



The Parochial Church Council of St John the  
Baptist with the Epiphany, Corby

Diocese of Peterborough

# **Reports and Financial Statements 2023**

Charity Name	The Parochial Church Council of St John the Baptist with the Epiphany, Corby	
Charity Registration	1178205	
Principal Address	The ecclesiastical parish is situated in Corby, Northamptonshire and is in the Corby Deanery and Oakham Archdeaconry of the Diocese of Peterborough within the Church of England. The parish consists of the Church of St John the Baptist and the Church of the Epiphany (Chapel of Ease). The correspondence address is St John's Church Hall, Church Walk, Corby, Northamptonshire, NN17 1XF.	
The Governing Document	Parochial Church Council Powers Measures (1956) as amended and Church Representation Rules	
Objectives	The Parochial Church Council (PCC of St John the Baptist with the Epiphany, Corby, has the responsibility of working with the incumbent, the Reverend Paul Frost, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Church of St John the Baptist and the Church of the Epiphany and their respective church halls.	
Members of the PCC	The members of the PCC who served during the year were:	
	Incumbent (Chair)	The Revd Paul Frost
	Assistant Curate	The Revd Joseph Griffiths (June 2023)
	Church Wardens	Daniel Eastwood Lynn Hay (elected May 2023)
	Representative on the General Synod	Paul Buckingham (re-elected October 2021) (appointed vice chair PCC, May 2023)
	Representative on the Deanery Synod	Susan Norman (re-elected May 2023) (appointed PCC treasurer, May 2023)
		Louise Lawson (elected May 2023)

	From May 2022 elections	Edward Frost Catherine Mason Carole James Claire Morris
	Other <i>ex-officio</i> members	Hilary Buckingham Catherine Hill
	Co-opted	The Revd Capt. Peter Simmons  James Watkins (October 2023)
Key Management Personnel	Those in charge of directing, controlling, running and operating the Charity on a day to day basis are the members of the Standing Committee (Paul Frost; Daniel Eastwood; Lynn Hay; Paul Buckingham; and Susan Norman)	
Bankers	NatWest, 25 Corporation St, Corby, Northamptonshire, NN17 1NR (16 High Street, Kettering, NN16 8SZ from September 2023)	
Independent Examiner	Mr John Hindle, 49 Kirby Road, Gretton, Northamptonshire, NN17 3DB	

## **1. Structure, Governance & Management**

### **1.1 Trustees**

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and to stand for election to the PCC.

Members of the PCC are either ex officio, co-opted or elected by the Annual Parish Meetings in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

The two churches within the parish combine under one PCC. The financial statements at 31 December 2023 include income and expenditure for the year.

### **1.2 Electoral Roll**

The Electoral Roll is maintained by Catherine Mason. As of December 2023, there were a total of 70 members on the electoral roll.

## **2. Activities and Strategies**

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to become Christians and be part of our parish community. The PCC maintains an overview of our worship and activities throughout the parish. When planning our activities for the year, we have taken note of the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary

guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. Specifically, we enable people to grow in and live out their faith as part of our community through:

- Worship, education, and prayer; learning to develop their knowledge and experience of Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Reaching out with the gospel of Jesus Christ, with words and action, throughout our parish with a special emphasis on the Chapel Gym.
- To enable this work to happen it is vital that we maintain the fabric of the Church of St John the Baptist and the Church of the Epiphany and their respective halls.

### **3. PCC and Subcommittee**

#### **3.1 PCC**

The PCC (from May 2023) has 4 elected members, 1 General Synod member, 2 Deanery Synod members and 2 churchwardens. Licensed Clergy and Readers are ex officio members. Peter Simmons (PTO) is a co-opted member as is James Watkins (as of October 2023). Total PCC membership for 2023 is 14.

The PCC met in person. Attendance was good at meetings. Minutes and attendance are recorded at each PCC meeting. Main issues in 2023 included:

- How can our worshipping space be adapted to best serve our needs
- Continued exploration into a partnership with the Chapel Gym and Hope into Action to provide a home for those in need

#### **3.2 Standing Committee**

The Standing Committee can meet when necessary to present to PCC various matters which need its attention. The Standing Committee comprises of the churchwardens, vice chair, treasurer, and the rector. During 2023 the Standing Committee met twice with specific issues including a discussion of the finances and the redecoration and refitting of the Church Hall.

### **4. Parish Life and Ministry**

We thank God for his goodness and faithfulness to us as a church family throughout 2023. We gave our sad farewells to Rob Wood (our ordinand) who moved to Brackley to start his curacy. Simultaneously, we welcomed Joe Griffiths and his family to our team of clergy as he began his curacy here in Corby and Gretton.

We thank God for those at St John's who lead worship and provide consistent Bible teaching on Sundays for both children and adults. Likewise, to see an increasing number of people joining Thrive groups during the week is a real encouragement. We're grateful for those who lead and host these groups.

The number of funerals continued to be high throughout 2023, and we conducted a significant number of weddings.

Good **safeguarding** is of vital importance at St John's as we ensure that our church community is a safe place for all and especially for children and vulnerable adults. All church members have a responsibility to keep one other safe and our Parish Safeguarding Officer (Cathy Mason) encourages all who are involved with the life of St John's to complete an online course to increase basic awareness (<https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org> - speak to Cathy for more information). All safeguarding concerns have been dealt with according to our Safer Church Policy. DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checks and safeguarding training are renewed every three years for those who work with children and vulnerable adults in church. The PCC has complied with their duty to have due regard to the Bishop's guidance in relation to safeguarding.

With a significant historic **building**, extensive hall, and large grounds, maintaining the fabric of St John's requires much work from many volunteers. In particular we note the tremendous work of Dave Norman who undertakes many of our maintenance duties and carries out the majority of our repairs. We have redecorated and refurnished the Church Hall which gives us a fresher environment for our many church activities and helps us secure more external bookings. Towards the end of the year we redecorated the nave of the church and also managed to release the clerestory windows which greatly improves ventilation thus preventing damp. Further significant maintenance work included the removal of vegetation and repointing on the porch roof.

In 2023 our designated church architect completed his Quinquennial Inspection. We were commended on the good upkeep of the church and the issues requiring immediate attention have been given proper attention. Fundraising for the south aisle roof has continued.

Children and families work is both busy and thriving. **Sparkle Tots** is continuing to run two sessions back to back which keeps the numbers lower per session and helps us ensure those who come feel welcomed and valued. Two families have received help for getting support for their children with additional needs. We're thankful for a dedicated team of volunteers. **Ignite** has been utilising an online resource 'Trueway Kids'. Numbers of children fluctuate but we have a steady core of children who come regularly. Our team of volunteers are essential for the spiritual growth of our children.

Sam and Paul regularly conduct school assemblies in both Corby Old Village Primary School and Exeter Primary School.

St John's is a parish church and its Rector has a spiritual responsibility for all in the parish. Consequently we stress the importance of engaging well with our community. This takes place in many different ways including the **Chapel Gym** which seeks to provide a place 'where change happens' for our members, recognising that the change could be physical, mental, but praying that it will ultimately be spiritual. On a practical level, the gym has restructured its staffing in order to improve our effectiveness. We provided an inclusion project with young people at risk of exclusion from Kingswood Academy. With the leadership of a wonderful team of volunteers we completed 72 hours of non-stop prayer in the chapel of the gym. This has proven to be a catalyst for the flourishing of many aspects of gym life. James Liddell (a qualified PT) led a three day retreat for clients of Substance to Solutions. With mixture of fitness, mentoring, and motivational talks, participants spoke

about real improvement in their wellbeing. By the end of the year we saw a significant increase in gym members coming to church.

Our **Craft Club** continues to grow in numbers and new friendships are continually being made. On average there are 15 people who come every Tuesday evening to talk, do various crafts, and enjoy tea and biscuits. A successful Christmas Craft Fair was held along with a quiz evening in a local pub, fish and chips evening, carol service, and Christmas party. Similarly **Fishing with Faith** has been an important way to engage with all ages throughout the summer months.

**1st Corby Scout Group** are based at St John's and are valued part of the wider church community. 2023 was another successful year finishing the year with 60 young people across the 3 sections.

Beavers had a fun year, doing their international badge, growing sunflowers, building bridges and racing rubber ducks. All that fun resulted in 167 badges being awarded in 2023. 6 of which were the Chief Scout Bronze awards – the highest award the Beaver section can gain. The Colony are helped by 2 young leaders, who worked their way through the sections at 1<sup>st</sup> Corby.



Cubs have equally had a busy year. They have built shelters, gone on hikes, did their DIY badge by making bird boxes and even had a game of football golf. The Cubs were lucky to go to the County Cub Camp in June at Boughton House with Cubs from all over Northamptonshire. It was the hottest weekend of the year so ice lollies were a must! 235 badges were awarded last year, which included 6 Silver Chief Scout awards. They also have a young leader who was a Cub and Scout at our group.

The Scout section have had a great year – they've conducted science experiments, growing crystals and making ublex. They've also been hiking, kayaking, and orienteering. Making homemade burgers over an open fire for their chef badge as well as learning survival skills. They've had amazing camps this year also. 187 badges were awarded, 4 of which were the Chief Scout Gold. Our young leader who has also been with the group since being a beaver, proudly attended the World Scout Jamboree in South Korea - an amazing experience for any Scout.

We are lucky to have such amazing leaders at 1<sup>st</sup> Corby. Highlights of the year for the leaders include the pantomime, a fun night in the summer at East Carlton and for our Christmas treat we all went to Cadbury World. Each year the Cubs and Scouts go away for their week summer camp. Last year we stayed in Essex, spending a day at the seaside, a day in London and a fun day at a water park.

We also had our parade for St Georges Day at Wicksteed park, Remembrance sleepover - then in the morning we are smart and ready for the parade.

We thank St Johns Church and all those involved for their help and support as our sponsor. We really are grateful for all you do to help us financially also. (Lee Richardson - Group Scout Leader)

Traditionally calling people to worship has been the task of bellringing and our team has strengthened throughout this year. The bells were run for the Coronation of the King as is tradition. Fundraising continued for some much needed maintenance work.

In 2023 St John's launched a Youth Thrive group for those at secondary school. Between 5 and 10 young people meet every week to explore the Bible and support one another in their journey of faith. Similarly the first women's breakfast was held and appreciated by all who came.

The Church of England is struggling nationally with declining attendance and increasing disunity (specifically with the introductions of Prayers of Love and Faith in 2023). At St John's we are incredibly grateful to the Lord for the unity and growth within our local church. Ultimately we know that God gives the growth (1 Corinthians 3v6), but he also uses ordinary people like us. We are so thankful for all who give their time, energy, talents, and finances as we build God's Kingdom together in Corby.

Paul Frost (Rector), Lynn Hay and Daniel Eastwood (Church Wardens)

## **5. Deanery Synod**

In 2023 there were two formal meetings of Deanery Synod in July and October. The first meeting discussed the importance of children and young people in church life with talks from the Diocesan Gen2 team. Later in the year Archdeacon Alison Booker spoke and tis was followed by an opportunity to ask questions. In 2023 Ian Pullinger (vicar of St Columba, Corby) stepped down as Rural Dean of Corby and was replaced by Kane Taylor (vicar of St Mary's, Weldon).

## **6. Structure, governance and management**

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representative Rules. At St John's the membership of the PCC consists of the Rector, churchwardens, licensed lay ministers, and those elected by those members who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who are part of our congregation, and eligible, are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. New members receive initial guidance in the working of the PCC.

The PCC met six times during the year.

## **7. Financial Review**

### **7.1 Financial Activity and Financial Position**

The PCC's main source of funding has traditionally been the offerings of church members. The adoption of the Parish Giving Scheme (launched within the diocese) has assisted us in promoting regular giving via direct debit. The growth of this method of giving is essential for our financial sustainability.

## **8. Responsibilities of Trustees for the Financial Statements**

The PCC is responsible for preparing the Annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accepted Accounting Practice.

In preparing those financial statements, the PCC is required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the church will continue to operate.
- The PCC is responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enables them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the Church Accounting Regulations 2006. The PCC is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other regularities.

## **9. Approval**

The report of the PCC was approved by the PCC on 24 April 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

The Revd Paul Frost, Chairman

A handwritten signature in brown ink, appearing to read 'P Frost', is positioned to the right of the printed name.



**End of Year Financial Statements**  
1st January - 31st December 2023

**Receipts and Payments Account**

	Total funds	Prior year funds
<b>BAND - BAND FUND (Designated)</b>		
<b>Income and endowments</b>		
Donations and legacies		
0550 - Donations	0.00	30.00
<i>Total Donations and legacies</i>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>30.00</u>
Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure	0.00	30.00
Brought forward balance	30.00	0.00
<b>Carried forward balance</b>	<u><b>30.00</b></u>	<u><b>30.00</b></u>
<b>Bell - Bell Fund (Restricted)</b>		
<b>Income and endowments</b>		
Donations and legacies		
0550 - Donations	130.00	82.00
<i>Total Donations and legacies</i>	<u>130.00</u>	<u>82.00</u>
Income from charitable activities		
1101 - Fees for weddings and funerals	30.00	(136.00)
<i>Total Income from charitable activities</i>	<u>30.00</u>	<u>(136.00)</u>
Investments		
1020 - Bank and building society interest	105.49	18.85
<i>Total Investments</i>	<u>105.49</u>	<u>18.85</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Expenditure on charitable activities		
2330 - Church maintenance	70.00	0.00
2335 - Church running expenses	0.00	13.50
<i>Total Expenditure on charitable activities</i>	<u>70.00</u>	<u>13.50</u>
Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure	195.49	(48.65)
Brought forward balance	8,560.74	8,549.39
Transfers to/(from)	30.00	60.00
<b>Carried forward balance</b>	<u><b>8,786.23</b></u>	<u><b>8,560.74</b></u>

**CRAFT - CRAFT CLUB (Designated)****Income and endowments**

## Donations and legacies

0550 - Donations

	1,025.55	750.00
<i>Total Donations and legacies</i>	<u>1,025.55</u>	<u>750.00</u>

Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure

1,025.55 750.00

Brought forward balance

750.00 0.00

<b>Carried forward balance</b>	<b>1,775.55</b>	<b>750.00</b>
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**Children - Childrens Work (Restricted)****Income and endowments**

## Donations and legacies

0550 - Donations

	6,000.00	5,040.00
<i>Total Donations and legacies</i>	<u>6,000.00</u>	<u>5,040.00</u>

## Investments

1020 - Bank and building society interest

	39.16	6.51
<i>Total Investments</i>	<u>39.16</u>	<u>6.51</u>

**Expenditure**

## Expenditure on charitable activities

2000 - Staff Salaries

	7,335.21	4,129.22
<i>Total Expenditure on charitable activities</i>	<u>7,335.21</u>	<u>4,129.22</u>

Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure

(1,296.05) 917.29

Brought forward balance

3,444.69 2,527.40

Transfers to/(from)

2,298.22 0.00

<b>Carried forward balance</b>	<b>4,446.86</b>	<b>3,444.69</b>
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**LUNCH - LUNCH CLUB (Restricted)****Income and endowments**

## Donations and legacies

0550 - Donations

	42.60	150.00
<i>Total Donations and legacies</i>	<u>42.60</u>	<u>150.00</u>

Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure

42.60 150.00

Brought forward balance

150.00 0.00

<b>Carried forward balance</b>	<b>192.60</b>	<b>150.00</b>
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**Mission - Mission Fund (Restricted)****Expenditure**Expenditure on charitable activities  
1801 - Mission Giving

	0.00	844.00
<i>Total Expenditure on charitable activities</i>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>844.00</u>

Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure

0.00 (844.00)

Brought forward balance

0.00 844.00

<b>Carried forward balance</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
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**SPARKLE - SPARKLE TOTS (Designated)****Income and endowments**Donations and legacies  
0550 - Donations

	763.55	975.40
<i>Total Donations and legacies</i>	<u>763.55</u>	<u>975.40</u>

**Expenditure**

Expenditure on charitable activities

2338 - SPARKLE TOTS EXPENSES

	338.84	409.92
<i>Total Expenditure on charitable activities</i>	<u>338.84</u>	<u>409.92</u>

Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure

424.71 565.48

Brought forward balance

565.48 0.00

<b>Carried forward balance</b>	<b>990.19</b>	<b>565.48</b>
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# **General - General fund (Unrestricted)**

## **Income and endowments**

### Donations and legacies

0101 - Planned Giving	27,556.52	47,381.15
0201 - Other planned giving	15,660.00	1,805.00
0301 - Loose plate collections	4,592.07	4,170.59
0550 - Donations	1,989.78	5,573.41
0601 - Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	4,351.28	5,207.70
0801 - Grants	0.00	755.00
<b>Total Donations and legacies</b>	<b>54,149.65</b>	<b>64,892.85</b>

### Income from charitable activities

1101 - Fees for weddings and funerals	3,869.80	4,150.00
1230 - Church hall lettings	8,581.25	7,157.50
<b>Total Income from charitable activities</b>	<b>12,451.05</b>	<b>11,307.50</b>

### Other trading activities

0910 - Fundraising	1,370.16	1,195.87
<b>Total Other trading activities</b>	<b>1,370.16</b>	<b>1,195.87</b>

### Investments

1020 - Bank and building society interest	141.45	24.00
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>141.45</b>	<b>24.00</b>

### Other income

1235 - Contribution to admin from Gretton	1,650.00	1,380.00
<b>Total Other income</b>	<b>1,650.00</b>	<b>1,380.00</b>

## **Expenditure**

### Raising funds

1730 - Costs of fundraising	170.00	0.00
<b>Total Raising funds</b>	<b>170.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>

### Expenditure on charitable activities

1801 - Mission Giving	8,103.80	3,339.00
1910 - Parish share	32,000.00	32,000.00
2000 - Staff Salaries	7,587.92	7,906.95
2001 - Staff expenses	1,170.65	773.35
2101 - Clergy expenses	820.87	2,482.27
2201 - Mission and Evangelism costs	509.52	542.51
2301 - Church running - insurance	2,609.39	2,269.96
2320 - Organ / piano tuning	242.70	228.96
2330 - Church maintenance	2,825.17	7,369.29
2335 - Church running expenses	2,835.06	1,797.61
2340 - Upkeep of services	482.05	16,037.29
2350 - Upkeep of churchyard	0.00	8.31
2401 - Church running - electric	859.77	358.89
2410 - Church running - gas	1,306.00	1,510.00
2530 - Hall running - electricity	1,799.34	1,347.88
2550 - Hall running - insurance	1,136.64	1,073.53
2560 - Hall running - maintenance	493.79	0.00
2580 - Hall running - water	451.95	465.97
2701 - Church major repairs	1,500.00	0.00
2801 - Hall major repairs	4,102.54	0.00
<b>Total Expenditure on charitable activities</b>	<b>70,837.16</b>	<b>79,511.77</b>

Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure

(1,244.85) (711.55)

Brought forward balance

48,012.65 48,784.20

Transfers to/(from)

(2,328.22) (60.00)

**Carried forward balance**

**44,439.58 48,012.65**

# Statement of assets and liabilities

	This year	Last year
<b>Cash at bank and in hand</b>		
<b>Nat West Bank current account</b>		
BAND FUND (Designated) -	30.00	30.00
Bell Fund (Restricted) -	(106.00)	(136.00)
CRAFT CLUB (Designated) -	1,775.55	750.00
Childrens Work (Restricted) -	4,185.89	1,887.67
LUNCH CLUB (Restricted) -	192.60	150.00
SPARKLE TOTS (Designated) -	990.19	565.48
General fund (Unrestricted) -	28,858.97	33,642.14
Agency collection (Restricted) -	(3,562.90)	(3,807.71)
	<b>32,364.30</b>	<b>33,081.58</b>
<b>Nat West Bank Reserve 1 46756469 Childre</b>		
Childrens Work (Restricted) -	260.97	1,557.02
	<b>260.97</b>	<b>1,557.02</b>
<b>Nat West Bank Reserve 2 46722432 BELL FU</b>		
Bell Fund (Restricted) -	8,892.23	8,696.74
	<b>8,892.23</b>	<b>8,696.74</b>
<b>Nat West Bank Reserve 46756477 general f</b>		
General fund (Unrestricted) -	12,180.14	10,970.04
	<b>12,180.14</b>	<b>10,970.04</b>
<b>Lloyds Current account</b>		
General fund (Unrestricted) -	3,400.47	3,400.47
	<b>3,400.47</b>	<b>3,400.47</b>
<b>Total for Cash at bank and in hand</b>	<b>57,098.11</b>	<b>57,705.85</b>
<b>Agency accounts</b>		
<b>Agency collections</b>		
Agency collection (Restricted) -	612.90	857.71
<b>Total for Agency accounts</b>	<b>612.90</b>	<b>857.71</b>
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>57,711.01</b>	<b>58,563.56</b>



## **Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of St Johns Church, Corby**

I report on the accounts of the church for the year ended 31/12/2023.

### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The church's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The church's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

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

### **Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

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

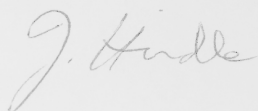
1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have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



Paul Adams  
19 Wymington Park  
Rushden  
Northants  
NN10 9JP

12/2/2024

Also Independently examined by John Hindle (appointed Independent Examiner)



April 2023