

**St. Francis of Assisi
Links Road
Radford
Coventry**

Diocese of Coventry

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Francis presents its annual report and accounts in respect of the year to 31st December 2023

The PCC is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commissioners.

Background

The PCC of St Francis has responsibility with the Vicar for promoting the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical, in the Church of England parish, within the Deanery of Coventry North and Diocese of Coventry, together with the oversight of the Church Building of St. Francis, its two halls and grounds.

The new parish (pastoral scheme) will consist of a population of almost 20,000 people once it comes into place when the sale of St Nicholas is completed.

Membership

Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the APCM in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

Vicar: Revd Aggy Palairt (Serving from 24th January 2023)

Wardens: Sue Williams

Representatives on the Deanery Synod (serving until APCM 2026)

Sue Williams (Ex officio, Diocesan Synod, Bishops Council)

Kate Hughes (PCC Secretary) (Licensed to Preach)

David Brightwell (Electoral Roll Officer)

Ogechi Ngemegwa (Treasurer) (Also Diocesan Synod, Bishops Council)

Elected Members (serving until APCM 2024)

Lawrencia Asare

Patience Okojie

Nkem Nwokeocha

Penny Phillips

Joanna Gerrard (co-opted)

Sascha Eley

Natasha Church

Yousif Muma

Maria Prue

Stacey Fennell (Safeguarding Officer) (co-opted)

The PCC met 5 times during the year (either by Zoom or in church) including an Away Afternoon on 25th June at St Thomas's Church Hall. Keresley.

Standing Committee

The Standing Committee of the PCC consists of the Vicar, Sue Williams (Churchwarden), Kate Hughes (PCC Secretary), Ogechi Ngemegwai (Church Treasurer), David Brightwell and Joanna Gerrard, and meets when needed during the year.

Church Membership (Electoral Roll)

There are **51** members on the Electoral Roll as at the Annual Meeting, 17 resident and 34 not resident within the parish.

Officers

Sue Williams has continued to serve as **Warden**. Kate Hughes, David Brightwell and Ogechi Ngemegwai have been the church's **Deanery Synod Representatives**. Sue Williams has also continued as our **Diocesan Synod Representative**, along with **Ogechi Negemwe**. Kate Hughes acts as **Parish Information Officer**. Sue and Ogechi have also continued sitting on **Bishop's Council**.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

The great event of this year was the Induction of our new vicar, Revd Aggy Palairret, on 24th January 2023. Aggy, her husband Edward and children Kaleb and Luke were given the warmest of welcomes to St Francis,

Aggy and the congregation gave time and care to getting to know each other, and discerning where God is leading us. We did what we could to maintain our ailing building and had a garden workday in August. After the interregnum our usual activities have been continued or resumed: a bring and share lunch at Pentecost (with plenty of red garments in evidence); our annual St Francistide pet service on 3rd October; a Harvest Supper on 8th October, to which we welcomed several of our Methodist friends; a very successful Christmas Fayre on 2nd December, which made over £1,000; and an Advent Bible study course on the theme of time. We also enjoyed joining with Employability for their Christmas Singalong on 15th September. On 16th September some of the PCC and members of the congregation spent a day at St Mary's Walsgrave, with Revd Clive Hicks helping us to discern the gifts that God gives to St Francis through us. We have also continued with our monthly "Dining Out" club, sampling the delights of local pubs and restaurants.

Rainbows, Brownies and Guides are all flourishing and enjoying lots of activities. And as you will see from their own report, the **St Francis Employability Project** has been busier than ever. Many people comment on the friendliness of the people at St Francis, and we are grateful for God's help that enables us, priest and people together, to continue to show the love and care of Jesus to the people of Radford. We know that God will continue to go with us as we move into the future with Aggy, our parish priest.

Vicar's Report

On the evening of Tuesday 24th January 2023, I was licensed as the vicar of St Francis, Radford! It was truly wonderful to be surrounded by people who are important to me; the St Francis congregation, members of St Francis Employability (STFE), representatives from the wider community, my colleagues of various denominations, my family and the congregation of St Mary Redcliffe, my curacy church. What an exciting beginning (and who can forget that fire on Jubilee Crescent that evening)!

Relationships

My first day was full of excitement. After taking my children to their schools, I talked with local people over breakfast at the Jubilee Junction. After that, I had conversations and prayed with STFE at St Francis and then I visited every shop at Jubilee Crescent. Some people were chatty, some were more reserved, but all took a keen interest in the possible cause of the fire the evening before.

Over the next few months, I had many wonderful conversations over a cuppa with the people of the parish and also with new colleagues. It is true that vicars drink a lot of tea and are blessed with delightful bakery treats. Sharing good food with good conversations continued to feature in all that we do, including at the PCC away day in June and the St Francis Family Away Day in September.

Repair

I could not help but notice the number of building issues at St Francis Church. My conversation with the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) and other diocesan staff helped me to discover our 2019 quinquennial report and paperwork. As the vicar of St Francis and the chair of trustee of STFE, I wanted to provide not only a safe space, but a space that is warm, welcoming and fit for purpose for all who come through our doors. It would take careful planning and time to repair everything. Since more recent deterioration was noticeable (buckets to catch rainwater, plaster falling from ceilings, lights no longer lighting), the PCC requested a new quinquennial report, which we are now using as an action list. Based on the new report, we have made some urgent repairs and sought quotes and advice from our architect, the DAC, heating, boiler, concrete, plumbing, roof, doors, electrical, pipe and environmental experts; I have probably missed a few others!

Much effort was put into funding applications and faculty requests to make these possible, and we installed a contactless giving point, as the current income would not be sufficient to do everything that has been identified as important and urgent.

Rejoicing

In mid-February, St Francis vicarage was finally ready for my family to move into and so we say our fond farewell to the vicarage at St Mary's, Fillongley. Since then, school runs became much shorter and I gained more time to talk with parents and to connect with the schools in North Radford.

Our various child-friendly services are well attended by all ages. At our pet service, many children came with their many different pets. There were dogs of many different breeds, and the volume of their joyful tunes was certainly hard for the vicar to compete with.

In addition to our regular services, St Francis Church continues to work closely with St Francis Employability. We attended each other's events and hosted several joyful events together such as the Christmas Fayre and the Christmas Singalong.

It is also wonderful to worship and share life with our Methodist brothers and sisters: we had Harvest supper together and invited them to join in with various events, including our Advent and Lent courses.

Once a month, I celebrate Holy Communion at Coundon Manor Care Home. The staff and residents really enjoyed singing carols with the St Francis choir on Christmas Eve.

Rebuild

This year, St Francis re-started the pastoral team, where the team actively pray and care for the people in the parish. Those who are in hospital are visited and those who cannot attend church due to mobility were given home communion.

The St Francis church family would love to see our children and families properly nurtured and grow in faith. There was no Sunday school and little provision for them back in January 2023 so one of our priorities was to rebuild the ministry for our families and youth. Throughout this year, special focus was given to including and inviting families to join in with the work and life of the church and we have seen an increase not only in numbers, but people growing in their faith with eight candidates confirmed at Coventry Cathedral this November.

In December, after much research and many conversations, surveys and working group meetings throughout the year, St Francis was granted £39k from Coventry Diocese to hire a Growing Faith Families Minister for a duration of three years.

To Conclude

It has been a remarkable year, full of challenges, blessings and a sense that God is working in our midst. There is so much to be thankful for, I would like to thank God, the PCC, STFE, the pastoral team, the St Francis church family, my family, and my new colleagues for journeying with me and the people of Radford this year. May we see even more fruit in 2024 and may we continue to deepen our relationship with God through the Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Aggy

Employability Report

Throughout 2023, St. Francis Employability maintained its dedication to delivering vital services to Coventry residents.

Our array of services, which includes a community café, foodbank, and social supermarket, has been instrumental in providing essential food support to those facing food poverty. Additionally, our focus on income maximisation has been particularly critical amidst the ongoing challenges posed by the rising cost of living.

In addition to these core services, we have provided various forms of assistance, such as bus passes, SIM cards, fuel vouchers, food vouchers, and essential heating and cooking appliances, to individuals in need. Furthermore, our commitment extends to supporting newly arrived communities through migration-related projects.

We have also fostered strong relationships with key stakeholders and corporate organisations in Coventry, including Coventry Building Society, Orbit Housing, and Cadent Gas. These partnerships enhance our ability to serve the community professionally and effectively, advancing our mission of empowerment and support for all.

Selina Read (CEO)

Fabric Report and Church Warden's Report

Church

Fire Extinguishers and Church Alarm System have both been serviced.

Toilet was blocked a couple of times

Plus a few minor repairs

New **Church Notice Board**

Doors stained

We also have had the usual problems with the church roof.

Hall

A new fence panel was fitted in June

General wear and tear and blockages in toilets

Nothing major just a few minor repairs.

Grounds have been maintained with volunteers during the week and a grounds working day.

Concrete paths filled in

Steps painted with White Strip

Outside Light fitted.

Church Warden's Comments

My thanks to Richard Tarver for playing the organ Sunday by Sunday, and for the opportunity for me to play the clarinet during Holy Week.

Many thanks to Ogechi the Treasurer, Altar servers, those who have helped with flower arranging and decorating the church for Easter, Harvest and Christmas, Also to Kate, PCC Secretary, for all her assistance, David the Sacristan and Electoral Roll Officer, Recky and team for her help with refreshments on Sunday mornings, and those who have assisted me in various other ways when needed.

I look forward this coming year in welcoming a fellow churchwarden to help share the load as St Francis moves into an exciting new phase of its life.

Thanks be to God and to all who have supported us throughout the year.

Sue Williams, Church Warden

Deanery Synod

In the past year Coventry North Deanery Synod has met 3 times. David Brightwell and Kate Hughes are the elected representatives from St Francis, and Sue Williams and Ogechi Ngemegwa are ex officio members as members of Diocesan Synod. A lot of every meeting is taken up with business, especially setting the Parish Share for each year, which is each parish's contribution towards paying the clergy. Coventry North is one of the poorest deaneries in the diocese, so although all the parishes pay their Share, we are subsidised by wealthier parishes in the diocese, and limited as to how many clergy posts we can afford to have. We meet each time at a different church in the Deanery (this year at St Thomas, Keresley, St George, Coundon, and Holy Trinity; the Area Dean is Gareth Irvine, Vicar of St Laurence's Foleshill).

As well as business, we usually have a talk or discussion at each meeting. In the past year we have had presentations on Eco-Living and sustainability in churches and communities; engaging with Children, Youth and Families and in Schools, and feedback from a clergy retreat and its effect on mutual understanding of different traditions.

We also receive reports from Diocesan Synod and General Synod and get regular updates from the parishes about what is happening and what they are doing. The meetings are a chance to get to know clergy and laity from other parishes, which is one of the parts of being a Deanery Synod representative that I particularly value.

Kate Hughes

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish
of Radford, Coventry
(St Francis of Assisi Church)**

**Financial Statements
31 December 2023**

**The PCC of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Radford, Coventry
(St Francis of Assisi Church)
Accounts for the year ended
31st December, 2023**

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The PCC of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Radford Coventry : Financial Statements for 2023
Charity No. 1174496

Independent examiner's report to the PCC of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Radford, Coventry

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023 which are set out on pages 4 to 7.

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

The PCC consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioner section 145 (5) (b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.


Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

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

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention:

- (1) which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 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.



Gavin Kibble

1 Kineton Road, Coventry, CV2 3NR

1st May, 2024

The PCC of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Radford Coventry : Financial Statements for 2023
Charity No. 1174496

Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ended 31 December 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Receipts							
Incoming Resources from Donors	2	24,720	-	24,720	15,061	-	15,061
Income from Church Activities	3	25,740	-	25,740	21,072	-	21,072
Total Receipts		50,460	-	50,460	36,133	-	36,133
Payments							
Fundraising costs		427	-	427	-	-	-
Activities Directly Relating to the Work of the Church	4	47,870	-	47,870	32,189		32,189
Total Payments		48,297	-	48,297	32,189	-	32,189
Excess of Receipts over Payments		2,163	-	2,163	3,944	-	3,944
Cash at bank and in hand at 1st January		31,254	-	31,254	27,310	-	27,310
Cash at bank and in hand at 31st December		33,417	-	33,417	31,254	-	31,254


The PCC of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Radford Coventry : Financial Statements for 2023
Charity No. 1174496

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

As at 31st December 2023

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Monetary Assets				
Cash at bank	33,417	-	33,417	31,254
Total Monetary Assets	33,417	-	33,417	31,254
Other Assets				
Unclaimed gift aid	1,083	-	1,083	-
Liabilities				
Sundry creditors	300	-	300	-

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 04/05/2024

 Treasurer

The notes on page 6 and 7 form part of these financial statements

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st December, 2023

1 : Accounting Policies

a) Financial Statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards. The financial statements have been prepared on the receipts and payments basis under the historical cost convention.

b) Funds

Unrestricted (general funds) represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. Restricted funds are funds subject to specific restricted conditions imposed by donors.

The accounts include all of the transactions for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body or those that are informal gatherings of church members.

2: Incoming Resources from Donors

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Planned giving (tax recoverable)	7,169	-	7,169	4,699
Other giving	7,664	-	7,664	4,449
Gifts and donations	396	-	396	985
Grants Received	8,500	-	8,500	-
Gift Aid recovered	991	-	991	4,928
	24,720	-	24,720	15,061

3: Income from Church Activities

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Hall hire	24,452	-	24,452	20,527
Fees to PCC	1,161	-	1,161	545
Other receipts	127	-	127	-
	25,740	-	25,740	21,072

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 31st December, 2023

4 : Church Running Expenses

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds
	2023	2023	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Parish share	18,226	-	18,226	18,206
Clergy and staffing costs	669	-	669	-
Church repairs and maintenance	6,056	-	6,056	3,630
Cleaning	-	-	-	654
Utility Costs	18,431	-	18,431	4,492
Insurance	2,876	-	2,876	2,834
Small value equipment		-	-	539
Worship	433	-	433	312
Other ordinary expenditure	292	-	292	41
Food	-	-	-	256
Events	315	-	315	950
Publicity	296	-	296	-
Subscriptions	276	-	276	-
Banking	-	-	-	275
	47,870	-	47,870	32,189

5 : Employees

There were no employees during the year (2022: nil).

6: Related Party Transactions

There were no related party transactions during the year (2022: nil).

The PCC of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Radford Coventry : Financial Statements for 2023
Charity No. 1174496

Financial Review and Reserves Policy

As detailed in the Statement of Financial Activities, total income for the year was £50,460 (2022 : £36,133). During the year the charity received major donations of:

- *£8,500 from the Diocesan Board of Finance towards utility costs*

Expenditure in the year of £48,297 (2022: £32,189) resulted in a net surplus of £2,163 (2022: £3,944).

The closing unrestricted funds were £33,417 (2022 : £31,254). The PCC wish to maintain reserves of at least 6 months of operating costs in order to cover significant anticipated building renovation costs. At the end of 2023 the charity held 8 months of reserves (2022: 10 months).