

St John's Church, Flixton

Correspondence address: St John's church & hall, Irlam Road, Flixton, Manchester M41 6AP

Registered charity no. 1180125

Annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

Priest in Charge: Debra Blair

Bank: The Royal Bank of Scotland, 9 Crofts Bank Road, Urmston, Manchester, M41 0TZ.

Independent Examiner: Mr John Holdsworth

The Parochial Church Council of St. John's Church, Flixton, (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the priest in charge in promoting within the parish the mission of the Church of England.

Membership

The PCC is a registered charity, no. 1180125. Members are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

Neil Barnes, churchwarden

Carol Cosham, churchwarden and deanery synod representative

Pat Beale, reader emeritus

Joyce Gardner, reader emeritus

Irene Pennington, deanery synod representative

The Rev Rodney Green, OLM, associate minister

The Rev Nick Watson

Elected members up to APCM 2024: Matt Thorne, Andrea Lester, Gill Hampson, Robert Beale, Graham Dey, Geoff Andreassen, Angela Easdon, Jan Smith and Eileen Kelly. Michelle Byrne and Stuart Johnson were co-opted.

Elected members from APCM 2024:

Gill Hampson, Robert Beale, Stuart Johnson, Geoff Andreassen, Angela Easdon, Jan Smith, Carol Hatton, Dian Mc Clennan and Brian Kay. Andrea Lester was co-opted and appointed Safeguarding Officer from 23.4.24.

The Vice-Chairman was Carol Cosham.

The Treasurer was Gill Hampson.

The Secretary was Angela Easdon.

The PCC has complied with the duty under Section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016.

The PCC has had regard to the Charity Commission's published guidance on public benefit.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, using the Receipts and Payments method.

<u>St Johns Financial Statement</u>		Code	Unrestricted General Fund	Mission & Ministry Fund	Total funds 2024	Total funds 2023
			£	£	£	£
<u>Receipts</u>						
Tax efficient planned giving	1, 101, 201		20986.00	9170.00	30156.00	32018.00
Other planned giving	2, 102, 202		4586.00	0.00	4586.00	4250.00
Cash collections at services	3, 103, 203		8121.67	0.00	8121.67	7414.84
Recurring donations or gift days	4, 104, 204		210.90	0.00	210.90	730.16
Non-recurring donations	5, 105, 205		0.00	0.00	0.00	992.00
Tax recovered	6, 106, 206		6989.95	2145.00	9134.95	17565.03
<u>Total Direct Giving</u>			40894.52	11315.00	52209.52	62970.03
<u>Other Income</u>						
Grants received	8, 208		0.00	0.00	0.00	13359.00
Interest from bank - current a/c	10		918.37	0.00	918.37	712.58
Interest from bank - deposit a/c	10		17.91	0.00	17.91	2.08
Interest from bank - CCLA a/c	10		2815.00	0.00	2815.00	1646.81
PCC fees	11		727.00	0.00	727.00	257.00
Income from trading - Hall rents	12		28456.00	0.00	28456.00	22422.00
Income from trading - Book Unit	12		407.77	0.00	407.77	309.91
Other income	13		100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00
<u>Total Receipts</u>			74336.57	11315.00	85651.57	101679.41
<u>Payments</u>						
Tithes & donations	18		6497.00	0.00	6497.00	5602.00
Parish Share	19		27867.70	0.00	27867.70	27825.60
Clergy expenses	21		114.90	0.00	114.90	209.08
Printing & mission expenses	22		1866.06	0.00	1866.06	785.81
Church running expenses	23		19348.80	0.00	19348.80	11381.91
Utility Bills (church & hall)	24		6446.07	0.00	6446.07	4699.89
Cost of trading church hall	25		13198.00	0.00	13198.00	2056.40
Cost of trading Book Unit	25		227.94	0.00	227.94	194.72
Governance costs	26		250.00	0.00	250.00	200.00
Major repairs to church	27		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other major repairs	28		11376.00	0.00	11376.00	34627.20
<u>Total Payments</u>			87192.47	0.00	87192.47	87582.61
Surplus/deficit			-12855.90	11315.00	-1540.90	14096.80

Note: Church and hall expenses and utility bills are bound up with each other because of shared items (insurance, cleaning, gas, electricity, water, fire extinguisher servicing, PAT testing, etc), but if hall expenses were to be stated separately we estimate that £4,378 would be added in 2023 to Hall Costs of Trading and subtracted from Utility Bills, and a further £5,033 would be added to Hall Costs of Trading and subtracted from Church Running Expenses.

Note: The Mission and Ministry Fund was set up by the PCC on 5th October 2021 with the object of 'contributing to the ministry and mission of the Church of England in the parish of Flixton St John and elsewhere, as decided by the Parochial Church Council members of St John's Church Flixton, the trustees of Registered Charity no. 1180125'.

Note: transactions by PCC as agent (It is the custom of the PCC to charge for the services of some organists and vergers at funerals and weddings, and to pass these fees in full on to the individual providing the service. In these cases, and in respect of diocesan fees charged for funerals, weddings, and interment of ashes, the PCC is acting as agent)

<u>Receipts</u>					
Fees to Diocese received			1632.00	0.00	1632.00
Scargill church weekend fees received	999		985.00	0.00	985.00
<u>Payments</u>					
Fees to Diocese forwarded			1773.00	0.00	1773.00
Scargill weekend fees forwarded	999		367.88	0.00	367.88
Inclusive total receipts			76953.57	11315.00	88268.57
Inclusive total payments			89333.35	0.00	89333.35
Inclusive surplus/deficit			-12379.78	11315.00	-1064.78

Sponsorship Fund (restricted) 2024

Note: The Sponsorship Fund was created by the PCC so that members of the church could make specific donations in support of children overseas and contributions are made from it to "Compassion" or other charities.

	2024	2023
Receipts		
Standing Orders	732.00	737.00
Gift Aid Reclaim	91.50	338.50
Donation	20.00	
Interest	14.08	8.52
Total receipts	<u>857.58</u>	<u>1084.02</u>
Payments		
Compassion Sponsorship	928.00	761.00
Other	0.00	0.00
Total payments	<u>928.00</u>	<u>761.00</u>
Surplus/deficit	-70.42	323.02
Balance as at 1st Jan	1040.63	717.61
Balance as at 31st Dec	970.21	1040.63

NOTE: Book Unit bank account 2024

2023

	£	£
Receipts		
Income from sales	407.77	282.73
Donations	0.00	27.18
Total Receipts	<u>407.77</u>	<u>309.91</u>
Payments		
Maranatha	227.94	194.72
Total payments	<u>227.94</u>	<u>194.72</u>
Surplus/deficit	179.83	115.19
Cash In hand & current account 1st Jan	1598.06	1482.87
Cash in Hand 31 Dec	342.90	128.13
Current account 31st Dec	<u>1434.99</u>	<u>1469.93</u>
Total at 31 Dec	<u>1777.89</u>	<u>1598.06</u>
Value of stock at year end	50.00	100.00

St John's Church, Flixton. Statement of assets and liabilities as at 31 December 2024

Statement of assets and liabilities as at 31 December 2024						2024	2023
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS		Current	High Interest	CCLA	Book Unit	Totals	Totals
Assets	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Bank accounts total	6278	4452	55845	1435	68010	80514	
Cash in Hand	0	0	0	343	343	128	
Stock				50	50	100	
TOTAL	6278	4452	55845	1828	68403	80742	
Liabilities							
Cash held as agent (Scargill)	617				617	0	
Gift Aid due to Sponsorship a/c	92				92	0	
TOTAL	709				709	0	
Net Assets	5570	4452	55845	1828	67695	80742	
RESTRICTED FUNDS		M&M Fund	Hall repairs fund		Sponsorship	Totals	£
Assets							
Bank Account	37506		0		970	38476	27232
Debtors	0		0		92	92	0
TOTAL	37506		0		1062	38568	27232
Liabilities							
Creditors	0		0		0	0	0
TOTAL	0		0		0	0	0
Net Assets	37506		0		1062	38568	27232
TOTAL FUNDS		43076	0	4452	55845	1828	106262
Net Assets							107974

Reserves: The PCC's policy is to maintain General Fund total unrestricted balances (less funds held against future liabilities) of at least three months' running costs and at most two years' running costs

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PCC OF ST. JOHN'S FLIXTON

I report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2024, which are set out on pages to .

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PCC AND THE EXAMINER

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that an audit is not required for this year under the Regulation and under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to issue this report on;

- those financial statements under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

This report, including my statement, has been prepared for and only for the charity's trustee as a body. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustee those matters I am required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustee as a body for my examination work, for this report, or for the statements I have made.

BASIS OF THIS 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 PCC and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements 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 financial statements 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:

- 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 financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 and have not been met; or
 - to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

• SIGNED

John T. Holdsworth *B.A. CEd,*

Date

6/3/2025

John Thomas Holdsworth BA, C Ed.

15 Lynmouth Avenue, Flixton, M41 6FB

Review of the year 2024

The PCC has made donations of £100 each, based on our Christmas collections at the Crib and Carol services, to Francis House, the local children's hospice which cares for and supports families of children with life shortening illnesses, and also to the Gaza Crisis Appeal of the charity, Embrace the Middle East (formerly the Bible Lands Society, publishers of the Bethlehem carol sheet and for many years active in the Holy Land).

Joint services of Holy Communion have been held each Thursday morning with our friends from St. Michael's alternating between the two churches. A group of approximately 12 attend and some of these go to Taste and See for coffee and cake and a chat after the service.

Monday evening prayers in the side chapel have continued throughout the year, led by Sue Thatcher.

The Ambassadors football club finished in March. They tried through many different avenues to recruit help, but no one volunteered. They had 28 children who came and enjoyed it. Our thanks went to Matt Thorne and Graham Dey for all their commitment and hard work over the past 2 years. They made it a great success. They received many messages saying thank you and expressing sadness that it was to stop.

House groups have met regularly throughout the year run by Revd Rodney Green, Revd Graham Smallman and Revd Debra Blair, all groups have studied the book of Jonah.

A series of reflections and prayers entitled "At Home in Lent" was held on three Thursdays in March.

Ecumenical Lent studies were held on Tuesday afternoons in March at the John Henry Newman parish centre (formerly Our Lady of the Rosary church) at the Nag's Head roundabout. Each afternoon began with drinks and cake, then one of our local ministers led a session with worship. Reverend Debra led a session.

During lent our Area Dean, Rev Nick Watson, ran an online Lent meditation and reflection on Thursdays at 7.30pm.

There were services at St. Michaels and St. John's for us to attend during Easter. We celebrated Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday at 10.30am at St. John's, and in the evening, there was a special liturgy with washing of feet at St. Michael's.

On Good Friday there was a Walk of Witness which started at St. John's, moving via The Ark on Ambleside Road and ending with "An Hour at The Cross" at St.

Michael's. A Meditation for Good Friday was held in the evening at St. John's.

On Easter Sunday we held our Family Communion service in church. During the service the children enjoyed an Easter egg hunt in the hall and field, prepared by Rev. Debra.

Three special needs classes from Acrehall have visited Rev. Debra in church. They played with the knitted last supper and watched the Easter video that was used at Messy church. They had a great time and have asked if they can bring their reception class over to visit.

We held an Easter and Christmas Messy church. These were well supported and great fun and enjoyed by all who attended.

On Ascension Day we joined with others from our Mission Community for a united service at St Mary's Davyhulme. Members from St John's joined the community choir for this service.

Our Spring Church work morning was held on the 11th May. A second workday was held on the 21st September, much work was completed.

The old church bell from the chimney of the church hall was taken down a few years ago and kept in the vestry. It was cast in 1785 in Hoorn in Holland, but how it got to Flixton is unknown. Local history experts tell us it was used at Flixton House 100 years ago to summon workers to their duties, and donated to St John's in 1953 by Urmston Urban District Council. Rev. Debra asked the congregation what should be done with it. As a result, it was cleaned, polished and placed on a movable platform by Ivan Easdon. Sunday 12th May was designated "Bell Sunday" – a day to celebrate the use of bells in worship and for calling people to worship. The all-age handbell ringing team rang at this service and our very own Big Bell was on display in church. Rev. Nick preached at this service. Bella the bell, as it has become known has since been rung at the start of many of our services.

Rev. Debra, Neil Barnes and Carol Cosham attended the Archdeacons' visitation service at St Werburgh's. The next service was at St Clements and was open to all. Some members from our church sang in the choir.

Martin Mac Donald was confirmed by Bishop Mark Davis on Sunday 16th June at St Mary's. St John's gave him a painted candle (painted by Bev from St. Michaels) which Martin used during his confirmation service. Members from St John's congregation went along to support him.

Elaine and John renewed their wedding vows on Wednesday 12th June.

We held a community Fun Day on the 6th July with help from Flixton Fellowship. There were outside games, a penalty shootout, crafts for the children, refreshments and Radio wishing well and the Daydreamers helped to entertain us all. We had approximately 200 people through the doors, it was a free event and enjoyed by all who came.

Joan Stott has continued to run our book unit after the Sunday service.

We held our Annual Parochial Church meeting on the 14th April 2024. JC squad has continued to meet with 2 to 8 children meeting together. They have continued coming back into church at the end of a service to tell the congregation what they have been doing. They have produced many posters that have been displayed in church. They have also read in the All-age services and at our Carol service. They had a trip to Dino golf at the start of September. Entrance fees for the children were kindly paid for by church. The children enjoyed spending time doing this fun activity together, it was good to see the older children looking after the little ones.

The All-age team have continued to produce thought provoking and inter-active monthly services for all ages of our congregation to be involved in.

Mission Community have continued to hold regular prayer gatherings. The last Commission prayer gathering was held at St John's in July. These meetings have ended as attendance has been poor.

Jan Smith has started work on a new wall hanging for church, a sampler is on view in church. It has already been well received; we look forwards to seeing the finished work of art.

We held our Harvest festival on the 6th October, donations of food were again taken to the Booth centre, Manchester.

Rev. Mary Hough and Rev. Debra ran a Bereavement matters course called Grave talk, on Saturday 5th October at St. John's. This time Daniel Mellor was the funeral director involved.

Pat Beale, Elisabeth Green, and Angela Easdon attended a wiggle worship training session ran by the Diocese. We have since bought the bibles used for this and have bought a selection of puppets to use in children's services. Rev. Debra attended a wiggle worship at Manchester Cathedral. Rev. Debra has been visiting St. John's preschool on a regular basis. The pre-school children have continued to come into church for an inter-active story time with Rev. Debra and Angela Easdon. Rev. Debra has now used the wiggle worship structure to format these sessions. Approximately 20 children and 4 adults have attended. The stories covered this year have been the Easter story, David and Goliath, Noah's Ark, Jonah and the whale, the story of the lost sheep, Jesus calming the storm, and the Nativity story. These were all videoed and shared with parents. For our crib service this year, Rev. Debra wrote "It was the night before Christmas" to tell the Christmas story in song and rhyme. The children attending dressed up as characters from the nativity and brought the knitted characters up to the stable. Jan Smith made 2 beautiful felt camels and a felt donkey to use at this service.

A service was held on the 24th November to inter the ashes of the Rev. Fred Cooke, who was a minister at St John's. Helen Cooke, Fred's wife was really pleased with how Fred was remembered and with the number of people who attended the service. A bench is being bought for the Garden of Remembrance in his memory.

Monthly morning services were again held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at DeBrook Lodge. There were around 9 to 15 residents who join us for this act of worship. At Christmas we held a carol service for them at which a combined St Clements and St John's handbell ringers rang their bells. It was an enjoyable event, the residents, staff and visitors all joined in.

We collected 29 shoeboxes again for Samaritan's Purse shoebox appeal, members of the congregation also donated to the on-line appeal.

The three house group leaders hosted an Advent evening called "Do not be afraid", it was based on a book by Archdeacon Rachel Mann which explores the theme of waiting. There were Bible readings, reflection, prayers, discussion and music.

On the 19th Dec. some of our members went to the Toy house to sing Christmas carols with Rev. Nick on guitar. There were 8 carol services held at St John's church, Acrehall and Wellacre schools came in. Our united Carol service was held

on the 17th Dec with members from St John's and Flixton Fellowship singing in the choir. The hand bells rang at this service.

The church council (PCC) decided on the allocation of the £6,297 to give to Christian charities, based on one tenth of all we were given in 2023. Recipients this year were

1. Hope Into Action, which helps the homeless in the UK by stimulating finance, at the same time putting those who come off the streets in touch with a local Christian church.
2. Open Doors, which supports persecuted Christians.
3. Sarah and Rickie Dodzweit in Uganda.
4. This was shared by The Toy House in Irlam Road, Manchester Samaritans, and the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen.

We held a very joyful funeral for Joan Anderson on the 25th October, a selection of Abba songs loved by Joan were played at this special service. We also celebrated the life of Esme Warrender with her family and friends on the 4th December. Esme died on the 2nd November at the age of 97 after a full and prayerful life, she will be missed by many.

It has been another very busy and productive year, and we thank God for the fellowship at St John's. We thank God for all the faithful people who work so hard to serve our Lord in this church and in our community.