

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.

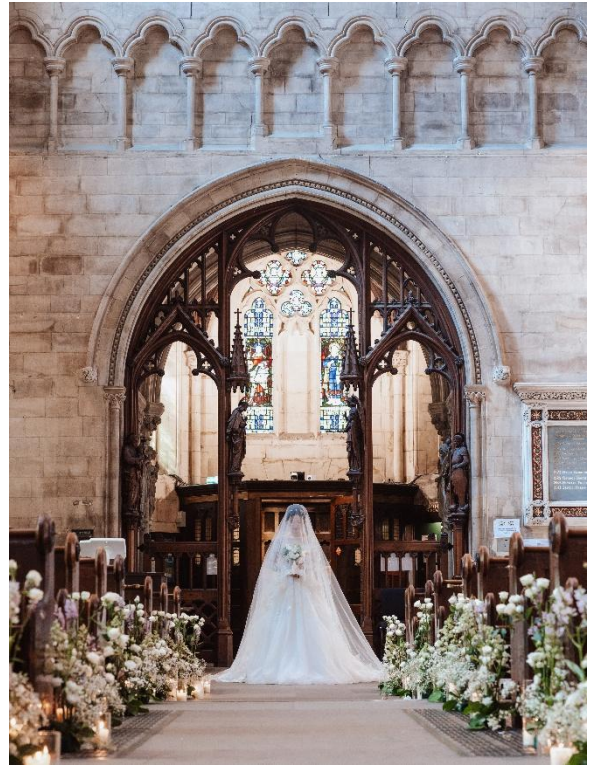
We are still working on the project to reinstate hanging lamps at the High Altar, which has taken many years.

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
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**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.

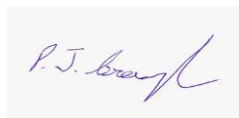
The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

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

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
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:

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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>