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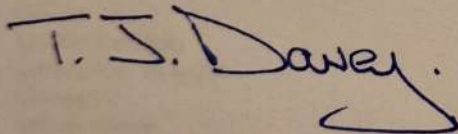
ST KATHERINE'S CHURCH
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.12.2022

Auditor's Report to the Members of
St Katherine's Church, Westway, London

I have reviewed the Financial Statements and workings supporting them.

In common with similar organisations, the Church's systems of control depend upon the close involvement of the PCC and its elected office of Treasurer. Where additional information to that presented was required, I accepted the assurances of the aforementioned that all the transactions were reflected in the records.

That said, the Financial Statements as attached in my opinion give a true and fair account of the Church's affairs as at 31 December 2022 and the receipts and payments made in that year.



Terence Davey

Date 6th October 2023

Parochial Church Council of St.Katherine Westway

Financial Statement for the year ending 31st December 2022

ALL Fund receipts & payments	2022	2021	
Incoming Resources			
<u>Incoming receipts from donors</u>			
Collection - Envelope	0.00	445.00	
Collection - Loose	0.00	722.00	
Collection - Loose (in safe)	679.00	205.00	
Other planned giving	562.50	1930.00	
Other income	3241.00	0.00	
Tax efficient giving	19710.00	25470.00	
Tax recovered	0.00	0.00	28772.00
		24192.50	
<u>Other Voluntary incoming</u>			
Donations, gift days	2505.00	100.00	
Events and Conf.	1004.00	0.00	
Parochial Fees (in)	144.00	0.00	
Fund-raising	0.00	0.00	100.00
		3653.00	
<u>Incoming Resources</u>			
Bank Interest	62.11	70.15	
CBF Interest & dividends	143.53	157.80	
Change in investment value (shares)	-1107.58	-554.05	-326.10
		-901.94	
<u>Income from Charitable & ancillary trading</u>			
Hall Letting	1000.00	570.00	
Property Rent	21925.80	19125.21	19695.21
		22925.80	
Total receipts		49869.36	48241.11
Outgoing resources			
<u>Grants</u>			
Giving	6756.00	10956.83	
Sponsorship	1000.00	0.00	
Special Gift	919.80	0.00	10956.83
		8675.80	
<u>Activities directly related to the work of Church</u>			
LDF Common Fund	15000.00	10000.00	
Parochial Fees (out)	0.00	0.00	
Clergy Expenses	0.00	0.00	
Church Groups	90.99	232.29	
Cost of Services	2013.46	4214.16	
Conferences and Events	6909.15	747.69	
Insurance	4175.83	3474.94	
Council Tax	0.00	0.00	
Utilities: Electricity	2789.96	2431.03	
Utilities: Fuel oil & Gas	0.00	905.63	
Utilities: TV	159.00	157.50	
Utilities: Waste	451.73	106.68	
Utilities: Water	166.91	306.72	
Kitchen	106.33	0.00	
Maintenance	5839.96	27252.75	
Chuchyard	3090.96	2328.99	52158.38
		40794.28	
<u>Church Management & administration</u>			
Bank charges	216.35	224.00	
Office equipment	2849.52	180.70	
Postage	38.39	34.67	
Stationery	151.23	248.34	
Telephone	512.50	418.56	
Professional Fees	5315.45	2261.75	
Administrator Wages	27613.80	22436.05	
Administration-Other	77.54	222.40	26026.47
		36774.78	
<u>Other expenditure</u>			
Centre Expences	231.21	0.00	
Houses: Council Tax	0.00	0.00	
Houses: Insurance	0.00	436.90	
Houses: Maintenance	118.27	630.00	
Utilities-Other	0.00	0.00	1066.90
		349.48	
Total payments		86594.34	90208.58
Excess of receipts over payments		-36724.98	-41967.47

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6.10.22

BANK ACCOUNTS

General Fund

	2022	2021
PCC ST Kats Church Fund (Bank Acc)	50297.30	48362.21
Receipts	88042.05	90178.30
Payments	-37744.75	-41816.09
Excess of receipts over payments	354181.29	395997.38
Balance 1 Jan	316436.54	354181.29
Balance 31 Dec		

Petty Cash	400.00	0.00
Receipts	-340.00	0.00
Payments	60.00	0.00
Excess of receipts over payments	427.48	427.48
Balance 1 Jan	487.48	427.48
Balance 31 Dec		

Equals	2136.00
Receipts	-718.01
Payments	1417.99
Excess of receipts over payments	0.00
Balance 1 Jan	1417.99
Balance 31 Dec	

Uncleared Transactions

Loose Collection (in Safe)	679.00	205.00	319021.01	354813.77
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St.Katherine Hall Fund (Endowment)

CBF London Diocesan Fund (123 ~ 260D)				
Receipts	0.00	0.00		
Payments to General Fund	0.00	0.00		
Excess of receipts over payments	0.00	0.00		
Balance 1 Jan	0.00	0.00		
Balance 31 Dec	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Reserve Fund-Designated

CBF St Kats PPC (623 ~ 7001F)				
Receipts (Dividend)	143.53	157.80		
Payments	0.00	0.00		
Excess of receipts over payments	143.53	157.80		
Change in market value of Investments	-772.55	-383.78		
Balance 1 Jan	5711.24	5937.22		
Balance 31 Dec	5082.21	5711.24	5082.21	5711.24

St.Katherine's Youth & Centre Fund

Vicar and Church Wardens (Bank Acc)				
Receipts	62.11	70.15		
Payments	30.28	30.28		
Excess of receipts over payments	31.83	39.87		
Balance 1 Jan	1827.87	1788.00		
Balance 31 Dec	1859.70	1827.87		

CBF St Kats Youth & Com (775 ~ 4001F)

Receipts (Dividend)	0.00	0.00		
Payments (to Wardens & PCC)	0.00	0.00		
Excess of receipts over payments	0.00	0.00		
Change in market value of Investments	-335.03	-170.27		
Balance 1 Jan	2496.53	2666.80		
Balance 31 Dec	2161.50	2496.53	4021.20	4324.40

VALUE 31/12/2022

328124.43

364849.41

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6.10.23

Parochial Church Council of St. Katherine, Westway, W12
 Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31st December 2022

Assets

Monetary Assets
 Cash
 Bank Current Account
 CBF Deposit Fund
 Other Assets
 CBF Fixed Interest Securities fund
 Houses
 16 Yew Tree Road
 17 Hillary Road (sold December 2019)
 Total Assets

Liabilities

Total Liabilities

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

Priest in Charge
Lesley Tate
A.C. Tate

Date

T.S.D
 6.10.23

Hall Fund	Reserve	Youth & Centre	Gen Fund	Total 2022	Total 2021
0.00		1859.70	2584.47 316436.54	0.00 2584.47 318296.24	0.00 632.48 356009.16
	5082.21	2161.50		0.00 7243.72	0.00 8207.77
			501500.00	0.00 501500.00	0.00 501500.00
0.00	5082.21	4021.20	820521.01	829624.43	866349.41
Total 2022					Total 2021
					0.00
					0.00

PCC BUSINESS REPORT 2022-23 – Barbara Coulson, PCC Secretary

There were 7 PCC meetings during the year. Business included:

Ministry and Growth:

- **Revd Jim Tate retired in September:** Jim Tate retired from his position of Priest in Charge of St Kat's Church after 25 years. Jim has been licensed with Permission to Officiate.
- **Revd Lesley Tate appointed Vicar of St Kat's:** Lesley Tate was licenced to become Priest in Charge of St Kat's Church in October.
- **Investment in staffing:** Barbara Coulson was employed as p/t Church Administrator (June 2022).
- **St Kat's Church weekend:** Ashburnham - Church Weekend. Johnathan Rust – to Develop St Kat's Vision, Mission & Values Statement. Pray for the growth of St Kat's.
- **Women's Ministry:** Barbara Studd (Licensed Lay Minister) is now leading St Kat's Women's Ministry. Women's retreat to High Leigh.
- **Meditation Sessions:** Weekly quiet mediation in the Prayer Room – led by Frank (Licensed Lay Minister).

Business and Finance:

- **Common Fund offer:** The PCC agreed that the Common Fund should be increased to £21,000, an increase of £6,000.
- **Grant/loan from Diocese of London Kensington Area:** St Kat's received a £10,000 grant and £10,000 loan, interest free, to be paid back over 3 years. This will be used to refurbish and heat the gym space for rental income.
- **Sharesy:** St Kat's entered into an agreement with Sharesy, an online renting platform, to rent out the coffee bar space. Sharesy take a 20% booking fee. St Kat's have had 3 bookings so far.
- **Letting of the car park:** St Kats appointed Andy Shaw as our Agent to find potential clients to rent out the car park space. NCP are interested so we are waiting on licencing agreements.
- **HS2 funding:** Application for up to £75,000. This funding will pay for new windows in the upstairs gym area. Subject to the approval by the PCC, the funds will also pay for a P/T community activity manager.

Building and Fabric:

- **Kitchen and coffee bar toilets:** Refurbishment to the kitchen and coffee bar toilets to be carried out in the summer months of 2023.
- **Refurbishment:** A new toilet and small kitchen area have been built in the upstairs gym area. New TVs for Prayer Room and coffee bar. New audio equipment for main Church / Worship area.
- **Church signage:** Signs with information about St Kat's church services are displayed on church building.
- **Heat Pump system:** We are in consultation with heating consultant David Au-Yeong. We are waiting for the figures for the heat pump system installation and running costs.
- **Stairwell painted:** The stairwell up to the upstairs space has been painted.

Safeguarding:

- All PCC members had DBS checks completed.
- Luke and Faye have also had DBS checks in relation to their voluntary work at St Kat's.
- All trustees of the PCC must complete Safeguarding training. Les Tate, Jim Tate, Barb S and Barb C have completed this
- Frank has completed safeguarding training in relation to his role as Licensed Lay Minister.

Other partnerships:

- **Employment of Elise Brown as funding and networking consultant:** The PCC have employed Elise Brown, a network and partnership specialist, on a temporary basis to consult and support the application of applying for funding for St Kat's gym community project.
- **Kids Matter training and programme:** Started programme 7th March 2023. The Programme will run for 8 weeks.
- **Safe Families:** St Kat's are in partnership with the Safe Families organisation to support our local families.

Community Events held:

- **Kids Events:** St Kat's have held three kids events (11th & 25th August 2022 and 16 February 2023). We also held a children's Christmas party for the children in the community.
- **Lent/Café Conversation:** Church members met at the café on Tuesday afternoons throughout Lent to discuss the book, Living His Story by Hannah Steele.
- **Community Quiz & Curry Event:** Evening community event (24th November).
- **Christmas Fair:** Held on 17th December.
- **Chill & Chat:** Held Every Tuesday 1.45-3.15pm (in the summer months). Community afternoon tea & chat drop in.
- **Messy Church:** Messy Church will commence this summer (21st June).

PCC FINANCE REPORT 2022 – Barbara Studd, PCC Member

The PCC does not currently have a Treasurer. The role automatically falls to the Churchwarden in this situation. However, our former Treasurer Barbara Studd is continuing to support the PCC until an appointment is made.

The final accounts are being prepared and should be sent off to the auditor by end of April. As the accounts will not be signed off by the date of the APCM, the accounts will be circulated to the church membership when this has been completed. We will also need to have a further brief APCM to formally approve the accounts for 2022.

At the 2022 APCM meeting, the accounts for 2021 were prepared but unsigned at that time. The accounts have now been signed off by our auditor so we seek formal approval of the 2021 accounts at this APCM.

ACCOUNTS FOR 2022

The starting bank balance in January 2022 was £354k. Year end bank balance at 31 December 2022 was £319k. Bank balance reduced by £35k over the year.

Income for 2022 - £42k

Income from collections and direct debits down by £8k, partly due to leavers.

Property income increased by £2k due to high occupancy and less maintenance on the house during the year.

Expenditure for 2022 - £77k

Giving to other organisations reduced by £3.5k.

Common Fund payments totalling £15k, previous year was £10k.

Spent just £5k on maintenance compared to £27k previous year.

Salaries increased by £5k due to appointment of Administrator during the year.

Salary costs will reduce by at least 50% this year as we are not currently employing an Assistant Minister.

Both retreats – High Leigh and Ashburnham – cost the church around £600 each event. Mainly due to free places allocated to guest leaders and the facilitators.

Other notes

Gift Aid of around £13k to be claimed so will come into the bank account this financial year.

There may be income from the car park area this financial year if planning permission is granted.

Common Fund contribution increasing to £21k this financial year.

Building Report – APCM April 2023

The building continues to be a both blessing and a challenge!

Heating System – the heating system ground to a halt last year and on Sundays we limped on with a couple of fan heaters which gradually made no impact at all during the cold weather, so the decision was taken to move into the coffee bar for the colder months. A Heating Consultant has been appointed and he has provided heating system options for the PCC to consider. Likely we will be in the coffee bar during the colder months again later in the year, as it isn't clear yet, which system would be effective in terms of the cost and heating the space.

Kitchen and toilets – The diocese have granted permission for us to go ahead with the upgrade to the toilets and the kitchen. These works will take place during July/August while we are in the main church.

Gym – a new toilet and sink have been installed in the toilet upstairs, which is off the small room adjacent to the gym. The rest of the works which include two new roof windows, new flooring and fire doors, and a safety gate on the stairwell, will be completed in the next three months.

Car Park – it is looking hopeful for the car park to be let to NCP on a reduced plan, meaning they will use the front of the car park.

Tech - Jon has made various improvements to the sound system. The week before we moved Sunday worship into the coffee bar, he finished installing some new speakers to improve the sound for Sundays. If you haven't seen them, do look. You'll notice the very large black speakers which used to hang either side of the chancel arch have been replaced with smaller ones, plus two new white speakers are positioned halfway towards the back of the church. We'll get to appreciate them in the warmer months, during which we'll be worshipping back in the main church.

Other tech improvements Jon has made, are the TVs on portable stands in use in the coffee bar and the prayer room.

Signage - Jon put up a new banner on the outside wall, and designed a sign which is now up on the chapel wall in Primula Street. We also have a new sign in the church grounds on the Westway.

Rev Lesley Tate
19th April 2023

ST KATHERINE'S Deanery Synod Report for APCM in April 2023

Meeting- 8th February 2022: Holy Innocents, Paddenswick Rd.

Main Topic: Enabling Well-Being in a Season of Exhaustion and Extension

The Rev. Will van der Hart (Associate Vicar of St Dionis and one of the four Directors of the Mind and Soul Foundation www.mindandsoulfoundation.org) gave a presentation focussing on the mental and emotional health of leaders both in the clergy and amongst the laity particularly those arising from the levels of stress imposed by the Covid 19 pandemic.

He emphasised the importance of well being and how essential it was to change the cultural approach to mental health from addressing ill health as a disease to the positive WHO approach which defines mental and emotional well being as the ability to realise potential, to cope with life's events, to work productively and fruitfully and to participate in community. He emphasised in particular the impact of oppressed potential in creating anxiety and stress which lead to disorder and burn out. He encouraged everyone to pay attention not only to their own personal well-being but that of those around them.

There followed a short Q&A session in which questions of how to bridge between different people's experience of lockdown because of their different personalities or circumstances; and also between the experiences of parish clergy/staff and communities. The speaker emphasised the importance of sharing experience and communication. It was suggested that there was a real problem of ignorance of what parish clergy/staff are actually spending their time and energy doing as most people only see what they do on a Sunday.

Meeting- 27th April 2022: St Etheldreda's, Fulham Palace Rd.

Main Topic: Compassionate Communities for Refugees and Asylum Seekers

Pattie Gercke works with refugees/asylum seekers (and also modern slavery and homelessness) in the Diocesan team of five people which informs and promotes the Compassionate Communities element of Capital Vision 2030. She gave a very thorough and informative presentation on her work (PowerPoint slides attached). This is based on her work for her own PhD thesis for which she (Page2) researched the varieties of faith motivation behind existing and potential engagement of churches.

We looked at:

- How to deal with language and cultural diversity particularly dietary and similar issues.
- The interface between local authority and charitable initiatives and projects
- The need for care, attention and consistency especially in relation to accompanying people in the legal process – How clergy or others can offer supportive statements to the Home Office on behalf of Asylum Seekers in their parish.

Meeting- 28th September 2022: St Saviour's Wendell Park, W12

Main Topic: Stories Of Hope From The Deanery

The Area Dean had asked to hear some of these stories coming out of the last two difficult years of the Covid epidemic.

Various churches shared stories of how emerging from Zoom services to getting together once again to worship in person felt. Also, of how some had some re-structuring of staff, others of a greater stepping up and involvement from their congregations leading to increased numbers volunteering for everything from the worship band to the Youth team, Pastoral team, Children's work etc. St. Mary's, West Kensington had a Community Festival as part of their Mission Action Plan. The local kabab shop had a stall along with a local coffee shop. They had young musician playing and saw signs of hope in the community response. St. Simon's had lost all five of their worship leaders, due to various reasons- their new curate seemed to play guitar and two worship leaders returned so they have raised a band again.

Main Topic: WARM SPACES - Spreading Warmth and Energy in our Parishes.

Synod members were asked to report on what actions their churches were considering as part of their Community outreach by identifying and helping those effected by the energy crisis, and to report what resources were available and the cost of doing so.

Synod members were urged to co-ordinate action between Deanery parishes. Dr Emily, a local GP and church member at St. Peter's said she was finding that people were coming to the surgery with the need for warm spaces and community provision, but had no idea where to go to find these things, along with surgery staff. It was suggested that churches should provide leaflet information to all their local surgeries as to the help and support which is available. Suggestions were made on ways of drawing people in to where there is warmth and space and advice: well sign posted mother and toddler groups, welcoming dogs, providing WiFi, providing toilets, books, food, clothes, blankets. Making events such as lunches/teas etc regular – at least once a week. Networking between churches and other organisations.

St Saviour's, Wendell Park has a – "Helping Hand" fund available. Pet Food Bank

St Paul's, Hammersmith – Encouraging people to seek help. Signposting. Saturday lunch groups – families and Midweek lunch groups – elderly people.

St Mary's, West Kensington – Very good and visible location on Hammersmith Road with a big footfall. Weekday group offering soup/sandwiches. Working with small children

St Andrew's, Fulham Fields – the Church is always warm because there are people occupying the office/meeting room space. Toddler group Mondays and Wednesdays. Café (very small) open every day – the only thing curbing loner opening hours is the number of volunteers. Saturday morning homeless project.

Meeting- 8th March 2023 :St. Stephen's, Uxbridge Road, W12

Main Topic: “A Way of Life for Every Church and Community” presented and led by Mirjam Ngoy-Verhage, the Diocesan Discipleship Enabler, who talked about what discipleship means and how we reach out to one another to make all people disciples.

How might a shared Way of Life (or Rule of Life) help us connect more deeply with God and connect God with the whole of life?

The diocese has been working on a resource called ‘A Way of Life for Every Church Community’. Our Diocesan Discipleship Enabler Mirjam Ngoy-Verhage gave us an introduction to this resource and lead us through a time of quiet and group reflection.

We were given examples from different faith Communities such as The Nazareth Community, St Peter's Bourne, The Parish of the Ascension, Ealing and the Community of Aidan and Hilda.

Many of our parishes are now exploring new services to reach out to the people living in our parishes and to bring them together. Some relevant ideas were, for example, at St Matthew's Wandsworth Bridge Road last month they held a service of remembrance and thanksgiving to help all those who have lost friends and family whether during the last very difficult few years or longer ago but have not felt able to properly grieve or remember and celebrate the lives of those now gone on before either as individuals or in a supportive community.

Another idea which has been generated is that of holding a Deanery wide International Sunday in 2023. Again, St Matthew's have explored this concept and will next year hold their 20th such service.

St.Saviour's, Wendell Park has just started holding a series of lunches to explore the different languages and nationalities of their parish and worshipping community. Encouragingly, other parishes are integrating these and other types of service within their calendar, now on an annual basis.

APCM Ministers Report Sunday 23rd April 2023

This isn't a typical Sunday talk because it's the ministers report for the annual meeting. But a Sunday service seems like the right time to talk about God's faithfulness to his church rather than in a meeting after the service.

I'm looking forward to sharing with you some thoughts from the two readings that Barb Studd and Jim read for us, a little later in the talk.

but we'll begin by looking back over the past year to remember some of the key things that happened in the life of our church.

It's been a year of change and loss and gains it's been a year of farewells and welcomes. It's been a year of beginnings and endings and more beginnings.

Last year our annual meeting was in May.

May sadly saw the death of Molly, Bella's mother. Molly was our most glamorous and elegant church member ever, and an absolute sweetie. Her funeral service was sad as we gathered to say goodbye to a much-loved mother, grandmother, auntie, and friend, who would be terribly missed. Unsurprisingly it was also a wonderful celebration of a life lived well for Jesus, and therefore the comfort and the joy to know that Molly had gone through death to eternal life with him, and of course, that we will see her again one day.

June brought the start of Barbara Coulson's role as our church administrator. This was something new for us, and for Barb too. I know you'll agree with me when I say that Barb Coulson is a real blessing from the Lord to our church family.

July brought another farewell when Andrew Hutchinson left St Kat's after being a significant part of our church family for over 15 years. He is greatly missed but it was lovely to see him at Barb Studd's 50th a couple of weeks ago.

August saw the women going away to highly for a wonderful retreat organised by Barb Studd, who is one of our Licenced Lay Ministers. Our other Licenced Lay Minister is Frank Franklin.

During August we were also very much preparing for Jim's retirement in September, which meant we were preparing for significant change and of course, a celebration too. Jim's final service as Priest-in-Charge was another wonderful occasion to give thanks for God's provision for us, in the vicar who had taught us so much about God, and his word, and how to be faithful followers of Jesus, heartfelt in worship, what it means to be God's family, and how to share the Good News of Jesus with

others. Jim also taught us how to think biblically and to see the world through the lens of the Bible. We're glad that Jim is still part of St Kat's. We get to benefit from his wisdom, prophetic teaching, listening ear, and his cheeky humour.

Jim went on a well-deserved sabbatical for three months, and we took a break together for the first four weeks of it, so there was space for us all to prepare for a new season.

If you're new to St Kat's you likely don't know this yet, but I was licenced in October as the Interim- Priest-in-Charge of St Katherine's, which is a three-year post. This is because like many churches, St Kat's has declined in number over several years.

Soon after my licensing, we had a church weekend in November at Ashburnham led by Jonathan Rust, where four priorities emerged for our church:

1. Prayer
2. Welcome
3. Connecting with the community
4. Church growth (numerical and spiritual)

Prayer is our number one priority for good reason. In the reading Barb Studd read for us Jesus said "apart from me you can do nothing"

We're going to spend a bit of time looking at the words of Jesus to better understand why prayer is important – for our welcome to be all it can be, so that we connect with the community in meaningful ways that bear fruit, and to see St Kat's grow in number as others find their place in God's family through relationship with Jesus.

Jesus says the same thing in five verses that follow each other.

He is emphatic in these verses that we are to remain in him.

What does that mean?

It means to be in a daily, personal relationship with Jesus. Jesus doesn't mince his words because he understands human nature.

Most of us love a grape or two. If we were a branch of a vine that produces grapes, but were cut off from the vine itself, we will dry out and eventually die, we'd be a bit of deadwood that the owner of the vineyard would pick up and throw on the fire, and we'd be snuffed out.

V6 If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.

Why would we want to cut ourselves off from Jesus?

The problem is our instinct is to be independent - we broke away from God right at the beginning of history, Adam and Eve cut themselves off from him and we all followed suit.

Since that time human beings have been constantly striving for independence.

Sometimes our independence is for self-preservation. Others have let us down, mistreated us, been unreliable. We don't feel safe, so we seek to take control of our lives.

We don't know how to be interdependent on others - that requires vulnerability, we lack the patience, we don't trust that others can be trusted, we don't like their way of doing things. We'd rather steer our own ship.

The real problem with this drive to be independent is that we act independently of God, This is a big mistake on our part.

He IS the vine, the source of all life. without him we end up like those dead branches, and we will be thrown on the fire, and burned up.

As a church we need to remain in Jesus by keeping in relationship with him. We need to recognise that we are helpless without him - like headless chickens.

Remaining in Jesus means praying, developing our relationship with him, learning to trust him, and knowing his joy.

Sounds old fashioned, but the reality is for us as a church and as individuals no matter what we're facing we can know joy which comes from the Father. As we abide in Jesus, we share in the joy that he has with the Father.

Psalm 73 verse 28 says this:

I'm in the very presence of God - oh how refreshing it is! I've made Lord God my home.

As we make Jesus our home, we become more like him, and listening to him and following him becomes more natural, and our dependence on him grows.

We are completely dependent on him for everything for our life here and now on this earth, and dependent on him on the day of our death to take us to be with him for all eternity. We are dead without him.

Charles Spurgeon, that great 19th Century pastor known amongst many as the Prince of Preachers said this about prayer:

"... My own soul's conviction is, that prayer is the grandest power in the entire universe; That it has a more omnipotent force than electricity, attraction, gravitation... Prayer hath as palpable, as true, a sure, as invariable an influence over the entire universe as any of the laws of matter. Charles Spurgeon

The good news is that we are praying and we will continue to pray. We are already beginning to see the fruit of our prayer.

Sunday by Sunday we are experiencing God's presence in a powerful way. We have received positive feedback from visitors about the welcome they have received and we have also received feedback that some of our visitors have felt the presence of God, and have been touched by his Spirit in a powerful and moving way.

In our connecting with the community, we are sensing a warmth from them and desire to join in with the things we are doing. Alongside this we're beginning to see numerical growth which we are thankful for.

Going forward we will build on this and keep doing what we're doing undergirded by more prayer.

I'll close with these words of Jesus from verse 9-11:

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

Rev Lesley Tate
Interim Priest-in-Charge