ST FRANCIS', VALLEY PARK SINGLE CONGREGATION LOCAL ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP

England & Wales · Charity number 1165677

Details

Other names	ST FRANCIS' CHURCH, VALLEY PARK
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	2016-02-22
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	St. Francis Church Pilgrims Close Chandler's Ford Valley Park Eastleigh SO53 4ST
Phone	023 80271152
Email	admin@stfrancis-valleypark.org.uk
Website	www.stfrancis-valleypark.org.uk

Activities

Objects: THE PURPOSE OF THE CHARITY IS TO ADVANCE THE CHRISTIAN FAITH IN THE AREA OF BENEFIT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES OF THE PARTICIPATING CHURCHES.IN ACHIEVING ITS PURPOSE, THE CHARITY WILL ENGAGE IN A RANGE OF ACTIVITIES, EITHER ON ITS OWN OR WITH OTHERS, INCLUDING (BUT NOT RESTRICTED TO):A)THE CELEBRATION OF PUBLIC WORSHIP; B)THE TEACHING OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH; C)MISSION AND EVANGELISM; D)PASTORAL WORK, INCLUDING VISITING THE SICK AND THE BEREAVED; E)THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES WITH A CHRISTIAN ETHOS FOR THE LOCAL COMMUNITY, INCLUDING (BUT NOT RESTRICTED TO) THE ELDERLY, THE YOUNG AND OTHER GROUPS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS; AND F)THE SUPPORT OF OTHER CHARITIES IN THE UK AND OVERSEAS.

Activities: The witness, ministry and mission of the Christian Church according to the rites, tenets and articles of faith of the participating church denominations of the Local Ecumenical Partnership: Church of

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England, Methodist and United Reformed Churches, and operating principally within in the Ecclesiastical Parish of Valley Park, Chandler's Ford, Hampshire.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Hampshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£172,275	£165,714	-	-
2023-12-31	£168,760	£167,349	-	-
2022-12-31	£157,187	£128,371	-	-
2021-12-31	£140,059	£122,056	-	-
2020-12-31	£117,578	£114,562	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Andrew Grove		2019-10-13
Brian Anthony King		2022-04-03
Caroline Gough		2022-04-03
Dr Natasha Dean		2022-04-03
Elizabeth Frisby		2024-03-03
Fiona Jane Grove		2019-04-07
Jonathan Estabrook		2024-03-03
Katherine Waterman		2024-03-03
Oladunni Ajayi		2022-04-03
Peter Simon Rhodes		2022-04-03

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ST FRANCIS', VALLEY PARK SINGLE CONGREGATION LOCAL ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP

England & Wales - Charity number 1165677

Accounts

St Francis Church

you're welcome here

THE ECUMENICAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. FRANCIS CHURCH VALLEY PARK SINGLE CONGREGATION LOCAL ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP, & THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF VALLEY PARK

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024.

ST FRANCIS' CHURCH: PILGRIM'S CLOSE, VALLEY PARK, CHANDLER'S FORD, EASTLEIGH, HANTS, SO53 4ST.
Tel: 023 8027 1152; E-mail: admin@stfrancis-valleypark.org.uk
Website: www.stfrancis-valleypark.org.uk Facebook: www.facebook.com/stfrancisvp

BANK: THE NATIONAL WESTMINSTER BANK, EASTLEIGH BRANCH, 34 SOUTHAMPTON ROAD, EASTLEIGH SO50 9XN.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER: MR. CHRIS. GOODHEAD FCA, KNIGHT GOODHEAD LTD. CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS, 7 BOURNEMOUTH ROAD, CHANDLER'S FORD, EASTLEIGH. HANTS. SO53 3DA.

INSPECTING ARCHITECT: MS. SARAH HARLOW BA (HONS) DIPARCH RIBA, SEYMOUR AND BAINBRIDGE ARCHITECTS, 9 CHARLECOTE MEWS, STAPLE GARDENS, WINCHESTER, HANTS. SO23 8SR.

REGISTERED AS A CHARITY IN ENGLAND AND WALES; CHARITY NUMBER: 1165677

Annual Report of the Ecumenical Church Council of the Single Congregation Local Ecumenical Partnership of St Francis' Valley Park

and the Parochial Church Council of the Parish of Valley Park Annual Report 2024

Aims and purposes

The aims and purposes of St Francis' Church, Valley Park Single Congregation Local Ecumenical Partnership (SC-LEP) remain unchanged from previous years. The Church and Charity exists to advance the Christian faith within the Ecclesiastical Parish of Valley Park and elsewhere, in accordance with the rites and practices of the participating denominations in the LEP: Church of England, Methodist Church and United Reformed Church.

Oversight and management of the work of St Francis' Church is vested in an Anglican Parochial Church Council (PCC), and an Ecumenical Church Council (ECC), which normally meet concurrently, and are collectively known as 'The Church Council'. The Church Council has responsibility, in co-operation with the Incumbent minister, the designated Ministers of the other Participating Churches and the Church Wardens for promoting the Christian faith and enabling the whole mission of the Christian Church.

Objectives

The Charity's objectives continue to focus on Christian Mission and Ministry. St Francis' Church Council works to promote the whole mission of the church through the following objectives. These will be expanded with reports from ministry leads to follow.

Public benefit

St Francis' Church delivers public benefit through engaging in a range of activities, including, but not restricted to:

- The celebration of public worship;
- The teaching of the Christian faith;
- Mission and evangelism;
- Pastoral work, including visiting and supporting the sick and the bereaved;
- The provision of facilities with a Christian ethos for the local community, including, but not restricted to, GP Chaplaincy, Community café, activities to support health and wellbeing
- The support of other charities in the UK and overseas.

The extent to which public benefit has been delivered is described in the following pages of this Report.

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Worship and Prayer

Children and Families

2024 was a busy but happy year for Children and Families Ministry at St Franics! Junior Church and Messy Church continued to run regularly, and both of these groups are a joy to lead. It has been deeply satisfying to witness and contribute to the establishment and growth of Footprints this past year.
Steve and I, and Sarah before her departure, had a wonderful year collaborating with St. Francis School, jointly leading whole-school collective worship twice each half term. We also celebrated Easter and Christmas with special services, featuring enthusiastic participation from all the children, particularly the Christian Voice group! In addition, I had the pleasure of giving a talk at the Year 6 Leavers' Assembly in July.

In October and November, I was invited into Knightwood School, firstly to speak to the Year 3 children about the Bible, and secondly to take part in their Inter-Faith Day. During the latter, we brought The Prodigal Son to life with the children acting out the story and creating related crafts. We also explored the theme of love within the Christian faith. It was brilliant to visit the school and represent the Church. The school have been very supportive in sharing promotion for all of our Messy Church Services, the Festival and Footprints.

We celebrated Christmas with two special services: a festive Messy Church in mid-December and our Crib Service on Christmas Eve. During the Crib Service, we retold the Nativity story through a rhyming narrative, thanks to the wonderful assistance of Liz Frisby and enthusiastic children from Junior Church and Youth Group!

Throughout the year I was involved in leading a book group which developed with some of the Wednesday Café attendees following the January 2024 Alpha Course. We read 'But is it Real' by Amy Orr-Ewing over the course of 8 months and enjoyed lively discussion with the group following each chapter.

It is an absolute joy to work in Children and Families Ministry at St Franics! I love working with all the different teams, families and of course the children! Thank you all for supporting me so well.
Please pray that this ministry will continue to be a blessing to the families of Valley Park, and that we can continue to share God's love within the community.
Hannah Hiscock – Children and Families Minister

Crèche

2024 was another quiet year for the crèche team, primarily due to the church family having no young children at the present time. We have, however, welcomed several visiting families, all of whom settled quickly and enjoyed the activities and toys.

We have a very enthusiastic and willing team who are always ready and prepared each week with a fun morning of games, crafts, songs and Bible stories planned.
We have a wonderful array of age-appropriate toys in our cheery crèche room. The Wednesday coffee morning children particularly enjoy these facilities.

The Crèche team enjoy each other's company at occasional Cleveland Bay evenings, giving us an opportunity to reflect and to discuss our inspirations for the crèche in the future.

Our crèche team is Sue Bowles, Di Smith, Jan Southern, Debbie Reeves, Carolyn Covey and Jan Stretch.
We ask for continuing prayers, that we may have new families that come to the church, and young children who are happy to come into crèche to play and enjoy our Bible stories and craft. Thank you.
Sue Bowles

Junior Church

Thanks to the commitment of the fantastic volunteer team, Junior Church met weekly during 2024 (except the first Sunday of the month when it's an All-Age Service!) and we welcomed between 6 and 15 children to each session.
In September we said goodbye to three of our young people who moved into Year 7 at School and therefore moved across to St Francis Youth Group.
In the Spring Term we followed a programme about the foundations of Christianity, learning what it means to be a follower of Jesus. During this term we held a special Junior Church on Good Friday where we reflected on the sadness of that day, but the hope that Jesus brings. The children made individual Easter Gardens to take home.
During the Summer Term we followed a programme about Christian Lifestyle and discovering how wonderful it is to live like Jesus and covered topics like Faith, Hope, Courage and Making a Difference.
We finished the year with a series on Parables in the Autumn Term and ran a supersized Junior Church on Remembrance Sunday for our regular children and children from St Francis School who were performing in the choir during the service.
Sessions follow a similar pattern each week, opening with free play from the activity box, then games, stories and activities to understand the theme, Bible study to delve in further and crafts to help remember what we've been learning about. The children bring excellent discussion and energy to each session, it's a joy!
We ask for prayers that Junior Church will flourish, enabling the children to truly discover and embrace their faith.
Hannah Hiscock

Messy Church

Messy Church: It's a place of celebration and creativity, where conversation and laughter fill the air, and food, fun and faith are shared. BRF 2025

In 2024, Messy Church continued to thrive with fun and excitement during 10 lively sessions. Each month had a different theme including Epiphany, Temptation, Resurrection, Breakfast on the Shore, The Olympics and fixing our eyes on God, Jesus the Light of the World and Christmas!
While most services were held on a Sunday at 3pm, special Wednesday services were held at 10am in the school holidays and these, along with the Summer Party (featuring a bouncy castle!) were particularly popular.

We begin each Messy Church with a themed hour of creative crafts and activities, which are prepared and led by volunteers who encourage interaction and discussion. Hands-on activities, especially those involving food, competition, or washi-tape, are always a hit!

Following this, we move to worship, where the day's message is presented through engaging methods like videos, storytelling from the Storyteller Bible, or interactive science experiments. Our prayer time is equally creative using paperchains, paper airplanes and fingerprints. We conclude the worship with familiar worship songs, such as 'My Lighthouse' and 'Our God is a Great Big God,' and often feature performances by the Hand in Hand Puppet Team. Finally, there is ALWAYS cake to enjoy with drinks and chat before everyone goes home.

The Calm Zone, which we introduced in September 2023, is available every Messy Church service and has proved to be a popular space. The small meeting room is cleared and transformed into a peaceful retreat for those who need some quiet time or enjoy the sensory stimulation, with fibre optic lights, sensory toys, soft beanbags and cushions.

A dedicated team of volunteers makes Messy Church possible, from the creative minds behind the activities and the bakers who provide delicious treats, to the tech-savvy AV operators and the strong hands that rearrange the furniture. We're especially grateful for the tidy-up crew who ensure everything is spotless after the fun. Thank you to each and every volunteer for your invaluable contribution.

We ask for prayers that Messy Church strengthens families' connections with God, and that it opens doors for others to begin their personal journey with Jesus.
Hannah Hiscock

Sung Worship

We have had another year where our sung worship has been enhanced by many talented musicians. Suzanne, Rachael and I continued to help to choose appropriate songs and hymns for services and lead during 10am and other special services during the year. We were delighted to have Dunni join us this year. Another 8 are on the regular rota and 4 help out as they're able. It's a joy to play and sing alongside them, and judging by comments, the congregation also enjoyed the variety the band brought from week to week. We continued to introduce new songs every so often, as they felt appropriate to the way God was leading us as a church.

Christmas was a very busy time as it always is, especially without a lead minister last year. It was great to have sufficient musicians to provide live music for all Christmas services (except for the 8:30 services) including at Brendoncare and also carols in the pub, expertly led by Elliott for the first time.

We have also been involved in the festival once again and provided music for funerals, both on the piano and organ as required.

Please pray for us to hear your leading, especially with regards to new songs and song choices week by week.
Stephanie Barlow

Worship and Prayer

Over 2024 we have maintained our established pattern of opportunities for worship and group prayer, focussed on Sundays but extending across the week.

Regular services include:

- Said communion weekly on Sundays at 8.30am
- Morning Worship weekly on Sundays at 10am, with
    - All-age service monthly on the 1st Sunday
    - Youth Group, Junior Church and Creche on the 2nd & 3rd Sunday
    - Communion service with Junior Church and Creche on the last Sunday
- Messy Church monthly on 3rd Sundays at 3pm
- Morning communion monthly on the 2nd Monday
- Service with Communion at Brendon Care residential home monthly on 4th Monday
- Home groups throughout the week (see separate report)

These are led by the Lead Minister, Children and Families Minister, Curate, ordained and retired minister's who are members of the congregation and lay members of the church. When the lead minister moved to a new post in October others in the team continued this work without needing support from outside the church. The Children and Families Minister leads 3 dedicated teams for conducting these services, one for Sunday All Age Services, one for Messy Church and one for Junior Church and Creche. A separate team leads the Youth Group, both on Sunday mornings and Monday evenings.

Sunday 10am services are broadcast live on Zoom, and about monthly by Outreach Radio. Recordings of the service are made available on Facebook and the church website, except All Age services. About 6-10 join each week on zoom, but information is not available on Outreach listening rates.

At times throughout the year our mission partners have presented about their work in the 10am service, and on a few occasions St Francis School choir and orchestra have joined in.

Prayer takes place before Sunday 10am services and around all these events, and prayer for individuals is available after every 10am service in a safeguarding-compliant manner. Whilst prayer is also a key feature of house groups and services, we recognise there is scope for a more regular corporate prayer opportunity.

Beyond the regular services the following occasional service take place across the year:-

1st Sunday of January 10.00am	Methodist Covenant Service
Ash Wednesday 7.00pm	Service of penitence with ashes
Maundy Thursday evening	Shared supper and communion
Good Friday 10.00am	Communion, and Junior church & Creche
Easter Sunday	All-Age Communion
1st Sunday of Autumn Term	School welcome service, led by Children & Families Minister
All Souls 6.00pm	Service for remembering those who have died
1st Sunday of Advent 6.00pm	Advent Service of Light
2nd Sunday of Advent 6.00pm	Carol Service
Christmas Eve 3.00pm	Crib service, led by Children & Families Minister
Christmas Eve 11.30pm	Midnight Communion
Christmas Day 10.00am	Morning worship

Fiona Grove & Peter Rhodes - Churchwardens

Youth Group

The youth group has continued to grow in number, with 15 young people aged between 11 and 18 meeting regularly on Monday evenings and 2nd and 3rd Sunday mornings of the month.

As leaders we enjoy engaging with them while playing champ (do ask how it works!!), chatting, learning about and discovering Jesus, and living out our faith. In December we joined with St Boniface youth group for a Christmas party and hope to invite them to us during 2025.

We mostly use Energize material for our sessions and are planning to start Youth Alpha at the beginning of 2025. Please pray for the young people as they grow in their relationship with Jesus.

Fiona, Lou, Phil and Sam

Pastoral Care

Men's Ministry

Our work specifically focussed on men in the church, or associated with it, is focussed around our monthly Men's Breakfasts. This is a time of fellowship catalysed round a good breakfast, with a short Bible talk relevant for the group and the season.

Attendance ranges between 6-12, and although not large the event is important to those who attend. Most years we also hold a walking weekend away, again focussed around fellowship and as an opportunity to introduce friends and neighbours to the church, but with a short talk and a service during the time.

We did not hold a weekend away in 2024, however one is booked and planned for March 2025.
Peter Rhodes - Men's Ministry Lead

Pastoral

The pastoral team is made up of 9 people who have the privilege to get alongside anyone who may need emotional or practical support. In addition to this there is the Prayer Chain which has 85 members of the congregation who commit to pray for anyone who asks. During 2024 there were 59 prayer requests. Please pray for the pastoral team and those they support. Thank you
Fiona

SFVP Homegroup

There are around 70 people in 7 Homegroups; 2 meet in the morning and 5 in the evening. Each meets together physically on a regular basis [weekly or fortnightly] and some make greater or lesser use of Zoom. Each group has a different feel but all balance connecting with God ['up'], encouraging one another to grow as disciples ['in'], and supporting the mission of each person ['out'].
Highlights from this year:

- Most groups tracked the sermon series early in the year on the 5 Marks of Mission [Tell, Teach, Tend, Transform, Treasure]
- Several groups have followed-up other Sunday sermon series in greater depth.
- Other themes have included
  - ✓ studying a book of the Bible [e.g. John's Gospel, Mark's Gospel, Psalms],
  - ✓ exploring a Bible character [e.g. Elisha, Women in the Old Testament],
  - ✓ exploring a theme or subject [J.John's *Just 10*, the *Influence Course* from Christians in Politics, *Living in Love and Faith*].

The leaders meet together three times a year to share how their groups are going and to exchange ideas. Its notable how often we talk about the pastoral challenges and blessings within our groups. Those who lead Homegroups do an amazing job week-in and week-out, for which I am extremely thankful.
If you would like to join a group or have a suggestion for a new group [there's always scope for other types of groups] please talk with Nick.

Nick Grew

Mission and Community Outreach, & building the corporate life of the Church family:

Cafe report

Another good year for the cafe, which is thriving on Monday and Wednesday mornings, providing a great opportunity to welcome those from the community into the building.

Fairly traded tea and coffee are served, plus biscuits and sometimes cake. One visitor regularly requests a bacon roll, but we aren't offering that as yet, and another young man produces a weekly quiz which is very much enjoyed!!!

As well as refreshments, the cafe offers a meeting place for friends and those looking for company or who want to meet new people. The volunteers ensure that no-one is left on their own and as well as serving, they sit and chat with the visitors.

On Wednesday morning Margaret provides a craft activity for the pre-school children who come with their mums/carers, which is very popular. During the school holidays this continues and so there is opportunity for the older children to meet their friends and play games while the adults sit and chat.

There have been some new volunteers during the year which is great, but others to join the team would be very welcome.
Fiona Grove

Footprints

Following 2 pilot sessions at the end of 2023, Footprints was launched weekly in January 2024! Over the year we held 50 sessions, met 22 new families with 24 children with additional needs along with 9 of their siblings. We've supported Mums, Dads, Grandparents and Carers with chat, drinks and cake!

We have 8 fabulous volunteers who run the group...setting up the resources, supporting the children in play, providing a listening ear to the families, making drinks, crafting, reading stories, singing songs and operating the bubble machine!

Footprints offer a safe and supportive environment where children with additional needs can play freely while their families connect with others in similar situations. This shared experience fosters a powerful sense of community which we are delighted to have seen develop over the past year. The regular families have set up their own WhatsApp group, they share resources with each other and enjoy meeting up with each other throughout the week outside of Footprints.

Whilst Footprints isn't a specifically faith-based activity, its core values are rooted in love, support and care.
We can't wait to see what the second year of Footprints has in store! Please pray that our group continues to thrive, and that those seeking support will easily find us.
Hannah Hiscock

Mission Giving partners

During 2023, the Mission Partners team (Caroline Gough, Christine Grew, David Gurr, Rogerio Ramos, Lou Sutton and Katie Warner) met several times to consider which Christian charities would be our mission partners, supported both financially and through prayer by our church for the next 3 years, 2024 – 2027. Their recommendations were presented to and approved by the Church Council in February 2024. This update will touch on how these mission partners were selected, who they are and how we are building our partnership with them.

How we selected our mission partners?
We wanted to honour the relationships and passion the church family have for different issues and organisations, especially our heart for those in slavery and poverty. Also, we wanted to choose partners who aligned with God's mission, with different partnerships connecting us to different aspects of that mission and parts of the world. We used a grid of the 5 Marks of Mission to help us create a balanced list of partners, as shown below. This helped us ensure a range of international, national and local charities, who addressed different needs by responding to the 5 marks of mission, which are:

TELL – share the Good News of Jesus
TEACH – baptise, nurture in the faith
TEND – to practical human need
TRANSFORM – unjust structures
TREASURE – safeguard creation

The mission grid is shown on the next page:

Strong = **Dark Green**
Lesser = **Light Green**

	5 Marks of Mission					Location			
	Good News	Teach, Baptise, Nurture	Respond to Human Needs	Transform Unjust Structures	Safeguard Creation	Local	UK National	Non-UK National	Inter-national
UK									
Fledge			■			■			
CAP	▒		■			■	■		
Through the Roof	▒		▒	▒			■		■
Eastleigh Basics Bank	▒		■	▒		■			
Overseas									
IJM			▒	■					■
A Rocha					■		▒		■

We aim to have a meaningful connection and 2-way partnership with these 6 charities through local St Francis representatives, financial gifts, speaker visits, Connect prayer evenings (1 – 2 x a year) and information via the Mission Partners Board (see later in this update).

Additional giving, for example to The Children's Society at the Christingle Service is decided on an event-by-event basis for Easter, Harvest, and Christmas.

Our mission partners

1. **Fledge** is a local charity nurturing vulnerable and homeless young people by providing a home environment, offering long-term support and encouraging healthy relationships.

2. **Christians Against Poverty (CAP)** is a UK based charity specialising in debt counselling for people in financial difficulty. It also provides job clubs for those seeking employment, life skills groups to help people live well on a low income, and money coaching workshops to equip people with essential budgeting skills.

3. **Eastleigh Basics Bank was** set up some years ago by the churches of Eastleigh to support those experiencing financial difficulty and needing short term support through the provision of food and other essentials such as toiletries. Several people from SFVP volunteer their time to help at Eastleigh Basics Bank.

4. **Through the Roof (TTR)** is a Christian charity for disabled people. It supports churches to be more aware and inclusive of those with disabilities through their Roofbreaker programme (which we are part of.). They have overseas missions distributing reconditioned wheelchairs to developing countries and also take their inclusivity training to churches abroad.

5. **International Justice Mission (IJM)** is a global organisation that protects people in poverty from human trafficking, modern-day slavery, violence and police abuse of power. They work with local justice systems and social services around the world to rescue victims, bring criminals to justice, support survivors, and build safe communities.

6. **A Rocha** is a global family of conservation organisations working together to live out God's calling to care for creation and equip others to do likewise. It's starting point is to help us examine how we are doing as a church in caring for creation and how we can improve.

Growing our partnerships

As well as supporting our mission partners financially, we wanted to build relationships with them and support them in prayer. To help us do this we invited our mission partners to speak at the 10am church service to share information about the charities' work and the people they help.

Speakers:

- EBB – Dave Keating (May 2024)
- TTR – Carol Dyer (Sep 2024)
- A Rocha – Nick Baker (Nov 2024)
- IJM – Jonny Goodchild (Jan 2025)

Speakers from Fledge and CAP spoke in 2023, and our intention is to invite them back again in 2025. Where possible, where charities are equipped to do so, we would like to give sermon time to the speakers, so we integrate the aims of the mission partners with God's wider purpose.

A Connect evening was held on 3 July 2024 focusing on 3 of our mission partners; after information was shared about their recent work and challenges, we broke into small groups to pray for EBB, IJM and TTR. The evening went well and was very encouraging.
Caroline Gough

Mission Partner Board

The board by the kitchen hatch has had a makeover in 2024! It was agreed by Sarah McClelland / Church Council that this board be designed to our Mission Partners. The intention would be three-fold:

1. To inform the church about each MP and its main purpose.
2. To show the area of each MP's focus relating to the 5 marks of mission: Telling, Teaching, Tending, Transforming, and Treasuring.
3. To have information and focus of each MP around the time of the upcoming Speaker from that organisation.

Since March these have been the topics:

- Summary of each of the 6 Mission Partners, March – June 2024
- Focus on Fledge, June – September 2024
- Focus on Through the Roof / Roofbreakers, September – December 2024
- Focus on International Justice Mission, December 2024 – March 2025

It is hoped that church members will use the coffee queue and other occasions to be better informed and add the MPs to their prayers. Feedback would be welcomed.

Christine Grew

Through the Roof Mission Partner

We are a "***Roofbreaker*** Church", meaning we try to pay attention to the needs of people with disabilities. We are supported by the Christian Disability Charity: ***Through the Roof (TTR)***. Check out the Bible Story these titles come from if you don't already know! (Mark Ch 2)

2024 has been another positive year in terms of diversity and inclusivity. The weekly Footprints group continues to thrive and gives support to children with additional needs and their carers. Led by **Hannah Hiscock, Children & Families Minister**, it is supported by a great team of people week by week. Cake features strongly in the welcome that is given to all who come!

Regarding publicising our "Roofbreaker" status in Chrysalis (the central pages of Valley Park Voice, which goes out to all homes in Valley Park) the description has been updated to read: *"St Francis Church is positive about disability inclusivity. The building's on one level, accessible for wheelchairs and there is a Disabled loo. We may not know everything about all disabilities but do talk to us if you have any concerns and we will do our best to accommodate you."*

In September 2024 at the beginning of Disability Awareness week, the church was visited by Carol Dyer, TTR rep for our area. She gave a vivid and informative description of all that TTR does spending about 20 minutes with main church and going on to talk to Youth Group where lively discussion took place! Besides Roofbreakers, Carol spoke about other aspects of TTR's work:

- Wheelchair Distributions to developing countries
- Accessible, supported group holidays in the UK, offering times of fellowship
- Individual Pastoral Support / Counselling
- Online fellowship groups, retreats, courses eg Makaton
- Bookshop: books, Removing Barriers Audit and other resources

Further info online www.throughtheroof.org or email info@throughtheroof.org

The following highlighted paragraphs refer back to Aims from last year's report.

Automatic doors: Early in the year, the Access Door (by the kitchen) was made Automatic and this has improved ease of access for those with a physical disability. The project was funded by the church. A few weeks later the Disabled Toilet was fitted with an Automatic door, funded by the Local Council, proposed by Councillor Alan Dowden for which the church is very grateful.

Linda King, one of our Footprints team, attended a Makaton course this year and there are other Makaton users in the church family. Our All-Age Service on the first Sunday of the month is a good time for using Makaton. The whole church is encouraged to sign certain phrases from familiar Christian songs. This is a learning experience for us all!

Christine updated the Mission Partners noticeboard to highlight the work of TTR (July - September.)

Members of the AV team have been making progress with larger font and spacing on overhead slides.

One other thing worth mentioning is that we were able to request a second Disabled Parking Bay in the church carpark when the lines were repainted last October which is helpful since we often have more than one wheelchair user attending St Francis.

Looking ahead, we will take a fresh look at the "Removing Barriers" Audit that was undertaken in 2022 and revisited in 2023 and see if there are other ways we can be making our church more accessible to those with disabilities.

Part of a letter received Jan 2025, from the Tim Wood, CEO at Through the Roof: *Thank you so much for the very kind and generous gift of £1700 towards the Ministry and Mission of Through the Roof. Please … pass on our grateful thanks to everyone at church*

The full letter is on the Mission Partners Board by the kitchen hatch.

Christine Grew

Valley Park Life Festival

This family-friendly music festival was held for the third year running in June this year. The main purpose is to offer a gift to our community, and to raise awareness and 'brand value' for our church – the extent of advertising and promotion achieves this even for those who don't come to the event, and for those who do they find a welcoming and fun group of people.

Attendance from across Valley Park was excellent (estimated at around 1000 across the afternoon and evening), and it would have been difficult to accommodate many more – all seemed to have a good time.

Again, we had musicians from the church performing, including Suzanne Butler and Elliott Frisby, and the day concluded with Peter Rhodes' band The Kazbaas. Outreach Radio broadcast live from the event and featured much of the performances, and the local Boozy Bar served drinks throughout the event.

Many from the church were involved in some way (baking, refreshments, BBQ, face painting, crafts, security, first aid....), and the event went without any mishap. Due to the weather, it was held inside, but that didn't detract. Because costs are low, refreshments such as BBQ can be sold at cost and no entry is charged. Any costs incurred are recovered through the teas and cakes sold; again, the Performing Rights Society did not charge a licence fee for the event, although this cannot be relied on should the event run again, so overall the event was no net cost or profit to the church.
Peter Rhodes - Festival Lead

Working with the neighbouring St Francis C of E (Aided) Primary School.

Work with St Francis CE Primary School, with which the church shares a campus site, has continued with the lead minister and children and families minister providing weekly collective worship for Key stage 2 up until July. From September, we offered collective worship for both KS 1 & 2, twice per half term and with festival services at Easter and Christmas, as well as a leaver's assembly in July. There's also been the opportunity to join classes in person. St Francis Church continues to provide Foundation Governors who take a very active role in governance at the school.

Governors at St Francis School – Ofsted and SIAMS

The church provides up to seven Foundation Governors for St Francis School. The following acted as governors during the year Brian King (co-Chair then Chair), Nick Grew (co-chair then Vice-Chair), Andrew Grove, Alison Rhodes, Jan Southern. Sarah McClelland was a governor until her departure. Jeremey Bennett has been appointed as a governor and will take up the position in April 2025. There is presently one vacancy, which we expect to be filled by the new minister when they are appointed. The school completed two inspections during the year. Ofsted in April 2024, and SIAMS in February 2025. The Ofsted report can be found here:
https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/21/116402.

The overall Ofsted outcome was 'Good', with Early years provision, Behaviour and attitudes and Personal development all rated as 'Outstanding'. In the previous Ofsted inspection, in 2011, the school was rated Outstanding overall. Bear in mind, however, that the grading thresholds have been raised significantly since then. In 2011, about 25% of schools were graded Outstanding overall. Under current grading criteria, only around 10% are graded outstanding in each of the assessment categories. To have been graded Outstanding in three categories is therefore an excellent achievement, and in no way suggests a drop in what the Head Teacher and dedicated teaching staff are delivering to the pupils.

Our second inspection was a SIAMS inspection, a Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools. SIAMS inspections assess the extent to which a school meets its expectations as a church school.

The SIAMS report can be found here: https://www.churchofengland.org/about/education-and-schools/church-schools-and-academies/siams-inspections/siams-inspection-reports by searching for 116402 in the search box. SIAMS reports are not graded, but the opening sentence of the inspection findings capture the inspector's conclusion: "Pupils and adults thrive in this school due to the clear focus on the well-established Christian vision. Rooted in the Bible, the chosen three values are deeply embedded and permeate through every aspect of school life."

It has been a privilege to lead the governing body for the past year, and to be able to express here my appreciation of the dedication that the governors bring to their role.
Brian King

Healing and Wholeness

The GP Chaplaincy

The GP Chaplaincy service provided for St Francis Surgery on behalf of the Church continues and is now in its sixth year!

Why are we doing it?

Because it's such a fantastic opportunity for our church to be a tangible link between people in our community and the unconditional love of God. I see it very much as part of the vital "Healing and Wholeness ministry" of Jesus through the church. It's also a brilliant way for us as a church to meet people "where they are", seeing God already at work in people's lives and connecting with that.

What sort of things do people come with?

There's a whole range of issues people of different ages bring, including loss through bereavement, redundancy or retirement, long term illness, life-threatening diagnosis, or end of life, as well as addiction, depression, anxiety, isolation or loneliness and loss of wellbeing..... and so often an underlying searching for meaning and purpose or hope.....or people just wondering whether "there must be more to life than this?"

What do you actually do?

A lot of listening! Listening without judgement.
Walking alongside people in times of change or distress. Carrying hope. Sometimes some signposting. I'm trying to offer care for the "whole person", which always includes their spiritual needs, in whatever way people perceive those needs themselves. It very often includes the offer to pray. I remember a lady this year with no faith background at all saying, close to tears, that this was the first time someone had ever offered to pray for her.

Who does it?

At the moment just me (but see below!) on a voluntary basis, supported by Diane in the office and by prayers from our housegroup and others in the church, following the initial authorisation by the Church Council back in 2020. I also have supervision by a very experienced GP Chaplain in Glasgow, via Zoom calls with her every four to six weeks, and support from a fantastic organisation called ACGP (Association of Chaplaincy in General Practice).

How do people get to GP Chaplaincy?

Patients from St Francis Surgery are referred by the GPs, the Social Prescriber and the Surgery's Mental Health team. It's available to everyone, people of all faiths and none.

Where do you see people?

Mainly in the chapel at the back of the church, due to lack of flexible space at the Surgery, and sometimes in the adjacent garden in the summer, or over the phone for housebound elderly people. It's often the first time that people will have come into the church, or even realised that it existed, and they're often struck by the light and space and friendly atmosphere, and by other things going on such as the Café sessions.

Are there any other link-ups with the Church?

Yes, lots! Connections have developed between GP Chaplaincy and Monday Café and the pastoral team, with a number of people who have come via GP Chaplaincy still attending the Monday Café. As well as the regular listening sessions, I've helped someone who wanted the two of us to have a short time of prayer and lighting a candle at the front of the church, to remember a loss in very difficult circumstances many years before. Sarah McClelland, our previous Vicar, and I were able to help a family, at their request, with a funeral service for a young man who died in tragic circumstances and who had felt that the GP Chaplaincy had been his main support prior to his death.

Do you link up with other people further afield?

Yes! Earlier this year I was asked to make a short video about the GP Chaplaincy set-up here, which was included in a presentation in January 2025 at the national conference of the ACGP in Birmingham. I attended along with around a hundred GP Chaplains and other interested people from all over the UK, some working on a voluntary basis like me and some paid by their health organisations or supported by charities. I also regularly attend meetings organised for chaplains by Winchester Diocese, along with people from chaplaincies in schools, university, prison and "Anna Chaplaincies" for older people.

What are you feeling about the future?

A mixture of hopeful, excited, thankful, challenged, and sometimes a bit lonely in the chaplaincy role.

How do you think we could be part of GP Chaplaincy?

I currently do around six hours a week in GP Chaplaincy. We could make contact with many more people if we had a bigger team.GP Chaplains don't have to have a medical background, many have pastoral or listening or counselling backgrounds, and the training provided by the ACGP is excellent.

So here's a couple of questions from me to you.....

Could the GP Chaplaincy team include you, or someone you know, or might you like to find out more?
Maybe you feel you could be someone I could ask occasionally to pray specifically (anonymously of course) for people and situations?
And for everyone reading this: What could we pray about?

- For the individuals I'm seeing and listening to currently, and those in our community I hope I'll be in contact with in the coming year.
- For me to keep listening, learning, loving, hoping.
- For ways I could support the staff at St Francis Surgery, as well as the patients, and for all the staff as they continue working there in very challenging times.
- For a new minister to be supportive of the GP Chaplaincy here at our church and its potential for the future.
- For people to want to know more and for more "pray-ers" and potential GP chaplains to join the team.

Thank you!

Katie Warner

TakeTime

Our Bible meditation has continued monthly on Wednesdays after café. It is a small group, but we love the opportunity it gives to rest in God's presence and listen to his voice. The people who come are often in need of time and space, sometimes coming following accessing chaplaincy.

I was delighted when Christine Grew did the training to become a TakeTime practitioner towards the end of last year.

We are hoping to extend TakeTime back to an evening slot and would appreciate prayer to know when the time is right to do this.
Stephanie Barlow

Structure, governance and management

Electoral Roll Report

The Electoral Roll of St Francis Church has been renewed, with renewal completed on April 6th. On that date the Electoral Roll had 132 members.

86 people are resident in the parish, and 46 live outside the parish.

27 people did not renew their membership of the roll. Of these, we know that 3 have moved away, 1 has sadly died, 15 are not regular worshippers and 1 has become a curate. 31 extra people have joined the roll.
Linda King Electoral Roll Officer

Safeguarding

As required by Winchester Diocese I can report that the Church Council has complied with the duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops Safeguarding Policy and Practice guidance. We renew our safeguarding policies annually.

We have 59 volunteers from the congregation and 2 employees who have up to date DBS checks, and required safeguarding training has been completed and is constantly monitored.

Risk assessments and Role Descriptions are in place for all activities where necessary and the council continues to work on safer recruitment processes for our volunteers. All volunteers have been encouraged to read sections of the Church of England Safeguarding Handbook that are relevant to their role. We have improved our practice regarding the use of filming and photographs during the last year and the website has an improved and more prominent link to our safeguarding policies and practices.
Thanks to all our volunteers for their willing compliance.
Linda King Safeguarding Officer

Holding St Francis' Church and its land and building in trust, via the Parochial Church Council, for future generations:

The responsibility for maintaining the Church building and premises has continued as an important background task for our Churchwardens and supporting volunteers.

Legal form: The *Church of England Parish of Valley Park* was established in 1991. Simultaneously, a *Single Congregation Local Ecumenical Partnership (SC-LEP)* was formed by *The Church of England, The Methodist Church* and *The United Reformed Church*, under a formal Constitution agreed on 4th October 1991. A new Model Constitution was adopted in October 2015, and *St Francis', Valley Park Single Congregation Local Ecumenical Partnership* is registered as a Charity with the *Charity Commission for England and Wales*. The members of the Ecumenical Church Council are the Trustees of the registered Charity.

Church building: St Francis' Church is the Parish Church of the Anglican Parish of Valley Park. It is also the centre of worship for the SC-LEP, under the terms of a Sharing Agreement, established on 30th August 1995 under the provisions of the *Sharing of Church Buildings Act, 1969*. The Church building was dedicated rather than consecrated, and it is not subject to Faculty Jurisdiction.

Joint Council: In 1991, formal oversight of the operation of the SC-LEP was vested in *Churches Together in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight*, and is administered via a Joint Council, comprising governing representatives of the participating denominations, together with representatives of the Church Council. Presently the oversight body is not functioning, but there have been no matters which have required escalation to a Joint Council during the year, which consequently has not met.

Clergy and Church Council: Since its founding in 1987, St Francis' Church has been led by a resident Church of England minister (the Vicar of Valley Park). This ministry has been complemented by designated Ministers from local Methodist and United Reformed Churches. Working in co-operation these designated clergy are ex-officio members of *St Francis' Ecumenical Church Council*.

In accordance with Anglican Canon Law, two Churchwardens are elected annually at an Annual Meeting of Parishioners (Annual Vestry Meeting) which also elects two Pro- (Deputy) wardens. St Francis' Annual Parochial Church Meeting also elects members to a Parochial Church Council (PCC), of which the Vicar, Churchwardens and Pro-wardens are ex-officio members. Our annual Church meeting took place in March, and at that meeting 2 church wardens were elected.

The Ecumenical Church Council (ECC) comprises ex-officio and elected members of the Anglican PCC, together with ex officio members representing the other participating churches in the SC-LEP. The PCC and ECC normally meet concurrently under the title of "*The Church Council*", for the day to day management of the Church and its affairs, but with appropriate attention to the relative responsibilities of the two bodies. However, there is a requirement for the Anglican PCC to be able to meet independently of, and without conflict of interest with, the ECC, and so the annually elected Pro-Wardens, the Anglican Deanery Synod Representatives, and at least one elected PCC member are not members of the ECC or Trustees of the registered Charity.

The Electoral Roll of the SC-LEP operating in 2024 comprised 128 members.

The whole Church congregation met to conduct business once during 2024– in March at the Annual Meeting of Parishioners and the Annual Parochial Church / Ecumenical Congregational Meetings; the latter two held concurrently.

Denominational activities and ecumenical relationships: St. Francis Church lies within Anglican *Deanery of Eastleigh* in the *Diocese of Winchester.*

The Deanery broadly covers the area from Valley Park in the west to Hamble in the southeast. Deanery Synod Meetings are held 3 times a year, with the *Standing Committee* (attended by a sub-group of Synod members) meeting more frequently for more strategic and organisational decision-making. Our minister, Sarah McClelland is part of that group, having become Assistant Area Dean in July 2020. She resigned in October to move to a parish in Jersey

The *Winchester, Eastleigh and Romsey Circuit of the Methodist Church* has continued to meet on a quarterly basis through 2024. St Francis is no longer represented at these meetings due to a lack of volunteers.

St. Francis' Church was represented in person at the *Wessex Synod of the United Reformed Church* (URC) this year, at its meetings by our rep Michael Flack.

St Francis continues to be an active member of *Churches Together in Chandler's Ford*, in partnership with the other local Christian Denominations. A member of St Francis served as treasurer and another as secretary, but they have stepped down during the year. Fiona Grove is now our representative.

Fabric and assets: Vested in the *Winchester Diocesan Board of Finance*, The Incumbent, Church Wardens, and Church Council (through the PCC), collectively hold St Francis' Church and its fixtures, fittings and property, in trust on behalf of past, present and future generations of worshippers, and the local community.

The *Church Terrier*, recording the Church's furniture, fittings, and assets, and the *Log Book* containing records of all alterations, maintenance, repair and disposals, were kept up to date in 2024, complying with Canon Law.

Safeguarding: All of our Church family life, mission and ministry is underpinned by a strong commitment to Safeguarding. We have a Safeguarding Policy which is regularly reviewed and updated and is easily accessed via the church website and on the Church Notice board.

Linda King has continued in this position, having been appointed in March 2022, and oversees the development and implementation of appropriate Church Policies and Practices, and the regular DBS checking of volunteers.

The Church Council confirms that it 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).

Volunteers: St Francis' Church relies on the voluntary support and assistance of its members who take on a range of roles from the legal duties of Church Warden, to assisting in the organisation and presentation of worship, music, administration, preparing plans, papers and financial reports, and undertaking the routine care and maintenance duties of the building. The Church Council is indebted to members who have stepped forward to take an active role in the life of the Church, and to contribute financially towards it, without whom the ministry and mission of St Francis' Church could not be progressed.

Administrative information:

	Names	Notes	From	To
Incumbent				
	Rev Sarah McClelland	Resigned	Dec 2018	October 2024
Church Wardens				
PCC	Fiona Grove		APCM 2024	APCM 2025
PCC	Peter Rhodes		APCM 2024	APCM 2025
Deanery Synod Representatives				
PCC	Brian King		ACCM 2023	APCM 2026
PCC	Peter Rhodes		APCM 2024	APCM 2027
PCC	Steven Williams		APCM 2024	June 2024
Elected P/ECC Members (8 +1 PCC)				
ECC	Jon Estabrook		APCM 2024	ACCM 2027
ECC	Mike Flack	*URC rep*	APCM 2024	ACCM 2027
ECC	Liz Frisby		APCM 2024	ACCM 2027
PCC	Andrew Grove		APCM 2024	APCM 2027
ECC	Katie Waterman		APCM 2024	ACCM 2027
ECC	Elliot Frisby	*Resigned*	APCM 2022	June 2024
ECC	Olutayo Akinbobuyi		ACCM 2023	ACCM 2026
ECC	Caroline Gough		ACCM 2023	ACCM 2026
ECC	Kate Dean		ACCM 2022	ACCM 2025
ECC	Dunni Ajayi		ACCM 2022	ACCM 2025
Ecumenical Church Council (in addition to those in bold above):				
Ex-Officio PCC	Steve Williams	*Curate*	June 2024	
Vacant Position	Methodist rep			
Vacant Position	Methodist rep			

Office holders appointed annually by the Annual Congregational Meeting (not attending Council):

Mr. Chris. Goodhead FCA	(2024)	Independent Examiner.	Re-appointed: ACCM 2024
Mrs Linda King	(2024)	Electoral Roll Officer	Re-appointed: ACCM 2024
Andrew Grove	(2024)	Gift Aid Secretary	Re-appointed: ACCM 2024

Financial Overview

Treasurer's Report

Whilst our overall income in 2024 was £172,275 this was £705 below our budget. This is again a cause for concern as our costs continue to rise so will need a prayerful response from the whole church family in 2025.

On a positive note, we have received another substantial donation specifically towards Sustainability Projects, particularly the installation of Solar Panels. As such this sum plus the associated Gift Aid has been placed in a restricted fund. The capital is not shown in the Financial Statement as it does not form part of the General Fund but is shown in the Fund Statements further down the Financial Statement pages. This fund now stands at over £26,000 and it is hoped that we can finally progress the installation of solar panels in 2025. This will be of great benefit to the church as our electricity costs are considerable.

As a result of income received, we have been able to tithe a total of £13,886 this year. This is comprised of £453 from our Benevolent Fund to people in need in the local area, £10,200 shared between our six designated charities and the remainder to the Methodist and URC churches, our LEP partners. The lines in the Financial Statement to which the tithe relates are identified with an X for clarity. The other income lines are excluded as they relate to income lines matched by expenditure such as verger or musician's fees at funerals. In these instances we are merely collecting a charge which we then pay out. It would not be appropriate to tithe this income as it would generate a net expense to the church each time.
As we have always done, we have been able to pay our Common Mission Fund request in full which is greatly appreciated by the Diocese. For 2024 the Common Mission Fund increased by £583 to £71,205.
There are a couple of areas where expenditure has exceeded the budget figure, and our overall operational expenditure is down over £1,100 on 2023. General maintenance is over in large part to several one-off items. More than £4,700 was spent the two automatic door openers to make our building more accessible to less able people. These costs were partly offset by receipt of grants totalling £2,550. We also had to pay to have the moss removed from the church roof. This was something specified in the last Quinquennial Report.

Utility bills are still an area of concern. The gas is now on track with payments covering expenditure. However, the electricity is still in arrears, although much reduced following a one-off payment to them.

Unfortunately, due to lower general giving and higher expenses we have been unable to transfer anything to the Maintenance Reserve Fund again in 2024. In fact, we had to draw on this fund to cover the end of year shortfall. Because of this, along with some depreciation, the Maintenance fund has reduced to £33,564. All the fund statements are shown below the Financial Statement.

I would like to give thanks for the generosity of all the church family. Without you the church could not function. We are grateful to everyone who responded to the Generous June campaign.
Andy Grove Church Treasurer

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice. Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the Charity's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view the Trustees should follow best practice and:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP and make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose, with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the Charity, and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Charity's trustees confirm they have complied with the duty in section 4 of the 2011 Charities Act to have due regard to guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit disclosures.

This report and the Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)).

Approved by the Trustees on 27 April 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



Trustee

A. GROVE

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES ON THE UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS OF ST FRANCIS', VALLEY PARK

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of St Francis', Valley Park Single Congregation Local Ecumenical Partnership for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 23 to 33.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the '2011 Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the trustee's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable 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 material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

(1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or

(2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or

(3) the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

C J Goodhead FCA
Knight Goodhead Limited
Chartered Accountants
7 Bournemouth Road
Chandler's Ford, Eastleigh
Hampshire, SO53 3DA

Dated: 16 September 2025

ST FRANCIS', VALLEY PARK SINGLE CONGREGATION LOCAL ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
INCOME					
Donations and legacies	3	125,474	26,299	151,773	148,814
Charitable activities	3	18,260	-	18,260	18,304
Investment income	3	2,092	-	2,092	1,592
Other income	3	150	-	150	50
Total income		**145,976**	**26,299**	**172,275**	**168,760**
EXPENDITURE					
Charitable activities	4	149,055	16,659	165,714	167,349
Total expenditure		**149,055**	**16,659**	**165,714**	**167,349**
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) BEFORE TRANSFERS		**(3,079)**	**9,640**	**6,561**	**1,411**
Transfers between funds	11	-	-	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		**(3,079)**	**9,640**	**6,561**	**1,411**
FUND BALANCES AT 1 JANUARY 2024		52,865	42,194	95,059	93,648
FUND BALANCES AT 31 DECEMBER 2024	11	**49,786**	**51,834**	**101,620**	**95,059**

ST FRANCIS', VALLEY PARK SINGLE CONGREGATION LOCAL ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

Charity number: 1165677

	Notes	£	2024 £	£	2023 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	7		-		2,629
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	8	2,111		3,448	
Cash at bank and in hand	9	101,556		90,639	
		103,667		94,087	
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year:	10	(2,047)		(1,657)	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			101,620		92,430
TOTAL ASSESTS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			101,620		95,059
FUNDS					
Unrestricted	11		14,443		12,593
Designated	11		35,343		40,272
Restricted	11		51,834		42,194
TOTAL FUNDS			101,620		95,059

Signed on behalf of the PCC by:

.....

A. GROVE
Trustee

Date: 16/9/25.

ST FRANCIS', VALLEY PARK SINGLE CONGREGATION LOCAL ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, the Charities Act 2011 and the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102 (effective January 2019).

The accounts have been prepared on the going concern basis. There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue. The charity is a public benefit organisation.

(b) Fund accounting

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions as to their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.

Restricted funds are those funds that must be spent on restricted purposes and the details of the funds held and restrictions are provided in note 11.

(c) Income

The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the financial statements of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

- **Donations and legacies**
  Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.
  Planned giving receivable under pledge is recognised only when received.
  Income tax recoverable on gift aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.
  Grant and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement and the amount due.

- **Charitable income**
  Funds raised from church events are accounted for when receivable.
  Income is deferred when received for the purpose of funding missions to be carried out in the future.

- **Investment income**
  Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable.

- **Other income**
  Other income is accounted for when receivable.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024 (continued)

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(d) Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. It includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is allocated to the activity for which it relates.

Charitable Activities
The Diocesan Parish Share is accounted for when payable.
Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over.
All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the Statement of Financial Activities on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly, others are apportioned between activities in line with their respective proportion of income received.

(e) Tangible Fixed assets

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation, less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life as follows:

Website	Straight line over 5 years
Fittings and Equipment	Straight line over 3 years

(f) Operating Leases

Payments under operating leases are charged to the profit and loss account as they are incurred.

(g) Pensions

The charity participates in a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions in respect of this scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities for the year in which they are payable. Timing differences between contributions payable and contributions actually paid in the year are shown as either accruals or prepayments at the year end.

(h) Basic financial instruments

The church only enters into basic financial instrument transactions that result in the recognition of financial assets and liabilities like trade and other debtors, cash at bank and creditors. These basic financial instruments are measured and transaction price. Financial assets and liabilities classified as due within one year are not amortised.

2 ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The charity is unincorporated and was registered on 14 October 2009 with the Charity Commission in England and Wales. The registered number is 1165677.

The registered office of the charity is St Francis Church, Pilgrims Close, Chandlers Ford, Valley Park, Eastleigh, SO53 4ST.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024 (continued)

3 INCOME	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
DONATION AND LEGACIES				
Gift aided planned giving	74,590	4,946	79,536	85,915
Non gift aid planned giving	8,632	-	8,632	4,340
Collections at Services	12,690	-	12,690	7,171
Children and families minister donations	-	20,117	20,117	24,409
Other donations	2,550	-	2,550	733
Income tax recoverable	26,894	1,236	28,130	26,178
	125,356	26,299	151,655	148,746
Fundraising				
Funding sources (Easy Fundraiser)	118	-	118	68
Total income from donors	**125,474**	**26,299**	**151,773**	**148,814**
INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES				
Income from outreach events	2,376	-	2,376	1,996
Statutory fees	1,248	-	1,248	1,423
Income from use of church building	13,719	-	13,719	14,112
Income from café	917	-	917	773
	18,260	**-**	**18,260**	**18,304**
INVESTMENT INCOME				
Interest received	2,092	-	2,092	1,592
	2,092	**-**	**2,092**	**1,592**
OTHER INCOME				
Charges for occasional offices	150	-	150	50
	150	**-**	**150**	**50**
TOTAL INCOME	**145,976**	**26,299**	**172,275**	**168,760**

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024 (continued)

4 EXPENDITURE		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
		£	£	£	£
Fundraising costs					
Costs of generating donations (card fees)		45	-	45	49
		45	-	45	49
DIRECT CHURCH ACTIVITIES					
Mission and charitable giving					
Charitable giving - local benevolent		453	-	453	268
Charitable giving - home		8,525	-	8,525	7,500
Charitable giving - overseas		1,700	-	1,700	5,000
	x	10,678	-	10,678	12,768
Parish share					
Parish share - Anglican		71,206	-	71,206	70,623
Parish share - Methodist	x	2,389	-	2,389	2,370
Parish share - URC	x	819	-	819	819
		74,414	-	74,414	73,812
Salaries and honoraria					
Parish administrator		10,536	-	10,536	10,511
Organists and musicians		-	-	-	-
Children and families minister		-	16,454	16,454	14,528
Cleaners		2,243	-	2,243	2,114
		12,779	16,454	29,233	27,153
People-related expenses					
Recruitment expenses		34	-	34	13
Mileage, telephone and other expenses		964	-	964	1,363
Education and training of staff and Laity		1,267	205	1,472	1,254
		2,264	205	2,469	2,630
Mission and evangelism costs					
Young people's Church		876	-	876	1,016
Outreach activities		3,299	-	3,299	3,959
Teaching and nurturing		857	-	857	11
Pastoral activities		40	-	40	141
		5,073	-	5,073	5,127
Church running expenses					
Upkeep of services and worship		1,199	-	1,199	1,306
Hospitality & catering (including café)		1,092	-	1,092	854
Insurance		1,240	-	1,240	1,193
Maintenance, cleaning and servicing		14,664	-	14,664	12,091
Furniture and equipment purchases		-	-	-	970
Administration costs		5,814	-	5,814	4,895
Software and training		484	-	484	122
New works		-	-	-	12,622
Church magazine printing		1,100	-	1,100	1,100
		25,593	-	25,593	35,152

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024 (continued)

4 EXPENDITURE (continued)	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Church utility bills				
Electricity	8,408	-	8,408	4,347
Gas	6,856	-	6,856	4,484
Water rates	577	-	577	505
	15,841	-	15,841	9,336
Governance cots				
Bank charges	449	-	449	337
Accountancy	1,920	-	1,920	984
	2,369	-	2,369	1,321
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	**149,055**	**16,659**	**165,714**	**167,349**

Included within accountancy above are amounts due to the independent examiners in relation to independent examination of £1,000 (2023: £984).

5 GRANTS

Grants and donations totalled £10,678 (2023: £12,768). Donations totalling more than £1,000 were made to the following institutions:

	£
Fledge Youth Support	1,700
Christians Against Poverty	1,700
A Rocha UK	1,700
Through the Roof	1,700
Eastleigh Basics Bank	1,700
International Justice Mission	1,700
	10,200

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024 (continued)

6 STAFF COSTS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	28,715	26,730
Social security costs	-	-
Pension	518	423
	29,233	27,153

The average number of staff employed during the year was 3 (2023: 4). No employee received emoluments of £60,000 or more during this year or the prior year.

No members of key management personnel were paid on an employed basis during this, or the prior, year. The role of Vicar is not paid directly by the church, and the Church Wardens (x2) are unpaid posts.

During the year or the prior year no trustees received any emolument, were paid any expenses or were reimbursed for expenditure incurred on behalf of the charity.

Total pension contributions of £518 (2023: £423) were paid by the charity and are included in the SOFA. There were no outstanding contributions payable at the end of this year or the prior year.

7 TANGIBLE ASSETS

	Church Organ	Dishwasher	AV Upgrade	Website	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
COST					
At beginning and end of year	5,846	2,820	9,239	5,447	23,352
DEPRECIATION					
At beginning of year	5,846	2,820	7,700	4,357	20,723
Charge for year	-	-	1,539	1,090	2,629
At end of year	5,846	2,820	9,239	5,447	23,352
NET BOOK VALUE					
At end of year	-	-	-	-	-
At beginning of year	-	-	1,539	1,090	2,629

8 DEBTORS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Other debtors	2,111	3,448
	2,111	3,448

9 CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

	2024	2023
	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	17,873	9,048
Deposit accounts	83,683	81,591
	101,556	90,639

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024 (continued)

10 CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Other creditors	2,047	1,657
	2,047	1,657

11 MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	Balance at 1 Jan 2024	Income	Expenditure	Transfers between funds	Balance at 31 Dec 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds					
Children and families worker fund	21,850	20,117	(16,659)	-	25,308
Sustainability fund	20,344	6,182	-	-	26,526
	42,194	26,299	(16,659)	-	51,834
Designated funds					
Church maintenance & repair reserve fund	38,193	-	(2,629)	(2,000)	33,564
Youth activities fund	685	-	(300)	-	385
Benevolent fund	1,394	-	-	-	1,394
	40,272	-	(2,929)	(2,000)	35,343
Other unrestricted funds	12,593	146,496	(146,646)	2,000	14,443
Total funds	**95,059**	**172,795**	**(166,234)**	**-**	**101,620**

The restricted funds are established for the following purposes:

Children and families worker fund — To fund the expenditure of the children and families worker.

Sustainability fund — For expenditure on sustainability projects, for example the installation of solar panels. This was previously known as Special appeals fund.

The designated funds are established for the following purposes:

Church maintenance & repair reserve fund — To fund the resources for repair and maintenance of the church building and ground and larger one off expenditure as agreed by the Church Council. This has replaced the Church Repair & Maintenance Fund and The Church Roof Restoration Fund.

Youth activities fund — Represents the closed SOS53 Youth Club Bank Account.

Benevolent fund — Set up to enable the vicar to make small hardship payments to people in the community. It has been used in the past for things such as paying towards a child's school trip, helping replace a stolen bike and buying a bed.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024 (continued)

12 ANALYSIS OF FUNDS

Fund balances as at 31 December 2024 are represented by:	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-
Current assets	51,833	51,834	103,667
Current liabilities	(2,047)	-	(2,047)
	49,786	51,834	101,620

Fund balances as at 31 December 2023 are represented by:	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	2,629	-	2,629
Current assets	51,893	42,194	94,087
Current liabilities	(1,657)	-	(1,657)
	52,865	42,194	95,059

13 PRIOR YEAR MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	Balance at 1 Jan 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers between funds £	Balance at 31 Dec 2023 £
Restricted funds					
Children and families worker fund	7,444	29,962	(15,556)	-	21,850
Special appeals fund	10,195	10,149	-	-	20,344
	17,639	40,111	(15,556)	-	42,194
Designated funds					
Church maintenance & repair reserve fund	53,444	-	(15,251)	-	38,193
Youth activities fund	985	-	(300)	-	685
Benevolent fund	1,662	-	(268)	-	1,394
	56,091	-	(15,819)	-	40,272
Other unrestricted funds	19,918	128,649	(135,974)	-	12,593
Total funds	**93,648**	**168,760**	**(167,349)**	**-**	**95,059**

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024 (continued)

14 PRIOR YEAR STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £
INCOME				
Donations and legacies		108,703	40,111	148,814
Charitable activities		18,304	-	18,304
Investment income		1,592	-	1,592
Other income		50	-	50
Total income	3	**128,649**	**40,111**	**168,760**
EXPENDITURE				
Charitable activities	4	151,793	15,556	167,349
Total expenditure		**151,793**	**15,556**	**167,349**
NET INCOME BEFORE TRANSFERS		**(23,144)**	**24,555**	**1,411**
Transfers between funds		-	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		**(23,144)**	**24,555**	**1,411**
FUND BALANCES AT 1 JANUARY 2023		76,009	17,639	93,648
FUND BALANCES AT 31 DECEMBER 2023		**52,865**	**42,194**	**95,059**

ST FRANCIS', VALLEY PARK SINGLE CONGREGATION LOCAL ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP

England & Wales - Charity number 1165677

Accounts

St Francis' Church, Valley Park

The Ecumenical Church Council of
St. Francis', Valley Park,
Single Congregation Local Ecumenical Partnership.
(and the Parochial Church Council of the Parish of Valley Park)

Annual Report

for the year ended 31st December 2023.

St Francis' Church:	Pilgrim's Close, Valley Park, Chandler's Ford, Eastleigh, Hants, SO53 4ST. Tel.: 023 8027 1152; E-mail: admin@stfrancis-valleypark.org.uk; Website: www.stfrancis-valleypark.org.uk Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/stfrancisvp
Bank:	The National Westminster Bank, Eastleigh Branch, 34 Southampton Road, Eastleigh SO50 9XN.
Independent Examiner:	Mr. Chris. Goodhead FCA, Knight Goodhead Ltd. Chartered Accountants, 7 Bournemouth Road, Chandler's Ford, Eastleigh. Hants. SO53 3DA.
Inspecting Architect:	Ms. Sarah Harlow BA (Hons) DipARCH RIBA, Seymour and Bainbridge Architects, 9 Charlecote Mews, Staple Gardens, Winchester, Hants. SO23 8SR.

Registered as a Charity in England and Wales; Charity Number: 1165677

Annual Report of the Ecumenical Church Council of the Single Congregation Local Ecumenical Partnership of St Francis' Valley Park

and the Parochial Church Council of the Parish of Valley Park

2023

Aims and purposes

The aims and purposes of St Francis' Church, Valley Park Single Congregation Local Ecumenical Partnership (SC-LEP) remain unchanged from previous years. The Church and Charity exists to advance the Christian faith within the Ecclesiastical Parish of Valley Park and elsewhere, in accordance with the rites and practices of the participating denominations in the LEP: Church of England, Methodist Church and United Reformed Church.

Oversight and management of the work of St Francis' Church is vested in an Anglican Parochial Church Council (PCC), and an Ecumenical Church Council (ECC), which normally meet concurrently, and are collectively known as 'The Church Council'. The Church Council has responsibility, in co-operation with the Incumbent minister, the designated Ministers of the other Participating Churches and the Church Wardens for promoting the Christian faith and enabling the whole mission of the Christian Church.

Objectives

The Charity's objectives continue to focus on Christian Mission and Ministry. St Francis' Church Council works to promote the whole mission of the church through the following objectives. These will be expanded below with reports from ministry leads.

1. **Worship and prayer**, and by providing a range of opportunities for those within the parish, and beyond, to learn about the Christian Gospel and develop a faith in Jesus Christ, and to walk with God;
2. **Pastoral care** for all those within the parish and others who come into contact with the Church;
3. **Mission and community outreach,** involving practical, social and financial support for the local community and wider charitable causes, including work with and through other Churches and Charities;
4. **Building the corporate life of the Church family,** both through collective worship and through social, fellowship and community-focused activities;
5. **Holding St Francis' Church and its land and building in trust, via the Parochial Church Council, for future generations,** maintaining them as a vital and valuable resource in support of other objectives, and sharing them with the other denominations of the LEP through a formal Sharing Agreement;
6. **Working with the neighbouring St Francis C of E (Aided) Primary School.**

Public benefit

St Francis' Church delivers public benefit through engaging in a range of activities, including, but not restricted to:

- The celebration of public worship;
- The teaching of the Christian faith;
- Mission and evangelism;
- Pastoral work, including visiting and supporting the sick and the bereaved;
- The provision of facilities with a Christian ethos for the local community, including, but not restricted to, GP Chaplaincy, Community café, activities to support health and wellbeing
- The support of other charities in the UK and overseas.

The extent to which public benefit has been delivered is described in the following pages of this Report.

Ministry Reports (under the objectives above)

1. Worship and Prayer:

2023 was at last back to normal after the shadow of Covid but we learned a lot in that period and continue to livestream of our 10am service through Zoom. At that service we offer a creche, junior church and youth group twice a month; the youth also meet mid-week, each week.

We had some significant changes in personnel in that our curate Joe left in February, and we were joined by Hannah, our new children and families minister, a role we'd advertised on three occasions in 2022. She joined us in February 2023 and took on leadership of junior church and Messy church, a more informal activities based worship. This has continued to grow throughout 2023, and was well-attended by families from the community (see report). Hannah has also started a new group to serve our community, for those under 5 with special needs and their parents and carers - for those of all faiths and none (Please see report in section 2&3).

We also continued to visit the local Brendoncare home to take a monthly communion service.

In terms of Occasional Offices, we had 4 baptisms and 2 adults who chose to renew their baptism vows by full immersion – we borrowed an inflatable hot tub and had a wonderful service of celebration! The rest of our occasional offices took place in a fortnight in the summer holidays: a wedding and four funerals including for much loved church members.

We held a number of festival services: Harvest festival, Service to remember those who've died, and our Advent Service of Light. Christmas was a busy time and we were able to serve the community in many ways. St Francis school came in separate Key Stage Groups and took part in a pop-up nativity, we had a very well-attended carol service for the community followed by refreshments, carols at the pub, and carol services at Brendoncare, and in Café. Hannah led Messy Christmas and Christmas Eve Crib service. In church we had our usual midnight communion, and a Christmas day all age communion service too. What a joyful celebration!

In terms of our ministry team, Steve, our LLM, became an ordinand and will be ordained deacon in 2024. Ian continues his training as an LLM with Winchester School of Mission. We are thankful for the contribution of our two retired ministers on the team, Nick and Allen, and also Mary, URC

support and development officer who takes an active part as her busy job allows, and Cliff, prison chaplain married to our vicar Sarah, who also ministers at St Francis. We also enjoyed contributions from Peter who has BPP. We have a number of folk with BCMs who minister too.

Reports from Ministry heads of music, Creche, Junior Church, Youth Group and Messy Church follow:

Sung worship

We have been delighted to welcome 2 new members, Rosie and Kate, during 2023. There are 16 regularly involved in leading the church in sung worship and 2 others who join us occasionally. Extra numbers means that we are now able to offer a variety of musicians and singers for every service. We've also continued to introduce some new songs to the church whilst including a traditional hymn and other familiar songs every week. I'm very grateful to all members of our group for their commitment to ensuring they have the music they need, are familiar with the songs and arrive in good time to ensure the AV team have time to sound check. Going beyond the notes 🎶 to bring worship to God is our primary goal.

I'd especially like to thank Suzanne and Rachael for the time and effort they put into suggesting songs for services and leading sung worship.

Please pray that we make use all the musical giftings among us to bless God and our church family. *Stephanie Barlow*

Crèche 2023

2023 has been another quiet year for the Creche Team.

There are 3 names on the register who come very infrequently on a Sunday morning, but DO come to Messy Church, sometimes with both parents.

We have had a few visiting children, some were babies, who were happy to play with the toys.

We remain convinced that we need a creche in place, believing we will have regular children coming one day.

The creche team is as strong as ever with conscientious and caring staff, who prepare fully each week for a full programme of a Bible story, craft , singing and a prayer.

We have met up for a summer lunch and recently, Christmas drinks at the Cleveland Bay, when we were thrilled that one of the team who had been very unwell, could join us.

Our team is- Di Smith, Jan Southern, Carolyn Covey, Debbie Reeves, Jan Stretch and Sue Bowles.

We would ask the church for your continuing prayers as we believe God has great plans for us.

Thank you, - *Sue Bowles*

2023 Junior Church Annual Report

2023 was a year of change for Junior Church. Debbie continued to faithfully plan, coordinate and lead the sessions until Hannah came into post at the end of February. Easter followed swiftly when the children created a beautiful Easter Garden, and the summer term was quickly upon us. By this stage new volunteers had been recruited to the Junior Church team, DBS checks undertaken and safeguarding training completed.

Using resources from the Urban Saints platform called 'Energize', Junior Church followed a series in the summer term learning about the Fruit of the Spirit. During the Autumn term, we followed a series called 'Church – What does it mean to be the Body of Christ' covering broad church themes like why we read the Bible, why and how we pray, the joy of serving and the gift of giving.

Sessions follow a similar pattern each week, opening with free play from the activity box, then games, stories and activities to understand the theme, Bible study to delve in further and crafts to help remember what we've been learning about. We always fit in drinks and biscuits too!

Whilst there are around 15 primary school aged children known to Junior Church, around 10 attend each week. Numbers have remained stable despite 3 Junior Church members moving onto Youth Group in September. Towards the end of 2023, we welcomed 2 new families. We also welcome children on an 'ad hoc' basis, those who are staying locally with families known to the church. We have a brilliant team of volunteers who regularly help and lead Junior Church, they enthusiastically nurture the children and help to make the sessions fun.

We ran a super-sized version of Junior Church twice in 2023. In June and November, the St Francis School Choir and Orchestra were invited to take part in the Sunday morning service. On these mornings, a shortened Junior Church session was led in the school for half an hour with games, story and craft. We welcomed almost 40 children at each of these sessions.

Please pray for the continued growth of Junior Church, that the children can explore their faith and please give thanks for the wonderful contribution of all the volunteers.

Hannah Hiscock – Children and Families Minister

The Youth Group Report

2023 has seen the group expand a little, both by the number of meetings made available, the number of volunteers to run the group and most importantly the number of teens that attend.

We continue to have fun and speak of Jesus in every session. We meet on 2 Sundays a month as well as every Monday evening during term time. The material we use makes preparation and leading each session pretty straightforward, leaving time & efforts to answer questions and develop the faith of those in the group. As well as trying to win at the new table tennis game we have invented!

Please pray for:

1. The group to continue to grow in they relationship with Jesus
2. That the group would could continue to grow numerically
3. That the number of sessions offered would grow to every Sunday

We thank the Lord for the way that he works in and through the group as they each ponder, consider and wrestle with their faith.

Cliff, Fiona, Sam, Phil & Lou

Messy Church Report for 2023

'It's church, but not as you know it. Messy Church is a way of being church for families and others. It is Christ-centred, for all ages, based on creativity, hospitality and celebration.' Messy Church BRF 2024

In 2023, Messy Church buzzed with activity, welcoming new families and familiar faces for 11 joyful gatherings. While most services were held on a Sunday at 3pm, special Wednesday services were held in the school holidays and these, along with the Summer Party, were particularly popular. At Messy Christmas in December we welcomed 145 people which included over 80 excited children!

Each service follows the same pattern. Creative crafts and activities set the theme with dedicated volunteers guiding the children and sparking conversation. Active, edible and sparkly activities are especially popular! After about an hour, we move to the worship area for the Celebration where we hear the message of the day. This can be through showing a video, telling the story from the Storyteller Bible, or using an interactive activity like a science experiment, and involving the children as much as possible. We pray creatively using activities like writing our prayers on lolly sticks, using the prayer tree and having bubble prayers. We sing familiar songs like 'My Lighthouse' and 'Our God is a Great Big God' and we are often treated to performances by the delightful Hand in Hand Puppet Team.

The themes across the year included: The Beatitudes, Easter and Pentecost, Caring for our world, Harvest, Moses' time in the wilderness and the story of Joseph and his family. The ideas for the sessions are often inspired by the BRF Publication 'Get Messy Magazine', then lovingly shaped by the volunteers' creativity.

Messy Church is planned, prepared and delivered by a fabulous team of volunteers, which includes those involved in crafting and leading activities as well as those who provide refreshments, faithful cake bakers, the AV whizzes and those who brilliantly move the furniture, and the dedicated members of the tidy-up team who hoover and clean once the Messy fun is over! Thank you to every one of you for your contribution.

Please pray that Messy Church families deepen their relationships with God, and that others find this welcoming space to begin their own journeys with Jesus.

Hannah Hiscock – Children and Families Minister

2. Pastoral Care:

Our pastoral team, led by Fiona – who holds a BCM (Pastoral) – has continued to meet with and engage a range of individuals, both from within the church and more widely, offering friendship, fellowship and an opportunity for quiet prayer for those who wish. Our Prayer network has

continued to enable collective prayer for those who request it. Since December 2022, our prayer ministry team have offered prayer ministry after our 10am services.

Pastoral care and concern are also a key element of the work of our House Groups, ably headed up by Nick Grew, where study of Scripture and matters of topical concern to Christians are coupled with prayer, fellowship and support in a variety of ways. Groups meet however suits them, whether on zoom, in person, or a mixture of both, offering options for those with differing vulnerabilities and preferences.

Reports from Ministry heads of Pastoral care, Home Groups and Mens' group follow:

Pastoral Team

The pastoral team is made up of 8 people who have the great privilege to come alongside anyone who needs emotional and practical support. As an extension to the pastoral work, the prayer chain has 83 members of the congregation who commit to pray for anyone who asks. During 2023 there were 56 requests.

Please pray for the pastoral team and those they support, that they know God with them during sometimes challenging and life changing events. *Fiona Grove*

Home Groups

SFVP Homegroup Review 2023

There are around 70 people in 7 Homegroups; 2 meeting in the morning and 5 in the evening. Each meet together physically on a regular basis [weekly or fortnightly] and some make use of Zoom. Each group has a different feel but all balance connecting with God ['up'], encouraging one another to grow as disciples ['in'], and supporting the mission of each person ['out'].

Highlights from this year:

- In Lent, groups followed Prayer Course 2 – Unanswered Prayer.
- Some groups have followed-up the Sunday sermon series in greater depth.
- Other themes have included studying a book of the Bible, exploring a Bible character, excerpts from "The Chosen", 'Just 10' talks...
- A new group has started up for younger adults exploring faith in Jesus.

If you would like to join a group or have a suggestion for a new group [there's always scope for other types of group] please talk with Nick Grew. - *Nick Grew*

Men's group

Men's Breakfast meets on the second Saturday of most months. It's a great time of fellowship, always with an excellent breakfast and a short Bible reflection, and a time of prayer. This year there were talks from Cliff, Nick and Peter, and we would always welcome others to share a short topical reflection. Breakfast over the last few months has been a hearty full-fry, but over the summer we had the joy of sharing warm croissants round a table in the garden on a few sunny occasions. We are a small core group, but with a wider number who come along when they can.

Most years we've also run a weekend away – other commitments for the organisers meant that wasn't possible this year, but we hope to return to it in 2024.

It would be great if you would pray with us for how this group should evolve to best serve the needs of our church.

And of course you'd be welcome to join us any time – 8.30-9.30am. - *Peter Rhodes*

3&4 Mission and Community Outreach, & Building the corporate life of the Church family:

The church cafe is a well-established aspect of our mission and community outreach. A report on café follows:

Café

The cafe has continued to thrive, being busy on both Monday and Wednesday mornings. Mondays have mostly adult visitors, whereas Wednesdays are more of a mix of ages. About 15-20 mums stop for coffee and chat after dropping children at St Francis School on Wednesday. There are a few pre-schoolers who enjoy playing in the creche and doing craft with Margaret, which is very popular. The cafe is a fantastic outreach opportunity, and the team makes everyone feel welcome by chatting and getting to know the visitors, plus serving coffee, tea and biscuits. During the year the school choir has come across to perform; we raised money for Cancer Research; Messy Church ran alongside a couple of Wednesday cafes during the school holidays, which was fun; in December there were Carols at Cafe.

How you could pray for us - pray that we are able to have good conversations and get to know the visitors and their needs better. Thanks to God that we have this outreach opportunity – *Fiona Grove*.

In 2019, we launched our current Mission Action Plan. We reviewed it as a Church Council and ministry team in June 2023 and continued the same broad aims, but added to the goals. We have worked towards it in 2023, as follows:

i. Foundations for mission

2023 saw the start a group looking at our mission giving; they will bring proposals for mission partners in 2024. They invited guests from these mission organisations to give us more information in services. We also had new signage and made progress on improving accessibility to our building through links with the organisation Roofbreakers, championed by Christine Grew:

Roofbreakers Report

2023 has been a positive year, growing in awareness of diversity /disability for St Francis Ch.

Objectives achieved from 2023 Annual Summary:

1. Roofbreakers is now an item on Church Council Agenda. This is used to prompt questions and highlight issues that have been addressed.
2. Disability Awareness training session by Zoom took place on 12th June. There was good attendance, 34 people, and helpful interactive discussions. The main benefit of the presentation by the Through the Roof Team was increased awareness of disabilities we are likely to encounter.

3. Improvements to Accessible toilet. There are now proper soap dispensers in both toilets. A mirror to waist level has been put into the Disabled Toilet for the benefit of wheelchair users. Many thanks to Andy Grove for undertaking these tasks.
4. AV. There have been improvements in the layout of song words and Bible texts. Many thanks to the team for their ongoing work on this.
5. There was use of British Sign Language in one carol at the Carol Service. This was initiated by St Francis School and was very welcome.

Further achievements: an Access Audit was undertaken in August by Christine and Helen Kelso. The key matters were **signage** leading to and around the church, **posters** advertising our events, and issues to do with the state of the **car park.** Also, the need for the carpark **lighting** to continue into the evening when late events occurred at St Francis.

Signage: Five new signs were made: two replaced old signs which now include the dove hands motif. A Disabled Access sign was added to the wall pointing to the Covered Entrance (by kitchen). Two further signs were made to direct people to the church office.

Posters: noticeboards at the entrance to the car park and both church entrance points (double doors and entrance by kitchen) have been updated to include upcoming events as well as regular ones. Colourful and up to date, these help to advertise our many services and other events. There will be an ongoing need to keep them up to date.

Car park: land belongs to the Diocese. General upkeep of the car park is the responsibility of the school groundsman. The fading white lines which need renewing have been raised with the Diocese in conjunction with Hampshire Highways. This is important in clarifying which is the entrance, and which is the exit. At time of writing it is hoped to increase the number of Disabled Parking spaces (just one currently.)

Control of **lighting** times in the car park is through St Francis School. Anyone running an evening event at church and wanting to extend the lighting beyond 9pm needs to contact the school admin office. The new School Business Manager Eleanor Edwards has been very helpful in all carpark matters and is a good contact for ongoing issues.

Footprints: a significant step has been taken by our Children & Families Minister Hannah in setting up "Footprints", a group for families with children with additional needs. (This has not been instigated by the Roofbreakers team but is entirely in keeping with its aspirations for a more inclusive church and warrants a mention here.)

What for the coming year?

1. Regarding automatic doors to the Disabled Toilet and Front Door (by kitchen), quotes are currently being sought. This matter has come to the fore since one of our church members needs this automatic assistance to enter the building.
2. Further improvement and development of AV overheads.
3. Further use of Makaton / BSL at special services. Eg could we perhaps learn The Lord's Prayer in Makaton to say at All Age Services?

4. Further appraisal of our noticeboards within the building and their use to inform. Eg to highlight our Mission Partners.

Christine Grew January 2024

ii. Children and Young People

Employing a Childrens and Families minister has enabled us to move forward in this area – please see her report below:

Children and Families Minister Role – Hannah Hiscock

Thanks to the warm welcome and excellent support I received on starting in post at St Francis, I quickly felt settled in this new role! During the first three months, I took on the leadership of the Junior Church and Messy Church, got involved in the All Age Services, I started to lead school assemblies and build relationships with the wonderful attendees at Wednesday Café.

Once I felt established in these areas, it was time to start looking ahead. Keeping in mind the big heart St Francis has for welcome and inclusion, and using the knowledge and skills from my previous career in Children's Nursing, I started to consider the support that children with additional needs, and their families, could receive through St Francis Church.

In mid-July, I held a focus group with participants who have experience (either lived or through their work) of the needs of children with complexities, additional needs or learning disabilities. The discussions were enlightening and the wisdom shared was invaluable. Using the outcomes of the group, alongside a generous grant for resources from Test Valley Borough Council, the idea of the additional needs group evolved.

The new group was named 'Footprints' and two pilot sessions were held in October and November. The group, which is designed for under 5s with additional needs with their parents/carers, is a free play and support group where parents of all faiths and none can meet in a warm and friendly space with others in similar situations to themselves. The pilots were successful and helped both me and the newly formed team of brilliant volunteers to realise the vision of the group and understand the importance of widespread publicity.

Sharpening the focus on additional needs has led to other developments throughout the year. In September, the Calm Zone was introduced at Messy Church. The small meeting room was transformed into a quiet space with soft lighting, cozy blankets and pillows, sensory lights, fiddle toys and ear defenders for those who sometimes find the busyness of Messy Church overwhelming and need a quiet escape. The zone has proven its worth, generating positive feedback and it is now a regular part of Messy Church.

In addition, I introduced a new activity box packed full of fiddle toys, wind up toys and puzzle games which is used during Junior Church, Messy Church and on occasions during services and assemblies. The box has proved popular with adults and children and is used for both play and distraction.

Please pray for Footprints, that the group will flourish in 2024 and that St Francis will continue to be a place where individual needs are met and everyone feels included.

We continue to make links with the community through Messy Church, café, and St Francis school.

iii. **Healing and Wholeness**

This continues to be one of our foci, reflected throughout the welcome we look to give on a Sunday, at café and at other times. Specifically, we continue to offer GP Chaplaincy and Take Time Meditations: reports below:

GP Chaplaincy

The GP Chaplaincy based at St Francis Surgery in Valley Park will soon enter its fourth year; this past year for me has been a "pause then relaunch" one. I had a pause last summer, when my Dad was ill and then died. Just as I was starting to sense God gently nudging me to think about starting back, I was contacted by the Surgery asking if I'd be happy to offer chaplaincy support to Surgery staff as well as patients and had a flurry of new referrals of patients from the GPs and Social Prescriber at the Surgery. I "relaunched" in the autumn and am seeing patients again, usually in the Chapel or sitting in the Garden of Remembrance. It's hugely encouraging for me to travel alongside the people I listen to and sense God's care for them.

I've had great ongoing support from the ACGP (Association of Chaplaincy in General Practice), with a new Supervisor who's a very experienced GP Chaplain based in Glasgow (we meet on Zoom!) and regular learning opportunities with colleagues all over the country. GP Chaplaincy is growing and spreading nationwide, which is very exciting, with some GP Chaplains working voluntarily, as I do, and some in paid posts. Locally I gave a talk about GP Chaplaincy at a Diocesan Lay Ministry training day last May...there's so much potential for GP Chaplaincy to develop in our local area too and an excellent training course from the ACGP for anyone interested.

Please pray:

- For all the patients who come through GP Chaplaincy, with many experiencing really challenging circumstances.
- For all the staff at St Francis Surgery in their often-demanding work.
- For a staff meeting at the Surgery in mid-March- I've been asked to speak about what GP Chaplaincy is and how staff can access it too.
- For another GP Chaplain here so we can increase our availability with so many brilliant opportunities (this can be someone with pastoral background, no medical background is necessary.... a lot of it is being "a pair of ears without judgement" as one lady I saw recently described it!)
- For the good links between GP Chaplaincy, the Café at church and other pastoral opportunities to continue and grow. I'm so thankful for these links.
- For ACGP as it becomes an independent charity and continues to extend the reach of GP Chaplaincy throughout the country.

Katie Warner

TakeTime

TakeTime gives the opportunity to engage with God in the quiet using readings from the gospels rewritten to enable us to imagine ourselves in the story.

At the beginning of 2023 we were meeting monthly in person after cafe and monthly on zoom. Zoom became more frustrating as Wi-Fi connections had a tendency to let us down and we dropped the evening session. The daytime meeting has continued; it isn't well attended but is valuable for those who join us.

Please pray we can find the best way to make use of this resource to deepen our understanding of God. *Stephanie Barlow*

Other mission and community outreach activities:

Valley ParkLife Festival

A highlight of the year was a free festival put on for the whole parish,– and their friends, for the second year running! Music was provided by talented church members, from the pianists, to Elliot Frisby, and the Kazbaahs and we danced the night away. Early on there was tea, cake, face-painting and craft, and later a pop up cocktail bar, barbecue and beer. It was well received by all!

Mission Giving partners

Alongside locally oriented outreach, our Church has continued to support charities whose work is in line with our aims including Fair Trade, and Eastleigh Basics Bank. Regular collections of foodstuffs and essentials continue to be made, now at 3 points in the parish.

We again tithed a tenth of our unrestricted income in 2023, to International Justice Mission, whom we started supporting with the closure of our local Stop the Traffik branch, Christian Aid, Christians Against Poverty, Care for the Family, and Fledge Youth Support.

5.Holding St Francis' Church and its land and building in trust, via the Parochial Church Council, for future generations:

The responsibility for maintaining the Church building and premises has continued as an important background task for our Churchwardens and supporting volunteers.

6.Working with the neighbouring St Francis C of E (Aided) Primary School.

Work with St Francis CE Primary School, with which the church shares a campus site, has continued with the lead minister and children and families minister providing weekly collective worship for Key stage 2 up until July. From September, we offered collective worship for both KS 1 & 2, twice per half term and with festival services at Easter and Christmas, as well as a leaver's assembly in July. There's also been the opportunity to join classes in person, to explore topics like the Kingdom of God, and ceremonies to mark stages of faith. St Francis Church continues to provide Foundation Governors who take a very active role in governance at the school.

Structure, governance and management

Legal form: The *Church of England Parish of Valley Park* was established in 1991. Simultaneously, a *Single Congregation Local Ecumenical Partnership (SC-LEP)* was formed by *The Church of England, The Methodist Church* and *The United Reformed Church*, under a formal Constitution agreed on 4th October 1991. A new Model Constitution was adopted in October 2015, and *St Francis', Valley Park Single Congregation Local Ecumenical Partnership* is registered as a Charity with the *Charity Commission for England and Wales*. The members of the Ecumenical Church Council are the Trustees of the registered Charity.

Church building: St Francis' Church is the Parish Church of the Anglican Parish of Valley Park. It is also the centre of worship for the SC-LEP, under the terms of a Sharing Agreement, established on 30th August 1995 under the provisions of the *Sharing of Church Buildings Act, 1969*. The Church building was dedicated rather than consecrated, and it is not subject to Faculty Jurisdiction.

Joint Council: In 1991, formal oversight of the operation of the SC-LEP was vested in *Churches Together in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight*, and is administered via a Joint Council, comprising governing representatives of the participating denominations, together with representatives of the Church Council. Presently the oversight body is not functioning, but there have been no matters which have required escalation to a Joint Council during the year, which consequently has not met.

Clergy and Church Council: Since its founding in 1987, St Francis' Church has been led by a resident Church of England minister (the Vicar of Valley Park). This ministry has been complemented by designated Ministers from local Methodist and United Reformed Churches. Working in co-operation these designated clergy are ex-officio members of *St Francis' Ecumenical Church Council*.

In accordance with Anglican Canon Law, two Churchwardens are elected annually at an Annual Meeting of Parishioners (Annual Vestry Meeting) which also elects two Pro- (Deputy) wardens. St Francis' Annual Parochial Church Meeting also elects members to a Parochial Church Council (PCC), of which the Vicar, Churchwardens and Pro-wardens are ex-officio members. Our annual Church meeting took place in April, and at that meeting 2 church wardens were elected and 2 pro wardens.

The Ecumenical Church Council (ECC) comprises ex-officio and elected members of the Anglican PCC, together with ex officio members representing the other participating churches in the SC-LEP. The PCC and ECC normally meet concurrently under the title of "*The Church Council*", for the day to day management of the Church and its affairs, but with appropriate attention to the relative responsibilities of the two bodies. However, there is a requirement for the Anglican PCC to be able to meet independently of, and without conflict of interest with, the ECC, and so the annually elected Pro-Wardens, the Anglican Deanery Synod Representatives, and at least one elected PCC member are not members of the ECC or Trustees of the registered Charity.

The Electoral Roll of the SC-LEP operating in 2023 comprised 128 members.

The whole Church congregation met to conduct business once during 2023 – in March at the Annual Meeting of Parishioners and the Annual Parochial Church / Ecumenical Congregational Meetings; the latter two held concurrently.

Denominational activities and ecumenical relationships: St. Francis Church lies within Anglican *Deanery of Eastleigh* in the *Diocese of Winchester*.

The Deanery broadly covers the area from Valley Park in the west to Hamble in the south east. Deanery Synod Meetings are held 3 times a year, with the *Standing Committee* (attended by a sub-group of Synod members) meeting more frequently for more strategic and organisational decision-making. Our minister is part of that group, having become Assistant Area Dean in July 2020.

The *Winchester, Eastleigh and Romsey Circuit of the Methodist Church* has continued to meet on a quarterly basis through 2023. St Francis is no longer represented at these meetings due to a lack of volunteers.

St. Francis' Church was not represented in person at the *Wessex Synod of the United Reformed Church* (URC) this year, at its meetings.

St Francis continues to be an active member of *Churches Together in Chandler's Ford*, in partnership with the other local Christian Denominations. A member of St Francis serves as treasurer and another as secretary.

Fabric and assets: Vested in the *Winchester Diocesan Board of Finance*, The Incumbent, Church Wardens, and Church Council (through the PCC), collectively hold St Francis' Church and its fixtures, fittings and property, in trust on behalf of past, present and future generations of worshippers, and the local community.

The *Church Terrier*, recording the Church's furniture, fittings, and assets, and the *Log Book* containing records of all alterations, maintenance, repair and disposals, were kept up to date in 2023, complying with Canon Law.

Safeguarding: All of our Church family life, mission and ministry is underpinned by a strong commitment to Safeguarding. We have a Safeguarding Policy which is regularly reviewed and updated and is easily accessed via the church website and on the Church Notice board.

Linda King has continued in this position, having been appointed in March 2022, and oversees the development and implementation of appropriate Church Policies and Practices, and the regular DBS checking of volunteers.

The Church Council confirms that it 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).

Volunteers: St Francis' Church relies on the voluntary support and assistance of its members who take on a range of roles from the legal duties of Church Warden, to assisting in the organisation and presentation of worship, music, administration, preparing plans, papers and financial reports, and undertaking the routine care and maintenance duties of the building. The Church Council is indebted to members who have stepped forward to take an active role in the life of the Church, and to contribute financially towards it, without whom the ministry and mission of St Francis' Church could not be progressed.

Administrative information:

Ex Officio Members	Expiry of term of office	Notes
Sarah McClelland		
Fiona Grove **Church Warden**	2024	First elected: 18th Oct 2020 Re-elected 25 April 2021, 3rd April 2022, 26th March 2023
Peter Rhodes **Church Warden**	2024	First elected: 26th March 2023
Brian King	2025	Deanery Synod Rep
Peter Rhodes	2025	Deanery Synod Rep
Steve Williams	2025	Deanery Synod Rep
Elected members (9+1PCC)		
Andrew Grove	2024	First elected: 18th Oct 2020 Re-elected 25 April 2021
Jan Southern	2024	First elected: 25 April 2021
Vacant post (3y) x3	2023	
Vacant post (2y)x2	2022	
Rogerio Ramos **(PCC only)**	2024	Re-elected 25 April 2021
Dunni Ajayi	2025	Elected 3rd April 2022
Caroline Gough	2026	Elected 26th March 2023
Coopted members		
None		
Ex officio:	**Ecumenical Church Council (in addition to those in bold above):**	
Joe Sweetnam, Curate, until Feb 2023		Curate
Vacant position		Methodist Rep
Vacant position		Methodist Rep
Vacant position		URC Rep
No Coopted members		

Office holders appointed annually by the Annual Congregational Meeting (not attending Council):

Mr. Chris. Goodhead FCA	(2024)	Independent Examiner.	Re-appointed: 3rd April 22
Mrs Linda King	(2024)	Electoral Roll Officer	Re-appointed: 26th March 2023
Mr. Geoff. Roberts	(2024)	Gift Aid Secretary	Re-appointed: 26th March/ Deceased July 2023

Financial Overview

Treasurer's Report on 2023 year-end figures

Whilst our overall income in 2023 was £168,760 and only £2,000 below our budget, the reality is that General Giving was over £12,000 less than in 2022 when giving for the Children & Families Minister is stripped out. This is a cause for concern as our costs continue to rise so will need a prayerful response from the whole church family in 2024.

On a more positive note, we have received a further substantial donation specifically towards Sustainability Projects, particularly the installation of Solar Panels. As such this sum plus the associated Gift Aid has been placed in a restricted fund, the Sustainability Fund. The capital is not shown in the Financial Statement as it does not form part of the General Fund but is shown in the Fund Statements further down the Financial Statement pages. This fund now stands at over £20,000 and it is hoped that we can progress the provision of solar panels in 2024. This will be of great benefit to the church as our electricity costs are considerable.

As a result of income received, we have been able to tithe a total of £15,957 this year. This is comprised of £268 from our Benevolent Fund to people in need in the local area, £12,500 shared between our five designated charities and the remainder to the Methodist and URC churches, our LEP partners.

As we have always done, we have been able to pay our Parish Share in full which is greatly appreciated by the Diocese. For 2023 the Parish Share increased by £3,410 to £70,623.

There are a couple of areas where expenditure has exceeded the budget figure, and our overall operational expenditure is up over £10,000 on 2022. General maintenance is over in large part to a number of one-off items. In particular, more than £2,000 was spent on a full church electrical installation survey and some remedial works resulting from this.

Utility bills are still an area of concern. The gas is now on track with payments covering expenditure. However, the electricity is still in arrears due to the very lax attitude of SSE. After my two formal complaints they finally increased the monthly payments in September so hopefully by the end of 2024 we will be up to date.

Some of you may be asking where the costs of the patio work show in the figures. This cost falls outside of the General Fund as payment came from our Maintenance Fund reserves. This is why we aim to move funds into this fund each year in order to be able to pay for such projects. Unfortunately, due to lower general giving and higher expenses we have been unable to transfer anything to the Maintenance Reserve Fund in 2023. Because of this the Maintenance fund has reduced to £38,193. All the fund statements are shown below the Financial Statement.

After all the above the General Fund has reduced by £7,325 during 2023.
I would like to give thanks for the generosity of all the church family. Without you the church could not function.

Andy.

Gift Aid and GASDS giving for the year ending December 2023.

48 gave within the Gift Aid scheme. (This represents 77 individual people as some giving is on behalf of a couple). This is one more than the previous year. The total tax reclaimed is up due to additional giving towards the costs of employing the Children & Families Minister. The sumup contactless card system continues to be used and we are able to claim the equivalent of Gift Aid on these donations through the GASDS.

A total of £107,552 (inclusive of £4,088 GASDS) was given to which we added £26,888 in tax claimed back from the inland revenue making a grand total of £134,440. (The GASDS represents giving received in the church building in addition to the standing orders and direct payments.)

Gift aid figures over past years:-

	General Fund	Growth yr/yr	Tax Claim included
2014	£78,105	12%	£16,386
2015	£80,243	3%	£16,049
2016	£78,731	-2%	£15,746
2017	£79,202	0%	£15,840
2018	£89,194	13%	£17,845
2019	£95,972	8%	£19,195
2020	£94.390	-2%	£18,878
2021	£110,542	17%	£22,108
2022	£125,191	13%	£25,038
2023	£134,440	7%	£26,888

Many thanks to all those continuing to take advantage of the gift aid scheme.
Andy Grove
Gift Aid Secretary

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice. Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the Charity's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view the Trustees should follow best practice and:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP and make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose, with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the Charity, and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Charity's trustees confirm they have complied with the duty in section 4 of the 2011 Charities Act to have due regard to guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit disclosures.

This report and the Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)).

Approved by the Trustees on 22 OCT 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



Trustee

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES ON THE UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS OF ST FRANCIS', VALLEY PARK

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of St Francis', Valley Park Single Congregation Local Ecumenical Partnership for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 19 to 29.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the '2011 Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the trustee's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable 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 material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

(1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or

(2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or

(3) the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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



C J Goodhead FCA
Knight Goodhead Limited
Chartered Accountants
7 Bournemouth Road
Chandler's Ford, Eastleigh
Hampshire, SO53 3DA

Dated: **21 October 2024**

ST FRANCIS', VALLEY PARK SINGLE CONGREGATION LOCAL ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
INCOME					
Donations and legacies	3	108,703	40,111	148,814	137,489
Charitable activities	3	18,304	-	18,304	18,474
Investment income	3	1,592	-	1,592	-
Other income	3	50	-	50	1,224
Total income		**128,649**	**40,111**	**168,760**	**157,187**
EXPENDITURE					
Charitable activities	4	151,793	15,556	167,349	128,371
Total expenditure		**151,793**	**15,556**	**167,349**	**128,371**
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) BEFORE TRANSFERS		**(23,144)**	**24,555**	**1,411**	**28,816**
Transfers between funds	11	-	-	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		**(23,144)**	**24,555**	**1,411**	**28,816**
FUND BALANCES AT 1 JANUARY 2023		76,009	17,639	93,648	64,832
FUND BALANCES AT 31 DECEMBER 2023	11	**52,865**	**42,194**	**95,059**	**93,648**

ST FRANCIS', VALLEY PARK SINGLE CONGREGATION LOCAL ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

Charity number: 1132121

	Notes	£	2023 £	£	2022 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	7		2,629		6,798
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	8	3,448		3,782	
Cash at bank and in hand	9	90,639		84,810	
		94,087		88,592	
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year:	10	(1,657)		(1,742)	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			92,430		86,850
TOTAL ASSESTS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			95,059		93,648
FUNDS					
Unrestricted	11		12,593		19,918
Designated	11		40,272		56,091
Restricted	11		42,194		17,639
TOTAL FUNDS			95,059		93,648

Signed on behalf of the PCC by:

.....

Trustee

Date: 22 OCT 2024.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, the Charities Act 2011 and the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102 (effective January 2019).

The accounts have been prepared on the going concern basis. There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue. The charity is a public benefit organisation.

(b) Fund accounting

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions as to their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.

Restricted funds are those funds that must be spent on restricted purposes and the details of the funds held and restrictions are provided in note 11.

(c) Income

The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the financial statements of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

- **Donations and legacies**
  Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.
  Planned giving receivable under pledge is recognised only when received.
  Income tax recoverable on gift aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.
  Grant and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement and the amount due.

- **Charitable income**
  Funds raised from church events are accounted for when receivable.
  Income is deferred when received for the purpose of funding missions to be carried out in the future.

- **Investment income**
  Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable.

- **Other income**
  Other income is accounted for when receivable.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023 (continued)

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(d) Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. It includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is allocated to the activity for which it relates.

- **Charitable Activities**
  The Diocesan Parish Share is accounted for when payable.
  Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over.
  All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the Statement of Financial Activities on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly, others are apportioned between activities in line with their respective proportion of income received.

(e) Tangible Fixed assets

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation, less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life as follows:

Website	Straight line over 5 years
Fittings and Equipment	Straight line over 3 years

(f) Operating Leases

Payments under operating leases are charged to the profit and loss account as they are incurred.

(g) Pensions

The charity participates in a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions in respect of this scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities for the year in which they are payable. Timing differences between contributions payable and contributions actually paid in the year are shown as either accruals or prepayments at the year end.

(h) Basic financial instruments

The church only enters into basic financial instrument transactions that result in the recognition of financial assets and liabilities like trade and other debtors, cash at bank and creditors. These basic financial instruments are measured and transaction price. Financial assets and liabilities classified as due within one year are not amortised.

2 ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The charity is unincorporated and was registered on 14 October 2009 with the Charity Commission in England and Wales. The registered number is 1165677.

The registered office of the charity is St Francis Church, Pilgrims Close, Chandlers Ford, Valley Park, Eastleigh, SO53 4ST.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023 (continued)

3 INCOME

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
DONATION AND LEGACIES				
Gift aided planned giving	77,796	8,119	85,915	90,483
Non gift aid planned giving	4,340	-	4,340	5,746
Collections at Services	7,171	-	7,171	13,738
Children and families minister donations	-	24,409	24,409	-
Other donations	733	-	733	2,325
Income tax recoverable	18,595	7,583	26,178	25,039
	108,635	40,111	148,746	137,331
Fundraising				
Funding sources (Easy Fundraiser)	68	-	68	158
Total income from donors	**108,703**	**40,111**	**148,814**	**137,489**
INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES				
Income from outreach events	1,996	-	1,996	2,184
Statutory fees	1,423	-	1,423	1,908
Income from use of church building	14,112	-	14,112	13,201
Income from café	773	-	773	1,181
	18,304	**-**	**18,304**	**18,474**
INVESTMENT INCOME				
Interest received	1,592	-	1,592	-
	1,592	**-**	**1,592**	**-**
OTHER INCOME				
Charges for occasional offices	50	-	50	1,224
	50	**-**	**50**	**1,224**
TOTAL INCOME	**128,649**	**40,111**	**168,760**	**157,187**

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023 (continued)

4 EXPENDITURE	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Fundraising costs				
Costs of generating donations (card fees)	49	-	49	29
	49	-	49	29
DIRECT CHURCH ACTIVITIES				
Mission and charitable giving				
Charitable giving - local benevolent	268	-	268	338
Charitable giving - home	7,500	-	7,500	6,600
Charitable giving - overseas	5,000	-	5,000	4,400
	12,768	-	12,768	11,338
Parish share				
Parish share - Anglican	70,623	-	70,623	67,213
Parish share - Methodist	2,370	-	2,370	2,255
Parish share - URC	819	-	819	819
	73,812	-	73,812	70,287
Salaries and honoraria				
Parish administrator	10,511	-	10,511	9,817
Organists and musicians	-	-	-	790
Children and families minister	-	14,528	14,528	-
Cleaners	2,114	-	2,114	2,333
	12,625	14,528	27,153	12,940
People-related expenses				
Recruitment expenses	13	-	13	991
Mileage, telephone and other expenses	1,363	-	1,363	1,893
Education and training of staff and Laity	1,049	205	1,254	986
	2,425	205	2,630	3,870
Mission and evangelism costs				
Young people's Church	1,016	-	1,016	955
Outreach activities	3,959	-	3,959	2,817
Teaching and nurturing	11	-	11	131
Pastoral activities	141	-	141	26
	5,127	-	5,127	3,929
Church running expenses				
Upkeep of services and worship	1,306	-	1,306	468
Hospitality & catering (including café)	854	-	854	994
Insurance	1,193	-	1,193	1,108
Maintenance, cleaning and servicing	12,091	-	12,091	10,409
Furniture and equipment purchases	148	822	970	-
Administration costs	4,895	-	4,895	6,369
Software and training	122	-	122	-
New works	12,622	-	12,622	-
Church magazine printing	1,100	-	1,100	1,100
	34,330	822	35,152	20,448

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023 (continued)

4 EXPENDITURE (continued)	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
Church utility bills				
Electricity	4,347	-	4,347	1,572
Gas	4,484	-	4,484	2,735
Water rates	505	-	505	294
	9,336	-	9,336	4,601
Governance cots				
Bank charges	337	-	337	53
Independent examination fee	984	-	984	876
	1,321	-	1,321	929
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	**151,793**	**15,555**	**167,349**	**128,371**

Included within accountancy above are amounts due to the independent examiners in relation to independent examination of £984 (2022: £876).

5 GRANTS

Grants and donations totalled £12,768 (2022: £11,338). Donations totalling more than £1,000 were made to the following institutions:

	£
Fledge Youth Support	2,500
Christians Against Poverty	2,500
Christian Aid	2,500
Care for the Family	2,500
International Justice Mission	2,500
	12,500

6 STAFF COSTS	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	26,731	12,940
Social security costs	-	-
Pension	423	-
	27,153	12,940

The average number of staff employed during the year was 4 (2022: 4). No employee received emoluments of £60,000 or more during this year or the prior year.

No members of key management personnel were paid on an employed basis during this, or the prior, year. The role of Vicar is not paid directly by the church, and the Church Wardens (x2) are unpaid posts.

During the year or the prior year no trustees received any emolument, were paid any expenses or were reimbursed for expenditure incurred on behalf of the charity.

Total pension contributions of £423 (2022: £Nil) were paid by the charity and are included in the SOFA. There were no outstanding contributions payable at the end of this year or the prior year.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023 (continued)

7 TANGIBLE ASSETS

	Church Organ	Dishwasher	AV Upgrade	Website	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
COST					
At beginning and end of year	5,846	2,820	9,239	5,447	23,352
DEPRECIATION					
At beginning of year	5,846	2,820	4,620	3,268	16,554
Charge for year	-	-	3,080	1,089	4,169
At end of year	5,846	2,820	7,700	4,357	20,723
NET BOOK VALUE					
At end of year	-	-	1,539	1,090	2,629
At beginning of year	-	-	4,619	2,179	6,798

8 DEBTORS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Other debtors	3,448	3,782
	3,448	3,782

9 CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

	2023	2022
	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	9,048	84,810
Deposit accounts	81,591	-
	90,639	84,810

10 CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Other creditors	1,657	1,742
	1,657	1,742

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023 (continued)

11 MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	Balance at 1 Jan 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfers between funds	Balance at 31 Dec 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds					
Children and families worker fund	7,444	29,962	(15,556)	-	21,850
Sustainability fund	10,195	10,149	-	-	20,344
	17,639	40,111	(15,556)	-	42,194
Designated funds					
Church maintenance & repair reserve fund	53,444	-	(15,251)	-	38,193
Youth activities fund	985	-	(300)	-	685
Benevolent fund	1,662	-	(268)	-	1,394
	56,091	-	(15,819)	-	40,272
Other unrestricted funds	19,918	128,649	(135,974)	-	12,593
Total funds	**93,648**	**168,760**	**(167,349)**	**-**	**95,059**

The restricted funds are established for the following purposes:

Children and families worker fund — To fund the expenditure of the children and families worker.

Sustainability fund — For expenditure on sustainability projects, for example the installation of solar panels. This was previously known as Special appeals fund.

The designated funds are established for the following purposes:

Church maintenance & repair reserve fund — To fund the resources for repair and maintenance of the church building and ground and larger one off expenditure as agreed by the Church Council. This has replaced the Church Repair & Maintenance Fund and The Church Roof Restoration Fund.

Youth activities fund — Represents the closed SOS53 Youth Club Bank Account.

Benevolent fund — Set up to enable the vicar to make small hardship payments to people in the community. It has been used in the past for things such as paying towards a child's school trip, helping replace a stolen bike and buying a bed.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023 (continued)

12 ANALYSIS OF FUNDS

Fund balances as at 31 December 2023 are represented by:	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	2,629	-	2,629
Current assets	51,893	42,194	94,087
Current liabilities	(1,657)	-	(1,657)
	52,865	42,194	95,059

Fund balances as at 31 December 2022 are represented by:	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £
Tangible fixed assets	6,798	-	6,798
Current assets	70,953	17,639	88,592
Current liabilities	(1,742)	-	(1,742)
	76,009	17,639	93,648

13 PRIOR YEAR MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	Balance at 1 Jan 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers between funds £	Balance at 31 Dec 2022 £
Restricted funds					
Children and families worker fund	-	7,444	-	-	7,444
Special appeals fund	-	10,195	-	-	10,195
	-	17,639	-	-	17,639
Designated funds					
Church maintenance & repair reserve fund	47,613	-	(4,169)	10,000	53,444
Youth activities fund	985	-	-	-	985
Benevolent fund	1,500	-	(338)	500	1,662
	50,098	-	(4,507)	10,500	56,091
Other unrestricted funds	14,734	139,548	(123,864)	(10,500)	19,918
Total funds	**64,832**	**157,187**	**(128,371)**	**-**	**93,648**

14 PRIOR YEAR STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £
INCOME				
Donations and legacies		119,692	17,639	137,331
Fundraising income		158	-	158
Charitable activities		18,474	-	18,474
Investment income		-	-	-
Other income		1,224	-	1,224
Total income	3	**139,548**	**17,639**	**157,187**
EXPENDITURE				
Charitable activities	4	128,371	-	128,371
Total expenditure		**128,371**	**-**	**128,371**
NET INCOME BEFORE TRANSFERS		**11,177**	**17,639**	**28,816**
Transfers between funds		-	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		**11,177**	**17,639**	**28,816**
FUND BALANCES AT 1 JANUARY 2022		64,832	-	64,832
FUND BALANCES AT 31 DECEMBER 2022		**76,009**	**17,639**	**93,648**

ST FRANCIS', VALLEY PARK SINGLE CONGREGATION LOCAL ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP

England & Wales - Charity number 1165677

Accounts

St Francis' Church, Valley Park

The Ecumenical Church Council of St. Francis', Valley Park, Single Congregation Local Ecumenical Partnership.

(and the Parochial Church Council of the Parish of Valley Park)

Annual Report

for the year ended 31st December 2022.

St Francis' Church:	Pilgrim's Close, Valley Park, Chandler's Ford, Eastleigh, Hants, SO53 4ST. Tel.: 023 8027 1152; E-mail: admin@stfrancis-valleypark.org.uk; Website: www.stfrancis-valleypark.org.uk Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/stfrancisvp
Bank:	The National Westminster Bank, Eastleigh Branch, 34 Southampton Road, Eastleigh SO50 9XN.
Independent Examiner:	Mr. Chris. Goodhead FCA, Knight Goodhead Ltd. Chartered Accountants, 7 Bournemouth Road, Chandler's Ford, Eastleigh. Hants. SO53 3DA.
Inspecting Architect:	Ms. Sarah Harlow BA (Hons) DipARCH RIBA, Seymour and Bainbridge Architects, 9 Charlecote Mews, Staple Gardens, Winchester, Hants. SO23 8SR.

Registered as a Charity in England and Wales; Charity Number: 1165677

Annual Report of the Ecumenical Church Council of the Single Congregation Local Ecumenical Partnership of St Francis' Valley Park

and the Parochial Church Council of the Parish of Valley Park

2022

Aims and purposes

The aims and purposes of St Francis' Church, Valley Park Single Congregation Local Ecumenical Partnership (SC-LEP) remain unchanged from previous years. The Church and Charity exists to advance the Christian faith within the Ecclesiastical Parish of Valley Park and elsewhere, in accordance with the rites and practices of the participating denominations in the LEP: Church of England, Methodist Church and United Reformed Church.

Oversight and management of the work of St Francis' Church is vested in an Anglican Parochial Church Council (PCC), and an Ecumenical Church Council (ECC), which normally meet concurrently, and are collectively known as 'The Church Council'. The Church Council has responsibility, in co-operation with the Incumbent minister, the designated Ministers of the other Participating Churches and the Church Wardens for promoting the Christian faith and enabling the whole mission of the Christian Church.

Objectives

The Charity's objectives continue to focus on Christian Mission and Ministry. St Francis' Church Council works to promote the whole mission of the church through the following objectives. These will be expanded below with reports from ministry leads.

1. **Worship and prayer**, and by providing a range of opportunities for those within the parish, and beyond, to learn about the Christian Gospel and develop a faith in Jesus Christ, and to walk with God;
2. **Pastoral care** for all those within the parish and others who come into contact with the Church;
3. **Mission and community outreach,** involving practical, social and financial support for the local community and wider charitable causes, including work with and through other Churches and Charities;
4. **Building the corporate life of the Church family,** both through collective worship and through social, fellowship and community-focused activities;
5. **Holding St Francis' Church and its land and building in trust, via the Parochial Church Council, for future generations,** maintaining them as a vital and valuable resource in support of other objectives, and sharing them with the other denominations of the LEP through a formal Sharing Agreement;
6. **Working with the neighbouring St Francis C of E (Aided) Primary School**.

Public benefit

St Francis' Church delivers public benefit through engaging in a range of activities, including, but not restricted to:

- The celebration of public worship;
- The teaching of the Christian faith;

- Mission and evangelism;
- Pastoral work, including visiting and supporting the sick and the bereaved;
- The provision of facilities with a Christian ethos for the local community, including, but not restricted to, GP Chaplaincy, Community café, activities to support health and wellbeing
- The support of other charities in the UK and overseas.

The extent to which public benefit has been delivered is described in the following pages of this Report.

Ministry Reports (under the objectives above)

1. Worship and Prayer:

2022 began still in the shadow of Covid, and we continued wearing masks and showing caution in singing until Easter 2022. Since then, the return to less restrictions has been welcomed and options to keep more distant continue to be offered, with the ongoing livestreaming of our 10am service through Zoom. At that service we offer a creche, junior church and since Easter we have offered youth group once a month; the youth also meet mid week, each week.

Messy church, a more informal activities based worship, continued throughout 2022, and was well-attended by families from the community each month for the rest of the year (see report). We also continued to visit the local Brendoncare home to take a monthly communion service. Both these activities were headed up by our curate, Revd Joe Sweetnam.

In terms of Occasional Offices, we had a smaller number of baptisms after the post-covid rush (just 3). We also had 3 weddings, one in St Boniface Church (since, as a Parish Centre of Worship church members may elect to use surrounding parish churches for occasional offices) , as well as some funerals both in the church building and at local crematoria, carried out both by vicar and curate.

It was a joy to host a service of confirmation in September when 5 of our church family were confirmed. It was the same weekend as the death of the late Queen Elizabeth 2nd and so we welcomed retired Bishop Geoff Annas to St Francis for the confirmations and also to collate priest-in-charge Sarah, to vicar of the parish.

We held a number of festival services: Harvest festival, Service to remember those who've died, and our Advent Service of Light. Christmas was a busy time and we were able to serve the community in many ways. St Francis school came in separate Key Stage Groups and took part in a pop-up nativity, as well as carols outside around the Christmas tree – something that had proved very popular over covid. We had a well-attended carol service for the community followed by refreshments, carols at the pub, and carol services at Brendoncare, and in Café. Messy Christmas was our busiest ever! The crib service returned into the building for the first time in 3 years and was well attended. In church we had our usual midnight communion, 8.30am communion and a Christmas day all age communion service too. What a joyful celebration!

Our ministry team has grown. Steve was licensed as an LLM at Winchester cathedral in October 2022. We now have two retired ministers on the team, Nick and Allen, and also Mary, URC support and development officer who takes an active part as her busy job allows. We also enjoyed contributions from Peter who has BPP, and Joe our curate. We have a number of folk with BCMs who minister too. Ian enrolled with Winchester School of Mission to start LLM training in September 2022.

Reports from Ministry heads of music, Creche, Junior Church, Youth Group and Messy Church follow:

Music Group

2022 was a year of building on the work of the last few years. We now have 16 people involved in leading the church in sung worship, with Sofia and Luke joining us from the youth group (sadly Luke has now moved on with Joe) and just before Christmas, Dawn started playing regularly again. The result of the larger group of musicians has meant we've been able to provide a variety of band setups for services and covered the busy Christmas season without having to ask individuals to play or sing for multiple services.

We've had regular practices and gradually introduced some new songs to our worship. Feedback suggests they are enjoyed by band and congregation alike, although we are aware that many love singing traditional hymns as well. We've started broadening the songs we have available for all-age services, co-ordinating with Messy church and St Francis school.

Please pray that we find the right songs to introduce, including songs that are more accessible to children and that our focus is always on worshiping God. – *Stephanie Barlow*

Crèche 2022

We have four children's names on the register, but some only come occasionally, so some weeks we have had no children at all.

We always prepare our story, with a craft activity, song and a prayer and I am grateful for the commitment and encouragement of the crèche team.

With the arrival of our Children's And Families Minister, Hannah this month, we have a new enthusiasm for building up our numbers, and look forward to welcoming new families.

Our aim remains that we will bring the stories of Jesus and the love of God to these young lives.

Please continue to pray for us this year.

Thank you, - *Sue Bowles*

2022 Junior Church Annual Report

2022 was the first time in two years that no National Lockdown was experienced. Finally, the Junior Church team at St Francis could deliver their term-time faith provision to children in person throughout the year. The focus for Junior Church – celebration – celebrating the life of Jesus and being in God's house each week remained the main theme.

The Junior Church sessions continued to adopt a 'party' like structure with food and games being offered during the sessions. The AV equipment, kindly donated by the Kazbaas band and set-up in the meeting room, was certainly put to good use by members of Junior Church.

Whilst a couple of our children in Junior Church progressed onto Youth Group during the year and some families moved out the area, our numbers attending Junior Church remained strong. We've had several new families visit us during the course of 2022 to get a flavour of the kind of exciting and fun activities we get up to in Junior Church.

We too in Junior Church also covered elements of the Bible Course just like the rest of St Francis' congregation did in 2022.

Not only did this provide an opportunity for parents to engage and support their children with their understanding of the Bible but allowed the children to develop and cement their knowledge about the structure of the Bible, to learn the books of the Bible and build an awareness of the timeline / sequence of events.

In Junior Church we zipped along the timeline, starting with Creation in Genesis and finishing in Revelation over an 8-week period, only to return to the very beginning and start again with different stories. Each week we would look at a story from either The Rhyming Bible by Bob Hartman or the

Children of God Storybook Bible by Archbishop Desmond Tutu, encouraging the children to read the stories to camera for their friends to enjoy and watch.

Our thanks go to our amazing children and leaders who make our weekly Junior Church sessions so special and fun – it is a delight to witness our children explore, grow and be encouraged in their faith. This year we would very much welcome prayer for the exciting opportunity we now have to expand the Junior Church team with the appointment of a Children & Families Minister. Please pray for our Children & Families Minister as they get to meet the team and families, and for how their role develops. Thank you. *Debbie Reed*

The Youth Group Report

The group continues to grow spiritually and maintain numbers attending. We continue to look at Jesus, faith & growing in Christ as they grow into adulthood.

We have looked a little at the Bible Course and many other resources to help open up scripture to us.

We meet every Tuesday evening With Cliff, Fiona & now Sam Reeves (St Mary's Church, Southampton, son of Deb Reeves) leading. We now meet once per month on a Sunday morning too.

Please pray for:

- those on the edge of faith, that they find it easier to attend
- that the group would continue to invite friends
- that those going the group from junior church would find a welcome
- that we would be able to grow the leadership team to expand the number of Sundays that the group is run – *Cliff McClelland*

Messy Church

I am pleased to say that 2022 was a good year for Messy Church at St Francis. It was only January that was affected by covid. Guests have come and enjoyed the same mix of crafts and activities, songs, stories, and puppets. Not forgetting the coffee and cakes, of course! Each month there have been a variety of Old and New Testament themes from Daniel and the Lion's Den and Jonah and the Whale through to the Prodigal Son and Feeding the 5000.

With guests we are now in a good position where there are regular attenders who come monthly and also new guests arriving each time. The numbers fluctuate but generally the figures range from 40-70. It was a pleasure at Christmas to see people from Messy Church attending other services in addition to the Messy and Crib service.

Two highlights of the year were definitely the Summer and Christmas Parties with over a hundred guests at each. Both celebrations were more effort than the standard services, but it was most certainly worth it with many happy children and parents enjoying their time here at St Francis. Through all of this we are continuing to build a lot of good relationships.

Messy Church has now also become more eco-friendly as our final purchase of disposable cups was in September. We now have branded lidded cups which we are very pleased with.

A massive thank you to all of the volunteers who help in a variety of ways – you know who you are! Thank you so much, as it would not be possible without you. I hope the Messy Church services continue to grow from strength to strength.

Please pray for the relationships built with families in the community to become stronger and to enable people to grow their own personal relationships with God or to grow their existing relationships deeper. – Joe Sweetnam

2. Pastoral Care:

Our pastoral team, led by Fiona – who holds a BCM (Pastoral) – has continued to meet with and engage a range of individuals, both from within the church and more widely, offering friendship, fellowship and an opportunity for quiet prayer for those who wish. Our Prayer network has continued to enable collective prayer for those who request it. Following some training, a small team have been able to start offering prayer ministry after our 10am services.

Pastoral care and concern are also a key element of the work of our House Groups, ably headed up by Nick Grew, where study of Scripture and matters of topical concern to Christians are coupled with prayer, fellowship and support in a variety of ways. Groups meet however suits them, whether on zoom, in person, or a mixture of both, offering options for those with differing vulnerabilities and preferences. Over Lent 2022, we studied the Bible Course, which proved very engaging.

Reports from Ministry heads of Pastoral care, Home Groups and Mens' group follow:

Pastoral Team

The pastoral team has again been available to support and provide practical help, and it is indeed a privilege to be able to get alongside people at a time of need. The team is very dedicated and act quietly and effectively. Thank you to them all for using their gifts in this way. The prayer chain is an extension of this work and again we have seen God working in the lives of those who have asked for prayer, either in hoped for or unexpected and wonderful ways. There have been over 50 prayer chains during the year. Thank you to everyone who has agreed to pray for the needs of others in this way. If you aren't already involved and would like to be, please ask Caroline in the office to add you to the list – Fiona Grove

Home Groups

When Jesus gathered his 12 disciples Mark's Gospel tells us that he did it, 'that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach' [Mark 3:14]. Homegroups are places where people spend time with one another, in the presence of Jesus, so that they can live lives that bear witness to Him. We may not be sent out specifically to preach but, as we were thinking in church recently, all of us bear the salt and light of Jesus in us to the places and among the people where we live every day.

For much of the time, homegroups focus upon themes and studies that are appropriate to their interests and needs. So, this year amongst the different groups we've seen topics such as Revelation, women in the Bible, 1Timothy, John's Gospel, 'An Ordinary Day with Jesus', 'The Life You've Always Wanted', Bible characters, the Beatitudes… But all groups, whether on Zoom or in person, set aside time for sharing and prayer for one another as well.

Around Lent all groups studied the same material – The Bible Course – and some people joined groups specially to be part of that. The course gave a good overview of the Bible and how the different books fit together. There was a visual installation which you can see represented on the Junior Church board in the Meeting Room. People were generally very positive about the course and felt it gave them greater confidence in handling the Bible.

There are around 50 people in homegroups but we'd love there to be more because these are places that help us all grow in faith and discipleship through giving space for questions and sharing insights. Have you considered joining a group? There are currently 4 evening groups and 2 daytime groups with a mix of fortnightly and weekly, but we'd look to create more if demand required! If you are interested, please talk to me or Sarah.

Finally I want to acknowledge that the leaders of the groups do an amazing job that covers both teaching and pastoral care. I'm sure all those in groups would want to join with me in saying a huge 'thankyou' to them all. - *Nick Grew*

Men's group

Men's breakfasts are an opportunity for informal fellowship over a hearty breakfast, with a short bible-focussed talk relevant to the group or the season. Those who attend (typically between 6-12) get a great deal of strength and blessing from these times, and it would be excellent to welcome others who might drop in to see what we get up to – a warm greeting is guaranteed. We meet on the second Saturday of each month, starting fairly early at 8.30am in order to finish without disrupting the day too much.

We've continued to meet across the year, breaking over the summer and in the month we held the Men's Weekend, and have dates planned for the year ahead. In summer months we eat round a table in the lovely church garden, if the weather allows – which it usually does: a real joy on a sunny morning. Other times we meet inside – usually with a breakfast menu to match. Do join us!

The *Men's Weekend* took place in September, and as in previous years this was a first class way to enjoy God's creation in good company, and share with friends old and new. This year we had the privilege of returning to Houghton, nestling on the South Downs Way near Arundel – the bunkhouse there is excellent, superbly appointed and in a great setting (https://www.southdownsbunkhouse.co.uk/). As in previous years we've used a well-proven format – arrive on Friday for pizza, beer and catching up, Saturday starts with a full breakfast and thought-for-the-day before a day's walking on the hills (not too strenuous….) before returning for tea and cake ahead of preparing a meal with full options for the evening, and Sunday starts with a short service with communion before a morning walk. The nearness of this venue meant some could join us just for the day. Cliff led the spiritual programme for the weekend again, as ever with great generosity and huge insight into the real lives and issues of men, and linked to his work in the prison – thanks Cliff. - *Peter Rhodes*

3&4 Mission and Community Outreach, & Building the corporate life of the Church family:

The church cafe is a well established aspect of our mission and community outreach. A report on café follows:

Café

The church cafe runs on Monday from 11:00am to 12:30pm and Wednesday mornings 9am to 10:30am. It is now registered as a Warm Space. The cafe provides a great place for members of church and the wider community to meet and socialise while enjoying coffee and biscuits (sometimes cake!) We don't make a charge but there is the opportunity for people to donate. On Wednesday morning Margaret provides craft for young children. This has proved so popular that during the holidays the children who are now at school want to come back to see Margaret and take part in her art activities. Thank you Margaret. The cafe couldn't run without a fab team of volunteers, so a huge thank you to them for all their hard work. It isn't just about serving coffee and washing up, but also engaging with the visitors and making them feel welcome and cared for. If you would like to join the team please do let me know, it is a fun couple of hours and very much appreciated by the visitors – Fiona Grove.

In 2019, we launched our current Mission Action Plan in and have continued to work towards it in 2022, as follows:

i. Foundations for mission

Caroline our administrator, appointed in March 2021, has settled in and is enabling us to make best use of our church management software, iKnow church.

Following the challenges of covid, we recognised the need to restructure the church leadership, restoring lines of accountability through heads of different ministries. A safeguarding requirement is that volunteers have role descriptions, and rolling this out is a work in progress.

ii. Children and Young People

At the start of the year we made a proposal to the congregation to employ a Children and Families worker, as our work in this area is growing. This was accepted, and money pledged in January 2022, and it wasn't until December, after three attempts at advertising, that we employed Hannah Hiscock, to start in early 2023.

We continue to make links with the community through Messy Church, café, and St Francis school.

iii. Healing and Wholeness

This continues to be one of our foci, reflected throughout the welcome we look to give on a Sunday, at café and at other times. Specifically we continue to offer GP Chaplaincy and Take Time Meditations: reports below:

GP Chaplaincy

- What's been happening?

It's now nearly three years since we started the pilot of the GP Chaplaincy service: the essentials of what's involved have continued, but this past year new things have also been on the move! I continue to meet with patients referred to GP Chaplaincy by the GPs or the Social Prescriber from our local GP Surgery (Park and St Francis). We often now meet face to face, mainly in the Chapel or the church garden or sitting at the back of the Church, or on the telephone for people who have difficulty getting out of their homes, or occasionally still on Zoom. I'm still amazed and encouraged by how often the listening to the range of things people want to talk about seems so often to lead naturally to them talking about things like meaning and purpose in life, what's the point of it all, how to stay hopeful, and how often they recall people or events in their lives when they've felt God, or "someone or something bigger than themselves" was at work. This happens with people who often say at the start that they have no background in faith or anything "spiritual" as well those who do. Many also seem to be experiencing significant loneliness or isolation and it has been possible to link them up with the Café, or other church events (social or Christmas services), or the "Taketime" meditations in person or on Zoom. Some of the people who have come to the Café through GP Chaplaincy have then themselves reached out and supported others at the Café. Lots of scope for things to develop further here in the "mix" with the pastoral side of things!

- What's new?

Another really encouraging thing this past year has been linking up with Tim Peppiatt, who recently retired as a GP and was licensed last May as the first Chaplain in Primary Care and Community Health in Winchester Diocese. He's forging lots of great links with the local Integrated Care Board, who now plan and deliver Medical and Care services in our community, and is looking to get funding to be able to establish GP Chaplaincy in many more local Surgeries. This whole area continues to feel like one of massive potential for us as a church and other churches and GP Surgeries. In some

parts of the country there are already well-established teams of GP Chaplains working alongside the Social Prescribers in what's often called a "Listening and Guidance" service. Basically it means there's a way to care for someone as a "whole person" in all dimensions, including the spiritual dimension, and to provide time for listening..... which as you can imagine is massively stretched for GPs and other staff on the frontline of trying to provide medical care in the NHS these days.

- Where are things heading?

On that front we've had a chance to meet up with Greg Eland from Winchester Diocese to talk about ways we might be able to network with other GP Chaplains (there are some in Andover area, but generally not many around in our local area- yet!). We also hope this might lead to encouraging people in other parts of the Diocese to think about exploring GP Chaplaincy. You don't need medical training or theological training, although it can help to have some background in either of these, and there's an excellent "Foundations in GP Chaplaincy" course run by the Association of Chaplaincy in General Practice (ACGP). I was finally able to do the course myself last September, with sessions over two days on Zoom, and it was so helpful in filling in lots of missing bits of the jigsaw and consolidating what I've been learning "on the job" in GP Chaplaincy over the past 3 years. Following the course I was able to apply for Certification in GP Chaplaincy and I'm waiting to hear the outcome of that.

- What's been encouraging?

There's been loads of encouragement (as well as challenges) in what happens with the patients, I've also had lots of encouragement over the past year through regular sessions with Sarah in her "Supervision" role (in addition to her general support and "bounce ideas around" role!). I've also been really encouraged through the regular courses run by the ACGP, with teaching from some experienced GP Chaplains but also meeting (even if only online) other GP Chaplains starting out and having many overlapping experiences and questions to mine.

- What can you be praying for?

Things I would really value prayer for are

  - the Chaplaincy patients themselves, some of whom have extremely challenging things going on
  - all the staff working flat out at our local Surgery
  - my own energy and balancing time doing the GP Chaplaincy as a voluntary role (it can sometimes feel a bit complicated and a little lonely!)
  - for another person or people to join me in our GP Chaplaincy so we can expand to see more patients and offer more care for staff at our local Surgery
  - for GP Chaplaincy to expand in our local area.

- And thanks!

I'm really thankful for the prayer support from the church and for the way the journey has developed over the past year, with so many encouragements and with the sense of God unfolding and opening up new things slowly but surely – Katie Warner

TakeTime

TakeTime has continued through 2022 twice monthly, once in person during the day with the option of zoom and once on zoom only in the evening. Attendance has been fairly constant, with a number of different people dipping in. It is proving a useful oasis for leaders and attendees alike. Some of the people who have accessed Chaplaincy have also found the simplicity of the Bible story and beauty of being invited sit and talk with Jesus helpful.

Please pray that we continue to discern the best way to use this resource. - – Stephanie Barlow

Other mission and community outreach activities:

Valley ParkLife Festival

A highlight of the year was a free festival put on for the whole parish – and their friends! Music was provided by talented church members, from the pianists, to Elliot Frisby, and the Kazbaahs and we danced the night away, a little rain not detracting. Early on there was tea, cake, face-painting and craft, and later a pop up cocktail bar, barbecue and beer. It was well received by all!

Mission Giving partners

Alongside locally oriented outreach, our Church has continued to support charities whose work is in line with our aims including Fair Trade, and Eastleigh Basics Bank. Regular collections of foodstuffs and essentials continue to be made, now at 3 points in the parish.

We again tithed a tenth of our unrestricted income in 2022, to Stop the Traffik, Christian Aid, Christians Against Poverty, Care for the Family, and Fledge Youth Support.

5.Holding St Francis' Church and its land and building in trust, via the Parochial Church Council, for future generations:

The responsibility for maintaining the Church building and premises has continued as an important background task for our Churchwardens and supporting volunteers. AV equipment installed last year has been well used as per the following report:

Audio Visual

AV for services has been very stable this year, with a consistent team of 4 leads and 4 helpers growing in skill and experience. The equipment has remained robust and not required any replacement. In particular the 3 younger helpers have grown significantly in experience and creativity in use of the video equipment. This number keeps demand under control and gives flexibility – we are enormously grateful to this team of capable volunteers who keep our services outward-looking. We typically have 12-20 joining on Zoom each Sunday, including those unable to join because of ill health, infirmity or distance – occasionally a new visitor joins through this route. The recordings are made widely available via website and social media, although we have no indication of how well used this resource is. This all feels like good value for the relatively low expenditure in 2021 to replace all equipment and put the offering on a professional footing.

Additional use of the AV resources was made over Christmas (carol service, crib service, school singing carols round Christmas tree etc), and for occasional offices – one of the helpers has become confident to operate the AV solo for a number of funerals across the year, and we supported some widely-attended funerals with zoom as well, which was appreciated by the families. We presented the Queen's funeral live in both the worship area and large meeting room with refreshments, with 40 guests attending in total. The AV lead provides AV support to the GP surgery Patient Participation Group's quarterly meetings, further building relationships but also supporting this worthwhile group – typically 40-60 attend and the excellent speakers are informative and relevant.

Additional equipment installed over the year has included:

- Worship area:
    - Replacement projector (the old ones image was starting to distort and lose colour – kept for occasional stand-alone use, and the one previously held for this was installed on the wall in its place)
    - Special screen paint applied to the front wall for better all round viewing, brightness and colour response
- Large meeting room:
    - Permanently-installed PC with wireless mouse & keyboard and cabled internet to replace the laptop and mess of wires (PC was previously used as the main worship area projection PC)
    - Input sockets beside the screen for use with a presenter's laptop etc
    - WiFi hub, independently switchable from the main AV desk functions, making this more accessible to occasional users and groups (Purchased during the 2021 upgrade but installation delayed)

There are no plans for further equipment, however a review of the band's inputs and monitor returns is required to make best use of the equipment we already have - *Peter Rhodes*

St Francis' Church Council well recognises the importance of making our building available as a hub for the local community. As a result, we have been pleased to make parts of the building available on hire to a number of organisations, including St Francis School breakfast and after-school Care Clubs (daily morning and afternoon in term time). A lunch Club run by MHA restarted in the autumn.

Accessibllity is a vital aspect of making the building available and we have become a 'Roofbreaker' church as the following report explains:

***Roofbreakers* Report for 2022 – Positive about Disability Inclusivity (PADI)**

In 2022, St Francis became a "*Roofbreaker*" Church, one of a nationwide network of churches aiming to make people with a disability feel welcome and included in church life. As the 100th church we featured in their quarterly magazine "*Vital Link*"!

Roofbreakers is an initiative of "*Through the Roof*," a UK based Christian organisation supporting people with disabilities in various ways.

To promote *Roofbreakers* locally there were articles in the Church Newsletter and Chrysalis. Our website was updated to emphasise our welcome to people with additional needs as this is often the first port of call for people to learn about the church and find out if it really is inclusive. A poster of the two *Roofbreaker* representatives - Helen Kelso and myself - is in the Narthex.

- **What more has been achieved this year?**

An audit "Removing Barriers" was undertaken and specific advice sought from Rachel Fox, (wheelchair user) and Joe Sweetnam (Curate and previously an Architect).

Updated Signage for the Accessible Toilet - in time for the June Park Fest!

Makaton was used at the Carol Service – simply the chorus to Hark the Herald which was well received with good congregation participation and positive comments afterwards. Thanks to Stephanie Barlow for leading us in such a helpful way.

Basic training for Welcomers emphasising the importance of being proactive when a wheelchair user arrives (e.g. where would they like to be placed, considering the needs of the carer). Basic training on this issue was also discussed by Fiona Grove at Church Council.

Preliminary discussions with AV Lead Peter Rhodes about overheads, size of font, quantity of words per slide, background colour, painting screen area with special reflective paint.

- **What else for the coming year?**
  - For *Roofbreakers* to be an item on Council Agenda for regular (succinct!) updates.
  - Training for the whole church about inclusivity. *Through the Roof's Roofbreaker* Lead, Janet Eardley, runs a Zoom Training session for churches, which could be done with church members present in church and able to break into discussion groups.
  - Upgrade the Accessible Toilet - improvement needs highlighted by the Audit included providing a mirror at wheelchair user's level, adding a secure soap dispenser, revising grab rails and considering an auto door opener button.
  - Further AV improvements (point 5 above.)
  - Possibility of further Makaton or BSL at next Carol Service? (Advertised well in advance.)

If anyone has suggestions on how to improve our welcome and promote inclusivity for those with a disability, please do contact Helen Kelso or me. - *Christine Grew*

6.Working with the neighbouring St Francis C of E (Aided) Primary School.

Work with St Francis CE Primary School, with which the church shares a campus site, has continued with the lead minister and curate providing a weekly video assembly for the whole school, shown in classes each week. There's also been the opportunity to join classes virtually initially, and then in person, to explore topics like the Kingdom of God, and ceremonies to mark stages of faith. St Francis Church continues to provide Foundation Governors who take a very active role in governance at the school.

Structure, governance and management

Legal form: The *Church of England Parish of Valley Park* was established in 1991. Simultaneously, a *Single Congregation Local Ecumenical Partnership (SC-LEP)* was formed by *The Church of England, The Methodist Church* and *The United Reformed Church*, under a formal Constitution agreed on 4th October 1991. A new Model Constitution was adopted in October 2015, and *St Francis', Valley Park Single Congregation Local Ecumenical Partnership* is registered as a Charity with the *Charity Commission for England and Wales*. The members of the Ecumenical Church Council are the Trustees of the registered Charity.

Church building: St Francis' Church is the Parish Church of the Anglican Parish of Valley Park. It is also the centre of worship for the SC-LEP, under the terms of a Sharing Agreement, established on 30th August 1995 under the provisions of the *Sharing of Church Buildings Act, 1969*. The Church building was dedicated rather than consecrated, and it is not subject to Faculty Jurisdiction.

Joint Council: In 1991, formal oversight of the operation of the SC-LEP was vested in *Churches Together in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight*, and is administered via a Joint Council, comprising governing representatives of the participating denominations, together with representatives of the Church Council. Presently the oversight body is not functioning, but there have been no matters which have required escalation to a Joint Council during the year, which consequently has not met.

Clergy and Church Council: Since its founding in 1987, St Francis' Church has been led by a resident Church of England minister (the Vicar of Valley Park). This ministry has been complemented by designated Ministers from local Methodist and United Reformed Churches. Working in co-operation these designated clergy are ex-officio members of *St Francis' Ecumenical Church Council.*

In accordance with Anglican Canon Law, two Churchwardens are elected annually at an Annual Meeting of Parishioners (Annual Vestry Meeting) which also elects two Pro- (Deputy) wardens. St Francis' Annual Parochial Church Meeting also elects members to a Parochial Church Council (PCC), of which the Vicar, Churchwardens and Pro-wardens are ex-officio members. Our annual Church meeting took place in April, and at that meeting 2 church wardens were elected and 2 pro wardens.

The Ecumenical Church Council (ECC) comprises ex-officio and elected members of the Anglican PCC, together with ex officio members representing the other participating churches in the SC-LEP. The PCC and ECC normally meet concurrently under the title of "*The Church Council*", for the day to day management of the Church and its affairs, but with appropriate attention to the relative responsibilities of the two bodies. However, there is a requirement for the Anglican PCC to be able to meet independently of, and without conflict of interest with, the ECC, and so the annually elected Pro-Wardens, the Anglican Deanery Synod Representatives, and at least one elected PCC member are not members of the ECC or Trustees of the registered Charity.

The Electoral Roll of the SC-LEP operating in 2022 comprised 129 members.

The whole Church congregation met to conduct business once during 2022 – in April, at the Annual Meeting of Parishioners and the Annual Parochial Church / Ecumenical Congregational Meetings; the latter two held concurrently.

Denominational activities and ecumenical relationships: St. Francis Church lies within Anglican *Deanery of Eastleigh* in the *Diocese of Winchester.*

The Deanery broadly covers the area from Valley Park in the west to Hamble in the south east. Deanery Synod Meetings are held 3 times a year, with the *Standing Committee* (attended by a sub-group of Synod members) meeting more frequently for more strategic and organisational decision-making. Our minister is part of that group, having become Assistant Area Dean in July 2020.

The *Winchester, Eastleigh and Romsey Circuit of the Methodist Church* has continued to meet on a quarterly basis through 2022, with St Francis' represented at these meetings.

St. Francis' Church was not represented in person at the *Wessex Synod of the United Reformed Church* (URC) this year, at its meetings.

St Francis continues to be an active member of *Churches Together in Chandler's Ford*, in partnership with the other local Christian Denominations. A member of St Francis serves as treasurer and another as secretary.

Fabric and assets: Vested in the *Winchester Diocesan Board of Finance*, The Incumbent, Church Wardens, and Church Council (through the PCC), collectively hold St Francis' Church and its fixtures, fittings and property, in trust on behalf of past, present and future generations of worshippers, and the local community.

The *Church Terrier*, recording the Church's furniture, fittings, and assets, and the *Log Book* containing records of all alterations, maintenance, repair and disposals, were kept up to date in 2022, complying with Canon Law.

Safeguarding: All of our Church family life, mission and ministry is underpinned by a strong commitment to Safeguarding. We have a Safeguarding Policy which is regularly reviewed and updated and is easily accessed via the church website and on the Church Notice board.

Dr. Helen Kelso stood down from this position in April 2022 and Linda King has taken up the position, overseeing the development and implementation of appropriate Church Policies and Practices, and the regular DBS checking of volunteers.

The Church Council confirms that it 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).

Volunteers: St Francis' Church relies on the voluntary support and assistance of its members who take on a range of roles from the legal duties of Church Warden, to assisting in the organisation and presentation of worship, music, administration, preparing plans, papers and financial reports, and undertaking the routine care and maintenance duties of the building. The Church Council is indebted to members who have stepped forward to take an active role in the life of the Church, and to contribute financially towards it, without whom the ministry and mission of St Francis' Church could not be progressed.

Report was approved by the Church Council on 15th March 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Revd Dr Sarah McClelland, Vicar and Chair of ECC and PCC

Administrative information:

Ex Officio Members	Expiry of term of office	Notes
Sarah McClelland		
Fiona Grove **Church Warden**	2023	First elected: 18th Oct 2020 Re-elected 25 April 2021& 3rd April 2022
Debbie Reed **Church Warden**	2023	First elected: 25 April 2021 Re-elected 3rd April 2022
Peter Rhodes Prowarden	2023	First elected PW 3rd April 2022
Caroline Gough Prowarden	2023	First elected PW 3rd April 2022
Brian King	2023	Deanery Synod Rep
Peter Rhodes	2023	Deanery Synod Rep
Steve Williams	2023	Deanery Synod Rep
Elected members (9+1PCC)		
Andrew Grove	2024	First elected: 18th Oct 2020 Re-elected 25 April 2021
Jan Southern	2024	First elected: 25 April 2021
Vacant post (3y) x3	2023	
Vacant post (2y)x2	2022	
Rogerio Ramos **(PCC ony)**	2024	Re-elected 25 April 2021
Coopted members		
None		
Ex officio:	**Ecumenical Church Council (in addition to those in bold above):**	
Joe Sweetnam		Curate
David Gurr	2023	Methodist Rep
Vacant position	2023	Methodist Rep
Vacant position	2023	URC Rep
No Coopted members		

Office holders appointed annually by the Annual Congregational Meeting (not attending Council):

Mr. Chris. Goodhead FCA	(2021)	Independent Examiner.	Re-appointed: 3rd April 22
Mrs Linda King	(2021)	Electoral Roll Officer	Re-appointed: 3rd April 22
Mr. Geoff. Roberts	(2021)	Gift Aid Secretary	Re-appointed: 3rd April 22

Financial Overview

General financial situation: Financial overview from our treasurer, Andrew Grove

I am pleased to report that the church ended 2022 in a good financial position.

Overall income was up £17,000 on 2021 although £18,000 were for Solar panels and Children and Families Worker. However general giving was down but I am hopeful this will increase in future.

Overall expenditure was up £6,000. One factor was our Parish Share had decreased by £3,000. The day to day running expenses were up compared to 2021 due to cost of living crisis increases.

We ended the year with a surplus after being able to commit to a full tithe to our charity partners. I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the running of the church in 2022.

Gift Aid and GASDS giving for the year ending December 2022 – from our Gift Aid Secretary, Geoff Roberts

47 gave within the Gift Aid scheme. (This represents 73 individual people as some giving is on behalf of a couple). This is ten less than the previous year, due to a lack of one off gifts from visitors. The sumup contactless card system has probably replaced those and we are still able to claim the tax equivalent through the GASDS.

A total of £100,153 (inclusive of £4,098 GASDS) was given to which we added £25,038 in tax claimed back from the inland revenue making a grand total of £125,191. (The GASDS represents giving received in the church building in addition to the standing orders and direct payments.)

Gift aid figures over past years:-

	General Fund	Growth yr/yr	Tax Claim included
2014	£78,105	12%	£16,386
2015	£80,243	3%	£16,049
2016	£78,731	-2%	£15,746
2017	£79,202	0%	£15,840
2018	£89,194	13%	£17,845
2019	£95,972	8%	£19,195
2020	£94.390	-2%	£18,878
2021	£110,542	17%	£22,108
2022	£125,191	13%	£25,038

Many thanks to all those continuing to take advantage of the gift aid scheme.

Reserves policy and Designated and Restricted Funds:

It is the policy of the Church Council to maintain a modest balance in the General Fund to cover fluctuations in operational expenditure, compared with income, and to transfer appropriate annual sums into Designated Funds intended to provide resources for larger investments in the maintenance and longer-term repair of the Church premises. The General Fund currently stands at £19,918. This increase beyond our target figure of £12,000 enables the Church Council to plan new initiatives with greater confidence.

The Church Maintenance and Repair Reserve Fund. This fund provides for more major investments in maintenance, decoration, repair and replacement of the Church fabric and assets. The balance in this designated fund stood at £ 53,444 as at 31 December 2022, including the net book value of fixed assets of £6,798.

The Youth Activities Fund (Designated), established in 2016 holds the balance of the closed St Francis Church SOS53 Youth Club bank account; the Youth Club having closed due to lack of volunteers. A new, smaller, more teaching focused youth group was established in 2019 by Rev Cliff McClelland, Fiona Grove and Jamie Hill. A small sum from the Youth Activities Fund has been spent by this group in 2020 on materials for its members and the remaining funds will be utilised for Youth Group activities in subsequent years.

The Benevolent Fund was set up in 2021 with a transfer from the general fund of £1,500 and additional £500 was transferred from the general fund with £338 expenditure during the year, so the balance at 31 December 2022 was £1,662.

The Children and Families Worker Fund was set up during the year with donations received of £7,444. There was no expenditure during the year with the balance carried forward at 31 December 2022 was £7,444. An officer was appointed in early 2023.

The Special Appeals Fund (Restricted) was set up in 2017 to enable receipt of grants and gifts made to the church expressly for specific projects or works. During the year donations were received for Solar panels. No expenditure was incurred during the year, so the balance at 31 December 2022 was £10,195.

Accounts were approved by the Church Council 8th February 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Revd Dr Sarah McClelland Vicar and Chair of ECC and PCC

Independent Examiners report to the Church Council of Single Congregation Local Ecumenical Partnership For the year ending 31 December 2022

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of St Francis' Church, Valley Park

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of St Francis' Church, Valley Park for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on pages 19 to 25.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trustee's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable 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 material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

(1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act;
or

(2) the accounts do not accord with those records;
or

(3) the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

C J Goodhead FCA
Knight Goodhead Limited
Chartered Accountants
7 Bournemouth Road
Chandler's Ford, Eastleigh
Hampshire, SO53 3DA

Dated: 24 October 2023

CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. FRANCIS' CHURCH, VALLEY PARK SC-LEP

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Note	General Fund Unrestricted £	Other Funds Unrestricted £	Other Funds Restricted £	TOTAL FUNDS 2022 £	TOTAL FUNDS 2021 £
INCOME						
Donations and legacies	2(a)	119,692	0	17,639	137,331	121,407
Fundraising income	2(b)	158	0	0	158	64
Charitable Activities	2(c)	18,474	0	0	18,474	14,283
Investments	2(d)	0	0	0	0	0
Other income	2(e), 11	1,224	0	0	1,224	4,305
TOTAL INCOME		139,548	0	17,639	157,187	140,059
EXPENDITURE						
Fundraising costs	3(a)	29	0	0	29	49
Charitable Activities						
Mission Giving & Charitable Grants/Donations	3(b)	11,000	338	0	11,338	12,000
Parish shares	3(c)	70,287	0	0	70,287	73,187
Salaries and honoraria	3(d)	12,940	0	0	12,940	10,778
People-related Expenses	3(e)	3,870	0	0	3,870	1,898
Mission and evangelism costs	3(f)	3,929	0	0	3,929	1,888
Church running expenses	3(g),	16,279	4,169	0	20,448	17,486
Church utility bills	3(h)	4,601	0	0	4,601	2,930
Governance costs	3(i)	929	0	0	929	1,840
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		123,864	4,507	0	128,371	122,056
MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		15,684	(4,507)	17,639	28,816	18,003
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS	7 - 11	(10,500)	10,500		0	0
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		5,184	5,993	17,639	28,816	18,003
Balances brought forward at 1 January 2022		14,734	50,098	0	64,832	46,829
Balances carried forward at 31 December 2022		19,918	56,091	17,639	93,648	64,832

CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. FRANCIS' CHURCH, VALLEY PARK SC-LEP

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Website Development	4	2,179	3,269
Church Organ & Dishwasher		0	0
AV equipment		4,619	7,699
		6,798	10,968
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors and prepaid expenses	5	3,782	2,135
Cash at bank		84,798	65,127
Cash in hand		12	12
		88,592	67,274
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Amounts falling due within one year	6	1,742	13,410
NET CURRENT ASSETS		86,850	53,864
TOTAL NET ASSETS		93,648	64,832
FUNDS			
General Fund – Unrestricted		19,918	14,734
Church Maintenance & Repair Reserve Fund	7	53,444	47,613
Youth Activities Fund - Designated	8	985	985
Benevolent Fund - Designated	9	1,662	1,500
Children & Families Worker Fund (Restricted)	10	7,444	0
Special Appeals Fund (Restricted)	11	10,195	0
TOTAL CHURCH FUNDS		93,648	64,832

Approved by the Church Council on 8/2/2023, and signed on its behalf by:

Rev'd. Dr. Sarah McClelland - Priest in Charge

Andrew Grove - Treasurer

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the 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).

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

Funds

The General Fund represents the funds of the Church Council of St Francis', Valley Park, that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the Church Council.

Designated Funds: The Church Council has designated the following Funds for a particular purpose: The Building Maintenance and Repair Reserve Fund to provide resources for repair and maintenance of the church building and ground and larger one off expenditure as agreed by the Church Council. This has replaced the Church Repair & Maintenance Fund and The Church Roof Restoration Fund. The Youth Activities Fund represents the closed SOS53 Youth Club Bank Account. These designated funds are also unrestricted. In addition the Church operates a Community Café - St. Francis' Rendezvous Community Café. The accounts of this Café's activities during 2020 and 2021 are included in these accounts for information.

Restricted Funds: These represent grants or donations that require that the funds be used in a specific way or for a specific purpose. They may be considered a contract between the donating party and the receiving party.

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the Church Council is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Income

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the Church Council. 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. Any income tax recoverable and not received by 31 December is provided for in these accounts and included as a debtor in the Balance Sheet.

Grants and legacies to the Church Council are accounted for as soon as the Council is notified of its legal entitlement and the amount due.

Funds raised by social fundraising and similar events are accounted for gross and recognised when received.

Invoiced income from the hiring of the Church Building is recognised when receivable. Any invoiced income not received by 31 December is provided for in these accounts and included as a debtor in the Balance Sheet.

All other incoming resources are accounted for gross and recognised when received.

Income from investments
Interest is accounted for when receivable.

Expenditure

Grants

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the Church Council.

Activities directly relating to the work of the Church

The parish share and contributions to other participating denominations are accounted for when payable.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated land and buildings and moveable Church furnishings
Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by S.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993.

No value is placed on moveable Church furnishings held by the Churchwardens on special trust for the Church Council and PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal since the Church Council and PCC considers this to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings and moveable Church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities and separately disclosed.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment
Equipment used within the Church premises is depreciated on a straight line basis over 3 years, website straignt line over 5 years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £2,000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Current assets

Amounts owing to the Church Council at 31 December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectible.

Short term deposits include cash held on deposit with the Central Board of Finance, Church of England Funds or at the bank.

3 EXPENDITURE

		General Fund Unrestricted £	Other Funds Unrestricted £	Other Funds Restricted £	TOTAL FUNDS 2022 £	TOTAL FUNDS 2021 £
3(a)	**Fundraising costs:**					
	Cost of generating voluntary income	29	0	0	29	49
		29	0	0	29	49
3(b)	**Mission Giving and Charitable Grants & Donations:**					
	Benevolent payments	0	338	0	338	0
	Home Charities and Good Causes	6,600	0	0	6,600	9,600
	Overseas Relief Agencies	4,400	0	0	4,400	2,400
		11,000	338	0	11,338	12,000
3(c)	**Parish Shares:**					
	Church of England	67,213	0	0	67,213	69,912
	Methodist Church	2,255	0	0	2,255	2,456
	United Reformed Church	819	0	0	819	819
		70,287	0	0	70,287	73,187
3(d)	**Salaries and honoraria:**					
	Parish administration	9,817	0	0	9,817	8,895
	Organists and musicians	790	0	0	790	75
	Church cleaning and Verger	2,333	0	0	2,333	1,808
		12,940	0	0	12,940	10,778
3(e)	**People-related expenses:**					
	Recruitment expenses	991	0	0	991	0
	Clergy Mileage, Telephone & Other Exps.	1,893	0	0	1,893	1,391
	Education & Training of Staff and Laity	986	0	0	986	507
		3,870	0	0	3,870	1,898
3(f)	**Mission and evangelism costs:**					
	Junior/Young people's church	955	0	0	955	893
	Outreach activities	2,817	0	0	2,817	745
	Teaching and Nurturing costs	131	0	0	131	28
	Pastoral costs	26	0	0	26	142
	Vacancy costs		0	0	0	80
		3,929	0	0	3,929	1,888
3(g)	**Church running expenses:**					
	Upkeep of services	468	0	0	468	453
	Hospitality and catering	932	0	0	932	602
	Café - non catering costs	62	0	0	62	0
	Insurance	1,108	0	0	1,108	1,065
	Maintenance, cleaning & servicing	6,240	4,169	0	10,409	5,415
	Furniture and equipment	0	0	0	0	421
	Administration costs	6,369	0	0	6,369	8,540
	Church magazine printing costs	1,100	0	0	1,100	990
		16,279	4,169	0	20,448	17,486
3(h)	**Church Utility Bills:**					
	Electricity	1,572	0	0	1,572	1,572
	Gas	2,735	0	0	2,735	1,196
	Water rates	294	0	0	294	162
		4,601	0	0	4,601	2,930
3(i)	**Governance costs**					
	Bank charges	53			53	
	Professional fees (inc. Independent Examiner's fee)	876	0	0	876	1,840
		929	0	0	929	1,840
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		**123,864**	**4,507**	**0**	**128,371**	**122,056**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

2 INCOME

		General Fund Unrestricted £	Other Funds Unrestricted £	Other Funds Restricted £	TOTAL FUNDS 2022 £	TOTAL FUNDS 2021 £
2(a)	**Donations and legacies**					
	Tax efficient planned giving	74,883	0	15,600	90,483	79,852
	Other planned giving	5,746	0	0	5,746	2,620
	Collections at services/gifts etc.	13,738	0	0	13,738	16,827
	Income tax recoverable	23,000	0	2,039	25,039	22,108
	Other donations	2,325	0	0	2,325	0
		119,692	0	17,639	137,331	121,407
2(b)	**Fundraising**					
	Easy Fundraising	158	0	0	158	64
		158	0	0	158	64
2(c)	**Charitable Activities**					
	Income from outreach activities	2,184	0	0	2,184	543
	Statutory fees retained	1,908	0	0	1,908	1,109
	Income from use of church building	13,201	0	0	13,201	11,509
	Income from Café Trading	1,181	0	0	1,181	1,122
		18,474	0	0	18,474	14,283
2(d)	**Investments**					
	Interest	0	0	0	0	0
		0	0	0	0	0
2(e)	**Other income**					
	Profit on ad hoc sales of equipment & materials	0	0	0	0	40
	Other income (incl. Local Fees for Occasional Offices)	1,224	0	0	1,224	0
	Grants for Special Appeals / Specific Works	0	0	0	0	4,265
	Insurance Claims	0	0	0	0	0
		1,224	0	0	1,224	4,305
TOTAL INCOME		**139,548**	**0**	**17,639**	**157,187**	**140,059**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	2022 £	2021 £
4 FIXED ASSETS		
Website Development at cost	5,447	5,447
Church Organ at Cost	5,846	5,846
Dishwasher at Cost	2,820	2,820
AV System at Cost	9,239	9,239
	23,352	23,352
Depreciation at the start of the year	12,384	8,816
Depreciation charged	4,170	3,568
Depreciation at the end of the year	16,554	12,384
Net book value	6,798	10,968
5 DEBTORS		
Prepaid expenses	0	0
Other debtors	3,782	2,135
	3,782	2,135
6 LIABILITIES		
Amounts falling due within one year		
Accrued Charitable donations	0	12,000
Other Accruals	0	0
Other Creditors	1,742	1,410
	1,742	13,410

7 CHURCH MAINTENANCE & REPAIR RESERVE FUND - DESIGNATED

	2022	2021
	£	£
Balance brought forward at 1 January	47,613	41,951
Transfer from General fund	10,000	0
Transfer from Special Appeals Fund	0	9,230
Depreciation on Dishwasher	0	(940)
Depreciation on Website	(1,089)	(1,089)
Depreciation on AV Equipment	(3,080)	(1,540)
Balance carried forward at 31 December	53,444	47,613

8 YOUTH ACTIVITIES FUND – DESIGNATED

Balance brought forward at 1 January	985	985
Transfer from General fund	0	0
Expenditure during the year	0	0
Transfer to General fund	0	0
Balance carried forward at 31 December	985	985

9 BENEVOLENT FUND - DESIGNATED

Balance brought forward at 1 January	1,500	0
Transfer from General fund	500	1,500
Expenditure during the year	(338)	0
Balance carried forward at 31 December	1,662	1,500

10 CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WORKER FUND – RESTRICTED

Balance brought forward at 1 January	0	0
Donations	7,444	0
Transfer to General fund	0	0
Balance carried forward at 31 December	7,444	0

11 SPECIAL APPEALS FUND (for expenditure on specific works) - RESTRICTED

Balance brought forward at 1 January	0	0
Donations	8,156	9,495
Gift aid from donation	2,039	0
Transfer to Church Maintenance Fund	0	(9,230)
Third Party Grants towards specific works	0	2,000
Expenditure towards costs of specific works	0	(2,265)
Balance carried forward at 31 December	10,195	0

ST FRANCIS', VALLEY PARK SINGLE CONGREGATION LOCAL ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP

England & Wales - Charity number 1165677

Accounts

St Francis' Church, Valley Park

The Ecumenical Church Council of
St. Francis', Valley Park,
Single Congregation Local Ecumenical Partnership.
(and the Parochial Church Council of the Parish of Valley Park)

Annual Report

for the year ended 31st December 2021.

St Francis' Church:	Pilgrim's Close, Valley Park, Chandler's Ford, Eastleigh, Hants, SO53 4ST. Tel.: 023 8027 1152; E-mail: admin@stfrancis-valleypark.org.uk; Website: www.stfrancis-valleypark.org.uk Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/stfrancisvp
Bank:	The National Westminster Bank, Eastleigh Branch, 34 Southampton Road, Eastleigh SO50 9XN.
Independent Examiner:	Mr. Chris. Goodhead FCA, Knight Goodhead Ltd. Chartered Accountants, 7 Bournemouth Road, Chandler's Ford, Eastleigh. Hants. SO53 3DA.
Inspecting Architect:	Ms. Sarah Harlow BA (Hons) DipARCH RIBA, Seymour and Bainbridge Architects, 9 Charlecote Mews, Staple Gardens, Winchester, Hants. SO23 8SR.

Registered as a Charity in England and Wales; Charity Number: 1165677

Annual Report of the Ecumenical Church Council of the Single Congregation Local Ecumenical Partnership of St Francis' Valley Park

(and the Parochial Church Council of the Parish of Valley Park)

2021

Aims and purposes

The aims and purposes of St Francis' Church, Valley Park Single Congregation Local Ecumenical Partnership (SC-LEP) remain unchanged from previous years. The Church and Charity exists to advance the Christian faith within the Ecclesiastical Parish of Valley Park and elsewhere, in accordance with the rites and practices of the participating denominations in the LEP: Church of England, Methodist Church and United Reformed Church.

Oversight and management of the work of St Francis' Church is vested in an Anglican Parochial Church Council (PCC), and an Ecumenical Church Council (ECC), which normally meet concurrently, and are collectively known as 'The Church Council'. The Church Council has responsibility, in co-operation with the Incumbent minister, the designated Ministers of the other Participating Churches and the Church Wardens for promoting the Christian faith and enabling the whole mission of the Christian Church.

Objectives

The Charity's objectives continue to focus on Christian Mission and Ministry. St Francis' Church Council works to promote the whole mission of the church through:

- **Worship and prayer**, and by providing a range of opportunities for those within the parish, and beyond, to learn about the Christian Gospel and develop a faith in Jesus Christ, and to walk with God;
- **Pastoral care** for all those within the parish and others who come into contact with the Church;
- **Mission and community outreach,** involving practical, social and financial support for the local community and wider charitable causes, including work with and through other Churches and Charities;
- **Building the corporate life of the Church family,** both through collective worship and through social, fellowship and community-focused activities;
- **Holding St Francis' Church and its land and building in trust, via the Parochial Church Council, for future generations,** maintaining them as a vital and valuable resource in support of other objectives, and sharing them with the other denominations of the LEP through a formal Sharing Agreement;
- **Working with the neighbouring St Francis C of E (Aided) Primary School**.

Public benefit

St Francis' Church delivers public benefit through engaging in a range of activities, including, but not restricted to:

- The celebration of public worship;
- The teaching of the Christian faith;
- Mission and evangelism;
- Pastoral work, including visiting and supporting the sick and the bereaved;
- The provision of facilities with a Christian ethos for the local community, including, but not restricted to, GP Chaplaincy, Community café, activities to support health and wellbeing (eg Mindfulness Course)
- The support of other charities in the UK and overseas.

The extent to which public benefit has been delivered is described in the following pages of this Report.

Activities and achievements

Worship:

We started 2021 in lockdown, livestreaming our 10am service through Zoom. This has continued without interruption but we were pleased to return to 0830 communions in person at Easter. We gradually returned to the building with appropriate Covid precautions in place over Summer 2021, starting with junior Church (primary school age children) and their parents.

We welcomed quite a few new faces to St Francis (around 40). Some came from Chandler's Ford United Reformed Church, which sadly closed its doors in September. We also welcomed folk who had moved to the area, found us on zoom, or come along through activities run by the church: GP Chaplaincy, café, and our Autumn term mindfulness course.

In September we restarted Messy church, a more informal activities based worship, and that was well-attended by families from the community each month for the rest of the year. We also returned to the local Brendoncare home to take a monthly communion service.

In terms of Occasional Offices, infant baptisms (and one adult too!) took off again with 8 in the Autumn term. So as to maintain covid precautions we held private baptisms on Sundays and these were well attended by family and friends. We had several funerals for dear church family members in church, greatly helped by being able to livestream through Zoom. Our first funeral in January 2021, with the limit of 30 attending in person, was livestreamed to over 180 devices in every continent except Antarctica. In total we had 4 funerals in the church building.

We were able to return to some of our pre-pandemic services: Harvest festival, Service to remember those who've died, and our Advent Service of Light. Christmas was a busy time and despite the Omicron variant of Covid bringing back more restrictions, we were able to serve the community in many ways. St Francis school came over in separate year groups for a Christmas story, craft activity and carols outside around the Christmas tree. We had a well-attended carol service for the community, carols outside at the pub, and carol services at Brendoncare, and in Café. Messy Christmas moved outside and was no less successful for that! And the crib service did too; despite rain on Christmas Eve many huddled under the marquee and umbrellas as we told the Christmas story again. In church we had our usual midnight communion, 8.30am communion and a Christmas day all age communion service too. What a joyful celebration!

Our ministry team has grown, with Nick, a retired minister joining the team, Mary, URC support and development officer taking an active part, as well as contributions from Peter who has BPP, Steve who's training as an LLM, and Joe our curate who was ordained priest in July 2021. WE have a number of folk with BCMs who minister too.

Children's and Youth Ministry has continued and developed during 2020 – see under mission and community outreach.

Pastoral Care:

Our pastoral team, led by Fiona – who holds a BCM (Pastoral) – has continued to meet with and engage a range of individuals, both from within the church and more widely, offering friendship, fellowship and an opportunity for quiet prayer for those who wish. Our Prayer network has continued to enable collective prayer for those who request it.

Pastoral care and concern are also a key element of the work of our House Groups – where study of Scripture and matters of topical concern to Christians are coupled with prayer, fellowship and support in a variety of ways. Some went back to meeting in person and some remained on line, offering options for those with differing vulnerabilities and preferences. Over Lent 2021, we studied the SHAPE study material [**S**piritual Gifts / **H**earts Desire / **A**bilities / **P**ersonality / **E**xperience] to help us discern where gifts lay. It's been great to have retired minister Nick Grew head up our home groups.

Mission and Community Outreach:

Every 3 years we make a mission action plan as a church family. We launched our current one in 2019 - here's how we worked towards it in 2021:

1. Foundations for mission

Following the departure of our administrator Heather in January 2021, we appointed Caroline in March and she has worked in the building since then. We have been working towards the consecration of our Garden of Remembrance, and this took place in December, when Bishop Debbie joined us for an short and informal private service. Over the summer, the whole building was redecorated and we had a church tidy out in June as we moved back in!

2. Children and Young People

It was fantastic to welcome our smallest members back to creche in September and Sue and her team have been introducing 5 regular attendees to Jesus through activities and stories.

Junior Church went from strength to strength, with Bible stories read on YouTube by members of the church, and craft activities delivered to homes. We welcomed several new families in person in the second half of the year, with Junior Church growing by 19%. The focus has been on celebration! The fun that's had is evident on the wall display of crafts and other activities.

Youth group went from on zoom to 'with legs' (in person)! It's been great to welcome Sam as a new leader; he grew up at St Francis church and attends another local church, but helps out on Tuesday nights.

Work with St Francis CE Primary School, with which the church shares a campus site, has continued with the lead minister and curate providing a weekly video assembly for the whole school, shown in classes each week. There's also been the opportunity to join classes virtually initially, and then in person, to explore topics like the Kingdom of God, and ceremonies to mark stages of faith. St Francis Church continues to provide Foundation Governors who take a very active role in governance at the school.

3. Healing and Wholeness

The church cafe is well established and opens on Monday morning from 11am to 12:30pm and Wednesday from 9am to 10:30am. When the cafe was able to re- start in April, the church purchased a large marquee to enable us to set up outside, in line with government guidelines. The weather was particularly good and meeting outside, wrapped up warm, with hot drinks proved very popular. We were aware that there were people in the community who had been quite isolated during the pandemic and the cafe provided a safe meeting place. Monday was for adults only and Wednesday for any age. As time went on volunteers have offered crafts for toddlers which they really enjoyed. We were able to move inside from September as the weather got colder and it's remained a popular place to meet with many (or most) from outside the church family.

The GP Chaplaincy has continued over the past year, having originally started in March 2020, with referrals by the GPs and the Social Prescriber at St Francis Surgery. Our chaplain has continued with a flexible pattern of contact with people either face to face, on the telephone, or via Zoom.

TakeTime is a Bible meditation that we have continued to offer twice monthly. These were initially on zoom, switching to in person immediately after cafe on the first Wednesday of the month from September. The 8pm session on the 3rd Wednesdays continued on zoom. Numbers varied between 5 and 12 and are a peaceful oasis and opportunity to spend some time listening to God together. We also recorded 5 meditations for Outreach radio during Holy Week.

In the middle of 2021, we had an offer from David Bush (an engineer and psychologist by training and a qualified Mindfulness teacher) to run an 8-week Mindfulness course in the autumn. We made the decision to host this course at our building and offer it to our area through the local GP surgery as an act of love and service to the community. It's not specifically "Christian", but is a practical way of helping meet people's physical needs, similarly enabling the mindfulness course was a practical way of helping meet people's mental health and wellbeing needs. Offering a mindfulness course complemented what we're able to do through GP Chaplaincy, the pastoral team and the Café and widened the range of people reached. The course took place at the end of 2021 with the majority of attendees not having previous contact with the church. We are hoping to have another course in 2022.

Other mission and community outreach activities:

Men's breakfasts have continued throughout the year, and returned to meeting in- person in early summer when we'd all got to the point of not being able to bear another screen-meeting after a working week full of them. So it was that a dozen of us sat in the church garden in the splendour of a bright sunny morning, sharing croissants and coffee – truly exquisite at the time. Our format remains a simple one, good food, great conversation, with a short talk to encourage us in our faith and Christian life.

A high point of the year was the return of the Men's Weekend in September, on the South Downs Way near Arundel. A really successful event in an excellent venue, near enough to allow people to attend flexibly depending on their other commitments, but in delightful surroundings. As always it was excellent to welcome a number from outside the church. This was followed with a curry evening in November.

We were able to enjoy some social events as a whole church family; a picnic in July to celebrate Joe's ordination as priest after he celebrated his first communion, a harvest lunch attended by some 115 people – all with appropriate Covid precautions! And mulled wine and mince pies after the carol service which we were able to enjoy outside!

Alongside locally oriented outreach, our Church has continued to support charities whose work is in line with our aims. In 2020 that included Fair Trade, Stop the Traffik, Fledge Youth Support, and Eastleigh Basics Bank. Regular collections of foodstuffs and essentials were made and the church provided a team to open the Basics Bank on day a week to help with the increased need caused by the pandemic.

In addition, we again tithed a tenth of our unrestricted income in 2021 to charities identified by a new mission -giving group, set up to distribute funds in a more targeted manner.

Holding St Francis' Church and its land and building in trust, via the Parochial Church Council, for future generations: The responsibility for maintaining the Church building and premises has continued as an important background task for our Churchwardens and supporting volunteers. The major task undertaken during the year was redecoration of the interior of the building, and installation of new AV equipment.

At the time of our last annual report a year ago our services had all been remotely attended for 12 months, and we were dependent on aging and cobbled-together equipment with loose cables running throughout the church to achieve this.

However, Council had just taken the decision to invest in new, permanently- installed equipment, and since then this installation has taken place, in early 2021, with all equipment researched, specified and installed by members of the AV team, with help from other church members. This flexible, reliable, creative yet discrete system was achieved for £9,200, well under budget and significant less than if installed professionally – much of this has been covered by specific financial gifts from church members. It has stood us well in the time since, and even after in-person services resumed we still currently have 20-30 joining remotely each week, through illness, distance, the wish to remain isolated to maintain health, or to explore our church.

We've continued to contribute to the Sunday Service broadcasts from Lockdown FM (now Outreach Radio), and have been seen by them as the go- to if short of a contributor.

St Francis' Church Council well recognises the importance of making our building available as a hub for the local community. As a result, we have been pleased to make parts of the building available on hire to a number of organisations, including St Francis School breakfast and after-school Care Clubs (daily morning and afternoon in term time). A lunch Club run by MHA restarted in the autumn.

Structure, governance and management

Legal form: The *Church of England Parish of Valley Park* was established in 1991. Simultaneously, a *Single Congregation Local Ecumenical Partnership (SC-LEP)* was formed by *The Church of England, The Methodist Church* and *The United Reformed Church*, under a formal Constitution agreed on 4th October 1991. A new Model Constitution was adopted in October 2015, and *St Francis', Valley Park Single Congregation Local Ecumenical Partnership* is registered as a Charity with the *Charity Commission for England and Wales*. The members of the Ecumenical Church Council are the Trustees of the registered Charity.

Church building: St Francis' Church is the Parish Church of the Anglican Parish of Valley Park. It is also the centre of worship for the SC-LEP, under the terms of a Sharing Agreement, established on 30th August 1995 under the provisions of the *Sharing of Church Buildings Act, 1969*. The Church building was dedicated rather than consecrated, and it is not subject to Faculty Jurisdiction.

Joint Council: In 1991, formal oversight of the operation of the SC-LEP was vested in *Churches Together in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight*, and is administered via a Joint Council, comprising governing representatives of the participating denominations, together with representatives of the Church Council. Presently the oversight body is not functioning, but there have been no matters which have required escalation to a Joint Council during the year, which consequently has not met.

Clergy and Church Council: Since its founding in 1987, St Francis' Church has been led by a resident Church of England minister (the Vicar of Valley Park). This ministry has been complemented by designated Ministers from local Methodist and United Reformed Churches. Working in co-operation these designated clergy are ex-officio members of *St Francis' Ecumenical Church Council*.

During 2017 the Living of Valley Park was suspended by the Bishop of Winchester. Consequently, the resident lead Minister during 2021 was the Church of England Priest in Charge – Revd Dr Sarah McClelland. The Methodist Minister was Revd Sue Keegan von Allmen of Chandler's Ford Methodist Church (who is also Circuit Superintendent of the Winchester, Eastleigh and Romsey Circuit). The United Reformed Church Minister was Revd Mark Robinson, a member of the Clergy Team of the South West Hants Group of URC Churches, until late 2021 when Revd Robinson left. He has not been replaced, but the Group Minister, South-West Hants Group of URC Churches, Revd Dr Sarah Hall, has taken on the role of URC minister representative.

In accordance with Anglican Canon Law, two Churchwardens are elected annually at an Annual Meeting of Parishioners (Annual Vestry Meeting) which also elects two Pro- (Deputy) wardens. St Francis' Annual Parochial Church Meeting also elects members to a Parochial Church Council (PCC), of which the Vicar, Churchwardens and Pro-wardens are ex-officio members. Our annual Church meeting took place in April, and at that meeting 2 church wardens were elected and one pro warden. There is a vacancy for a second pro warden.

The Ecumenical Church Council (ECC) comprises ex-officio and elected members of the Anglican PCC, together with ex officio members representing the other participating churches in the SC-LEP. The PCC and ECC normally meet concurrently under the title of "*The Church Council*", for the day to day management of the Church and its affairs, but with appropriate attention to the relative responsibilities of the two bodies. However, there is a requirement for the Anglican PCC to be able to meet independently of, and without conflict of interest with, the ECC, and so the annually elected Pro-Wardens, the Anglican Deanery Synod Representatives, and at least one elected PCC member are not members of the ECC or Trustees of the registered Charity.

The Electoral Roll of the SC-LEP was renewed ahead of the 2021 Annual Meetings as required by Anglican Church Representation Rules. The Roll operating in 2021 comprised 111 members.

The whole Church congregation met to conduct business once during 2021 – in April, at the Annual Meeting of Parishioners and the Annual Parochial Church / Ecumenical Congregational Meetings; the latter two held concurrently.

Denominational activities and ecumenical relationships: St. Francis Church lies within Anglican *Deanery of Eastleigh* in the *Diocese of Winchester*. New Deanery Synod representatives were elected from the Church Council at the Annual Church meeting in October for the next 3 years, in accordance with Church of England provisions.

The Deanery broadly covers the area from Valley Park in the west to Hamble in the south east. Deanery Synod Meetings are held 3 times a year, with the *Standing Committee* (attended by a sub-group of Synod members) meeting more frequently for more strategic and organisational decision-making. Our minister is part of that group, having become Assistant Area Dean in July 2020.

The *Winchester, Eastleigh and Romsey Circuit of the Methodist Church* has continued to meet on a quarterly basis through 2020 with Rev'd. Sue Keegan von Allmen as Circuit Superintendent. St Francis' has been represented at these meetings.

There have been two meetings of the *Wessex Synod of the United Reformed Church* (URC) this year, in March and November. St. Francis' Church was not represented in person on this occasion.

St Francis continues to be an active member of *Churches Together in Chandler's Ford*, in partnership with the other local Christian Denominations. A member of St Francis serves as treasurer.

Fabric and assets: Vested in the *Winchester Diocesan Board of Finance*, The Incumbent, Church Wardens, and Church Council (through the PCC), collectively hold St Francis' Church and its fixtures, fittings and property, in trust on behalf of past, present and future generations of worshippers, and the local community.

The *Church Terrier*, recording the Church's furniture, fittings, and assets, and the *Log Book* containing records of all alterations, maintenance, repair and disposals, were kept up to date in 2021, complying with Canon Law.

Safeguarding: All of our Church family life, mission and ministry is underpinned by a strong commitment to Safeguarding. We have a Safeguarding Policy which is regularly reviewed and updated and is easily accessed via the church website and on the Church Notice board.

Following her re-election to the PCC and ECC in 2019, Dr. Helen Kelso has remained as Church Safeguarding Officer, overseeing the development and implementation of appropriate Church Policies and Practices, and the regular DBS checking of volunteers.

The Church Council confirms that it 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).

Volunteers: St Francis' Church relies on the voluntary support and assistance of its members who take on a range of roles from the legal duties of Church Warden, to assisting in the organisation and presentation of worship, music, administration, preparing plans, papers and financial reports, and undertaking the routine care and maintenance duties of the building. The Church Council is indebted to members who have stepped forward to take an active role in the life of the Church, and to contribute financially towards it, without whom the ministry and mission of St Francis' Church could not be progressed.

Report was approved by the Church Council on 30th April 2022 and signed on its behalf by:



Revd Dr Sarah McClelland Priest-in-charge and Chair of ECC and PCC

Administrative information:

Ex Officio Members	Expiry of term of office	Notes
Sarah McClelland		
Alison Rhodes	2022	Re-elected 25 April 2021
Fiona Grove	2022	First elected: 18th Oct 2020 Re-elected 25 April 2021
Debbie Reed	2022	First elected: 25 April 2021
Prowarden position	Vacant	
Brian King	2023	Deanery Synod Rep
Peter Rhodes	2023	Deanery Synod Rep
Steve Williams	2023	Deanery Synod Rep
Elected members (9+1PCC)		
Andrew Grove	2023	First elected: 18th Oct 2020 Re-elected 25 April 2021
Vacant post (2y)	2023	
Liz Bolton	2023	
Vacant post (1y)	2022	
Vacant post (1y)	2022	
Helen Kelso	2022	
Rogerio Ramos	2023	**(PCC ony)**
Caroline Emmins	2024	
Jan Southern	2024	
Coopted members		
None		
Ex officio:	**Ecumenical Church Council (in addition to those in bold above:**	
Sue Keegan von Allmen		Methodist minister
Mark Robinson		URC Minister
Joe Sweetnam		Curate
David Gurr	2023	Methodist Rep
Vacant position	2023	Methodist Rep
Chris Hill	2023	
No Coopted members		

Office holders appointed annually by the Annual Congregational Meeting (not attending Council):

Mr. Chris. Goodhead FCA	(2021)	Independent Examiner.	Re-appointed: 18 Oct 2020
Mrs Linda King	(2021)	Electoral Roll Officer	Re-appointed: 18 Oct 2020
Mr. Geoff. Roberts	(2021)	Gift Aid Secretary	Re-appointed: 18 Oct 2020

Financial Overview

General financial situation: Financial overview from our treasurer, Andrew Grove

I am pleased to report that the church ended 2021 in a good financial position.

Overall income was up £22,000 on 2020 although £9,000 of this was specifically given for the AV upgrade project. It also included £4,000 increase which reflected a full year's income from the school clubs compared with the covid restricted hire fees in 2020. However general giving was still up which is encouraging and I am hopeful this will continue.

Overall expenditure was up £7,000 plus the cost of the AV equipment was capitalised £9,000. One significant factor was our Parish Share which increased by £3,000. I am pleased to report that the day to day running expenses were similar to 2020 despite the joy of being able to make greater use of the building than in 2020.

We ended the year with a surplus after being able to commit to a full tithe to our charity partners. I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the running of the church in 2021.

Gift Aid and GASDS giving for the year ending December 2021: Geoff Roberts

57 gave within the Gift Aid scheme. (This represents 87 individual people as some giving is on behalf of a couple). This is an increase of 2 from the previous year.

A total of £86,696 (inclusive of £1,737 GASDS) was given to which we added £22,108 in tax claimed back from the inland revenue making a grand total of £110,542. (The GASDS represents collections received in the church building in addition to the standing orders and direct payments.)

Gift aid figures over past years:-

	General Fund	Growth yr/yr	Tax Claim included
2014	£78,105	12%	£16,386
2015	£80,243	3%	£16,049
2016	£78,731	-2%	£15,746
2017	£79,202	0%	£15,840
2018	£89,194	13%	£17,845
2019	£95,972	8%	£19,195
2020	£94.390	-2%	£18,878
2021	£110,542	17%	£22,108

Many thanks to all those continuing to take advantage of the gift aid scheme.

Reserves policy and Designated and Restricted Funds:

It is the policy of the Church Council to maintain a modest balance in the General Fund to cover fluctuations in operational expenditure, compared with income, and to transfer appropriate annual sums into Designated Funds intended to provide resources for larger investments in the maintenance and longer-term repair of the Church premises. The General Fund currently stands at £17,734. This increase beyond our target figure of £12,000 enables the Church Council to plan new initiatives with greater confidence.

The Church Maintenance and Repair Reserve Fund. This fund provides for more major investments in maintenance, decoration, repair and replacement of the Church fabric and assets. The balance in this designated fund stood at £ 47,613 as at 31 December 2021, including the net book value of fixed assets of £10,968.

The Youth Activities Fund (Designated), established in 2016 holds the balance of the closed St Francis Church SOS53 Youth Club bank account; the Youth Club having closed due to lack of volunteers. A new, smaller, more teaching focused youth group was established in 2019 by Rev Cliff McClelland, Fiona Grove and Jamie Hill. A small sum from the Youth Activities Fund has been spent by this group in 2020 on materials for its members and the remaining funds will be utilised for Youth Group activities in subsequent years.

The Benevolent Fund was set up during the year which was a transfer from the general fund of £1,500 with no expenditure during the year, so the balance at 31 December 2021 was £1,500.

The Special Appeals Fund (Restricted) was set up in 2017 to enable receipt of grants and gifts made to the church expressly for specific projects or works. During the year donations were received for the AV Equipment and for redecoration of the church. This was paid out in full and the fund was again brought to zero at the year end.

Accounts were approved by the Church Council 9th February 2022 and signed on its behalf by:



Revd Dr Sarah McClelland Priest-in-charge and Chair of ECC and PCC

Independent Examiners report to the Church Council of Single Congregation Local Ecumenical Partnership For the year ending 31 December 2021

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of St Francis' Church, Valley Park

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of St Francis' Church, Valley Park for the year ended 31 December 2021, which are set out on pages 12 to 19 .

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trustee's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable 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 material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

(1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act;
or

(2) the accounts do not accord with those records;
or

(3) the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

C J Goodhead FCA
Knight Goodhead Limited
Chartered Accountants
7 Bournemouth Road
Chandler's Ford, Eastleigh
Hampshire, SO53 3DA

Dated: 5 October 2022



CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. FRANCIS' CHURCH, VALLEY PARK SC-LEP

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Note	General Fund Unrestricted £	Other Funds Unrestricted £	Other Funds Restricted £	TOTAL FUNDS 2021 £	TOTAL FUNDS 2020 £
INCOME						
Donations and legacies	2(a)	114,177	0	7,230	121,407	107,894
Fundraising income	2(b)	64	0	0	64	63
Charitable Activities	2(c)	14,283	0	0	14,283	9,291
Investments	2(d)	0	0	0	0	0
Other income	2(e), 12	40	0	4,265	4,305	330
TOTAL INCOME		128,564	0	11,495	140,059	117,578
EXPENDITURE						
Fundraising costs	3(a)	49	0	0	49	54
Charitable Activities						
Mission Giving & Charitable Grants/Donations	3(b)	12,000	0	0	12,000	11,750
Parish shares	3(c)	73,187	0	0	73,187	70,119
Salaries and honoraria	3(d)	10,778	0	0	10,778	9,809
People-related Expenses	3(e)	1,898	0	0	1,898	1,885
Mission and evangelism costs	3(f)	1,888	0	0	1,888	132
Church running expenses	3(g), (j)	11,652	3,569	2,265	17,486	16,177
Church utility bills	3(h)	2,930	0	0	2,930	3,580
Governance costs	3(i)	1,840	0	0	1,840	1,057
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		116,222	3,569	2,265	122,056	114,562
MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		12,342	(3,569)	9,230	18,003	3,016
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS	7 - 12	(1,500)	10,730	(9,230)	0	0
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		10,842	7,161	0	18,003	3,016
Balances brought forward at 1 January 2021		3,892	42,937	0	46,829	43,813
Balances carried forward at 31 December 2021		14,734	50,098	0	64,832	46,829

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Website Development	4	3,269	4,357
Church Organ & Dishwasher		0	940
AV equipment		7,699	0
		10,968	5,297
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors and prepaid expenses	5	2,135	4,532
Cash at bank		65,127	49,338
Cash in hand		12	31
		67,274	53,901
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Amounts falling due within one year	6	13,410	12,369
NET CURRENT ASSETS		53,864	41,532
TOTAL NET ASSETS		64,832	46,829
FUNDS			
General Fund – Unrestricted		14,734	3,892
Church Maintenance & Repair Reserve Fund	7	47,613	41,951
Building Maint. & Repair Fund – Designated	8	0	0
Church Roof Restoration Fund - Designated	9	0	0
Youth Activities Fund - Designated	10	985	985
Benevolent Fund - Designated	11	1,500	0
Special Appeals Fund (Restricted)	12	0	0
TOTAL CHURCH FUNDS		64,832	46,829
St. Francis' Rendezvous Community Café - Cash Balance in Hand	13	0	103

Approved by the Church Council on 9th February 2022, and signed on its behalf by:

Rev'd. Dr. Sarah McClelland - Priest in Charge

Andrew Grove - Treasurer

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the 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).

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

Funds

The General Fund represents the funds of the Church Council of St Francis', Valley Park, that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the Church Council.

Designated Funds: The Church Council has designated the following Funds for a particular purpose: The Building Maintenance and Repair Reserve Fund to provide resources for repair and maintenance of the church building and ground and larger one off expenditure as agreed by the Church Council. This has replaced the Church Repair & Maintenance Fund and The Church Roof Restoration Fund. The Youth Activities Fund represents the closed SOS53 Youth Club Bank Account. These designated funds are also unrestricted. In addition the Church operates a Community Café - St. Francis' Rendezvous Community Café. The accounts of this Café's activities during 2020 and 2021 are included in these accounts for information.

Restricted Funds: These represent grants or donations that require that the funds be used in a specific way or for a specific purpose. They may be considered a contract between the donating party and the receiving party.

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the Church Council is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Income

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the Church Council. 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. Any income tax recoverable and not received by 31 December is provided for in these accounts and included as a debtor in the Balance Sheet.

Grants and legacies to the Church Council are accounted for as soon as the Council is notified of its legal entitlement and the amount due.

Funds raised by social fundraising and similar events are accounted for gross and recognised when received.

Invoiced income from the hiring of the Church Building is recognised when receivable. Any invoiced income not received by 31 December is provided for in these accounts and included as a debtor in the Balance Sheet.

All other incoming resources are accounted for gross and recognised when received.

Income from investments
Interest is accounted for when receivable.

Expenditure

Grants

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the Church Council.

Activities directly relating to the work of the Church

The parish share and contributions to other participating denominations are accounted for when payable.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated land and buildings and moveable Church furnishings
Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by S.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993.

No value is placed on moveable Church furnishings held by the Churchwardens on special trust for the Church Council and PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal since the Church Council and PCC considers this to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings and moveable Church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities and separately disclosed.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment
Equipment used within the Church premises is depreciated on a straight line basis over 3 years, website straignt line over 5 years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £2,000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Current assets

Amounts owing to the Church Council at 31 December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectible.

Short term deposits include cash held on deposit with the Central Board of Finance, Church of England Funds or at the bank.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

2 INCOME

		General Fund Unrestricted £	Other Funds Unrestricted £	Other Funds Restricted £	TOTAL FUNDS 2021 £	TOTAL FUNDS 2020 £
2(a)	**Donations and legacies**					
	Tax efficient planned giving	72,622	0	7,230	79,852	75,316
	Other planned giving	2,620	0	0	2,620	3,255
	Collections at services/gifts etc.	16,827	0	0	16,827	10,444
	Income tax recoverable	22,108	0	0	22,108	18,878
	Grants	0	0	0	0	0
		114,177	0	7,230	121,407	107,893
2(b)	**Fundraising**					
	Easy Fundraising	64	0	0	64	63
		64	0	0	64	63
2(c)	**Charitable Activities**					
	Income from outreach activities	543	0	0	543	0
	Statutory fees retained	1,109	0	0	1,109	1,424
	Income from use of church building	11,509	0	0	11,509	7,417
	Contribution to Overheads from Café Trading	1,122	0	0	1,122	450
		14,283	0	0	14,283	9,291
2(d)	**Investments**					
	Interest	0	0	0	0	0
		0	0	0	0	0
2(e)	**Other income**					
	Profit on ad hoc sales of equipment & materials	40	0	0	40	0
	Other income (incl. Local Fees for Occasional Offices)	0	0	0	0	211
	Grants for Special Appeals / Specific Works	0	0	4,265	4,265	119
	Insurance Claims	0	0	0	0	0
		40	0	4,265	4,305	330
TOTAL INCOME		**128,564**	**0**	**11,495**	**140,059**	**117,577**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

3 EXPENDITURE

		General Fund Unrestricted £	Other Funds Unrestricted £	Other Funds Restricted £	TOTAL FUNDS 2021 £	TOTAL FUNDS 2020 £
3(a)	**Fundraising costs:**					
	Cost of generating voluntary income	49	0	0	49	54
		49	0	0	49	54
3(b)	**Mission Giving and Charitable Grants & Donations:**					
	Home Charities and Good Causes	9,600	0	0	9,600	7,000
	Overseas Relief Agencies	2,400	0	0	2,400	4,750
		12,000	0	0	12,000	11,750
3(c)	**Parish Shares:**					
	Church of England	69,912	0	0	69,912	66,981
	Methodist Church	2,456	0	0	2,456	2,353
	United Reformed Church	819	0	0	819	785
		73,187	0	0	73,187	70,119
3(d)	**Salaries and honoraria:**					
	Parish administration	8,895	0	0	8,895	8,895
	Organists and musicians	75	0	0	75	75
	Church cleaning and Verger	1,808	0	0	1,808	1,808
		10,778	0	0	10,778	10,778
3(e)	**People-related expenses:**					
	Clergy Mileage, Telephone & Other Exps.	1,391	0	0	1,391	1,391
	Education & Training of Staff and Laity	507	0	0	507	507
		1,898	0	0	1,898	1,898
3(f)	**Mission and evangelism costs:**					
	Junior/Young people's church	893	0	0	893	120
	Outreach activities	745	0	0	745	0
	Teaching and Nurturing costs	28	0	0	28	12
	Pastoral costs	142	0	0	142	0
	Vacancy costs	80	0	0	80	0
		1,888	0	0	1,888	132
3(g)	**Church running expenses:**					
	Upkeep of services	453	0	0	453	408
	Hospitality and catering	602	0	0	602	137
	Insurance	1,065	0	0	1,065	1,059
	Maintenance, cleaning & servicing	3,150	0	2,265	5,415	3,491
	Furniture and equipment	421	0	0	421	67
	Administration costs	4,971	3,569	0	8,540	3,642
	Church magazine printing costs	990	0	0	990	605
		11,652	3,569	2,265	17,486	9,409
3(h)	**Church Utility Bills:**					
	Electricity	1,572	0	0	1,572	1,474
	Gas	1,196	0	0	1,196	1,652
	Water rates	162	0	0	162	454
		2,930	0	0	2,930	3,580
3(i)	**Governance costs**					
	Professional fees (inc. Independent Examiner's fee)	1,840	0	0	1,840	1,057
		1,840	0	0	1,840	1,057
	3(i) **Other Expenditure**					
	Office reordering				0	6,691
	Café - non catering costs	0	0	0	0	77
		0	0	0	0	6,768
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		**116,222**	**3,569**	**2,265**	**122,056**	**115,545**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	2021 £	2020 £
4 FIXED ASSETS		
Website Development at cost	5,447	5,447
Church Organ at Cost	5,846	5,846
Dishwasher at Cost	2,820	2,820
AV System at Cost	9,239	0
	23,352	14,113
Depreciation at the start of the year	8,816	6,786
Depreciation charged	3,568	2,030
Depreciation at the end of the year	12,384	8,816
Net book value	10,968	5,297
5 DEBTORS		
Prepaid expenses	0	0
Other debtors	2,135	4,532
	2,135	4,532
6 LIABILITIES		
Amounts falling due within one year		
Accrued Charitable donations	12,000	11,750
Other Accruals	0	0
Other Creditors	1,410	619
	13,410	12,369

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

7 CHURCH MAINTENANCE & REPAIR RESERVE FUND - DESIGNATED

	2021 £	2020 £
Balance brought forward at 1 January	**41,951**	**0**
Transfer from Church Repair & Maintenance Fund	0	11,983
Transfer residual value of dishwasher from Ch M & R fund	0	1,880
Transfer from Church Roof Reserve Fund	0	22,000
Transfer from Special Appeals Fund	9,230	7,000
Addition of Website Development (Payment Capitilisation)	0	5,447
Depreciation on Dishwasher	(940)	(940)
Depreciation on Website	(1,089)	(1,089)
Depreciation on AV Equipment	(1,540)	0
Transfer to General Fund re Office Reorginisation	0	(4,329)
Balance carried forward at 31 December	**47,613**	**41,951**

8 BUILDING MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR FUND – DESIGNATED

	2021 £	2020 £
Balance brought forward at 1 January	0	13,863
Donations	0	0
Transfer to General fund	0	0
Transfer residual value of dishwasher from Ch M & R fund	0	(1,880)
Transfer to Church Maintenance & Repair Reserve Fund	0	(11,983)
Balance carried forward at 31 December	**0**	**0**

9 CHURCH ROOF RESTORATION FUND – DESIGNATED

Balance brought forward at 1 January	0	22,000
Transfer from General fund	0	0
Donations	0	0
Expenditure during the year	0	0
Transfer to General fund	0	0
Transfer to Church Maintenance & Repair Reserve Fund		(22,000)
Balance carried forward at 31 December	**0**	**0**

10 YOUTH ACTIVITIES FUND – DESIGNATED

Balance brought forward at 1 January	985	1,052
Transfer from General fund	0	0
Expenditure during the year	0	0
Funds from Closure of Youth Club Account	0	0
Transfer to General fund	0	(67)
Balance carried forward at 31 December	**985**	**985**

11 BENEVOLENT FUND - DESIGNATED

Balance brought forward at 1 January	0	0
Transfer from General fund	1,500	0
Balance carried forward at 31 December	**1,500**	**0**

12 SPECIAL APPEALS FUND (for expenditure on specific works) - RESTRICTED

Balance brought forward at 1 January	0	0
Donations	9,495	1,577
AV equipment purchased	0	(1,577)
Transfer to Church Maintenance Fund	(9,230)	0
Third Party Grants towards specific works	2,000	100
Expenditure towards costs of specific works	(2,265)	(100)
Balance carried forward at 31 December	**0**	**0**

13 ST FRANCIS RENDEZVOUS COMMUNITY CAFÉ - ACCOUNTS 2021

These accounts do not form part of the main Church Accounts.

	2021 £	2020 £
Balance brought forward at 1 January	103	12
INCOME		
Donations & transfers from Church General Fund	0	0
Receipts from Sales of Coffee, Tea and Cakes etc.	0	649
TOTAL INCOME	**103**	**661**
EXPENDITURE		
Refreshments (Milk, Coffee, Tea, Squash, Cakes, Biscuits etc.)	0	108
Catering supplies (Coffee Filters, Table cloths, Serviettes, etc.)	0	0
Housekeeping items (Dishwasher consumables etc.)	0	0
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	**0**	**108**
Surplus on Trading	**103**	**553**
Transfers to Church General Fund as contribution to Overheads	103	450
Balance carried forward at 31 December	**0**	**103**

ST FRANCIS', VALLEY PARK SINGLE CONGREGATION LOCAL ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP

England & Wales - Charity number 1165677

Accounts

St Francis' Church, Valley Park.

The Ecumenical Church Council of
St. Francis', Valley Park,
Single Congregation Local Ecumenical Partnership.
(and the Parochial Church Council of the Parish of Valley Park)

Annual Report

for the year ended 31st December 2020.

St Francis' Church:	Pilgrim's Close, Valley Park, Chandler's Ford, Eastleigh, Hants, SO53 4ST. Tel.: 023 8027 1152; E-mail: admin@stfrancis-valleypark.org.uk; Website: www.stfrancis-valleypark.org.uk Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/stfrancisvp
Bank:	The National Westminster Bank, Eastleigh Branch, 34 Southampton Road, Eastleigh SO50 9XN.
Independent Examiner:	Mr. Chris. Goodhead FCA, Knight Goodhead Ltd. Chartered Accountants, 7 Bournemouth Road, Chandler's Ford, Eastleigh. Hants. SO53 3DA.
Inspecting Architect:	Ms. Sarah Harlow BA (Hons) DipARCH RIBA, Seymour and Bainbridge Architects, 9 Charlecote Mews, Staple Gardens, Winchester, Hants. SO23 8SR.

Registered as a Charity in England and Wales; Charity Number: 1165677

Annual Report of the Ecumenical Church Council of the Single Congregation Local Ecumenical Partnership of St Francis' Valley Park

(and the Parochial Church Council of the Parish of Valley Park)

2020

Aims and purposes

The aims and purposes of St Francis' Church, Valley Park Single Congregation Local Ecumenical Partnership (SC-LEP) remain unchanged from previous years. The Church and Charity exists to advance the Christian faith within the Ecclesiastical Parish of Valley Park and elsewhere, in accordance with the rites and practices of the participating denominations in the LEP: Church of England, Methodist Church and United Reformed Church.

Oversight and management of the work of St Francis' Church is vested in an Anglican Parochial Church Council (PCC), and an Ecumenical Church Council (ECC), which normally meet concurrently, and are collectively known as 'The Church Council'. The Church Council has responsibility, in co-operation with the Incumbent minister, the designated Ministers of the other Participating Churches and the Church Wardens for promoting the Christian faith and enabling the whole mission of the Christian Church.

Objectives

The Charity's objectives continue to focus on Christian Mission and Ministry. St Francis' Church Council works to promote the whole mission of the church through:

- **Worship and prayer**, and by providing a range of opportunities for those within the parish, and beyond, to learn about the Christian Gospel and develop a faith in Jesus Christ, and to walk with God;
- **Pastoral care** for all those within the parish and others who come into contact with the Church;
- **Mission and community outreach,** involving practical, social and financial support for the local community and wider charitable causes, including work with and through other Churches and Charities;
- **Building the corporate life of the Church family,** both through collective worship and through social, fellowship and community-focused activities;
- **Holding St Francis' Church and its land and building in trust, via the Parochial Church Council, for future generations,** maintaining them as a vital and valuable resource in support of other objectives, and sharing them with the other denominations of the LEP through a formal Sharing Agreement;
- **Working with the neighbouring St Francis C of E (Aided) Primary School.**

Public benefit

St Francis' Church delivers public benefit through engaging in a range of activities, including, but not restricted to:

- The celebration of public worship;
- The teaching of the Christian faith;
- Mission and evangelism;
- Pastoral work, including visiting and supporting the sick and the bereaved;
- The provision of facilities with a Christian ethos for the local community, including, but not restricted to, the elderly, the young, and other groups with special needs;
- The support of other charities in the UK and overseas.

The extent to which public benefit has been delivered is described in the following pages of this Report.

Activities and achievements

Worship:

We started 2020 with our usual pattern of services: 0845 said communion and 10am main church family gathering, with all age provision once a month and communion available at 10am twice a month, as well as a more informal evening service twice a month.

Messy church, a more informal activities based worship, took place monthly too.

From just before Lockdown in March 2020, we began livestreaming our 10am service and continued to do so throughout 2020, from our homes or church building. Thanks to our AV team this took place on Zoom, allowing many of our church family to continue to participate through reading, intercessions, and other contributions.

Attendance has been good at this service, with number of Zoom devices roughly equating to number of attendees at services in 2019, and a number of new folk have joined us each week, som e local and some from further afield including Strasbourg!

As restrictions eased to allow in-person worship 0845 was held in the building from July – October 2020 and then again in December.

We continued to celebrate festivals, but after Ash Wednesday in person, the rest of the year's festivals were mainly on-line, including Easter and the November service of remembrance. We took advantage of the possibility of private prayer in the building to open up to the community for All Souls day.

Christmas online included an Advent service of Light, Carol service, Christingle and nativity service, with junior church producing a nativity video, and Christingle craft bags having been produced in advance, allowing the constriction of Christingles. We offered the community a Valley Park Treasure Hunt, ending at the treasure of the nativity scene through the church windows, and this proved popular with families from church and the wider community.

In terms of Occasional Offices, we managed 3 infant baptisms in family services, a funeral and a wedding before lockdown. Thereafter we had one baptism in a private ceremony, 2 funerals which were livestreamed and a wedding, also with restricted numbers but livestreamed.

We were delighted to welcome a Curate to St Francis Church, Joe Sweetnam, who joined us in October 2020. We also have an LLM trainee and several have completed Bishops' Commission for Mission (BCM) courses, in prayer and pastoral work to complement their contributions to parish life.

Children's and Youth Ministry has continued and developed during 2020 – see under mission and community outreach.

Pastoral Care: Our pastoral team, led by Fiona – who holds a BCM (Pastoral) – has continued to meet with and engage a range of individuals, both from within the church and more widely, offering friendship, fellowship and an opportunity for quiet prayer for those who wish. Our Prayer network has continued to enable collective prayer for those who request it. In Lockdown we set up a system of Buddy Groups to enable mutual care for the whole church family. The Pastoral team offered a 'Listening line' t any oho wanted extra Pastoral support.

Pastoral care and concern are also a key element of the work of our House Groups – where study of Scripture and matters of topical concern to Christians are coupled with prayer, fellowship and support in a variety of ways. They have all taken to Zoom and meet regularly. We added an extra Zoom house group in September because of increased demand.

Mission and Community Outreach: Every 3 years we make a mission action plan as a church family. We launched our current one in 2019 - here's how we worked towards it in 2020:

1.Foundations for mission We launched our new logo, cleverly designed by a friend of the church to take the dove from St Francis' hands and have it represent the cross, as well as hands open in welcome. Our new website went live just before Christmas. The administrator's new office was completed early in the year, but of course in 2020, our administrator was never able to use it! None the less Heather Parsons computerised our processes and helped us with policies and procedures, branding and website, all from home. Whilst the pandemic changed Heather's focus towards health care, we are grateful for all she that achieved during her time with us.

2. Children and Young People

The year began with a tea party to thank those who'd supported Glitter and Glue over the years, with the plan to keep up toddler activities in the context of Wednesday café. Our first Messy churches of the year were wonderfully busy! And then of course it all changed - no café and no Messy Church.

However, Debbie and Junior Church stepped right up to the challenge! A number of the congregation recorded Jackanory Bed Time Bible stories for our children to watch, alongside craft activities. And we've all loved the junior church feedback slot in our 10am Sunday services which have connected us to the children more than ever. We've connected with our Messy Church families through summer and Christmas holiday Bible stories and craft bags.
Youth group have found Zoom works really well for them, and with busy teenagers having more time on their hands, youth group attendance increased. And they found all sorts of games that work virtually. A highlight of the year was our Christmas nativity service in which all our junior church families took part - including several new members.
Sarah has provided weekly video assemblies for St Francis school, with Humphrey the inflatable camel featuring over Christmas - even in real life at the school gate...

3. Healing and Wholeness

Offering prayer ministry was one of our plans and we managed to have some training at the start of the year - but haven't yet been able to put it into practice. We did start offering chaplaincy to our local general practice at the start of the year, and a number of folk have trained as Take Time Practitioners able to lead meditations based on Bible stories. This has worked well on Zoom and is proving helpful.

Other activities:

At the start of the year, St Francis' Rendezvous Community Café was open for business for 3 hours on Wednesday mornings, busy with parents and toddlers, older folk from the community and all ages and stages between. From mid-March this went online for a period, but was discontinued temporarily from August because of Covid restrictions.

Our Men's programme has continued through the year. A monthly Men's Breakfast was again supplemented by a weekend away just before Lockdown. Men's breakfast went virtual with the request to bring your own bacon!

The church ran an Alpha course, an introduction to the Christian faith, for 11 people in January and February. Many of them are now integrated into the church family.

Alongside locally oriented outreach, our Church has continued to support charities whose work is in line with our aims. In 2020 that included Fair Trade, Stop the Traffik, Fledge Youth Support, and Eastleigh Basics Bank. Regular collections of foodstuffs and essentials were made and the church provided a team to open the Basics Bank on day a week to help with the increased need caused by the pandemic.

In addition, we again tithed a tenth of our unrestricted income in 2020. A mission -giving group has been set up to distribute funds in a more targeted manner and so the money set aside will be disbursed in 2021.

Holding St Francis' Church and its land and building in trust, via the Parochial Church Council, for future generations: The responsibility for maintaining the Church building and premises has continued as an important background task for our Churchwardens and supporting volunteers. The major task undertaken during the year was the replacement of the back office door in early 2020, to enable the creation of dedicated office space for a new administrator (who in the end, worked from home throughout 2020!)

St Francis' Church Council well recognises the importance of making our building available as a hub for the local community. As a result, we have been pleased to make parts of the building available on hire to a number of organisations, including St Francis School breakfast and after-school Care Clubs (daily morning and afternoon in term time).

Whilst it would usually be hired out, Lockdown offered a new opportunity in the form of Chandler's Ford Help, an organisation set up to provide help in the pandemic. During the first lockdown, they used the St Francis Church Building to distribute food parcels to the surrounding area.

Working with the neighbouring St Francis C of E (Aided) Primary School: As a Church-aided School, St Francis is close to the heart of our Church, with which it shares a campus site. St Francis' Church continued to nominate Foundation Governors to the governing body as provided for in legislation on faith-based schools. From the summer term, our lead minister provided weekly video assemblies for the whole school.

Structure, governance and management

Legal form: The *Church of England Parish of Valley Park* was established in 1991. Simultaneously, a *Single Congregation Local Ecumenical Partnership (SC-LEP)* was formed by *The Church of England, The Methodist Church* and *The United Reformed Church*, under a formal Constitution agreed on 4th October 1991. A new Model Constitution was adopted in October 2015, and *St Francis', Valley Park Single Congregation Local Ecumenical Partnership* is registered as a Charity with the *Charity Commission for England and Wales*. The members of the Ecumenical Church Council are the Trustees of the registered Charity.

Church building: St Francis' Church is the Parish Church of the Anglican Parish of Valley Park. It is also the centre of worship for the SC-LEP, under the terms of a Sharing Agreement, established on 30th August 1995 under the provisions of the *Sharing of Church Buildings Act, 1969*. The Church building was dedicated rather than consecrated, and it is not subject to Faculty Jurisdiction.

Joint Council: In 1991, formal oversight of the operation of the SC-LEP was vested in *Churches Together in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight*, and is administered via a Joint Council, comprising governing representatives of the participating denominations, together with representatives of the Church Council. Presently the oversight body is not functioning, but there have been no matters which have required escalation to a Joint Council during the year, which consequently has not met.

Clergy and Church Council: Since its founding in 1987, St Francis' Church has been led by a resident Church of England minister (the Vicar of Valley Park). This ministry has been complemented by designated Ministers from local Methodist and United Reformed Churches. Working in co-operation these designated clergy are ex-officio members of *St Francis' Ecumenical Church Council*.

During 2017 the Living of Valley Park was suspended by the Bishop of Winchester. Consequently, the resident lead Minister during 2019 was the Church of England Priest in Charge – Revd Dr Sarah McClelland. The Methodist Minister was Revd Sue Keegan von Allmen of Chandler's Ford Methodist Church (who is also Circuit Superintendent of the Winchester, Eastleigh and Romsey Circuit). The United Reformed Church Minister was Revd Mark Robinson, a member of the Clergy Team of the South West Hants Group of URC Churches. Whilst there would usually be pulpit swaps to enable ministers of other denominations to minister at St Francis, this was replaced during the pandemic with quarterly Zoom meetings between the 3 ministers.

In accordance with Anglican Canon Law, two Churchwardens are elected annually at an Annual Meeting of Parishioners (Annual Vestry Meeting) which also elects two Pro- (Deputy) wardens. St Francis' Annual

Parochial Church Meeting also elects members to a Parochial Church Council (PCC), of which the Vicar, Churchwardens and Pro-wardens are ex-officio members. Our annual Church meeting was delayed until October 2020, and at that meeting 2 church wardens were elected and one pro warden. There is a vacancy for a second pro warden.

The Ecumenical Church Council (ECC) comprises ex-officio and elected members of the Anglican PCC, together with ex officio members representing the other participating churches in the SC-LEP. The PCC and ECC normally meet concurrently under the title of "*The Church Council*", for the day to day management of the Church and its affairs, but with appropriate attention to the relative responsibilities of the two bodies. However, there is a requirement for the Anglican PCC to be able to meet independently of, and without conflict of interest with, the ECC, and so the annually elected Pro-Wardens, the Anglican Deanery Synod Representatives, and at least one elected PCC member are not members of the ECC or Trustees of the registered Charity.

In terms of training for new trustees, an online course was offered (PCC tonight run by CPAS) and attended by around half the Council within a month of the Annual meeting. This is an area for further development going forward.

The Electoral Roll of the SC-LEP was renewed ahead of the 2020 Annual Meetings as required by Anglican Church Representation Rules. The Roll operating in 2020 comprised 111 members.

The whole Church congregation met to conduct business once during 2020 – in October, at the Annual Meeting of Parishioners and the Annual Parochial Church / Ecumenical Congregational Meetings; the latter two held concurrently. Due to Covid restrictions this was delayed and took place remotely via Zoom.

Denominational activities and ecumenical relationships: St. Francis Church lies within Anglican *Deanery of Eastleigh* in the *Diocese of Winchester*. New Deanery Synod representatives were elected from the Church Council at the Annual Church meeting in October for the next 3 years, in accordance with Church of England provisions.

The Deanery broadly covers the area from Valley Park in the west to Hamble in the south east. Deanery Synod Meetings are held 3 times a year, with the *Standing Committee* (attended by a sub-group of Synod members) meeting more frequently for more strategic and organisational decision-making. Our minister is part of that group, having become Assistant Area Dean in July 2020.

The *Winchester, Eastleigh and Romsey Circuit of the Methodist Church* has continued to meet on a quarterly basis through 2020 with Rev'd. Sue Keegan von Allmen as Circuit Superintendent. St Francis' has been represented at these meetings.

There have been two meetings of the *Wessex Synod of the United Reformed Church* (URC) this year, in March and November. St. Francis' Church was represented at both.

St Francis continues to be an active member of *Churches Together in Chandler's Ford*, in partnership with the other local Christian Denominations. A member of St Francis serves as treasurer.

Fabric and assets: Vested in the *Winchester Diocesan Board of Finance*, The Incumbent, Church Wardens, and Church Council (through the PCC), collectively hold St Francis' Church and its fixtures, fittings and property, in trust on behalf of past, present and future generations of worshippers, and the local community.

The *Church Terrier*, recording the Church's furniture, fittings, and assets, and the *Log Book* containing records of all alterations, maintenance, repair and disposals, were kept up to date in 2020, complying with Canon Law.

Safeguarding: All of our Church family life, mission and ministry is underpinned by a strong commitment to Safeguarding. We have a Safeguarding Policy which is regularly reviewed and updated and is easily accessed via the church website and on the Church Notice board.

Following her re-election to the PCC and ECC in 2019, Dr. Helen Kelso has remained as Church Safeguarding Officer, overseeing the development and implementation of appropriate Church Policies and Practices, and the regular DBS checking of volunteers.

The Church Council confirms that it 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).

Volunteers: St Francis' Church relies on the voluntary support and assistance of its members who take on a range of roles from the legal duties of Church Warden, to assisting in the organisation and presentation of worship, music, administration, preparing plans, papers and financial reports, and undertaking the routine care and maintenance duties of the building. The Church Council is indebted to members who have stepped forward to take an active role in the life of the Church, and to contribute financially towards it, without whom the ministry and mission of St Francis' Church could not be progressed.

Report was approved by the Church Council on 17th April 2021 and signed on its behalf by:



Revd Dr Sarah McClelland Priest-in-charge and Chair of ECC and PCC

Administrative information:

Ex Officio Members	Expiry of term of office	Notes
Sarah McClelland		
Alison Rhodes	2021	First elected: Re-elected 7 April 2019
Fiona Grove	2021	
Geoff Roberts	2021	
Prowarden position		
Vacant		
Brian King	2023	Deanery Synod Rep
Peter Rhodes	2023	Deanery Synod Rep
Steve Williams	2023	Deanery Synod Rep
Elected members (9+1PCC)		
Andrew Grove	2023	Treasurer
Debbie Reed	2023	
Liz Bolton	2023	secretary
Vacant post	2022	
Vacant post	2022	
Helen Kelso	2022	
Rogerio Ramos (PCC ony)	2023	
Graham Shankland	2021	
Phil Watts	2021	
Coopted members		
None		
	Ecumenical Church Council (in addition to those in bold above:	
Ex officio:		
Sue Keegan von Allmen		Methodist minister
Mark Robinson		URC MInister
Joe Sweetnam		Curate
David Gurr	2023	Methodist Rep
Vacant position	2023	Methodist Rep
Chris Hill	2023	
Coopted members		
None		

Office holders appointed annually by the Annual Congregational Meeting (not attending Council):

Mr. Chris. Goodhead FCA	(2021)	Independent Examiner.	Re-appointed: 18 Oct 2020
Mrs Linda King	(2021)	Electoral Roll Officer	Re-appointed: 18 Oct 2020
Mr. Geoff. Roberts	(2021)	Gift Aid Secretary	Re-appointed: 18 Oct 2020

General financial situation:

Total Church income from all sources was down by approx. 3% (£ 3,747) on 2019, at £117,578, although this did include a donation of £5000 which was primarily aimed at our planned improvements to our AV system. Without this our overall income would have been down 7%. Due to our enforced closure we took quite a large hit on our building rental and café income. Thankfully the school took the decision to reopen the school clubs for children of keyworkers after the summer break so, whilst our income from this source was down around £4000, the overall position resulting from the pandemic could have been a lot worse.

Again, the Church relied upon a number of substantial individual donations, supplementing regular voluntary giving, in order to meet all its financial obligations. These included meeting our parish contributions to the C of E Diocese's Common Mission Fund, and pro-rate payments to our other parent denominations.

Once again, a Gift weekend was held at Harvest-tide, through which the Church received additional generous one-off donations as well as several commitments to increase regular giving. These, and donations at other times during the year, contributed significantly to overall income. Overall expenditure at £114,562 was a little higher than in 2019 (£1,485 (1%) more) reflecting the expenditure on the re-organisation of the office to facilitate our new administrator. However our general running costs (utilities etc) were lower due to the reduced use of the building during lockdown. **The net result of the ups and downs of running a church during lockdown was that a projected shortfall of £6127 became a surplus of £3,016.**

As part of the Church's commitment to wider Mission and Ministry, overall charitable giving again followed a policy of 'tithing' annual income, and 10% of unrestricted income (£11750) are to be given to charitable and good causes for the year. These funds have yet to be distributed as the Church Council took the decision to form a working group to look at our giving process with the intention of making it more purposeful and structured.

2. Gift Aid and GASDS giving for the year ending December 2020.

54 gave within the Gift Aid scheme. (This represents 85 individual people as some giving is on behalf of a couple). This is an increase of 7 from the previous year, mostly due to people using iknow.
A total of £74,850 (inclusive of £662 GASDS) was given to which we added £18,878 in tax claimed back from the Inland Revenue making a grand total of £94,390. The GASDS represents collections received in the church building in addition to the standing orders and direct payments. Due to the closure of the church for 9 months of the year, this amount is around £2,000 less than the previous year.

The following table shows Gift Aid figures over the past eight years:

Year	Gift Aided Giving to the General Fund (including Tax reclaimed)	% Growth year on year	Tax reclaimed
2013	£69,748	14%	£14,337
2014	£78,105	12%	£16,386
2015	£80,243	3%	£16,049
2016	£78,731	-2%	£15,747
2017	£79,202	0%	£15,843
2018	£89,194	13%	£17,845
2019	£95,972	8%	£19,195
2020	£94,390	-2%	£18,878

Many thanks are extended to all those who support the work of St Francis' Church by continuing to take advantage of the gift aid schemes, and also to Gift Aid Secretary Geoff Roberts, for his continuing diligent work in administering the schemes.

3. Reserves policy and Designated and Restricted Funds:

It is the policy of the Church Council to maintain a modest balance in the General Fund to cover fluctuations in operational expenditure, compared with income, and to transfer appropriate annual sums into Designated Funds intended to provide resources for larger investments in the maintenance and longer-term repair of the Church premises. The General Fund currently stands at £ 3992. An aspirational year-on-year balance of £ 10,000 in the General Fund would enable the Church Council to plan new initiatives with greater confidence.

As a result of a decision taken by the Church Council the Church Maintenance & Repair Fund and the Church Roof Fund have been merged into The Church Maintenance and Repair Reserve Fund (Designated), This fund provides for more major investments in maintenance, decoration, repair and replacement of the Church fabric and assets. During 2019 the only expense in the old Maintenance Fund covered the replacement of the Dishwasher installation in the Church Kitchen. With normal year-end transfer of £ 3,000 from the General Fund, the balance in this designated Fund stood at £ 13,863 at 31 December 2019 and this balance was transferred to the new composite fund.

The Church Roof Fund (Designated) reflected a decision taken by the Church Council during 2013 to set aside a sum of £4,000 annually to build up a separate financial resource for longer term repairs and renovation of the Church Fabric, such as future replacement of the Church roof. However this was reviewed by the Church Council early in 2020 and the decision was taken to merge it with the maintenance fund as stated above. The balance of this fund stood at £22,000 at 31 December 2019 and this has been transferred to the new maintenance fund. The total in the new combined maintenance fund stands at £41951. Our overall reserves increased by £3016 during 2020.

The Youth Activities Fund (Designated), established in 2016 holds the balance of the closed St Francis Church SOS53 Youth Club bank account; the Youth Club having closed due to lack of volunteers. A new, smaller, more teaching focused youth group was established in 2019 by Rev Cliff McClelland, Fiona Grove and Jamie Hill. A small sum from the Youth Activities Fund has been spent by this group in 2020 on materials for its members and the remaining funds will be utilised for Youth Group activities in subsequent years.

The Special Appeals Fund (Restricted) was set up in 2017 to enable receipt of grants and gifts made to the church expressly for specific projects or works, and all of these funds were disbursed in 2017. The fund was dormant during 2018 but used again in 2019 to fund expenditure on County Council highway signage, erected in roads in the immediate neighbourhood, at St. Francis' expense, to improve directions to the Church for motorists and pedestrians. A grant from the local County Councillor's community fund was

received into this Restricted fund to cover the full costs of the signage, and consequently the balance in this fund returned to zero prior to the year-end. In 2020 a small grant was received from Test Valley Borough Council for COVID cleaning as a result of the church being made available to the Chandlers Ford Help scheme as a storage and distribution centre of donated food. The fund was again brought to zero at the year end.

The Financial Statement for 2020 is also attached.

Accounts were approved by the Church Council 23rd April 2021 and signed on its behalf by:



Revd Dr Sarah McClelland Priest-in-charge and Chair of ECC and PCC

Independent Examiners report to the Church Council of Single Congregation Local Ecumenical Partnership For the year ending 31 December 2020

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of St Francis' Church, Valley Park

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of St Francis' Church, Valley Park for the year ended 31 December 2020, which are set out on pages 13 to 20 .

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trustee's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

As the charity trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

Independent examiner's statement

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

(1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act;
or

(2) the accounts do not accord with those records;
or

(3) the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

C J Goodhead FCA
Knight Goodhead Limited
Chartered Accountants
7 Bournemouth Road
Chandler's Ford, Eastleigh
Hampshire, SO53 3DA

Dated: 21 September 2021

CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. FRANCIS' CHURCH, VALLEY PARK SC-LEP

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Note	General Fund Unrestricted £	Other Funds Unrestricted £	Other Funds Restricted £	TOTAL FUNDS 2020 £	TOTAL FUNDS 2019 £
INCOME						
Donations and legacies	2(a)	106,317	0	1,577	107,894	104,378
Fundraising income	2(b)	63	0	0	63	92
Charitable Activities	2(c)	9,291	0	0	9,291	15,918
Investments	2(d)	0	0	0	0	0
Other income	2(e), 12	230	0	100	330	938
TOTAL INCOME		115,901	0	1,677	117,578	121,325
EXPENDITURE						
Fundraising costs	3(a)	54	0	0	54	0
Charitable Activities						
Mission Giving & Charitable Grants/Donations	3(b)	11,750	0	0	11,750	12,200
Parish shares	3(c)	70,119	0	0	70,119	67,493
Salaries and honoraria	3(d)	9,809	0	0	9,809	12,733
People-related Expenses	3(e)	1,885	0	0	1,885	2,625
Mission and evangelism costs	3(f)	132	0	0	132	376
Church running expenses	3(g), (j)	12,470	2,030	1,677	16,177	12,547
Church utility bills	3(h)	3,580	0	0	3,580	4,693
Governance costs	3(i)	1,057	0	0	1,057	410
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		110,855	2,030	1,677	114,562	113,077
MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		5,046	-2,030	0	3,016	8,248
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS	9 - 12	-8,052	8,052	0	0	0
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		-3,006	6,022	0	3,016	8,248
Balances brought forward at 1 January 2020	(2019)	6,898	36,915	0	43,813	35,366
Balances carried forward at 31 December 2020	(2019)	3,892	42,937	0	46,829	43,814

CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. FRANCIS' CHURCH, VALLEY PARK SC-LEP

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Website Development	4	4,357	0
Church Organ & Dishwasher		940	1,880
		5,297	1,880
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors and prepaid expenses	5	4,532	1,998
Short term deposits		0	0
Cash at bank		49,338	53,929
Cash in hand		31	31
		59,198	55,958
LIABILITIES			
Amounts falling due within one year	6	12,369	14,024
NET CURRENT ASSETS		46,829	41,934
LIABILITIES			
Amounts falling due after more than one year	7	0	0
NET ASSETS		46,829	43,814
FUNDS			
General Fund – Unrestricted		3,892	6,899
Church Maintenance & Repair Reserve Fund	8	41,951	0
Building Maint. & Repair Fund – Designated	9	0	13,863
Church Roof Restoration Fund - Designated	10	0	22,000
Youth Activities Fund - Designated	11	985	1,052
Special Appeals Fund (Restricted)	12	0	0
TOTAL CHURCH FUNDS		46,829	43,814
St. Francis' Rendezvous Community Café - Cash Balance in Hand	13	103	12

Approved by the Church Council on 23/04/2021, and signed on its behalf by:

Rev'd. Dr. Sarah McClelland - Priest in Charge

Andrew Grove - Treasurer

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the 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).

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

Funds

The General Fund represents the funds of the Church Council of St Francis', Valley Park, that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the Church Council.

Designated Funds: The Church Council has designated the following Funds for a particular purpose: The Building Maintenance and Repair Reserve Fund to provide resources for repair and maintenance of the church building and ground and larger one off expenditure as agreed by the Church Council. This has replaced the Church Repair & Maintenance Fund and The Church Roof Restoration Fund. The Youth Activities Fund represents the closed SOS53 Youth Club Bank Account. These designated funds are also unrestricted. In addition the Church operates a Community Café - St. Francis' Rendezvous Community Café. The accounts of this Café's activities during 2019 and 2020 are included in these accounts for information.

Restricted Funds: These represent grants or donations that require that the funds be used in a specific way or for a specific purpose. They may be considered a contract between the donating party and the receiving party. During 2020 a grant of £100 was recieved from VPPC towards additional costs relating to COVID 19 Hygiene maintenance as a result of the Church being made available to the Chandlers Ford Friends Group for food distribution.

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the Church Council is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Income

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the Church Council. 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. Any income tax recoverable and not received by 31 December is provided for in these accounts and included as a debtor in the Balance Sheet.

Grants and legacies to the Church Council are accounted for as soon as the Council is notified of its legal entitlement and the amount due.

Funds raised by social fundraising and similar events are accounted for gross and recognised when received.

Invoiced income from the hiring of the Church Building is recognised when receivable. Any invoiced income not received by 31 December is provided for in these accounts and included as a debtor in the Balance Sheet.

All other incoming resources are accounted for gross and recognised when received.

Income from investments
Interest is accounted for when receivable.

Expenditure

Grants

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the Church Council.

Activities directly relating to the work of the Church
The parish share and contributions to other participating denominations are accounted for when payable.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated land and buildings and moveable Church furnishings
Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by S.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993.

No value is placed on moveable Church furnishings held by the Churchwardens on special trust for the Church Council and PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal since the Church Council and PCC considers this to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings and moveable Church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities and separately disclosed.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment
Equipment used within the Church premises is depreciated on a straight line basis over 3 years, website straight line over 4 years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £2,000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Current assets

Amounts owing to the Church Council at 31 December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectible.

Short term deposits include cash held on deposit with the Central Board of Finance, Church of England Funds or at the bank.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

2 INCOME

		General Fund Unrestricted £	Other Funds Unrestricted £	Other Funds Restricted £	TOTAL FUNDS 2020 £	TOTAL FUNDS 2019 £
2(a)	**Donations and legacies**					
	Tax efficient planned giving	73,739	0	1,577	75,316	70,597
	Other planned giving	3,255	0	0	3,255	6,510
	Collections at services/gifts etc.	10,444	0	0	10,444	7,796
	Income tax recoverable	18,878	0	0	18,878	19,195
	Grants	0	0	0	0	280
		106,316	0	1,577	107,893	104,378
2(b)	**Fundraising**					
	Easy Fundraising	63	0	0	63	92
		63	0	0	63	92
2(c)	**Charitable Activities**					
	Income from outreach activities	0	0	0	0	143
	Statutory fees retained	1,424	0	0	1,424	482
	Income from use of church building	7,417	0	0	7,417	13,492
	Contribution to Overheads from Café Trading	450	0	0	450	1,800
		9,291	0	0	9,291	15,917
2(d)	**Investments**					
	Interest	0	0	0	0	0
		0	0	0	0	0
2(e)	**Other income**					
	Profit on ad hoc sales of equipment & materials	0	0	0	0	137
	Other income (incl. Local Fees for Occasional Offices)	211	0	0	211	429
	Grants for Special Appeals / Specific Works	19	0	100	119	373
	Insurance Claims	0	0	0	0	0
		230	0	100	330	938
TOTAL INCOME		**115,900**	**0**	**1,677**	**117,577**	**121,325**

3 EXPENDITURE

		General Fund Unrestricted £	Other Funds Unrestricted £	Other Funds Restricted £	TOTAL FUNDS 2020 £	2019 £
3(a)	**Fundraising costs:**					
	Cost of generating voluntary income	54	0	0	54	0
		54	0	0	54	0
3(b)	**Mission Giving and Charitable Grants & Donations:**					
	Benevolent Fund	0	0	0	0	0
	Home Charities and Good Causes	7,000	0	0	7,000	6,200
	Overseas Relief Agencies	4,750	0	0	4,750	6,000
		11,750	0	0	11,750	12,200
3(c)	**Parish Shares:**					
	Church of England	66,981	0	0	66,981	64,473
	Methodist Church	2,353	0	0	2,353	2,265
	United Reformed Church	785	0	0	785	755
		70,119	0	0	70,119	67,493
3(d)	**Salaries and honoraria:**					
	Parish administration	8,505	0	0	8,505	10,454
	Organists and musicians	268	0	0	268	1,090
	Church cleaning and Verger	1,036	0	0	1,036	1,189
		9,809	0	0	9,809	12,733
3(e)	**People-related expenses:**					
	Clergy Mileage, Telephone & Other Exps.	1,314	0	0	1,314	1,329
	Education & Training of Staff and Laity	572	0	0	572	1,296
		1,886	0	0	1,886	2,625
3(f)	**Mission and evangelism costs:**					
	Junior/Young people's church	120	0	0	120	149
	Outreach activities	0		0	0	200
	Teaching and Nurturing costs	12	0	0	12	27
	Pastoral costs	0	0	0	0	0
	Vacancy costs	0	0	0	0	0
		132	0	0	132	376
3(g)	**Church running expenses:**					
	Upkeep of services	408	0	0	408	1,901
	Hospitality and catering	137	0	0	137	539
	Insurance	1,059	0	0	1,059	1,050
	Maintenance, cleaning & servicing	2,451	940	100	3,491	3,520
	Furniture and equipment	67	0	0	67	0
	Administration costs	3,642	0	0	3,642	4,437
	Church magazine printing costs	605	0	0	605	1,100
		8,369	940	100	9,409	12,547
3(h)	**Church Utility Bills:**					
	Electricity	1,474	0	0	1,474	1,728
	Gas	1,652	0	0	1,652	2,436
	Water rates	454	0	0	454	529
		3,580	0	0	3,580	4,693
3(i)	**Governance costs**					
	Professional fees (inc. Independent Examiner's fee)	1,057	0	0	1,057	410
		1,057	0	0	1,057	410
	3(i) **Other Expenditure**					
	Office reordering	4,024	1,090	1,577	6,691	0
	Café - non catering costs	77	0	0	77	0
		4,101	1,090	1,577	6,768	0
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		**110,857**	**2,030**	**1,677**	**114,564**	**113,077**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	2020 £	2019 £
4 FIXED ASSETS		
Website Development at cost	5,447	-
Church Organ at Cost	5,846	5,846
Dishwasher at Cost	2,820	2,820
	14,113	8,666
Depreciation at the start of the year	6,786	5,846
Depreciation charged	2,030	940
Depreciation at the end of the year	8,816	6,786
Net book value	5,297	1,880
5 DEBTORS		
Prepaid expenses	0	0
Other debtors	4,532	1,998
	4,532	1,998
6 LIABILITIES		
Amounts falling due within one year		
Accrued Charitable donations	11,750	11,700
Other Accruals	0	1,954
Other Creditors	619	370
	12,369	14,024
7 LIABILITIES		
Amounts falling due after more than one year	0	0

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

DESIGNATED FUNDS

8 CHURCH MAINTENANCE & REPAIR RESERVE FUND

	2020 £	2019 £
Balance brought forward at 1 January	0	0
Transfer from Church Repair & Maintenance Fund	11,983	0
Transfer residual value of dishwasher from Ch M & R fund	1,880	0
Transfer from Church Roof Reserve Fund	22,000	0
Transfer from General Fund	7,000	0
Addition of Website Development (Payment Capitilisation)	5,447	0
Depreciation on Dishwasher	-940	0
Depreciation on Website	-1,089	0
Transfer to General Fund re Office Reorginisation	-4,329	
Balance carried forward at 31 December	**41,951**	0

9 BUILDING MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR FUND – DESIGNATED

	2020 £	2019 £
Balance brought forward at 1 January	**13,863**	11,803
Transfer from General fund		3,000
Donations	0	0
Expenditure during the year (Dishwasher)		-2,820
Addition of Fixed Asset (Dishwasher)		2,820
Depreciation on Dishwasher		-940
Transfer to General fund	0	0
Transfer residual value of dishwasher from Ch M & R fund	-1,880	
Transfer to Church Maintenance & Repair Reserve Fund	-11,983	
Balance carried forward at 31 December	**0**	**13,863**

10 CHURCH ROOF RESTORATION FUND – DESIGNATED

Balance brought forward at 1 January	22,000	18,000
Transfer from General fund	0	4,000
Donations	0	0
Expenditure during the year	0	0
Transfer to General fund	0	0
Transfer to Church Maintenance & Repair Reserve Fund	-22,000	0
Balance carried forward at 31 December	**0**	**22,000**

11 YOUTH ACTIVITIES FUND – DESIGNATED

Balance brought forward at 1 January	1,052	1,052
Transfer from General fund	0	0
Expenditure during the year	0	0
Funds from Closure of Youth Club Account	0	0
Transfer to General fund	-67	0
Balance carried forward at 31 December	**985**	**1,052**

RESTRICTED FUNDS

12 SPECIAL APPEALS FUND (for expenditure on specific works) - RESTRICTED

Balance brought forward at 1 January		0	0
Transfer from General fund		0	0
Donations		1,577	0
AV equipment purchased		-1,577	
Third Party Grants towards specific works	VPPC Covid cleaning	100	373
Expenditure towards costs of specific works	VPPC Covid cleaning	-100	-373
Balance carried forward at 31 December		**0**	**0**

13 ST FRANCIS RENDEZVOUS COMMUNITY CAFÉ - ACCOUNTS 2020

These accounts do not form part of the main Church Accounts.

	2020 £	2019 £
Balance brought forward at 1 January	12	26
INCOME		
Donations & transfers from Church General Fund	0	0
Receipts from Sales of Coffee, Tea and Cakes etc.	649	2,220
TOTAL INCOME	**661**	**2,246**
EXPENDITURE		
Refreshments (Milk, Coffee, Tea, Squash, Cakes, Biscuits etc.)	108	353
Catering supplies (Coffee Filters, Table cloths, Serviettes, etc.)	0	65
Housekeeping items (Dishwasher consumables etc.)	0	16
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	**108**	**434**
Surplus on Trading	**553**	**1,812**
Transfers to Church General Fund as contribution to Overheads	450	1,800
Balance carried forward at 31 December	**103**	**12**