



**The Parish Church, of the Ascension (Preston)
Wembley**

ANNUAL REPORTS

for the year ending 31st December 2023

ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

and

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Sunday 21 April 2024 at 11.15am

The Church of Ascension

The Avenue Wembley

HA9 9QL

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Chairs Report

Welcome to our annual report of 2023. There is a lot of information on the past year in the following reports so I won't repeat what's already been written.

We set out our vision as a parish in our mission action plan to deepen our relationship with God and our community. We have achieved the community part and have grown our relations with the community in return we are a bigger family than we were before. New people are joining the church through memory café, parents, baby, and Toddlers which has made our worship in weekdays bigger than the tradition Sunday service. Our average is 60 people who hear Gods word in our community.

Our age range is more balanced and thanks for the work of the lay people who take time to shine and be the light in what they do. New expression of church is, showing God's love by loving our neighbour as ourselves and serving them the way Jesus did. He never held a church service although he participated in one, mostly he ate with people, walked with them on the streets, he healed them and they came to him in thousands, he did what seemed to be out of the ordinary and upset many but in all this he did his Fathers will. Jesus taught others how to live by example, this is what we are called to be. every Sunday we are sent to love and serve the Lord in our community. His trust in us is phenomenal so let's trust him that he will fulfil his will in us. Reflect, read, and trust the future that it is with God we can never be overwhelmed so be bold as you continue to serve the Lord. My thanks to each one of you for your contribution my gratitude to the Churchwardens our safeguarding officer our Treasurer and our amazing PCC. With you anything is possible through Christ who has loved us. A happy Easter season to you all

Revd Jacqueline Shalloe

Agenda

Agenda - Meeting of Parishioners, Sunday 21st April 2024 at 11:15 AM

1. To confirm the minutes of the Parishioners Meeting of 30th April 2023
2. To elect Churchwardens

Agenda - Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Sunday 21st April 2022 at 11:15 AM

1. Apologies for absence
2. Adoption of Minutes of the previous Annual Parochial Church Meeting
3. Matters arising from the minutes.
4. Elections of churchwarden
Attendance is recorded for our Archive

5. The Reports

- Electoral Roll
- Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council
- Financial Review
- Deanery Synod

6. Elections and Appointments

- Deanery Synod
 - PCC members
 - Appointment of Independent Examiner of the PCC
 - To receive the names of the Churchwardens elected at the meeting of parishioners just held
7. Any Other Business – to be notified to the Chair or Secretary beforehand.

Closing Prayers

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting Sunday 30th April 2023

Meeting opened with a prayer and a song Goodness of God sang by Jenn Johnson

By Revd Jacqueline Shalloe

Confirming minutes from last year Irene proposed and Tracey Seconded All agreed the minutes.

1. To confirm the minutes of the Parishioners Meeting of 30th April 2023

2. To elect Churchwardens

The second item is to elect the Church Wardens, I have received Two nomination:

- Tracey King proposed Ian Shaw and Seconded by Victoria George
- Tina Ernestine Proposed Maureen Egbuche and Seconded by Mary-Ann

All agreed the Church wardens nem com.

Thanked Irene for standing in for the year although she had stood down to help keep the roll going.

This concludes the Meeting of Parishioners

Agenda - Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Sunday 30th April 2023 at 11.25am

We're now onto the second meeting which is the APCM...

8. Opening Prayers by the Incumbent the Revd Jacqueline Shalloe

9. Attendees

Valerie Proctor, Nicola Kent, Irene Stubbs, Anne Bignell, Tracey King, Anthea Revans, Maureen, Nicola Kent Egbuche, Daniela Egbuche, Mary Ann Chukwuenyem, Angelica Chukwuenyem, David Chukwuenyem. John Shalloe.

10. Apologies for absence

Shelia Coules, Roseanna Shalloe, Tim and Florence Woolford, Josie John Ray, Jean and Ray Hopkins Josephine, Sanyu Mudoe

11. Minutes of the previous Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The was no comment,

proposed by Antoinette, seconded by Tracey, all those in favour.

12. The Reports

Mary-Ann presented the Treasurers report.

Apologised that the last page of the financial reports the last page did not make it into the book.

Need receipts when money is being spent, we are not meeting our targets £84,000.for the common fund.

Priority must be for all of us on the electoral roll to commit to give either by Envelops or through our bank and this will help us to budget for the future, We also need to look at Tightening up on our spending.

Anne Bignell explained the Financial report and we are in red and to think ways we can increase funds in the church. It was also noted the Revd, Jacqueline does not put in a claim, but will be doing this going forward.

Revd Jacqueline and the congregation thanked Mary-Ann and Anne Bignell for the time and their ministry to the church.

Restrictions to be put in place and to be overlooked by the churchwardens.

Toilet papers and soap only for regular lets only parties to be asked to provide their own. Print leaflets only in Christmas and Easter season in colour and on special occasions.

We need help with posting on Facebook, Instagram, and twitter as Revd Jacqueline is doing all this now but really should members of the congregation.

Safeguarding

The Revd Jacqueline informed us that the safeguarding officer work together to make sure that all responsible role have done their safe guarding training and we are a safe church the report for safeguarding was presented by Nicola.

Churchwardens report was presented by Tracey

She also thanked Revd Jacqueline for her vision and care for the parish and everyone who has supported her and Irene for the upkeeping of the fabric of the church this year.

She asked if anyone had a comment but none was given. Revd Jacqueline thank Irene and Tracey for all they do and for their support.

The Chair asked if there was any comment on the reports

Reports

- Electoral Roll
- Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council
- Report on church fabric, goods and ornaments
- Financial Review
- Deanery Synod

On behalf of the Church, I'd also like to record our thanks to Anne and Mary-Anne for doing our accounts and financial planning, I have asked Mary-Ann and Ann Biggell to produce a budget for this year for the pcc, so that we can work within this budget going forward. This will help the church to cut corners on things which are not necessary.

And also Maureen for managing our planned giving and gift aid.

13. Elections and Appointments

- Deanery Synod

Nicola has accepted to stay on as a Deanery Synod office for another three years.

- Reconfirm appointment of PCC members for one-year terms

PCC members are elected for a one-year term and every but mostly expected to stay on for a maximum of three years and then have a break'

- PCC members elected

	Nomination	proposer	Seconders
1	Irene Stubbs	Hilary Prevost	Maureen Cooke
2	Anne Bignell	Hilary Prevost	Maureen Cooke
3	Maureen Egbuche	Mary- Ann Chukwuenyem	Ann Bignell
4	Mary-Anna Chukwuenyem	Daniella Egbuche	Maureen Egbuche
5	Antoinette Morgan	Irene Stubbs	Sheila Coules
6	Soulla Kwong	Tracey King	Sheila Coules
7	Angelica Chukweunyem	Josephine Mosheshe	Karen Brown
8	Vicki George	Josie Baldwin	Hanora Horan
9	Bindu Trivedy	Valerie Proroc	Daniella Egbuche
10	Micheal Haron	Irene Stubbs	Tracey King

I'm pleased to welcome as PCC members and Antoinette as our new PCC secretary. I would like to record our thanks to you Sheila for stepping in as our temporary secretary and for recruiting our new secretary.

- **Appointment of Independent Examiner of the PCC**

Rev David Green is our Independent Examiner, he has told us he is happy to continue in this role and this meeting needs to formally appoint him.

Propose by Ann Bignell, and second by Anthea Raven

I would also like to record our thanks to David for his work and advice on the accounts.

- **To receive the names of the Churchwardens elected at the meeting of parishioners just held.**

Finally, We also need to formally receive the names of the Church Wardens previously elected at the Parishioners Meeting. We welcome you Tracey King and Tina Ernestine as our new churchwardens. Thank you for agreeing to taking on this roll, we pray that you will love and honour the church and help to grow God's Kingdom in this Parish. May God Bless you as you serve him in this wonderful place.

The Vicar would like to officially welcome new members Doreen Brown, Karen Gill, Luare and her husband Fred and their three children, Blasio and his wife Esther, Anglique, Noah, Teddy and David.

The meeting ended with a prayer of thanks led by Revd Jacqueline.

Aims and Purposes

Our mission statement is:

“To be the visible presence of God’s love in Jesus by deepening our relationship with God, each other and our community”.

Objectives and Activities

The Church of the Ascension PCC has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Revd. Jacqueline Shalloe, 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 and Halls and the whole church site.

Achievements and Performance

- **Electoral Roll and Church Attendance**

The electoral roll was revised making a total of 86

The average weekly attendance, counted during October, was 60 adults, and 12 under 17s, this number has gone up due to memory café and Parent, Baby and toddlers being a fresh expression of Church this is a good thing and members by now should be on our electoral roll if asked to join as they have been attend for a year and half.

Administrative information

The Church of the Ascension is situated in The Avenue, Wembley Park (HA9 9QL). It is part of The Diocese of London within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Vicarage, 319 Preston Road, Harrow, HA3 0QQ.

PCC members who have served from 31st December 2022

Ex. Officio Members

Incumbent: The Revd Jacqueline Shalloe Chair (from 8st September 2022)

Wardens: Ms Tracey King and Ms Ernestine Allen

Representatives on the Deanery Synod: Nicola Kent

PCC Elected Members

Mrs Anne Bignell (resigned) Mrs Mary-Ann Chukwuenym Treasurer

Mrs Maureen Egbuche Gift Aid officer

Mr Michael Haron

Ms Bindu Trevidy

Soulla Kwong

Independent Financial Examiner

Appointed Officers

Nicola Kent – safeguarding Officer
Tracey King – Children’s Champion
Mrs Maureen Egbuche -Gift Aid Officer
Sheila Coules – Electoral Roll Officer

The Revd David Green
Gowers Plus Limited
The Old School House
Bridge Road, Hunton Bridge
Kings Langley, Herts
WD4 8SZ

Architect:

Karen Butti MA, Grad Dipl Cons(AA), RIBA, AABC
Director, Thomas ford and Partners, 177 Kirkdale, London,
SE26 4QH

Review of the Year

PCC Secretary and Church warden's report Reviewing the year

Introduction

“Shine as the light in the world so that others may see and glorify your father in heaven”.

Happy Easter and a warm welcome to our Annual Report. These pages represent the living out of our Christian faith as Easter people. The strength and ventures of our church community over the past year and the wide range of contributions and enormous commitment of many people, here in our parish, deanery and the London Diocese. Take time to read this report reflectively to see and thank God for all he has done and to prayerfully seek the Holy Spirit to show you where is calling you and what is calling you to do in the new year 2024 it maybe to write a letter of thanks to others or to just sit and be nourished with God's love or to work with our incumbent and start a new vision for the church.

It is nice to be a member of a family. Today, we can come to the church of Ascension knowing that we are grounded in two families: our natural family and the family of the church what a privilege!! Much of the life of the church is 'behind the scenes. If you would like to know more about how things work and how you can be more involved, please bring your questions to our Annual Meeting on 21 April 23 or speak to Revd Jacqueline who is our incumbent, our PCC secretary, or your Churchwardens.

The running of the practical side of the church with God's blessings as named below.

Parish Hall and Youth Centre

Cleaning

We have been paying Agnes Cleaning Company £245.00 per month to clean our Youth Centre and Parish Hall weekly.

Hall Hirers

We welcome our Hall Hirers: Kumon, Karate, Scottish Dancing, Brownies, Carers Group, NHS Fair, Diabetes Group, Deen Club, Jannah Club, Little Legs Dog Club, Councillor Johnson and the Nursery.

We welcome all people in the community and we had our Christmas Party in the Parish Hall for the Memory Cafe and the Chameleons performing 'Dick Whittington' over

Christmas. We have parties, funeral wakes, engagement parties, wedding parties and different celebrations. We welcome all.

Grounds

The clearance and tidy up of the grounds added to numerous people coming to look at the gardens and comment on trees and shrubs that were planted and donated suddenly being seen again! Our deepest thanks go to Irene Stubbs who donated £2,000 to employ a landscape gardener to cut the trees, weed, power wash the tiles, clear the leaves in all the drains, mow the lawns and restore the grounds. David King has taken this on and has done a wonderful job. David has fixed all the outside security lights and tidied up the area at the back of the Parish Hall. It has shown us that the PCC need to allocate money in order to upkeep our beautiful grounds as numerous people have enjoyed coming and sitting in the garden.

Work done with the expenditure.

- Regular bin collections twice weekly costing between £242.12 to £272.66 with Veola.
- The Youth Centre had sinks cleared by Dyno-rod cost **20th October 2023 cost £247.00**

- Dunphy's Boilers came on 6/11/23 and serviced the boilers in the Church, Meeting Room, Vestry and Vestry Office, and the Youth Centre.

We now have gas safety certificates valid for 12 months.

This came at a cost of £617.00 plus an extra charge for the Youth Centre.

- ZV Electrics (Jack) installed three new lights in the narthex with bulbs that will last 4 years or more. He also installed a new switch in the Church Cleaning Cupboard and a new light at a total cost of £270.00 which Tracey King has kindly donated.
- Brent Pest Control has visited the grounds and inspected the halls every 8 weeks this year and reported there to be no sign of any rodents or pests.
- The Church Lightning Conductor Test was completed on 5/6/23 and expires on 5/7/24 Cost £70
- B.T Broadband was renewed and the updated one installed on 28/7/23 We have wi-fi in the Church and Parish Hall.
- Pat Testing and fire-extinguishers were inspected on 3/2/23 with PHS Compliance and the service will need to be renewed Feb 2024.
- Gutters were cleared by Fitzgerald in March.
- Frank who fixed the bench outside Church. People are really enjoying sitting on it!
- Cecil Hickey from Edgware Builders was paid £50.00 donated by Tracey King to take some gardening bags away.
- The Church organ was tuned by BC Sheppard & Sons on 20/12/23 at a cost of £294.00

Church celebrations and Mission outreach

For Black History Month Brent Council gave the community a grant-' love where you live', £500 which was used for the celebrations. Our vicar had given the PCC £500 to invite the community and continue to celebrate black history projects. Our thanks go to Venessa and her family who coordinated this project and Brent council who donated the grant and all those who contributed to this day. The event was attended by community leaders, The Mayor of Brent and Councillors. A wonderful Steel Band, Dancers, poetry and Singers which everyone thoroughly enjoyed.

Homes of promise

Soulla Kwong our PCC member has been supports the homes of promise for a long time. She held a fund-raising funday event for the Homes of Promise in Uganda, with a cream tea, face painting, different Stalls and a bouncy castle and the community had a fantastic turn out. £500 was raised and Jane the CEO of the charity was also in attendance. The vicar has called on the church to help and support good causes like this in the future and has asked the PCC for the Homes Of Promise to become one of the charities we start to support as it used to be. Thanks go to all who supported this worthy cause and for Soulla for her dedication for this worthwhile cause. If you would like to donate to the Homes Of Promise please speak to Soulla.

Special Services in our Parish

Coronation service

We had a special service in Church taken by Revd.Jacqueline and we were all thrilled to share this historical event. We sang hymns that would have been sung and had readings and read poetry suitable for the day. We finished with the National Anthem 'God Save Our Gracious King!' We sold special mugs with King Charles' picture and date on it as a memorabilia and also for future generations to know that we celebrated this. After the service we had tea in the Parish Hall with tables decorated with the unionjack flags and had lovely tea and scones. We also had a fair for the community to join in these celebrations it was a lovely day.

Friendship services: We held a friendship service with lunch. This one needs more getting used to but it is an amazing opportunity and we need more of these.

Memory café service: Memory café nativity service was enjoyed by all and also Easter themed service learning about Easter and what it means to non-Christians using pancakes, eggs, plants and the cross explaining what they symbolise. We had a Coronation Short service and a memorial service for our late queen. Tracey has been licensed as a lay person and is

also on a grow course which has equipped her to lead prayers and as a singer sings hymns in every Memory café session. This is also a fresh expression of church by the church seeing what we do. Loving our neighbours as ourselves, and shining the light of Christ that others may see and glorify His name, Prayers are the biggest focus in this service, and people always give Tracey their prayer requests before she starts to pray, this has appeal to all people from different denominations, and fulfilling our 2030 vision for our church to be a compassionate community and answering Jesus' call Matthew 25:35 "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me," (ESV) Memory café welcome the other to be one in Christ with us. We thank God for all on the memory café team and for our Vicar's guiding.

Parent baby and toddler Service: We had One Nativity Service in church, and one in the hall. We always run our group as a fresh expression of church with nursery rhymes mixed with Sunday school songs and a bible story. It is a happy carefree church service based around showing Jesus love, acceptance and community that even people from different denominations are created by our God and if they are happy to join our group we welcome them without fear and knowing that God is in control, we do use the word 'Church' but we know that where we are God is and is working. So far two mothers have joined the mainstream church.

SCP service: The Society of Catholic Priests held a week day service here at the Ascension where our priest was received as the member of the society and two others and after wards refreshments with lunch. Thanks goes to Assil Bakki for a lovely homemade soup which was enjoyed by all

Mass and Meal Service Revd Jacqueline hosted and welcomed priests from different areas for a social with a Mass and meal. This gathering is held in different churches with priests from the same churchmanship month and it was the second time our vicar has hosted. Fr Mundy was the president

Ascension Day Service the Red Preb. Sandra McCalla presided and led our all age service with the mother and toddler group. It was the celebration of a year since it started and members of the congregation joined in with two celebration cakes and lunch. Our thanks goes to Irene Stubbs who coordinated the refreshments.

All saints Service: Our children and their parents lead the first part of the service and became saints who are represented our church. St Anselm, Mary mother of God, St George, Janani Luwum, all wore white servers robes and finished with 'Oh when the saints go marching in' hymn.

Service for all souls. This is a service when we pray for our loved ones who have departed and also the former members of the congregation. We also welcome friends and past families who travel to come and remember their loved ones.

Remembrance service

We remembered all those who gave their life in the war so that we may live in peace in this service we were joined by brownies this was part of our 10;00am service.

St Pauls

Victoria George was confirmed at St Paul Cathedral on Easter Saturday and some of us who went really enjoyed this special occasion. In October Revd Jacqueline was invited to preach and then together with the congregation for a 4.00pm tea and cakes which was lovely.

And the Sunday after they invited us as a church to go for prayers and our church was named and prayed for and our Priest. We have had priest from St Pauls visiting and presiding at our services. We always had a special relationship, and we thank God for this.

Advent service of festival of light with a Concert with Tracey's Pupils:

We had 30 of Tracey's singing pupils performing in the Church which raised over £300.00. The children were age from 4 to 24 and performed Classical, Musical Theatre, Disney, and some beautiful carols and hymns like amazing grace. The audience loved the two hour concert and Revd. Jacqueline spoke the light having different meanings and Jesus being the light we believe in the Christian faith she closed with a prayer and chatted with pupils and prayed with them at the end, a lot of communities in Wembley were represented and this was good News for sure. Praise the Lord!!

Service of Nine Lessons and Carols:

Our nine lessons and carols were led by Ian Shaw at the organ, and we sang congregational hymns and choral items. The music was heavenly, and Tracey sang all the descants! It is always good to see new readers taking part and new faces visiting the church in this beautiful season.

Mothers Union Service

This was When Bishop Lusa Licensed our Priest as Chaplain of Mothers Union in the Willesden Area. We welcomed the Bishop Lusa, Sue's mothers union president, Pauline the vice president of Willesden area and many Mothers Union members from different branches and friend of our Vicar. It was an honourable service and the pcc donated the celebration drinks and snacks.

Normal Services

We continue to have two communion services each week unless when we can't find weekday cover.

Sundays at 10:00 am

Wednesday 10:00 am

We thank Rev Jacqueline our Vicar for her vision and leadership in our Parish, for introducing a wider church of England family and for making our church more visible both in the parish and beyond.

We would like to thank all those who covered this year, Revd. Alison Christian, Revd Alex Volossevich, Revd. Angela Hopkins, Julia Bevis-Knowles, Sophie Schuil-Brewer, Revd Elaine Weaver, Fr. Jason, Revd Preb Sandra Macalla, Revd and director of training Andrew Corsie, Archdeacon Catherine, Bishop Win and Bishop Lusa. What a blessing!!

The vicar has retired Stuart from being a sacristan, so that he can tend to his health and enjoy time of rest and coming to worship without worrying to do all the hard work involved with this position. As a PCC we have valued your contribution to life of the church would like to express their thanks for the years of faithful service

Training for church ministry

We have six members of our congregation on a grow course and we train at the Gregory centre for church multiplication CCX which is at the Old Deanery, Deans court London

Our Vicar has been on the **Launchpad Training**

This will help our church to have a youth group although we lack volunteers, and this is stopping us to start but in every service we pray for children and youth with a prayer Revd Jacqueline has provided. We stand in faith that God will provide for what is needed for this ministry.

We thank Revd. Jacqueline for her vision for our Church and her tireless energy for opening doors and enabling work to happen. We have wonderful prayer sessions in Church for the community and for anyone who wants to come in for prayer. God is leading and guiding us in growing our gifts and working through us to reach out to others in His love. We pray that we can work in unity as a team and use His gifts to uphold His mighty name and let others see Him in all that we do.

'For to those who love God, everything works out for the good'. We pray that God will continue to work through us so that others may see.

Fabric and Inventory

Thank to Stuart's hard work we have an updated paper Inventory with pictures and Revd Jacqueline has done one for online. Both have put in a lot of work and this will make it easier for future updates.

We hosted The Cursillo's the Diocese of London's AGM, The Deanery Chapter, and The Doctor's Fair with Ashford Place Charity.

Irene, Sheila and Revd Jacqueline joined Bishop Lusa on the pilgrims walk for racial justice. Revd. Jacqueline was invited to preach at St. Paul's Cathedral and the congregation enjoyed

this very much. It was wonderful to be invited, to be prayed for and to have tea with Revd Paula Holligsworth the Chaplain of St. Paul's a firm friend of our Vicar.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

We celebrated our dear Josie's 100th Birthday which was lovely. We held our May Fair and Christmas Fair with delicious food and cakes. We also had face-painting, jewellery, books, toys, cards & bric a brac. Our thanks go to all who helped on the stalls and for those who cooked and baked amazing food! Rejoice in the Lord always and a gain I say rejoice! With Social committee.

Sunday School and Youth

We have nine children in the Church who needs a teacher to pass on the wisdom of God. Are you being called to take on this ministry? can you be that person? This is an urgent need. This is the future of the church and also to be a welcoming church to families in our Parish we need children's leaders. The truth is, if you know the bible stories and have a heart for children you can teach Sunday school. If you can help, please speak to the vicar or our churchwardens. Jesus our risen Lord commands us "Let the children come to me and not to hinder them as the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Matthew 19:14" Where Jesus is you will find the children so let us strive to serve them and extend God's Kingdom in our Parish.

Needs in the church

Can you join our garden team? Please speak to Tracey and David
Our garden needs help at this time as the grass is growing very quickly and we can afford a full-time gardener. Another way to help is to support by giving to the garden fund please mark the envelope clearly gardening fund.

Cleaning the Church once a month

If you look careful coming in the church you will see cobwebs take time and walk slowly around the church and you will discover that there is a great need to keep the our Church clean, we cant afford to have a cleaner as our finances are less and we have been overspending for the last 13 years, while less money is coming in.

As a family we clean our home and this is our spiritual home. We need a team of four people to clean monthly if we get six teams that means everyone will clean only twice a year, Sheila cleans the church every Friday after memory café the part where we have the café, arranges all the hymn books and the chairs. Thank you, Sheila, for your dedication. We also want to express our gratitude to all those who came to clean and prepare the church for Easter it was much a appreciated and the church looked beautiful on Easter morning keep up the go With thanks and blessings

With Sympathy and Prayers

A lot of our members have been grieved with loss of their Loved one and as a PCC we would like to express our Condolences to Bindu who lost her mum, Tracey her Brother Hanora her Brother Josephine her sister and Mary-Ann her brother Soulla her Mother and Nicola her Mother Doreen Kent who was a beloved member of this church, Sheila her dear Friend and a member of this Church Patricia she faithful took her communion by extension. Anyone we didn't mention here your Still in our continued prayers.

May your loved one's rest in peace and rise in Glory. Jesus promises **"I am the resurrection and the life those who believe in me even if they die yet they shall live, and I will raise them up at the last"** day. May this hope be the strength and comfort you need at this time till you see your loved ones again.

The vicar is always here for you whenever she is needed, and the Vicarage door is always open for you as she told us when she first came to this Parish. Please don't feel that you're alone.

Tracey, Tina and Antoinette

Ecumenical Relationships - Churches Together

The Churches together meetings are held at the church of Ascension Vicarage mostly and we are privileged to have space and host all the churches. We have had two walks of witness which have been a great success. We now have introduced two different meeting which happen in alternate manner one for the church leaders and one with the church the lay people. This gives space for new visions for the group. Watch this space.

Unfortunately, Revd Ulrich moved on from St Augustine but we welcome Revd Scott and we realised that all the leaders we are new in the area apart from the Catholic leader, God is saying: Isaiah 43:18-19 "Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

God never stop to amaze!!!

Revd Jacqueline Shalloe

Walk of Witness

Deanery Synod Report

During the year we have visited a variety of different Churches including St James Alpertton, St Catherine's Neasden, St Gabriels' Cricklewood, St Andrews Kingsbury ,St Michaels & All NGELS CHURCH, HILLSIDE NW10 and St Michaels Tokyngton. We also had the opportunity to attend The Chineke Christmas Concert via zoom.

We have had a variety of different presentations:

- **A talk on the pitfalls and Successes of fundraising:** A Talk given by The Southgate Heritage who spoke about engaging with the wider Community, while strengthening the skills and resources of the PCC.
- **A Presentation on The Diocese of London Disability Access and Inclusion** – Given by The Diocesan Disability Enabler, who pointed out that while getting into buildings with ramps, handrails etc is important, there is far more to making a Church a place and experience where disabled people are able to fully belong and take part in the life and worship of the Church.
- **A presentation on An Integrated Multi Cultural Worshipping Community**, where members of the congregation are encouraged to participate in Services, in their mother tongue, wearing their cultural dress – Something which is The Bishop Of Willesden's Mission for the Episcopal Area of Willesden.
- **A Presentation on the Work of the MU within a Parish.** Given by Pauline McCalla (Willesden Representative for the Willesden area) explained ... The benefits of having the MU in every Church. Christian led, the MU explores talent and creative thinking to bring sustainable change – from grassroot to government level to overseas. It has been a very interesting year. **Nicola Kent – Deanery Synod Representative.**

Safeguarding

Policy: The PCC reviewed the Safeguarding Statement.

Training: PCC members as well as people in the Church working with vulnerable adults or children were supplied with various application links and asked to undertake Safeguarding training

Home Communion Visits: A Risk Assessment checklist has now been introduced, this is to protect both the visitor and those we visit.

Church Lift Agreement: We have introduced the agreement for Church members offering elderly people lifts to and from Church services. This is to protect both the driver and passenger in the car.

Photo Permission & Feeling Safe at Church: I introduced the photo permission forms for having your photo taken. With the introduction of social media, it is vital to ensure that people really are happy to be in a picture as they may be end up on Facebook / X / Instagram without permission. Much better to be on the safe side.

I have Risk Assessed various areas within the whole Church premises (all three buildings), with a view to feeling safe. The ethos of feeling safe I started the ethos of feeling safe by putting the message on the bottom of the service sheet reminding people to talk to me if they wanted to take a photo. The Feeling Safe ethos extended and I found myself working with our Hall Hirers.

Meeting Room Closure: With the ceiling and wall of the meeting room requiring work, I took the decision to close the meeting room. The fridge, tea and coffee items were re-located to the back of Church. This enables the Churchwardens to get the work done.

Halls and Hall Hire: I have been working with the Churchwardens, ensuring that the Churchwardens are supplied with the correct Hall Hire Agreements, Safeguarding Policy and the Roles and Responsibilities forms for hall hirers to sign.

I undertake the completion of periodic Risk Assessments on both the Parish Hall and Youth Centre. Currently there are area-based Risk Assessments in place for the Church.

Safe Working and Safe Church: We are fully committed to Confidentiality, Data Protection and the Privacy Policy (details of the Privacy Policy can be found on the Safeguarding Noticeboard).

Welcome Back to A Returning DBS Checker: A DBS check is also required by each PCC member, Church Volunteers working with the Ascension Parent and Toddler Group and the Friday Memory Cafe. Our DBS checker is Sheila Coules and I am grateful to her for undertaking this role once more.

A New Children's Champion: The Diocese of London is actively committed to ensuring that all our children & young people are listened to. The Children's Champion has a key role with this, ensuring that the voices, views and needs of children and young people are heard.

Each Church has the opportunity to have a Children's Champion, who will give children and young people this voice within the work of the Church. The Champion is there to ask "How does this impact on our Children?" We have a newly appointed Children's Champion who is already a PCC member. They are able to bring the views of the Ascension's children and young people to the PCC. I am really pleased that Maureen Egbuche has agreed to be our newly appointed Children's Champion.

Looking forward to an action-packed year ahead

Nicola Kent (Safeguarding Officer,)



Charities Work

St Luke's Hospice

St Luke's Hospice helps people in Brent and Harrow to have the best possible quality of life, despite living with serious illnesses which are no longer curable. All their services are completely free of charge.

As St Luke's receives only around 30% of their funding from the NHS, the rest is raised from the generosity of organisations and people in the local community through donations and fundraising alongside the dedication of volunteers.

People can support the work of the hospice by making donations, taking part in events, playing the hospice lottery or shopping or volunteering in their charity shops.

St Luke's are grateful that due to local support they are able to continue their vital care to patients and families.

I attended a meeting in 2023 where there were several speakers from the Hospice; they plan to hold another meeting soon and I will be able to provide leaflets and information about their current events.

It is now several years since any members of the Church of The Ascension took part in the Midnight Walk. However, the date for this year's walk is Friday 14th June – details can be found at www.stlukes-hospice.org/midnightwalk or I can find out more details nearer the time, if there might be a few people who would be interested in taking part and raising some sponsorship for this worthwhile cause.

Thank you for your continued support to St Luke's Hospice.

Hilary Prevost

The Children's Society

The Children's Society supports children and young people who are facing problems.

The Children's Society also campaigns to ask the Government to change policies and laws to make life better for young people in the UK.

The Children's Society – Donations from The Church of the Ascension

Although we have not held a Box Opening and Coffee Morning since 2019 due to the Pandemic, I am very pleased to report that I received some house boxes from our box holders and some additional donations and was able to send the sum of **£750.00** to the Children's Society in November 2023.

If anyone would like to have a collection box in their home, please let me know.

Also, if anyone has a box that is getting full, please let me know and I would be very happy to count the money and send it to the Children's Society.

The Christingle Service held just before Christmas 2023, also raised the sum of **£115.00**.

Thank you also for your support in purchasing Christmas cards in aid of the Children's Society.

The sum of **£220** was raised.

It is great news that we raised a total of over **£1000.00** in 2023.

Thank you very much for your continued support towards The Children's Society.

Hilary Prevost



Afternoon Tea and update on the work of Homes of Promise on Sunday 14th April 2.30-4.30pm at The Charis Centre, Jesus Church, Forty Hill, EN2 9EU.

The Probation Officer arrives to inspect George's Place, Ram visits the dentist, Tresor travels to Kayenga.

'They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting,

"Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is the king of Israel." ' John 12 v13

Dear friends

I'm travelling back from Winchester after visiting my eldest son and it's beginning to feel like Uganda, if they had trains! The train is so packed, people standing all the way to Waterloo, you can't even get into a carriage. I've found a seat in a corridor, collapsible, opposite the loo! Giving thanks.

This week the probation officer for Wakiso District, Joanne, went to George's Place, she had said she would arrive at 8am Tuesday but didn't actually get there until 4pm. Peace and Benard had spent all day waiting for her! She inspected the home and wants us to take in more boys which is obviously a big commitment and needs a lot of thought and prayer.

Tresor travelled to Kayenga to pay George and Shilla's school fees, (Dan's brother and sister), he also visited the family and met the new baby -Jane. He took some of our baby clothes, T-shirts for the younger children, a pair of shoes for the dad, from our store, which they really appreciated. The father has built a small outside kitchen.

The boys at George's Place went to the football academy this morning (Saturday) and Dani the trainer spoke to them before the practise, sharing Psalm 119 v73-74 about knowing who created them and the reason why they should be happy for each other.

Last Sunday, Sue and her friends visited George's Place, spending time with the boys and being shown around by Benard, this gave Ronald and Robert the opportunity to clean my car.

o Ram has been taken to the dentist this week and had a tooth removed, he also needed some root canal treatment - I think he must be feeling very sorry for himself.

o Robert has returned to Malaba to look for work and stay with his grandmother who has promised to help him approach some hairdressing salons.

- o Tresor visited Johnson last Sunday for visiting day at Trinity High School, and I had an opportunity to speak with them.
- o Jovan was also taken to the hospital to receive some medication.
- o Godfrey had come in on Monday and helped with the general cleaning to make sure everything was spic and span for the visitor - he gets paid in meals.

It looks and sounds like everything is running smoothly whilst I'm here, I've spoken to Peace, Petra and Tresor this week, who are all fine, also received calls and messages from Augustine, Tim, Emma and Ivan (some of the older boys who are working).

Thank you for all your loving support and kindness for our work and as we approach Easter, 'May your Holy Week be a sacred time and may God bless us as we make this journey to Easter Sunday together. Stay safe and stay well.'

With love **Jane** x

Church Groups

The Ascension Parent, Baby and Toddler

The Ascension Parent & Toddlers group has been an amazing success! We have a weekly session running on Thursday mornings from 9.30am to 11.00am.

We usually have around 16 children and parents. They play from 9.30am to 10.20am with toys while parents have a coffee and a chat.

We all help tidy up and then have snack time which consists of fruit: apples, bananas, strawberries, blueberries, and grapes chopped up with a glass of water. We have a chat and sing our 'please and thank you' song! We then read a short story. At around 10.40am we sit in a circle and have our singing time where we sing all our favourite nursery rhymes. A firm favourite is 'Hokey Cokey' and 'Sleeping Bunnies'. After singing we always end with a prayer and sing 'My God is so Big'.

We learn colours and counting. We also learn that sharing is caring! We have lovely toys which they all enjoy playing with including train sets, soft toys, bricks, a cooker with all the pots and an ironing board.

Parents share their advice and concerns with each other and we provide pastoral care by praying with them and talking through problems. Two families have joined the Church and have become volunteers. We have parents from all faiths and we have moved from Daniel's Den to running our own Ascension Parent & Toddler Group and this has become a wonderful fresh expression of Church where we share God's love in our community and build relationships between the Church and parents in our community.

We had a wonderful nativity service in Church where the parents and children all dressed up. Father Christmas arrived at the end to give out presents to everyone! (Revd. Jacqueline in disguise!) our we thank God for his guidance and provisions .

Children's Team

Church of the Ascension Wembley
Sofa Separate Designated
For the period from 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Receipts					
Donations and legacies	31,468	-	167	31,635	16,042
Income from charitable activities	2,131	-	1,030	3,161	5,441
Other trading activities	45,813	-	-	45,813	41,324
Investments	19	10,114	18	10,151	13,564
Total income	79,431	10,114	1,214	90,759	76,371
Payments					
Raising funds	582	-	-	582	74
Expenditure on charitable activities	72,862	-	667	73,529	88,895
Total expenditure	73,443	-	667	74,111	88,969
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	5,988	10,114	547	16,648	(12,598)
Transfers:					
Gross transfers between funds - in	-	-	-	-	-
Gross transfers between funds - out	-	-	-	-	-
Other recognised gains / losses					
Gains/losses on investment assets	-	(5,520)	-	(5,520)	-
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	5,988	4,594	547	11,128	(12,598)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	(11,494)	271,525	2,974,684	3,234,715	3,247,313
Total funds carried forward	(5,507)	276,119	2,975,231	3,245,843	3,234,715

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

Church of the Ascension Wembley

Balance Sheet detailed

	As at 31/12/2023	As at 31/12/2022
Fixed assets		
6430: Hall	2,960,000	2,960,000
6435: M&G Trust Fund	229,383	234,903
Total Fixed assets	3,189,383	3,194,903
Current assets		
6501: Bank current account	21,039	18,254
6510: CCLA(CBF) Fabric Fund	5,876	5,693
6511: CCLA(CBF) Youth Centre Reserve	2,044	1,980
6512: CCLA(CBF) Parish Hall Reserve	226	219
6513: CCLA(CBF) COTA Deposit	3,383	3,278
6514: CCLA(CBF) Bequests & Donations	576	558
6515: CCLA(CBF) Trust Fund	23,317	13,561
6590: Cash in hand	-	2,908
Total Current assets	56,460	46,451
Liabilities		
6601: Loans received	-	2,500
6602: Uncleared Cheques	-	4,139
Total Liabilities	-	6,639
Net Asset surplus (deficit)	3,245,843	3,234,715
Reserves		
Excess/(deficit) to date	16,648	-
Z01: Starting balances	3,234,715	3,234,715
Z02: Gains/(losses) on investment assets	(5,520)	-
Total Reserves	3,245,843	3,234,715

Represented by Funds

General (Unrestricted)	(5,507)	(11,494)
Designated	276,119	271,525
Restricted	2,975,231	2,974,684
Total	3,245,843	3,234,715

Church of the Ascension Wembley
Fund movement summary
Selected period: 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

Fund	Fund balances brought forward	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Gains and Losses	Journal Entries	Fund balances Carried forward
Bequests							
Restricted	558.24	17.89	-	-	-	-	576.13
Sub-totals	558.24	17.89	-	-	-	-	576.13
Designated							
Designated	11,890.51	-	-	-	-	-	11,890.51
Sub-totals	11,890.51	-	-	-	-	-	11,890.51
Fabric							
Designated	5,693.35	182.46	-	-	-	-	5,875.81
Sub-totals	5,693.35	182.46	-	-	-	-	5,875.81
Flowers							
Restricted	-	166.50	119.80	-	-	-	46.70
Sub-totals	-	166.50	119.80	-	-	-	46.70
Hall							
Restricted	2,960,000.00	-	-	-	-	-	2,960,000.00
Sub-totals	2,960,000.00	-	-	-	-	-	2,960,000.00
Hall Reserve							
Designated	219.44	7.03	-	-	-	-	226.47
Sub-totals	219.44	7.03	-	-	-	-	226.47
Inspection							
Designated	1,139.30	25.16	-	-	-	-	1,164.46
Sub-totals	1,139.30	25.16	-	-	-	-	1,164.46
Memory							

Fund	Fund balances brought forward	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Gains and Losses	Journal Entries	Fund balances Carried forward
Restricted	-	1,029.74	547.33	-	-	-	482.41
Sub-totals	-	1,029.74	547.33	-	-	-	482.41
Project							
Designated	2,138.37	79.88	-	-	-	-	2,218.25
Sub-totals	2,138.37	79.88	-	-	-	-	2,218.25
Retention							
Restricted	14,126.00	-	-	-	-	-	14,126.00
Sub-totals	14,126.00	-	-	-	-	-	14,126.00
Trust							
Designated	248,464.00	9,755.62	-	-	(5,519.85)	-	252,699.77
Sub-totals	248,464.00	9,755.62	-	-	(5,519.85)	-	252,699.77
Youth Centre							
Designated	1,980.08	63.46	-	-	-	-	2,043.54
Sub-totals	1,980.08	63.46	-	-	-	-	2,043.54
General							
Unrestricted	(11,494.34)	79,431.14	73,443.42	-	-	-	(5,506.62)
Sub-totals	(11,494.34)	79,431.14	73,443.42	-	-	-	(5,506.62)
Totals	3,234,714.95	90,758.88	74,110.55	-	(5,519.85)	-	3,245,843.43

Church of the Ascension Wembley

Analysis of income and expenditure Selected period: 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

	General	Designated	Restricted	This year	Total Last year
Receipts					
Donations and legacies					
0101 - Gift Aid - Bank	18,766	-	-	18,766	10,942
0110 - Gift Aid - Envelopes	1,455	-	-	1,455	-
0201 - Other planned giving	129	-	-	129	245
0301 - Loose plate collections	3,990	-	-	3,990	2,017
0410 - Giving through church boxes	10	-	-	10	-
0550 - Donations appeals etc	2,651	-	167	2,817	2,838
0601 - Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	4,468	-	-	4,468	-
Donations and legacies Totals	31,468	-	167	31,635	16,042
Income from charitable activities					
0305 - Sumup donations	1,232	-	-	1,232	-
0555 - Special Donations	649	-	-	649	3,606
0560 - Memory Café donations	-	-	1,030	1,030	936
1101 - Fees for weddings and funerals	250	-	-	250	899
Income from charitable activities Totals	2,131	-	1,030	3,161	5,441
Other trading activities					
0910 - Fundraising	2,595	-	-	2,595	1,980
1230 - Church hall lettings - Occasional	9,288	-	-	9,288	6,164
1240 - Church hall lettings - Regular	9,444	-	-	9,444	14,064
1245 - Youth Centre lettings occasional	3,701	-	-	3,701	190
1247 - Youth Centre lettings Regular	20,785	-	-	20,785	18,926
Other trading activities Totals	45,813	-	-	45,813	41,324
Investments					
1001 - Dividends	-	9,191	-	9,191	13,267
1020 - Bank and building society interest	-	922	18	940	297
1030 - Rent from lands or buildings	19	-	-	19	-
Investments Totals	19	10,114	18	10,151	13,564
Receipts Grand totals	79,431	10,114	1,214	90,759	76,371

Payments

Raising funds

1701 - Fees paid to fund raisers	522	-	-	522	-
1720 - Costs of stewardship	60	-	-	60	74
Raising funds Totals	582	-	-	582	74

Expenditure on charitable activities

1801 - Giving Charities	-	-	-	-	406
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	General	Designated	Restricted	This year	Total Last year
1830 - Donations from special collections	150	-	54	204	-
1901 - Common Fund	25,004	-	-	25,004	25,000
2101 - Working expenses of incumbent	392	-	-	392	921
2150 - Vicar's telephone	805	-	-	805	-
2170 - Education	24	-	-	24	-
2201 - Parish training and mission	12	-	-	12	259
2210 - Memory café expenses	-	-	547	547	-
2301 - Church running - insurance	4,751	-	-	4,751	4,588
2310 - Church office - telephone	263	-	-	263	-
2320 - Organ / piano tuning	-	-	-	-	540
2321 - Organist	2,870	-	-	2,870	4,130
2330 - Church maintenance	2,153	-	-	2,153	1,739
2331 - Cleaning	68	-	-	68	-
2332 - Cleaning Materials Church	106	-	-	106	-
2340 - Upkeep of services	6,378	-	66	6,443	1,531
2350 - Upkeep of churchyard	576	-	-	576	945
2360 - Administration	418	-	-	418	-
2361 - Loan Repayment	-	-	-	-	3,000
2362 - Photocopier costs	580	-	-	580	-
2365 - Bookkeeper	2,708	-	-	2,708	-
2370 - Visiting speakers / locums	88	-	-	88	-
2401 - Church running - electric	945	-	-	945	876
2410 - Church running - gas	3,383	-	-	3,383	1,716
2420 - Church running - water	1,085	-	-	1,085	-
2501 - Magazine expenses	-	-	-	-	1,073
2520 - Hall running - Cleaner wages	745	-	-	745	3,033
2522 - Hall Running - cleaning materials	115	-	-	115	316
2530 - Hall running - electricity	757	-	-	757	866
2540 - Hall running - gas	1,483	-	-	1,483	1,716
2550 - Hall running - insurance	1,068	-	-	1,068	1,159
2560 - Hall running - maintenance	2,479	-	-	2,479	662
2562 - Hall running - Performing rights	44	-	-	44	-
2570 - Hall running - telephone & administration	1,112	-	-	1,112	3,044
2580 - Hall running - water	1,833	-	-	1,833	30
2590 - Hall running - Waste Collection	1,621	-	-	1,621	1,534
2591 - Hall running - Sundries	10	-	-	10	-
2601 - Youth Centre Running - Electricity	767	-	-	767	428
2610 - Youth Centre Running - Gas	1,011	-	-	1,011	1,144
2620 - Youth Centre Running - Cleaner wages	745	-	-	745	1,066
2630 - Youth Centre Running - Administration	630	-	-	630	2,015
2640 - Youth Centre Running - Water	1,222	-	-	1,222	20
2650 - Youth Centre Running - Cleaning Materials	49	-	-	49	78
2660 - Youth Centre Running - Waste collection	1,353	-	-	1,353	1,023
2670 - Youth Centre Running - Insurance	583	-	-	583	624
2680 - Youth Centre Running - Maintenance	2,010	-	-	2,010	554
2699 - Governance costs examination/audit fee	468	-	-	468	1,279
2820 - Hall + major repairs - installation	-	-	-	-	1,440
2835 - Youth Centre Major Repair	-	-	-	-	20,140
Expenditure on charitable activities Totals	72,862	-	667	73,529	88,895
Payments Grand totals	73,443	-	667	74,111	88,969

Treasurers' Report

Reserves Policy

It is the PCC's policy to maintain reserves to cover anticipated future expenses incurred in running the parish and maintaining its structures. This applies to all three buildings and grounds of the church. It is our policy to invest our funds' balances, where this is possible, with the Central Board of Finance of the Church of England (CBF).

As of 31 December 2023, total reserves held in various funds were £35,422. These figures include income from the trust fund (coded 6515), shown on page 2 of 6 of the financial statements) of £23,317 held at CBF.

Financial Review

As expected, and outlooked in my 2022 report, 2023 has shown significant improvement on the prior year as the effects of the COVID downturn dissipate and normality fully return both in the ad-hoc Halls hiring activity and the stability of longer term lets that have driven much improved income stream for the church. Return of parishioners, and now highly active Memory café, as well Mothers and Toddlers group, the latter having been introduced during the reporting year, helped bolster our church community, growing our diverse congregation at both ends. This receipts improvement, compounded by Gift Aid Tax relief that slipped from 2022, fully covered expenditure for the year and returned the church to a small but positive net income position overall. That said, we should tread with caution and continue to take steps to grow our congregation and expand our outreach in the community in order to ensure we are prepared to manage the challenges that 2024 will bring, particularly, as we exit our low 3-year energy contractual period and feel the full force of the energy crisis, and its monumental cost increases, as well as the general cost of living challenges faced by all.

During the year we commissioned Ogilvie Bookkeeping Services to provide bookkeeping support

Examining the accounts attached - page 1 of 6 (Sofa Separate Designated) summary, total income for the year, taking all receipts regardless of designation into account, stand at £90,759 (2022, £76,371) an increase of £14,388 year on year.

This large increase, when compared to last year, is explained by: increase in Donations and legacies of £15,593 (mainly Planned Giving £9,163, Loose plate collections £1,973, Gift Aid Tax recoverable £4,468 (though this excess partially relates to delayed recovery of Gift Aid tax in 2022); increase in Other trading activities £4,489 (mainly Halls lets income £3,873 and Fundraising £615); netted by reductions in Income from charitable activities **-£2,280** (mainly donations **-£1725**, Fees **-£649**), and Investments **-£3,413**.

Breaking the numbers down further and focusing on the "General" column of the accounts - page 5 of 6 (Analysis of income and expenditure), the total income under this column, at £79,431 (2022, £60,065), is some £19,366 better than last year.

This increase in income is driven by Halls letting income (codes 1230/1240/1245/1247), which at a combined total of £43,218 (2022 £39,344) shows an increase of £3,874 over last year (itself driven by Parish Hall and Youth Centre lets increases of **-£1,496** and £5,370, respectively) and increase in Church Receipts, which at £36,214 (2022, £20721) is some £15,493 better than last year. Further, this increase in Church Receipts is explained, as noted in the above paragraph, by a year-on-year increase in Regular giving totalling £9,163 and a net increase in other giving and receipts (including Gift Aid Tax recoverable), of £6,330.

As with prior years, our reliance on Halls letting income to meet the day-to-day running cost of the Parish continues. For 2023 we have been fortunate, unlike last year, to find that the income from hall lets, together with Church receipts, were sufficient to fund the Parish expenditure in full. This is clear by examining the “General” (Unrestricted) funds column of the accounts - page 5 of 6, where the total combined income from Church and Halls at £79,431 (2022 £60,065) when compared to total expenditure on the same basis, of £73,443 (2022 £64,911) represents an excess of income over expenditure for the year of +ve**£5,988** (2022 was a loss of **-£4,846**).

Further, to clarify the reserves, and capital assets, included in the following financial statements, the PCC has a Trust Fund with monies invested in a Unit Trust with M&G Charifund under a Deed of Trust with the Diocesan Board as Custodian Trustees.

The current figures (in summary) are: -

Market Value at	27.04.1988	31.12.2022	31.12.2023
Chari fund Units (15,985.00)	£80,000.00	£234,903	£229,383
Deposit Account at CBF	£4,973.00	£14,174	£13,561
Plus, income from Charifund		£13,267	£9,191
Plus, interest		£120	£565
Less grant to PCC		-£14,000	
Balance held on deposit		£13,561	£23,317
Total values		£248,464	£252,700

Investments in Unit trusts are subject to Stock market movements and can go down as well as up. This year, unfortunately, the capital value of our Chari fund units has decreased by **-£5,520** when compared to 2022. This represents a capital erosion of **-2.35%**, which is testament to the challenging economic climate impacted by various elements not least the Russian/Ukrainian war. However, £9,756 of income (and interest) was generated in the year, adding to the balance of income held on deposit at the beginning of the year.

Church Hall buildings valuation

Current Charity commission instructions require that we annotate our accounts with Church Halls buildings valuation. As such the PCC maintain the revised valuation of the Church Halls, in 2021, by EIG Insurance of £2,960,000 (2020, the Hall buildings’ valuation was set at £1,747,011). These valuations are set out on page 2 of 6, Balance sheet detailed, and page 3 of 6, Fund movement summary, on the attached financial statements.

The year(s) ahead – 2024 and beyond

The PCC is hoping that 2024 will present a better future for the Church and its finances, where we continue to grow our congregation, contribute more to our common fund, and achieve normality in our overall church community.

As we continue to challenge ourselves to maintain a stable but vibrant financial posture, we should temper our outlook with a little bit of caution with significant costs already under our belt. 2024 has so far seen a huge investment in our church fabric with repairs to the flat roofs around the meeting room and other areas of the church.

Also, with the change in the demography of our church community where legacy parishioners, and unfortunately their significant contributions, are being replaced by newer and younger community with many commitments, we should be prepared in 2024 to leverage other income sources that bridge any gap that this paradigm shift may introduce.

As such, we must turn our attention to other areas to manage and maximise our net income. We must continue our efforts to improve the volume of our one-off lets, move and/or benchmark all our regular and longer term lets to prevailing market rates as soon as possible, explore avenues to drive more income from “Church” activities, and accelerate other fund-raising efforts. We must, in addition, continue to perform a forensic review of our cost base and execute efficiencies where and when we can such that we streamline, align, or match normal costs, wherever this is achievable, to changing revenue profiles, and thus contain and/or improve our net cash.

Further, we as parishioners should again stretch ourselves this year to increase out regular giving, reduce the use of planned giving envelopes but instead embrace fully, where possible, the CofE Parish Giving Scheme to ensure all our donations and regular giving, where appropriate, are gift aided and we maximise the additional benefits use of this scheme provides. We should look to execute all measures that improve our financial position, and posture, through 2024 and beyond.

We should continue our commitment to review stewardship on an annual basis.

The following accounts have been prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis and I present it to the APCM.

Mary-Ann Chukwuenyem – Treasurer

These accounts were presented and approved by a meeting of the PCC convened on October 23, 2024, and signed on their behalf by

jacqueline

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The Rev. Jacqueline Shalloe (Chair)

A.M

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Antoinette Morgan (Secretary)