTAL FUNDS		13,865	14,097

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 30 November 2023.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 30 November 2023 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 1st August 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:

D Brownlee - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

2. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 30 November 2024 nor for the year ended 30 November 2023.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 30 November 2024 nor for the year ended 30 November 2023.

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 30 November 2024

3. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM	
Donations and legacies	10,247
Charitable activities	
Events Income	958
Sales Income	5,594
Commonwealth War Graves Comm	220
Recycling	111
Total	17,130
EXPENDITURE ON	
Raising funds	273
Charitable activities	
Administration	18,573
Total	18,846
NET INCOME	(1,716)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS	
Total funds brought forward	15,813
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	14,097

4. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.12.23 £	Net movement in funds £	At 30.11.24 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	14,097	(232)	13,865
TOTAL FUNDS	14,097	(232)	13,865

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 30 November 2024

4. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	14,880	(15,112)	(232)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>14,880</u>	<u>(15,112)</u>	<u>(232)</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.12.22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 30.11.23 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	15,813	(1,716)	14,097
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>15,813</u>	<u>(1,716)</u>	<u>14,097</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	17,130	(18,846)	(1,716)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>17,130</u>	<u>(18,846)</u>	<u>(1,716)</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.12.22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 30.11.24 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	15,813	(1,948)	13,865
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>15,813</u>	<u>(1,948)</u>	<u>13,865</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 30 November 2024

4. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	32,010	(33,958)	(1,948)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>32,010</u>	<u>(33,958)</u>	<u>(1,948)</u>

5. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 30 November 2024.

St John's Church Preservation Group

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 30 November 2024

	30.11.24 £	30.11.23 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	9,351	10,247
Charitable activities		
Events Income	744	958
Sales Income	4,596	5,594
Recycling	146	111
Commonwealth War Graves Comm	-	220
	5,486	6,883
Total incoming resources		
	14,837	17,130
EXPENDITURE		
Raising donations and legacies		
Volunteer's Expenses	18	273
Charitable activities		
Insurance	6,551	6,533
Grounds & Property Expenses	6,289	1,210
Rent & Utilities	200	7,308
Events, Meetings & Promotions	1,598	1,889
General Administration	456	1,561
Telephone & Internet	-	72
Miscellaneous Expenses	-	-
	15,094	18,572
Total resources expended		
	15,112	18,846
Net (expenditure)/income		
	(275)	(1,716)

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements