

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST, HOLLAND ROAD, DIOCESE OF KENSINGTON

England & Wales · Charity number 1169173

Details

Other names St John the Baptist Holland Road PCC

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 2016-09-14

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

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Aubrey Walk
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Activities

Objects: PROMOTING IN THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH THE WHOLE MISSION OF THE CHURCH.

Activities: PROMOTING THE WHOLE MISSION OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Kensington And Chelsea

Finances

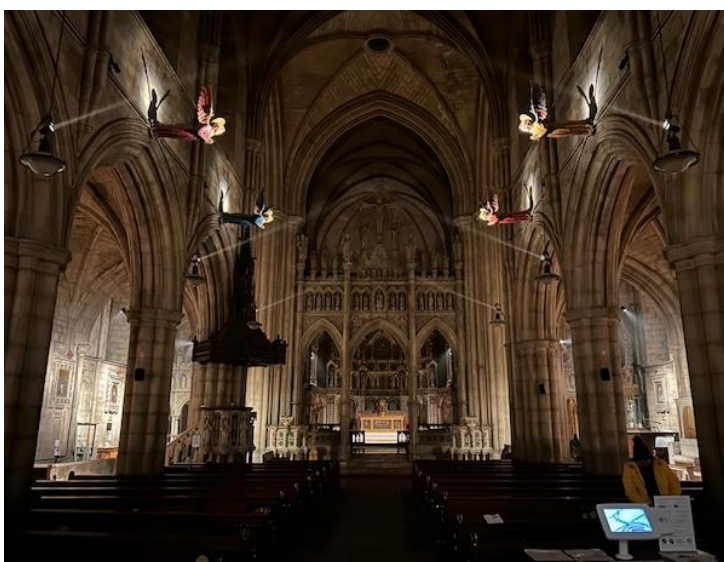
Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£188,629	£242,533	-	-
2023-12-31	£274,231	£198,220	-	-
2022-12-31	£151,471	£125,643	-	-
2021-12-31	£86,186	£86,694	-	-
2020-12-31	£124,881	£137,604	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
James Heard	Chair	2013-09-08
ANITA IBRU		2024-05-19
Dr Richard Davenport-Hines		2026-05-10
Frances Jane Davenport		2019-05-15
Jamie Priestley		2019-05-15
Joanna Hamilton		2026-05-10
Judith Neuling		2026-05-10
Katherine Mary Cullinan		2020-10-12
Kristin Milward		2019-05-15
Lan Shi		2026-05-10
Lan Shi		2026-05-10
Lindsay Fulcher		2019-05-15
Rev Neil Traynor		2019-05-15
Rev Peter Hugh Wolton		2014-06-28
Rosemary Mortimer		2026-05-10
Roy Clark		2024-05-19
Stephanie Christina De Mel		2019-03-31
Tim Evans		2024-05-19
Tracy Turley		2023-05-14

Accounts

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Saint John the Baptist, Holland Road, Annual Report 2024



St John the Baptist, Holland Road

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Administrative Information

St John's Church is situated on Holland Road in Kensington and is part of the Church of England in the Diocese of London. It forms part of the United Benefice of Holland Park. The PCC members who have served from October 2023 until the date this report was approved are:

The Revd Dr James Heard	Chair	(Ex Officio)
The Revd Neil Traynor	Associate Priest	(Ex Officio)
The Revd Peter Wolton	Associate Priest	(Ex Officio)
The Revd Dana English	Associate Priest	(Ex Officio)
Clare Heard	LLM	(Ex Officio)
Ms Lindsay Fulcher	LLM & Synod Rep	(Appointed 2023)
Mrs Jenny Davenport	Churchwarden & Vice Chair	(Appointed 2024)
Mr William James	Churchwarden	(Appointed 2024)
Dr Stephanie de Mel	Hon. Treasurer	(Appointed 2022)
Ms Kristin Corbet-Milward	Safeguarding Officer	(Appointed 2022)
Ms Kate Cullinan		(Appointed 2024)
Dr Jamie Priestley		(Appointed 2022)
Ms Anita Kouassigan		(Appointed 2022)
Ms Tracy Turley		(Appointed 2023)
Tim Evans		(Appointed 2024)
Mr Roy Clark		(Appointed 2024)

Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure and is a registered charity.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. Membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent vicar, three associate vicars, church wardens and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish, including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be managed.

The Diocese of London

The Diocese of London is the largest and most diverse in the Church of England. There are over 500 churches and 750 licensed clergy. There is a church in almost every community, supporting the vision for every Londoner to encounter the love of God in Christ. In 2024, 50 new deacons were ordained and early draft statistics indicate that Average Weekly Attendance in London grew by 7.5% to over 60,000. During 2024, we have continued working towards our priorities of becoming a younger, safer and more racially just Church.

Public benefit statement

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, 'Charities and Public Benefit'.

Aims and Purpose

The PCC is responsible for co-operating with the Vicar in promoting within the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC also has maintenance responsibilities for St John's Church, and the surrounding land.

Worship and Sacramental Care

The Parish Eucharist is the principal act of worship offered by the parish. It is celebrated week by week in accordance with the apostles' teaching and fellowship in the breaking of bread and prayer (Acts 2:42). The PCC is grateful to the sidespeople, readers and to all who contribute in many other ways to the life and worship offered to God by this parish.

Daily Prayer

We meet daily for prayer on zoom – 9.15am Monday to Friday for **Morning Prayer** and 9.30pm for **Compline** on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The **meditation group**, faithfully led by Gill Rowe, meets on Mondays at 6.00pm both at St George's and on zoom. We have been encouraged by the significant increase in people for these services.

Pastoral and social care

Pastoral and social care of the parish continues to be shared by the ministry team and several pastoral visitors. Pastoral care is also exercised through such activities as the lunch club. This team make regular 'phone calls and visits in the parish.

Safeguarding

Kristin Corbett-Millward is the designated safeguarding officer for St John's and Clare Heard is our children's champion. Fr Peter is the lead DBS checker. The diocesan safeguarding dashboard is used and updated on a regular basis and we review safeguarding at every PCC meeting.

Evangelisation

St John's is committed to the Gospel imperative to 'make disciples of all the nations; baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit' (Matthew 28:19), and to rising in future to the challenge of engagement in active evangelisation amongst all the peoples of the parish it serves.

Ecumenical links

As a modern catholic parish of the Church of England, St John's Church honours the Lord's High Priestly prayer that all Christians may be one as he and the Father are one (John 17:21), and seeks to foster its local relationship with Christians of the great communions of East and West in furtherance of the full and organic unity of the Church. To this end we play our part in the membership of the Kensington Council of Churches.



Review of the year

The PCC met five times during the year. A revised electoral roll was drawn up in advance of this Annual Parochial Church Meeting. There are currently 107 people on the electoral roll.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statement

The trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, of the charity for that period.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- 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 material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on a going-concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

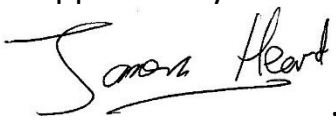
The trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations and the provisions of the Church Accounting Regulations 2006.

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.

Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approval

The Annual Report was approved by the PCC on ...30 April..... 2025 and signed on their

behalf by: 

The Reverend Dr James Heard,
PCC Chair,

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Saint John The Baptist, Holland Road

Vicar's Report – Fr James Heard

This year has been full of encouraging developments, and I am immensely grateful to my colleagues and the congregation for making this such a wonderful place to minister. I feel truly blessed!

Staffing Updates We are delighted that Daniel, our office manager, moved from part- to full-time, providing much-needed support to Neil at St John's. Victoria continues her invaluable work as our financial administrator, serving four hours a week.

Remembering Jill Traynor Our community was deeply affected by the passing of Jill Traynor, who battled cancer for over three years. Revd Neil arranged a deeply moving farewell, with a requiem followed by a funeral service, both featuring sublime music. Reflecting on the occasion, Neil shared: 'There has been sadness, but also much joy, hope, and goodness. We've been surrounded by a wave of love, inspired by music that was simply outstanding. More than one person told me they felt transported to heaven themselves!'



Growing Our Ministry Team Our ministry team continues to expand. This year, Jenny Davenport began the selection and training process for the priesthood through the Caleb Stream at St Mellitus. Daniel Gable was accepted into the three-year St Edmund's Course in Christian Studies to train for Licensed Lay Ministry (LLM). Meanwhile, Eman, Dana, and Clare continue to lead our children's and youth ministries, both of which are experiencing encouraging growth (see report below).

Grow Course As part of my fourth and penultimate year as Area Dean of Kensington, I organised a ten-month Deanery-wide Grow Course, run by the Diocese of London. This initiative encourages churches to be intentional about growth in health, depth, and impact. Six of us from the United Benefice participated in this, with the PCCs included in some of the course material and discussions about our strengths—such as discipleship, youth ministry, and organisation—and identifying opportunities for further growth.

One key realisation was that all four clergy are working at full capacity, and some events simply cannot happen without additional volunteers. A mapping exercise highlighted the many unseen, yet essential, contributions of our congregation, from washing altar linen to supporting the lunch club and youth club. Our Time and Talents initiative aims to broaden engagement and identify areas still needing support. Another aspect which was highlighted was the importance of all of us to actively look for newcomers and welcoming them. Welcome cards have been designed and printed and are now in use.

Lent Course The Lent Course, *Celebrating Difference: Listening and Learning from Those Who Have Been 'Othered'*, featured four evenings of study, reflection, discussion, and prayer at St George's and via Zoom. Speakers included Lindsay Fulcher, Fr Davidson Solanki (Kensington Area Dean of Racial Justice), Fr Gareth Wardell (Vicar of St Clement & St James), Evelyn Blake, and Fr Brian Leathard (Rector of Chelsea Parish and Chair of Glass Door). We were powerfully reminded of the Church's calling to welcome the stranger and to be transformed through these encounters.

Confirmation After a series of preparatory sessions, we were delighted to welcome Bishop Michael Marshall, who confirmed six candidates—three teenage boys and three adults. It was a deeply moving occasion, witnessing these individuals boldly affirming their faith. Do read or re-read his sermon on our website sermon blog.

Rule of Life London's Capital Vision encourages churches to adopt a Rule of Life. During Easter, we focused on five key areas: worship, rest, generosity, service, and learning. Like a trellis supporting a young plant, these practices help us grow in faith. Ultimately, it is not about what we do, but who we aspire to become.

Prayers of Love and Faith (PLF) The House of Bishops endorsed *Living in Love and Faith* prayers for same-sex couples, with their use at the discretion of clergy. The United Benefice clergy unanimously support their adoption, and the following motion was strongly supported by the PCC:

The Vicar and PCC resolve to fully and immediately adopt the Prayers of Love and Faith (with Pastoral Guidance) so that same-sex couples in loving, faithful, and stable relationships may seek God's blessing.

PLF will be available for private prayers or during public worship when requested, and pending future authorisation by the House of Bishops, may also be used as a standalone service. This aligns with our commitment as an Inclusive Church, which affirms: 'We believe in an inclusive church—a church that celebrates and affirms every person and does not discriminate.'

Celebrations We rejoiced in the ordination of Daniella Fetuga-Joensuu at St Paul's Cathedral on 29th of June. She is now serving her curacy at St John's Notting Hill. Additionally, we marked several significant anniversaries (see Churchwarden's report. Finally, we had the pleasure of hosting Carsten Bolz, a minister from Berlin, as part of a 25-year partnership between the Diocese of London and the German Protestant Church in Berlin.



Churchwardens' Report

Over the last year, and thanks to increased income from the crypt, wedding blessings and congregational giving, we've been able to undertake more maintenance to the building. In early January we replaced a gutter on the north side of the room over the vestry, and then redecorated the room shortly afterwards. We commissioned a measured survey of the building which will help architects and contractors in their work, and smooth future plans.

We also repaired steps on the south side of the Church which had been damaged and where we discovered some structural work was also needed. The final stage of stonework is to be completed in April.

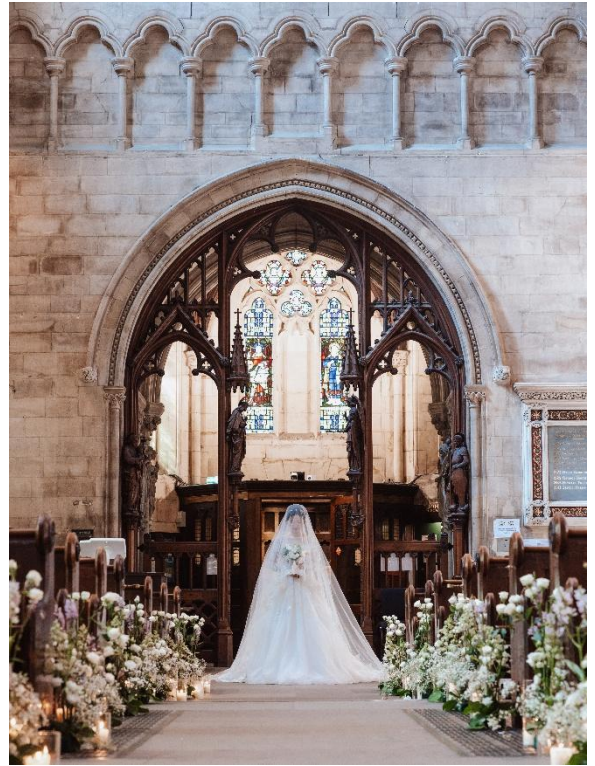
We are still working on the project to reinstate hanging lamps at the High Altar, which has taken many years.

We're now close to having all of the information we need to submit the faculty application, and we will then need to raise the £30,000 to enable us to do this, together with some other essential lighting and electrical work that we need at the same time.

Other urgent work in 2025 will include the replacement of the kitchen floor as the sub-floor of wood has decayed. Quotes are in hand and a faculty application is likely to be submitted shortly. The major fundraising for the organ will be started after Easter 2025.

Our lightning protection system is in good order (having suffered a strike at some point in 2024) and we've done additional work in the crypt and elsewhere to upgrade our electrics. We hope that these are now in good condition. Similarly our fire extinguisher provision was upgraded in 2024 with many of our extinguishers needing full replacement. These issues, along with PAT testing of our electrical equipment, are essential to get right to ensure that St John's is in as good condition as it can be.

It's a pleasure to see the building used not just as a place of worship but as a gathering place for the community at large. The hire of St John's for the prestigious Avicenna Awards for the second year and for external carol services helps to cement our reputation as a welcoming church.



Associate Vicar's Report - Revd Neil Traynor

At the risk of repeating an opening from previous years, 2024 has been remarkable for St John's. We're doing more things, more often, a number of which were not anticipated at the start of the year, and which have now become permanent fixtures.

There was a change of warden at the last APCM, and we thanked Kate Cullinan for all of her hard work, and welcomed Jenny Davenport as her replacement. We are grateful for Bill James continuing in post.

We also bade farewell to Daniella as she was ordained deacon in June, and is now serving her title at St John's Notting Hill. We are all grateful to Lindsay for continuing to explore her vocation, even though she decided that ordained ministry wasn't the right course at the moment. We are also delighted that Jenny Davenport is undertaking the Caleb Course, with a potential ordination in September. The PCC have continued to be a source of strength and support, and their wisdom is greatly valued.

On a personal note, I'm very grateful to James, Peter Dana, Daniel, Wardens and everyone for covering for my extended absence, at short notice, from April to September. Clergy from neighbouring parishes, particularly Helen from St Philips, but also Gareth from St Clements and Tim from St Mary Abbots have helped with the workload which was much appreciated. Both Harriet and I continue to be very touched by the notes of condolence from parishioners from both congregations and the wider community following Jill's death, and the support and prayers of you all has been a great help in the healing process.



Ukrainian Conversations

We were approached by the Society of Friends in Hammersmith (Quakers) to ask whether we could host an informal conversation class for Ukrainian refugees on Saturday mornings. This began as a time limited experiment across Lent, but it quickly became clear that there was a demand from both the Ukrainians and volunteers, and we've been delighted to see how this has blossomed over the year.

Community Café

We were approached by the Holland Ward councillors who asked if we could host a free café for local residents on Saturday mornings. We are grateful to Verra Fenton who runs the café, and to Kate Hyatt for her help and advice on setting up the café. The ward councillors now use this as an opportunity to hold their ward surgeries. The café began after Easter 2024, and has been much appreciated by its users.

Growth

There have been a number of areas of growth for which we're very grateful. For details of the growth of music in our services, please see the separate report.

Wedding blessings

Our links with the Chinese wedding blessing firms has increased over the year, and we conducted 43 blessings and 78 photoshoots in St John's. This is a significant increase on previous years, and has become a regular part of our work. It's a delight to welcome the couples, and is a blessing to both them and to St John's. This is now a major income stream.

Pet Blessings

Our ministry to those with pets has unexpectedly grown this year. Our annual pet blessing in October went viral on *The Dog Vine* social media, and as a result we had a packed church – around 300 dogs and over 500 people. Many of those attending are not regular worshippers, and it is a pleasure to welcome them to St John's. As the October blessing was such a success we created a new service "Carols with your Pet" on the Sunday before Christmas, which was attended by over 200 people. A further service will be held on Palm Sunday, and the intention is to hold a pet-focussed event quarterly.



Social Media

Our social media profile has increased markedly over the year. We are active on Google Maps, Twitter, Instagram, BlueSky, TikTok, YouTube and Rednote – each targeting different audiences. Much of this is visually led, and from December we've been taking short videos of the choir in rehearsal or performance, which is increasing our reach. Rednote only became widely available in January 2025, but, thanks to the Chinese wedding blessings there are many pictures of St John's (and the clergy) already there and our profile was quite high from the beginning.

In early January a YouTube influencer, Max Fosh, asked to have an avocado blessed. His video currently has 5.7m views and has brought St John's before a new and much wider audience. In December Max returned to use us as a rehearsal venue for another stunt involving a choir singing football chants.

Tourism

We have seen a steady increase in the number of tourists visiting St John's. Some of this is due to being able to be open more frequently now that Daniel is regularly at St John's a couple of afternoons a week. A new hotel has opened in Holland Road (Bob W) and we're working more closely with the Hilton Hotel. Many tourists use Google Maps and find us through that media. In addition, *Trafalgar Tours* has St John's on their list of 'must visit' tourist spots in Kensington.

Worship

Our core act of worship continues to be the 6.30 Sunday Eucharist. With the growth in wedding blessings we are now holding more services, but irregularly. During Lent we held some additional services including two services of Tenebrae.

We continue to be grateful to all our servers, the core of whom remain John Sen and Daniel Gable, with help from Gary Matthews, John Aramanyagam, Neal Malcolm and Sandra Hempel. Without them our worship would be much diminished.

We conducted three baptism services, and two funeral services. That for Jill Traynor was a full sung requiem, followed by a funeral service the following day. The second was the funeral for Clare Robert, a scion of the Priestley family, and with long connections to St John's. May they both rest in peace, and rise in glory.

We have seen a growth across our services, and this is noticeable with services like Remembrance and Advent Sundays nearly doubling in size.

Music has been at the core of our worship, and the Choral Scholars, under the direction of Toby Ward have brought real glimpses of heaven. We are very grateful to the funder whose generosity allowed us to have them each week from September. It's noticeable that in the first half of the year we averaged 65 people at services, and 75 since they began to sing each week.

For the first time this year we were delighted to host two external carol services – for St Edwards School, Oxford, and also for the Lady Garden Foundation. We hope to welcome more events like these to St John's.

Our congregation has continued to grow, and we are delighted to welcome such a wide and varied congregation from all the nations of the world. Our commitment to be a hospitable place for all continues apace, and our welcomers each week are a vital part of this mission, as are the refreshments following the service. Since becoming a part of the "Single friendly church" network, we've challenged ourselves to think about our congregation in new ways. Our membership of the "Major Churches Network" enables us to share common issues with similar churches and is an encouragement for our work here in St John's.



Fr Peter Wolton

The Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul on 30th June 2024 saw an Anniversary Sung Eucharist take place at St. George's to celebrate multiple anniversaries of the Clergy team: ten years of service by Fr. James, forty years of Ordination by Dana and the tenth anniversary of my Ordination and arrival at the United Benefice. Fr. Kevin Morris of my sending church, St. Michael and All Angels, Bedford Park, who had also preached at my first Mass at St. John the Baptist in 2015, came to St. George's as our guest preacher.

It's been another busy and fulfilling year, paced by regular seasonal events such as our "Why me?" talks when, instead of a sermon at our 6:30pm service, a member of the United Benefice congregation gives an address about their journey of faith and how it links to their life. In 2024 we were treated to five very different, moving and inspiring talks by Daniel Gable, Henry Poole, Eman Henein, John Arumainayagam and Tracy Turley. My heartfelt thanks to them for agreeing to speak.

I completed a second year as an Assistant Director of Ordinands for the Diocese of Kensington, working with two candidates, assisting them in their discernment journey towards Ordination. The Church of England has been developing new pathways towards ordination. If you think this might be for you, do speak to me, or one of the other members of the clergy team.

Can I finish by saying how grateful I am to James and Neil for their leadership. Our congregations are a source of constant encouragement, enabling the work of the Holy Spirit to advance in Holland Park. It is a joy to be part of the ministry team at the Benefice.

Revd Dana English

I continue to be grateful for the collegial team of clergy with which I serve, preaching and presiding on a rota as well as leading daily prayer. I enjoy these opportunities, and know that it has been important to me, personally, to go through the church year together with these two congregations. I am grateful for all those who come through the door for the first time, and for those who come regularly. The opportunities, also, for pastoral care are many, and I look forward to times when I can meet one-on-one with members of the parish.

Particular points of engagement with the Benefice are the weekly **Bible study** that I lead in discussion. We entered our fifth year together, proceeding from the beginning, the book of Genesis, in January of 2020. In 2024 we read and discussed the books of Mark, Luke, and the Acts of the Apostles. This group of about 12-14 people meets on Zoom for an hour, now on Tuesdays from 1:30-2:30, welcoming any who would like to be part of this ongoing study.



I have continued to organise and lead the yearly congregational retreat to Launde Abbey in Leicestershire: this year's weekend was the 22-24th of November. This past year we used Rachel Mann's Advent book *Do Not Be Afraid: The Joy of Waiting in a Time of Fear*. Twenty-four people, the maximum, came to this year's retreat, including eight who had not been before. Despite the rain, we all enjoyed the beauty of the place and the excellent meals as well as worship together in the historic chapel that was part of the 12th c. Augustinian Priory there. A deepened sense of congregational life always comes out of these yearly times away.

I put together the Parish Newsletter for the Benefice three times a year, with the help of the office administrator Daniel.

Part of my ministry in the larger London area continues to be as one of the duty chaplains at St. Paul's Cathedral, serving in this capacity roughly once a month. I enjoy this opportunity to preside at the 12:30 eucharist there as well as give the prayers on the hour and be available to any who need to talk.



Music and Events Report

In addition to our liturgical music, St John's has continued to host a variety of concerts. In February, an accordion concert of Chinese/European music with Mingyuan Ryan; the Lowe Ensemble came in March for another concert of Baroque music; We were delighted once again to have Sutton Philharmonic Orchestra with us, Brian Choi conducting and Lorna McLean soprano singing operatic arias by Puccini and Wagner.

KOFAM (Kensington Olympia Festival of Music and the Arts) joined us for two events, in April and October. The first saw Cardinal Vaughan VI Form choir perform John Rutter's Requiem, and also Vocal Shack and Ensemble Toloka. This last is a group singing traditional Ukrainian polyphony. In October "The Olympic Trio" of piano, bassoon and oboe entertained us, followed by James Gough, the Assistant organist of Southwark Cathedral playing Bach and Mendelssohn. Sunday afternoon saw a concert with young musicians at the start of their careers, and The Revd Jonathan Aitken was our preacher at the Choral Eucharist.

We were delighted to host a Christmas Fair in conjunction with the Ukrainian Community to raise funds for Ukraine. We anticipate a second event in December 2025.

In November we were pleased to be a venue for Shakespeare in the Square's first ever winter season, with Macbeth. St John's also hosted The Snow Queen - an afternoon of storytelling for Advent with Vanessa Woolf which was thoroughly enjoyable. We look forward to more similar events in St John's in 2025.

Liturgical Music

We have once again been fortunate with our musicians who have supported the liturgy admirably. Mark Denza has continued as our Organist, and Toby Ward as our Choral Director. Mark's voluntaries at the end of services continue to amaze.

We've been pleased to continue with the St John's Singers once a month, and recruitment for new members is gradually happening.

Thanks to a generous donation we've been able to have four choral scholars with us – until the summer, twice a month, and each week from September. Maddy Morris (S); Charlie Davies (A/CT); Charlie Eastwood (T); Luca Wetherall (B) are our usual quartet supplemented wherever necessary.

Much of our repertoire has been a capella from the early and renaissance periods, with later twentieth century music. A sung setting once a month, often of plainsong, extends our repertoire, though we mostly sing the Thorne St Thomas setting throughout the year, with Andrew Well's Mass of St George in Advent and Lent.

For major feasts such as Epiphany, Ash Wednesday, Easter Day, Michaelmas, All Souls, Remembrance and Advent Sunday have been choral highlights. Some lesser known pieces such as Finck's *quorum praecepto subditur* and music by Hildegard von Bingen have delighted both congregation and singers.

The funeral of Jill Traynor brought together a wider group of singers, and the music for both services was exquisite. The antiphon *O pastor animarum* sung at the requiem was repeated by popular demand at the funeral service, and Vaughan Williams *Valiant for Truth* was a triumph. Unusually the service ended not with a voluntary but Alex Schiffers playing on solo violin the lament *The Ashokan Farewell*. All those who took part musically found the services extremely moving.

We look forward to yet more wonderful music in 2025, and further expanding our range of music.



The English Conversation Club

This was an initiative originally brought to us by Belinda Mitchell-Innes and Christian Howgill from The Quaker Society of Friends. They host a Ukrainian Open House every month welcoming in to their Meeting House all the displaced Ukrainians in their region and offer them advice on visas, grants, housing, schooling, sponsors, job searches, medical and mental wellbeing, etc.

It was from running this event that they quickly realised that one of the major stumbling blocks for the Ukrainians was the language barrier, which was preventing them from integrating into the English way of life more easily and hindering their job searches enormously.

They wanted to try to ease this situation by starting an English Conversation Club but the Quaker venue proved problematic, so we offered them sanctuary here. Initially, Neil, Jenny and the team helped with teas, coffees and the initiative proved so successful that now the Council have offered to subsidise the event by offering to pay for breakfasts as well and the event has flourished and now regularly plays costs to not just Ukrainians but displaced foreign nationals from all around the world.

The English speaking volunteers come from both the Quaker side of things and our own parishioners, and an unexpected turn of events was the programme seems to be enjoyed by them almost as much as the refugees themselves and it has become quite a social point for many of them and has become a close knit community and like a small parish family.

Kensington Deanery Synod Report

Deanery Synod meetings in 2024 continued to align with London Diocese's *2030 Vision*, with each meeting focusing on a specific theme:

- **Compassionate Communities (February)** – Hosted by St Barnabas Church, this meeting centred on *Caring for God's Creation* and encouraged churches to engage with the Eco Church Awards. Andy Buckler illustrated the Five Marks of Mission using a rainbow metaphor, highlighting *Tell, Teach, Tend, Transform*, and *Treasure*—with the fifth mark emphasising the importance of treasuring God's creation. Due to a last-minute change, Charlotte Bannister-Parker, Associate Vicar of St John's, Notting Hill and Founder of The Hope4Creation Foundation, stepped in as the guest speaker. She spoke brilliantly about a journey of lamentation, pilgrimage, and hospitality, underscoring the necessity of an eco-spiritual faith and reflecting on humanity's impact on creation.
- **Spring Common Fund Meeting** – Held at Chelsea Old Church, this meeting provided an opportunity to discuss and review financial commitments within the deanery.
- **Summer Garden Party (June)** – With grateful thanks to Mother Emma, Synod members gathered in the beautiful gardens of St Mary Abbots Vicarage for a summer social event, fostering fellowship among clergy and laity.
- **Confident Disciples (November)** – St Philip's, Earl's Court Road hosted this session, introducing the *Grow Course*. The meeting featured a 'Barriers to Growth' video and testimonies from parishes currently undertaking the course, as well as reflections from St Barnabas on their experience of completing it.
- **Creative Growth (December)** – St Philip's, Gloucester Road hosted the final meeting of 2024, with a focus on *Cultural Diversity*. Revd Sally Bally, Vicar of Holy Trinity Hounslow, shared insights from her experience leading a multi-cultural and multi-lingual congregation. She emphasised that cultural diversity is a gift rather than a threat and encouraged churches to embrace the richness it brings.

Key Ongoing Matters

- **Safeguarding** remained a standing agenda item at each meeting, with continued encouragement for churches to engage with the Safeguarding Dashboard.
- **Deanery Governance** – Governors were elected to serve on the deanery's LDBS schools, ensuring continued support and leadership in church schools.

We are hugely grateful to all who contributed to the Synod meetings throughout the year, fostering growth, learning, and unity across the Kensington Deanery.

Treasurer Report *by Stephanie de Mel*

In 2024, following three years of surplus, St. John's ran a budget deficit. This is due primarily to a decline in giving and one-off donations, combined with an increase in maintenance, energy and music costs. These impacts are, however, partly offset by a significant increase in income from church activities (59% higher than in 2023), while rental income from the crypt letting has continued to provide important financial stability.

In 2024, the general (unrestricted) fund shows a deficit of £19,887 (2023: surplus £77,303). Our gross income from all sources was £188,629 (2023: £274,231).

Income from church activities has risen by £23,209 compared to 2023, but this has not sufficed to offset a fall in collections, online giving and donations, and in one-off grant funding. Consequently, general (unrestricted) income was down by £14,879.

General (unrestricted) expenditure in 2024 was £165,391 (2023: £100,097). The difference is driven primarily by required maintenance works and utility cost increases. The largest expenses were church maintenance (32%); common fund and clergy costs (20%); music, organ and concerts expenses (18%); and utility costs (12%), which collectively make up 82% of overall costs from the general fund.

Restricted Funds

As included in last year's report, the balance on the Associate Vicar Accommodation Fund was transferred to the St. John's Holland Road Trust, which makes monthly contributions towards costs.

A fund to enable professional singers at Sunday Service has been established. This fund held £1,690 as at 31 December 2024.

Finally a grant from RBKC Council to fund the breakfast café held £1,500 as at 31 December 2024. It is hoped that further funding can be obtained to continue this activity.

Balance Sheet

Total cash deposits at the end of 2024 were £76,017 (2023: £124,930). After adjusting for restricted and designated funds, this figure is £72,342, which is above the PCC's policy figure for minimum cash balances.

The PCC would like to thank all those who supported St John's financially during the year.



St John the Baptist, Holland Road
Registered Charity number 1169173
office@hollandparkbenefice.org
hollandparkbenefice.org 020 3602 9873



**The Parochial Church Council of
the Ecclesiastical Parish of
Saint John The Baptist,
Holland Road,
Diocese of Kensington**

Financial Statements and Independent Examiners Report

For the year ended 31 December 2024

Charity office:
St. George's Church
Aubrey Walk
London
W8 7JG

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Church of St. John the Baptist, Holland Road

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of St John the Baptist Church, Holland Road, Parochial Church Council

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of St John the Baptist PCC (the Trust) for the year ended 31st December 2024 comprising the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, and the accompanying notes to the accounts.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner and basis of report

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. As the charity's trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

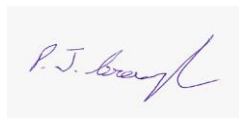
The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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



Peter Cranenburgh
Cranenburgh Limited
Chartered Accountants
76-80 College Road
Harrow
Middlesex
HA1 1BQ
30 April 2025

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	3 a)	32,608	14,810	47,418	60,862	14,417	75,279
Charitable activities							
Grants	3 b)	11,561	28,315	39,876	20,000	99,431	119,431
Lettings	3 c)	39,000	-	39,000	40,368	-	40,368
Church activities	3 d)	62,335	-	62,335	39,126	-	39,126
Investments	3 e)	-	-	-	27	-	27
Total income		145,504	43,125	188,629	160,383	113,848	274,231
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	4 a)	164,641	77,142	241,783	99,347	98,123	197,470
Governance costs	4 b)	750	-	750	750	-	750
Total expenditure		165,391	77,142	242,533	100,097	98,123	198,220
Net income/(expenditure)		(19,887)	(34,017)	(53,904)	60,286	15,725	76,011
Transfers between funds	8	(5,000)	5,000	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(24,887)	(29,017)	(53,904)	60,286	15,725	76,011
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward		97,471	32,692	130,163	37,185	16,967	54,152
Total funds carried forward		72,584	3,675	76,259	97,471	32,692	130,163

as at 31 December 2024

		Unrestricted funds 2024	Restricted funds 2024	Total funds 2024	Unrestricted funds 2023	Restricted funds 2023	Total funds 2023
	Note	£	£	£	£	£	£
Current assets:							
Debtors	5	24,292	-	24,292	21,252	15,579	36,831
Cash at bank and in hand		72,342	3,675	76,017	107,817	17,113	124,930
<i>Total current assets</i>		96,634	3,675	100,309	129,069	32,692	161,761
Liabilities:							
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	6	(24,050)	-	(24,050)	(31,598)	-	(31,598)
<i>Net current assets</i>		72,584	3,675	76,259	97,471	32,692	130,163
<i>Total assets less current liabilities</i>		72,584	3,675	76,259	97,471	32,692	130,163
Total net assets		72,584	3,675	76,259	97,471	32,692	130,163
The funds of the charity:							
Restricted funds	8	-	3,675	3,675	-	32,692	32,692
Unrestricted funds		72,584	-	72,584	97,471	-	97,471
Total charity funds		72,584	3,675	76,259	97,471	32,692	130,163

The notes on pages 4 to 10 form part of these accounts.

Approved by the trustees 30 April 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

.....
Reverend Dr. James Heard
Chair

The Parochial Church Council of Saint John The Baptist,

The PCC is a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England, which operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure and is a registered charity number 1169173.

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

1 Accounting policies

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 (FRS 102)' - the Charities SORP (FRS 102); the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCCs, and with the Regulations 'true and fair view' provisions, the Charities Act 2011 and other relevant accounting regulations. The disclosure requirements of section 1A of FRS 102 have been applied other than where additional disclosure is required to show a true and fair view.

Assets and liabilities are recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling (GBP), which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts are rounded to the nearest one pound (£).

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. There are no judgements (apart from those involving estimations) that management has made when applying the charity's accounting policies that have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements.

Accounting estimates and assumptions are made concerning the future and, by their nature, will rarely equal the related actual outcome. The key assumptions and other sources of estimation uncertainty that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities are disclosed where necessary in the relevant accounting policy note.

Going concern

There are no material uncertainties about the PCC's ability to continue as a going concern.

At the time of approving the financial statements the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the PCC will continue and has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the purposes of the PCC. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees, at their discretion, to use for a particular purpose.

Restricted funds are subject to specific restrictions, which the donor, legatee, or other third party has specified to be used for particular areas of the PCC's work, or for specific projects, or for specific items of expenditure, to be undertaken by the PCC.

Income

Income is recognised and included in the accounts when all the following criteria are met:

- the PCC has entitlement to the funds;
- any performance conditions attached to the income have been met, or are fully within the control of the PCC;
- it is probable that the income will be received; and
- the amount can be measured reliably.

In accordance with the Charity SORP (FRS 102) the economic contribution of volunteers' time is not measured in the accounts.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of operating and maintaining the church, providing services and pastoral support and includes Value Added Tax (VAT) which is not recoverable by the PCC.

Support costs

There has been no allocation of administrative or other support costs, all such costs are incurred on the PCC's principal activity.

Financial instruments

The PCC only has financial instruments classified as 'Basic Financial Instruments' applying the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' of FRS 102.

Financial instruments are recognised in the PCC's balance sheet when the PCC becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Debtors (basic financial assets)

Debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any discount or provision for bad debts.

Creditors (basic financial liabilities)

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the PCC has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any discounts due.

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the PCC's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

Taxation

No tax has been provided in these accounts because the trustees believe that the income and gains are within the exemptions granted for charities by Chapters 2 and 3 of the Corporation Taxes Act 2010.

2 Trustee remuneration and expenses

No remuneration was paid to any trustee in the year. Three trustees were reimbursed for expenses incurred for the running of the Church totalling £6,129 in the year (2023: £5,552).

3 Income

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
a) Donations and legacies						
Planned giving	8,248	-	8,248	8,308	-	8,308
Collections, online giving and other donations	21,027	14,810	35,837	37,672	7,985	45,657
Gift aid	2,806	-	2,806	14,882	6,432	21,314
Legacies	527	-	527			
	32,608	14,810	47,418	60,862	14,417	75,279
b) Grants						
The London Diocesan Fund	-	-	-	20,000	-	20,000
Listed Places of Worship	11,561	-	11,561	-	8,662	8,662
St. John's Holland Road Trust	-	22,315	22,315	-	21,732	21,732
RBKC breakfast café	-	6,000	6,000	-	-	-
Heritage London	-	-	-	-	5,000	5,000
RBKC Events	-	-	-	-	28,700	28,700
RBKC Lighting and CCTV	-	-	-	-	35,337	35,337
	11,561	28,315	39,876	20,000	99,431	119,431
c) Lettings						
Rent from church letting	-	-	-	2,375	-	2,375
Rent from crypt letting	39,000	-	39,000	37,993	-	37,993
	39,000	-	39,000	40,368	-	40,368
d) Church activities						
Wedding blessings	29,620	-	29,620	10,030	-	10,030
Photography	19,595	-	19,595	13,211	-	13,211
Funerals	1,228	-	1,228	-	-	-
Area Dean allowance	2,400	-	2,400	2,400	-	2,400
Concerts/events/filming	8,991	-	8,991	9,525	-	9,525
Other income	501	-	501	-	-	-
Insurance recoveries	-	-	-	3,960	-	3,960
	62,335	-	62,335	39,126	-	39,126
e) Bank interest	-	-	-	27	-	27
Total income	145,504	43,125	188,629	160,383	113,848	274,231

4 Expenditure

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
a) Charitable activities						
Common fund	8,845	14,485	23,330	-	19,330	19,330
Recharges from St. Georges Church:						
clergy costs	24,686		24,686	20,085	-	20,085
office running costs	1,440		1,440	1,440	-	1,440
Insurance	12,655		12,655	12,212	-	12,212
Staff costs	-		-	1,030	-	1,030
Training	600		600	-	-	-
St. John's Holland Road Trust (7)	-	51,947	51,947	-	-	-
Other charitable giving	44	400	444	-	-	-
Gas & Electricity	19,994		19,994	13,771	-	13,771
Church maintenance	54,515		54,515	5,112	48,999	54,111
CCTV equipment	-		-	6,000	-	6,000
Cleaning	1,785		1,785	2,396	-	2,396
Incumbent priests' expenses	583		583	1,235	-	1,235
Music costs	13,923	5,810	19,733	5,050	-	5,050
Concerts & events expenses	1,984		1,984	350	29,794	30,144
Organist fees	13,063		13,063	6,578	-	6,578
Organ maintenance	1,787		1,787	3,234	-	3,234
Liturgical expenses	374		374	1,666	-	1,666
Diocesan fees	248		248	-	-	-
Breakfast café	-	4,500	4,500	-	-	-
Printing and marketing	1,153		1,153	-	-	-
Computer and telephone	532		532	-	-	-
General expenses	1,280		1,280	1,043	-	1,043
Licences and subscriptions	180		180	-	-	-
Bank charges	566		566	237	-	237
Professional fees	621		621	16,708	-	16,708
Accountancy fees	3,783		3,783	1,200	-	1,200
	164,641	77,142	241,783	99,347	98,123	197,470
b) Governance costs						
Independent examination	750	-	750	750	-	750
Total expenditure	165,391	77,142	242,533	100,097	98,123	198,220

4 Employees

The average number of staff employed by the charity during the reporting period was 0 (2023: 1).

The cost in respect of staff was:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	-	1,030

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000.

5 Debtors

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	2024	2024	2024	2023	2023	2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Invoiced debtors	6,963	-	6,963	-	-	-
Prepayments	1,285	-	1,285	1,055	-	1,055
Grants	11,561	-	11,561	-	8,662	8,662
Gift aid recoverable	3,738	-	3,738	11,946	6,432	18,378
Other debtors	745	-	745	8,251	485	8,736
	24,292	-	24,292	21,252	15,579	36,831

6 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	2024	2024	2024	2023	2023	2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Invoices payable	5,364	-	5,364	20,898	-	20,898
Accruals	6,686	-	6,686	1,950	-	1,950
Rents paid in advance	3,250	-	3,250	-	-	-
Tenant deposits held	8,750	-	8,750	8,750	-	8,750
	24,050	-	24,050	31,598	-	31,598

7 Transactions with related parties

Under trustee arrangements three of the PCC trustees are trustees of St. John's Holland Road Trust (a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) registration number 1195250). During the year this charity made payments to the PCC of £22,315 (2023: £21,732) in respect of the associate vicar's accommodation costs which then forms part of the amount paid to the Diocese. Payments made to the CIO in the year were £51,947 (2023: £nil), including £10,410 in respect of the Organ Restoration Fund which will be managed by the St. John's Holland Road Trust. One of the objects of the CIO are to further the religious, pastoral and other charitable work of St. John the Baptist Church, Holland Road.

As part of the United Benefice of Holland Park costs are incurred and recharges made by The Parochial Church Council of St. George The Martyr Campden Hill (registered charity number 1131866).

Four of the St. John the Baptist PCC trustees are also trustees to the PCC of St. George The Martyr.

The total paid in the year was £26,126 (2023: £21,525).

8 Analysis of charitable funds

	funds brought forward £	income £	expenditure £	transfers £	funds carried forward £
RESTRICTED FUNDS					
Associate Vicar Accommodation Fund	22,207	33,815	(56,022)	-	-
Organ Restoration Fund	10,000	410	(10,410)	-	-
Choral Scholars Fund	-	2,500	(5,810)	5,000	1,690
RBKC Breakfast Café	-	6,000	(4,500)	-	1,500
KOFMA Ukraine	-	400	(400)	-	-
Christmas collection for Gaza	485	-	-	-	485
Restricted funds	32,692	43,125	(77,142)	5,000	3,675

Associate Vicar Accommodation Fund

This fund consists of donations from public appeals. Payments are made to St. John's Holland Road Trust (see note 2) to cover expenses incurred in providing the accommodation. The balance of the fund represents amounts not yet transferred to the Trust.

Organ Restoration Fund

This fund is in relation to funding received from Ecclesiastical Insurance to pay for the conservation of the organ following damage caused by a fire in the chancel in February 2017.

This fund was transferred to the St. John's Holland Road Trust in the year.

Choral Scholars Fund

A restricted fund has been established to enable St John's to have four professional singers at the Sunday Service. Donations may be received for this purpose.

Other restricted donations

Where donations are collected for other charities these amounts are treated as restricted funds.

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

	funds brought forward £	income £	expenditure £	transfers £	funds carried forward £
General fund	97,471	145,504	(165,391)	(5,000)	72,584
Unrestricted funds	97,471	145,504	(165,391)	(5,000)	72,584
Total funds	130,163	188,629	(242,533)	-	76,259

FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

	funds brought forward £	income £	expenditure £	transfers £	funds carried forward £
Restricted funds	16,967	113,848	(98,123)		32,692
Unrestricted funds	37,185	160,383	(100,097)	-	97,471
	54,152	274,231	(198,220)	-	130,163

9 Analysis of net assets between funds

	General funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Current assets	96,634	3,675	100,309
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(24,050)	-	(24,050)
	<u>72,584</u>	<u>3,675</u>	<u>76,259</u>

PRIOR YEAR

	General funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Current assets	129,069	32,692	161,761
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(31,598)	-	(31,598)
	<u>97,471</u>	<u>32,692</u>	<u>130,163</u>

Accounts



Charity Registration No. 1169173

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of
Saint John The Baptist, Holland Road, Diocese of Kensington**

Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements

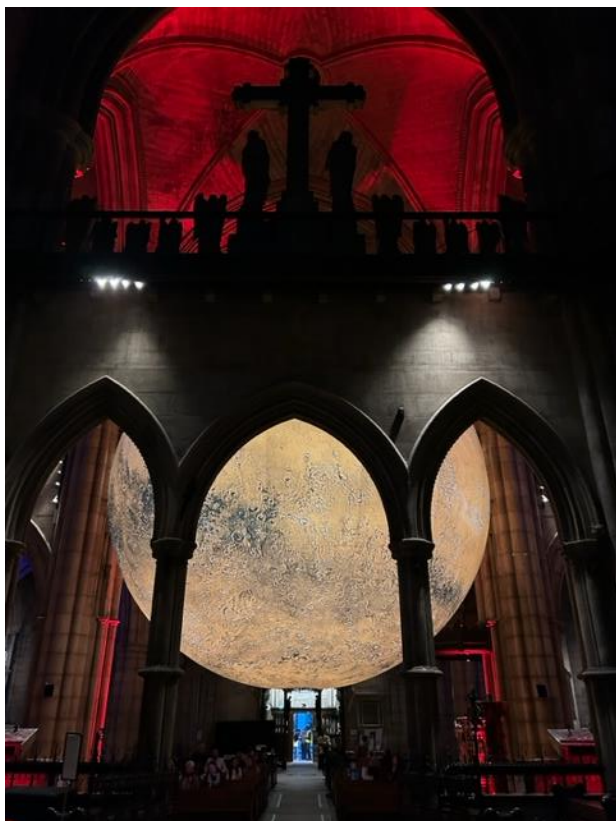
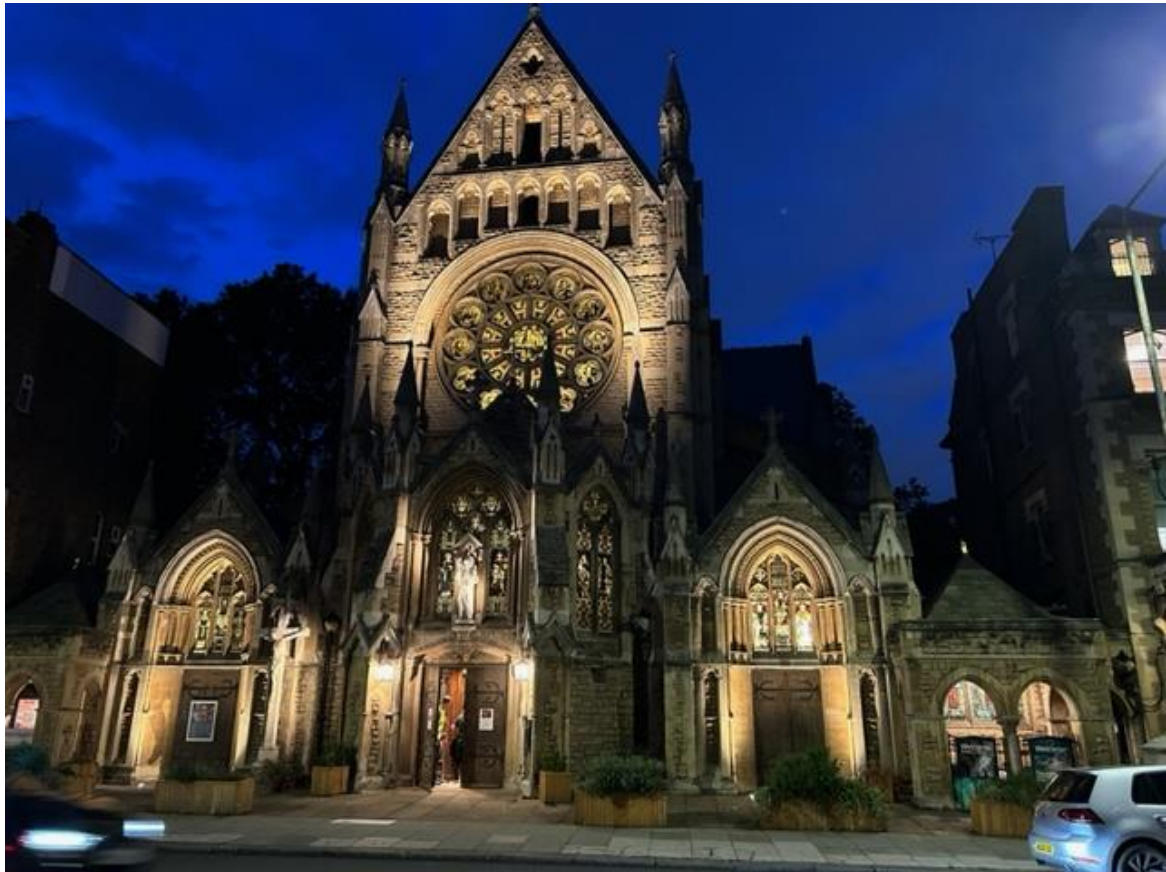
For the year ended 31 December 2023

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The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Saint John the Baptist, Holland Road, Diocese Of Kensington

Annual Report 2023



St John the Baptist, Holland Road

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Administrative Information

St John's Church is situated on Holland Road in Kensington and is part of the Church of England in the Diocese of London. It forms part of the United Benefice of Holland Park. The correspondence address is St George's Church, Aubrey Walk, London W8 7JG. The Parochial Church Council constitutes a charity and this year is registered as a UK charity (no. 1169173). The PCC members who have served from October 2023 until the date this report was approved are:

The Revd Dr James Heard	Chair	(Ex Officio)
The Revd Neil Traynor	Associate Priest	(Ex Officio)
The Revd Peter Wolton	Associate Priest	(Ex Officio)
The Revd Dana English	Associate Priest	(Ex Officio)
Clare Heard	LLM	(Ex Officio)
Ms Lindsay Fulcher	Churchwarden and LLM, Synod Rep	(Appointed 2023)
Ms Kate Cullinan	Churchwarden	(Appointed 2021)
Ms Stephanie de Mel	Hon. Treasurer	(Appointed 2022)
Mrs Jenny Davenport	Vice-Chair	(Appointed 2023)
Ms Kristin Corbet-Milward	Safeguarding Officer	(Appointed 2022)
Mr Jamie Priestley		(Appointed 2020)
Ms Anita Kouassigan		(Appointed 2022)
Tom Dick		(Appointed 2023, resigned February 2024)
Tracy Turley		(Appointed 2023)

Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure and is a registered charity.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. Membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent vicar, three associate vicars, church wardens and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend our services/members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the electoral roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish, including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be managed.

Public benefit statement

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, 'Charities and Public Benefit'.

Aims and Purpose

The PCC is responsible for co-operating with the Vicar in promoting within the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC also has maintenance responsibilities for St John's Church, and the surrounding land.

Worship and Sacramental Care

The Parish Eucharist is the principal act of worship offered by the parish. It is celebrated week by week in accordance with the apostles' teaching and fellowship in the breaking of bread and prayer (Acts 2:42). The PCC is grateful to the sidespeople, readers and to all who contribute in many other ways to the life and worship offered to God by this parish. This year we conducted four baptisms, four funerals/memorials, and three weddings/blessings.

Daily Prayer

We continue to meet daily for prayer on zoom – 9.15am Monday to Friday for **Morning Prayer** and 9.30pm for **Compline** on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The **meditation group**, faithfully led by Gill Rowe continues to meet every Monday at 6.00pm both at St George's and on zoom. We have been encouraged by the significant increase in people for these services.

Pastoral and social care

Pastoral and social care of the parish continues to be shared by the ministry team and several pastoral visitors. Pastoral care is also exercised through such activities as the lunch club. This team make regular 'phone calls and visits in the parish.

Safeguarding

Kristin Corbett-Millward is the designated safeguarding officer for St John's and Clare Heard is our children's champion. Fr Peter is the lead DBS checker. The diocesan safeguarding dashboard is used and updated on a regular basis and we review safeguarding at every PCC meeting.

Evangelisation

St John's is committed to the Gospel imperative to 'make disciples of all the nations; baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit' (Matthew 28:19), and to rising in future to the challenge of engagement in active evangelisation amongst all the peoples of the parish it serves. The Exploring Faith evenings continue with a variety of courses discovering together the richness of the Christian faith, welcoming others who are new to faith and also some non-churchgoers.

Ecumenical links

As a modern catholic parish of the Church of England, St John's Church honours the Lord's High Priestly prayer that all Christians may be one as he and the Father are one (John 17:21), and seeks to foster its local relationship with Christians of the great communions of East and West in furtherance of the full and organic unity of the Church. To this end we play our part in the membership of the Kensington Council of Churches.

Review of the year

The PCC met five times during the year. A revised electoral roll was drawn up in advance of this Annual Parochial Church Meeting. There are currently 87 people on the electoral roll.

Reports from our various office-holders are attached.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statement

The trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, of the charity for that period.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- 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 material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations and the provisions of the Church Accounting Regulations 2006.

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.

Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approval

The Annual Report was approved by the PCC on 2 July 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

.....

The Reverend Dr James Heard,
PCC Chair,

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Saint John The Baptist, Holland Road

Vicar's Report – Fr James Heard

We are truly blessed as a United Benefice with a growing team, receiving excellent support from our office administrator, finance administrator, PCCs, and a dedicated group of volunteers. It is encouraging to note that, in many ways, we have emerged stronger than before the Pandemic.

This year has been marked by the growing strength and diversity of our team, characterised by a complementary blend of gifts, skills, and a shared vision. It has been a year of grace and growth. Fr Neil's report on the developments at St John's will be of further encouragement. Additionally, I would like to express my gratitude to all who generously contributed to the Associate Vicar's housing appeal. Our initial goal of raising £30,000 per year for three years has been surpassed, with a total of over £90,000 achieved. And I am delighted to report that we are optimistic about St John's Church covering the full costs of an Associate Vicar by the end of 2024.

Reflecting on the past year, there are several highlights:

Faithful Steps: We have taken various steps of faith, including launching an After-School Choir Club organised by Marcella Di Garbo, Jenny Thorn, and Richard Nicholls (currently on sabbatical). They now regularly sing at our All Age services. Additionally, we recruited a part-time youth worker, Eman Henein, who is shared with St James and St Clements. With the help of Dana and many volunteers, a Youth Club has been initiated on Friday afternoons, with many Holland Park pupils attending.

Worship and Pastoral Care: We have maintained a consistent pattern of worship, both online and in person, while offering pastoral care and support to those in need, especially the elderly, isolated, and bereaved. Morning prayer on Zoom continues to be well attended, as has the twice weekly compline, with its regular and faithful congregation. The Meditation Group has continued in strength, and it is a delight to see how it has grown since lockdown.

Community Engagement: The lunch club, meeting on the third Thursday of each month, continues to be a significant means of hosting elderly members from the community. A dedicated team of volunteers supports this initiative. The connection with Holland Park School, arranged by Mary Spain, has thrived, with students assisting the elderly and engaging in conversations during meals.

Charitable connections: We have continued to support a variety of charities, both locally and globally, and have raised over £20,000 through various events and activities, such as a quiz evening, the Harvest Supper, the Glass Door Sleep Out (well done Harriet!), Henry Poole's book launch, selling Bethlehem Baubles and a Christmas collection for the Al Ahli Gaza Hospital.

Special Occasions and Milestones: We celebrated significant events in the life of our Benefice, including Admission to Holy Communion, Luke Jerram Mars exhibition, and a confirmation service at St John's with Bishop Emma.

Welcomes: We welcomed the new Bishop of Kensington, the Rt Revd Dr Emma Ineson, in February. We have also benefited from the wisdom and insight of Bishop Michael Marshall, who led our Lent Course on the Gospel of John.

RIPs: This year, we bid farewell to cherished members of the United Benefice, including Ailsa O'Brien, Alex Taylor, Judy Farrar, Mary Ivens, and Tom Stacey.

Area Dean Role: Since September 2020, I have continued to serve as the Area Dean of Kensington, fulfilling additional responsibilities within the wider church, including participation in the Kensington Area Leadership Team (KALT) and the Kensington Area Council (KAC), arranging deanery cover for sickness or holidays, conducting church visitations, and organising Bishop Emma's visit to the Kensington Deanery in March 2021.

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to our common life and mission in any way, big or small. You are all valued and appreciated.



Churchwardens' Report

During 2023 we've continued to conserve and upgrade facilities at St John's. Our Quinquennial Inspection took place in October by our new QI architect, Camilla Finlay. We are expecting the report shortly.

Thanks to a Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL) grant through RBKC we were at long last able to install CCTV and external lighting. Designed by CES the lighting was finished just in time for the Mars: War & Peace. The new lighting is having a positive impact on St John's – with a more visible exterior passers by are attracted, and then on seeing the interior and hearing the music are encouraged to join our services. An unexpected, but very welcome, consequence.

In July we finally managed to have the bell repaired, following the flood in 2021 which soaked the cable. It required a spider lift and a new bell toller, both of which costs have been covered by our insurers Ecclesiastical. Thanks to CES and Taylors of Loughborough for what turned out to be a much more complicated process. The bell now rings out for the Angelus at noon and 6pm each day, and automatically rings before the Sunday service.

Our increased income has meant that we've been able to do some more routine maintenance. In December we commissioned a measured survey of the entire building which will make repairs and future improvements and conservation much simpler. We look forward to receiving this in the new year (St John's is a particularly complicated building as you will appreciate and it's taking longer than expected).

We were also able to undertake routine maintenance to the gutter of the north aisle. Plant material at high level was also removed and repointing took place as necessary. During these works it was noticed that the lead on the north aisle roof was splitting, and this was repaired and made good. The gutter on the north side of the room over the vestry was also noted to have failed, and this was replaced in early January 2024.

The electrics throughout the church have been checked (an "EICR") and are in good order. Some minor necessary improvements were made, but no major work was necessary.

Rose Physiotherapy Clinic has continued in the Crypt, and, in addition to more work on the drains and electrics, we've installed some flood defence barriers in case we again suffer a flash flood.

There's still a long way to go not least the heating, the flower room and the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, but we're well on our way.

Assistant Priest's Annual Report

Revd Neil Traynor

2023 has been yet another really remarkable year at St John's: it's difficult to know where to begin, as so much has happened, and all of it positive. We've continued to grow, our finances are in better shape, more people have visited and used St John's, we've continued to improve the appearance and security, and we've even been able to undertake essential maintenance.

There are far too many people to thank, but the clergy, office team and wardens and treasurer as well as members of the congregation have come together to help make 2023 very special. We were delighted to have Tim Evans working with us over Mars: War & Peace, and also Neal Malcom. Neal stayed on with us until November, when his health meant he needed to take some time away. Additional help was very welcome and much needed. From January Daniel Gable, the United Benefice Administrator, has increased his hours and two days a week will be paid for by St John's.

You will see from the treasurer's report later that our bookings have increased markedly. From January 2024 we have outsourced our invoicing and payments to Forrest Burlinson, a firm of accountants, who are able to manage this on our behalf. Thanks are especially due to Steph De Mel our treasurer and Victoria O'Neill the finance officer, who suddenly found their workload increase significantly and without warning.

A sign of a healthy church is increased vocations. We have been delighted to have Daniella with us whilst she is on her course at St Melitus, and we will be sad to say goodbye once she is ordained at Petertide 2024 and moves to her curacy parish. We were equally pleased that Lindsay Fulcher was accepted on the Caleb Course for ordination in September. She's undertaking the course at the same time as proceeding with the vocation selection, and we hope that she too will be ordained. Another parishioner is considering joining the same course in September of 2024 and yet another is exploring Licensed Lay Ministry.

In 2023 we were also awarded the *Rocha* Eco Church Bronze award in recognition of our efforts to become more eco friendly. We were also pleased to be recognised by the Mayor of London as a "cool space" in the heat (we were not yet able to be a warm space in the winter). During 2023 we became an "Alzheimer's friendly church", and a "Single Friendly Church". We have continued our commitment as an Inclusive Church. We have also taken an active part in the Major Churches Group and we're proud to have been so designated.



Pastoral care has also been continuing, and our gentle and low key ministry to people with mental health difficulties has continued. Safeguarding has been constantly on our minds and we strive to promote best practice at all times.

Liturgy and Music

St John's has once more continued to offer the full range of liturgies one might expect. As ever, the highlights are Ash Wednesday; Maundy Thursday; our Patronal Festival; the services at Mars: War & Peace; the Pet Service; Remembrance Sunday; Advent Sunday and the United Benefice Carol Service. We've seen each of these services grow in number from the previous year. Our 'October Average' figure is now 91 – a major and significant achievement.

We've been ably accompanied by Mark Denza on the organ, and the St John's Singers have continued once a month. We will be doing some more active recruiting in 2024, as the mailing list contains many people who want to be kept in touch with the services but can rarely join us to sing. The St John's Singers have again been conducted by Toby Ward, and, thanks to a generous donation, we were able to afford four regular choral scholars (from September) who are initially singing about twice a month. We're grateful to Maddy, Charlie, Sam and David for their contributions which really do enhance our services.

The serving team has fluctuated in size, and thanks are due to John Sen for his continued thurible wielding, and to Daniel, Neal, Gary and Sourash who have all made very helpful contributions. For the larger services we also call upon John Aramanayagam and Sandra Hempel from St George's, which helps to strengthen the sense that we're one United Benefice.

In 2024 we hope to invest in some more albs for servers and some additional altar linen – that which we have is reaching the end of its useful life. Thanks go to John Sen for keeping what linen we have well laundered.

Morning prayer on Zoom has been well attended, as has the twice weekly compline, with its regular and faithful congregation. At St George's the Meditation Group has continued in strength, and it is a delight to see how it grown since lockdown. The annual Pet Service in October has continued to be very well attended, and quite a few 'dog influencers' join us.

In 2023 we have seen a growth in the number of requests for Chinese wedding blessings and photoshoots. Since we became better known through the Museum of the Moon in 2021 there has been a growing number of Chinese visitors to St John's. There were 19 blessings of couples who had previously had a Civil Marriage, and we look forward to welcoming more in 2024.

We were delighted to welcome Bishop Emma to a confirmation service in October. From our congregation, Tracy, Neal and Denny were all confirmed – many congratulations to all of them. We also held two stand-alone Baptism services, and two requiem masses. We were also privileged to hold the memorial service for Tom Stacey. We had fewer visiting preachers this year, but it was a pleasure to welcome the Rt Revd Ric Thorpe, Canon George Bush of St Mary le Bow in the City and Dr Ellen Clarke-King, Dean of King's College, London.

The liturgy and music has contributed to a rise in the number of regular congregants and visitors. Thank you to all who have contributed.

Concerts and Events

The highlight of 2023 was once again taking part in the KC Festival, with the third installation by Luke Jerram Mars: War & Peace. St John's was fortunate to be the first place of worship to display this piece, and, whilst there were fewer visitors than in previous years, it was very well received. Part of the commitment in hosting the piece was a small music festival alongside the installation. We're very grateful to Verena Cornwall and the leadership and Councillors of RBKC for their support in enabling the exhibition to come to St John's and also for supporting the musical programme.



We opened with a full orchestral performance of Holst's Planet Suite performed by the London City Philharmonic. With concerts every evening at 9.00pm we welcomed: Vocal Shack; Florence Robinson (Organ); Ensemble Pro Victoria (Sunday service); Andrew Wells (organ); intercultural music from the Grand Union Orchestra; Alla Sirenko from Ukraine; Konstanin Lapshin and Joaquin Sofredini (pianist and counter tenor); Andreana Chan (organ); the Coniston Consort (trombones); Endelienta Baroque – an afternoon performance of Handel's Water Music; Hamish Dustagheer (organ); Ensemble Pro Victoria (Choral Evensong); closing with Mark Denza. A truly amazing musical experience, with some of the best young performers in the country. We are privileged to be associated with all of them.

Other concerts included Dominika Mazczynska and friends in two concerts of baroque music; Cardinal Vaughan VI Form choir performing Faure's Requiem; The Pegasus Choir; we hosted the KOFMA festival in October; Konstanin and Joaquin returned for another concert; the Saint Martin Singers performed as did the Ponte Orchestra from Hong Kong. Finally, we hosted another fundraising concert for music in the Church, performing Britten's Ceremony of Carols and the premier of "Nowell el el" by Piers Connor Kennedy. This will be recorded by Ensemble Pro Victoria in 2024. St John's has also hosted the filming of two music videos – Oscar Lang and Ruti, and it was a pleasure to welcome these artists and their film crews.

St John's was also delighted to host the Avicenna Award hosted by the Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies, awarding the prizes this year to Jewish Non-Governmental Organisations for their role in helping Afghan refugees. This was the first awards ceremony and formal dinner that St John's has hosted. Over the autumn term St John's hosted Rebecca Hicks and "The English Club" on Saturday mornings offering tutoring to young students. It has been good to have St John's used regularly by young people.

The organ and piano have been regularly tuned and monitored, and we are currently hosting a harpsichord on behalf of Dominika Maszcynska. All of these give additional opportunities for performance at St John's. We've taken firm steps this year to begin the restoration of the organ. Working with Bishop and Sons, organ builders in Queen's Park, we've now formed a plan and a budget, and have talked to the Organ Advisor and the DAC. Whilst we have a significant amount of money to raise (£500k) we are optimistic about the task, and we've begun some gentle fundraising. If anyone would like to support, please speak to Steph, James or Neil.

Fr Peter Wolton

2023 saw me complete my ninth year at the United Benefice. Fr James encourages members of the clergy team to innovate. In 2015 I introduced the idea of “Why me?” talks when, instead of a sermon at our 6:30pm service, a member of the United Benefice congregation gives an address about their journey of faith and how it links to their life. I can claim no originality, since it was something that had been taking place for many years at my sending church in Chiswick. 2023 saw the eighth series. We were much moved and inspired by the talks given by Angela Lascelles, Toby Ward, Angus Stirling, Anita Kouassignan and Clive Rowe. I also note with much sadness the deaths in 2023 of two of our earlier speakers, Alexandra Taylor and Tom Stacey. To re-read their talks is a reminder of the gift of faith and also all they brought to the life of the United Benefice.

Highlights during the year included the continuing growth of attendees of our online Daily Prayer services, taking a wedding in the Isle of Wight, and the baptism of the first child of a couple whose marriage I took in 2021.

I have also been active as an Assistant Director of Ordinands, and the first two candidates I have been working with on their discernment journey towards ordination, were both selected. The Church of England has been developing new pathways towards ordination. If you think this might be for you, do speak to me, or one of the other members of the clergy team.

Can I finish by saying how grateful I am to James and Neil for their leadership. It is a joy to be part of the ministry team at the Benefice. Our congregations are a source of constant encouragement, and my sense is this enables the work of the Holy Spirit to advance in Holland Park.



Revd Dana English

Assisting with the rota for preaching and presiding at both St George's and St John's is a great opportunity and pleasure. I assist in the coverage of worship at other churches, as needed. I lead daily prayer every fourth week, and visit various parishioners on a regular basis in conjunction with the rest of the clergy team. Other opportunities I have been privileged to have for sharing in the life of the congregation follow:

The Weekly Bible Study Every Tuesday at 1.30pm I lead a lively group of between 10-14 persons who gather on Zoom for an ongoing discussion of books of the Bible. We began with Genesis three years ago: having included the less familiar books of the Apocrypha, then approaching Paul's letters in chronological order, we have now arrived at the Gospel of Mark. The group has come to include participants from Germany and the U. S. as well as more locally; we have incorporated many references to paintings and other forms of art into our study.

The Young Adults' Group of the Benefice met every other Tuesday at 7.30pm for Bible study through the Spring. We met on Zoom, as the weekday evening time made gathering in person a challenge. The desire of the group was to cover the books of the New Testament. A group of eight met for a picnic and then for a performance of Mendelssohn's *Elijah* at the Proms on July 29th, a highlight of the year. Over the summer many young adults active in the group moved to other parts of London or England or even abroad, so we have not had a formal group since then.

Retreat Weekend at Launde Abbey, 10-12th November This opportunity to lead a group away from the familiar landscape of London has become an annual tradition for the Benefice. Nineteen of us spent Remembrance Sunday weekend with the theme of *How Christians Keep Time*. Reflecting on the nature of memory and remembrance, we read selected poems of WWI for our session on Sunday morning. We had the main house of Launde Abbey, as before, all to ourselves, with the front room for our presentations, looking out onto the hillside full of grazing sheep. Launde Abbey has come to expect us each year, with deluxe accommodation at a moderate price and excellent food. The weather was mild enough for the traditional long Saturday afternoon walk. We add compline on both Friday and Saturday nights to the regular schedule of services offered by the Abbey chaplain. This weekend has proven a wonderful opportunity to get to know one another better in a relaxed and beautiful setting. The age range of participants has been 21-86.

I put together **The Parish Newsletter**, printed three times a year, with many photos, to record events that go on throughout the church year. This has been especially helpful as a means of keeping up with those who do not have computers.

Deanery Synod Report *by Sarah Tett*

As reported last year, meetings of the Synod followed the diocese's **Vision 2030** themes, taking one broad theme at each meeting:

- February's meeting was held at St Clement's Church. Jill Dodd the **Compassionate Communities** Development Worker gave an overview of the work of her team, and invited Synod to consider how they were already or could be engaging with this aspect of Vision 2030.
- The Spring Common Fund meetings were held both in person and on Zoom.
- In June Synod members enjoyed a summer garden party in the grounds of the St Mary Abbots Vicarage.
- St George's Campden Hill hosted the September meeting of Synod at which the Revd Richard Carter, author of 'The City is my Monastery', spoke on the theme of **Confident Disciples** and the life-giving Rule of Life he has developed.
- The last meeting of 2023 was hosted by St Thomas, Kensal Rise and was on the theme of **Growing Younger**. Jacob Holme presented the work of Youth Ministry in Communion; Jo Jones, the Kensington Area Schools and Youth Chaplain had provided a power point and offers for parishes to contact her if she could be of help. The work of St Luke's for Clergy Wellbeing was also promoted.

Throughout the year Safeguarding was a standing item on agendas, and members had been encouraged to get their churches engaging with the Safeguarding Dashboard.

Governors were also elected to the deanery LDBS schools.



Treasurer Report *by Stephanie de Mel*

2023 represents a year of financial growth for St John's, building on the previous year's positive trajectory. Church finances were particularly bolstered by several grants and by earnings from a wide range of concerts, events, and church lettings. Further, the resumption of a stable rental income stream from the crypt letting has provided crucial financial stability. Consequently, we have been able to undertake essential church maintenance and expand church activities, including music and events. Reflecting these changes, income and expenditure were both higher in 2023 than in 2022, and St John's ended the year in a position of surplus. Nonetheless, there is more to do in order to build on this success and secure the church's financial position, particularly to support its ability to weather large shocks like the COVID-19 pandemic.

General Fund

In 2023, the general fund generated a surplus of £60,286, which is more than triple the previous year's surplus of £19,956.

Our gross incoming resources increased to £274,231 (2022: £151,472). Of this, 35% came from donations and legacies (including planned giving, collections, and Gift Aid), 36% came from grants (including from RBKC council and Heritage London), 22% came from rental income (from the church crypt), and the remainder came from church activities (including concerts, weddings, and events) and insurance recoveries. Compared to 2022, donations and legacies increased, from £81,207 to £97,011, and rental income from the crypt remained stable at £34,743.

Total expenditure from the general fund in 2023 was £100,097 (2022: £114,155). The largest expenses were church maintenance (27%), common fund and clergy costs (20%), and concerts and events expenses (15%), which collectively make up approximately 62% of overall costs.

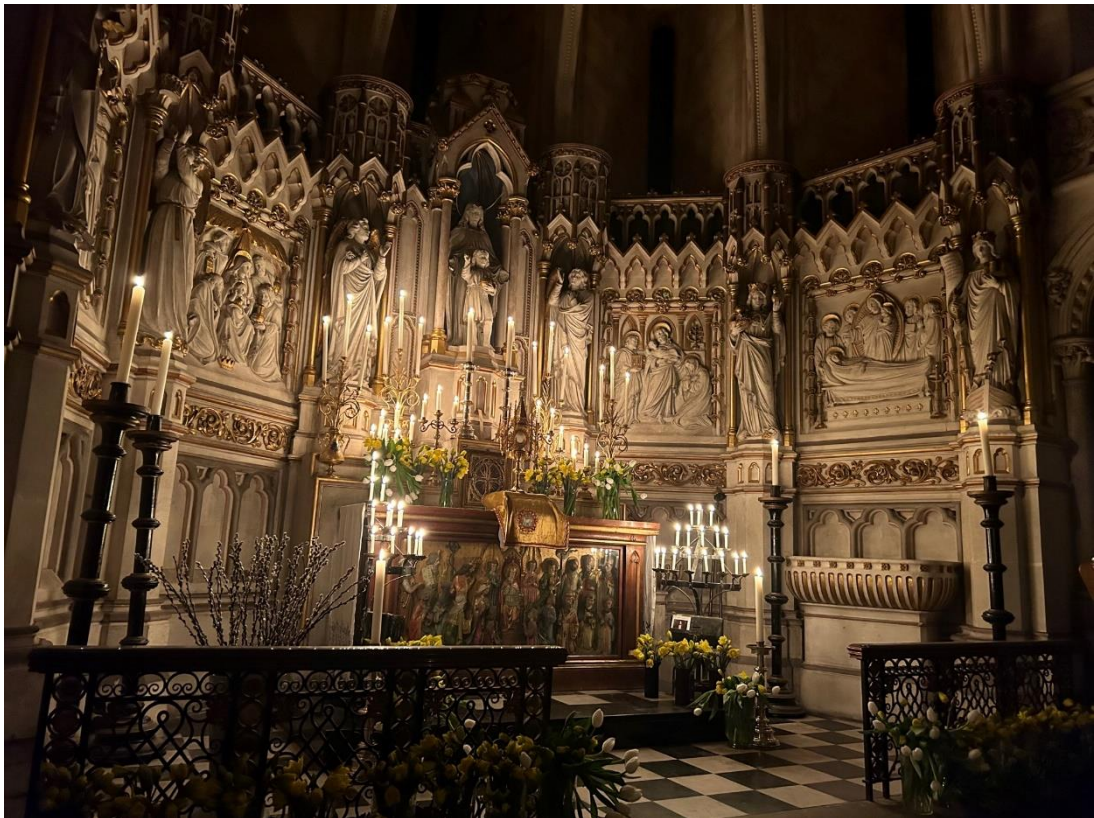
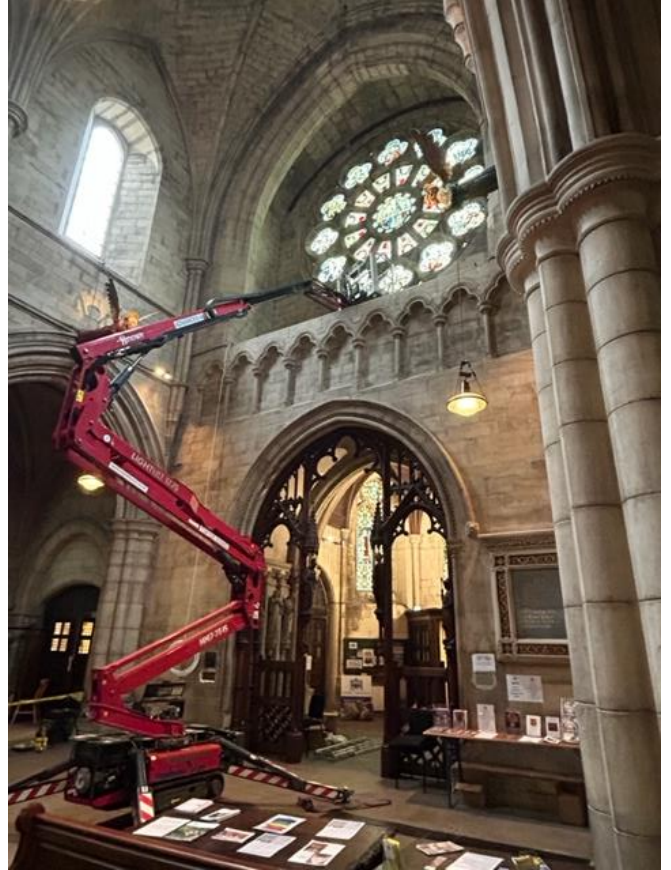
Restricted Funds

Three restricted funds exist for 2023: the Organ Restoration fund has a balance of £10,000 carried over at the end of 2022, while the Associate Vicar Accommodation Fund has a balance of £22,207, due to be transferred to the St John's Trust, and £485 charity collection.

Balance Sheet

Total cash deposits at the end of 2023 were £124,930 (2022: £82,669). After adjusting for restricted and designated funds, however, total cash holdings fall to £107,817, which is above both the equivalent 2022 figure (£65,702) and the PCC's policy figure for minimum cash balances.

The PCC would like to thank all those who supported St John's financially during the year.





St John the Baptist, Holland Road
Registered Charity number 1169173
office@hollandparkbenefice.org
hollandparkbenefice.org 020 3602 9873

Church of St. John the Baptist, Holland Road

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of St John the Baptist Church, Holland Road, Parochial Church Council

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of St John the Baptist PCC (the Trust) for the year ended 31st December 2023 comprising the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, and the accompanying notes to the accounts.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner and basis of report

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. As the charity's trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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

Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Peter Cranenburgh
Cranenburgh Limited
Chartered Accountants
76-80 College Road
Harrow
Middlesex
HA1 1BQ
2 July 2024

The Parochial Church Council of the Church of St. John the Baptist, Holland Road
Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 December 2023

Charity Registration No. 1169173

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	3 a)	60,862	36,149	97,011	63,846	17,361	81,207
Charitable activities							
Grants	3 b)	20,000	77,699	97,699	2,641	-	2,641
Lettings	3 c)	61,349	-	61,349	48,748	-	48,748
Church activities	3 d)	18,145	-	18,145	18,857	-	18,857
Investments	3 e)	27	-	27	19	-	19
Total income		160,383	113,848	274,231	134,111	17,361	151,472
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	4 a)	99,347	98,123	197,470	113,405	11,488	124,893
Governance costs	4 b)	750	-	750	750	-	750
Total expenditure		100,097	98,123	198,220	114,155	11,488	125,643
Net income/(expenditure)		60,286	15,725	76,011	19,956	5,873	25,829
Net movement in funds		60,286	15,725	76,011	19,956	5,873	25,829
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward		37,185	16,967	54,152	17,229	11,094	28,323
Total funds carried forward		97,471	32,692	130,163	37,185	16,967	54,152

as at 31 December 2023

		Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
	Note						
Current assets:							
Debtors	5	21,252	15,579	36,831	4,480	-	4,480
Cash at bank and in hand		107,817	17,113	124,930	65,702	16,967	82,669
<i>Total current assets</i>		129,069	32,692	161,761	70,182	16,967	87,149
Liabilities:							
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	6	(31,598)	-	(31,598)	(12,997)	-	(12,997)
<i>Net current assets</i>		97,471	32,692	130,163	57,185	16,967	74,152
<i>Total assets less current liabilities</i>		97,471	32,692	130,163	57,185	16,967	74,152
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	7	-	-	-	(20,000)	-	(20,000)
Total net assets		97,471	32,692	130,163	37,185	16,967	54,152
The funds of the charity:							
Restricted funds	9	-	32,692	32,692	-	16,967	16,967
Unrestricted funds		97,471	-	97,471	37,185	-	37,185
Total charity funds		97,471	32,692	130,163	37,185	16,967	54,152

The notes on pages 20 to 26 form part of these accounts.

Approved by the trustees 2 July 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

.....
Reverend Dr. James Heard

Chair

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Saint John The Baptist, Holland Road, Diocese of Kensington

The PCC is a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England, which operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure and is a registered charity number 1169173.

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

1 Accounting policies

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 (FRS 102)' - the Charities SORP (FRS 102); the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCCs, and with the Regulations 'true and fair view' provisions, the Charities Act 2011 and other relevant accounting regulations. The disclosure requirements of section 1A of FRS 102 have been applied other than where additional disclosure is required to show a true and fair view.

Assets and liabilities are recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling (GBP), which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts are rounded to the nearest one pound (£).

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. There are no judgements (apart from those involving estimations) that management has made when applying the charity's accounting policies that have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements.

Accounting estimates and assumptions are made concerning the future and, by their nature, will rarely equal the related actual outcome. The key assumptions and other sources of estimation uncertainty that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities are disclosed where necessary in the relevant accounting policy note.

Going concern

There are no material uncertainties about the PCC's ability to continue as a going concern.

At the time of approving the financial statements the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the PCC will continue and has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the purposes of the PCC. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees, at their discretion, to use for a particular purpose.

Restricted funds are subject to specific restrictions, which the donor, legatee, or other third party has specified to be used for particular areas of the PCC's work, or for specific projects, or for specific items of expenditure, to be undertaken by the PCC.

Income

Income is recognised and included in the accounts when all the following criteria are met:

- the PCC has entitlement to the funds;
- any performance conditions attached to the income have been met, or are fully within the control of the PCC;
- it is probable that the income will be received; and
- the amount can be measured reliably.

In accordance with the Charity SORP (FRS 102) the economic contribution of volunteers' time is not measured in the accounts.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of operating and maintaining the church, providing services and pastoral support and includes Value Added Tax (VAT) which is not recoverable by the PCC.

Support costs

There has been no allocation of administrative or other support costs, all such costs are incurred on the PCC's principal activity.

Financial instruments

The PCC only has financial instruments classified as 'Basic Financial Instruments' applying the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' of FRS 102.

Financial instruments are recognised in the PCC's balance sheet when the PCC becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Debtors (basic financial assets)

Debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any discount or provision for bad debts.

Creditors (basic financial liabilities)

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the PCC has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any discounts due.

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the PCC's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

Taxation

No tax has been provided in these accounts because the trustees believe that the income and gains are within the exemptions granted for charities by Chapters 2 and 3 of the Corporation Taxes Act 2010.

2 Trustee remuneration and expenses

No remuneration was paid to any trustee in the year. Four trustees were reimbursed for expenses for the running of the PCC totalling £7,927 in the year (2022: £2,172).

3 Income

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
a) Donations and legacies						
Planned giving	8,308	-	8,308	7,970	-	7,970
Collections, online giving and other donations	37,672	29,717	67,389	53,019	17,361	70,380
Gift aid	14,882	6,432	21,314	2,857	-	2,857
	<u>60,862</u>	<u>36,149</u>	<u>97,011</u>	<u>63,846</u>	<u>17,361</u>	<u>81,207</u>
b) Grants						
General	20,000	-	20,000	2,641	-	2,641
Listed Places of Worship	-	8,662	8,662			
Heritage London	-	5,000	5,000			
RBKC Events	-	28,700	28,700			
RBKC Lighting and CCTV	-	35,337	35,337			
	<u>20,000</u>	<u>77,699</u>	<u>97,699</u>	<u>2,641</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,641</u>
c) Lettings						
Rent from church letting	26,606	-	26,606	11,478	-	11,478
Rent from crypt letting	34,743	-	34,743	34,590	-	34,590
Rent from other property	-	-	-	2,680	-	2,680
	<u>61,349</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>61,349</u>	<u>48,748</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>48,748</u>
d) Church activities						
Fees for weddings & blessings	7,280	-	7,280	750	-	750
Area Dean allowance	2,400	-	2,400	2,400	-	2,400
Concerts & events	4,505	-	4,505			
Insurance recoveries	3,960	-	3,960	15,707	-	15,707
	<u>18,145</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>18,145</u>	<u>18,857</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>18,857</u>
e) Bank interest	27	-	27	19	-	19
Total income	<u>160,383</u>	<u>113,848</u>	<u>274,231</u>	<u>134,111</u>	<u>17,361</u>	<u>151,472</u>

4 Expenditure

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
a) Charitable activities						
Common fund	-	19,330	19,330	13,867	-	13,867
Recharges from St. Georges Church:						
clergy costs	20,085	-	20,085	19,950	-	19,950
office running costs	1,440	-	1,440	1,440	-	1,440
Insurance	12,212	-	12,212	10,177	-	10,177
Staff costs	1,030	-	1,030	-	-	-
Charitable giving	-	-	-	420	-	420
Gas & Electricity	13,771	-	13,771	12,784	-	12,784
Church maintenance	5,112	48,999	54,111	23,401	-	23,401
Cleaning & gardening	2,396	-	2,396	1,430	-	1,430
Incumbent priests' expenses	1,235	-	1,235	2,171	-	2,171
Music costs	11,628	-	11,628	16,357	-	16,357
Concerts & events expenses	350	29,794	30,144	-	-	-
CCTV equipment	6,000	-	6,000			
Organ maintenance	3,234	-	3,234	2,718	-	2,718
Liturgical expenses	1,666	-	1,666	-	-	-
General expenses	1,043	-	1,043	2,755	-	2,755
Bank charges	237	-	237	202	-	202
Lighting project	-	-	-	1,489	-	1,489
Professional fees	16,708	-	16,708	4,244	-	4,244
Accountancy fees	1,200	-	1,200	-	-	-
Staff accommodation	-	-	-	-	11,488	11,488
	<u>99,347</u>	<u>98,123</u>	<u>197,470</u>	<u>113,405</u>	<u>11,488</u>	<u>124,893</u>
b) Governance costs						
Independent examination	750	-	750	750	-	750
Total expenditure	<u>100,097</u>	<u>98,123</u>	<u>198,220</u>	<u>114,155</u>	<u>11,488</u>	<u>125,643</u>

4 Employees

The average number of staff employed by the charity during the reporting period was 1 (2022: 0).

The cost in respect of staff was:

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	<u>1,030</u>	<u>-</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000.

5 Debtors

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	2023	2023	2023	2022	2022	2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Prepayments	1,055	-	1,055	2,347	-	2,347
Grants	-	8,662	8,662	-	-	-
Gift aid recoverable	11,946	6,432	18,378	2,133	-	2,133
Other debtors	8,251	485	8,736	-	-	-
	<u>21,252</u>	<u>15,579</u>	<u>36,831</u>	<u>4,480</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,480</u>

6 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	2023	2023	2023	2022	2022	2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Invoices payable	20,898	-	20,898	2,397	-	2,397
Accruals	1,950	-	1,950	1,850	-	1,850
Tenant deposits held	8,750	-	8,750	8,750	-	8,750
	<u>31,598</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>31,598</u>	<u>12,997</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,997</u>

7 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	2023	2023	2023	2022	2022	2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Loan from Diocese	-	-	-	20,000	-	20,000
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20,000</u>

8 Transactions with related parties

Under trustee arrangements three of the PCC trustees are trustees of St. John's Holland Road Trust (a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) registration number 1195250). During the year this charity made payments to the PCC of £21,732 in respect of the associate vicar's accommodation costs, these costs are then paid to the Diocese.

As part of the United Benefice of Holland Park costs are incurred and recharges made by The Parochial Church Council of St. George The Martyr Campden Hill (registered charity number 1131866). Three of the PCC trustees are also trustees to the PCC of St. George The Martyr. The total paid in the year was £21,231.

9 Analysis of charitable funds

	funds brought forward	income	expenditure	transfers	funds carried forward
	£	£	£	£	£
RESTRICTED FUNDS					
Associate Vicar Accommodation Fund	5,873	35,664	(19,330)	-	22,207
Other donations	1,094	-	(1,094)	-	-
Organ Restoration Fund	10,000	-	-	-	10,000
Listed Places of Worship Grant	-	8,662	(8,662)	-	-
Heritage London	-	5,000	(5,000)	-	-
RBKC Events	-	28,700	(28,700)	-	-
RBKC Lighting and CCTV	-	35,337	(35,337)	-	-
Christmas collection for Gaza	-	485	-	-	485
Restricted funds	16,967	113,848	(98,123)	-	32,692

Associate Vicar Accommodation Fund

This fund consists of donations from public appeals. Payments are made to St. John's Holland Road Trust (see note 2) to cover expenses incurred in providing the accommodation. The balance of the fund represents amounts not yet transferred to the Trust.

Other donations

This fund is in relation to specific works on the drains and boiler, as well as support for musical events. The opening balance related to gift aid claims that had to be made.

Organ Restoration Fund

This fund is in relation to funding received from Ecclesiastical Insurance to pay for the conservation of the organ following damage caused by a fire in the chancel in February 2017.

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

	funds brought forward	income	expenditure	transfers	funds carried forward
	£	£	£	£	£
General fund	28,435	160,383	(100,097)	8,750	97,471
Tenant deposits fund	8,750	-	-	(8,750)	-
Unrestricted funds	37,185	160,383	(100,097)	-	97,471
Total funds	54,152	274,231	(198,220)	-	130,163

FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

	funds brought forward	income	expenditure	transfers	funds carried forward
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds	11,094	17,361	(11,488)		16,967
Unrestricted funds	17,229	134,111	(114,155)	-	37,185
	28,323	151,472	(125,643)	-	54,152

10 Analysis of net assets between funds

	General funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£
Current assets	129,069	32,692	161,761
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(31,598)	-	(31,598)
	<u>97,471</u>	<u>32,692</u>	<u>130,163</u>

PRIOR YEAR

	General funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£
Current assets	70,182	16,967	87,149
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(12,997)	-	(12,997)
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	(20,000)	-	(20,000)
	<u>37,185</u>	<u>16,967</u>	<u>54,152</u>

Accounts

St John the Baptist, Holland Road

Annual Report 2022



St John the Baptist, Holland Road

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Administrative Information

St John's Church is situated on Holland Road in Kensington and is part of the Church of England in the Diocese of London. It forms part of the United Benefice of Holland Park. The correspondence address is St George's Church, Aubrey Walk, London W8 7JG. The Parochial Church Council constitutes a charity and this year is registered as a UK charity (no. 1169173). The PCC members who have served from October 2022 until the date this report was approved are:

The Revd Dr James Heard	Chair
The Revd Neil Traynor	Associate Priest
The Revd Peter Wolton	Associate Priest
The Revd Dana English	Associate Priest
Clare Heard	LLM
Ms Lindsay Fulcher	Churchwarden and LLM
Ms Kate Cullinan	Churchwarden
Ms Stephanie de Mel Hon.	Treasurer
Mrs Jenny Davenport	Vice-Chair, Deanery Synod Rep.
Ms Kristin Corbet-Milward	Safeguarding Officer
Mrs Jill Traynor	Deanery Synod Rep.
Mr Jamie Priestley	
Ms Marina Abel Smith	
Ms Anita Kouassigan	
Ms Panagiota Kotoula	

Structure, governance and management

The Churchwardens are as set out in the Churchwardens Measure 2001 and are *ex officio* members of the PCC. The PCC members are elected as set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll.

Public benefit statement

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, "Charities and Public Benefit".

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is responsible for co-operating with the Vicar in promoting within the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC also has maintenance responsibilities for St John's Church, and the surrounding land.

Worship and Sacramental Care

The Parish Eucharist is the principal act of worship offered by the parish. It is celebrated week by week in accordance with the apostles' teaching and fellowship in the breaking of bread and prayer (Acts 2:42). The PCC is grateful to the sidespeople, readers and to all who contribute in many other ways to the life and worship offered to God by this parish. This year we conducted four baptisms, four funerals/memorials, and three weddings/ blessings.

Daily Prayer

We continue to meet daily for prayer on zoom – 9.15am Monday to Friday for **Morning Prayer** and 9.30pm for **Compline** on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The **meditation group**, faithfully led by Gill Rowe continues to meet every Monday at 6.00pm both at St George's and on zoom. We have been encouraged by the significant increase in people for these services.

Pastoral and social care

Pastoral and social care of the parish continues to be shared by the ministry team and several pastoral visitors. Pastoral care is also exercised through such activities as the lunch club. This team make regular 'phone calls and visits in the parish.

Safeguarding

Kristin Corbett-Millward is the designated safeguarding officer for St John's and Clare Heard is our children's champion. Fr Peter is the lead DBS checker. The diocesan safeguarding dashboard is used and updated on a regular basis and we review safeguarding at every PCC meeting.

Evangelisation

St John's is committed to the Gospel imperative to 'make disciples of all the nations; baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit' (Matthew 28:19), and to rising in future to the challenge of engagement in active evangelisation amongst all the peoples of the parish it serves. The Exploring Faith evenings continue with a variety of courses discovering together the richness of the Christian faith, welcoming others who are new to faith and also some non-churchgoers.

Ecumenical links

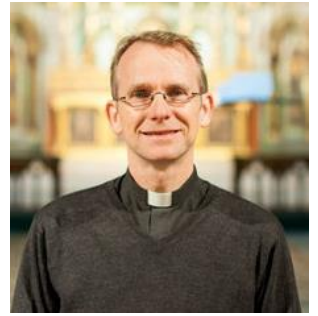
As a modern catholic parish of the Church of England, St John's Church honours the Lord's High Priestly prayer that all Christians may be one as he and the Father are one (John 17:21), and seeks to foster its local relationship with Christians of the great communions of East and West in furtherance of the full and organic unity of the Church. To this end we play our part in the membership of the Kensington Council of Churches.

Review of the year

The PCC met five times during the year. A revised electoral roll was drawn up in advance of this Annual Parochial Church Meeting. There are currently 87 people on the electoral roll.

Vicar's Report – Fr James Heard

This year has been significant in various ways. Following the disruption of Covid, we have finally been able to resume unrestricted services, including the return of the 'common cup' at communion. And following a year of planning and getting permissions, the interior renovation of St George's was completed just after Easter. The results have been excellent, particularly the resituated oak encased backlit stained glass, new LED lighting scheme, and new altar. The total cost was approximately £240,000 and I am extremely grateful to those who have given so generously. In October, we had a service of dedication and blessing with Bishop Michael Colclough presiding and preaching, joined by the Mayor of Kensington and Chelsea, and the newly formed choir, Aubrey Singers, who now rehearse at St George's.



We continue to follow through our **2022-2025 Mission Action Plan**, focussing on four particular areas: growing in spiritual depth; growing in service; growing younger and growing in resources. I am delighted to report that both churches have been awarded Bronze Eco-Church status. This year also saw a significant rise in the number of baptisms, 15 in total, following almost none for two years.



Two **Exploring Faith** courses were held in 2022. Our Lent course introduced different types of prayer: drawing inspiration from the Quakers, Mindfulness, praying the rosary, and 'waiting on God' in small groups. The Autumn course was entitled 'And all shall be well': Women of faith through the ages. It began with an excellent talk by Tom Stacey, 'Living in an Age of Spiritual Lacuna'. We were therefore shocked to hear the news of Tom passing just before Christmas. We also said farewell to other loved brothers

and sisters in our community, including Mick May, Lois St Pierre, Maggie Neale, Robert Compton-Jones, Bunny Priestley, St George's architect, Roderick MacLennan. We also arranged services in both churches following the death of her late majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. We give thanks for her unwavering sense of duty, steadfast loyalty and service not only to her country, but also to God.

St John's continues to flourish, with Neil, Jill and Harriet moving into the flat next door. This has provided much needed stability for them as a family. As a result of Neil's ministry, we have seen St John's increasingly used for rehearsals and concerts, not to mention over 20,000 people visiting the Gaia installation (see Neil's report).

I am in my third, of five years, as Area Dean of Kensington, which continues to bring additional responsibilities (and work!). I am therefore, as always, appreciative my colleagues,

churchwardens and PCCs for their support. We welcomed to our team Daniella Fetuga-Joensuu, who is studying at St Mellitus and on placement with us, during her training to become a priest.

The Parish Office saw some changes, with Victoria O'Neill starting a new job as the Archdeacon's PA, but continuing to work several hours a week to help with our finances. We welcomed Daniel Gable as our new Office Administrator.



Churchwardens' Report *by Lindsay Fulcher LLM*

As during the last two years, I continued to ensure that St John the Baptist was open to the public from 3pm to 5pm every Monday and Thursday throughout 2022.



Robin Price, who at 90 is the oldest member of our congregation, had been asked to write a brief history of St John the Baptist but, although his well-researched, concisely written text had been completed a few years ago, its publication seemed to have stalled. However, after a good deal of gentle prodding of various members of the clergy and laity, the engagement of an excellent designer named Caroline Reed and the securing of the necessary funding, the booklet has finally emerged. The result is a slim, beautifully produced, little volume which, priced at a very reasonable £5, is a welcome addition to our other publications and the perfect guide to the architectural and ecclesiastical history of this Grade1-listed masterpiece and its incumbents.

I had long noticed that, although a cheerful colour, the red vinyl kneelers in St John's had little else to recommend them. So when I saw that Alison Glover (at St Mark's, Harrogate) posted on the Churchwardens' Facebook page asking if anyone was interested in 150 free, beautiful (about to be redundant), hand-embroidered kneelers, I contacted her at once. She kindly sent me images and even a sample kneeler and then, after several months, delivered them to St John the Baptist. They are now look very much at home on our pews and many people have remarked on how they brighten the church. They are very comfortable and I would encourage anyone who can kneel to try one out! Oh-oh I feel a sermon coming on...

Talking of which, as an LLM, I preached at St John the Baptist on 13 March and at the Pets' Service on 2 October, as well as St George's Camden Hill on 4 December and at St Mary Abbots on 21 August.



Assistant Priest's Annual Report

Revd Neil Traynor

2022 continued the recent trends in St John's of opening up more to the public, seeing our congregation grow, and host a wide variety of musical and arts events. A very large number of people have helped to make 2022 our most exciting year to date, and thank you to everyone who has participated.



Liturgical

St John's has continued with its usual range of services, supported by Mark Denza on the organ and John Sen and Daniel Gable as servers. It was good to have the St John's singers back with us, and we look forward to continuing to grow that group. Candlemas, Ash Wednesday, Lady Day, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, the Patronal Festival, Michaelmas, All Souls, Remembrance Sunday and the Carol Service have all seen exceptionally good services, and this has been reflected by higher attendance. We are continuing to become more confident in our liturgical offerings; thank you to everyone who has helped with this.



Our occasional offices have continued to be a modest part of our ministry here, with two baptisms, and this year no weddings. There were two funerals held in St John's the most notable being that of Bunny Priestley. A lifelong supporter of St John's the opportunity was taken to mark her passing with the full panoply of catholic rites, including the pall over the coffin. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

Music and the arts

Amongst our non-musical events, February saw Hipcurve host their Fashion Show as part of London Fashion Week, and we were delighted to welcome the Victorian Society on a building visit. In May Kristin gave a reading from the wartime diaries of Fritz Reck and Ettie Hillesum which was very moving. In July we were used for the filming of a drama about 19th Century Jews in Russia, and in October we were the location for the filming of Mercy Ships carol service; and hosted a play for children on the Gunpowder Plot.

Music though played a very large part in our outreach. Our non- liturgical music included concerts by Jonathan Byrd; the London International Choir; Cardinal Vaughan VI form Choir; Ensemble Pro Victoria (twice); New Trinity Baroque; China/UK International Music Festival; St Martin's Singers; London City Philharmonic; Lyra Singers; and the Aubrey Singers.

We've also been a rehearsal venue for many groups including Vocal Shack; MD Brunch; Trombonists from Guildhall School of Music; the London Ponte Orchestra; Holland Park Opera and many other ad hoc groups. It's been gratifying to see St John's being used so often and by such a wide variety of groups, all of which has helped our finances.

Gaia

We were privileged to host Luke Jerram's Gaia this year. As with the Museum of the Moon in 2021, we welcomed a very large (25,000 visitors) and diverse audience in terms of gender, age, religious conviction (or not), sexuality and (dis)ability. We were much better prepared, and Kensington and Chelsea committed more resource to enable the exhibition to run so smoothly. It was a delight to bless the recent marriage of two visitors to St John's during the exhibition, demonstrating to the many visitors that we're an active church, not just a venue.



Building on 2021 musicians connected with St John's or St George's gave a concert in the last 20 minutes of the opening. These included a Greek Jazz group; Jenny Thorn, Regan Crowley and Frances Barlow on the violin and viola with organ accompaniment by Mark Denza; and organ recitals by Andrea Chan (organ scholar at Pembroke Coll, Cambs), Andrew Wells and Mark Denza. These introduced a whole new audience to classical music, and were very much appreciated by the audience, many of whom returned just for the concert.

Building

Although 2022 has been something of a consolidating year, it's not been without continuing work. The crypt was finally ready for re-occupation following the floods of 2021, and it is good to have Rose Physiotherapy back with us. We've continued the investigation and remedial work on the drains and guttering, and we're becoming concerned about the long term viability of the roof of the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. We will continue to monitor this and look for funding opportunities to replace it.



Work was finally completed to repair the calvary outside St John's, thanks to Danny and Tristan the stonemasons from Wells Cathedral Masons. This work was supported by the Heritage of London Trust and a plaque will be installed shortly in the narthex.

As part of the enabling works for Gaia, the Council helped us with funding to repair the steps from the nave into the choir. Again completed by Wells Cathedral Masons, they are now stable and safe for the large number of visitors to walk on. We're grateful for their support.

Just before Christmas we learned we had been successful in our bid for external lighting from Holland Ward funding. This will be installed early in the new year. We also hope to install CCTV very soon.

In August Roderick MacLennan, our much loved and valued architect died. He was instrumental in saving the fabric of St John's, and we could not be the church we are today without his skill and dedication. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Vocational

St John's was delighted when Daniella Fetuga-Joensuu was accepted for ordination training through St Mellitus College. She's become a valued member of the team over the last year.



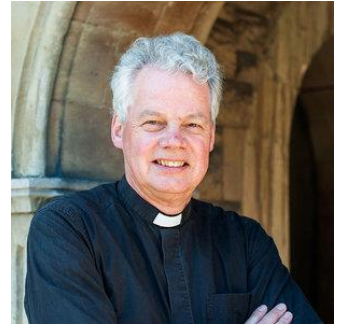
For four weeks in July and August we welcomed Noah Cockett, an ordinand at Ripon College Cuddesdon on his summer placement. He was an invaluable help during Gaia, and he learned much in the parish, not least in social media.

2022 really has been yet another remarkable year in the life of St John's, and one which we could not have reasonably expected 10 years ago. It's a whole team effort, not just from St John's but across the United Benefice. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the life of St John's this year. One person summed up their experience of St John's and Gaia: *"I have experienced the numinosity which the interior of St John's can so easily evoke, many times since my first unforgettable visit in 1971, but never quite the thick atmosphere of that evening. The huge number of people present, and their almost palpable sense of awe, made it a unique experience. Thank you."*



Fr Peter Wolton

2022 will be remembered, perhaps, as the year when life returned to normal after COVID, but also for the death of our beloved Queen, not many months after her Platinum Jubilee. The Queen's Jubilee, with the service at St Paul's Cathedral, and her funeral at Westminster Abbey, underlined the role of the Church of England in our national life.



The Queen's death resulted in Lambeth Palace calling for volunteers to provide chaplaincy services to what became known as 'the Queue'. I joined the chaplaincy team and did two four-hour shifts on the Friday and Saturday, the first outside Westminster Hall and the second as the queue came up to Lambeth Bridge.

From the encounters that I had, I found myself reflecting that the queue to venerate our late Queen was like pilgrims in earlier times travelling to be in the presence of a saint's relics. Both the Pope and Archbishop of Westminster stressed the Queen's steadfast witness of faith in Jesus Christ and her firm hope in his promises. One of the stages of canonisation handled by the Vatican is whether the candidate, who must be Roman Catholic, led a life of 'heroic virtue'. Many considered this quality to be a hallmark of the life of Elizabeth II. It is a curious thought that if the Supreme Head of the Church of England had been a Roman Catholic, perhaps in time she would be considered for canonisation.



2022 normality meant a return to a full pattern of services and a 2022 programme of 'Why me?' addresses at St John's. A huge thank to our speakers Peter Thomas, Mark Denza, Steph de Mel and Daniella Fetuga-Joensu. It is so exciting that Daniella has been accepted for ordination.

The size of our Ministry team (James and Neil being assisted by two voluntary Self Supporting Ministers (Dana and me) and two voluntary Lay Readers (Clare and Lindsay) leads to us being asked to help at other churches, including those in 'interregnum' (between vicars).

As well as taking services at other churches in the deanery, I officiated at weddings in Aldeburgh and at Chelsea Old Church. I find I am also asked to undertake services for people outside the parish, so I took funerals in Taunton and for a much-loved Chiswick restaurateur at Mortlake.

The Church is developing new pathways to Ordination to the priesthood and in the summer, I was asked to become an Assistant Director of Ordinands for the Diocese of Kensington. This involves working with candidates during their discernment process and preparing the necessary paperwork ahead of them attending selection panels.

Let me close with two things, a note of thanks and a note to ponder on. Thank you to James and Neil for your leadership and to our congregations who I find to be a source of constant encouragement. Second, the role of an SSM; it's incredibly fulfilling. Bishop Sarah of London herself originally was ordained as an SSM before becoming a full-time member of the clergy. She is keen that more people come forward to be SSMs. Perhaps some of our congregation might consider whether they too are being called to be SSMs.

Revd Dana English

I continue to serve on the rota for preaching and presiding at both St George's and St John's, and to assist in the coverage of worship at other churches, as needed. I lead daily prayer every fourth week, as well, and enjoy these opportunities for engaging with all in the parish. I visit various parishioners on a regular basis in conjunction with the rest of the clergy team. Other opportunities I have been privileged to have for sharing in the life of the congregation follow:



The Weekly Bible Study Every Wednesday at 1:30pm I lead a group of between 10-14 persons who gather on Zoom to continue our study of the Old Testament. Having begun this systematic study two years ago, we ended the year with the prophets Obadiah and Jonah; we will resume with the remaining books of the minor prophets and then plunge into the Apocryphal books of the Bible. The group now includes persons from Germany and the U. S. as well as more locally; we have incorporated much art history into our study, illustrating the passages with this additional resource.

The Young Adults' Group of the Benefice continues to meet every other Tuesday at 7:30pm for Bible study. We have continued to meet on Zoom, as the weekday evening time makes gathering in person difficult. With our discussions having covered almost all the books of the New Testament, we begin using Elaine Storkey's well-reviewed book *Meeting God in Matthew* to begin the New Year. The number of those involved in this group remains at about 8-10; as there are many younger adults attending services at both churches this group has filled a need for both fellowship and study.

Retreat Weekend, 25-27 November

This opportunity to lead a group away from the familiar landscape of London has become an annual tradition for the Benefice. Twenty of us spent the first weekend of Advent with the theme of *Preparing for Advent*, in poetry, art, and music. We had the main house of Launde Abbey, as before, all to ourselves, with the front room for our presentations, looking out onto the hillside full of grazing sheep. Launde Abbey has come to expect us each year, with deluxe accommodation at a moderate price and excellent food.



The weather was mild enough for the traditional long Saturday afternoon walk. We add compline on both Friday and Saturday nights to the regular schedule of services offered by the Abbey chaplain. This weekend has proven a wonderful opportunity to get to know one another better in a relaxed and beautiful setting. Our age range of participants has been 21-86.

The Enneagram Workshop 6-8th May a workshop on the ancient practice of the Enneagram was given at St George's by the Revd Gordon Melvin, a long-time hospital chaplain and presenter of the Enneagram. Eleven of us participated in this unique opportunity to learn more about ourselves and our personality types, exploring how this greater self-awareness, coupled with the practice of daily contemplation, could change responses we make to others. A follow-up session was also held on Sunday afternoon, 6th November, that all found helpful. We are grateful to Gordon for giving of his time in this way.

Exploring Faith Course I gave a presentation in the series of women in the history of the spirituality of the church, **Hildegard of Bingen**, on 9th November. A highlight of the evening was the ethereal singing of some of Hildegard's compositions by Susanna Hill, former Trinity College Choir member, who sang amid the candlelight, unaccompanied.

Initiative to Provide Housing for a Syrian or Afghan Family On 17th May Theo Yardley, who had been part of a successful resettlement program in West Hampstead, came to St George's to speak about this possibility for our benefice. Ten of us gathered to hear in more detail how the programme worked. We decided to appeal to the larger community to join us in exploring the possibility in all its aspects. A flyer was prepared, and with a small group I distributed 1,000 flyers at the Notting Hill Gate Farmer's Market and under the doors of every house in our parish. The initial appeal was to hold an organisational meeting together. We had exactly one response, so the decision was made that we could not continue with so small a base.

Deanery Synod Report *by Sarah Tett*

As reported last year, meetings of the Synod followed the diocese's **Vision 2030** themes, taking one broad theme at each meeting:

- February's meeting was held at St John's, Notting Hill and addressed mental health and well-being under the **Compassionate Communities** theme. The Revd Will van Hart spoke on 'What to do when you cannot do any less – strategies for the over-committed'. The Revd Canon William Taylor introduced a motion petitioning the *London Diocesan Synod and General Synod to request the NCLs of the Church of England to work ecumenically with other churches to establish a national day of prayer and action for the persecuted Church*. The motion was passed and sent on to the diocese for consideration at Diocesan Synod.
- The Spring Common Fund meetings resumed, after Covid had disrupted the normal cycles, with a variety of in-person and zoom meetings offered.
- In June Synod members were hosted for a summer garden party in the grounds of the St Mary Abbots Vicarage.
- All Saints, Notting Hill held the September meeting of Synod at which Mirjam Ngoy-Verhage from the diocese introduced the **Confident Disciples** theme. Synod heard from several churches how they were engaging with the idea of a rule of life in accordance with their church tradition.
- The last meeting of 2022 took place at St Philip's, Earls Court Road. Alex Jueguen was introduced as the Kensington Deanery Safeguarding Coordinator. The theme of **Creative Growth** was discussed. The Synod heard from Chris Kennedy, leading a deanery BMO in sport and well-being at Activate, Bushey Park; Joe O'Sullivan, working on the estate at St Francis Dalgarno Way; and Andy Buckler from St Barnabas, Kensington, working with creators of music and art.

As a further note, the motion on the persecuted church was debated at the July session of the Diocesan Synod and was passed unanimously. It is now with the business committee of General Synod.



Treasurer Report *by Stephanie de Mel*

Church Finances in 2022

2022 represents a year of significant financial recovery for St John's, following sharp falls in income during the COVID-19 pandemic. Church finances were particularly bolstered by a return to regular rental income from the crypt letting, and by earnings from a wide range of concerts, events, and church lettings. While both income and expenditure in 2022 were higher than in the previous year, St John's was able to end 2022 in a surplus position, following back-to-back deficits in the last two years. Therefore, although there is more to do to secure St John's financial position, and particularly to support its future resilience to large shocks like the COVID-19 pandemic, this year represents a welcome move toward greater financial stability for the church.



General Fund

In 2022, the general fund generated a surplus of £33,595, which represents a considerable improvement on the previous year's deficit of £1,793. Our gross incoming resources increased to £159,237 (2021: £85,327). Of this, voluntary income, including tax refunds and a small (£2,641) LDF energy support grant, totalled £91,613 (2021: £50,363). This year-on-year increase in voluntary income came primarily from a 52% increase in collections, online giving, and planned giving (£36,219); restricted donations of £16,940 (the majority of which was for events); and £15,550 raised for the Associate Vicar's Housing Appeal.

Receipts from fund-generating activities (church and crypt lettings) amounted to £46,068 (2021: £14,595), due to the resumption of regular crypt rent payments. After adjusting for insurance recoveries, other income was £5,080 (2021: £14,296).

Total expenditure from the general fund in 2022 was £125,643 (2021: £87,120). The largest expenses were common fund and clergy costs (30%), church maintenance (24%), music costs (14%) and energy (11%), which collectively make up approximately 82% of overall costs.

Restricted Funds

Two restricted funds exist for 2022: the Organ Restoration fund has a balance of £10,000 carried over at the end of 2021, while the Associate Vicar's Housing Fund has a balance of £5,873.

Balance Sheet

Total cash deposits at the end of 2022 were £82,669 (2021: 55,061). After adjusting for restricted and designated funds and loans, however, total cash holdings fall to £45,702, which is above both the equivalent 2021 figure (£16,311) and the PCC's policy figure for minimum cash balances.

The PCC would like to thank all those who supported St John's financially during the year.





St John the Baptist, Holland Road
 Registered Charity number 1169173
office@hollandparkbenefice.org
hollandparkbenefice.org 020 3602 9873

Church of St. John the Baptist, Holland Road
Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

Charity number 1169173

Church of St. John the Baptist, Holland Road
Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

Statement of financial activities for 12 months ended 31 December 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £
Incoming resources							
Voluntary income	2(a)	66,486	17,361	83,847	44,977	6,244	51,221
Activities for generating funds	2(b)	46,068	-	46,068	14,595	-	14,595
Investment income	2(c)	19	-	19	14	-	14
Income from church activities	2(d)	750	-	750	-	-	-
Other income	2(e)	20,787	-	20,787	20,356	-	20,356
Total Incoming Resources		134,110	17,361	151,471	79,942	6,244	86,186
Resources expended							
Church activities	3(a)	(113,405)	(11,488)	(124,893)	(75,658)	(10,286)	(85,944)
Goverance Costs	3(b)	(750)	-	(750)	(750)	-	(750)
Total Resources Expended		(114,155)	(11,488)	(125,643)	(76,408)	(10,286)	(86,694)
Net movement in funds	10	19,956	5,873	25,829	3,534	(4,042)	(508)
Transfers to / (from)		-	-	-	-	-	-
Balances b/fwd 1 Jan		17,229	11,094	28,323	13,695	15,136	28,831
Balances c/fwd 31 Dec		37,185	16,967	54,152	17,229	11,094	28,323

Church of St. John the Baptist, Holland Road
Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

Balance sheet as at 31 December 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £
Current assets							
Debtors	4	4,480	-	4,480	8,383	-	8,383
Cash at bank and in hand		65,702	16,967	82,669	43,966	11,094	55,060
Total current assets		70,182	16,967	87,149	52,349	11,094	63,443
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	5	(12,997)	-	(12,997)	(15,120)	-	(15,120)
Net current assets		57,185	16,967	74,152	37,229	11,094	48,323
Total assets less current liabilities		57,185	16,967	74,152	37,229	11,094	48,323
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	6	(20,000)	-	(20,000)	(20,000)	-	(20,000)
Total net assets		37,185	16,967	54,152	17,229	11,094	28,323
Parish funds	9,10	37,185	16,967	54,152	17,229	11,094	28,323
Unrestricted funds		37,185	-	37,185	17,229	-	17,229
Restricted funds		-	16,967	16,967	-	11,094	11,094
Total funds		37,185	16,967	54,152	17,229	11,094	28,323

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 5 September 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Incumbent
Reverend Dr James Heard



Treasurer
Stephanie de Mel

Church of St. John the Baptist, Holland Road

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of St John the Baptist Church, Holland Road, Parochial Church Council

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of St John the Baptist PCC (the Trust) for the year ended 31st December 2022 comprising the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, and the accompanying notes to the accounts.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner and basis of report

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. As the charity's trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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



Peter Cranenburgh
Cranenburgh Limited
Chartered Accountants
76-80 College Road
Harrow
Middlesex
HA1 1BQ
5 September 2023

Church of St. John the Baptist, Holland Road
Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

1) Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102).

Fund accounting

Restricted funds can only be used for particular purposes specified by or agreed with the donors. General funds may be used for any purpose within the charity's objects.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included on the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Expenditure recognition

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

	Unrestricted Funds 2022	Restricted Funds 2022	Total 2022	Unrestricted Funds 2021	Restricted Funds 2021	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
2) Incoming resources						
a) Voluntary income						
Planned giving	7,970	-	7,970	17,118	-	17,118
Collections, online giving, & other donations	53,019	17,361	70,380	11,876	5,150	17,026
Grants	2,641	-	2,641	12,900	-	12,900
Tax refunds	2,857	-	2,857	3,083	1,094	4,177
	66,486	17,361	83,847	44,977	6,244	51,221
b) Activities for generating funds						
Rent from church letting	11,478	-	11,478	6,520	-	6,520
Rent from crypt letting	34,590	-	34,590	8,075	-	8,075
	46,068	-	46,068	14,595	-	14,595
c) Investment income						
Bank and deposit interest	19	-	19	14	-	14
	19	-	19	14	-	14
d) Income from church activities						
Fees for weddings	750	-	750	-	-	-
Fees for funerals	-	-	-	-	-	-
	750	-	750	-	-	-
e) Other income						
Insurance recoveries	15,707	-	15,707	6,060	-	6,060
Rent from church property	2,680	-	2,680	14,296	-	14,296
Area Dean expenses allowance	2,400	-	2,400	-	-	-
	20,787	-	20,787	20,356	-	20,356
Total Incoming Resources	134,110	17,361	151,471	79,942	6,244	86,186

Church of St. John the Baptist, Holland Road
Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

3) Resources expended	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2022	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2021
	Funds 2022	Funds 2022		Funds 2021	Funds 2021	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
a) Church activities						
Common fund	(13,867)	-	(13,867)	(14,750)	-	(14,750)
Recharges from St. George's church						-
Off common fund clergy costs	(19,950)	-	(19,950)	(19,770)	-	(19,770)
United Benefice office running costs	(1,440)	-	(1,440)	(1,440)	-	(1,440)
Insurance	(10,177)	-	(10,177)	(12,000)	-	(12,000)
Charitable giving	(420)	-	(420)	-	-	-
Electricity	(7,766)	-	(7,766)	(8,157)	-	(8,157)
Gas	(5,018)	-	(5,018)	(2,174)	-	(2,174)
Water rates	-	-	-	(150)	-	(150)
Church maintenance	(23,401)	-	(23,401)	(583)	(8,336)	(8,919)
Cleaning & gardening	(1,430)	-	(1,430)	(260)	-	(260)
Incumbent priests' expenses	(2,171)	-	(2,171)	-	-	-
Audio visual & IT equipment	-	-	-	(1,052)	-	(1,052)
Organist fees	(5,510)	-	(5,510)	(4,525)	-	(4,525)
Choir fees	(10,847)	-	(10,847)	(1,233)	(1,950)	(3,183)
Organ maintenance & repairs	(2,718)	-	(2,718)	(905)	-	(905)
Licenses & membership fees	-	-	-	(405)	-	(405)
General expenses	(2,755)	-	(2,755)	(242)	-	(242)
Bank charges	(202)	-	(202)	(162)	-	(162)
Lighting project	(1,489)	-	(1,489)	(1,514)	-	(1,514)
Professional fees	(4,244)	-	(4,244)	(6,096)	-	(6,096)
Staff Accommodation	-	(11,488)	(11,488)	-	-	-
Restoration - chancel fire	-	-	-	-	-	-
Restoration - other projects	-	-	-	(240)	-	(240)
	(113,405)	(11,488)	(124,893)	(75,658)	(10,286)	(85,944)
b) Governance costs						
Independent examination	(750)	-	(750)	(750)	-	(750)
	(750)	-	(750)	(750)	-	(750)
Total Resources Expended	(114,155)	(11,488)	(125,643)	(76,408)	(10,286)	(86,694)
4) Debtors						
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2022	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2021
	Funds 2022	Funds 2022		Funds 2021	Funds 2021	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Accrued rent from church property	-	-	-	-	-	-
Prepayment of electricity	2,347	-	2,347	1,047	-	1,047
Income tax recoverable	2,133	-	2,133	7,336	-	7,336
	4,480	-	4,480	8,383	-	8,383

Church of St. John the Baptist, Holland Road
Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

5) Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	Unrestricted Funds 2022	Restricted Funds 2022	Total 2022	Unrestricted Funds 2021	Restricted Funds 2021	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Trade payables	(2,397)	-	(2,397)	(960)	-	(960)
Accruals	(1,850)	-	(1,850)	(5,410)	-	(5,410)
Rent deposits	(8,750)	-	(8,750)	(8,750)	-	(8,750)
	(12,997)	-	(12,997)	(15,120)	-	(15,120)

6) Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	Unrestricted Funds 2022	Restricted Funds 2022	Total 2022	Unrestricted Funds 2021	Restricted Funds 2021	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Loan from Diocese - electrical works	(20,000)	-	(20,000)	(20,000)	-	(20,000)
	(20,000)	-	(20,000)	(20,000)	-	(20,000)

7) Commitments

No financial commitments other than those already provided for in the financial statements have been recognised.

8) Related party transactions

Trustees were reimbursed a total of £2172 for expenses that they incurred on behalf of the PCC (2021: £333).

The Associate Vicar's accommodation costs (£10,867 pro rata for 2022) were paid to the diocese, and have been covered this year by a public funding appeal.

9) Allocation of Net Assets by Funds

	Balance b/f 1 Jan 2022	Income	Expenses	Transfers	Revaluation	Balance c/f 31 Dec 2022
	£	£	£			£
The Unrestricted Funds comprise						
General						
General Fund	8,479	134,110	(114,155)	-	-	28,435
Designated						
Tenant Rent Deposit	8,750	-	-	-	-	8,750
Total	17,229	134,110	(114,155)	-	-	37,185
The Restricted Funds comprise						
Associate Vicar Accommodation Fund	-	17,361	(11,488)	-	-	5,873
Other Donations	1,094	-	-	-	-	1,094
Organ Restoration	10,000	-	-	-	-	10,000
Total	11,094	17,361	(11,488)	-	-	16,967
Total Funds	28,323	151,471	(125,643)	-	-	54,152

The Common Fund payment to the diocese includes an annual Common Fund contribution of £3000 in 2022, as well as payment for the Associate Vicar's accommodation (£16,300 annually, £10,867 pro rata for 2022).

Income for the Associate Vicar Accommodation Fund consists of donations from a public fundraising appeal. £11,488 was placed in the St. John's Trust account, from which monthly payments commenced to cover this expense in December 2022

Other Donations were in relation to specific works on the drains and boiler, as well as support for musical events. The closing balance relates to the accrued giftaid on those gifts that has not yet been reclaimed.

The Organ Restoration fund comprises funding received from Ecclesiastical Insurance to pay for the conservation of the organ following damage caused by the chancel fire in February 2017.

Church of St. John the Baptist, Holland Road
Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

10) Reconciliation of Funds

	B/f 1 Jan 2022	Net movement in funds	Transfers between funds	C/f 31 Dec 2022
	£	£	£	£
Current year				
Unrestricted	17,229	19,956	-	37,185
Restricted	11,094	5,873	-	16,967
	28,323	25,829	-	54,152
	B/f 1 Jan 2021	Net movement in funds	Transfers between funds	C/f 31 Dec 2021
	£	£	£	£
Prior year				
Unrestricted	13,695	3,534	-	17,229
Restricted	15,136	(4,042)	-	11,094
	28,831	(508)	-	28,323

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Church of St. John the Baptist, Holland Road
Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

Charity number 1169173

Church of St. John the Baptist, Holland Road
Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

Statement of financial activities for 12 months ended 31 December 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £
Incoming resources							
Voluntary income	2(a)	66,486	17,361	83,847	44,977	6,244	51,221
Activities for generating funds	2(b)	46,068	-	46,068	14,595	-	14,595
Investment income	2(c)	19	-	19	14	-	14
Income from church activities	2(d)	750	-	750	-	-	-
Other income	2(e)	20,787	-	20,787	20,356	-	20,356
Total Incoming Resources		134,110	17,361	151,471	79,942	6,244	86,186
Resources expended							
Church activities	3(a)	(113,405)	(11,488)	(124,893)	(75,658)	(10,286)	(85,944)
Goverance Costs	3(b)	(750)	-	(750)	(750)	-	(750)
Total Resources Expended		(114,155)	(11,488)	(125,643)	(76,408)	(10,286)	(86,694)
Net movement in funds	10	19,956	5,873	25,829	3,534	(4,042)	(508)
Transfers to / (from)		-	-	-	-	-	-
Balances b/fwd 1 Jan		17,229	11,094	28,323	13,695	15,136	28,831
Balances c/fwd 31 Dec		37,185	16,967	54,152	17,229	11,094	28,323

Church of St. John the Baptist, Holland Road
Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

Balance sheet as at 31 December 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £
Current assets							
Debtors	4	4,480	-	4,480	8,383	-	8,383
Cash at bank and in hand		65,702	16,967	82,669	43,966	11,094	55,060
Total current assets		70,182	16,967	87,149	52,349	11,094	63,443
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	5	(12,997)	-	(12,997)	(15,120)	-	(15,120)
Net current assets		57,185	16,967	74,152	37,229	11,094	48,323
Total assets less current liabilities		57,185	16,967	74,152	37,229	11,094	48,323
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	6	(20,000)	-	(20,000)	(20,000)	-	(20,000)
Total net assets		37,185	16,967	54,152	17,229	11,094	28,323
Parish funds	9,10	37,185	16,967	54,152	17,229	11,094	28,323
Unrestricted funds		37,185	-	37,185	17,229	-	17,229
Restricted funds		-	16,967	16,967	-	11,094	11,094
Total funds		37,185	16,967	54,152	17,229	11,094	28,323

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 5 September 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Incumbent
Reverend Dr James Heard



Treasurer
Stephanie de Mel

Church of St. John the Baptist, Holland Road

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of St John the Baptist Church, Holland Road, Parochial Church Council

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of St John the Baptist PCC (the Trust) for the year ended 31st December 2022 comprising the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, and the accompanying notes to the accounts.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner and basis of report

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. As the charity's trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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



Peter Cranenburgh
Cranenburgh Limited
Chartered Accountants
76-80 College Road
Harrow
Middlesex
HA1 1BQ
5 September 2023

Church of St. John the Baptist, Holland Road
Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

1) Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102).

Fund accounting

Restricted funds can only be used for particular purposes specified by or agreed with the donors. General funds may be used for any purpose within the charity's objects.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included on the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Expenditure recognition

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

	Unrestricted Funds 2022	Restricted Funds 2022	Total 2022	Unrestricted Funds 2021	Restricted Funds 2021	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
2) Incoming resources						
a) Voluntary income						
Planned giving	7,970	-	7,970	17,118	-	17,118
Collections, online giving, & other donations	53,019	17,361	70,380	11,876	5,150	17,026
Grants	2,641	-	2,641	12,900	-	12,900
Tax refunds	2,857	-	2,857	3,083	1,094	4,177
	66,486	17,361	83,847	44,977	6,244	51,221
b) Activities for generating funds						
Rent from church letting	11,478	-	11,478	6,520	-	6,520
Rent from crypt letting	34,590	-	34,590	8,075	-	8,075
	46,068	-	46,068	14,595	-	14,595
c) Investment income						
Bank and deposit interest	19	-	19	14	-	14
	19	-	19	14	-	14
d) Income from church activities						
Fees for weddings	750	-	750	-	-	-
Fees for funerals	-	-	-	-	-	-
	750	-	750	-	-	-
e) Other income						
Insurance recoveries	15,707	-	15,707	6,060	-	6,060
Rent from church property	2,680	-	2,680	14,296	-	14,296
Area Dean expenses allowance	2,400	-	2,400	-	-	-
	20,787	-	20,787	20,356	-	20,356
Total Incoming Resources	134,110	17,361	151,471	79,942	6,244	86,186

Church of St. John the Baptist, Holland Road
Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

3) Resources expended	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	Funds 2022	Funds 2022	2022	Funds 2021	Funds 2021	2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
a) Church activities						
Common fund	(13,867)	-	(13,867)	(14,750)	-	(14,750)
Recharges from St. George's church						-
Off common fund clergy costs	(19,950)	-	(19,950)	(19,770)	-	(19,770)
United Benefice office running costs	(1,440)	-	(1,440)	(1,440)	-	(1,440)
Insurance	(10,177)	-	(10,177)	(12,000)	-	(12,000)
Charitable giving	(420)	-	(420)	-	-	-
Electricity	(7,766)	-	(7,766)	(8,157)	-	(8,157)
Gas	(5,018)	-	(5,018)	(2,174)	-	(2,174)
Water rates	-	-	-	(150)	-	(150)
Church maintenance	(23,401)	-	(23,401)	(583)	(8,336)	(8,919)
Cleaning & gardening	(1,430)	-	(1,430)	(260)	-	(260)
Incumbent priests' expenses	(2,171)	-	(2,171)	-	-	-
Audio visual & IT equipment	-	-	-	(1,052)	-	(1,052)
Organist fees	(5,510)	-	(5,510)	(4,525)	-	(4,525)
Choir fees	(10,847)	-	(10,847)	(1,233)	(1,950)	(3,183)
Organ maintenance & repairs	(2,718)	-	(2,718)	(905)	-	(905)
Licenses & membership fees	-	-	-	(405)	-	(405)
General expenses	(2,755)	-	(2,755)	(242)	-	(242)
Bank charges	(202)	-	(202)	(162)	-	(162)
Lighting project	(1,489)	-	(1,489)	(1,514)	-	(1,514)
Professional fees	(4,244)	-	(4,244)	(6,096)	-	(6,096)
Staff Accommodation	-	(11,488)	(11,488)	-	-	-
Restoration - chancel fire	-	-	-	-	-	-
Restoration - other projects	-	-	-	(240)	-	(240)
	(113,405)	(11,488)	(124,893)	(75,658)	(10,286)	(85,944)
b) Governance costs						
Independent examination	(750)	-	(750)	(750)	-	(750)
	(750)	-	(750)	(750)	-	(750)
Total Resources Expended	(114,155)	(11,488)	(125,643)	(76,408)	(10,286)	(86,694)
4) Debtors						
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	Funds 2022	Funds 2022	2022	Funds 2021	Funds 2021	2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Accrued rent from church property	-	-	-	-	-	-
Prepayment of electricity	2,347	-	2,347	1,047	-	1,047
Income tax recoverable	2,133	-	2,133	7,336	-	7,336
	4,480	-	4,480	8,383	-	8,383

Church of St. John the Baptist, Holland Road
Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

5) Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	Unrestricted Funds 2022	Restricted Funds 2022	Total 2022	Unrestricted Funds 2021	Restricted Funds 2021	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Trade payables	(2,397)	-	(2,397)	(960)	-	(960)
Accruals	(1,850)	-	(1,850)	(5,410)	-	(5,410)
Rent deposits	(8,750)	-	(8,750)	(8,750)	-	(8,750)
	(12,997)	-	(12,997)	(15,120)	-	(15,120)

6) Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	Unrestricted Funds 2022	Restricted Funds 2022	Total 2022	Unrestricted Funds 2021	Restricted Funds 2021	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Loan from Diocese - electrical works	(20,000)	-	(20,000)	(20,000)	-	(20,000)
	(20,000)	-	(20,000)	(20,000)	-	(20,000)

7) Commitments

No financial commitments other than those already provided for in the financial statements have been recognised.

8) Related party transactions

Trustees were reimbursed a total of £2172 for expenses that they incurred on behalf of the PCC (2021: £333).

The Associate Vicar's accommodation costs (£10,867 pro rata for 2022) were paid to the diocese, and have been covered this year by a public funding appeal.

9) Allocation of Net Assets by Funds

	Balance b/f 1 Jan 2022	Income	Expenses	Transfers	Revaluation	Balance c/f 31 Dec 2022
	£	£	£			£
The Unrestricted Funds comprise						
General						
General Fund	8,479	134,110	(114,155)	-	-	28,435
Designated						
Tenant Rent Deposit	8,750	-	-	-	-	8,750
Total	17,229	134,110	(114,155)	-	-	37,185
The Restricted Funds comprise						
Associate Vicar Accommodation Fund	-	17,361	(11,488)	-	-	5,873
Other Donations	1,094	-	-	-	-	1,094
Organ Restoration	10,000	-	-	-	-	10,000
Total	11,094	17,361	(11,488)	-	-	16,967
Total Funds	28,323	151,471	(125,643)	-	-	54,152

The Common Fund payment to the diocese includes an annual Common Fund contribution of £3000 in 2022, as well as payment for the Associate Vicar's accommodation (£16,300 annually, £10,867 pro rata for 2022).

Income for the Associate Vicar Accommodation Fund consists of donations from a public fundraising appeal. £11,488 was placed in the St. John's Trust account, from which monthly payments commenced to cover this expense in December 2022

Other Donations were in relation to specific works on the drains and boiler, as well as support for musical events. The closing balance relates to the accrued giftaid on those gifts that has not yet been reclaimed.

The Organ Restoration fund comprises funding received from Ecclesiastical Insurance to pay for the conservation of the organ following damage caused by the chancel fire in February 2017.

Church of St. John the Baptist, Holland Road
Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

10) Reconciliation of Funds

	B/f 1 Jan 2022	Net movement in funds	Transfers between funds	C/f 31 Dec 2022
	£	£	£	£
Current year				
Unrestricted	17,229	19,956	-	37,185
Restricted	11,094	5,873	-	16,967
	28,323	25,829	-	54,152
	B/f 1 Jan 2021	Net movement in funds	Transfers between funds	C/f 31 Dec 2021
	£	£	£	£
Prior year				
Unrestricted	13,695	3,534	-	17,229
Restricted	15,136	(4,042)	-	11,094
	28,831	(508)	-	28,323

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Accounts

Annual Report 2021

St John the Baptist, Holland Road



St John the Baptist Holland Road
Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

Administrative Information

St John's Church is situated on Holland Road in Kensington and is part of the Church of England in the Diocese of London. It forms part of the United Benefice of Holland Park. The correspondence address is St George's Church, Aubrey Walk, London W8 7JG. The Parochial Church Council constitutes a charity and this year is registered as a UK charity (no. 1169173). The PCC members who have served from October 2020 until the date this report was approved are:

The Rev'd Dr James Heard	Chair
The Rev'd Neil Traynor	Associate Priest
The Rev'd Peter Wolton	Associate Priest
The Rev'd Dana English	Associate Priest
Clare Heard	LLM
Ms Lindsay Fulcher	Churchwarden and LLM
Ms Kate Cullinan	Churchwarden
Ms Stephanie de Mel	Hon. Treasurer
Mrs Jenny Davenport	Vice-Chair, Deanery Synod Rep.
Ms Kristin Corbet-Milward	Safeguarding Officer
Mrs Jill Traynor	Deanery Synod Rep.
Mr George Pasteur	
Mr Jamie Priestley	
Ms Jessica Leslie	
Ms Marina Abel Smith	
Ms Anita Kouassigan	
Ms Panagiota Kotoula	

Structure, governance and management

The appointment of the churchwardens conforms to the Churchwardens Measure 2001. They are *ex officio* members of the PCC. The PCC members are elected as set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church attendees are encouraged to register on the electoral roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Public benefit statement

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, "Charities and Public Benefit".

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is responsible for promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC also has maintenance responsibilities for St John's Church, and the surrounding land.

Worship and Sacramental Care

The Parish Eucharist is the principal act of worship offered by the parish. It is celebrated week by week in accordance with the apostles' teaching and fellowship in the breaking of bread and prayer (Acts 2:42). The PCC is grateful to the sidespeople, readers and to all who contribute in many other ways to the life and worship offered to God by this parish.

Pastoral and social care

Pastoral and social care of the parish continues to be shared by the ministry team and several pastoral visitors. Pastoral care is also exercised through such activities as the lunch club. This team make regular 'phone calls and visits in the parish.

Evangelisation

The United Benefice is committed to the Gospel imperative to 'make disciples of all the nations; baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit' (Matthew 28:19), and to rising in future to the challenge of engagement in active evangelisation amongst all the peoples of the parish it serves. The Exploring Faith evenings continue with a variety of courses discovering together the richness of the Christian faith, welcoming others who are new to faith and also some non-churchgoers.

Ecumenical links

As a catholic parish of the Church of England, St John the Baptist Church honours our Lord's High Priestly prayer that all Christians may be one as He and the Father are one (John 17:21), and seeks to foster its local relationship with Christians of the great communions of East and West in furtherance of the full and organic unity of the Church. To this end we play our part in the membership of the Kensington Council of Churches.

Review of the year

The PCC met four times during the year on Zoom. A revised electoral roll was drawn up in advance of this Annual Parochial Church Meeting. There are currently 67 people on the electoral roll.



Vicar's Report, by James Heard

Reflecting upon 2021, I had thought we would be well past the Covid pandemic. That certainly wasn't the case. But it was good to have made a gradual move to in-person worship for Holy Week and Easter, whilst keeping necessary restrictions in place. One of the effects of these was that, because local schools were unable to host polling stations for the local elections, both St George's and St John's were able to accommodate these.

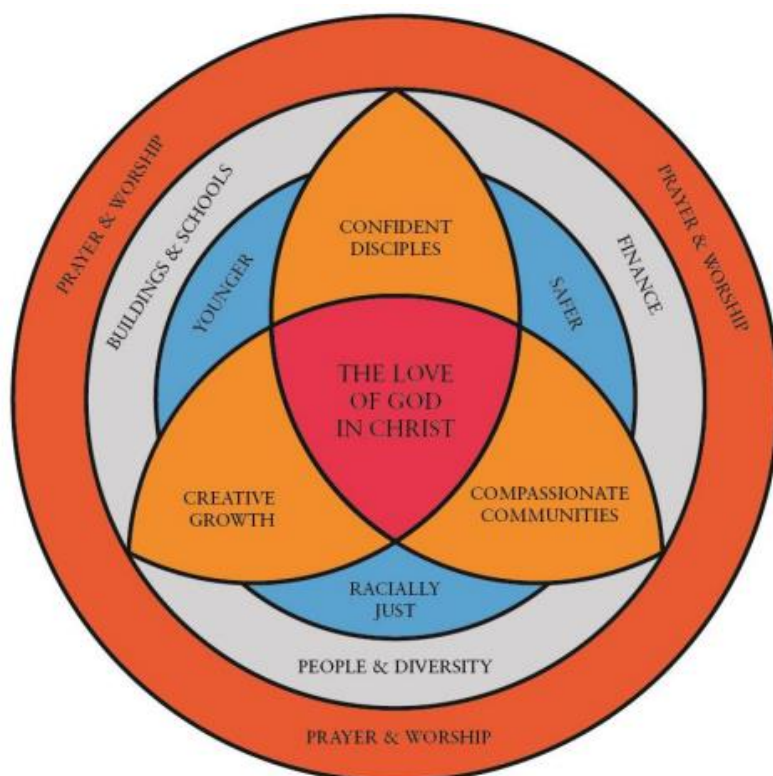


Two Exploring Faith courses were held in 2021, both online. I am grateful to Lindsay Fulcher for organising the Lenten course, which included talks on five colourful miniatures, from a 12th-century manuscript entitled *Vita Christi* (Life of Christ). The next course included five sessions reflecting on the Nicene Creed.

It was wonderful to join Lindsay becoming a Licensed Lay Minister, with a special service at St John's Ealing, following the two-year St Edmund's Course for Christian Studies.

Following a year of planning and getting permissions, Faculty was granted, and we launched the St George's Community Appeal to raise £167,000 to renovate the church and community space. Both church and local community were incredibly generous, including a £14,000 donation from RBKC City Living Local Life fund. Thank you all for your generosity. The works started at the end of 2021 and are almost complete, making such a difference.

In October and November, we revisited our Mission Action Plan, put on hold because of Covid. The Revd Jonathan Rust, the Kensington Area Director of Mission Development, helped us think about who we are, what we could celebrate, what might be missing; and what we aspired to be.



In addition, the London Diocese launched Capital Vision 2030 which focuses on three areas: to be **Confident Disciples**, **Compassionate Communities** and to seek **Creative Growth**. We considered how we might relate this diocesan vision to our specific local context and found many links. Instead of the Diocesan pyramid representation, which was rather top-down and hierarchical, I am grateful to St John's Notting Hill for the design (to left). As you will see, it is focussed on the love of God in Christ and surrounded by prayer and worship.

During these discussions, we had a strong sense for the need to focus on four particular areas:

1. Growing in spiritual depth
2. Growing in service
3. Growing younger
4. Growing in resources

We were reminded that vision without action is simply daydreaming! So as I commend this MAP to you, please prayerfully consider playing your part in making it a reality. We will be revisiting the MAP at each PCC meeting in the coming years.



I am into the second year of being Area Dean, and this brings wider responsibilities that can be rather time consuming. It includes organising Deanery Synods, Clergy Chapter meetings, visitations to parishes, interviewing for new vicars, attendance at Kensington Area Leadership meetings and Kensington Area Council, amongst other things.

My sincere thanks to my clergy colleagues with whom it is just a joy to minister. And for the support and encouragement of the churchwardens: Guy Ranawake and Bill James at St George's, and Lindsay Fulcher and Kate Cullinan at St John's. As well as to Victoria O'Neill, our Office Manager, who does so much of the important but unseen work of the parish.



Churchwardens' Report, *by Lindsay Fulcher and Kate Cullinan*

Over the last year, St John's has seen some minor changes which have had a major positive impact on the church.

COVID19 has continued to be a challenge with services only starting on Lent 4, and continued restrictions on singing which have had an impact on our services. Despite this, St John's has weathered the storm remarkably well, and our reported 'October average' attendance figures were 59, or if we include all five Sundays in October, 83. We have continued to Zoom our Sunday services, and upload them to our YouTube account where we are still getting respectable viewing figures.

Highlights of the year include not only the Museum of the Moon (for which see elsewhere), but also our All Souls service and our United Benefice Carol Service. We were delighted to welcome back the St John's Singers in September (for which particular thanks go to Mark Denza, Marina Abel Smith and Toby Ward); their singing not only enhances our worship, but has been a significant part of our growth and rejuvenation.

In terms of the building, St John's suffered from flooding by the storm in July, and work continued through Ecclesiastical Insurance throughout the autumn to make the necessary repairs. An additional drain was installed to help alleviate any future heavy rainfall, and much further work was undertaken to clean drains and ensure all gutters are running freely.

With the support of the Council, we finally installed our planters outside, which have made the front of the church much more welcoming, as well as being environmentally friendly.

Thanks to a Lottery COVID grant, the emergency exit in the Community Room was refurbished, and now works smoothly. The second part of this grant is still to be spent as further work is needed in the Flower Room before the door there can be replaced.

We were delighted to have been used as a Polling Station in the elections in May, enabling many local residents to see St John's for the first time. Our plate, which had been taken to the Tower of London for safekeeping during lockdown, was returned in time for Christmas. Work on the restoration of the Calvary has also been delayed by COVID restrictions, and will begin in early 2022.

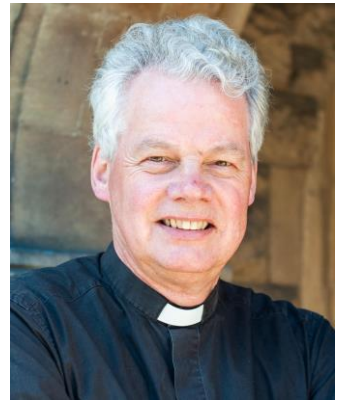
There is much work still to be done, not least the roof to the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, the windows to the south of the chancel and the steps to the choir, including heating and repair of the organ. However we remain confident that these will be addressed in the near future.



Assistant Priests' Annual Report

Fr Peter Wolton

As I write this in Lent 2022, looking back on the last year of 2021 is something of a blur. When did lockdown start and finish and restart again? In spite of the difficulties created by the pandemic, Fr James and Neil have kept the life of the Benefice moving forward and new ways of doing things have been found.



One innovation has been to hold a 10 o'clock morning service on both Christmas and Easter Days at St John's, partly to ensure that St George's was not overcrowded at a time of social distancing. It has also cemented the programme of breathing new life into St John's without taking away from St George's.

We were unable to run a full series of "Why me?" talks in 2021 but we did ask our beloved parishioner Mick May whether he would do one on Zoom as he had been meant to in 2020. This can be found on YouTube at our service on 21 February 2021.

The lifting of restrictions at the end of June allowed full-scale weddings to go ahead once again. I was privileged to take a wedding in Norfolk in early July and also my first wedding at St George's in August of Robin Kelly and Louise Gunhouse who live in the parish. I find these occasions such a joy to officiate and the Pre-marriage Course which is the creation of Nicky and Sila Lee from Holy Trinity Brompton a real blessing. As part of the preparation for the big day it enables me and the couple to get to know one other ahead of the ceremony, creating a bond between celebrant and those getting married. The course is full of wisdom and in many respects could be called a relationship course as what it teaches has such relevance to life in general and how we relate to others.

During 2021 I have also participated in a review of the role of Self-Supporting Ministers in the Diocese of London. Our work has identified that the term "self-supporting minister" or SSM is poorly understood. Dana and I are SSMs which means we are both voluntary and fully qualified ministers. I think it is fair to say we are very happy with our assistant roles, being there to support our stipendiary full time clergy, James and Neil.

Bishop Sarah of London herself originally was ordained as an SSM before becoming a full-time member of the clergy and she is very keen that more people come forward to be SSMs. I find it a wonderfully rewarding role. I very much hope some of our congregation might one day, hopefully in the not too distant future, consider whether they too are being called to be SSMs.

Can I finish by saying how grateful I am to James and Neil for their leadership. It is a joy to be part of the ministry team at the Benefice, a team that includes my colleagues Dana and Clare and now we have been joined by Lindsay who was appointed a Licensed Lay Minister in the summer of 2021. Our congregations are a source of constant encouragement, and my sense is this enables the work of the Holy Spirit to advance in Holland Park.

Fr Neil Traynor

It has once more been a great joy and privilege to be in the United Benefice, and to be mostly focussed at St John's. Colleagues are very generous in going along with the liturgy, and, although we've not been fully back to normal in 2021, our services are feeling more like they used to, and numbers at both churches are stable or rising: a change from many other parishes around the country. As will be seen in other reports, St John's is continuing to thrive. Opening up to the community, encouraging music and welcoming visitors into the church are all paying benefits. Whilst there have been some challenges: flooding in the crypt, continued loss of income, the positives have far outweighed the negatives. Music has been at the heart of our growth, and particular thanks are due to Mark Denza, Marina Abel Smith and Toby Ward for their hard work.

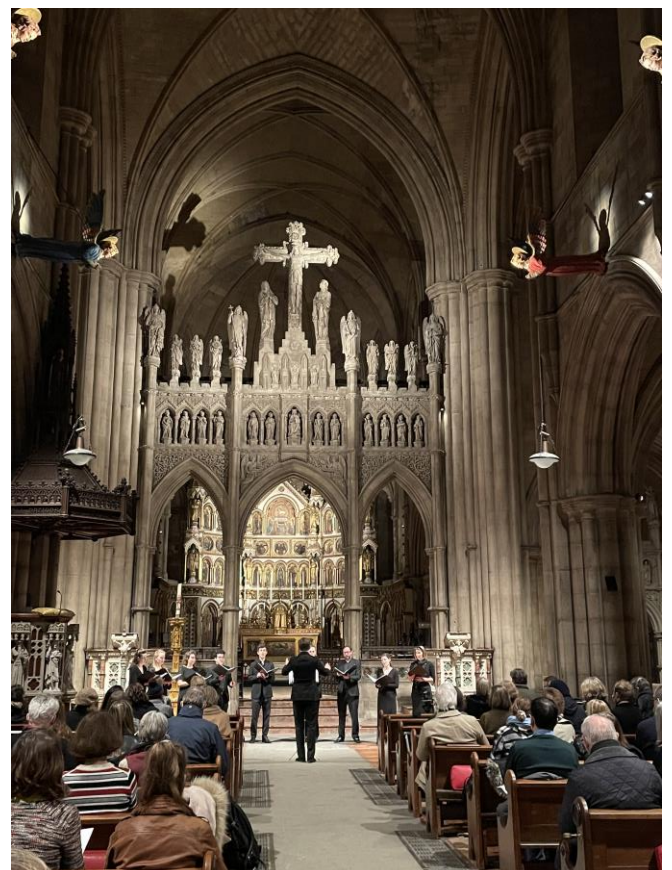


St John's is starting to become known as a good concert venue, and we're slowly building up the number of concerts and other events we host. This is starting to have a positive effect on our finances, but it's still a challenging environment for actors and musicians, and many venues are still seeing smaller audience figures. In this context, we're doing particularly well.

The outstanding event was, of course, the Museum of the Moon, for which see Kate's full report elsewhere. This has been key to raising our profile in the local community and around the world, and it was a pleasure to work so closely with the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. The event couldn't have worked without the hundreds of volunteer hours, and the success of the event was due as much to their welcoming attitude as to anything else.

2021 also saw the establishment of the St John's Holland Road Trust to enable legacies (including property) and donations to go directly towards the work and ministry of St John's. The trust has been arranged in such a way as it can receive restricted donations for St George's also. During the year Jamie Priestley expended much energy in getting our direct giving machine into St John's. It felt much more difficult than it should, but from 2022 it is already showing a positive effect on giving.

Thank you to everyone, and particularly James, Peter, Dana and Victoria, Lindsay and Kate, without whose support St John's would not be the thriving place it is today. The many people who volunteer during the week or in services all make St John's the special place it is; thank you for all you have done and continue to do.



The Revd Dana English

I continue to be conscious of the privilege of participating in the leading of daily prayer as well as the leading of worship and preaching on Sundays, in rotation with the other three clergy. Occasionally I help to cover for other churches as needed.

The Weekly Bible Study A high point of my week is preparing for and leading the Wednesday study of the Bible in the company of about fourteen committed members of the parish: we began our study of Genesis two years ago and will finish our study of the Psalms in Holy Week. Diverting ourselves to Isaiah during the season of Advent, we will now pursue a more or less straightforward order through the Old Testament, as that was the consensus of the group: knowing much less about the Old than the New, that we would begin there!

The Young Adults' Group The young adults' group of the Benefice has grown to number eight persons who have made a commitment not only to dinners at Dana's and picnics in Hyde Park (how we carried the group through the pandemic) but to regular study of the Bible. Meeting, usually, every other Tuesday evening on Zoom, the group has studied the books of I and II Thessalonians, Revelation, Hebrews, and Isaiah. A challenge to create such a group in a large and transient city, worship at St John's has also been the meeting-place for deepening friendships. We have persons from China, Greece, Sri Lanka, the U. S., and Italy!

Annual Retreat at Launde Abbey, Leicestershire Our second congregational weekend at Launde Abbey was held November 12-14th. On the theme of *Pondering the Mystery of the Incarnation* as we prepared for the season of Advent, we had twenty people attend, a cross-section of the congregation, including two parishioners over 85 and two of age twenty-two! Having been to Launde for the first time the year before, we were much more familiar with the rhythms of the place and were able to make better use of all it had to offer. With a resident clergy staff for services in the chapel there, beautiful countryside surrounding us, and excellent food/well-appointed rooms, everyone was delighted with our experience there; most have already signed up for our third retreat, November 25-27th, 2022. I led the retreat using poetry, music and art from Jane Williams's book, *The Art of Advent*, with time for breaking up into small and different groups each time to discuss our responses to the presentations. A local conservationist led the entire group on a walk in the woods nearby that Saturday afternoon. We added the two services of compline at 9:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday to end each day.



Lindsay Fulcher LLM

I made sure that St John the Baptist was open every Monday and Thursday afternoon throughout 2021, when Lockdown rules allowed it. My thoughts were: if people can go to Tesco's for essential shopping or to the park for daily exercise, then they should also be given the chance to come inside a church for essential, if not daily, prayer. A rota of two people was maintained throughout and I thank all of those (Rose, Kristin, Jenny and Joy) who came, and continue to come and sit in the church, on those two days of the week. While Zoom has literally been a Godsend during our two years affected by the pandemic, with one, two or three daily services (which I have led when asked to do so) sustaining the congregation, there is nothing like a live service and it was wonderful when they finally started again on 14 March.

We also much appreciated the weekly Bible Study, led by Dana, and the Poetry Group, with readings from the sublime to the ridiculous, led by Neil. Both continue on Zoom. The Zoom Lent talks series on the Life of Christ focussing on illustrations from an illuminated manuscript. I gave the first of these on the Nativity followed by talks given by our four priests: Fr Neil on Baptism, Fr Peter on Temptation, Fr James on the Transfiguration and the Reverend Dana on Resurrection. In May we also studied the different Creeds which was most interesting. In December I organised a talk on the Annunciation as depicted in paintings, icons and frescoes entitled *Divine Love* and given by Sarah Drummond who has written a book on the subject. As well as other concerts and other blockbuster events, I think it is important to have talks on art, literature and other subjects of interest as these give the church a well-rounded focus as a cultural hub.

My visit to the HQ of the Victorian Society during the London Open House weekend in September paid off as I encouraged them to organise a trip to visit St John the Baptist, which they did a few months later. Their generous donations underlined how much they enjoyed their visit and appreciated our magnificent church.

On 24 June (which also happens to be the Patronal Festival of St John the Baptist) I was finally licensed as a Lay Minister at St John's Ealing. This had taken a few years but as the call refused to go away it had to happen! Preaching a sermon is a challenge, but one that I enjoy. I preached at St John the Baptist on Ash Wednesday and on Sunday 4 July, and at St James Norland and St Clement on 13 June, 27 June, 31 October, 28 November and on 12 December, as well as on the Feast of St Mary Magdalene at St John Notting Hill on 25 July. I have also assisted at five funerals but have yet to lead one myself.



Safeguarding Officer's Report, by Kristin Corbet-Milward

We have been slightly less restricted in our activities this year (2021) as Covid-19 restrictions were lifted intermittently, however very few activities involving vulnerable people have been able to take place during this last year. During the periods when the church has been open safeguarding our vulnerable members of the congregation has taken place again by way of hand sanitising, mask wearing and following all relevant government guidance. Our usual safeguarding audit and report has been undertaken, and more of our regular activities have started in the current year (2022).



No safeguarding issues arose during or following any activities in the last year.

Deanery Synod Report, by Sarah Tett, Deanery Lay Chair

As restrictions from the Covid-19 pandemic eased, meetings of the Synod alternated between Zoom and in person events:

- February's meeting was on zoom and the Revd Jim Walters, chaplain to the London School of Economics, joined Synod to help members reflect theologically on the Covid-19 pandemic.
- In June the Revd Emma Dinwiddy Smith kindly hosted Synod members for a summer garden party in the grounds of the St Mary Abbots Vicarage.
- The normal Spring Common Fund meeting had once again been postponed to the autumn. This was to allow parishes to consider the impact of the pandemic on their parish finances before making their Common Fund offers for 2022. The Archdeacon led the meeting with Mary Spredbury, the Area Finance Adviser. Representatives from each parish shared how the pandemic had impacted their churches.
- In November the Synod met in person at St John's, Holland Road. A new standing committee of the Synod was elected and then the Revd Neil Traynor and Mark Cazalet, an artist and churchwarden at St Clement and St James, gave a presentation and chaired a discussion under the title 'O Worship the Lord in the Beauty of Holiness: Towards an aesthetic of worship'.
- Looking forward, meetings for 2022 will follow a theme from the Diocese's Vision 2030 at each meeting.



Music report, *Mark Denza*

COVID restrictions in the first part of 2021 continued to have an impact upon music at St John's. We are grateful to our core group of singers: Jenny Thorn, Marina Abel Smith, and Jill Traynor, who provided so much excellent music during lockdown, supported by many others. Our sung Requiem for the Duke of Edinburgh was especially noteworthy.



Thanks to generous donations, we were able to fund professional singers for Easter Day, as restrictions only allowed for three voices. This exceptional trio comprised one of the King's Singers, and two members of Stile Antico: the cream of the London choral scene. At the end of August, St John's welcomed hordes of visitors to the Museum of the Moon, greatly assisted by Neil's tireless endeavours as curator. A particular highlight of that extraordinary lunar cycle was the choral evensong held beneath our celestial visitor's twilight glow.

St John's Singers resumed singing in September for Michaelmas, and, under the able leadership of Toby Ward have continued from strength to strength. As ever, the All Souls service moved some of our congregation very deeply, and the Herbert Howells *Take him earth for cherishing* at the Remembrance Sunday service was of the highest quality. The Carol Service seems to get better each year, with our largest congregation (350) for many years.

In October, Jenny Thorn and I donned alternative musical hats on viola and cello respectively to perform a string quartet arrangement of the Bach *Double Concerto* during communion. We were joined by two violinists: Frances Barlow, Clare Heard's mother, and Regan Crowley: both veterans of the BBC Symphony Orchestra. Regan has been a frequent guest player at SJB, and her soaring obbligato in Fauré's Sanctus was a wonderful adornment to the All Souls' Day Requiem. Another prodigiously talented violinist, Sydney Mariano, gave glorious performances of *The Swan* and *The Lark Ascending* at our annual pet-blessing service, delighting the assembled menagerie, and their owners.

St John's has also seen a significant rise in its use as a concert venue. Cardinal Vaughan School performed the Verdi Requiem in July: their first public performance after lockdown. The KOFMA (Kensington Olympia Festival of Music and Arts) in October was a delight, and our Christmas Concert of Benjamin Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols* by Ensemble Pro Victoria was one that many will remember for a long time. Too many concerts to mention individually took place, but each has helped to introduce a new group of people to SJB.

The incremental deterioration of our splendid Gern organ continues to cause concern, despite the heroic efforts of Eric and John Shepherd. A handful of notes on both Swell and Great are now completely silent, making it very difficult to use either manual uncoupled. Nevertheless, the instrument's sonorous impact eclipses these handicaps, whilst restoration plans slowly work their way to the top of SJB's shopping list. Thank you to all those who have joined in our music making at St John's: music has been central to our continued growth and success.

Museum of the Moon *by Kate Cullinan*

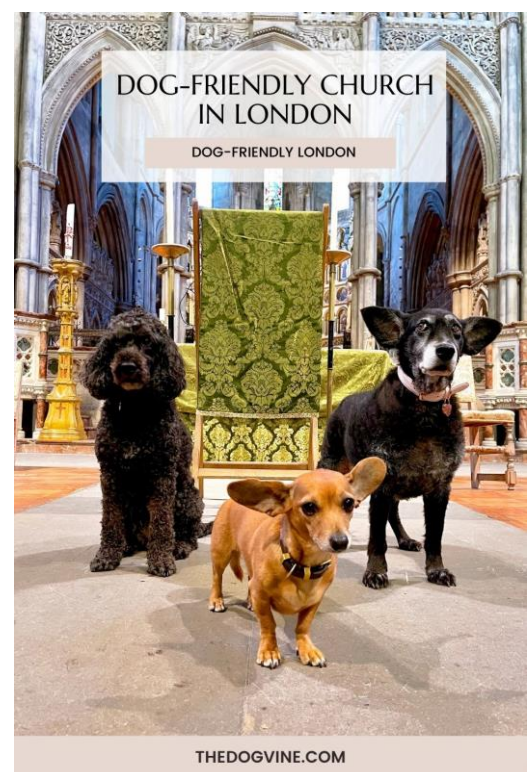
Having been appointed a Church Warden in the summer of 2021, a warm welcome extended by my fellow Church Warden, Lindsay, and Neil safely dispatched on his summer holiday, a quiet August, from a St John's point of view, was anticipated. Wrong! Neil was approached at extremely short notice in by the RBKC Festival to host the [Museum of the Moon](#) installation by the artist Luke Jerram. By some miracle, all the necessary rabbits, including the necessary faculty, were somehow produced out of the right hats, with Neil directing complex operations entirely on his mobile phone from the family holiday (sorry, Jill).

A mere 10 days from the first email, the cherry-picker, along with a technical team: the "moon handlers", arrived to set everything up. Measuring seven metres in diameter, the moon installation features 120dpi detailed NASA imagery of the lunar surface at an approximate scale of 1:500,000 and is accompanied by a 27-minute sound installation. In English, this means that the moon is exceptionally large and incredibly realistic, and its amazing accompanying soundtrack, in the vast nave of St John's, is VERY loud.

The exhibition ran continuously from 19th – 30th August and was open 4–9pm daily, 10am – 10 pm on the final day. Tickets were free, but visitors needed to pre-book online. It quickly became clear that the 200 visiting slots we had allocated per half hour were not going to be enough and we rapidly increased this to 250. In total, 30,000 people pre- booked, and of these, 18,000 actually came, a very high proportion for a free event. We managed this daily visitor onslaught via a hugely willing and dedicated rota of volunteers who came from the congregation, from the RBK & C Festival volunteer team, and from the student population in the local community, to all of whom we owe a huge debt of thanks. The number of volunteer hours exceeded 600 during the period of the installation.



Some other interesting statistics: during the period of the Moon, 88,721 people searched for the church by name, and 57,000 then went on to look at our website. We had 159,000 searches on google maps, 10,900 people asked for directions, and 73 people called us from google maps (yes, this is possible, but our average is 2 per month). The diversity of the visitor body was extraordinary with a broad range of languages in evidence. Identified faiths were Christian (many visitors said so), Muslims, Jews,



Sikhs, and Hindus, a group of whom attended compline with Dana. The age range of the visitor body was also striking: teenagers and the under 30s generally were very much in evidence, as were large extended family groups. The church's accessibility was a huge positive with a good number of wheelchair users; at least three deaf groups also attended (we would love to have known how they found us). Special openings were made available for autistic children who needed a quiet environment. It was clear that we were felt to be a safe space, not only for people with disabilities, but for the groups of teenaged girls attending together, the transgender visitors who were also in evidence, and the self-identified (in discussions with volunteers) gay visitors. As a family-friendly and pet-friendly space, our colour-it-yourself SJB guides for children and photo opportunities for moon-loving dogs were equally popular.

We received hugely positive comments about the church, with many people saying they had passed it for years and never been inside it, or "thought it was closed" or "had no idea what was inside the building" or "can't believe how amazing it is". People treated the church with enormous respect: there was no damage or theft, and many compliments about St John's were posted online.

In terms of the church's own activities around the moon, we held a Moon Sung Eucharist on 22nd August attended by approximately 91 people with a reception and viewing of the moon afterwards for the congregation and residents. We hosted a concert by Konstantin Lapshin (piano) and Joaquin Sofredini (counter tenor) on the evening of Friday, 29th August which was standing room only with an entirely new audience being introduced to classical music, to rapturous applause and hugely positive feedback. As it was, many late-night visitors stayed for Neil and Jill's, and also Dana's, beautiful singing during the compline services we held at around 10 pm most evenings. We also had a Sung Evensong on 29th August attended by approximately 150 people in total and, in addition, we held a special reception for Bishops Sarah and Graham and other invited clergy.

Funds raised via donations exceeded £4,000 with Gift Aid in addition, there was the musicians' share of the concert takings (£400).

As far as press, media and social media went, Instagram, Tik-Tok and Snapchat went wild (one Tik-Tok video had 40,000 views!) and we featured on "Top 10 things to do in London" online media listings all over town, including those produced by Time Out and The Evening Standard. The jewel in the crown, however, had surely to be the US press network "Celebrating England" coming to do a live interview with Neil on the architecture and history of St John's after the event. As a US network, an online recording doesn't unfortunately seem to be available, but to those members of the congregation who witnessed his TV presenting debut live, the words "duck" and "water" immediately occurred.

We all felt we learnt a huge amount from hosting such a large-scale event and we are already seeing the heightened name awareness of St John's feeding through into general enquiries and activity levels. As one example of this, I have been asked to talk about St John's experiences to the Historic Religious Building Alliance, a sub-group of the Heritage Alliance, at their AGM in April 2022: a terrific opportunity to introduce St John's to an informed audience from across the UK and beyond.

Treasurer's Report *by Stephanie de Mel*

2021 was a difficult year for St John's financially. As in 2020, the impacts of the covid-19 pandemic were significant, and included a shortfall in rent from the crypt, income from church lettings, and collections. Flooding in the crypt during a storm in the summer exacerbated a challenging financial position, notably through further loss of crypt rental income. Further, voluntary income (grants, planned giving, collections, and online donations) fell significantly compared to the previous year.

By contrast, overall expenditure in 2021 was lower than in 2020; with the exception of one-off costs incurred for church maintenance and lighting, it consisted largely of planned and recurrent expenses. Nonetheless, St John's ended the year with total cash deposits that were lower than the PCC's policy of two months' running costs. While the church's financial position has begun to recover in the first quarter of 2022, we continue to monitor the situation closely, and seek, in particular, to bolster regular income through church lettings and planned giving.

General Fund

In 2021, the general fund generated a deficit of £6,446 (2020: £12,723). Our gross incoming resources decreased to £89,404 (2020: 124,881). Of this, voluntary income, including grants and tax refunds (principally £10,500 from the DCMS VAT refund scheme), totalled £48,796 (2020: £91,243). The year-on-year reduction in voluntary income came not only from lower grants but also from lower giving: the non-grant and tax refund component of voluntary income in 2021 was £35,896 (2020: £56,209).

Receipts from fund-generating activities (church and crypt lettings) amounted to £13,163 (2020: £15,665). After adjusting for insurance recoveries, other income was £21,384 (2020: £14,987), although this increase compared to the previous year was driven by a delayed payment of 2020 rents from church property.

Total expenditure from the general fund in 2021 was £95,850 (2020: £137,604). The largest expenses were common fund and clergy costs (36%), lighting (16%), insurance (12%), and church maintenance (9%), which collectively make up approximately 73% of overall costs.

Restricted Funds

Two restricted funds were carried over at the end of 2021: the Organ Restoration fund, which has a balance of £10,000, and a balance of £5,136 from the £17,000 award made by the Heritage Lottery Fund in 2020 for covid-19 recovery.

Balance Sheet

Total cash deposits at the end of 2021 were £55,061 (2020: £71,347). After adjusting for restricted funds, however, total cash deposits fall to £11,175, which is both significantly below the equivalent 2020 figure (£27,461) and below the PCC's policy figure for minimum cash balances (approx. £16,000 in 2021).

The PCC would like to thank all those who supported St John's financially during the year.



St John the Baptist, Holland Road
 Registered Charity number 1169173
office@hollandparkbenefice.org
hollandparkbenefice.org 020 3602 9873

Church of St. John the Baptist, Holland Road
Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

Charity number 1169173

Church of St. John the Baptist, Holland Road
Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

Statement of financial activities for 12 months ended 31 December 2021

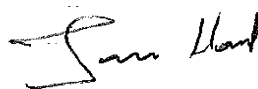
	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £	Unrestricted Funds 2020 £	Restricted Funds 2020 £	Total 2020 £
Incoming resources							
Voluntary income	2(a)	44,977	6,244	51,221	40,704	50,539	91,243
Activities for generating funds	2(b)	14,595	-	14,595	15,665	-	15,665
Investment income	2(c)	14	-	14	-	-	-
Income from church activities	2(d)	-	-	-	886	-	886
Other income	2(e)	20,356	-	20,356	17,087	-	17,087
Total Incoming Resources		79,942	6,244	86,186	74,342	50,539	124,881
Resources expended							
Church activities	3(a)	(75,658)	(10,286)	(85,944)	(83,451)	(53,403)	(136,854)
Goverance Costs	3(b)	(750)	-	(750)	(750)	-	(750)
Total Resources Expended		(76,408)	(10,286)	(86,694)	(84,201)	(53,403)	(137,604)
Net movement in funds	10	3,534	(4,042)	(508)	(9,859)	(2,864)	(12,723)
Transfers to / (from)		-	-	-	-	-	-
Balances b/fwd 1 Jan		13,695	15,136	28,831	23,554	18,000	41,554
Balances c/fwd 31 Dec		17,229	11,094	28,323	13,695	15,136	28,831

Church of St. John the Baptist, Holland Road
Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

Balance sheet as at 31 December 2021

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £	Unrestricted Funds 2020 £	Restricted Funds 2020 £	Total 2020 £
Current assets							
Debtors	4	8,383	-	8,383	12,313	914	13,227
Cash at bank and in hand		43,966	11,094	55,060	47,604	14,222	61,826
Total current assets		52,349	11,094	63,443	59,917	15,136	75,053
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	5	(15,120)	-	(15,120)	(26,222)	-	(26,222)
Net current assets		37,229	11,094	48,323	33,695	15,136	48,831
Total assets less current liabilities		37,229	11,094	48,323	33,695	15,136	48,831
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	6	(20,000)	-	(20,000)	(20,000)	-	(20,000)
Total net assets		17,229	11,094	28,323	13,695	15,136	28,831
Parish funds	9,10	17,229	11,094	28,323	13,695	15,136	28,831
Unrestricted funds		17,229	-	17,229	13,695	-	13,695
Restricted funds		-	11,094	11,094	-	15,136	15,136
Total funds		17,229	11,094	28,323	13,695	15,136	28,831

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 23rd September 2022 and signed on its behalf by:



Incumbent
Reverend Dr James Heard



Treasurer
Stephanie de Mel

Church of St. John the Baptist, Holland Road

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of St John the Baptist Church, Holland Road, Parochial Church Council

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of St John the Baptist PCC (the Trust) for the year ended 31st December 2021 comprising the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, and the accompanying notes to the accounts.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner and basis of report

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. As the charity's trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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



Peter Cranenburgh
Cranenburgh Limited
Chartered Accountants
76-80 College Road
Harrow
Middlesex
HA1 1BQ

23/09/2022

Church of St. John the Baptist, Holland Road
Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

1) Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102).

Fund accounting

Restricted funds can only be used for particular purposes specified by or agreed with the donors. General funds may be used for any purpose within the charity's objects.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included on the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Expenditure recognition

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

	Unrestricted Funds 2021	Restricted Funds 2021	Total 2021	Unrestricted Funds 2020	Restricted Funds 2020	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
2) Incoming resources						
a) Voluntary income						
Planned giving	17,118	-	17,118	15,012	-	15,012
Collections, online giving, & other donations	11,876	5,150	17,026	15,477	25,720	41,197
Grants	12,900	-	12,900	-	17,000	17,000
Tax refunds	3,083	1,094	4,177	10,215	7,819	18,034
	44,977	6,244	51,221	40,704	50,539	91,243
b) Activities for generating funds						
Rent from church letting	6,520	-	6,520	2,905	-	2,905
Rent from crypt letting	8,075	-	8,075	12,760	-	12,760
	14,595	-	14,595	15,665	-	15,665
c) Investment income						
Bank and deposit interest	14	-	14	-	-	-
	14	-	14	-	-	-
d) Income from church activities						
Fees for weddings	-	-	-	691	-	691
Fees for funerals	-	-	-	195	-	195
	-	-	-	886	-	886
e) Other income						
Insurance recoveries	6,060	-	6,060	2,100	-	2,100
Rent from church property	14,296	-	14,296	14,387	-	14,387
Area Dean expenses allowance	-	-	-	600	-	600
	20,356	-	20,356	17,087	-	17,087
Total Incoming Resources	79,942	6,244	86,186	74,342	50,539	124,881

Church of St. John the Baptist, Holland Road
Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

3) Resources expended	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2021	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2020
	Funds 2021	Funds 2021		Funds 2020	Funds 2020	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
a) Church activities						
Common fund	(14,750)	-	(14,750)	(8,247)	-	(8,247)
Recharges from St. George's church						
Off common fund clergy costs	(19,770)	-	(19,770)	(12,350)	(7,600)	(19,950)
United Benefice office running costs	(1,440)	-	(1,440)	(1,440)	-	(1,440)
Insurance	(12,000)	-	(12,000)	(10,224)	-	(10,224)
Charitable giving	-	-	-	(170)	-	(170)
Electricity	(8,157)	-	(8,157)	(12,941)	-	(12,941)
Gas	(2,174)	-	(2,174)	(4,063)	-	(4,063)
Water rates	(150)	-	(150)	(150)	-	(150)
Church maintenance	(583)	(8,336)	(8,919)	-	(4,264)	(4,264)
Cleaning & gardening	(260)	-	(260)	(734)	-	(734)
Incumbent priests' expenses	-	-	-	(140)	-	(140)
Audio visual & IT equipment	(1,052)	-	(1,052)	(1,439)	-	(1,439)
Organist fees	(4,525)	-	(4,525)	(4,585)	-	(4,585)
Choir fees	(1,233)	(1,950)	(3,183)	(2,379)	-	(2,379)
Organ maintenance & repairs	(905)	-	(905)	(545)	-	(545)
Licenses & membership fees	(405)	-	(405)	(468)	-	(468)
General expenses	(242)	-	(242)	(725)	-	(725)
Bank charges	(162)	-	(162)	(141)	-	(141)
Lighting project	(1,514)	-	(1,514)	(16,535)	(41,539)	(58,074)
Professional fees	(6,096)	-	(6,096)	(3,275)	-	(3,275)
Restoration - chancel fire	-	-	-	(720)	-	(720)
Restoration - other projects	(240)	-	(240)	(2,180)	-	(2,180)
	(75,658)	(10,286)	(85,944)	(83,451)	(53,403)	(136,854)
b) Governance costs						
Independent examination	(750)	-	(750)	(750)	-	(750)
	(750)	-	(750)	(750)	-	(750)
Total Resources Expended	(76,408)	(10,286)	(86,694)	(84,201)	(53,403)	(137,604)
4) Debtors						
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2021	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2020
	Funds 2021	Funds 2021		Funds 2020	Funds 2020	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Accrued rent from church property	-	-	-	7,075	-	7,075
Prepayment of electricity	1,047	-	1,047	2,993	-	2,993
Income tax recoverable	7,336	-	7,336	2,245	914	3,159
	8,383	-	8,383	12,313	914	13,227

Church of St. John the Baptist, Holland Road
Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

5) Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	Unrestricted Funds 2021	Restricted Funds 2021	Total 2021	Unrestricted Funds 2020	Restricted Funds 2020	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Trade payables	(960)	-	(960)	(14,162)	-	(14,162)
Accruals	(5,410)	-	(5,410)	(3,310)	-	(3,310)
Rent deposits	(8,750)	-	(8,750)	(8,750)	-	(8,750)
	(15,120)	-	(15,120)	(26,222)	-	(26,222)

6) Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	Unrestricted Funds 2021	Restricted Funds 2021	Total 2021	Unrestricted Funds 2020	Restricted Funds 2020	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Loan from Diocese - electrical works	(20,000)	-	(20,000)	(20,000)	-	(20,000)
	(20,000)	-	(20,000)	(20,000)	-	(20,000)

7) Commitments

No financial commitments other than those already provided for in the financial statements have been recognised.

8) Related party transactions

Trustees were reimbursed a total of £333 for expenses that they incurred on behalf of the PCC (2020: £2,147).

The trustees identified no other related party transactions, or balances arising as a result of such transactions, during the financial year.

9) Allocation of Net Assets by Funds

	Balance b/f 1 Jan 2021	Income	Expenses	Transfers	Revaluation	Balance c/f 31 Dec 2021
	£	£	£			£
The Unrestricted Funds comprise						
General						
General Fund	4,945	79,942	(76,408)	-	-	8,479
Designated						
Tenant Rent Deposit	8,750	-	-	-	-	8,750
Total	13,695	79,942	(76,408)	-	-	17,229
The Restricted Funds comprise						
COVID19 Recovery	5,136	-	(5,136)	-	-	-
Other Donations	-	6,244	(5,150)	-	-	1,094
Organ Restoration	10,000	-	-	-	-	10,000
Total	15,136	6,244	(10,286)	-	-	11,094
Total Funds	28,831	86,186	(86,694)	-	-	28,323

The COVID19 Recovery fund comprised emergency funding granted by the National Lottery Heritage Fund in response to the COVID pandemic. During the financial year, the remaining balance of £5,136 was spent on urgent repairs and conservation works and the fund was closed.

Other Donations were in relation to specific works on the drains and boiler, as well as support for musical events. The closing balance relates to the accrued giftaid on those gifts that has not yet been reclaimed.

The Organ Restoration fund comprises funding received from Ecclesiastical Insurance to pay for the conservation of the organ following damage caused by the chancel fire in February 2017.

Church of St. John the Baptist, Holland Road
Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

10) Reconciliation of Funds

	B/f 1 Jan 2021 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	C/f 31 Dec 2021 £
Current year				
Unrestricted	13,695	3,534	-	17,229
Restricted	15,136	(4,042)	-	11,094
	28,831	(508)	-	28,323
	B/f 1 Jan 2020 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	C/f 31 Dec 2020 £
Prior year				
Unrestricted	23,554	(9,859)	-	13,695
Restricted	18,000	(2,864)	-	15,136
	41,554	(12,723)	-	28,831

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Church of St. John the Baptist, Holland Road
Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

Charity number 1169173

Church of St. John the Baptist, Holland Road
Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

Statement of financial activities for 12 months ended 31 December 2021

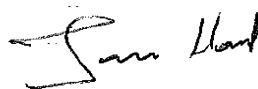
	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £	Unrestricted Funds 2020 £	Restricted Funds 2020 £	Total 2020 £
Incoming resources							
Voluntary income	2(a)	44,977	6,244	51,221	40,704	50,539	91,243
Activities for generating funds	2(b)	14,595	-	14,595	15,665	-	15,665
Investment income	2(c)	14	-	14	-	-	-
Income from church activities	2(d)	-	-	-	886	-	886
Other income	2(e)	20,356	-	20,356	17,087	-	17,087
Total Incoming Resources		79,942	6,244	86,186	74,342	50,539	124,881
Resources expended							
Church activities	3(a)	(75,658)	(10,286)	(85,944)	(83,451)	(53,403)	(136,854)
Goverance Costs	3(b)	(750)	-	(750)	(750)	-	(750)
Total Resources Expended		(76,408)	(10,286)	(86,694)	(84,201)	(53,403)	(137,604)
Net movement in funds	10	3,534	(4,042)	(508)	(9,859)	(2,864)	(12,723)
Transfers to / (from)		-	-	-	-	-	-
Balances b/fwd 1 Jan		13,695	15,136	28,831	23,554	18,000	41,554
Balances c/fwd 31 Dec		17,229	11,094	28,323	13,695	15,136	28,831

Church of St. John the Baptist, Holland Road
Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

Balance sheet as at 31 December 2021

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £	Unrestricted Funds 2020 £	Restricted Funds 2020 £	Total 2020 £
Current assets							
Debtors	4	8,383	-	8,383	12,313	914	13,227
Cash at bank and in hand		43,966	11,094	55,060	47,604	14,222	61,826
Total current assets		52,349	11,094	63,443	59,917	15,136	75,053
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	5	(15,120)	-	(15,120)	(26,222)	-	(26,222)
Net current assets		37,229	11,094	48,323	33,695	15,136	48,831
Total assets less current liabilities		37,229	11,094	48,323	33,695	15,136	48,831
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	6	(20,000)	-	(20,000)	(20,000)	-	(20,000)
Total net assets		17,229	11,094	28,323	13,695	15,136	28,831
Parish funds	9,10	17,229	11,094	28,323	13,695	15,136	28,831
Unrestricted funds		17,229	-	17,229	13,695	-	13,695
Restricted funds		-	11,094	11,094	-	15,136	15,136
Total funds		17,229	11,094	28,323	13,695	15,136	28,831

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 23rd September 2022 and signed on its behalf by:



Incumbent
Reverend Dr James Heard



Treasurer
Stephanie de Mel

Church of St. John the Baptist, Holland Road

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of St John the Baptist Church, Holland Road, Parochial Church Council

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of St John the Baptist PCC (the Trust) for the year ended 31st December 2021 comprising the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, and the accompanying notes to the accounts.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner and basis of report

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. As the charity's trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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



Peter Cranenburgh
Cranenburgh Limited
Chartered Accountants
76-80 College Road
Harrow
Middlesex
HA1 1BQ

23/09/2022

Church of St. John the Baptist, Holland Road
Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

1) Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102).

Fund accounting

Restricted funds can only be used for particular purposes specified by or agreed with the donors. General funds may be used for any purpose within the charity's objects.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included on the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Expenditure recognition

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

	Unrestricted Funds 2021	Restricted Funds 2021	Total 2021	Unrestricted Funds 2020	Restricted Funds 2020	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
2) Incoming resources						
a) Voluntary income						
Planned giving	17,118	-	17,118	15,012	-	15,012
Collections, online giving, & other donations	11,876	5,150	17,026	15,477	25,720	41,197
Grants	12,900	-	12,900	-	17,000	17,000
Tax refunds	3,083	1,094	4,177	10,215	7,819	18,034
	44,977	6,244	51,221	40,704	50,539	91,243
b) Activities for generating funds						
Rent from church letting	6,520	-	6,520	2,905	-	2,905
Rent from crypt letting	8,075	-	8,075	12,760	-	12,760
	14,595	-	14,595	15,665	-	15,665
c) Investment income						
Bank and deposit interest	14	-	14	-	-	-
	14	-	14	-	-	-
d) Income from church activities						
Fees for weddings	-	-	-	691	-	691
Fees for funerals	-	-	-	195	-	195
	-	-	-	886	-	886
e) Other income						
Insurance recoveries	6,060	-	6,060	2,100	-	2,100
Rent from church property	14,296	-	14,296	14,387	-	14,387
Area Dean expenses allowance	-	-	-	600	-	600
	20,356	-	20,356	17,087	-	17,087
Total Incoming Resources	79,942	6,244	86,186	74,342	50,539	124,881

Church of St. John the Baptist, Holland Road
Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

3) Resources expended	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2021	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2020
	Funds 2021	Funds 2021		Funds 2020	Funds 2020	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
a) Church activities						
Common fund	(14,750)	-	(14,750)	(8,247)	-	(8,247)
Recharges from St. George's church						
Off common fund clergy costs	(19,770)	-	(19,770)	(12,350)	(7,600)	(19,950)
United Benefice office running costs	(1,440)	-	(1,440)	(1,440)	-	(1,440)
Insurance	(12,000)	-	(12,000)	(10,224)	-	(10,224)
Charitable giving	-	-	-	(170)	-	(170)
Electricity	(8,157)	-	(8,157)	(12,941)	-	(12,941)
Gas	(2,174)	-	(2,174)	(4,063)	-	(4,063)
Water rates	(150)	-	(150)	(150)	-	(150)
Church maintenance	(583)	(8,336)	(8,919)	-	(4,264)	(4,264)
Cleaning & gardening	(260)	-	(260)	(734)	-	(734)
Incumbent priests' expenses	-	-	-	(140)	-	(140)
Audio visual & IT equipment	(1,052)	-	(1,052)	(1,439)	-	(1,439)
Organist fees	(4,525)	-	(4,525)	(4,585)	-	(4,585)
Choir fees	(1,233)	(1,950)	(3,183)	(2,379)	-	(2,379)
Organ maintenance & repairs	(905)	-	(905)	(545)	-	(545)
Licenses & membership fees	(405)	-	(405)	(468)	-	(468)
General expenses	(242)	-	(242)	(725)	-	(725)
Bank charges	(162)	-	(162)	(141)	-	(141)
Lighting project	(1,514)	-	(1,514)	(16,535)	(41,539)	(58,074)
Professional fees	(6,096)	-	(6,096)	(3,275)	-	(3,275)
Restoration - chancel fire	-	-	-	(720)	-	(720)
Restoration - other projects	(240)	-	(240)	(2,180)	-	(2,180)
	(75,658)	(10,286)	(85,944)	(83,451)	(53,403)	(136,854)
b) Governance costs						
Independent examination	(750)	-	(750)	(750)	-	(750)
	(750)	-	(750)	(750)	-	(750)
Total Resources Expended	(76,408)	(10,286)	(86,694)	(84,201)	(53,403)	(137,604)
4) Debtors						
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2021	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2020
	Funds 2021	Funds 2021		Funds 2020	Funds 2020	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Accrued rent from church property	-	-	-	7,075	-	7,075
Prepayment of electricity	1,047	-	1,047	2,993	-	2,993
Income tax recoverable	7,336	-	7,336	2,245	914	3,159
	8,383	-	8,383	12,313	914	13,227

Church of St. John the Baptist, Holland Road
Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

5) Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	Unrestricted Funds 2021	Restricted Funds 2021	Total 2021	Unrestricted Funds 2020	Restricted Funds 2020	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Trade payables	(960)	-	(960)	(14,162)	-	(14,162)
Accruals	(5,410)	-	(5,410)	(3,310)	-	(3,310)
Rent deposits	(8,750)	-	(8,750)	(8,750)	-	(8,750)
	(15,120)	-	(15,120)	(26,222)	-	(26,222)

6) Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	Unrestricted Funds 2021	Restricted Funds 2021	Total 2021	Unrestricted Funds 2020	Restricted Funds 2020	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Loan from Diocese - electrical works	(20,000)	-	(20,000)	(20,000)	-	(20,000)
	(20,000)	-	(20,000)	(20,000)	-	(20,000)

7) Commitments

No financial commitments other than those already provided for in the financial statements have been recognised.

8) Related party transactions

Trustees were reimbursed a total of £333 for expenses that they incurred on behalf of the PCC (2020: £2,147).

The trustees identified no other related party transactions, or balances arising as a result of such transactions, during the financial year.

9) Allocation of Net Assets by Funds

	Balance b/f 1 Jan 2021	Income	Expenses	Transfers	Revaluation	Balance c/f 31 Dec 2021
	£	£	£			£
The Unrestricted Funds comprise						
General						
General Fund	4,945	79,942	(76,408)	-	-	8,479
Designated						
Tenant Rent Deposit	8,750	-	-	-	-	8,750
Total	13,695	79,942	(76,408)	-	-	17,229
The Restricted Funds comprise						
COVID19 Recovery	5,136	-	(5,136)	-	-	-
Other Donations	-	6,244	(5,150)	-	-	1,094
Organ Restoration	10,000	-	-	-	-	10,000
Total	15,136	6,244	(10,286)	-	-	11,094
Total Funds	28,831	86,186	(86,694)	-	-	28,323

The COVID19 Recovery fund comprised emergency funding granted by the National Lottery Heritage Fund in response to the COVID pandemic. During the financial year, the remaining balance of £5,136 was spent on urgent repairs and conservation works and the fund was closed.

Other Donations were in relation to specific works on the drains and boiler, as well as support for musical events. The closing balance relates to the accrued giftaid on those gifts that has not yet been reclaimed.

The Organ Restoration fund comprises funding received from Ecclesiastical Insurance to pay for the conservation of the organ following damage caused by the chancel fire in February 2017.

Church of St. John the Baptist, Holland Road
Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

10) Reconciliation of Funds

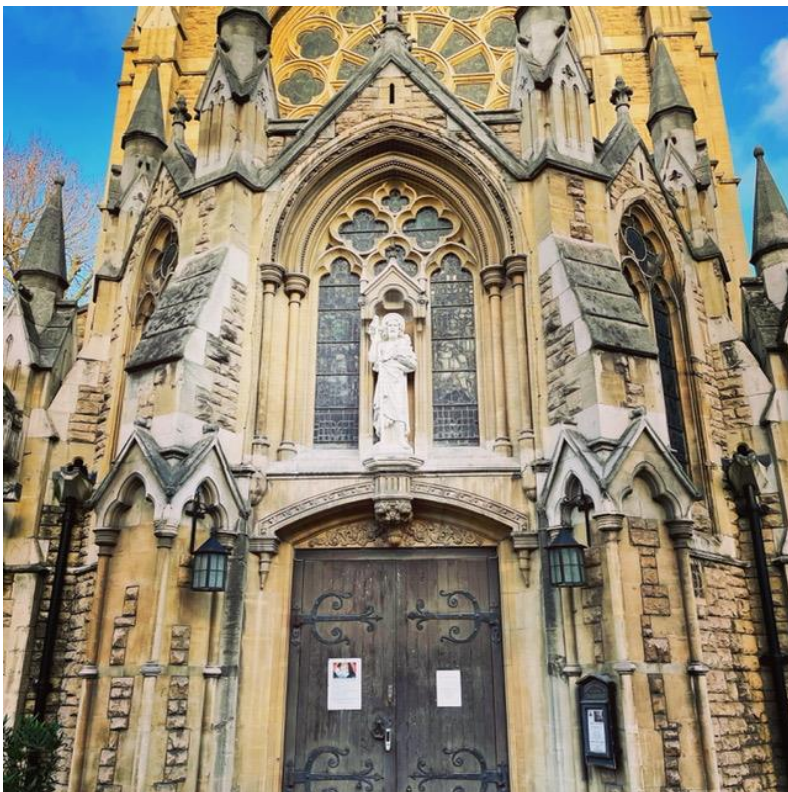
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Restricted	15,136	(4,042)	-	11,094
	28,831	(508)	-	28,323
	B/f 1 Jan 2020 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	C/f 31 Dec 2020 £
Prior year				
Unrestricted	23,554	(9,859)	-	13,695
Restricted	18,000	(2,864)	-	15,136
	41,554	(12,723)	-	28,831

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Accounts

Annual Report 2020

St John the Baptist, Holland Road



St John the Baptist Holland Road

Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

Administrative Information

St John's Church is situated on Holland Road in Kensington and is part of the Church of England in the Diocese of London. It forms part of the United Benefice of Holland Park. The correspondence address is St George's Church, Aubrey Walk, London W8 7JG. The Parochial Church Council constitutes a charity and this year was registered as a UK charity (no. 1169173). The PCC members who have served from October 2020 until the date this report was approved are:

The Rev'd Dr James Heard	Chair
The Rev'd Neil Traynor	Associate Priest
The Rev'd Peter Wolton	Associate Priest
The Rev'd Dana English	Associate Priest
Clare Heard	LLM
Mrs Jenny Davenport	Vice-Chair, Deanery Synod Rep.
Ms Lindsay Fulcher	Churchwarden
Mr Jamie Priestley	Churchwarden, Lay Vice Chair and Hon. Secretary
Mr George Pasteur	Hon. Treasurer
Ms Kristin Corbet-Milward	Safe Guarding Officer
Mrs Jill Traynor	Deanery Synod Rep.
Ms Jessica Leslie	
Ms Marina Abel Smith	
Ms Stephanie de Mel	
Ms Anita Kouassigan	
Ms Panagiota Kotoula	

Structure, governance and management

The appointment of the churchwardens conforms to the Churchwardens Measure 2001. They are *ex officio* members of the PCC. The PCC members are elected as set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church attendees are encouraged to register on the electoral roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is responsible for promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC also has maintenance responsibilities for St John's Church, and the surrounding land.

Review of the year

The PCC met four times during the year on Zoom. A revised electoral roll was drawn up in advance of this Annual Parochial Church Meeting. There are currently 67 people on the electoral roll. This year we conducted three baptisms, one wedding and no funerals or memorials.

Evangelisation

St John's is committed to the Gospel imperative to 'make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit' (Matthew 28:19), and to meeting the challenge of engagement in active evangelisation amongst all the peoples of the parish it serves.

Ecumenical links

As a catholic parish of the Church of England, St John the Baptist Church honours our Lord's High Priestly prayer that all Christians may be one as He and the Father are one (John 17:21), and seeks to foster its local relationship with Christians of the great communions of East and West in furtherance of the full and organic unity of the Church. To this end we play our part in the membership of the Kensington Council of Churches.

Vicar's Report, *by James Heard*

Looking back at last year's 2019 Annual Report, it was inconceivable that a Covid-shaped bomb was about to be dropped on us. The scale of it: currently over 3 million deaths worldwide and rising daily, caught us unprepared. We found it unbelievable that churches that had remained open over the centuries, through the bubonic plague and two world wars, would be shut for public worship. This 2020 Annual Report has a very distinctive Covid shape to it.



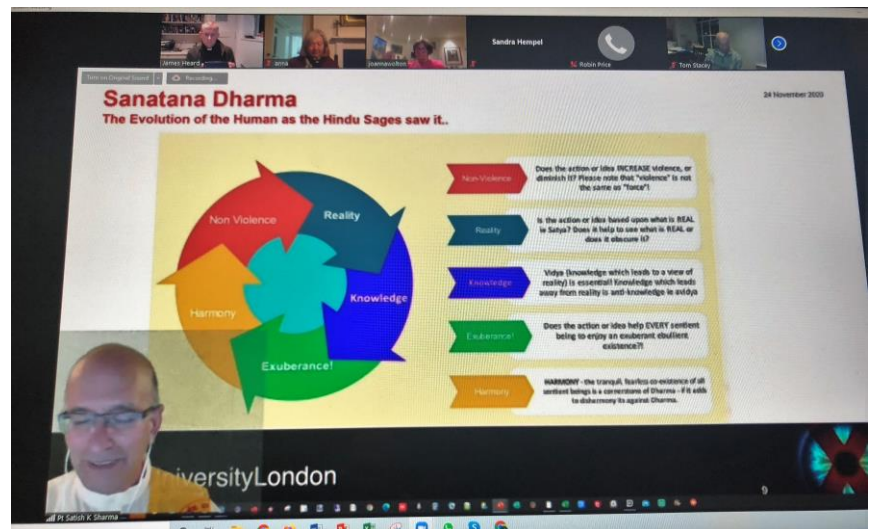
Two Covid-related deaths in 2020 included a former vicar of St George's, Revd Peter Myles. Also, Christopher Buckmaster, former churchwarden at St George's and twice Mayor of Kensington and Chelsea. May they rest in peace, and rise in glory.

The most significant feature this year has been a move to online worship. It took a lot of hard work for us all to understand how it all worked and the phrase of the year has to be 'you have to unmute'! I would like to thank my colleagues for the way they have so flexibly adapted to this change. To help provide a structure to lockdown we included a weekly rhythm of Morning, Evening and Night Prayer, Christian Meditation, Bible studies, and a coffee and poetry morning. This has fostered a growing and supportive sense of community between us. The charities committee has helped to organise several online quiz evenings, the latest of which was the Glass Door Christmas appeal which raised over £6000: quite remarkable!

To enable this to happen has involved installing online facilities at both churches: increasing our broadband speed, installing Wi-Fi extension units and, thanks to some very generous donations, installing equipment so as to provide high quality streaming of our Sunday services.

One highlight of the year for me was to have organised the Exploring Other Faiths course, in which I entered into conversation with a variety of religious leaders:

- Judaism - Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg
- Islam - Yunus Dudhwala
- Buddhism - Karuna Priya
- Sikhism - Gurpreet Singh Anand
- Hinduism - Pt Satish K Sharma



This openness on our part meant having a mind-set not threatened by other religious perspectives. It required us to acknowledge that God is greater than any one religion. This openness reveals good, healthy, grown-up faith. We hope to continue on this journey perhaps with a faith walk to other faith communities in the area, when that becomes possible.

In September we said goodbye to Margaret Houston, who has been our Family's Pastor for 10 years. The seeds that she has planted will continue to bear fruit in the years to come. We have some incredibly bright theologically articulate children and youth as a result of her leadership, and we are immensely grateful to her for that. I am delighted that three teenagers joined the PCC in 2020 – May Lyster, Cordelia James and Maya Ranawake. With the oversight of Dana, they have helped take the lead with our Sunday School provision for 5-11 year olds.

Lastly, because I'm a glutton for punishment, I was appointed the Area Dean for Kensington Deanery. This includes additional responsibilities among the fifteen churches in the area. In short, the role of the Area Dean 'is to ensure that the life and work of the Deanery and its constituent parishes is sustained and developed.' This has only been possible because of my incredibly capable clergy colleagues to whom I am hugely grateful.

My sincere thanks also for the support and encouragement of the churchwardens: Lindsay Fulcher and Jamie Priestley at St John's and Guy Ranawake and Bill James at St George's, as well as to Victoria O'Neill, our Office Manager, who has been on furlough and part-time furlough for most of the year.

Churchwardens' Report, *by Jamie Priestley and Lindsay Fulcher*



From drains and graffiti to saintly statues and MPs, the life of a Churchwarden is never dull – even in the various lockdowns which have obliged most of us to stay at home for much of the year.

We began the year with drainage problems: many of the deep drains on the north side of the church had reached the end of their lives and, having filled with rubble, the rainwater failed to drain away properly. So, after some particularly heavy downpours, flooding occurred in the Crypt. Luckily this water damage was covered by our insurance. The work on clearing the drains finished just as the first lockdown began. All of them are now lined and free from rubble, and good for another 150 years (we hope).

Moving on to more cultural subjects, St John's managed to host two very different events before lockdown in the early part of the year. The first was A Spoonful of Sugar: The Songs of Julie Andrews, a recital given by the multi-talented soprano Nicola Mills; then, striking a more serious note, the Belarusian Nobel Prize-winning writer and journalist, Svetlana Alexievich gave a talk entitled Second-hand Time, based on her book about the demise of the Soviet Union. We had several other events, including concerts (our acoustics are superb), but they all had to be cancelled because of Covid-restrictions on large social gatherings. Nevertheless, individual bookings of the church used as a backdrop for a Grime music video and for an actor's video portfolio were able to happen. We also managed to slip in a socially distanced talk on The Icon of the Nativity in early December.



Throughout the year, sculptor Danny Burbidge continued to work on the replacement statue of St John the Baptist (the original was stolen) for the empty niche above the great West Door. When news of the new statue reached Felicity Buchan, MP for Kensington, she asked to come and visit St John's. So it was that in August, we, Churchwardens, met her, showed her round the church and the statue, and answered her questions. Ms Buchan asked us about Holland Road and antisocial behaviour. Outside the church, there is some low-level crime, such as fly-tipping, illegal parking on the pavement and, more recently, graffiti. We have applied to RBKC Council for funding to light the Western front of the church. They have already agreed to purchase and position large planters – which we hope will help deter any future antisocial actions.

Finally, we were delighted that Bishop Graham came to bless the new statue of St John at a Eucharist in September which coincided with the Open House Weekend in which St John's had been invited to take part. The finished statue was displayed inside the church for a time during the summer before it could be safely installed; this gave visitors the chance to see it close-up. It is a superb piece of work and is now



a focus of interest for passers-by. As part of the Open House Weekend, we welcomed visitors from London and further afield. As we were not able to hold our planned church tours we arranged another way of guiding our visitors. Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School kindly lent us some music stands on which notices were placed around the church allowing visitors to 'self-guide' along a designated route. Further guidance was provided by A Kalendar of Saints, a booklet with the locations and biographies of all of the dozens of saints depicted in church, produced by Fr Neil. We bought some display dummies so that we could display our fine historic vestments safely for special interest groups.

Since we have been able, the church has been opened for private prayer between 3pm and 5pm on Mondays and Thursdays. A small group of volunteers has made this possible, and we have a steady stream of people coming to St John's to pray quietly. Thank you to all those who have made this possible. It has also become apparent that the calvary cross outside is a place of individuals' devotions with flowers being left at its foot. Even though our doors are mainly shut, we are very much a community of prayer.

Assistant Priests' Annual Report

Fr Peter Wolton

Culture. Not culture wars but the culture of a community or an organisation. At business school it is seen as a key determinant of whether the organism will grow and succeed. As I reflect on 2020, my sense is that our benefice has grown and discovered strength that was perhaps there but of which we were not aware. We have, I believe, a culture that is supportive and given to mutual encouragement. The forced move to online services and other gatherings, such as the poetry morning, has led to people who had recognised each other previously now talking to each other. We have also seen much wider participation in services by members of the congregation, with people reading and responding who had not previously done so.



Lay members have led Morning and Evening Prayer. And for those who are not online, contact has been maintained by regular telephone calls.

Through the wonders (or “artifice” as described by one of our community) of Zoom, we have reached out beyond the confines of our parishes. The other evening at Compline, we were joined by worshippers from Genoa, the Netherlands, Washington DC, Gloucestershire and London! I also give thanks for being part of a ministry team which operates so felicitously. As well as having complementary qualities the associate priests are united by a desire to support our incumbent.

Finally, as I look back on 2020 with its many cancellations, I was fortunate to be able to preside at two weddings. A window of opportunity arose during September 2020 when it was possible to have up to 30 guests and a reception. One was in the Isle of Wight and one in the Chalke Valley in Wiltshire. I had the honour of preparing both couples using the excellent Pre-Marriage course created by Holy Trinity Brompton. It consists of five video sessions and although it has a Christian foundation, it is suitable for people of all faiths and none and full of very wise counsel.

Your clergy team are looking forward to taking more weddings in 2021.

Fr Peter's 'home altar'



Fr Neil Traynor

Much of the work happening in St John's is amply told elsewhere in this report, most notably in the Churchwardens' Report and Music Report for St John's and the joint report covering on-line worship.

Thanks to the fantastic efforts of our Churchwardens, musicians, congregation and visitors, St John's has continued to play its part. The huge generosity of the congregation was demonstrated in the £50,000 raised to install the new lighting. New Bluetooth technology has allowed us flexibility to create different lighting scenes, so that our already impressive services can be further enhanced. The gradual growing of light in our Benefice Carol Service amply demonstrated what we can do, to great effect.



Over the coming year St John's will take part in the Kensington and Chelsea Arts Week in June, and in the Open House Festival in September. We are now the regular rehearsal venue for The NHS Choir.

COVID restrictions permitting we are looking forward to having an exciting series of concerts and other events in church, including next March the “Leaves of the Tree” exhibition, which is currently touring the UK’s cathedrals. Open days for the local community are planned, and work to further conserve and enhance the fabric of St John’s is in hand.

Thank you particularly to James, Peter and Dana for their continued support, and to Lindsay and Jamie as Wardens, Mark our organist, and Jenny and all of the volunteers who have helped to keep St John’s open. Over the last year we have grown in confidence as a worshipping community, and strengthened our contribution to the United Benefice. It’s a real privilege to be part of such a vibrant and positive team.

Online worship and websites, *Revd Neil Traynor*

With the lockdowns of the 2020 and 2021 online worship became central to our building of community and life together. Using Zoom, we have joined together for morning, evening and night prayer; for the major celebrations of Holy Week, Easter, Patronal Festivals and Christmas; for weekly meditation. There has been a marked increase in those attending the daily offices, and this has given a sense of community to many. We have been able to engage with more people in our services and learning than we had done previously. Streaming our services and activities is here to stay, and will no doubt continue to develop over the coming years.



Thanks to generous donations we have been able to purchase cameras for both churches, and have engineered ways around the difficulties with sound quality. (This usually works, but sadly not always.) We are also able to record our principal services which we then post on YouTube.

YouTube is a resource that has enabled viewers from around the world to join with us in the Benefice. On average, only about one-third of our viewers are from Great Britain and Ireland. Over the 28 days to 21st April 2021 our channel received 555 views, equating to 75 hours of watch time- that’s quite impressive. Over the previous year, we had 3158 views and 433 hours of viewing. For a commercial YouTube channel these are very small figures – in our terms though this is a fantastic achievement. The average watch time for a video on YouTube is 4 minutes – our is 12 minutes, a statistic of which we can be proud.

We are expanding our use of social media, principally using Twitter and occasionally Instagram. We continue to promote both St George’s and St John’s through Google My Business. It has been notable in the last year that map searches, particularly for St John’s have fallen dramatically. As we come out of lockdown these should improve once again.

Our website is continuing to attract significant visitors, and we have used this to our advantage to advertise our Faculty Applications.

Technology has also allowed us to meet for recreation as well. Our weekly Poetry and Coffee mornings continue to be well attended, and more than 600 poems have been shared. Occasional quiz nights (for which see the Charities report) have widened participation. Our United Tuesday courses have attracted large numbers live or viewing afterwards – larger numbers than we might get when meeting only in person.

Thank you to all those who join us regularly or occasionally for services or social events. We are delighted we can regularly be with friends who are not in London and dispersed across the UK and overseas.

Education in the Benefice, *The Revd Dana English*

The Wednesday Study

At the beginning of 2020 the long-established Bible Study of the Benefice began to investigate the book of Genesis: since then an enthusiastic and committed group has carried on with an exploration of the successive books of the Old Testament. We decided that to keep the momentum going the discussion needed to continue every week instead of every other week.

The Revd Dana now leads the group; it meets via Zoom each Wednesday at the same time: 13.30. The group has now grown to about 20 regulars, with at least three joining from other countries! New people come to join us regularly; all are welcome. Many participating follow up each session by links to works of art history, music, or literature...it is a rich gathering! We had completed our discussion sessions on the book of Judges by the end of the year.



The Evening Study

Every other Tuesday or Wednesday evening the **Young Professionals' Group** of the Benefice, with a core group of young people who had been regularly attending St John the Baptist, decided to meet for Bible Study, led by the Revd Dana. All through the summer the group met for a (distanced) picnic in Hyde Park; as of the autumn the group began to add Bible Study, first on the book of Revelation, now on the Gospel of John. We take only two or three chapters each two weeks, so that we can spend enough time on the text as well as check in with one another, given that the group must meet, now, entirely via Zoom. Members have continued to meet from temporary residence in Sri Lanka, Wales, and Sandwich: testimony to the commitment of this strong group of young persons in our Benefice!

Pastoral Care

It has been a privilege to continue to be connected to members of both congregations through distanced walks in Hyde Park. I have met, on average, three parishioners a week by this means; a great pleasure as well as good exercise! In a well-coordinated effort with the

other three clergy, we have designated certain older members as those to be called regularly on the phone, so that we have a good sense of the needs of even those farthest away. There is also a clergy rota for daily prayer, with James, Neil, Peter and me each “on duty” for a week at a time. I led a group of sixteen parishioners to Launde Abbey, October 14-16, my first time to have that opportunity. For me, it was gratifying to see how well the need for time away from London was met by this beautiful place and excellent resource. Many have asked to return, and I have been researching Mirfield, Lindesfarne, and Iona as additional places to offer for retreat. We will definitely be scheduling one of these places for a congregational retreat for the autumn of 2021. I hope to plan a pilgrimage for the Young Professionals’ Group some time during the summer of 2021, perhaps to St Alban’s on June 19th.

Preaching and Worship Leadership

Under the Vicar’s superb leadership, the rota for preaching and presiding is seamlessly distributed among the four clergy and Clare Heard, as an additional regular on the preaching rota. Lindsay Fulcher has also come to be more and more involved in this aspect of the Church’s life, as she continues on her path toward an LLM. I enjoy the opportunity to alternate between preaching and presiding, St George’s and St John’s. It is an unusually harmonious and complementary team. With thanks to James and to Neil and to Peter! I continue to be on the rota for duty chaplain at St Paul’s Cathedral, after being told of this possibility by James. I volunteer to preside “under the dome” about twice a month, being available for any tourist or visitor who would like to talk to a clergyperson, and giving prayers on the hour on the days I am there. It has been a wonderful extension of ministry for me in this time, despite the interruption of periods of closure.



Children and Youth Ministries, *Revd Dana English*

Margaret Houston oversaw Christian Education for children at St. George's through Sunday, September 27th, the Harvest Festival celebration, when she was warmly thanked for the years of supervision and teaching that she had so capably given to the Benefice.

I offered to help as liaison for Christian Education after Margaret's departure. Difficult as it obviously is to have a **Sunday School** if the church is not physically open, we managed to create a new, immensely enthusiastic and skilled teaching team for the age 4-12s in the Autumn: 'graduates' of our own Sunday School: May Lyster, Cordelia James, and Maya Ranawake. Focussing on the parables of Jesus, on an All-age service for All Saints' Sunday, then on the season of Advent, a lovely group of children participated each Sunday. All culminated in a special rehearsal and Pageant orchestrated by Clare Heard on Sunday December 15th. There are roughly 22 families on our updated roster actively participating in this area of the congregation's life, in both teaching and worship. A number of parents have faithfully helped by volunteering to look after the under-4 age group during the worship services. Clare Heard has taken over activities for youth, as Dana continues to lead the confirmation class. Fr Peter and Natasha Tahta are the designated safeguarding officers for our Benefice.

The current **Confirmation Class** consists of four young people: Phoebe James, Tallulah Bunce, Sam Williams and Lara Tahta. Having begun strongly a year ago, the group met a number of times before having to put everything on hold when all shut down in mid-March. Clare Heard and Dana English were co-teachers for this class, with Dana resuming in 2021. We were able to meet a few times in the autumn before all was disrupted again. We will resume the class in March in order to prepare for a Confirmation date after June 21st, so that all the families and friends of the confirmands can attend this great celebration. Fr James has been preparing a number of adults for confirmation on a parallel track; despite all the obstacles placed in our way, we are planning for a joy-filled Confirmation Sunday!

Charities Committee 2020 Report

The usual fundraising initiatives of the year were limited due to Covid. However, we continued to support a number of our regular charities during the year: a mixture of local and international. We did this through several online quiz evenings and the Christmas collection. Our first zoomed quiz evening in May was in support of **USPG** (United Society, Partners in the Gospel) one of Britain's oldest charities founded in 1704. This charity helps local communities across the world become stronger, independent and confident. **The quiz evening raised over £1500.**

In June our quiz evening was in aid of **Future Hope**. Parishioners Tim and Erika Grandage joined us for this and described how the charity started in 1987 and now provides opportunity through its homes, school, sports and medical programme for some of the most vulnerable children from the streets and slums of Kolkata, India. **The quiz evening raised over £2500.**

Glass Door normally organises night shelters in various West London churches. This changed because of Covid. Instead, they daily arranged for 90 guests to receive a night's accommodation in a hostel and three nutritious meals the following day. Additionally, in November the charity launched a community dinner service in partnership with local churches. Every night, up to 120 people enjoyed a meal prepared and served by volunteers across four different venues. Guests also had access to phones, toiletries and other essentials as well as engaged with a Glass Door caseworker. **Our Christmas collection and quiz evening raised over £6000.** Despite the challenge of Covid, the United Benefice raised over £10,000: a great achievement. We very much look forward to meeting in person for future fund-raising initiatives. Do contact Fr James if you would like to join the charities committee.

Safeguarding Officer's Report, by Kristin Corbet-Milward

We have been restricted in our activities this year, (2020) due to Covid-19. As a result, very few activities involving vulnerable people have taken place. During the period when the church has been open, safeguarding our vulnerable members of the congregation has taken place by way of hand sanitising, mask wearing and following all relevant government guidance. Volunteers have kept in touch by phone with otherwise vulnerable or elderly parishioners during the pandemic. Our usual safeguarding audit and report has been undertaken.



Music report, Mark Denza

The last year has been particularly difficult for music in churches – not only with the extended lockdowns – but also the prohibition from singing. This last has left a large gap in our corporate worship. When St John's first reopened last September, after nearly six months in mothballs, restrictions then in force only permitted a soloist *in exceptional circumstances*.



Fortunately, we had a highly exceptional soloist to celebrate that first release from house arrest in Olympia Hetherington, whose magical performances have enriched the liturgy on many occasions in recent years. Furthermore, we were also blessed that evening with the sublime talents of violinist Regan Crowley, serenading the gathering congregation, and gracing Olympia's solos with celestial obbligatos. Regan plays in a string quartet with Frances Barlow, Clare Heard's mother, and they were both violinists in the BBC Symphony Orchestra for many years. Regan has since returned to SJB on two other occasions; most recently to celebrate the first public service of 2021 on Mothering Sunday. The St John's Singers have not been able to sing fully since February 2020, but Quintin's leadership of the choir has allowed a number of very special services – that for the dedication of the new statue, the All Souls' Requiem, and our Christmas Carol Service. This last, with Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols* sung liturgically, was a stunning performance. It was also Quintin's last occasion as Director of the Saint John's Singers, and we now have Toby Ward as an interim director. We wish Quintin well in his new rôle as Director of Music at St Peter's College, Oxford.

That second weekend of December actually saw two final appearances from Quintin, whose phenomenal talents and musicianship will be sorely missed. On Saturday, 12th December, two familiar and much loved members of our congregation were joined together in holy matrimony – George and Lucy Pasteur.

Conducted by Quintin, the small choir then permitted under Covid regulations consisted almost entirely of George and Lucy's friends. The quality of that ensemble assembled by the Pasteurs new was breathtaking. It was a gloriously uplifting occasion, radiating happiness, and a level of contented involvement from the musicians that is depressingly rare at weddings. Such a pity that not all the regular congregation were able to celebrate in person the nuptials of SJB's musical power couple.



Although the organ has played less of a part in our worship than usual, music has continued to be central to our services. Last July, Fr Neil made an ingenious application for Heritage England Covid funding, to address problems caused by the instrument's prolonged inactivity during the first lockdown. The Pedal Bourdon lost several low notes during this period, which has been particularly troublesome. For accompanimental purposes, these pipes are absolutely crucial; notwithstanding the considerable luxury of four other functioning sixteen foot stops.

Although Fr Neil's bid was ultimately unsuccessful, it proved helpful in concentrating minds, and assessing priorities to keep our magnificent organ ticking over. Eric and John Shepherd labour tirelessly to keep the instrument playable, and the Gern was sounding transcendently glorious during that monumental December weekend, after a particularly intensive tuning session.

The benefice is hugely fortunate that all five of its clergy are highly musical; as are its treasurers, who are both accomplished organists. David Buckley very kindly covered for me on Christmas morning, whilst George Pasteur has been an invaluable member of our slimline lockdown trios. So too is Marina Abel Smith, whose sultry alto voice has enriched these vocal threesomes whilst her little black fixing book has been gathering dust. Asher Oliver, a friend of Dana's from Trinity College, Cambridge, played for Midnight Mass, whilst my most recent deputy on Maundy Thursday was Colin Spinks – another brilliant organist, with impressive pedigree.

A huge thank you to all of our singers and musicians, who have contributed so much to the life of St John's.

Deanery Synod Report, by Howard Evans (former Lay Chair, Kensington Deanery)



St George's Kensington Deanery Synod Representatives in the House of Laity for this new triennium, which began on 1st December 2020 (extended by episcopal *fiat* from 30th June 2020, owing to the coronavirus epidemic) and concludes under the revised Church Representation Rules 2020 on 30th June 2023, are Clare Heard, William James and Natasha Tahta. These are the same who served during the previous triennium. I am a member of Deanery Synod because I am also a member of the Diocesan Synod until 31st July 2021. The Area Dean was the Revd Mark O'Donoghue, Vicar of Christ Church, Victoria Road, W8, until his resignation in September 2020. Since October 2020, the Vicar of the United Benefice of Holland Park, the Revd Dr James Heard, is the Area Dean.

Since the date of the previous report (March 2020), there were no meetings until the first video conference (using the ubiquitous Zoom) Deanery Synod organised by James Heard on 10th September 2020, when the Revd Canon Miles Baker, the new Area Director of Ministry, addressed us on investing in leadership and vocations following the theme of confidence in proclaiming the faith.

This Zoom meeting was followed on 16th November 2020 by an address from our Area Bishop of Kensington, the Rt Revd Graham Tomlin, on the development of the Diocesan 2030 Vision – provisional at this stage, because so much energy has had to be diverted to the coronavirus epidemic consequences, especially by the clergy, who were profusely thanked.

On 8th February 2021, the Revd Dr Jim Walters, Chaplain to the London School of Economics, gave a lively reflection on the institutional church aspects and consequences of the epidemic.

The Standing Committee had previously become much depleted and, with the new triennium, new officers (Lay Chair, Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer among others) will need to be elected by the Synod as soon as circumstances permit.

The customary Common Fund meeting of deanery treasurers, incumbents and, nowadays, church wardens or other principal PCC members with the Archdeacon, the Ven. Richard Frank, and the Area Finance Adviser, Mary Spredbury during May 2020 were necessarily abandoned. Instead, parishes encountering straitened financial circumstances because, for example, of the loss of rental income, were encouraged to advise the effect on their common fund contributions. It speaks something of the resilience of London that, overall, the reduction in common fund has been only about 8% for 2020. With continuing coronavirus restrictions, the Diocese agreed that Common Fund contributions in 2021 should broadly continue at the same level as 2020. The Diocese is, of course, anticipating a significant shortfall over last year and this.

Deanery Common Fund policy will doubtless need to be reconsidered and reviewed when the next Common Fund meetings for 2022 occur, probably in September 2021.

COVID Impact

The main financial impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the Parochial Church Council finances was a 60% shortfall in commercial rent from the crypt as compared to the expected amount. We also saw a decline in ad hoc lettings of the church building. Against these headwinds, three positive factors allowed us to remain financially stable: firstly, there was a significant increase in online giving aided by the launch of a new Charities Aid Foundation donation portal on our website; secondly, the London Diocesan Fund reduced the level of Common Fund contribution to assist parishes during the pandemic; and lastly St Johns was granted some emergency funding by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Taken in the round, these factors allowed us to end the year with only a small decrease in total funds and still to meet the PCC's policy of holding reserves equivalent to two months' running costs as at the end of the year.



General Fund

Overall the general fund generated a deficit of £9,859 (2019: £55,566 deficit).

Our gross incoming resources decreased to £74,342 (2019: £90,735). The prior year income includes the impact of a one-off insurance recovery relating to the 2017 chancel fire. Excluding this, underlying incoming resources were £21,507 higher than prior year, mainly driven by higher voluntary income.

Voluntary income was £11,179 higher than prior year due the timing of giftaid refunds (£8,255 increase) and an increase in online giving caused by services moving online (£4,282 increase). This was partly offset by slightly lower planned giving (£1,358 decrease).

Receipts from activities for generating funds were slightly higher than prior year at £15,665 (2019: £12,483). It was encouraging that we continued to see momentum with small-scale lettings of the church to the local community for a wide variety of uses (talks, filming, and choir rehearsals) in the periods that the building was open.

After adjusting for insurance recoveries, other income was £1,328 lower at £14,987 (2019: 16,315) reflecting normal variability of net rents after costs on the flat at Flat 2, 176 Holland Road. This property is owned by the Diocese of London and the associated income is allocated to St John's.

Expenditure from the general fund decreased to £83,451 (2020: £145,551), again principally reflecting the non-recurrence of restoration costs relating to the chancel fire. On an underlying basis, general expenditure was £23,840 lower than prior year due to cost restraint in the pandemic, significantly aided by both the special reduced Common Fund level and an emergency grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund which partly alleviated the cost of urgent repairs and clergy employment costs. Utilities costs were higher than anticipated and have been addressed, going forward, by entering into fixed rate contracts with suppliers.

Restricted Funds

During 2020, we received donations of £33,539 towards the lighting appeal, with the full balance of the Lighting Appeal fund (£41,539) then being spent on the installation works. At the end of the year, there were two restricted funds carried forward: the COVID19 Recovery fund relates to a £17,000 award by the Heritage Lottery Fund, of which £11,864 was spent in 2020; secondly, there is the Organ Restoration fund, the balance on which remained unchanged during the year at £10,000.

Balance sheet

During the year total funds decreased to £28,831 (2019: £41,554). Total cash deposits at the end of the year were £61,827 (2020: £92,244).

The PCC would like to thank all those who have supported the church financially during the year.



Church of St. John the Baptist, Holland Road
Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

Charity number 1169173

Church of St. John the Baptist, Holland Road
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Statement of financial activities for 12 months ended 31 December 2020

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2020 £	Restricted Funds 2020 £	Total 2020 £	Unrestricted Funds 2019 £	Restricted Funds 2019 £	Total 2019 £
Incoming resources							
Voluntary income	2(a)	40,704	50,539	91,243	29,525	18,000	47,525
Activities for generating funds	2(b)	15,665	-	15,665	12,483	-	12,483
Investment income	2(c)	-	-	-	46	-	46
Income from church activities	2(d)	886	-	886	620	-	620
Other income	2(e)	17,087	-	17,087	48,061	-	48,061
Total Incoming Resources		74,342	50,539	124,881	90,735	18,000	108,735
Resources expended							
Church activities	3(a)	(83,451)	(53,403)	(136,854)	(145,551)	-	(145,551)
Goverance Costs	3(b)	(750)	-	(750)	(750)	-	(750)
Total Resources Expended		(84,201)	(53,403)	(137,604)	(146,301)		(146,301)
Net movement in funds	10	(9,859)	(2,864)	(12,723)	(55,566)	18,000	(37,566)
Transfers to / (from)		-	-	-	-	-	-
Balances b/fwd 1 Jan		23,554	18,000	41,554	79,120	-	79,120
Balances c/fwd 31 Dec		13,695	15,136	28,831	23,554	18,000	41,554

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Balance sheet as at 31 December 2020

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2020 £	Restricted Funds 2020 £	Total 2020 £	Unrestricted Funds 2019 £	Restricted Funds 2019 £	Total 2019 £
Current assets							
Debtors	4	12,313	914	13,227	328	-	328
Cash at bank and in hand		47,604	14,222	61,826	74,244	18,000	92,244
Total current assets		59,917	15,136	75,053	74,572	18,000	92,572
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	5	(26,222)	-	(26,222)	(31,018)	-	(31,018)
Net current assets		33,695	15,136	48,831	43,554	18,000	61,554
Total assets less current liabilities		33,695	15,136	48,831	43,554	18,000	61,554
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	6	(20,000)	-	(20,000)	(20,000)	-	(20,000)
Total net assets		13,695	15,136	28,831	23,554	18,000	41,554
Parish funds		13,695	15,136	28,831	23,554	18,000	41,554
Unrestricted funds		13,695	-	13,695	23,554	-	23,554
Restricted funds		-	15,136	15,136	-	18,000	18,000
Total funds		13,695	15,136	28,831	23,554	18,000	41,554

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 23 May 2021 and signed on its behalf by:



Incumbent
Reverend Dr James Heard



Treasurer
George Pasteur

Church of St. John the Baptist, Holland Road

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of St John the Baptist Church, Holland Road, Parochial Church Council

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of St John the Baptist PCC (the Trust) for the year ended 31st December 2020 comprising the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, and the accompanying notes to the accounts.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner and basis of report

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. As the charity's trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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



Peter Cranenburgh
Cranenburgh Limited
Chartered Accountants
76-80 College Road
Harrow
Middlesex
HA1 1BQ
23 May 2021

Church of St. John the Baptist, Holland Road
Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

1) Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102).

Fund accounting

Restricted funds can only be used for particular purposes specified by or agreed with the donors. General funds may be used for any purpose within the charity's objects.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included on the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Expenditure recognition

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

	Unrestricted Funds 2020 £	Restricted Funds 2020 £	Total 2020 £	Unrestricted Funds 2019 £	Restricted Funds 2019 £	Total 2019 £
2) Incoming resources						
a) Voluntary income						
Planned giving	15,012	-	15,012	16,370	-	16,370
Collections, online giving, & other donations	15,477	25,720	41,197	11,195	8,000	19,194
Grants	-	17,000	17,000	-	10,000	10,000
Tax refunds	10,215	7,819	18,034	1,960	-	1,960
	40,704	50,539	91,243	29,525	18,000	47,525
b) Activities for generating funds						
Rent from church letting	2,905	-	2,905	9,950	-	9,950
Rent from crypt letting	12,760	-	12,760	2,533	-	2,533
	15,665	-	15,665	12,483	-	12,483
c) Investment income						
Bank and deposit interest	-	-	-	46	-	46
	-	-	-	46	-	46
d) Income from church activities						
Fees for weddings	691	-	691	620	-	620
Fees for funerals	195	-	195	-	-	-
	886	-	886	620	-	620
e) Other income						
Insurance recoveries	2,100	-	2,100	31,746	-	31,746
Rent from church property	14,387	-	14,387	16,315	-	16,315
Area Dean expenses allowance	600	-	600	-	-	-
	17,087	-	17,087	48,061	-	48,061
Total Incoming Resources	74,342	50,539	124,881	90,735	18,000	108,735

Church of St. John the Baptist, Holland Road
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3) Resources expended	Unrestricted Funds 2020	Restricted Funds 2020	Total 2020	Unrestricted Funds 2019	Restricted Funds 2019	Total 2019
	£	£	£	£	£	£
a) Church activities						
Common fund	(8,247)	-	(8,247)	(28,400)	-	(28,400)
Recharges from St. George's church						
Off common fund clergy costs	(12,350)	(7,600)	(19,950)	(15,970)	-	(15,970)
United Benefice office running costs	(1,440)	-	(1,440)	(1,700)	-	(1,700)
Insurance	(10,224)	-	(10,224)	(10,120)	-	(10,120)
Charitable giving	(170)	-	(170)	-	-	-
Electricity	(12,941)	-	(12,941)	(8,432)	-	(8,432)
Gas	(4,063)	-	(4,063)	(1,326)	-	(1,326)
Water rates	(150)	-	(150)	(133)	-	(133)
Church maintenance	-	(4,264)	(4,264)	(11,873)	-	(11,873)
Cleaning & gardening	(734)	-	(734)	(2,036)	-	(2,036)
Incumbent priests' expenses	(140)	-	(140)	(532)	-	(532)
Audio visual equipment	(1,439)	-	(1,439)	-	-	-
Website	-	-	-	(180)	-	(180)
Organist fees	(4,585)	-	(4,585)	(3,900)	-	(3,900)
Choir fees	(2,379)	-	(2,379)	(1,901)	-	(1,901)
Organ maintenance & repairs	(545)	-	(545)	(296)	-	(296)
Major festivals costs	-	-	-	(390)	-	(390)
Sacristy supplies	-	-	-	(135)	-	(135)
Licenses & membership fees	(468)	-	(468)	-	-	-
General expenses	(725)	-	(725)	(120)	-	(120)
Bank charges	(141)	-	(141)	(277)	-	(277)
Lighting project	(16,535)	(41,539)	(58,074)	-	-	-
Professional fees	(3,275)	-	(3,275)	(7,743)	-	(7,743)
Restoration - chancel fire	(720)	-	(720)	(38,980)	-	(38,980)
Restoration - other projects	(2,180)	-	(2,180)	(11,107)	-	(11,107)
	(83,451)	(53,403)	(136,854)	(145,551)	-	(145,551)
b) Governance costs						
Independent examination	(750)	-	(750)	(750)	-	(750)
	(750)	-	(750)	(750)	-	(750)
Total Resources Expended	(84,201)	(53,403)	(137,604)	(146,301)	-	(146,301)
4) Debtors						
	Unrestricted Funds 2020	Restricted Funds 2020	Total 2020	Unrestricted Funds 2019	Restricted Funds 2019	Total 2019
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Accrued rent from church property	7,075	-	7,075	-	-	-
Prepayment of electricity	2,993	-	2,993	-	-	-
Income tax recoverable	2,245	914	3,159	328	-	328
	12,313	914	13,227	328	-	328

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5) Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	Unrestricted Funds 2020	Restricted Funds 2020	Total 2020	Unrestricted Funds 2019	Restricted Funds 2019	Total 2019
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Trade payables	(14,162)	-	(14,162)	(13,083)	-	(13,083)
Accruals	(3,310)	-	(3,310)	(9,185)	-	(9,185)
Rent deposits	(8,750)	-	(8,750)	(8,750)	-	(8,750)
	(26,222)	-	(26,222)	(31,018)	-	(31,018)

6) Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	Unrestricted Funds 2020	Restricted Funds 2020	Total 2020	Unrestricted Funds 2019	Restricted Funds 2019	Total 2019
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Loan from Diocese - electrical works	(20,000)	-	(20,000)	(20,000)	-	(20,000)
	(20,000)	-	(20,000)	(20,000)	-	(20,000)

7) Commitments

No financial commitments other than those already provided for in the financial statements have been recognised.

8) Related party transactions

Trustees were reimbursed a total of £2,147 for expenses that they incurred on behalf of the PCC (2019: £913).

The trustees identified no other related party transactions, or balances arising as a result of such transactions, during the financial year.

9) Allocation of Net Assets by Funds

	Balance b/f 1 Jan 2020	Income	Expenses	Transfers	Revaluation	Balance c/f 31 Dec 2020
	£	£	£			£
The Unrestricted Funds comprise						
General						
General Fund	14,804	74,342	(84,201)	-	-	4,945
Designated						
Tenant Rent Deposit	8,750	-	-	-	-	8,750
Total	23,554	74,342	(84,201)	-	-	13,695
The Restricted Funds comprise						
Lighting Appeal	8,000	33,539	(41,539)	-	-	-
COVID19 Recovery	-	17,000	(11,864)	-	-	5,136
Organ Restoration	10,000	-	-	-	-	10,000
Total	18,000	50,539	(53,403)	-	-	15,136
Total Funds	41,554	124,881	(137,604)	-	-	28,831

The Lighting Appeal fund raised £33,539 in the financial year, bringing the total amount raised since the fund was started in 2019 to £41,539. Payments out of this fund are restricted to expenditure on the new lighting system for Saint John the Baptist Church.

The COVID19 Recovery fund comprises emergency heritage funding granted by the National Lottery Heritage Fund in response to the COVID pandemic. During the financial year, £7,600 was spent from this fund on clergy employment and £4,264 on urgent repairs and conservation works.

The Organ Restoration fund comprises funding received from Ecclesiastical Insurance to pay for the conservation of the organ following damage caused by the chancel fire in February 2017.

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10) Reconciliation of Funds

	B/f 1 Jan 2020	Net movement in funds	Transfers between funds	C/f 31 Dec 2020
	£	£	£	£
Current year				
Unrestricted	23,554	(9,859)	-	13,695
Restricted	18,000	(2,864)	-	15,136
	41,554	(12,723)	-	28,831
	B/f 1 Jan 2019	Net movement in funds	Transfers between funds	C/f 31 Dec 2019
	£	£	£	£
Prior year				
Unrestricted	79,120	(55,566)	-	23,554
Restricted	-	18,000	-	18,000
	79,120	(37,566)	-	41,554

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Church of St. John the Baptist, Holland Road

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of St John the Baptist Church, Holland Road, Parochial Church Council

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of St John the Baptist PCC (the Trust) for the year ended 31st December 2020 comprising the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, and the accompanying notes to the accounts.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner and basis of report

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. As the charity's trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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



Peter Cranenburgh
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Middlesex
HA1 1BQ
23 May 2021