



St Francis Church

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**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.**

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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 Francis! 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 Francis! 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. Jeremy 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	<i>URC rep</i>	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	<i>Resigned</i>	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	<i>Curate</i>	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 vergers 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	
		<u>103,667</u>		<u>94,087</u>	
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year:	10	<u>(2,047)</u>		<u>(1,657)</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			101,620		92,430
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			<u>101,620</u>		<u>95,059</u>
FUNDS					
Unrestricted	11		14,443		12,593
Designated	11		35,343		40,272
Restricted	11		51,834		42,194
TOTAL FUNDS			<u>101,620</u>		<u>95,059</u>

Signed on behalf of the PCC by:



 A. GROVE
 Trustee

Date: 16/1/25.

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.

ST FRANCIS', VALLEY PARK SINGLE CONGREGATION LOCAL ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP

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.

ST FRANCIS', VALLEY PARK SINGLE CONGREGATION LOCAL ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP

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

ST FRANCIS', VALLEY PARK SINGLE CONGREGATION LOCAL ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP

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

ST FRANCIS', VALLEY PARK SINGLE CONGREGATION LOCAL ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP

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
	<u>15,841</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,841</u>	<u>9,336</u>
Governance costs				
Bank charges	449	-	449	337
Accountancy	1,920	-	1,920	984
	<u>2,369</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,369</u>	<u>1,321</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>149,055</u>	<u>16,659</u>	<u>165,714</u>	<u>167,349</u>

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
	<u>10,200</u>

ST FRANCIS', VALLEY PARK SINGLE CONGREGATION LOCAL ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP

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
	<u>29,233</u>	<u>27,153</u>

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	<u>5,846</u>	<u>2,820</u>	<u>9,239</u>	<u>5,447</u>	<u>23,352</u>
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	<u>5,846</u>	<u>2,820</u>	<u>9,239</u>	<u>5,447</u>	<u>23,352</u>
NET BOOK VALUE					
At end of year	-	-	-	-	-
At beginning of year	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,539</u>	<u>1,090</u>	<u>2,629</u>

8 DEBTORS	2024 £	2023 £
Other debtors	<u>2,111</u>	<u>3,448</u>
	<u>2,111</u>	<u>3,448</u>

9 CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND	2024 £	2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	17,873	9,048
Deposit accounts	<u>83,683</u>	<u>81,591</u>
	<u>101,556</u>	<u>90,639</u>

ST FRANCIS', VALLEY PARK SINGLE CONGREGATION LOCAL ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP

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
	<u>2,047</u>	<u>1,657</u>

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
	<u>42,194</u>	<u>26,299</u>	<u>(16,659)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>51,834</u>
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
	<u>40,272</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(2,929)</u>	<u>(2,000)</u>	<u>35,343</u>
Other unrestricted funds	<u>12,593</u>	<u>146,496</u>	<u>(146,646)</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>14,443</u>
Total funds	<u>95,059</u>	<u>172,795</u>	<u>(166,234)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>101,620</u>

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 2024 (continued)

12 ANALYSIS OF FUNDS

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

	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>

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
	<u>17,639</u>	<u>40,111</u>	<u>(15,556)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>42,194</u>
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
	<u>56,091</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(15,819)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>40,272</u>
Other unrestricted funds	<u>19,918</u>	<u>128,649</u>	<u>(135,974)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,593</u>
Total funds	<u><u>93,648</u></u>	<u><u>168,760</u></u>	<u><u>(167,349)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>95,059</u></u>

ST FRANCIS', VALLEY PARK SINGLE CONGREGATION LOCAL ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP

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