



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST
HOLLAND ROAD

**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



Forrest Burlinson

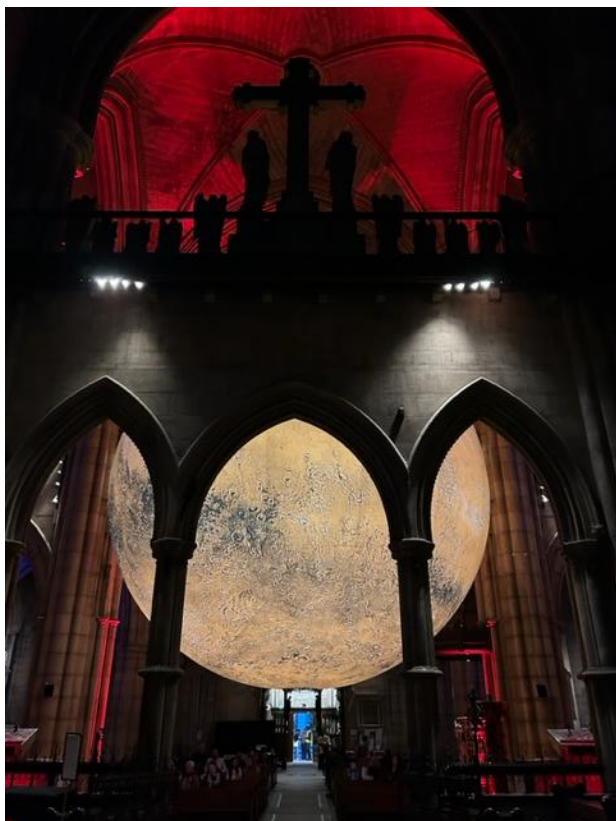
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS &
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Contents:

Trustees' Annual Report	Pages	1 to 16
Independent Examiner's Report	Pages	17
Statement of Financial Activities	Page	18
Balance Sheet	Page	19
Notes to the Financial Statements	Pages	20 to 26

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.

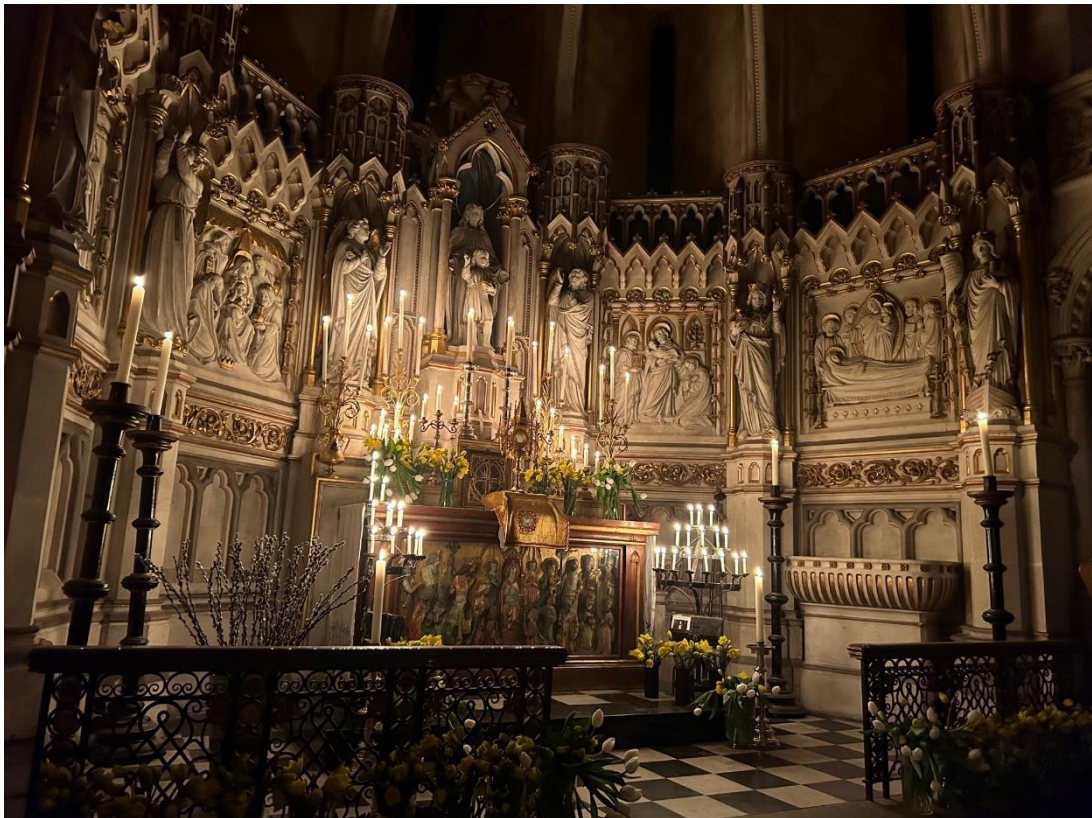
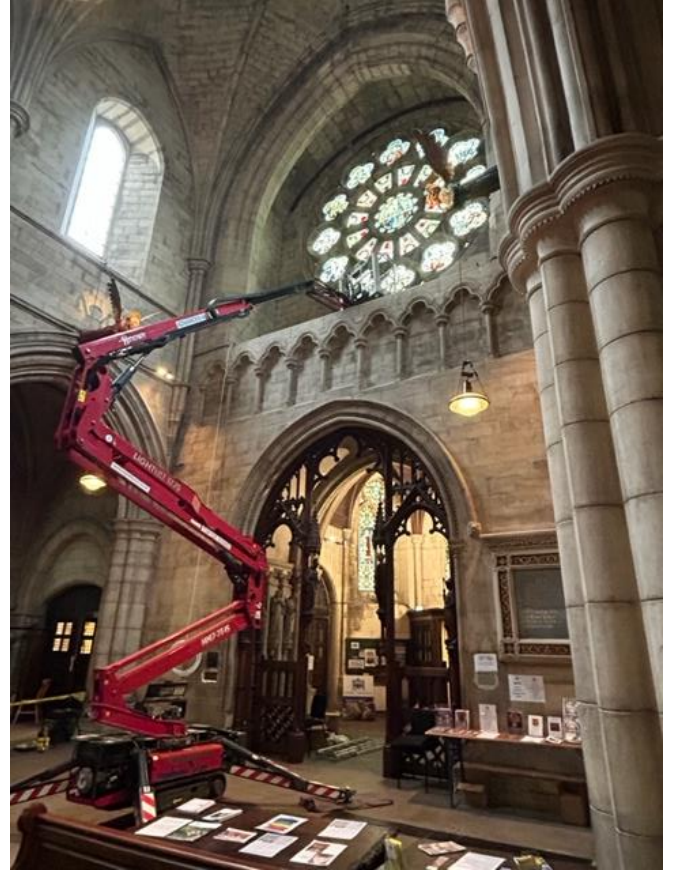
Restricted Funds

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

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
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>		<u>129,069</u>	<u>32,692</u>	<u>161,761</u>	<u>70,182</u>	<u>16,967</u>	<u>87,149</u>
Liabilities:							
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	6	(31,598)	-	(31,598)	(12,997)	-	(12,997)
<i>Net current assets</i>		<u>97,471</u>	<u>32,692</u>	<u>130,163</u>	<u>57,185</u>	<u>16,967</u>	<u>74,152</u>
<i>Total assets less current liabilities</i>		<u>97,471</u>	<u>32,692</u>	<u>130,163</u>	<u>57,185</u>	<u>16,967</u>	<u>74,152</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	7	-	-	-	(20,000)	-	(20,000)
Total net assets		<u>97,471</u>	<u>32,692</u>	<u>130,163</u>	<u>37,185</u>	<u>16,967</u>	<u>54,152</u>
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		<u>97,471</u>	<u>32,692</u>	<u>130,163</u>	<u>37,185</u>	<u>16,967</u>	<u>54,152</u>

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>