

St Jude's United Church
Englefield Green
2023

Registered Charity Number 1169401

Vicar

The Revd Canon Judith Allford

Hon. Treasurer, PCC

Brian Hooker

Methodist Minister

The Revd Andrew Reed

Hon. Secretary, PCC

Marion Paige

Hon. Reader

Roy Gouriet

Organist and Choirmaster

Professor Geoffrey Chew

Churchwardens

Claudia Tubb

Mike Brooking

Lay Vice Chair

Andrew Sheer

Annual Report for 2023

Background

St Jude's Church Council has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Revd Canon Judith Allford, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church of St Jude's, St Jude's Road, Englefield Green and for the Church Hall in Bond Street, Englefield Green.

Membership

Members of the Council are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year, the following served as members of the Church Council:

Incumbent: The Revd Canon Judith Allford*

Methodist Minister: The Revd Andrew Reed*

Reader: Roy Gouriet*

Verger: vacancy

Churchwardens: Mike Brooking*

Claudia Tubb*

Representatives on the Jackie Kjos (elected 2023 for three years)

Deanery Synod: Marion Paige (elected 2023 for three years)

Members: Geoff Chew* (elected 2022 for three years)

Jenny Chew* (elected 2021 for three years)

Susie Harben* (elected 2022 for three years)

Brian Hooker (elected 2022 for three years)

Aidan Hopkins (elected 2022 for three years)

Elizabeth Hopkins (elected 2021 for three years)

Renuka Humphrys* (elected 2022 for three years)

Andrew Sheer* (elected 2021 for three years)

Dave Walker* (elected 2021 for three years)

* - Trustees of the registered charity.

Church Council sub-committees and terms of reference are as follows:

Standing Committee

Regular meetings to plan agenda for Council meetings. Authorised to make decisions, exclusive of Council, as and when necessary.

Worship, Outreach and Social Committee

Regular meetings to consider aspects of mission, both spiritual and practical, within Church and in the wider community. Reports back to Council. Organises Lent groups, etc. Partial ecumenical aspect. Liturgical and music matters and planning for social events.

Finance and Stewardship Committee

Meetings ad hoc to discuss Council proposals and explore stewardship issues.

Fabric Committee/Health and Safety Committee

Meetings generally informal to discuss matters as they arise including issues related to Covid-19.

Village Centre Management Committee

meeting regularly to oversee the work of the Village Centre.

Address for correspondence:

The Vicarage, 21 Willow Walk, Englefield Green, Egham, Surrey TW20 0DQ

Address of Church:

St Jude's Road, Englefield Green, Egham, Surrey TW20 0BZ

Email:

enquiries@stjudeschurch.info

Websites:

www.stjudeschurch.info and www.villagecentre.org.uk

ANNUAL REPORT – REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2023

Worship

Numbers of worshippers rose slightly over the course of the year, but we were saddened that very few of our younger worshippers continued to attend. We maintained our established pattern of worship throughout the year:

8.00am Sunday Holy Communion (said). On the first Sunday of each month we used the Book of Common Prayer service.

9.30am Sunday Sung Eucharist ([live-streamed on our YouTube channel](#)). On the first Sunday in the month this service remained more informal, taken from the Methodist liturgy, and led by the Revd Andrew Reed. On the fifth Sunday in each month our aim was to offer a non-eucharistic service, but this was inconsistent since some fifth Sundays coincided with a significant festival of the Church.

4.00pm Sunday Fourth Sunday at Four: a non-Eucharistic worship service with hymns.

6.00pm Sunday Compline via Zoom on the second Sunday in each month.

10.00am Wednesday A midweek service of Holy Communion (said) with a short sermon.

At the beginning of the year we welcomed Mandie Shirnia, from the parish of St John's Egham, to spend three months with us on placement as she completed her training for ordination. Mandie contributed to our worship with preaching and leading intercessions, as well as spending time with individual church members. We were blessed by her ministry.

We celebrated the coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla within our informal Holy Communion service on 7th May. Later in the year we hosted two Village Memorial Services. The summer service took place in July and was sponsored by F. Harrison and Son, Funeral Directors. The Christmas Service of Remembrance was sponsored for the third year running by Lodge Brothers of Englefield Green. The church was full on both occasions and similarly full in November for the Armistice Day Parade Service. Our speaker this year was Mr John Scott MBE. As always, our Christmas Crib service, led by Mrs Claudia Tubb, saw St Jude's full to overflowing!

Early in the year Guildford Diocese launched a new "Parish Needs Process". Most members of our ECC attended a strategy meeting on Saturday 4th February. This was led by the Diocesan Mission Enabler Team and included a presentation on three priorities for mission at the heart of the Diocesan Programme for growth: Transforming Church, Transforming Lives. The three are: Growing Disciples, Growing Community, Growing Diversity. Through the

year we were asked to put together a Church Development Plan which reflected these priorities. We were assisted by the Revd Jens Mankel, one of the Mission Enablers for revitalisation. Our CDP was signed off by the Archdeacon of Dorking, the Ven Martin Breadmore, when he made his five-yearly visit to meet with the Vicar and Wardens in September. Achieving the aims of the plan remains a significant challenge and one we need urgently to address. We remain grateful to our team of worship leaders, including our Methodist Associate Minister, the Revd Andrew Reed, our Licensed Lay Minister, Mr Roy Gouriet and our occasional preacher, Mrs Diana Bendall, for their continued contribution to our worship. On the first Sunday of each month, we enjoyed the ministry at our 8am service of the Revd Dr Orion Edgar, Anglican Chaplain to Royal Holloway, University of London. In December Orion moved on to take up an appointment in the parish of Christchurch, Roath Park, Cardiff. During the year we continued to welcome the occasional ministry of the Revd Janet Franck.

We remain indebted to our regular teams of Readers and Intercessors. During the year Mrs Cassandra Gouriet stepped down from co-ordinating this rota after many years. We are grateful to Cassandra and to Diana who has now taken on this vital task. Special thanks are due to our organist, Geoff Chew, and to our choir for leading our music in worship. Also, to our wonderful church cleaning team, flower arrangers, members of our live-streaming rota plus all who provide refreshments to follow our worship. Your hidden acts of service do not go unnoticed. Thank you all.

Occasional services

During the year there were 12 baptisms (18 in 2022), 3 weddings (1), 22 funerals in church (20), 7 Funerals conducted by our Vicar in local crematoria (14), 2 Graveside Funerals conducted by our Vicar (1) and 3 Interment of Cremated Remains (3).

Church Council meetings in 2023

The Church Council met on Wednesday 18th January, Thursday 9th March, Monday 17th April, Tuesday 6th June, Tuesday 25th July, Thursday 14th September, and Tuesday 7th November. The APCM was held on Sunday 14^h May. We are grateful to our Churchwardens, Church Officers, Council members and Committee Chairs for another year of generous service.

Electoral Roll

Our Electoral Roll stands at 86, an increase of 1 on 2022.

Safeguarding

No safeguarding issues were confirmed. One concern was reported to the Diocesan Safeguarding Lead but was deemed after discussion not to have been a safeguarding incident. We remain grateful to Mrs Diana Bendall for continuing to serve as our Parish Safeguarding Lead and for enabling us to reach Level 2 on the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard. As a United Church we remain committed to ensuring that Safeguarding remains a priority within the life of St Jude's and our Village Centre.

Concert Series

2023 saw a programme of 9 concerts and we are grateful to Professor Geoff Chew for arranging an attractive programme for us once again.

The concerts took place as follows: 4th February Community Concert, 18th March Royal Holloway students, 29th April Royal Holloway students, 13th May James Kirby's students from Royal Holloway, 3rd June River City Saxes, 8th July James Webb (piano), 2nd September Music and Words (Valerie Fry, reciter/Dimitri Kennaway, piano), 28nd October James Kirby (piano), 25th November Geoff Chew (piano).

Social Events

Coffee Mornings were held on 4th March (proceeds to DEC earthquake appeal), 29th April, and 26th August. Coronation Tea Party at the Vicarage, Saturday 6th May. Indoor Summer Fair/Coffee Morning 15th July, St Jude's Stall at Village Fair 24th June, Harvest Lunch 7th October in church, Christmas Market 11th November and Mince Pie and Lebkuchen Tea 9th December. Our grateful thanks to all who co-ordinated and contributed to these events.

Fabric

Following much discussion during the previous year, 2023 was a year of considerable achievement. Extensive repair work was carried out to the south and east of the tower stonework, a new noticeboard was fitted, the audio-visual equipment installation was completed, the toilet block was refurbished, the south nave windows were re-covered in

new polycarbonate sheets, and the clock face was removed for complete renovation. We are very grateful to the churchwardens for all their work on these projects.

Monsell Room Lettings

Our thanks to Andrew Sheer for continuing to co-ordinate and administer all bookings. The users of the Monsell Room were Alcoholics Anonymous, Angeli's Art Classes, Englefield Green Councillors' Surgery, Englefield Green Village Residents Association, National Childbirth Trust, Royal Holloway Music Department, Royal Holloway Women's Club, and Sue Lowe's cello classes. In addition there were a few "one-off" hirings.

Mission and Outreach

Village Centre: Please see separate report.

Donations to the Runnymede Food Bank

Total cash donations: £686. This, plus donations in kind, enabled a total donation by weight of 819kg (in both cases an appreciable increase over 2022). Thank you to Geoff Chew for continuing to manage and pass on our donations.

Donations to other appeals

We were pleased to be able to send donations to the Syria/Turkey earthquake appeal, Water Aid, the Royal British Legion and The Children's Society.

Giving in kind

We continued to contribute to Revive and Thrive, a Charity based at a Baptist Church in Mytchett who send knitted items and reconditioned tools to countries across the world, including Africa and Eastern Europe. A fair proportion of what we were able to give in 2023 once again came via our links with Lynwood Village in Sunningdale. We remain grateful to Di and Alan Fone and to Pat and Brian Summers for overseeing this.

The Ship Newsletter

Brian Hooker continued to circulate the monthly *Ship* electronically, via Mailchimp, approximately 200 in total. A few printed copies were made available in church for those unable to read the newsletter online. The *Ship* was also accessible on our website and Facebook page.

Digital Outreach

We continued to use Facebook, our website, and Zoom as a means of reaching our community and providing additional opportunities for worship. Please refer to the Worship part of our report for details of our Zoom service of Compline.

Our Church Schools

At the beginning of 2023 the St Jude's CofE Infant School and the Junior School went through the process of Federation. The two Governing bodies became one and the process of embedding the schools' vision ("Inspired by St Jude, we pursue Excellence in Education, Kindness in Community and Courage through Faith") and the schools' values (Forgiveness, Responsibility, Compassion and Hope) across the two schools has continued. Our Vicar and the Revd Jeremy Brown (Family and Children's Minister at Christchurch, Virginia Water) continued to lead regular assemblies on each school site. In July, for the first time, Year 2 from the Infant School held their Leavers' Service in St Jude's. The School Harvest and Christmas Services in church were, for the first time, attended by both schools.

From the Vicar

Once again, we owe everything to the grace of God at work among us. It is exciting to see tiny green shoots of growth in our numbers. I am especially thrilled that we have been able to maintain our online worship and to welcome those who would otherwise be prevented by illness or frailty from worshipping with us. I humbly pray with you for fresh encouragements in 2024.

Village Centre Annual Report for 2023

January 2023 saw the New Year reopening of the Village Centre with our regular activities and Outreach Programmes all set to get under way for another year. The Café closed for a day in January whilst outside security lights were repaired and light bulbs within the café were replaced with LEDs.

There was special news for the Centre during February when our Centre Manager, Ali Watts, married her fiancé, James, and became Mrs Ali Griffin. Belatedly, we would like to record our joy and congratulations to them both!

During the Easter Holidays the Centre was opened from 10am to 2pm. Special Easter activities were on offer. On Monday 3rd April we held an Easter Arts and Crafts session with free admission, which proved highly popular. We also ran a Children's Cooking Class for children aged 7-11 years. The class was fully booked, and the children enjoyed cooking, eating, and learning about Jamaican dishes including a delicious coconut cake! Both Adult and Children's Cooking classes continued throughout the year and remained very popular. We were very grateful to Huda, Project Manager of our Community Fridge, for continuing to lead these classes.

Following the accession to the throne of King Charles III and Queen Camilla, we were able to hold our won Coronation celebration on 12th May. We received funding from the local authority which enabled us to make this event free to everyone who attended. We ran two bounce and play sessions, at 3.30pm and 4.30pm and these were followed by a dinner of hotdogs and cake! The Hall hosted a bouncy castle and giant games such as Connect 4, Jenga and Lego. Approximately 20 children attended each event.

During May we said "Thank you and Farewell" to our IT wizard, Paul Doherty. Paul had supported the work of the Village Centre for several years as a volunteer by running a regular computer "Drop In" session each Wednesday. Many users of the Village Centre had benefited from Paul's wisdom and expertise in guiding them through some of the complexities of the world of technology, troubleshooting a variety of personal devices and even setting up new items of equipment. Paul was moving away from Englefield Green and we wished him well – but his departure was a loss to us.

Early in the summer Andrew Reed reported a personal contact with a beneficiary of one of our outreach programmes. Baby Basics seeks to provide help for families who, for all sorts of reasons find it difficult to make provision when a baby is born. A mum needed help and was so grateful for the equipment she received that she spread the news to family and friends. During the year pupils from St Cuthbert's Roman Catholic Primary School in Englefield Green presented us with the collection they had made of 6 boxes filled with newborn essentials.

Each of our Outreach programmes continued to thrive during the year. We especially promoted our "Buy it Forward" initiative. Our Café customers were invited to give an extra donation on top of their meal or drink and the additional money was used to help buy a meal or drink for someone who otherwise would otherwise be unable to pay. We were able to begin offering meal vouchers to those who attended our Runnymede Food Bank sessions and "Buy it Forward" has helped to support the cost of providing those meals. Our Child Contact Centre continued to provide support for estranged parents and their children. Our Community Fridge and Kitchen weathered challenges with the availability of food items for collection, and unwieldy queues at opening times! But despite those issues it continued to thrive and to give residents access to food that otherwise be wasted.

Throughout the year we continued to be grateful for the generosity of donors to the Centre, both regular gifts and one-off donations. In July Harrison's funeral directors held a Village Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving. Donations from the service, which amounted to £325.00, were generously earmarked for the work of the Centre.

The Summer Holidays got off to a busy start especially as unsettled weather made the Café a warm inside venue for children. Most of our regular classes took a well-earned summer break. But we introduced a 3-week Children's Summer Camp run by a qualified teacher which proved popular. The Mental Health Sports Charity, Sport in Mind, provided a free weekly Pilates class for those struggling with mental health issues.

During the summer our long-standing Duke of Edinburgh student finished her placement, and two new Silver students joined us. It was our volunteers and their diversity of age, social background, and skills who once again in 2023 supported many areas of the work of the Centre, and supported our Manager and staff team, cheerfully and tirelessly. Mark, our "odd job man", has completed many jobs for us. Louise has provided regular administrative support for our Centre Manager.

During the summer the Centre's new Fire Alarm system was installed. The system brought the Centre in line with current fire safety regulations. Centre Staff can be made instantly aware of the location of a fire. Smoke detectors were remotely fitted to navigate our listed building status. The system was linked to mobile phones, so control can be managed remotely if needed.

In the autumn we welcomed GLOWFIT classes on Monday evenings. GLOWFIT is a dance class with participants holding on to their glow sticks and dancing to well-known tunes. The aim is to have fun! Our Film Club was in full swing on occasional Friday evenings.

In November students from Royal Holloway once again organised a Tea Party for our older Village residents. This was greatly appreciated as always and, not least, because transport is provided for those who are unable to make their own way to the Centre. The St Jude's Christmas Market also took place in November. Attendance at this traditional event was boosted by those who came to see the Children's Fair happening in the Hall. Early in December, as in previous years, Ali, our Manager, visited Enterprise in Egham to collect the children's Christmas parcels which were prepared for us by the staff there. Ali went on to visit the Foodbank in Egham where she collected some generously donated food parcels. We were grateful to both Enterprise and the Foodbank for this very welcome Christmas cheer.

The work of the Village Centre continued throughout the year to be overseen by our Village Centre Management Committee (VCMC) jointly chaired by our Methodist Minister, the Revd Andrew Reed and our Vicar, the Revd Canon Judith Allford. During 2023 several members of the Committee stepped down. Two members, Jayne Pooley and Sharon Edgar, moved away from the area, and Roy Gouriet retired from the Committee, having served on it since the inception of the Centre.

Others stayed on, including Andrew Sheer who continued to serve as Treasurer, cashing up at the end of each day, banking week by week, managing our accounts and maintaining our relationship with the Charity Commissioners. Thanks to Andrew and to Roger and Jonathan Griffiths for their support with payroll and fabric issues. Our thanks to Siobhan Elliot for taking the lead in updating our social media.

Thanks to Diana Bendall for acting as Minutes Secretary and for continuing to act as Safeguarding Lead alongside Andrew Reed and Ali. No safeguarding issues were reported but safeguarding remained a standing issue on our VCMC Agenda, and our policy was reviewed and updated.

We owe a heartfelt thank you to Ali and the Staff Team – Sarmila, Debbie, Lily and Huda, for all their work in 2023. Special thanks to Ali for her tireless networking, fundraising, grant applications, and the consistently warm welcome she has provided to all users of the Centre. All our staff keep alive our vision to demonstrate God's love for Englefield Green in as many practical ways as we can.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT for the year ended 31st December 2023

GENERAL FUND Receipts and Payments Account

	2023		2022	
	£	£	£	£
INCOME				
<i>Incoming resources from donors</i>				
Free will envelopes	5057		4997	
Banker's Orders	31365		29445	
Give As You Earn	330		360	
Cash in collections	4419		4119	
SumUp receipts	3161		2487	
Income tax recovered	13325	57657	10001	51409
<i>Other income</i>				
Charitable Trusts	30		30	
Fees from weddings, etc	5168		3532	
Concerts	2080		1831	
Church House rent	15450		15450	
68 Victoria Street rent	6538		11040	
Christmas Market	720		634	
Coffee mornings, etc	665		358	
Village Fair	402		376	
Harvest lunch/cream tea	310		481	
Hire of Monsell Room	5610		5277	
Diocesan Energy support	1000		1000	
Refund from Diocese (cremations)	403		558	
Easyfundraising.co.uk	102	38478	109	40676
<i>Income from investments</i>				
Bank interest	282	282	78	78
Total Receipts		96417		92163

PAYMENTS

	2023		2022	
	£	£	£	£
<i>For the Ministry</i>				
Vicar's/Vicarage expenses	0		0	
Assistant Clergy	0	0	0	
<i>Church and Services</i>				
Light, heat, water and telephone	4524		3816	
Telephone and broadband	528		225	
Repairs and replacements	3964		923	
Musical instruments	260		857	
Organist	0		0	
Altar supplies and Baptism register	625		210	
Newsletter cards	0		299	
Service books and leaflets	780		780	
Catering/hospitality	0	10681	0	7110
<i>Other Parish Expenses</i>				
Insurance	3416		3362	
Insurance 68 Victoria Street	298		282	
Management fee Church House	2317		2317	
Management fee 68 Victoria Street	0		1987	
Repairs 68 Victoria Street	0		1328	
Repairs Church House	1944		2865	
Subscriptions	377		395	
Covid purchases	0		16	
Cleaning materials etc	191		0	
Tablet/SumUp device	0		71	
Performing rights licences	0	8543	36	12659
<i>Outside the Parish</i>				
Parish Share (Diocesan Quota)	68618		66169	
Methodist Circuit	7500		7500	
DBS checks	0		0	
Bank charges	60	76178	82	73751
TOTAL PAYMENTS		95402		93520

	2023	2022
Excess payments over receipts	0	1357
Excess income over payments	1015	0
Bank current and deposit accounts at 1 st Jan	3548	4905
Bank current and deposit accounts at 31 st Dec	4563	3548

Charitable donations not included in these accounts

Children's Society	£300
Turkey/Syria Earthquake	£1000
Royal British Legion	£175
WaterAid	£310

Bankers

National Westminster Bank, 67 High Street, Staines, Surrey TW18 4PU

Santander, Bootle, Merseyside

CAF Bank, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ

Brian Hooker, Hon. Treasurer

BUILDING FUND Accounts for 2023

	2023	2022
Receipts	£	£
Legacy	2000	10021
Donations for organ	175	150
Audio/Visual equipment	2313	0
Clock Face appeal	7943	0
One off donations	6000	0
Total	18431	10171
Expenditure		
AV equipment	2290	5344
Boilers replacement	0	20940
Stonework	10616	0
Noticeboard	2652	0
Deposit for clock face repair	2063	0
Lift tower for clock face	504	0
Total	18125	26284
Excess expenditure over income	0	16113
Excess income over expenditure	306	0
Bank current account as at 1 st January	14862	30975
Bank current account as at 31 st December	15168	14862

CHURCH HALL ACCOUNT 2023

	2023	2022
Receipts	£	£
Hall Lettings	6328	6672
Interest	43	4
	6371	6676
Expenditure		
Light, heat and water	3067	2421
Insurance	1708	1681
Cleaning	0	600
Telephone	371	564
Fire extinguishers	165	306
Repairs	600	5088
	5911	10660
Excess expenditure over income	0	3984
Excess income over expenditure	460	0
Bank current account as at	21978	25962
1 st January		
Bank current account as at	22438	21978
31 st December		

Bankers

Barclays Bank

Staines Group, 71 High Street, Staines, Middlesex TW18 4PS

Brian Hooker

Hon Treasurer

VILLAGE CENTRE ACCOUNT (1st Sept 2022-31st Aug 2023)

Receipts	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Grants	10100	54649
Donations	15801	9328
Gift Aid	710	668
Payment for lane access	1350	0
Baby Basics	3942	0
Community Fridge	8042	840
Bookings	28248	24980
Café takings	45119	25596
Insurance claim	0	1726
Events	100	145
Interest	449	124
Other	15	0
Total	113876	118056
Expenditure		
Building	5613	61670
AV and computer costs	675	639
Other equipment	1488	2132
Advertising	897	200
Insurance	1922	1801
Wages and salaries	58524	66940
Regular items	776	938
Heat, light, water, telephone	9210	8207
Food for café	12688	6363
Films and licences	469	157
Hospitality	451	0
Events	612	0
Baby Basics	740	311
Community Fridge	7762	6001
Bank charges	561	433
Other	38	205
Total	102426	155997
Excess income over expenditure	11450	0
Excess expenditure over income	0	37940
Bank current account as at 1 st September 2022		3390
Bank current account as at 31 st August 2023		14750

Independent Examiner's Report to the Church Council of St Jude's United Church, Englefield Green

I report on the accounts of the JCC of St Jude's United Church Englefield Green for the year ended 31st December 2023

The Council is responsible for the preparation of the accounts and considers that an audit is not required under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

examine the accounts (under section 43(3)(a) of the 1993 Act);

follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act;

and state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of the Independent Examiner's Report

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

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act; and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the 1993 Act have not been met; or
- 2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Brian Summers

15 Englehurst

Englefield Green

Egham, Surrey

TW20 0EE

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

at 1st January 2023

	General	Building	Church	Totals
	Fund	Fund	Hall	
	£	£	£	£
<i>Monetary assets</i>				
NatWest and CAF	3547	14821		18368
Barclays			21978	21978
Alliance & Leicester		41		41
Total	3547	14862	21978	40387

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

at 31st December 2023

	General	Building	Church	Totals
	Fund	Fund	Hall	
	£	£	£	£
<i>Monetary assets</i>				
NatWest and CAF	4563	15126		19689
Barclays			22438	22438
Alliance & Leicester		41		41
Total	4563	15167	22438	42168

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Numbers of worshippers rose slightly over the course of the year, but we were saddened that very few of our younger worshippers continued to attend. We maintained our established pattern of worship throughout the year:

8.00am Sunday Holy Communion (said). On the first Sunday of each month we used the Book of Common Prayer service.

9.30am Sunday Sung Eucharist ([live-streamed on our YouTube channel](#)). On the first Sunday in the month this service remained more informal, taken from the Methodist liturgy, and led by the Revd Andrew Reed. On the fifth Sunday in each month our aim was to offer a non-eucharistic service, but this was inconsistent since some fifth Sundays coincided with a significant festival of the Church.

4.00pm Sunday Fourth Sunday at Four: a non-Eucharistic worship service with hymns.

6.00pm Sunday Compline via Zoom on the second Sunday in each month.

10.00am Wednesday A midweek service of Holy Communion (said) with a short sermon.

At the beginning of the year we welcomed Mandie Shirnia, from the parish of St John's Egham, to spend three months with us on placement as she completed her training for ordination. Mandie contributed to our worship with preaching and leading intercessions, as well as spending time with individual church members. We were lessened by her ministry.

We celebrated the coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla within our informal Holy Communion service on 7th May. Later in the year we hosted two Village Memorial Services. The summer service took place in July and was sponsored by F. Harrison and Son, Funeral Directors. The Christmas Service of Remembrance was sponsored for the third year running by Lodge Brothers of Englefield Green. The church was full on both occasions and similarly full in November for the Armistice Day Parade Service. Our speaker this year was Mr John Scott MBE. As always, our Christmas Crib service, led by Mrs Claudia Tubb, saw St Jude's full to overflowing!

Early in the year Guildford Diocese launched a new "Parish Needs Process". Most members of our ECC attended a strategy meeting on Saturday 4th February. This was led by the Diocesan Mission Enabler Team and included a presentation on three priorities for mission at the heart of the Diocesan Programme for growth: Transforming Church, Transforming Lives. The three are: Growing Disciples, Growing Community, Growing Diversity. Through the

year we were asked to put together a Church Development Plan which reflected these priorities. We were assisted by the Revd Jens Mankel, one of the Mission Enablers for revitalisation. Our CDP was signed off by the Archdeacon of Dorking, the Ven Martin Breadmore, when he made his five-yearly visit to meet with the Vicar and Wardens in September. Achieving the aims of the plan remains a significant challenge and one we need urgently to address. We remain grateful to our team of worship leaders, including our Methodist Associate Minister, the Revd Andrew Reed, our Licensed Lay Minister, Mr Roy Gouriet and our occasional preacher, Mrs Diana Bendall, for their continued contribution to our worship. On the first Sunday of each month, we enjoyed the ministry at our 8am service of the Revd Dr Orion Edgar, Anglican Chaplain to Royal Holloway, University of London. In December Orion moved on to take up an appointment in the parish of Christchurch, Roath Park, Cardiff. During the year we continued to welcome the occasional ministry of the Revd Janet Franck.

We remain indebted to our regular teams of Readers and Intercessors. During the year Mrs Cassandra Gouriet stepped down from co-ordinating this rota after many years. We are grateful to Cassandra and to Diana who has now taken on this vital task. Special thanks are due to our organist, Geoff Chew, and to our choir for leading our music in worship. Also, to our wonderful church cleaning team, flower arrangers, members of our live-streaming rota plus all who provide refreshments to follow our worship. Your hidden acts of service do not go unnoticed. Thank you all.

Occasional services

During the year there were 12 baptisms (18 in 2022), 3 weddings (1), 22 funerals in church (20), 7 Funerals conducted by our Vicar in local crematoria (14), 2 Graveside Funerals conducted by our Vicar (1) and 3 Interment of Cremated Remains (3).

Church Council meetings in 2023

The Church Council met on Wednesday 18th January, Thursday 9th March, Monday 17th April, Tuesday 6th June, Tuesday 25th July, Thursday 14th September, and Tuesday 7th November. The APCM was held on Sunday 14^h May. We are grateful to our Churchwardens, Church Officers, Council members and Committee Chairs for another year of generous service.

Electoral Roll

Our Electoral Roll stands at 86, an increase of 1 on 2022.

Safeguarding

No safeguarding issues were confirmed. One concern was reported to the Diocesan Safeguarding Lead but was deemed after discussion not to have been a safeguarding incident. We remain grateful to Mrs Diana Bendall for continuing to serve as our Parish Safeguarding Lead and for enabling us to reach Level 2 on the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard. As a United Church we remain committed to ensuring that Safeguarding remains a priority within the life of St Jude's and our Village Centre.

Concert Series

2023 saw a programme of 9 concerts and we are grateful to Professor Geoff Chew for arranging an attractive programme for us once again.

The concerts took place as follows: 4th February Community Concert, 18th March Royal Holloway students, 29th April Royal Holloway students, 13th May James Kirby's students from Royal Holloway, 3rd June River City Saxes, 8th July James Webb (piano), 2nd September Music and Words (Valerie Fry, reciter/Dimitri Kennaway, piano), 28nd October James Kirby (piano), 25th November Geoff Chew (piano).

Social Events

Coffee Mornings were held on 4th March (proceeds to DEC earthquake appeal), 29th April, and 26th August. Coronation Tea Party at the Vicarage, Saturday 6th May. Indoor Summer Fair/Coffee Morning 15th July, St Jude's Stall at Village Fair 24th June, Harvest Lunch 7th October in church, Christmas Market 11th November and Mince Pie and Lebkuchen Tea 9th December. Our grateful thanks to all who co-ordinated and contributed to these events.

Fabric

Following much discussion during the previous year, 2023 was a year of considerable achievement. Extensive repair work was carried out to the south and east of the tower stonework, a new noticeboard was fitted, the audio-visual equipment installation was completed, the toilet block was refurbished, the south nave windows were re-covered in

new polycarbonate sheets, and the clock face was removed for complete renovation. We are very grateful to the churchwardens for all their work on these projects.

Monsell Room Lettings

Our thanks to Andrew Sheer for continuing to co-ordinate and administer all bookings. The users of the Monsell Room were Alcoholics Anonymous, Angeli's Art Classes, Englefield Green Councillors' Surgery, Englefield Green Village Residents Association, National Childbirth Trust, Royal Holloway Music Department, Royal Holloway Women's Club, and Sue Lowe's cello classes. In addition there were a few "one-off" hirings.

Mission and Outreach

Village Centre: Please see separate report.

Donations to the Runnymede Food Bank

Total cash donations: £686. This, plus donations in kind, enabled a total donation by weight of 819kg (in both cases an appreciable increase over 2022). Thank you to Geoff Chew for continuing to manage and pass on our donations.

Donations to other appeals

We were pleased to be able to send donations to the Syria/Turkey earthquake appeal, Water Aid, the Royal British Legion and The Children's Society.

Giving in kind

We continued to contribute to Revive and Thrive, a Charity based at a Baptist Church in Mytchett who send knitted items and reconditioned tools to countries across the world, including Africa and Eastern Europe. A fair proportion of what we were able to give in 2023 once again came via our links with Lynwood Village in Sunningdale. We remain grateful to Di and Alan Fone and to Pat and Brian Summers for overseeing this.

The Ship Newsletter

Brian Hooker continued to circulate the monthly *Ship* electronically, via Mailchimp, approximately 200 in total. A few printed copies were made available in church for those unable to read the newsletter online. The *Ship* was also accessible on our website and Facebook page.

Digital Outreach

We continued to use Facebook, our website, and Zoom as a means of reaching our community and providing additional opportunities for worship. Please refer to the Worship part of our report for details of our Zoom service of Compline.

Our Church Schools

At the beginning of 2023 the St Jude's CofE Infant School and the Junior School went through the process of Federation. The two Governing bodies became one and the process of embedding the schools' vision ("Inspired by St Jude, we pursue Excellence in Education, Kindness in Community and Courage through Faith") and the schools' values (Forgiveness, Responsibility, Compassion and Hope) across the two schools has continued. Our Vicar and the Revd Jeremy Brown (Family and Children's Minister at Christchurch, Virginia Water) continued to lead regular assemblies on each school site. In July, for the first time, Year 2 from the Infant School held their Leavers' Service in St Jude's. The School Harvest and Christmas Services in church were, for the first time, attended by both schools.

From the Vicar

Once again, we owe everything to the grace of God at work among us. It is exciting to see tiny green shoots of growth in our numbers. I am especially thrilled that we have been able to maintain our online worship and to welcome those who would otherwise be prevented by illness or frailty from worshipping with us. I humbly pray with you for fresh encouragements in 2024.

Village Centre Annual Report for 2023

January 2023 saw the New Year reopening of the Village Centre with our regular activities and Outreach Programmes all set to get under way for another year. The Café closed for a day in January whilst outside security lights were repaired and light bulbs within the café were replaced with LEDs.

There was special news for the Centre during February when our Centre Manager, Ali Watts, married her fiancé, James, and became Mrs Ali Griffin. Belatedly, we would like to record our joy and congratulations to them both!

During the Easter Holidays the Centre was opened from 10am to 2pm. Special Easter activities were on offer. On Monday 3rd April we held an Easter Arts and Crafts session with free admission, which proved highly popular. We also ran a Children's Cooking Class for children aged 7-11 years. The class was fully booked, and the children enjoyed cooking, eating, and learning about Jamaican dishes including a delicious coconut cake! Both Adult and Children's Cooking classes continued throughout the year and remained very popular. We were very grateful to Huda, Project Manager of our Community Fridge, for continuing to lead these classes.

Following the accession to the throne of King Charles III and Queen Camilla, we were able to hold our won Coronation celebration on 12th May. We received funding from the local authority which enabled us to make this event free to everyone who attended. We ran two bounce and play sessions, at 3.30pm and 4.30pm and these were followed by a dinner of hotdogs and cake! The Hall hosted a bouncy castle and giant games such as Connect 4, Jenga and Lego. Approximately 20 children attended each event.

During May we said "Thank you and Farewell" to our IT wizard, Paul Doherty. Paul had supported the work of the Village Centre for several years as a volunteer by running a regular computer "Drop In" session each Wednesday. Many users of the Village Centre had benefited from Paul's wisdom and expertise in guiding them through some of the complexities of the world of technology, troubleshooting a variety of personal devices and even setting up new items of equipment. Paul was moving away from Englefield Green and we wished him well – but his departure was a loss to us.

Early in the summer Andrew Reed reported a personal contact with a beneficiary of one of our outreach programmes. Baby Basics seeks to provide help for families who, for all sorts of reasons find it difficult to make provision when a baby is born. A mum needed help and was so grateful for the equipment she received that she spread the news to family and friends. During the year pupils from St Cuthbert's Roman Catholic Primary School in Englefield Green presented us with the collection they had made of 6 boxes filled with newborn essentials.

Each of our Outreach programmes continued to thrive during the year. We especially promoted our "Buy it Forward" initiative. Our Café customers were invited to give an extra donation on top of their meal or drink and the additional money was used to help buy a meal or drink for someone who otherwise would otherwise be unable to pay. We were able to begin offering meal vouchers to those who attended our Runnymede Food Bank sessions and "Buy it Forward" has helped to support the cost of providing those meals. Our Child Contact Centre continued to provide support for estranged parents and their children. Our Community Fridge and Kitchen weathered challenges with the availability of food items for collection, and unwieldy queues at opening times! But despite those issues it continued to thrive and to give residents access to food that otherwise be wasted.

Throughout the year we continued to be grateful for the generosity of donors to the Centre, both regular gifts and one-off donations. In July Harrison's funeral directors held a Village Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving. Donations from the service, which amounted to £325.00, were generously earmarked for the work of the Centre.

The Summer Holidays got off to a busy start especially as unsettled weather made the Café a warm inside venue for children. Most of our regular classes took a well-earned summer break. But we introduced a 3-week Children's Summer Camp run by a qualified teacher which proved popular. The Mental Health Sports Charity, Sport in Mind, provided a free weekly Pilates class for those struggling with mental health issues.

During the summer our long-standing Duke of Edinburgh student finished her placement, and two new Silver students joined us. It was our volunteers and their diversity of age, social background, and skills who once again in 2023 supported many areas of the work of the Centre, and supported our Manager and staff team, cheerfully and tirelessly. Mark, our "odd job man", has completed many jobs for us. Louise has provided regular administrative support for our Centre Manager.

During the summer the Centre's new Fire Alarm system was installed. The system brought the Centre in line with current fire safety regulations. Centre Staff can be made instantly aware of the location of a fire. Smoke detectors were remotely fitted to navigate our listed building status. The system was linked to mobile phones, so control can be managed remotely if needed.

In the autumn we welcomed GLOWFIT classes on Monday evenings. GLOWFIT is a dance class with participants holding on to their glow sticks and dancing to well-known tunes. The aim is to have fun! Our Film Club was in full swing on occasional Friday evenings.

In November students from Royal Holloway once again organised a Tea Party for our older Village residents. This was greatly appreciated as always and, not least, because transport is provided for those who are unable to make their own way to the Centre. The St Jude's Christmas Market also took place in November. Attendance at this traditional event was boosted by those who came to see the Children's Fair happening in the Hall. Early in December, as in previous years, Ali, our Manager, visited Enterprise in Egham to collect the children's Christmas parcels which were prepared for us by the staff there. Ali went on to visit the Foodbank in Egham where she collected some generously donated food parcels. We were grateful to both Enterprise and the Foodbank for this very welcome Christmas cheer.

The work of the Village Centre continued throughout the year to be overseen by our Village Centre Management Committee (VCMC) jointly chaired by our Methodist Minister, the Revd Andrew Reed and our Vicar, the Revd Canon Judith Allford. During 2023 several members of the Committee stepped down. Two members, Jayne Pooley and Sharon Edgar, moved away from the area, and Roy Gouriet retired from the Committee, having served on it since the inception of the Centre.

Others stayed on, including Andrew Sheer who continued to serve as Treasurer, cashing up at the end of each day, banking week by week, managing our accounts and maintaining our relationship with the Charity Commissioners. Thanks to Andrew and to Roger and Jonathan Griffiths for their support with payroll and fabric issues. Our thanks to Siobhan Elliot for taking the lead in updating our social media.

Thanks to Diana Bendall for acting as Minutes Secretary and for continuing to act as Safeguarding Lead alongside Andrew Reed and Ali. No safeguarding issues were reported but safeguarding remained a standing issue on our VCMC Agenda, and our policy was reviewed and updated.

We owe a heartfelt thank you to Ali and the Staff Team – Sarmila, Debbie, Lily and Huda, for all their work in 2023. Special thanks to Ali for her tireless networking, fundraising, grant applications, and the consistently warm welcome she has provided to all users of the Centre. All our staff keep alive our vision to demonstrate God's love for Englefield Green in as many practical ways as we can.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT for the year ended 31st December 2023

GENERAL FUND Receipts and Payments Account

	2023		2022	
	£	£	£	£
INCOME				
<i>Incoming resources from donors</i>				
Free will envelopes	5057		4997	
Banker's Orders	31365		29445	
Give As You Earn	330		360	
Cash in collections	4419		4119	
SumUp receipts	3161		2487	
Income tax recovered	13325	57657	10001	51409
<i>Other income</i>				
Charitable Trusts	30		30	
Fees from weddings, etc	5168		3532	
Concerts	2080		1831	
Church House rent	15450		15450	
68 Victoria Street rent	6538		11040	
Christmas Market	720		634	
Coffee mornings, etc	665		358	
Village Fair	402		376	
Harvest lunch/cream tea	310		481	
Hire of Monsell Room	5610		5277	
Diocesan Energy support	1000		1000	
Refund from Diocese (cremations)	403		558	
Easyfundraising.co.uk	102	38478	109	40676
<i>Income from investments</i>				
Bank interest	282	282	78	78
Total Receipts		96417		92163

PAYMENTS

	2023		2022	
	£	£	£	£
<i>For the Ministry</i>				
Vicar's/Vicarage expenses	0		0	
Assistant Clergy	0	0	0	
<i>Church and Services</i>				
Light, heat, water and telephone	4524		3816	
Telephone and broadband	528		225	
Repairs and replacements	3964		923	
Musical instruments	260		857	
Organist	0		0	
Altar supplies and Baptism register	625		210	
Newsletter cards	0		299	
Service books and leaflets	780		780	
Catering/hospitality	0	10681	0	7110
<i>Other Parish Expenses</i>				
Insurance	3416		3362	
Insurance 68 Victoria Street	298		282	
Management fee Church House	2317		2317	
Management fee 68 Victoria Street	0		1987	
Repairs 68 Victoria Street	0		1328	
Repairs Church House	1944		2865	
Subscriptions	377		395	
Covid purchases	0		16	
Cleaning materials etc	191		0	
Tablet/SumUp device	0		71	
Performing rights licences	0	8543	36	12659
<i>Outside the Parish</i>				
Parish Share (Diocesan Quota)	68618		66169	
Methodist Circuit	7500		7500	
DBS checks	0		0	
Bank charges	60	76178	82	73751
TOTAL PAYMENTS		95402		93520

	2023	2022
Excess payments over receipts	0	1357
Excess income over payments	1015	0
Bank current and deposit accounts at 1 st Jan	3548	4905
Bank current and deposit accounts at 31 st Dec	4563	3548

Charitable donations not included in these accounts

Children's Society	£300
Turkey/Syria Earthquake	£1000
Royal British Legion	£175
WaterAid	£310

Bankers

National Westminster Bank, 67 High Street, Staines, Surrey TW18 4PU

Santander, Bootle, Merseyside

CAF Bank, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ

Brian Hooker, Hon. Treasurer

BUILDING FUND Accounts for 2023

	2023	2022
Receipts	£	£
Legacy	2000	10021
Donations for organ	175	150
Audio/Visual equipment	2313	0
Clock Face appeal	7943	0
One off donations	6000	0
Total	18431	10171
Expenditure		
AV equipment	2290	5344
Boilers replacement	0	20940
Stonework	10616	0
Noticeboard	2652	0
Deposit for clock face repair	2063	0
Lift tower for clock face	504	0
Total	18125	26284
Excess expenditure over income	0	16113
Excess income over expenditure	306	0
Bank current account as at 1 st January	14862	30975
Bank current account as at 31 st December	15168	14862

CHURCH HALL ACCOUNT 2023

	2023	2022
Receipts	£	£
Hall Lettings	6328	6672
Interest	43	4
	6371	6676
Expenditure		
Light, heat and water	3067	2421
Insurance	1708	1681
Cleaning	0	600
Telephone	371	564
Fire extinguishers	165	306
Repairs	600	5088
	5911	10660
Excess expenditure over income	0	3984
Excess income over expenditure	460	0
Bank current account as at	21978	25962
1 st January		
Bank current account as at	22438	21978
31 st December		

Bankers

Barclays Bank

Staines Group, 71 High Street, Staines, Middlesex TW18 4PS

Brian Hooker

Hon Treasurer

VILLAGE CENTRE ACCOUNT (1st Sept 2022-31st Aug 2023)

Receipts	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Grants	10100	54649
Donations	15801	9328
Gift Aid	710	668
Payment for lane access	1350	0
Baby Basics	3942	0
Community Fridge	8042	840
Bookings	28248	24980
Café takings	45119	25596
Insurance claim	0	1726
Events	100	145
Interest	449	124
Other	15	0
Total	113876	118056
Expenditure		
Building	5613	61670
AV and computer costs	675	639
Other equipment	1488	2132
Advertising	897	200
Insurance	1922	1801
Wages and salaries	58524	66940
Regular items	776	938
Heat, light, water, telephone	9210	8207
Food for café	12688	6363
Films and licences	469	157
Hospitality	451	0
Events	612	0
Baby Basics	740	311
Community Fridge	7762	6001
Bank charges	561	433
Other	38	205
Total	102426	155997
Excess income over expenditure	11450	0
Excess expenditure over income	0	37940
Bank current account as at 1 st September 2022		3390
Bank current account as at 31 st August 2023		14750

Independent Examiner's Report to the Church Council of St Jude's United Church, Englefield Green

I report on the accounts of the JCC of St Jude's United Church Englefield Green for the year ended 31st December 2023

The Council is responsible for the preparation of the accounts and considers that an audit is not required under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

examine the accounts (under section 43(3)(a) of the 1993 Act);

follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act;

and state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of the Independent Examiner's Report

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

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act; and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the 1993 Act have not been met; or
- 2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Brian Summers

15 Englehurst

Englefield Green

Egham, Surrey

TW20 0EE

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

at 1st January 2023

	General	Building	Church	Totals
	Fund	Fund	Hall	
	£	£	£	£
<i>Monetary assets</i>				
NatWest and CAF	3547	14821		18368
Barclays			21978	21978
Alliance & Leicester		41		41
Total	3547	14862	21978	40387

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

at 31st December 2023

	General	Building	Church	Totals
	Fund	Fund	Hall	
	£	£	£	£
<i>Monetary assets</i>				
NatWest and CAF	4563	15126		19689
Barclays			22438	22438
Alliance & Leicester		41		41
Total	4563	15167	22438	42168

St Jude's United Church
Englefield Green
2023

Registered Charity Number 1169401

Vicar

The Revd Canon Judith Allford

Hon. Treasurer, PCC

Brian Hooker

Methodist Minister

The Revd Andrew Reed

Hon. Secretary, PCC

Marion Paige

Hon. Reader

Roy Gouriet

Organist and Choirmaster

Professor Geoffrey Chew

Churchwardens

Claudia Tubb

Mike Brooking

Lay Vice Chair

Andrew Sheer

Annual Report for 2023

Background

St Jude's Church Council has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Revd Canon Judith Allford, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church of St Jude's, St Jude's Road, Englefield Green and for the Church Hall in Bond Street, Englefield Green.

Membership

Members of the Council are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year, the following served as members of the Church Council:

Incumbent: The Revd Canon Judith Allford*

Methodist Minister: The Revd Andrew Reed*

Reader: Roy Gouriet*

Verger: vacancy

Churchwardens: Mike Brooking*

Claudia Tubb*

Representatives on the Jackie Kjos (elected 2023 for three years)

Deanery Synod: Marion Paige (elected 2023 for three years)

Members: Geoff Chew* (elected 2022 for three years)

Jenny Chew* (elected 2021 for three years)

Susie Harben* (elected 2022 for three years)

Brian Hooker (elected 2022 for three years)

Aidan Hopkins (elected 2022 for three years)

Elizabeth Hopkins (elected 2021 for three years)

Renuka Humphrys* (elected 2022 for three years)

Andrew Sheer* (elected 2021 for three years)

Dave Walker* (elected 2021 for three years)

* - Trustees of the registered charity.

Church Council sub-committees and terms of reference are as follows:

Standing Committee

Regular meetings to plan agenda for Council meetings. Authorised to make decisions, exclusive of Council, as and when necessary.

Worship, Outreach and Social Committee

Regular meetings to consider aspects of mission, both spiritual and practical, within Church and in the wider community. Reports back to Council. Organises Lent groups, etc. Partial ecumenical aspect. Liturgical and music matters and planning for social events.

Finance and Stewardship Committee

Meetings ad hoc to discuss Council proposals and explore stewardship issues.

Fabric Committee/Health and Safety Committee

Meetings generally informal to discuss matters as they arise including issues related to Covid-19.

Village Centre Management Committee

meeting regularly to oversee the work of the Village Centre.

Address for correspondence:

The Vicarage, 21 Willow Walk, Englefield Green, Egham, Surrey TW20 0DQ

Address of Church:

St Jude's Road, Englefield Green, Egham, Surrey TW20 0BZ

Email:

enquiries@stjudeschurch.info

Websites:

www.stjudeschurch.info and www.villagecentre.org.uk

ANNUAL REPORT – REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2023

Worship

Numbers of worshippers rose slightly over the course of the year, but we were saddened that very few of our younger worshippers continued to attend. We maintained our established pattern of worship throughout the year:

8.00am Sunday Holy Communion (said). On the first Sunday of each month we used the Book of Common Prayer service.

9.30am Sunday Sung Eucharist ([live-streamed on our YouTube channel](#)). On the first Sunday in the month this service remained more informal, taken from the Methodist liturgy, and led by the Revd Andrew Reed. On the fifth Sunday in each month our aim was to offer a non-eucharistic service, but this was inconsistent since some fifth Sundays coincided with a significant festival of the Church.

4.00pm Sunday Fourth Sunday at Four: a non-Eucharistic worship service with hymns.

6.00pm Sunday Compline via Zoom on the second Sunday in each month.

10.00am Wednesday A midweek service of Holy Communion (said) with a short sermon.

At the beginning of the year we welcomed Mandie Shirnia, from the parish of St John's Egham, to spend three months with us on placement as she completed her training for ordination. Mandie contributed to our worship with preaching and leading intercessions, as well as spending time with individual church members. We were blessed by her ministry.

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Early in the year Guildford Diocese launched a new "Parish Needs Process". Most members of our ECC attended a strategy meeting on Saturday 4th February. This was led by the Diocesan Mission Enabler Team and included a presentation on three priorities for mission at the heart of the Diocesan Programme for growth: Transforming Church, Transforming Lives. The three are: Growing Disciples, Growing Community, Growing Diversity. Through the

year we were asked to put together a Church Development Plan which reflected these priorities. We were assisted by the Revd Jens Mankel, one of the Mission Enablers for revitalisation. Our CDP was signed off by the Archdeacon of Dorking, the Ven Martin Breadmore, when he made his five-yearly visit to meet with the Vicar and Wardens in September. Achieving the aims of the plan remains a significant challenge and one we need urgently to address. We remain grateful to our team of worship leaders, including our Methodist Associate Minister, the Revd Andrew Reed, our Licensed Lay Minister, Mr Roy Gouriet and our occasional preacher, Mrs Diana Bendall, for their continued contribution to our worship. On the first Sunday of each month, we enjoyed the ministry at our 8am service of the Revd Dr Orion Edgar, Anglican Chaplain to Royal Holloway, University of London. In December Orion moved on to take up an appointment in the parish of Christchurch, Roath Park, Cardiff. During the year we continued to welcome the occasional ministry of the Revd Janet Franck.

We remain indebted to our regular teams of Readers and Intercessors. During the year Mrs Cassandra Gouriet stepped down from co-ordinating this rota after many years. We are grateful to Cassandra and to Diana who has now taken on this vital task. Special thanks are due to our organist, Geoff Chew, and to our choir for leading our music in worship. Also, to our wonderful church cleaning team, flower arrangers, members of our live-streaming rota plus all who provide refreshments to follow our worship. Your hidden acts of service do not go unnoticed. Thank you all.

Occasional services

During the year there were 12 baptisms (18 in 2022), 3 weddings (1), 22 funerals in church (20), 7 Funerals conducted by our Vicar in local crematoria (14), 2 Graveside Funerals conducted by our Vicar (1) and 3 Interment of Cremated Remains (3).

Church Council meetings in 2023

The Church Council met on Wednesday 18th January, Thursday 9th March, Monday 17th April, Tuesday 6th June, Tuesday 25th July, Thursday 14th September, and Tuesday 7th November. The APCM was held on Sunday 14^h May. We are grateful to our Churchwardens, Church Officers, Council members and Committee Chairs for another year of generous service.

Electoral Roll

Our Electoral Roll stands at 86, an increase of 1 on 2022.

Safeguarding

No safeguarding issues were confirmed. One concern was reported to the Diocesan Safeguarding Lead but was deemed after discussion not to have been a safeguarding incident. We remain grateful to Mrs Diana Bendall for continuing to serve as our Parish Safeguarding Lead and for enabling us to reach Level 2 on the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard. As a United Church we remain committed to ensuring that Safeguarding remains a priority within the life of St Jude's and our Village Centre.

Concert Series

2023 saw a programme of 9 concerts and we are grateful to Professor Geoff Chew for arranging an attractive programme for us once again.

The concerts took place as follows: 4th February Community Concert, 18th March Royal Holloway students, 29th April Royal Holloway students, 13th May James Kirby's students from Royal Holloway, 3rd June River City Saxes, 8th July James Webb (piano), 2nd September Music and Words (Valerie Fry, reciter/Dimitri Kennaway, piano), 28nd October James Kirby (piano), 25th November Geoff Chew (piano).

Social Events

Coffee Mornings were held on 4th March (proceeds to DEC earthquake appeal), 29th April, and 26th August. Coronation Tea Party at the Vicarage, Saturday 6th May. Indoor Summer Fair/Coffee Morning 15th July, St Jude's Stall at Village Fair 24th June, Harvest Lunch 7th October in church, Christmas Market 11th November and Mince Pie and Lebkuchen Tea 9th December. Our grateful thanks to all who co-ordinated and contributed to these events.

Fabric

Following much discussion during the previous year, 2023 was a year of considerable achievement. Extensive repair work was carried out to the south and east of the tower stonework, a new noticeboard was fitted, the audio-visual equipment installation was completed, the toilet block was refurbished, the south nave windows were re-covered in

new polycarbonate sheets, and the clock face was removed for complete renovation. We are very grateful to the churchwardens for all their work on these projects.

Monsell Room Lettings

Our thanks to Andrew Sheer for continuing to co-ordinate and administer all bookings. The users of the Monsell Room were Alcoholics Anonymous, Angeli's Art Classes, Englefield Green Councillors' Surgery, Englefield Green Village Residents Association, National Childbirth Trust, Royal Holloway Music Department, Royal Holloway Women's Club, and Sue Lowe's cello classes. In addition there were a few "one-off" hirings.

Mission and Outreach

Village Centre: Please see separate report.

Donations to the Runnymede Food Bank

Total cash donations: £686. This, plus donations in kind, enabled a total donation by weight of 819kg (in both cases an appreciable increase over 2022). Thank you to Geoff Chew for continuing to manage and pass on our donations.

Donations to other appeals

We were pleased to be able to send donations to the Syria/Turkey earthquake appeal, Water Aid, the Royal British Legion and The Children's Society.

Giving in kind

We continued to contribute to Revive and Thrive, a Charity based at a Baptist Church in Mytchett who send knitted items and reconditioned tools to countries across the world, including Africa and Eastern Europe. A fair proportion of what we were able to give in 2023 once again came via our links with Lynwood Village in Sunningdale. We remain grateful to Di and Alan Fone and to Pat and Brian Summers for overseeing this.

The Ship Newsletter

Brian Hooker continued to circulate the monthly *Ship* electronically, via Mailchimp, approximately 200 in total. A few printed copies were made available in church for those unable to read the newsletter online. The *Ship* was also accessible on our website and Facebook page.

Digital Outreach

We continued to use Facebook, our website, and Zoom as a means of reaching our community and providing additional opportunities for worship. Please refer to the Worship part of our report for details of our Zoom service of Compline.

Our Church Schools

At the beginning of 2023 the St Jude's CofE Infant School and the Junior School went through the process of Federation. The two Governing bodies became one and the process of embedding the schools' vision ("Inspired by St Jude, we pursue Excellence in Education, Kindness in Community and Courage through Faith") and the schools' values (Forgiveness, Responsibility, Compassion and Hope) across the two schools has continued. Our Vicar and the Revd Jeremy Brown (Family and Children's Minister at Christchurch, Virginia Water) continued to lead regular assemblies on each school site. In July, for the first time, Year 2 from the Infant School held their Leavers' Service in St Jude's. The School Harvest and Christmas Services in church were, for the first time, attended by both schools.

From the Vicar

Once again, we owe everything to the grace of God at work among us. It is exciting to see tiny green shoots of growth in our numbers. I am especially thrilled that we have been able to maintain our online worship and to welcome those who would otherwise be prevented by illness or frailty from worshipping with us. I humbly pray with you for fresh encouragements in 2024.

Village Centre Annual Report for 2023

January 2023 saw the New Year reopening of the Village Centre with our regular activities and Outreach Programmes all set to get under way for another year. The Café closed for a day in January whilst outside security lights were repaired and light bulbs within the café were replaced with LEDs.

There was special news for the Centre during February when our Centre Manager, Ali Watts, married her fiancé, James, and became Mrs Ali Griffin. Belatedly, we would like to record our joy and congratulations to them both!

During the Easter Holidays the Centre was opened from 10am to 2pm. Special Easter activities were on offer. On Monday 3rd April we held an Easter Arts and Crafts session with free admission, which proved highly popular. We also ran a Children's Cooking Class for children aged 7-11 years. The class was fully booked, and the children enjoyed cooking, eating, and learning about Jamaican dishes including a delicious coconut cake! Both Adult and Children's Cooking classes continued throughout the year and remained very popular. We were very grateful to Huda, Project Manager of our Community Fridge, for continuing to lead these classes.

Following the accession to the throne of King Charles III and Queen Camilla, we were able to hold our won Coronation celebration on 12th May. We received funding from the local authority which enabled us to make this event free to everyone who attended. We ran two bounce and play sessions, at 3.30pm and 4.30pm and these were followed by a dinner of hotdogs and cake! The Hall hosted a bouncy castle and giant games such as Connect 4, Jenga and Lego. Approximately 20 children attended each event.

During May we said "Thank you and Farewell" to our IT wizard, Paul Doherty. Paul had supported the work of the Village Centre for several years as a volunteer by running a regular computer "Drop In" session each Wednesday. Many users of the Village Centre had benefited from Paul's wisdom and expertise in guiding them through some of the complexities of the world of technology, troubleshooting a variety of personal devices and even setting up new items of equipment. Paul was moving away from Englefield Green and we wished him well – but his departure was a loss to us.

Early in the summer Andrew Reed reported a personal contact with a beneficiary of one of our outreach programmes. Baby Basics seeks to provide help for families who, for all sorts of reasons find it difficult to make provision when a baby is born. A mum needed help and was so grateful for the equipment she received that she spread the news to family and friends. During the year pupils from St Cuthbert's Roman Catholic Primary School in Englefield Green presented us with the collection they had made of 6 boxes filled with newborn essentials.

Each of our Outreach programmes continued to thrive during the year. We especially promoted our "Buy it Forward" initiative. Our Café customers were invited to give an extra donation on top of their meal or drink and the additional money was used to help buy a meal or drink for someone who otherwise would otherwise be unable to pay. We were able to begin offering meal vouchers to those who attended our Runnymede Food Bank sessions and "Buy it Forward" has helped to support the cost of providing those meals. Our Child Contact Centre continued to provide support for estranged parents and their children. Our Community Fridge and Kitchen weathered challenges with the availability of food items for collection, and unwieldy queues at opening times! But despite those issues it continued to thrive and to give residents access to food that otherwise be wasted.

Throughout the year we continued to be grateful for the generosity of donors to the Centre, both regular gifts and one-off donations. In July Harrison's funeral directors held a Village Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving. Donations from the service, which amounted to £325.00, were generously earmarked for the work of the Centre.

The Summer Holidays got off to a busy start especially as unsettled weather made the Café a warm inside venue for children. Most of our regular classes took a well-earned summer break. But we introduced a 3-week Children's Summer Camp run by a qualified teacher which proved popular. The Mental Health Sports Charity, Sport in Mind, provided a free weekly Pilates class for those struggling with mental health issues.

During the summer our long-standing Duke of Edinburgh student finished her placement, and two new Silver students joined us. It was our volunteers and their diversity of age, social background, and skills who once again in 2023 supported many areas of the work of the Centre, and supported our Manager and staff team, cheerfully and tirelessly. Mark, our "odd job man", has completed many jobs for us. Louise has provided regular administrative support for our Centre Manager.

During the summer the Centre's new Fire Alarm system was installed. The system brought the Centre in line with current fire safety regulations. Centre Staff can be made instantly aware of the location of a fire. Smoke detectors were remotely fitted to navigate our listed building status. The system was linked to mobile phones, so control can be managed remotely if needed.

In the autumn we welcomed GLOWFIT classes on Monday evenings. GLOWFIT is a dance class with participants holding on to their glow sticks and dancing to well-known tunes. The aim is to have fun! Our Film Club was in full swing on occasional Friday evenings.

In November students from Royal Holloway once again organised a Tea Party for our older Village residents. This was greatly appreciated as always and, not least, because transport is provided for those who are unable to make their own way to the Centre. The St Jude's Christmas Market also took place in November. Attendance at this traditional event was boosted by those who came to see the Children's Fair happening in the Hall. Early in December, as in previous years, Ali, our Manager, visited Enterprise in Egham to collect the children's Christmas parcels which were prepared for us by the staff there. Ali went on to visit the Foodbank in Egham where she collected some generously donated food parcels. We were grateful to both Enterprise and the Foodbank for this very welcome Christmas cheer.

The work of the Village Centre continued throughout the year to be overseen by our Village Centre Management Committee (VCMC) jointly chaired by our Methodist Minister, the Revd Andrew Reed and our Vicar, the Revd Canon Judith Allford. During 2023 several members of the Committee stepped down. Two members, Jayne Pooley and Sharon Edgar, moved away from the area, and Roy Gouriet retired from the Committee, having served on it since the inception of the Centre.

Others stayed on, including Andrew Sheer who continued to serve as Treasurer, cashing up at the end of each day, banking week by week, managing our accounts and maintaining our relationship with the Charity Commissioners. Thanks to Andrew and to Roger and Jonathan Griffiths for their support with payroll and fabric issues. Our thanks to Siobhan Elliot for taking the lead in updating our social media.

Thanks to Diana Bendall for acting as Minutes Secretary and for continuing to act as Safeguarding Lead alongside Andrew Reed and Ali. No safeguarding issues were reported but safeguarding remained a standing issue on our VCMC Agenda, and our policy was reviewed and updated.

We owe a heartfelt thank you to Ali and the Staff Team – Sarmila, Debbie, Lily and Huda, for all their work in 2023. Special thanks to Ali for her tireless networking, fundraising, grant applications, and the consistently warm welcome she has provided to all users of the Centre. All our staff keep alive our vision to demonstrate God's love for Englefield Green in as many practical ways as we can.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT for the year ended 31st December 2023

GENERAL FUND Receipts and Payments Account

	2023		2022	
	£	£	£	£
INCOME				
<i>Incoming resources from donors</i>				
Free will envelopes	5057		4997	
Banker's Orders	31365		29445	
Give As You Earn	330		360	
Cash in collections	4419		4119	
SumUp receipts	3161		2487	
Income tax recovered	13325	57657	10001	51409
<i>Other income</i>				
Charitable Trusts	30		30	
Fees from weddings, etc	5168		3532	
Concerts	2080		1831	
Church House rent	15450		15450	
68 Victoria Street rent	6538		11040	
Christmas Market	720		634	
Coffee mornings, etc	665		358	
Village Fair	402		376	
Harvest lunch/cream tea	310		481	
Hire of Monsell Room	5610		5277	
Diocesan Energy support	1000		1000	
Refund from Diocese (cremations)	403		558	
Easyfundraising.co.uk	102	38478	109	40676
<i>Income from investments</i>				
Bank interest	282	282	78	78
Total Receipts		96417		92163

PAYMENTS

	2023		2022	
	£	£	£	£
<i>For the Ministry</i>				
Vicar's/Vicarage expenses	0		0	
Assistant Clergy	0	0	0	
<i>Church and Services</i>				
Light, heat, water and telephone	4524		3816	
Telephone and broadband	528		225	
Repairs and replacements	3964		923	
Musical instruments	260		857	
Organist	0		0	
Altar supplies and Baptism register	625		210	
Newsletter cards	0		299	
Service books and leaflets	780		780	
Catering/hospitality	0	10681	0	7110
<i>Other Parish Expenses</i>				
Insurance	3416		3362	
Insurance 68 Victoria Street	298		282	
Management fee Church House	2317		2317	
Management fee 68 Victoria Street	0		1987	
Repairs 68 Victoria Street	0		1328	
Repairs Church House	1944		2865	
Subscriptions	377		395	
Covid purchases	0		16	
Cleaning materials etc	191		0	
Tablet/SumUp device	0		71	
Performing rights licences	0	8543	36	12659
<i>Outside the Parish</i>				
Parish Share (Diocesan Quota)	68618		66169	
Methodist Circuit	7500		7500	
DBS checks	0		0	
Bank charges	60	76178	82	73751
TOTAL PAYMENTS		95402		93520

	2023	2022
Excess payments over receipts	0	1357
Excess income over payments	1015	0
Bank current and deposit accounts at 1 st Jan	3548	4905
Bank current and deposit accounts at 31 st Dec	4563	3548

Charitable donations not included in these accounts

Children's Society	£300
Turkey/Syria Earthquake	£1000
Royal British Legion	£175
WaterAid	£310

Bankers

National Westminster Bank, 67 High Street, Staines, Surrey TW18 4PU

Santander, Bootle, Merseyside

CAF Bank, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ

Brian Hooker, Hon. Treasurer

BUILDING FUND Accounts for 2023

	2023	2022
Receipts	£	£
Legacy	2000	10021
Donations for organ	175	150
Audio/Visual equipment	2313	0
Clock Face appeal	7943	0
One off donations	6000	0
Total	18431	10171
Expenditure		
AV equipment	2290	5344
Boilers replacement	0	20940
Stonework	10616	0
Noticeboard	2652	0
Deposit for clock face repair	2063	0
Lift tower for clock face	504	0
Total	18125	26284
Excess expenditure over income	0	16113
Excess income over expenditure	306	0
Bank current account as at 1 st January	14862	30975
Bank current account as at 31 st December	15168	14862

CHURCH HALL ACCOUNT 2023

	2023	2022
Receipts	£	£
Hall Lettings	6328	6672
Interest	43	4
	6371	6676
Expenditure		
Light, heat and water	3067	2421
Insurance	1708	1681
Cleaning	0	600
Telephone	371	564
Fire extinguishers	165	306
Repairs	600	5088
	5911	10660
Excess expenditure over income	0	3984
Excess income over expenditure	460	0
Bank current account as at	21978	25962
1 st January		
Bank current account as at	22438	21978
31 st December		

Bankers

Barclays Bank

Staines Group, 71 High Street, Staines, Middlesex TW18 4PS

Brian Hooker

Hon Treasurer

VILLAGE CENTRE ACCOUNT (1st Sept 2022-31st Aug 2023)

Receipts	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Grants	10100	54649
Donations	15801	9328
Gift Aid	710	668
Payment for lane access	1350	0
Baby Basics	3942	0
Community Fridge	8042	840
Bookings	28248	24980
Café takings	45119	25596
Insurance claim	0	1726
Events	100	145
Interest	449	124
Other	15	0
Total	113876	118056
Expenditure		
Building	5613	61670
AV and computer costs	675	639
Other equipment	1488	2132
Advertising	897	200
Insurance	1922	1801
Wages and salaries	58524	66940
Regular items	776	938
Heat, light, water, telephone	9210	8207
Food for café	12688	6363
Films and licences	469	157
Hospitality	451	0
Events	612	0
Baby Basics	740	311
Community Fridge	7762	6001
Bank charges	561	433
Other	38	205
Total	102426	155997
Excess income over expenditure	11450	0
Excess expenditure over income	0	37940
Bank current account as at 1 st September 2022		3390
Bank current account as at 31 st August 2023		14750

Independent Examiner's Report to the Church Council of St Jude's United Church, Englefield Green

I report on the accounts of the JCC of St Jude's United Church Englefield Green for the year ended 31st December 2023

The Council is responsible for the preparation of the accounts and considers that an audit is not required under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

examine the accounts (under section 43(3)(a) of the 1993 Act);

follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act;

and state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of the Independent Examiner's Report

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

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act; and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the 1993 Act have not been met; or
- 2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Brian Summers

15 Englehurst

Englefield Green

Egham, Surrey

TW20 0EE

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

at 1st January 2023

	General	Building	Church	Totals
	Fund	Fund	Hall	
	£	£	£	£
<i>Monetary assets</i>				
NatWest and CAF	3547	14821		18368
Barclays			21978	21978
Alliance & Leicester		41		41
Total	3547	14862	21978	40387

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

at 31st December 2023

	General	Building	Church	Totals
	Fund	Fund	Hall	
	£	£	£	£
<i>Monetary assets</i>				
NatWest and CAF	4563	15126		19689
Barclays			22438	22438
Alliance & Leicester		41		41
Total	4563	15167	22438	42168