

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.**

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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 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



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

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.



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

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.



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

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.



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

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	2024	First elected: 18 th Oct 2020 Re-elected 25 April 2021, 3 rd April 2022, 26 th March 2023
Church Warden		
Peter Rhodes	2024	First elected: 26 th March 2023
Church Warden		
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: 18 th 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	
Rogério Ramos	2024	Re-elected 25 April 2021
(PCC only)		
Dunni Ajayi	2025	Elected 3 rd April 2022
Caroline Gough	2026	Elected 26 th 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: 3 rd April 22
Mrs Linda King	(2024)	Electoral Roll Officer	Re-appointed: 26 th March 2023
Mr. Geoff. Roberts	(2024)	Gift Aid Secretary	Re-appointed: 26 th 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	
		<u>94,087</u>		<u>88,592</u>	
CREDITORS: amounts falling					
due within one year:	10	<u>(1,657)</u>		<u>(1,742)</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			92,430		86,850
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			<u>95,059</u>		<u>93,648</u>
FUNDS					
Unrestricted	11		12,593		19,918
Designated	11		40,272		56,091
Restricted	11		42,194		17,639
TOTAL FUNDS			<u>95,059</u>		<u>93,648</u>

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.

ST FRANCIS', VALLEY PARK SINGLE CONGREGATION LOCAL ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP

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

ST FRANCIS', VALLEY PARK SINGLE CONGREGATION LOCAL ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP

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

ST FRANCIS', VALLEY PARK SINGLE CONGREGATION LOCAL ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP

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
	<u>9,336</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,336</u>	<u>4,601</u>
Governance costs				
Bank charges	337	-	337	53
Independent examination fee	984	-	984	876
	<u>1,321</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,321</u>	<u>929</u>
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
	<u>12,500</u>

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

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.

ST FRANCIS', VALLEY PARK SINGLE CONGREGATION LOCAL ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP

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
	<u>3,448</u>	<u>3,782</u>

9 CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

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

10 CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Other creditors	1,657	1,742
	<u>1,657</u>	<u>1,742</u>

ST FRANCIS', VALLEY PARK SINGLE CONGREGATION LOCAL ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP

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.

ST FRANCIS', VALLEY PARK SINGLE CONGREGATION LOCAL ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP

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

12 ANALYSIS OF FUNDS

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

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

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
	<u>-</u>	<u>17,639</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>17,639</u>
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
	<u>50,098</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(4,507)</u>	<u>10,500</u>	<u>56,091</u>
Other unrestricted funds	<u>14,734</u>	<u>139,548</u>	<u>(123,864)</u>	<u>(10,500)</u>	<u>19,918</u>
Total funds	<u>64,832</u>	<u>157,187</u>	<u>(128,371)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>93,648</u>

ST FRANCIS', VALLEY PARK SINGLE CONGREGATION LOCAL ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP

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