

St Paul's Marylebone

Annual Report 2023



St Paul's Church, 5 Rossmore Road, London NW1 6NJ

www.stpaulsmarylebone.org



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A: Clergy Reports

Report: The Rev'd Clare Dowding (Rector)

'I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing'. (John 15.5)

I am delighted to present the 2023 Annual Report for St Paul's Marylebone to celebrate the life of the church and to give thanks for God's blessings over this past year.

We have much to celebrate in our church life in the rich fellowship and diversity of our church community; in growth in faith, hope and numbers of those believing; in welcoming people of all ages into the life of the church; and seeing our ministry within the parish and wider community expand and flourish.

In May 2023 we held a joyful celebration with Rt Revd & Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally, Bishop of London for the Confirmation and Reception to Holy Communion of members of our church community - Gracie, Darcie, Millie, Ruby, Tina, Elise, Miryam, Zara, Andrea and Robert were Confirmed, while Gabby was received into Holy Communion. It was a joyful and spirit-filled celebration and we continue to pray for all of those who made this special confession of faith, that they may grow and deepen in relationship with God throughout their lives.

In June 2023 the PCC met with Ven Luke Miller, Archdeacon of London, for our Triennial Visitation. The ministry team, greatly supported by Martin Carr, prepared the Visitation documents on the Digital Church Platform (the first church in the Diocese of London to trial this new online system) and the Archdeacon checked the documents, policies and practices for compliance. The Archdeacon met individually with the Rector, the Ministry team, the

Churchwardens and the PCC, focussing discussion on our vision, mission and hopes for the coming years. We ended the visitation with refreshments in the vicarage garden on a warm summer evening. The visitation report that followed gave a glowing report of the life of St Paul's with much to commend about our ministry and outreach and some areas of focus that we might consider weaving into our Mission Action Plan over the next few years.

During 2023 our PCC took time away together with Mirjam Ngoy-Verhage (Diocesan Discipleship Enabler) to explore the 'postures' and 'core principles' at the heart of our church life and to listen to where God is leading us as a church, community and congregation. We will continue to explore this over the coming year as we shape our Mission Action Plan 2025-2030.

Members of the congregation joined with churches from across the Diocese in Lent Listening Groups, enjoying the opportunity to share in scriptural study and listen to one another's stories of faith and life as we deepen our Christian journey together.

As part of the *Inclusive Church Network* we continue to strive to be a place of radical welcome and hospitality, and explore what this means for us in our ministry and outreach. As part of our ongoing learning we organised a series of preachers during Lent 2023 to learn more about Disability awareness and consider how we might become a more inclusive community for those of all abilities. Supported by the PCC we began conversations with 'WAVE for Change' (an organisation that seeks to ensure that churches are places where 'We are All Valued Equally') and through this connection we hope to establish a new worshipping community with WAVE in 2024-25. I am grateful to our Churchwardens and the PCC and to all the members of our community for the ways in which we build up our common life and take seriously the task of being a community that radiates God's inclusive and radical welcome.

We have been immensely blessed by Rev'd Donna McDowell's ministry among us as Assistant Curate over the past three years. Donna has given herself

wholeheartedly to the life of this community and has shaped us by her presence and friendship. I have greatly appreciated Donna's willingness to share in the leadership of the church, especially during my Study Leave in 2023 and whilst I covered an additional role as Acting Archdeacon of Charing Cross from July 2023-April 2024. We wish Donna every blessing as she moves to her next post, and assure her of our love and prayers throughout her priestly ministry.

Our ministry and administrative team has increased to help support the growing life of our church. In 2023 we welcomed Martin Carr onto the ministry team as Licensed Lay Minister, alongside his continuing role as Finance and Operations Manager at St Paul's and St Cyprian's. During the year we received funding from Westminster Council 'Greener Futures Fund' to increase the impact of our EcoChurch work, employing Alison Moulden as Net Zero Carbon Officer, based at St Paul's and working across churches in Westminster. Alison is also a Licensed Lay Minister and we were delighted to welcome her onto the ministry team as an occasional preacher. Within the administrative team we welcomed Melissa Royston-Bailey as Church and Community Administrator (St Cyprian's) with a focus on finance, and Joanna Olasoji as Church and Community Administrator (St Paul's) with a focus on Communications and Media. I am hugely grateful for the ongoing support of those who serve the church, especially Eurita Edwards and Paul Roadnight our Churchwardens who support the life of our church in many different capacities and represent our church within the Diocese and local community; our PCC who give of their time to support the vision and ministry of the church; and the wider ministry team including Rev'd Michele Lee (Chaplain at NHS Imperial Healthcare Trust, St Mary's Hospital) who leads our Friday morning Eucharist once or twice a month; Bill Miller who serves as our Food and Wellbeing Manager, leading the fabulous team of volunteers who offer a healthy three-course meal every week to around 60 guests; Gemma Kitchen who blesses us as Server during our worship; John Kitchen who enriches our worship as our regular organist, and those who have shared their musical gifts throughout the year playing the piano during communion - Lucy Tang, Tina

Tang and Julia Dawson; those who serve as Sidespersons, Intercessors and Readers; our Parish Safeguarding Officer, Angela Molloy; and our Caretakers, Steve Knight and Julie Freeman who keep the church clean and safe throughout the week.

Much of what happens in the church on Sunday mornings and throughout the week couldn't work as smoothly as it does without the dedication of those who offer a generous hand volunteering in many different ways: welcoming people on Sunday mornings; serving refreshments and offering hospitality; decorating the church with flowers and cleaning it for special occasions; sharing in worship, in prayer and intercessions, reading, music and leading junior church; setting up the chairs and altar for church and clearing it all away after worship; hosting fairtrade stall, coffee mornings and special events; visiting the sick and housebound and offering pastoral care to many in our community; and many more tasks, often quietly undertaken and unnoticed, that help our community flourish and grow. Thank you to everyone who plays a part in the life of the church and for offering your support so generously!

Our partnership with St Cyprian's Clarence Gate has continued to strengthen over the past year, with the ministry team serving alongside Fr Michael Fuller, and administrative teams working across both churches. Members of St Paul's and St Cyprian's have enjoyed worshipping together and I hope that over the next few years this partnership and our fellowship will continue to flourish.

Among all the joys and celebrations that we have shared over the past year we have also experienced the immense sadness of losing beloved members of our church community. On All Souls' Day, 2nd November 2023 we gathered for the funeral of Charlie Hammond and on Shrove Tuesday, 13th February 2024 we gathered for the funeral of Leonard Dry. Both Charlie and Len were huge characters within St Paul's, bringing so much joy and vitality by their presence among us and shaping the life of this church over many years. Len Dry served on the PCC right up to the end of his life and gave many years in service as Churchwarden; he also served as School Governor and Site Manager at Christ

Church Bentinck School - a connection with St Paul's and our church school that spanned over 30 years. Charlie grew up near St Paul's and spent his life within this community. He shared in the worshipping life of the church with his late-wife Kay, and we were blessed for many years by the ministry of Charlie and Kay's daughter Rev'd Debbie Hore and Richard Hore. Both Charlie and Len, and those among our wider church family who died this past year - including Alan, Doris, Jerry, June and Frank - will be greatly missed.

Alongside these significant events in the life of the church we continued in the day-to-day ministry of life of this parish:

- ❖ praying for all the people of the parish, those for whom we have the cure of souls;
- ❖ leading God's people in worship, prayer and sacraments;
- ❖ offering pastoral care in times of grief, joy and celebration;
- ❖ accompanying families and individuals through times of bereavement and death;
- ❖ visiting and anointing the sick and those experiencing difficulty;
- ❖ leading collective worship and class events in our church school;
- ❖ working with Headteacher, teachers, children, parents and Governing Body to explore the core spiritual values that underpin the education we provide and achieving a very successful SIAMS inspection;
- ❖ nurturing the life of the church through Bible study, fellowship and prayer;
- ❖ and sharing fully in the life of the parish and community in all its wonderful diversity.

This year has given us so many opportunities to see God's hand at work among us and to see the fruit of the kingdom growing as we abide in Jesus and open ourselves to the Spirit at work among us. This coming year I pray that we will continue to root our lives in Jesus Christ; to listen to where God is leading us and challenging us to grow; and be open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit at work

among us and among those whom we serve. May we continue to live out our vision: *Loving God, Loving Creation, Loving Community* here in this place.

As we mark this past year, we remember with gratitude and deep friendship those among our church community who have died in the faith of Christ.

**Alan Thompson
June Savage (CCB School Governor)
Doris Stavrides
Jerry Walsh
Frank Knight
Charlie Hammond
Len Dry**

May they rest in peace and rise in glory

Report: The Rev'd Donna McDowell (Assistant Curate)

As I come towards the end of my curacy at St Paul's I have been reflecting on all the opportunities I have had, all the wonderful people (and pets!) I have gotten to know, and how much fun it has been. From the moment I arrived I was welcomed with warmth, as were my family and my many friends who have come to visit and/or stay. Not long after I started I was able to introduce so many of them to the St Paul's community at my 50th birthday party and that will always be one of my abiding memories of my time here, especially the glittering performance from our resident line-dancers!

We are a community that loves to socialise and so many of my highlights are connected to parties and food and trips – from our monthly coffee mornings to the amazing retreat we went on. The community meal on Wednesdays has given me the opportunity to get to know so many people from our parish as well as all the volunteers, many of whom travel across London to be with us.

The Barnabas group have been a delight to get to know, and I have enjoyed dropping in to Newpin occasionally to chat to folks there as well. I have loved organising trips and days away and will treasure my memories of times together visiting Westminster Abbey, Greenwich, and St Paul's, as well as our Eco-Art walk along the Thames. Our eco-church journey has been a particular highlight for me and has allowed me to get to know folks in the wider community through the link with the Gardening Club at Penfold, and has given me the chance to reflect on finding and nurturing beauty within an urban environment.

Coming from a teaching background I was looking forward to spending time in our church school but I had no idea just how much I would love Christ Church Bentinck, its students and staff. It is so wonderful to be recognised by young people while walking around the parish or doing crafts at festivals on Church Street and to be introduced to their family members – it has taught me so much about what it means to be a parish priest. Getting to know some of the staff and women at the Marylebone Project has been a real highlight, as was our time with the Afghan women who came to our Sewing Club – their faces will be forever imprinted on my heart.

It has been such a privilege to do life with all of you, and I have found it so profound to preside at the Eucharist and to distribute communion to so many people who have opened their hearts to me and told me their stories so easily. My first mass was very special and the stole I received that day will be just one of the tangible treasures I will be taking with me to my new parish. It has also been a real privilege to share with so many of you during moments both joyful and sad: birthday parties, wedding anniversaries, confirmations. What an honour to be present at dear Charlie and Len's funerals – men I had grown so fond of and who I miss greatly. It has also been a huge honour to be asked to accompany others as they have grieved the loss of their loved ones, to be welcomed into their homes, and to get to know the departed through stories and memories shared. And to perform baptisms – what a joy! Zakai and Khalia will always remain close to my heart. As will the three couples I married.

St Paul's is a very special place and I know that I will miss it every Christmas as I remember walking around Lisson Green estate singing carols, and every Easter as I smile at the memory of soaking the congregation with holy water or laugh as I remember my anxiety over singing the Exsultet! In fact I will miss you every Sunday as I worship with a different community but please know that you will be in my prayers as I thank God continually for you and all you have taught me.

B: Meeting of Parishioners and APCM – 21 April 2024

Agenda

Apologies

Meeting of Parishioners

1. Minutes of Last Meeting
2. Election of Churchwardens

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Minutes of Last Meeting
2. Electoral Roll Report
3. Finance Report
4. Churchwardens Report
5. Deanery Synod Report
6. Elections to Deanery Synod and PCC
7. Appointment of Independent Examiner
8. Presentation of Annual Report
9. AOB

Minutes of 2023 Meeting

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 30 April 2023

St Paul's Church, 5 Rossmore Road

Present: Revd Clare Dowding (chair), Revd Donna McDowell, Eurita Edwards, Paul Roadnight (churchwardens) and 20 parishioners

Apologies: Martin Carr, Eileen Dry, Len Dry, Fiona McCreedy, Kirsty Kirby

Meeting of Parishioners (11.40am)

1. Minutes of last meeting, 3 April 2022

Agreed as an accurate record.

2. Election of Churchwardens

There were two candidates:

Eurita Edwards – proposed: Pam Dawson; seconded: Angela Molloy

Paul Roadnight – proposed: Julia Dawson; seconded: Wilf Parsons

Both were elected unopposed. It was acknowledged that much of their hard work is unseen, and they were thanked for all they had done in 2022, and especially during Clare's sabbatical in early 2023.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed and, the same persons being present, the APCM was opened.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) (11.50pm)

1. Minutes of last meeting, 3 April 2022

Agreed as an accurate record.

2. Electoral Roll Report

Kim McAuliffe reported that, after revision, the electoral roll currently stands at 71.

51 are resident in the parish and 20 are from outside the parish.

One of the newest members, Paddy, thanked everyone for the very warm welcome he has received since joining the church.

3. Finance Report

Martin's finance report was received. The financial statements for 2022, duly examined and approved by the PCC, were presented and received by the meeting.

Clare reported on the finances; we are well-supported by income from Freshstart and Homestart, who are only a few years in to their 10-year contracts.

A solar battery has been installed which allows us to benefit even more from our solar panels. We are aware that the sound system needs replacing and are looking at quotes in order to take that forward.

Foodcycle finance has been moved to a separate account, and, in response to a question about funding, Clare explained that Foodcycle is in a strong position thanks to the work Bill has been doing on fundraising.

Angela thanked Martin for all his hard work on the finances and for putting the report together.

4. Churchwardens Report

Read by Paul and received by the meeting. Paul gave more detail about the storage of the solar battery in the shed, and the work on lagging the pipes. Priorities for the coming year are replacing the fire alarms and the sound system.

Angela stressed the need for a fire drill.

Clare confirmed that the fire extinguishers and the safety lights had all had their annual check.

5. Deanery Synod Report

John's report was read by Clare who gave more detail about the LLF decision and where we are currently as a diocese. She asked for prayers for Bishop Sarah, specifically for protection and wisdom.

6. Elections

Clare explained that due to new legislation and revised numerical boundaries we can only have one Deanery Synod representative, not two, for the next three years.

There was one nomination: John Kitchen, proposed by Eva Mills, and seconded by Margaret Kettle. John was elected unopposed.

PCC were thanked for their term of service. With vacancies on the PCC there was room for two more members.

There were two nominations:

Julia Dawson – proposed: Angela Molloy; seconded: Valerie Logan

Wilf Parsons – proposed: Margaret Kettle; seconded: Trish Pearce

Both were elected unopposed.

7. Appointment of Independent Examiner

Our Independent Examiners are MASY Associates. The meeting approved them to continue in this role. Proposed: Wilf Parsons; seconded: Angela Molloy

Clare suggested we invite the Independent Examiner to meet with the PCC.

8. Presentation of Annual Report

Clare started her sharing of the Annual Report by stressing that everything we do comes from being rooted in Jesus, reflecting on John 15.5.

Margaret gave a recent example of a conversation she had with a stranger on a bus as an illustration of how we are branches reaching out into our community and offering shelter to those in need.

The report's contents were noted and received by the meeting.

9. AOB

Clare thanked Donna on behalf of the PCC for holding the church community during her sabbatical. She thanked the PCC and others in the church community for all their support during that time, and all the ways they contribute to the flourishing of the church.

Clare and Donna were thanked for all their care by the PCC.

There being no other business, the meeting closed with the grace and a blessing at 12.35pm.

C: PCC and Governance

The PCC are responsible with the Rector and Churchwardens for the governance of the church and are its trustees; they met 5 times in the past year. The membership in 2023 has been as follows:

The Rev'd Clare Dowding (Rector)
The Rev'd Donna McDowell (Assistant Curate)
Eurita Edwards (Churchwarden and Lay Vice Chair)
Paul Roadnight (Churchwarden)
John Kitchen (Deanery Synod)
Kim McAuliffe (Electoral Roll Officer)
Angela Molloy (Parish Safeguarding Officer)
Wilf Parsons
Julia Dawson
Susan O'Reilly
Len Dry (d. 13 January 2024)
Martin Carr (Finance Manager – in attendance)

Electoral Roll

Kim McAuliffe and Martin Carr

The roll has been revised ahead of this meeting and now stands at **78** members. 56 are resident in the parish, 22 are non-resident.

Deanery Synod Report

John Kitchen

The St Marylebone Deanery Synod is a formal meeting of representatives of the churches in the St Marylebone Deanery. Although there are business items to be dealt with, including the appointment of school governors, the meetings are mainly for information and discussion about mission and ministry in the

area. The Synod met three times during 2023, at which the following were the main points of discussion.

The first main item on the agenda for the January meeting was for churches to report back on the joys and challenges of Christmas 2022. The first three churches spoke of the number of carol services that had been held and the thousands of people who had come into the church for these services. It was then the turn of St Paul's. Revd Donna reported that we had held a crib service and a service on Christmas Day, but no Midnight Mass and many of the regular congregation away. She then went on to list all the work the church had done in the community helping those in need over the Christmas period. Thereafter, the remaining churches were a bit more restrained about the number attending services. The conclusion was that it was encouraging that large numbers attended the variety of services and events, but it was important to recognise the challenges faced within the local community, such as homelessness and the cost of living. This was followed by a discussion on looking ahead to 2023 and beyond, where the synod was asked to consider the concept of a 'Rule of Life' in making Confident Disciples. Following discussion in small groups, members shared the ways in which they put this into practice.

A meeting had been arranged for April to discuss the next steps of 'Living in Love and Faith' following the General Synod meeting in February, but it was felt that not all churches would have had chance to discuss the implications of the Bishop's statement, so the discussion was postponed.

The June meeting coincided with the Bishop of London's visit to parishes in the deanery. At the meeting Bishop Sarah gave her reflections on how churches in the deanery were nurturing disciples particularly among young people, and how they were supporting their local communities. She highlighted the diocesan website where there were resources to help with this. She also mentioned the work of the London Diocesan Board for Schools with children, adding that we also need to support parents and carers.

At the final meeting of the year in October, there was feedback from the General Synod meeting held in July which had proved to be challenging because of a number of conflicting narratives particularly with respect to the 'Living in

Love and Faith' matters. This was followed by a presentation from the Diocesan Discipleship Enabler highlighting the 2030 Diocesan vision with emphasis on becoming confident disciples.

D: Reports

Churchwardens' Fabric Report

Paul Roadnight

During 2023 we have had refurbishment and upgrades to the building. A brand new fire alarm has been installed which replaces the outdated system we previously had.

Redecoration has been carried out to the accessible areas of the main church space, with protection panels fitted to vulnerable areas. Lighting works have taken place with motion sensors fitted in Homestart and Freshstart offices along with some other areas of the church. Extra lagging has been installed on the hot water pipes.

Finance Manager's Report (2023 Annual Accounts in Appendix)

Martin Carr, February 2024

The accounts for 2023 show a surplus, largely due to grants received for our Net Zero and Healthy Communities projects.

We have healthy assets as we move to the next stage in our mission.

I am grateful to Christina Shiatis, our independent examiner, who is meticulous in helping me prepare the annual statements.

Thanks to all at St Paul's who either support the finances of the church from their own resources, or contribute time and talents to helping us thrive.

Income

Rental income from our licensees is stable and from other hall hirers has marginally increased in 2023. This level of income should ideally be sustained into the future.

Voluntary receipts are stable, though a rise in the proportion of income from congregational giving would be desirable. The Parish Giving Scheme was highlighted in 2023, and a tap-to-give facility introduced.

Expenditure

Our current level of Parish Share is affordable and can increase slowly in line with requests from the diocese.

Church running costs have sharply risen, due mainly to increased energy costs in 2023. We would expect to see this stabilise in 2024.

Staffing costs are stable for 2023, though we will increase this spend in 2024 as we increase capacity across the two parishes.

We await the invoice for the new fire alarm system, so this will be reflected in the 2024 accounts.

We have the financial capacity to continue to invest in our building, as we both seek to provide the best facilities for our community, and advance towards Net Zero.

Community Activities

St Paul's Community

Martin Carr

2023 was a busy year for the St Paul's community. I think if we had twice as much space to offer, we could fill it!

Our partners and licensees Homestart and Freshstart continue to develop their work in the gallery spaces and, as well as making a positive contribution

to the community, bring valuable rental income which enables much more to take place at St Paul's.

The main church-hall space is busy: WAES and Millennium Performing Arts make significant term-time use of the space, and we now have regular TARKA children's activities in holidays. Regular users have also been supplemented by the Bahar Choir, a group of Persian singers who rehearse here on Saturdays. Sport, community, hospitality and the arts – there is something for everyone happening at St Paul's.

As we look forward, we want to see our partnership with St Cyprian's grow, our space to continue well-used, and sustainably managed, and the good we do in our local area to be not only maintained but multiplied.

FoodCycle Marylebone

Bill Miller

Community meals served 2,609

Surplus saved 6694 kg

Volunteer time 2079 hours

WRAP-equivalent Meals: 15,938 (number of plates of food that the surplus food collected would make up)

Guests told us that everyone is nice and helpful, they enjoy the food and the company of others; it's an opportunity to leave home and socialise, to meet friends and have a chat with people; the meals are excellent, it's a great idea to use leftover food and they are happy with the service, staff, food and ambience.

We received benefits in kind from Trigon DM (new pump urns and kitchen equipment), funding from local businesses including NISA, Alex Rohm, and Westminster City Council Winter in the City, London Community Foundation's Together for London, Grocers' Hall Charity, Warwick Trust, Aviva Community Fund, Octopus Real Estate and individuals.



Church Stall Fairtrade and Recycling ***Fiona McCreedy***

The Church stall was originally the Fairtrade stall. Traidcraft plc who the church bought Fairtrade goods from went into administration at the end of 2022. Jams and marmalade home made with Fairtrade sugar are still sold benefitting both Fairtrade and the Church and are very popular especially on coffee mornings. People can donate unwanted gifts and items that they no longer need. Less going into landfill and their sale also benefits the Church. The charity part of Traidcraft still exists and is now called Transform Trade. We hold a Big Brew coffee morning for this once a year during Fairtrade fortnight which is always successful. In Church we use fairtrade sugar, tea, coffee and communion wine and encourage everybody to look for the Fairtrade logo goods in the supermarket.

Church Garden

Fiona McCreedy

We are keen to have a lovely green space outside the Church. It is enjoyed by all that are waiting for a bus and is good for standing conversations. It is kept tidy and watered by members of the congregation. We have bug and bee hotels, plants that are insect-friendly, especially bees to help with the biodiversity. In 2022, we received a grant from the neighbourhood keepers fund and we were able to install two water butts to catch the rain water. This also makes it much easier for watering. We got some new planters and replaced the ones already there that we made from recycled large tyres. A willow screen was also put up to hide the bins. We now have a compost bin so garden waste, and the dead flowers can be recycled into compost.

Having the green space has helped the Church to obtain the eco-church gold award. I would encourage anybody who enjoys being in the fresh air to come and help in the garden, I personally welcome help.

We are happy to announce our collaboration with 'Garden Twinning'. We have 'twinned' our garden with another garden in Migori, Kenya, this means we are helping a family living in rural Africa with three years' training in sustainable organic farming.



Daffodils in the Church Garden

Alison Moulden
Net Zero Carbon Officer

Alison's work on Net Zero feeds into St Paul's ambition to be a leader in Westminster as a gold-awarded Eco Church. In 2023, closer to home, we have added to our beautiful but small garden to maximise biodiversity and beauty in a small patch of urban Marylebone. In response to our energy audit we have insulated pipework, completed our conversion to LED lighting and will now investigate secondary glazing to improve the insulation of the building. We look to all who form part of our community to join us in working for a more sustainable future.

Reverend Donna Mc Dowell
Update on sewing machines

In November we were very pleased to be able to donate three of the sewing machines we acquired for our Afghan Sewing Group to *Stitches in Time*, a non-profit organisation based in Tower Hamlets. *Stitches* is an Arts and Education charity with a social outreach arm (Tower Hamlets Recovery College) focused on sewing and upskilling. They sent us this message of thanks:

"These [sewing machines] have been used for both our beginners classes and our sewing classes that we deliver at the Tower Hamlets Recovery College. By having more machines we've been able to increase our capacity of students attending and skills that we can teach people as all students are able to be on a machine at the same time. We're very grateful for the machines." Esther Malvern: Project Manager.

Friday morning Eucharist

Susan O'Reilly

Friday morning at St Paul's - a good start to the weekend.

Every Friday at 8.30 am a small group meets in the Chapel, along with a member of the Clergy, for our Friday morning Communion service. The service is shorter than on Sunday and everyone contributes, either by reading, lighting the candles or distributing service sheets. No matter how many or how few people turn up, the atmosphere is always calm and friendly. At the end of the service we make tea and toast and all enjoy a sociable breakfast, often with lively conversation and discussion. Anyone free on a Friday is more than welcome to come along.

Wreath-making event

Julia Dawson



The opportunity to bond and make connections through crafting at Christmas time were special particularly as women and since the pandemic. We were able to talk, share feelings and emotions, have a laugh and connect over a shared activity - which feels so rare but was sublime! And to end with a wonderful creative and tangible entity at the end!

Appendix A: Annual Accounts

St Pauls Church
5 Rossmore Road, Marylebone, London, NW1 6NJ

31st December 2023

MASY Associates Ltd
23a Craven Terrace
London
W2 3QH

St Paul's Church

Independent Examiner's report to the member/trustees of St Paul's Church, Marylebone, NW1 6NJ

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023, which are set out on the following pages.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act)) and that

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts (under section 43(3) of the Act);
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 43 (&)(b) of the Act); and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

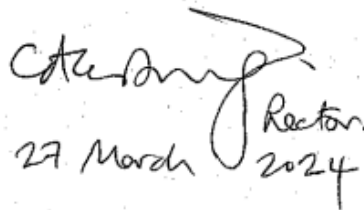
In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention

1. which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements.
 - a) to keep accounting records in accordance with s.41 of the Act; or
 - b) to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records have to been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

MASY Associates Ltd
23a Craven Terrace
London
W2 3QH

8th February 2024




Rector.
27 March 2024

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Receipts and Payments Accounts

	Note	Unrestricted Fund £	Unrestricted Designated Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Endowment Fund £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Receipts							
Voluntary Receipts:							
Planned Giving		£4,821.61				£4,821.61	4,058
Collections at services		£2,844.34				£2,844.34	3,674
All other giving/voluntary receipts		£2,684.54				£2,684.54	2,029
Legacies		£0.00				£0.00	-
Gift Aid recovered		£1,053.29				£1,053.29	3,146
Foodcycle donations		£0.00				£0.00	598
TOTAL		£11,403.78	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£11,403.78	13,505
Activities for generating funds	4a	£779.20		£34,500.00		£35,279.20	26,984
Investment Income	4b	£4,130.51		£373.74		£4,504.25	4,299
Church Activities	4c	£113,364.75				£113,364.75	111,633
Total Receipts		£129,678.24	£0.00	£34,873.74	£0.00	£164,551.98	156,420
Payments							
Church Activities:							
Parish Share		£32,000.00				£32,000.00	30,000
Clergy and staffing costs	4d	£46,323.51				£46,323.51	50,159
Church running costs	4e	£48,686.83				£48,686.83	50,843
Mission giving	4f	£1,557.43		£4,373.74		£5,931.17	1,458
Mission expenses, hospitality		£2,791.39				£2,791.39	4,193
Foodcycle expenses							11,843
Projects (NZC, Warm Spaces)		£0.00		£4,887.32		£4,887.32	-
TOTAL		£131,359.16		£9,261.06		£140,620.22	148,496
Cost of generating funds		£0.00				£0.00	706
Bank charges		£84.00				£84.00	99
Total payments		£131,443.16	£0.00	£9,261.06	£0.00	£140,704.22	149,301
Excess of receipts over payments		(£1,764.92)	£0.00	£25,612.68	£0.00	£23,847.76	7,119
Transfers between funds		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	24,923
Current Acc Savings Acc Investment a/c							
Cash at bank 01/01/23		£16,529.03	£16,039.49	£5,088.17	£37,656.69		
Cash at bank 31/12/23		£32,074.86	£21,365.49	£8,064.10	£61,504.45		
Change in Bank Balances						£23,847.76	

4 Further Analysis of Receipts and Payments

	Unrestricted General Fund	Restricted Fund	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
a) Activities for generating funds:				
Coffee mornings / church fayres	199.20		199.20	296
Fundraising for external charities	580.00		580.00	658
Fabric grants and projects		34,500.00	34,500.00	9,536
Foodcycle grants				6,928
Other (Afghan welcome)				9,566
	<u>779.20</u>	<u>34,500.00</u>	<u>35,279.20</u>	<u>26,984</u>
b) Investment Income:				
Dividends on CCLA Investment Funds (Mould)		373.74	373.74	372
FIT payments	790.84		790.84	987
Investment income (Account 012764001D)	2,695.78		2,695.78	2,765
Interest on investment account	280.15		280.15	53
Bank Interest	363.74		363.74	120
	<u>4,130.51</u>	<u>373.74</u>	<u>4,504.25</u>	<u>4,299</u>
c) Church Activities:				
Fees for weddings and funerals	2,095.00		2,095.00	1,630
Fairtrade stall income	961.15		961.15	1,250
Church Centre lettings	95,444.42		95,444.42	94,191
Sundry Refunds	14,864.18		14,864.18	14,562
Other				-
	<u>113,364.75</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>113,364.75</u>	<u>111,633</u>
Payments				
d) Clergy and staffing costs				
Salaries	29,630.43		29,630.43	32,258
Tax and NI and pensions	9,813.31		9,813.31	2,696
Staff expenses/costs	3,335.91		3,335.91	1,975
Parish flat costs	3,543.86		3,543.86	13,231
	<u>46,323.51</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>46,323.51</u>	<u>50,159</u>
e) Church running expenses:				
Organ and piano inspection/maintenance	1,226.98		1,226.98	312
Costs of services	2,473.18		2,473.18	4,164
Office costs	9,706.49		9,706.49	4,093
Church building running expenses and insurance	20,956.82		20,956.82	11,833
Church refurbishment, repairs & maintenance	11,862.71		11,862.71	27,589
Professional fees	1,340.65		1,340.65	1,480
Assigned fees to LDF	1,120.00		1,120.00	1,156
	<u>48,686.83</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>48,686.83</u>	<u>50,627</u>
f) Mission giving and donations:				
A Rocha UK	240.00		240.00	240
Climate Stewards	400.00		400.00	287
Unlock	450.00		450.00	325
Christian Aid	178.85		178.85	-
Inclusive church				100
Mould Trust		373.74	373.74	372
Foodcycle	34.58	4,000.00	4,034.58	-
Toilet Twinning	124.00		124.00	-
Big Brew	130.00		130.00	133
	<u>1,557.43</u>	<u>4,373.74</u>	<u>5,931.17</u>	<u>1,458</u>

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

		Unrestricted Funds (£)	Designated Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Total 2023 (£)	Total 2022 (£)
Cash Funds	Notes					
Bank Current Account		26,549.27	-	5,525.59	32,074.86	16,529.03
Bank Gold (Savings) Account		-	-	21,365.49	21,365.49	16,039.49
		<u>26,549.27</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>26,891.08</u>	<u>53,440.35</u>	<u>32,568.52</u>
Investment Assets						
Investment deposit	2A	8,064.10			8,064.10	5,088.17
Investment Fund Shares at market value	2B	101,723.85			101,723.85	92,976.30
		<u>109,787.95</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>109,787.95</u>	<u>98,064.47</u>

Notes

1 The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts & Payments basis.

2A CCLA investment deposit account CB3000478-001 (includes interest of £280.15)

2B CCLA investment CB300479-001 - 4500 shares at estimated share value £22.6053 (remnant of St Matthew's hall fund)

3 The movements in restricted and designated funds during 2023 were:

	Bal B/fwd	Receipts	Payments	Bal C/fwd
RESTRICTED				
Boxing Day Lunch	1,278.40	-	-	1,278.40
NZC Project	-	20,000.00	4,254.49	15,745.51
Warm Spaces Project	-	10,500.00	632.83	9,867.17
TOTAL	1,278.40	30,500.00	4,887.32	26,891.08
DESIGNATED				
None				
TOTAL	-	-	-	-

