

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

Diocese of Coventry

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Francis presents its annual report and accounts in respect of the year to 31st December 2024

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 Palairret (Serving from 24th January 2023)
Wardens: Sue Williams
Priyanga Ugorgi

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)

Elected Members (serving until APCM 2025)

Penny Phillips
Patience Okojie
Nkem Nwokeocha
Beauty Ekhotisuehi
Marie Prue
Joanna Gerrard
Stacey Fennell (Safeguarding Officer) (co-opted)

The PCC met 6 times during the year.

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 **56** members on the Electoral Roll as at the Annual Meeting, 20 resident and 36 not resident within the parish.

Officers

Sue Williams and Priyanga Ugorji have continued to serve as **Wardens**. 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**. Kate Hughes acts as **Parish Information Officer**. Sue also continues sitting on **Bishop's Council**.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

In **2024**, St Francis welcomed many special visitors, including the Archbishop's Secretary for Appointments, Bishop Ruth, Bishop Sophie, and the Lord Mayor. We also welcomed Hill Farm Primary School for a talk about Christmas. Through St Francis Employability, visitors from various organisations came into the church to witness the incredible projects taking place within St Francis Church.

Many wonderful things happen at St Francis, but we also face significant challenges, primarily related to the building. Over the past year, we've dealt with a failed boiler, a sparking fuse box, cracked pavement, poor lighting, damaged wiring, a leaky roof, blocked toilets, crumbling plaster, broken fences, and no running water in the kitchen — just to name a few of our urgent concerns.

God is good! Through hard work and dedication, alongside the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC), tradesmen, St Francis Employability, and organisations such as Orbit and Fortem, we have transformed our church into a much safer space. We now have running water in the kitchen, a brand-new roof, two new boilers, repaired pavement with handrails, fully rewired lighting throughout the building, and functioning toilets. A huge thank you to everyone who has contributed to making St Francis a safer place for all!

The building itself is just one of my projects, but my true passion lies in building up the St Francis church family. Throughout 2023, I actively encouraged the congregation to discover their spiritual gifts, explore their areas of ministry, and step into active church roles. This year, I have seen those seeds slowly grow and mature, with new leaders emerging. For the first time in a long while, we are blessed with two wonderful Churchwardens and three Deputy Churchwardens. We have also welcomed new servers and members to the PCC, and our church family continues to grow numerically and spiritually. We've even had to bring out extra chairs on some Sundays

To strengthen our entire church family, we restarted Sunday school and launched a youth group, parents' group, and creative worship sessions on Wednesdays. In August, we welcomed our new Growing Faith Families Minister, who now works alongside the congregation to nurture and deepen the faith of our children, youth, and families.

Training is essential; this year, we invited diocesan staff to give talks at St Francis. These talks provided learning opportunities and allowed us to connect with people from other churches. Kate Hughes and I also attended the *Leading Your Church into Growth* (LyCiG) conference,

where we received expert guidance on leading our church into growth. I hope these programs will build our skills and confidence, empowering us to step into leadership roles and live out our faith in all aspects of life - whether at church, home, school, or the workplace. As we refine our lifestyle choices within the church, I am delighted to share that St Francis has been awarded the *Eco Church Bronze Award*!

What's Next?

Not only is our church family growing, but so is the size of our parish. As of 1st May 2024, North and South Radford have united to form a single parish: Radford. We have gained many parishioners, schools, and a churchyard. Our mission field has expanded, and St Francis is set to benefit from the sale of St Nicholas' church building. Soon, we can begin dreaming of how this funding will help further our mission by improving or developing our existing buildings in 2025.

This year, we completed our *Natural Church Development* survey and identified worship development as one of our priorities. Our Wednesday evening services are creative and unique, making them the perfect setting to explore how we can make worship even more inspiring, innovative, and engaging, deepening our faith through heartfelt worship. With such a beautifully diverse congregation, intercultural worship will be a key area for exploration in 2025. We seek to better celebrate the richness of different cultures, languages, and backgrounds, ensuring everyone feels embraced and valued for who they are. I dream of seeing the vision of Pentecost reflected within our church — a place where people from all nations gather, worship in different languages, yet understand one another fully and unite in worship with the power of the Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Aggy Palairet (Vicar)

Other Activities and Social Events

Along with the **weekly services, Holy Days, Easter and Christmas** we have also held various activities and Social Events. In January we held a **Bring & Share Lunch to celebrate Aggy's Birthday** and in July we held a **'95th Birthday celebration with Cake for Joan**.

Our **Monthly Dining Out Club** has continued to meet throughout the year with 10-14 of us going to various pubs and restaurants for a meal and get-together. At Christmas we enjoyed a Carvery at the Toby.

We have also held a **few courses** and joined with some **Diocesan courses** to help nurture folks faith and gifts. In January we joined a Diocesan Training Course set of 5 weeks called **"Stages of Life"** and in February **Rob Harrison gave a talk in church on the "Old Testament."** During Lent we held a **Lent Course** based on the film **"The Greatest Showman."** In June Aggy and Kate attended a **conference** in Swanwick entitled **"Leading Your Church into Growth."**

September saw Ed Palairet and Sue Williams launch a monthly **Youth Group** held on the second Sunday of each month following the All-Age Service. The youngsters aged 12+ enjoy pool, snooker, table tennis, table football, craft etc, share lunch together and participate in a 10 minute "Pause for Thought" activity. We have about 9 teenagers attend.

October saw us holding our annual **Pet Service** for St Francis Day which is always a fun, if somewhat noisy with a good array of animals. We welcome the Brownies and their parents along to this service. To tie in with St Francis Day we also held a **St Francis Day Supper** which was well attended and good to have our Methodist friends join us.

October 13 we celebrated **Harvest Thanksgiving** and in November we launched our new monthly **“Worship/Praise Service.”** every third Wednesday of the month. Priyanga writes ... It has been a time of worshiping through songs, hymns, meditations and also a place to learn and develop our God given talents. We have an average of 6 attending every month.

December was a busy month what with **Advent & Christmas.** We combined our usual Advent Hush with the worship evening in December. Held a lovely **Christingle service** and had the pleasure of welcoming Bishop Ruth and our Lord Mayor to our **Crib Service.** We held our annual **Christmas Fayre** and our St Francis **“Choir”** sang Carols at Coundon Manor Care Home.

Rainbows and Brownies are all flourishing and enjoying lots of activities. Guides moved to collaborate with Guides at St Thomas to make one larger unit and also to help with leaders.

Fabric Report and Church Warden's Report

Church

New Boilers.

New Wiring and fuse box.

Cracked pavement repaired.

Handrails fitted

New Roof

Running Water to kitchen

Leaky toilet repairs.

Fire Extinguishers and Church Alarm System have both been serviced.

Hall

New fence panels fitted.

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 several grounds working days both here and at St Nicholas.

Church Warden's Comments

A Big thank you to Maria, Patience and Toyosi who have assisted us as Deputy Wardens over the past year. To Cassie and other folk who have run Sunday Club Sunday mornings.

Our thanks to Richard Tarver for playing the organ Sunday by Sunday, and for the opportunity for me to play my clarinet during Holy Week. Also the musicians (Aggy, Kartoon and Oliver who play at the monthly worship service.

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 and her regular bi-monthly newsletters/updates, David the Sacristan and Electoral Roll Officer, Recky and team for their help with refreshments on Sunday mornings, and those who have assisted us in various other ways when needed.

It is a privilege to serve as churchwardens and one we do not take lightly.

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

Sue Williams and Priyanga Ugorji, Church Warden

Deanery Synod

In the past year Coventry North Deanery Synod has met 3 times. David Brightwell, Kate Hughes and Ogechi Ngemewa are the elected representatives from St Francis, and Sue Williams is an ex officio member as also a member 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 Paul's, Foleshill (twice) and St Laurence's Foleshill; 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 a presentation from our Interim Bishop Ruth; a Praise and Prayer session incorporating good news and mission opportunities for each parish; and a talk on National Safeguarding Standards by Sarah Price, the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser. 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

Employability Report**Extract from St Francis Employability annual report****Statistics 2024****Welfare Support**

- 1057 welfare support appointments for 350 different clients

Employment Support

- 1052 employment support appointments
- 7242 hours of volunteering

ESOL/Courses

- 1472 hours of ESOL teaching
- Clients speak 79 different languages
- 38 accreditations of work-based skills courses

Food Support

- 2474 number of food parcels
- 766 households supported through food
- Average 50 meals a day at our café

Key Highlights

- Establishing relationships with businesses, leading to a successful new roof and water supply into the kitchen
- Improvements to the outside play area and grounds through similar measures
- Equipping staff with professional development opportunities
- Developing the charity's structure
- Securing free bus passes for clients, allowing them to save a large sum of money
- Return visits through 'Business in the Community' (BITC)
- All services have grown - none have been lost, despite the increase in demand

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

Financial Statements
31 December 2024

The PCC of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Radford, Coventry
(St Francis of Assisi Church)
Accounts for the year ended
31st December, 2024

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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 2024 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

28th February, 2025

Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ended 31 December 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Receipts					
Incoming Resources from Donors	2	20,779	18,000	38,779	24,720
Income from Church Activities	3	34,312	-	34,312	25,740
Total Receipts		55,091	18,000	73,091	50,460
Payments					
Fundraising costs		-	-	-	427
Activities Directly Relating to the Work of the Church	4	69,654	8,442	78,096	47,870
Total Payments		69,654	8,442	78,096	48,297
Excess of Receipts over Payments		(14,563)	9,558	(5,005)	2,163
Cash at bank and in hand at 1st January		33,417	-	33,417	31,254
Cash at bank and in hand at 31st December		18,854	9,558	28,412	33,417

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the year. All income derives from continuing activities.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

As at 31st December 2024

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Monetary Assets				
Cash at bank	18,854	9,558	28,412	33,417
Total Monetary Assets	18,854	9,558	28,412	33,417
Other Assets				
Unclaimed gift aid	3,525	-	3,525	1,083
Liabilities				
Sundry creditors	300	-	300	300

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on _09_/_04_/_2025

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

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st December, 2024

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	Restricted	Total	Total
	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds
	2024	2024	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Planned giving (tax recoverable)	6,789	-	6,789	7,169
Other giving	9,954	-	9,954	7,664
Gifts and donations	575	-	575	396
Grants Received	-	18,000	18,000	8,500
Gift Aid recovered	3,461	-	3,461	991
	20,779	18,000	38,779	24,720

3: Income from Church Activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds
	2024	2024	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Hall hire	32,005	-	32,005	24,452
Fees to PCC	2,208	-	2,208	1,161
Other receipts	100	-	100	127
	34,312	-	34,312	25,740

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

For the year ended 31st December, 2024

4 : Church Running Expenses	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds
	2024	2024	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Parish share	22,647	-	22,647	18,226
Staffing costs	-	3,442	3,442	669
Clergy Expenses	156	-	156	-
Church repairs and maintenance	29,138	5,000	34,138	6,056
Cleaning	-	-	-	-
Utility Costs	11,057	-	11,057	18,431
Insurance	2,753	-	2,753	2,876
Small value equipment	1,127	-	1,127	-
Worship	788	-	788	433
Other ordinary expenditure	619	-	619	292
Teaching Resources	238	-	238	-
Events	-	-	-	315
Publicity	-	-	-	296
Subscriptions	831	-	831	276
Independent Examination	300	-	300	-
Total Church Running Expenses	69,654	8,442	78,096	47,870

5 : Employees

There was 1 employee during the year (2023: nil). No employees received remuneration in excess of £60,000.

6: Related Party Transactions

There were no related party transactions during the year (2023: nil).

7: Movement of Restricted Funds

	Opening Balance as at 1.1.24	Income	Expenditure	Closing Balance as at 31.12.24
	£	£	£	£
Boiler Replacement	-	5,000	(5,000)	-
Growing Faith Minister	-	13,000	(3,442)	9,558
	-	18,000	(8,442)	9,558

Description of Restricted Funds :

- Boiler Replacement
- Employment of a Growing Faith Minister.

Statement of Financial Activities (Prior Year)

For the year ended 31 December 2023

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