

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST JAMES FLETCHAMSTEAD COVENTRY

England & Wales · Charity number 1180328

Details

Other names ST JAMES FLETCHAMSTEAD PCC, COVENTRY

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 2018-10-16

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

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Activities

Objects: PROMOTING IN THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH THE WHOLE MISSION OF THE CHURCH.

Activities: Religious

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Overseas Aid/famine Relief, Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Coventry City

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£180,907	£176,531	-	-
2023-12-31	£112,964	£127,736	-	-
2022-12-31	£120,678	£109,856	-	-
2021-12-31	£115,645	£100,704	-	-
2020-12-31	£123,850	£114,449	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
TIMOTHY HUGH POLLARD	Chair	2019-04-14
Desmond Stuart French		2020-10-04
Dr David Howard Cuttler		2021-04-19
Dr Trecia Anne Davidson		2021-04-19
HELEN DENISE KEARNEY		2019-04-14
Marlene Mary Pearson		2023-04-15
Rebecca Chandler		2025-07-30
Rev Mohammad Eghtadarian		2024-10-30
Sally Noon		2025-03-30

Accounts

ANNUAL REPORT

The Bridge Coventry &
St James Fletchamstead



2024

This is the annual report of both The Joint Council of The Bridge Benefice, Coventry and The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St James Fletchamstead Coventry. Although this is a shared report, where required there are two reports for, one for each of the benefices.

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VICAR'S LETTER

The night that summer became autumn in 2023, the season changed.
It seemed that was what the Father was saying, to me and to others.

During that night the wall came down between our vicarage and St John's graveyard.
The tree that had been growing there for many years finally moved the wall out of its way.

The season changed as it does every three months, but the spiritual season changed in a big way.

Sharing the good news to my generation has always been hard, Gen X is still a vastly atheist generation. Gen Y isn't far behind, but the young adults (Gen Z) and children (Gen Alpha) now coming up are open to Jesus like we haven't seen in a while.

Old folks and young ones are open. One in three young adults will say yes to an invite to church. Young white men are walking into churches up and down the nation.

The church in the nation is growing. Something has shifted in the atmosphere.
The Lord is calling His church to collaborate, get close to Him and experience new life and many coming to faith.

Locally the season has changed for us as a church.
As I write in the warm spring of 2025, I remember 2024.
Lots of change, lots of growth, lots of things coming together.

A year where we started to live in financial strength, if not abundance, where we saw people come to faith, new initiatives start and a huge uptick in the numbers of people outside church engaging with us.

In memory 2024 will be the year when Hope Springs and St James came in, it will also be the last full year I live, work and love here.

We didn't know that was even a likelihood until mid December.
The role we were given in 2015 was to build a foundation for something that could multiply.
To take the fabulous church that we were called into and make it ready to multiply and grow fast.
Ready for a move of God.
To grasp the nettles and brambles, move the rocks and dig down.

In 2019 I felt like that foundation was almost done.

Then we had to dig in and overcome a once in a lifetime situation.

Many are starting to say the move of God is coming,
maybe it's already here.

We've restructured, rebuilt and reorganised.

God has brought a new team alongside those who've been here for the whole journey. It may not be the Hammond family privilege to get to build on the foundations with you. But 2024 felt like the last year of building those foundations together; Getting the right people on board, clearing the decks, counting the cost, overcoming.

I have faith in everyone here, even more so in our Glorious God and I'm full of Hope for the future of The Bridge.

David Hammond (Vicar of The Bridge Benefice and Priest-in-Charge of St James, Fletchamstead)

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORTS

St Stephen's Church

As Churchwardens, we give thanks to God for a year of growth, encouragement, and fresh vision at St Stephen's.

2024 marked a new chapter for our church family with the arrival of Rev. Erin Gilmour. Erin's leadership has brought renewed energy and a deep sense of hope to our community. We are particularly grateful for the way Erin has helped us focus on building an inclusive and vibrant church life, where every age and stage is welcomed and valued.

This year has seen exciting developments in our ministry among children and families. We are thrilled to see more children than adults joining us most Sundays, and we wholeheartedly support the work that has gone into making our worship truly intergenerational and accessible to all. The progress made in securing grant funding for building improvements is a significant achievement, and we look forward with anticipation to a transformed, welcoming space in 2025.

Our outreach to the wider Canley community has grown stronger, through deepened partnerships, particularly with Leigh CE Academy. The success of the Easter Trail and the recognition of St Stephen's as a Growing Faith Learning Hub are real signs of God's favour and of the strong foundations being laid for future ministry, especially among families of children with additional needs.

Initiatives such as "BREATHE Canley" and our involvement in community events like the Canley Parade and Big Lunch reflect our ongoing commitment to sharing God's love in practical and creative ways. Likewise, our collaboration with St James Fletchamstead for the Light Party was a wonderful example of churches working together in mission.

We want to express heartfelt thanks to every member of the St Stephen's family. Whether through hospitality, worship, children's activities, practical support, or prayer, each contribution has been vital to our shared life and witness.

Looking ahead, while challenges remain, we are filled with hope. We believe that 2025 will be a year of continued growth in faith, confidence, and outreach, as we seek to welcome more families and see God's Kingdom grow in Canley.

Tom and Katie

St John's Church

It's been a momentous year for St John's (in a good way!). Hope Springs church joined us informally to begin with, then more formally with everyone's agreement in September. We at St John's have benefited enormously from this merger, and I believe Hope Springs has too.

It brought us Steve and Susie Elton as the new St John's church leaders, and we are indebted to them for their supportive and encouraging Barnabas-style leadership. Events this year have included a Fireworks Party in the Garden of Hope (over 500 came and we nearly ran out of hot dogs), multiple Christmas events including a very popular Quiz Night, and more recently the Hot Cross Bun parties and the wonderful Easter Garden Adventure. Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make these events happen and be so successful.

We are grateful to the staff team, and to those who lead ministries, for their faithful and inspiring work this year: thank you, David, Caroline, Kathryn, Sarah, Jenni, Liz, Emily, Rachel, Anna, Beth, Stuart, Amy, Mark, and Trevor.

More people have signed up this year for ministries which serve our church on Sundays – hospitality, children's work, youth work, students, stewarding, welcoming, sound and vision desk, worship groups, Dwell. Thank you – the church couldn't run without you. And many more are serving now on our Outreach ministries like Garden of Hope, Westwood Lunch, Dandelions, Art and Craft group, Memory Café, the Football team, Refresh, and Alpha courses. Bless you, as you work hard to bless our friends and neighbours.

Future challenges include the renovation of the St John's building – re-tiling and insulating the roof, and re-ordering inside to make our church more user-friendly to our local community - but plans are being laid, and it feels like we are moving in a good direction.

Ben and Carolyn

St James Church

This year we had the pleasure of appointing Reverend Mohammad Eghtedarian as Associate Minister of our congregation and in September welcoming him and his family, wife Mariam and children Immanuel and Elise, to our fellowship.

Sadly, we also mourned the loss of our former Vicar Steve and his wife Kathy, who tragically were killed in an RTC while on holiday in Wales. Steve had been our Vicar for 19 years during which time we were greatly blessed by their ministry with us and had seen their children David, Jonathan and Sarah grow up and become strong believers with their own ministries. We grieve and pray for them and rejoice also that their parents and grandparents are now at home together with the Lord.

This year has been a very busy year again as we interviewed for an Associate Minister and carried the responsibilities of an interregnum and are grateful to our Priest in Charge, Reverend David Hammond and Archdeacon Barry for their help and support in appointing our Associate Minister Reverend Mohammad.

We also wish to thank all who helped during the interregnum with services including Reverend Kathryn Hammond who regularly conducted our Wednesday Communion Services, and Revd Don Alcock, Revd Clive Hicks and also Pastor Wicklife who was with us from Kenya and who preached at several services. There were many other interim speakers we had – including Rev Annie McCormick who helped us during both our Easter and Pentecost services (and helped me to experiment with the liturgy and service styles); and of course we were also very grateful to Bishop Ruth for Palm Sunday.

We also want to thank all the many leaders and helpers who have faithfully carried out many tasks and ministries and without which our church would not function.

From Tim: - On a personal note, this marks the end of my 6th year as Church Warden. It is customary to step down after 6 years, and so I plan to take a break. Serving as Church Warden has been a privilege, first with Steve, then during the interregnum, and now with Mohammad. I am grateful to my co-wardens, Marlene and then Des, and everyone who has served on PCC and in ministry.

Finally, I am reminded:

“Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?”.

I have found that passage from Isaiah 43 has been coming back to me again and again over these past months. I believe they are both for me and for St James wider. I do not yet ‘perceive’ what it means exactly – but I am starting to see.

I am excited to see where God will be leading us. May the next 6 years be full of his spirit in a new and deeper way. As someone said – may we go Deeper In and Further Out.

Tim and Des

THE BRIDGE JOINT COUNCIL REPORT

The Joint Council of The Bridge Benefice, Coventry

The Joint Council of the Bridge Benefice has met seven times throughout the year to oversee the governance, mission, and operations of the Benefice, comprising St John's, St Stephen's, and associated ministries.

Our meetings were consistently conducted in a spirit of collaboration and prayerful discernment. Standing Committee decisions were noted and ratified as appropriate. It is a registered charity, and its members are the charity's trustees. They are:

Clergy (ex-officio members)

- David Hammond, Vicar
- Erin Gilmour, Associate Minister
- Caroline Hammond, Curate

Lay Leaders (ex-officio member)

- Stephen Elton, St John's Lay Church Leader*

*awaiting charity commission to update to add details.

Elected members (Base, year of the APCM when their term ends)

- Michael Lane (Canley, 2026)
- Tom Hickinbottom (St Stephen's Churchwarden, 2027)
- Matt Jermyn (Canley, 2025)
- Abigail Baxter (Canley, 2027)
- Carolyn Howarth (St John's Churchwarden, 2026)
- Michelle Robinson (St John's, 2027)
- Jan Sayer (Burton Green, 2025)
- Jeff Smailes (St John's, 2026)
- Graham Thomas (St John's, 2025)
- Lydia Sampson (St John's, 2025 - Co-Opted from Hope Springs community)

Staffing and Ministry

This year there were significant staffing updates, including maternity and adoption cover, the appointment of new roles such as the SEND Outreach Worker and Young People's Discipleship Enabler, and developments in safeguarding leadership. Discussions took place on future staffing structures to support the growing demands across the three churches.

Finance

Throughout the year, finances were closely monitored. While income generally tracked close to budget expectations, concerns over deficits were a recurring theme. We felt called to trust God and he has been faithful in his provision this year. Providing us with the resources to extend our staff team as well as undertake new mission and ministries.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding remained a key focus, with regular updates, DBS compliance tracking, and policy reviews. Work on improving systems and communication around safeguarding procedures was prioritised.

Buildings and Fabric

Significant projects included preparations for major renovations at St John's, and improvements to accessibility such as handrail installations. Grant funding was sought for building projects which we hope to undertake at Stephen's in 2025.

Mission and Outreach

New initiatives included the Catalyst Student Ministry Project, a proposed new worshipping community in the Garden of Hope, and strengthened school partnerships through the Growing Faith initiative. Work with external organisations such as Hope into Action continued.

Challenges and Priorities

Key challenges included financial sustainability, succession planning for key volunteer roles (e.g., Treasurer, Secretary), and fostering a greater sense of belonging and engagement across congregations. The leadership emphasised prayerful dependence on God's provision and guidance for future growth and unity.

Future

With David's recent appointment to the position of Warden of Leigh Abbey we have begun the process of putting together a parish profile that will help us recruit a new leader for the Bridge, please continue to lift the whole church in your prayers as we move forward.

We thank God for the leadership and vision that David and Caroline have brought us through their time with us and we are excited for their next steps as a family at Leigh Abbey.

Tom Hickinbottom (Lay Chair of the Joint Council)

FLETCHAMSTEAD PCC REPORT

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST JAMES FLETCHAMSTEAD COVENTRY

Clergy: David Hammond (Priest in Charge since 2024);
Mohammad Eghtedarian (Associate Minister since September 2024)

Officers:

Tim Pollard (Warden since 2019)
Des French (Warden since 2022)
Des French (Secretary since 2020)
Dave Cuttler (Treasurer since 2022)

Members:

Until 2027: Marlene Pearson, Trecia Davidson, Sally Noon (since March 2025)
Until 2026: Helen Kearney; Arthur Street (left September 2024) vacancy.
Until 2025: Emmanuel Davidson; Sue Clayden (left March 2025); vacancy.

Other Roles:

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Sue Clayden (September 2023 to March 2025) Sally Noon
(From March 2025)
Electoral Roll Officer: Sue Clayden (2022 - March 2025)
Deanery Synod Reps: Tim Pollard; Sue Clayden (Till March 2025).

The PCC is constituted in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. Its business is to “work in cooperation with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church; pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical,” by working with the Vicar and the Associate Minister to ensure the smooth running of the church.

The PCC met 9 times since the 2024 AGM. Buildings, Finances and Safeguarding are set items. The main additional items on the agenda were the appointment of an Associate Minister, linking with the Bridge group of churches, Hall refurbishment, AV upgrade and church boiler replacement.

Our charitable giving in 2024 included: Core Charities: Coventry City Mission £500; Coventry Youth for Christ, £500; Gilead Health Development, £900; British and Foreign Bible Society, £500; HOPE Coventry. £500; Thrive, £500; Coventry Resource Centre for the Blind, £500; Lighthouse Trust, £500; Coventry Food Bank, £500; Christ Care Kuria Rescue Shelter (Kenya), £500.

Des French (PCC Secretary)

SAFEGUARDING REPORTS

The Bridge Coventry

Safeguarding continues to be a high priority for the Bridge keeping all parishioners, church members or anyone within our care safe. In light of the current contextual climate within the Church we are endeavouring to be beyond reproach in our transparency and conduct with safeguarding including safer recruitment.

During 2024 our team has evolved to include Susie Elton, our Bridge Safeguarding Officer, and Lydia Sampson , Assistant Safeguarding Officer. The team also continues to include Emily Newbury who is Safeguarding Champion for St Stephen's. We also give thanks to Rebecca Torpey for her time as Safeguarding Champion at St John's.

Safeguarding continues to be a key agenda item at the Joint Council and the leadership team have ensured that we are compliant with the Church of England's Promoting a Safer Church Policy.

We have recently purchased I know safeguarding- a website allowing us to keep better detailed safeguarding concerns and safety plans confidential and centralised. This allows us to connect with our website , use QR codes so as anyone at any point can refer to a safeguarding concern. This also allows us to produce detailed reports for JC, joint church meetings and also for the Diocese. This also shows us the trends and predominant issues arising and allows the team to attend bespoke training around such things.

Susie Lydia and David continue to have meetings with the Diocese to ensure we are continuing to be outstanding in our approach.

We are currently preparing training within the church for anyone who would Like to have a wider understanding of safeguarding and for volunteers to feel more confident in their role.

Susie Elton (Benefice Safeguarding Officer)

St James Fletchamstead

Safeguarding along with promoting a safe environment and culture has continued to be a priority at St James Fletchamstead where we have a team of volunteers and employed staff who work tirelessly to deliver the church's programmes and events.

The previous Parish Safeguarding Officer had worked very hard to ensure accurate records were maintained and safe recruitment guidelines were applied.

There was a change of Parish Safeguarding Officer in February 2025 with the position being ratified at PCC in March 2025 as the appropriate training was completed. There have been no reports of safeguarding incidents in recent months.

Although it is a requirement in line with Safe Recruitment that all church volunteers and/or employees are DBS checked and complete Safeguarding training before they take up their positions, there have been some incidents of new people joining teams without safe recruitment being followed. They are subsequently being chased up for DBS checks and Safeguarding training which they have been very cooperative with.

Job descriptions for church volunteer roles are being reviewed and updated.

As plans are progressed for St James to join the Bridge the role of Parish Safeguarding Officer will change.

Sally Noon (Parish Safeguarding Officer)

STAFFING REPORT

Staffing in 2024 remained relatively stable in terms of personnel, but it was still a stretching and formative year. We learnt a lot about one another and began shaping a new culture for the season ahead.

Several members of our Bridge staff team were on leave for wonderful reasons: David was on sabbatical, Anna on adoption leave, and Sarah on maternity leave. During David's sabbatical, Erin stepped in as *Acting Vicar*. We were really grateful to welcome Amy Cole and Beth Ferguson, who joined the team in the interim as *Children's Discipleship Enabler* and *Operations Manager*. They were a real gift and brought a huge amount to the team.

Emily joined us at the start of the year as our *Cleaner* and cared beautifully for the St Stephen's and St John's buildings. We said goodbye to her in the summer as she returned to Germany, and Rachel has taken on the role with great energy and care.

Liz and Trevor also joined the team in voluntary capacities as *Administrator* and *Youth Leader* respectively. Liz supported St John's brilliantly in the interim and we are so thankful for her time and commitment. Trevor has brought real energy and passion to youth discipleship, working alongside Amy to help lead our youth work.

As St John's explored a partnership with Hope Springs, and with Erin's calling to St Stephen's, the Joint Council created the part-time role of *St John's Lay Church Leader*. Steve Elton, was appointed through the usual recruitment process and it has been a joy to have him on the team and to see what God's doing through Erin's leadership in Canley.

Mark began as a volunteer *Student Worker* at St John's and is now employed in the role through grant funding as *Student and Social Media Discipleship Enabler*. You can read more about his work with students below, and the exciting growth we have seen.

Mohammad joined the team as *Associate Minister*, with responsibility for leading St James Fletchamstead after a period of interregnum. He stepped with gentleness into the role during a particularly difficult season, as the congregation continued to grieve the loss of their former incumbent and his wife, Steve and Kathy Burch. Steve was well known to the Bridge staff, having joined us for prayers during the latter part of his time at St James.

In September 2024, Ben Packwood and Katherine Martin began training as *Ordinands* at St John's and St James respectively. It is a real privilege to have people serving and learning within our churches, and we remain committed to championing leadership development across the benefice, both in ordained and lay, paid and unpaid positions.

At the start of 2025, we were delighted to welcome Amy Cole back onto the team as *SEND Outreach Worker* and *Young People's Discipleship Enabler*, supporting the Growing Faith Hub project based at Leigh CofE Academy and working in Canley too.

We also said farewell to Sue Clayden in January, following her faithful service at St James as both *Children's and Families Discipleship Enabler* and, later, as *Administrator*. She served diligently throughout the pandemic, through interregnum and saw their new Church Leader arrive and settle.

This year we rejoiced. Our capacity was stretched, as it often is. We grieved as individuals, with one another, and as a team. We had honest conversations. We reconciled. We moved towards new structures. Through it all, we've been learning how to work well together, building stronger relationships and deepening a shared sense of calling.

I (Sarah) am hopeful as we head into 2025. We are continuing to grow into an organisation where multiplication is central to who we are, with strong, resilient structures that support our staff and facilitate the spiritual and numerical growth of our churches, led by our Church Leaders.

Sarah Packwood (Operations Minister)



Staff Team May 2025

Back row: Mark, Stuart, Mohammad, Ben, Andrew

Middle row: David, Sarah, Steve, Trevor, Erin

Front row: Anna, Rachel, Jenni, Caroline, Amy

ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH, CANLEY

Overview

New Year's Day 2024 marked an exciting new chapter for St. Stephen's as Erin joined us from St. John's to lead our community.

This past year has been a journey of deepening and strengthening our faith together. We've focused on nurturing our church family and actively seeking ways to bring blessings to our local community.

One of our particular joys is that we regularly welcome more children than adults each week, inspiring us to actively explore truly intergenerational worship experiences every Sunday. This has involved exploring different biblical themes and stories through engaging games and creative activities that involve everyone.

Recognising that a significant number of our children have additional needs, we prioritized making 'church' accessible to all ages and stages early in the year. We began addressing barriers within our building and were successful in securing grant funding, with the hope that 2025 will see the completion of much-needed work to transform our space into a warm, attractive, and accessible environment.

Outreach and Community

Throughout the year, we have diligently fostered strong relationships with key stakeholders in Canley, leading to increased opportunities for community involvement. Our connection with Leigh Academy has strengthened, and as a result of this we were able to have the Easter Trail held at the school for the first time, this was a wonderful day attended by over 100 people, including a surprise visit from Bishop Ruth. Furthermore, our commitment to the school has deepened with Erin joining Anna Hickinbottom as foundation governors, alongside our continued leadership of weekly collective worship.

A significant highlight of 2024 was St. Stephen's being selected by the Church of England as one of just 13 Growing Faith Learning Hubs nationwide. This exciting partnership with Leigh CE Academy will focus on supporting families with children who have Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

June saw the sun shining on the vibrant Canley Parade and Big Lunch, where our church creatively represented St. Stephen's with fantastic costumes, joining the wider community in celebrating God's wonderful creation (complete with rather snazzy t-shirts!).

New Wine, always a summer highlight, provided a valuable time of refreshing and re-envisioning for our church, inspiring many to consider new ways of serving our local community. This inspiration directly led to the November 2024 launch of "BREATHE Canley," a monthly sanctuary for those caring for individuals with additional needs, offering a literal space to breathe. This vital ministry is led and supported by a dedicated team of women from St. Stephen's, and we eagerly anticipate God's work through it.

In October, we partnered with St. James Fletchamstead to host a fantastic Light Party for our local communities, a joyful evening celebrating Jesus as the light of the world.

The year concluded in true St. Stephen's style with our engaging Christmas Events. The Nativity Trail warmly welcomed families from both our church and the wider community to explore the wonder of Christmas. Our Carol'oke event once again brought delightful surprises with enthusiastic participation and even a music video or two!

The Christian life is sometimes described as a journey of blessings and battles, and the life of a church can often feel similar. However, throughout this past year, for every challenge St. Stephen's has faced, we have also experienced abundant blessings.

As a close-knit community, it feels inappropriate to single out individuals for thanks, St. Stephen's is truly a family where each person has played a special role in supporting one another and reaching out to our community throughout the year.

My hope for 2025 is that it will be a year of significant growth in missional confidence, where we welcome more families into our community and see God's Kingdom come in Canley.

Erin Gilmour (Associate Minister)

Growing Faith Hub

In 2024, St Stephen's was honoured to be selected by the Church of England as one of 13 Growing Faith Learning Hubs nationwide. The successful application was to partner with Leigh CE Academy to support families with children who have Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

Growing Faith aims to shift the culture and practice of churches to place children, young people and families at the centre of their ministry and mission. Its goal is to unite churches, schools, and homes to help families experience life to the full. The Church of England's ambition is to double the number of active young disciples by 2030.

Our hub will aim to:

- Empower children and young people as decision-makers, particularly those with SEND whose voices are not often heard.
- Work with the school to put on events that invite families to start their faith journey
- Be an innovation centre that inspires and supports church leaders and contributes to the Diocese by sharing transferable learning

"He called a little child to him and placed the child among them. And he said, 'Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven.'" - Matthew 18:3

Amy Cole (SEND Outreach Worker and Young People's Discipleship Enabler)

ST JOHN'S CHURCH, WESTWOOD

It's with both joy and astonishment that I am writing this report just over a year since we planted Hope Springs Church as a seed within St John's. How has it only been a year? Reflecting back to our first shared service in February 2024, it's clear how much God's faithfulness, the Spirit's leading, and the openness of hearts at both St John's and Hope Springs have shaped this beautiful journey.

The first half of 2024 was marked by a strong sense of unity—two communities with a shared calling not just to gather or do good, but to resource, support, and empower others in mission. A rare calling, with a vision that has grown and deepened.

Our commitment to “practising the practices”—prayer, worship, fasting, generosity—has laid a vital foundation, for both now and what's ahead. These rhythms have helped us remain rooted in Jesus as we deepen our relationship with God and one another, preparing for what God has for us. The teams who serve on Sunday mornings - welcome, audio, visuals, worship, preaching / leading, intercessions, hospitality - have done an amazing job of creating a culture and environment where people can meet with God and one another, being transformed in the process! The fact people don't want to leave on a Sunday is testament to the work everyone does to create such a wonderful space

In July, we hosted our first St John's Learning Community. Leaders and teams gathered to pray, encourage one another, and sharpen our collective sense of mission. It was a key moment as we discerned priorities for the next 6–12 months and reflected on how to keep a missional edge at the heart of all we do, and something I think has played a key role in seeing lots of new people coming the Sunday meetings and other groups and events, with many getting involved in the life of the church.

A major milestone came in September when the integration of Hope Springs and St John's was formalised, and Steve was appointed Lay Leader. Since then, we've intentionally continued to look for even more opportunities to create accessible, welcoming spaces for the wider community—through our existing groups, targeted outreach events, and clear pathways like Alpha for those exploring faith. The Alpha course, led by Jan and a gifted team (including some amazing cooks!), provided a space for deep conversations, strengthened relationships, and meaningful encounters with Jesus. We are excited to run it again in Spring 2025. September also saw the launch of the Garden of Hope worshipping community, which builds on the fantastic work that Caroline and the team have done to cultivate a peaceful and welcoming environment where people can meet with God!

Outreach and Community

October saw the return of students, and it's been a blessing to welcome both familiar and new faces. Mark and the student team have cultivated an inviting, vibrant,

outward-focused environment where students are encouraged to grow in discipleship and live out their faith. Similarly the work that Anna (and previously Amy), Trevor and their teams have done over the last number of months with kids and youth has been great to see! There is the beginnings of a movement stirring in this generation!

October also saw the launch of our new volunteering model, and the response has been incredible. Over 75 Christmas cards were written to individuals, couples, and families (which probably represented nearly 100 people) who serve across our church community. This is a powerful testament to the heart of everyone at St Johns—to love others, extend God's Kingdom, and lift high the name of Jesus through faithful service. This heart was evident in the significant uplift in giving that happened as we transitioned from 2024 into 2025! Thank you, your generosity is inspiring!

In November, over 500 people attended our Fireworks Extravaganza, with several connecting into church life afterward. Christmas followed with 11 unique events that reached a wide demographic—over 1,000 people attended the events across the Autumn season. Each event created space for people to engage, connect, and hear the unchanging good news of Jesus in ways that were accessible and relevant to them and where they were at!

The Football Group, which began casually in June, has grown to over 15 regulars, around 50% of which are not yet connected into a church. We're now exploring a larger training venue, the possibilities of setting up a Connect group linked to it and even considering joining the church league in September 2025—an exciting step in relational mission.

Refresh continues to flourish, with there continuation of the monthly morning gathering and the addition of an evening gathering, leading to the fostering deeper relationships and new connections. Westwood Lunch and the Memory Café remain significant places of welcome and support, providing consistent, outward-focused care for those in need. They are such a beautiful ministry!

Dwell, which originally met at St James, has expanded with a second monthly gathering now taking place at St John's. We're encouraged by its growth and the spiritual nourishment it offers. Likewise, Dandelions and the Art & Craft group are seeing growth and increasing numbers, to the point where the space is being filled even more—a good challenge to face!

Thank you for all you do. As we look to 2025, we believe God is calling us to go deeper in discipleship, bolder in mission, and wider in outreach. Every contribution matters. Let's continue to bring what we have, trusting that God will use it for His glory.

2024 has been a great year, I have loved journeying it with you all! Bring on 2025!

Students

In September, we were joined by a wonderful group of first-year students who have been a real joy to work with. We spent the first term getting to know one another, and during that time we began hosting weekly student lunches after the Sunday service.

Since Christmas, we've been running the Alpha course. It's been amazing to see people encountering the Holy Spirit throughout the year—He moved with particular power during the Alpha Holy Spirit Day.

Over the past year, we've also increased our use of social media, sharing short videos from our services on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube. Please check out our videos and give them a like!

Several students have shared with me how their excitement for the Bible and their faith has grown over the course of the year. I was especially encouraged by a recent story of a student who shared their faith with a parent, leading to that parent responding positively and starting to attend church.

In the coming term, we'll be launching Kintsugi Hope, a Christian course designed to support mental health and build resilience.

Mark Ahmad (Student & Social Media Discipleship Enabler)

The Garden of Hope

This year the Garden of Hope has gone from strength to strength. The wonderful team of volunteer gardeners and mowers continue to transform the space. This year we have erected a 3 side shelter (thanks to some generous personal donations), this has made the garden even more popular to visitors.

In September we launched a new worshipping community that gathers 4pm-5pm every Sunday in the garden. Although it is only attended by a small number of people it has a lovely atmosphere and we are hoping that it continues to grow through the warmer months. The service has a strong focus on connecting to God through nature and we have a lovely mixture of ages who gather. From June we will be meeting on the first Sunday of the month rather than weekly.

Over the last year The Bridge and St John's have hosted some events in the garden which have provided opportunities to make connections with people in the local community. These events have been fruitful, well attended and joyful.

As well as hosting large scale events, we have run various retreats/events for smaller groups too. It was wonderful over the summer to build relationships with regular visitors

to the garden who had been impacted by the peace of God there. One lady said she experienced peace as she was lying in a hammock for the first time in 18 months! The garden is a sacred space for many unchurched people and we are excited by how God is meeting with people in the garden. We have finally spent all the money that was awarded through the Offa House Spirituality Capital Fund and this has helped us to set up the garden well. Over the next year we have lots of ideas for how to improve the garden as well as maintain it well. If you'd like to give financially to the project to help it be sustainable, either regularly or through a one off donation you can do so with this link:

<https://thebridgecoventry.churchsuite.com/donate/fund/ojcmchjg>

You may be aware that I (Caroline Hammond) will be leaving Coventry in July and although it's sad to leave behind a labour of love, I am happy to announce that Ben Packwood will be taking on oversight of the Garden of Hope for the next year.

Caroline Hammond

ST JAMES FLETCHAMSTEAD

Overview

We give thanks for the arrival of our new minister, Rev Mohammad, who joined us recently. Although a health issue at the beginning of his ministry caused some delays to planned activities, we are pleased to report that he has now returned to full-time ministry with renewed energy.

Under his leadership, we have seen thoughtful changes to our worship services, including the introduction of new liturgical and practical elements. These have helped make our services more engaging and increasingly intercultural. A new rota has also been established, with more volunteers now involved in preaching, readings, intercessions, and various ministry teams.

Regular meetings with the Standing Committee and PCC have resumed, with intentional steps taken to diversify its membership. In addition, new discipleship resources and teaching materials are being developed.

Our Sunday worship continues to thrive, with rising attendance at both the 9:00 am and 10:30 am services, alongside special services such as Remembrance, Christmas, Ash Wednesday, and Easter Dawn.

We are addressing practical challenges, including the Quinquennial Report, a faulty boiler, ceiling leaks, and PCC House management. A new visual system is now in place.

Please continue to pray for building repairs and that all who use our church may encounter Jesus.

Discipleship

Over recent months, we have made several key changes to enhance our worship and community life at St James. A revised order of service has been introduced, bringing renewed structure and flow to our gatherings. Additionally, new members have joined the rota for preaching, reading, intercessions, and teaching, enriching our services with fresh voices and perspectives.

A major development has been the installation of a large TV and visual system, significantly improving the overall quality of worship through clearer displays and multimedia integration.

We launched a new fasting course, which was well received and encouraged deeper spiritual reflection. Furthermore, the Diocese-led "Stage of Life" course was hosted at St

James and attended by a strong number of congregation members, offering insight and support across various life stages.

Key liturgical events such as Remembrance Sunday, Christmas, Ash Wednesday, and Easter Sunday were delivered with updated formats, bringing renewed meaning and engagement for attendees.

Life Groups have also benefited from a structured Bible study guide, fostering more consistent and meaningful discussions.

We give thanks for these positive developments and look forward to continued growth in faith and fellowship across all areas of church life.

Life Groups

Life Groups are a valuable support network for our journey through life as a Christian. They are safe places where members can ask questions, pray for each other, study the Word, have fun together, challenge each other and learn from each other. They meet in people's homes or in Church and consist of about 6-8 people, meeting on weekday afternoons or evenings weekly or fortnightly. We encourage everyone in church to belong to a Life Group. Please speak to myself or Mohammad if you are not yet a member of a group.

Emergency Prayer Chain

Jeremiah 29 verse 12 Our heavenly Father says, 'When you call on me, when you come and pray to me, I'll listen.' The Emergency Prayer chain is part of our care for one another as the body of Christ at St James. There are 20 folk who can respond promptly to prayer requests. Anyone who needs urgent prayer please contact: Chris Maud 07702841804

Outreach and Community

St James continues to be a place of welcome, hospitality, and mission within our neighbourhood. Our buildings are regularly used by a wide range of community groups, reflecting the openness of our church. Notably, a local Muslim group recently used our hall to celebrate Ramadan. This was a significant moment in our witness, reminding us that our mission is to show the love of Christ in action. We continue to pray for opportunities to share the Gospel of Christ with all who enter our space.

We are also blessed by the growing diversity within our congregation. People from Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and South Asia have joined our services, enriching our worship and fellowship. This multicultural presence reflects the universal nature of the Body of Christ and reminds us of our calling to be inclusive and welcoming.

New relationships have also begun to form with local schools and community organisations, opening further doors for engagement and service. We are excited about the potential for future collaboration.

Our partnership with a Christian orphanage and school in Kenya remains a strong and valued part of our mission work. Alongside this, we continue to support a variety of local and international charities through regular giving and special appeals.

We ask for continued prayer: for more opportunities to share the Good News of Jesus Christ, for deeper connections with those using our facilities, and for stronger partnerships with local businesses and community leaders.

May we continue to be a faithful presence in our area, offering compassion, hope, and the light of Christ to all who cross our path.

Mohammad Eghtedarian (Associate Minister)

Jigsaw

Before having to close Jigsaw in early February due to the failure of the church heating system and later by the loss of four team members due to moving house or changing job. We were celebrating God's continued blessing as we sought to provide a safe place where parents/grandparents and toddlers (average attendance 44) could experience something of the Kingdom of God. Our prayer time before each session enabled us to continue drawing on God's amazing resources to love as He has loved us and to be open to people sharing their problems and praying with them. Parents and grandparents were encouraged to help their children/grandchildren learn to play safely, share toys, develop language and manual skills and enjoy craft sessions celebrating God's wonderful creation. Their continuing willingness to be involved in whatever their child was doing and provide the necessary encouragement and monitoring, especially during the tidy-up time, continued. Song time, signalled by the lighting of the Jigsaw candle, ended the session. This is a special time for the Jigsaw family to come together to share information and prayers, celebrate birthdays and remind ourselves that our God is a great big God who holds us in His hands. As families start to leave, there is always a queue of children waiting to practise blowing out the candle so they can do it successfully when it's their birthday.

Rosemary Line

Pastoral Care Ministry

The Pastoral Care Team has had one meeting so far this year and continues to function with five members. Throughout the interregnum we managed to oversee the people of St James to ensure their needs were met.

Life Group Leaders have been responsible for members of their groups but anyone who is not in a Life Group has been overseen by the Pastoral Care Team. We have been visiting

and phoning as the need requires both Church members if they are unable to attend Church and had referrals to visit and phone others if they require spiritual support and care. One Bible has been given out to a non-Church member and spiritual support offered and received on a regular basis.

Anne Richards has agreed to join our team and help with the running of the Pastoral Care Team. We will therefore be updating our current team members and looking for new Team members in the near future. We thank God for his Pastoral gifting of our team members and pray that the needs of St James congregation and the surrounding areas are met with his loving care.

Helen Kearney & Chris Maud

Open Doors

Open Doors is for people over the age of 50 years, and we meet on Monday afternoons during school term times 2.00 - 3.30pm. We have regular attendance of around 25 – 31 members who are both Church members and non-church members.

We are a friendly group who welcome new members to come in and have a chat over a cuppa, cake and engage in various activities. These include quizzes, guest speakers, live entertainment, skittles, crafting, bingo, occasional outings and seasonal meditations.

We have introduced prayer during the session and encourage prayer for family and friends who are going through difficult circumstances or ill health. Members have been good at asking for prayer since this was introduced and we ask for feedback when prayers have been answered to encourage people on their faith journey as we feel this is an important part of the group's ministry.

We have had several people leave the group due to being fragile or incapacitated and some have moved into care/nursing homes. We try to stay in touch with their relatives to update the group and continue to pray for them. If anyone would like to join us either as a member or as a volunteer, they would be made very welcome.

Helen Kearney, Des French, Diana Bartlett.

Knitting Group

The Knitting Group meets fortnightly on Thursdays afternoons from 1.45- 3.30pm at church, we have about 6 regular members. We knit shawls and scarves for the Shawl Ministry, and we knit for shoeboxes, we also knit for ourselves. We give a donation to the church, and shoeboxes. We have tea, coffee and biscuits and chat while we knit. New members are always welcome.

Marlene

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Children

Firstly, I want to say a huge thank you to Amy Cole, for taking on the Children's Discipleship Enabler role whilst I was on adoption leave. Amy did a fab job keeping everything going and implementing helpful changes from November 2023 until August 2024. Amy has expanded and strengthened children's and youth ministries across the two church bases, launching new groups, writing bespoke curriculums, and organising well-attended outreach events. Despite challenges to do with workload and having enough team, strong progress has been made in inclusion, team building, and transitions to youth work. It is a joy to get to work alongside her now, in her new Growing Faith job at St Stephen's!

Before going on adoption leave, I was only actually in my new CDE role across the Bridge for one week! Since my return in August 2024, it has been great getting to know St John's families better, as well as continuing relationships with St Stephen's families, and a pleasure to work alongside an amazing team of volunteers - at both bases. A big shout out to you guys - thank you so much for all you do to serve our kids - you are literally AMAZING!

Thanks also to Rebecca Torpey and the Dandelions team, who serve young families in our church and local community so committedly, week in week out. Toddler groups are often called the hidden treasure of church life - they're not seen on a Sunday, but the way they serve God in the week is outstanding. (Joey and I have very much benefited from the team's care and fun activities on adoption leave!)

During the Autumn term, the Kids Connect Group restarted after the Summer break, and we had great fun getting children to ask 'big questions' they have about God, faith... anything! We explored their questions over the term - which led to some very interesting discussions.

This term, a lot of my time was spent trying to gather more kids team volunteers at St John's. This is an ongoing challenge, which means we currently aren't at the point where we can split back into 5-7s and 8-11s. But despite this, God has blessed the ministry with some amazing volunteers who work their socks off! I also spent time thinking strategically about the shape of our Kids team, and felt God give me the vision to set up a Bridge Kids Leadership Team, with leaders from across bases. The purpose being to support and resource them as they lead their groups, pray together, plan together, and get excited together. Watch this space!

In November we had a fun month - a Movie Social for families across The Bridge (including hot chocolate mountains!) as well as a 4-week online training course for

parents of young children in our church. It was run by Parenting for Faith, about nurturing the spiritual lives of babies and toddlers. Nine parents attended, and it provided a great space to stop and think, chat/pray with each other and share ideas/resources.

December was full of festive fun! From the Nativity Trail to the Pop Up Nativity - we saw many non-church families come through our doors. (A huge thanks to Jenni Dunne, Rebecca Torpey, Kathryn Hammond for leading these events and all who volunteered!) And for the first time, we invited the local community and St John's families to 'Family Carols in the Community', in partnership with Crest Nicholson on the new estate further up Westwood Heath Road,. It was such a special and fun event, singing around a big Christmas tree, with lots of instruments, backing tracks and mince pies! A great opportunity to work with Crest Nicholson - a relationship we are continuing to build upon.

Another new opportunity has developed with Cannon Park Primary School, where one class came to St John's for a tour of the church and the Garden of Hope. It was a fun time - and as they left, one teacher said she had learnt so much! As a result, the door has opened to go into Cannon Park to do assemblies.

Sunday services continued to include groups for 0-5s (at St John's) and 5-11s (monthly at St Stephen's, 3 times a month at St John's). The main challenge this term has been balancing my hours between the two bases, but despite this, I have loved working with our children, watching how enthusiastic they are, with a special mention to our wonderful young children (we adults have a lot to learn from them)! So I finish with a big thanks to all you children, for being awesome and such a joy to serve!

Anna Martin (Children's Discipleship Enabler)

At St James, we are blessed with a wonderful, diverse group of children aged 4 to 15 attending our Sunday sessions. Numbers vary weekly, with up to 15 children at times. Some are new to the Christian faith, eager to explore and learn. We continue using the YFC 'Go' curriculum, supplemented by Mustard Seeds resources to cater to the wide age range. This term, we've focused on themes like 'Living Wisely' and 'Connecting with God', exploring topics such as teamwork, worship, and the Easter story. Children have also been learning Bible navigation and memory verses, and some now share what they've learned with the wider church family. A highlight has been our outreach, including, Christmas Eve family service, a school assembly at Templars and Leigh Primary schools and a well-attended Good Friday Family event.

Marit & Fiona

It's encouraging to see children building friendships, growing in faith, and feeling truly accepted and valued in our church communities.

Youth

November 23:

- 15 rising youth linked to St Stephens (10-11 year olds).
- Anna, Jonathan, Amy, Emily, Michael and Mo gathered and pastored these children via two Kids Connect groups from 8 years old.
- Dec 2023: Observed no longer “kids” and now “youth” needing something new to meet their developmental/spiritual needs.

January 24:

- Strategically gathered St John's young people (YP) into St Stephen's Kids Connect groups
- Trevor worked hard to gather team and set the vision of the Bridge Youth.

Summer 24:

- April: Launched Bridge Youth with 21 YP
- Ran Youth Alpha
- Took YP on several trips/events: Snowdonia, Youth City Prayer and Praise, Thrive, Night Hike, Bowling
- YP exploring faith, prayer and asking big questions.

Winter 24:

- Growth to 30 YP on Bridge Youth register
- 18 YP are linked to St Stephens
- Bridge YP bonding as group with a good community feel
- Weekly Thursday attendance at Bridge Youth between 18 and 22.
- Sunday attendance of youth at St Stephens between 6 and 10.
- St Stephens' YP being trained up and put on team rotas for tech and hospitality on Sundays.
- Seen influx of “unaccompanied” YP linked to Bridge Youth on Sunday mornings
- Several St Stephens youth also attending and inviting friends to youth group at St James.

Trevor Chappel & Amy Cole

FABRIC REPORT

St Stephen's, Canley

This report outlines the condition and status of the fabric of St Stephen's Canley for the current year, noting that no material changes or alterations have been made to the property. It serves to document the upkeep and preservation efforts in maintaining the church in accordance with the guidelines and requirements of the Church of England. The church has been awarded a number of grants specifically for improvements to the building which we hope to undertake in 2025.

The roof tiles and gutters have been inspected and cleaned. The walls and stained-glass windows remain in good condition. The window in the nave has a small hole. The toilet windows are in need of replacement. The main entrance and side doors are in reasonable condition.

Both the nave and sanctuary are in reasonable condition, though could warrant redecoration. The floor in the sanctuary is in need of replacement as elements of the laminate flooring are lifting up causing a trip hazard. This has been mitigated with tape for the time being. The chairs are in good condition. The electrical systems, including lighting and heating, have been regularly tested and are fully operational. The kitchen circuit is limited in its capacity and would warrant an upgrade when possible. There are no known issues with the plumbing.

Landscaping: The churchyard is well-kept, with regular maintenance of the grounds. The pathways and lawns are in good condition, with no significant changes.

Boundary Walls and Gates: The boundary walls and gates have been inspected and are in stable condition, requiring no immediate attention.

Routine maintenance tasks have been carried out consistently throughout the year to ensure the preservation of the church's fabric. This includes cleaning, inspections, and minor repairs as necessary.

Tom Hickinbottom (Churchwarden)

St John's, Westwood

The major work on the building in 2024 was the recovering of the flat roof and associated works. The overall cost of the project was nearly £100,000 and was funded by a grant for FCC Communities Foundation and a claim to recover the VAT on the project. The work was completed in Q1. This work has eliminated the leaks, improved the drainage from the roof and around the porch as well reducing the heat loss through the roof.

A handrail has been added on the path from the car park to the main entrance to the church extension. This has significantly improved access for people who found the change in levels and camber difficult to manage. Additionally, there were two working parties in 2024, these helped to keep on top of the maintenance of the grounds. The list of jobs at these events is always more than can be achieved in half a day. It was fantastic to see support from new people as well as the 'regulars'.

Work has continued into how best to manage recovering the roof in the main church buildings. There has been a site visit to a church with solar panels. Further visits are planned to churches to understand heating solutions as our gas boiler is nearing the end of its life. Consultations have taken place with a number of experts including people from the diocese. The next step is to finalise a brief to architects to develop a scheme for the new roof and associated works. The scheme will be shared with everybody, hopefully, later this year.

A Quinquennial Inspection took place in March 2025 and apart from the need to recover the roof in the church, there are a number of actions needing to be addressed over the next few months so more support for the working parties will be much appreciated.

Jeff, Phil & Dave (Fabric Team)

St James, Fletchamstead

Church Hall: A Phase 2 upgrade was completed with Coundon Care and included complete refurbishment of the kitchen, replacement of radiators with double units and construction of a ramp at the front door. Phase 3 is currently underway with the help of a paid part time fundraiser and project manager which will include replacement of all windows with double glazed units.

Church: Failure of the gas boiler in February 2025 has entailed investigating electric replacements to comply with the CofE commitment to net zero by 2030. A temporary electric heater has been purchased and long term options are being investigated. The 5 yearly electrical inspection was completed and resulting work is to be carried out. The Quinquennial report was also completed and actions are to be carried out including electrical work and roof rain water leaks..The AV system was upgraded. A building fund for donations and grants has been started to enable the necessary church building works to be completed.

Rental House: A letting agent has been employed to manage the house.

Des French (PCC Secretary)

FINANCIAL REPORTS

The Bridge Coventry

Finance Report – full details in the year end accounts

The Joint Council of the Bridge Benefice, Coventry has now been in operation for 4 years. The Charity Commission has sanctioned that the existing charity registration of St John's can be re-named 'The Bridge Benefice Coventry' whilst keeping the existing charity number.

The accounts of the two Parishes of St John's Westwood and St Stephen's Canley were transferred to the Joint Council on 1st January 2021 and this is the report of the combined accounts for 2024. The Bridge is two bases namely St John's Westwood, St Stephen's Canley.

The Bridge Benefice Increased by £16,038 (all funds) for 2024. The performance for unrestricted funds only is as follows: -

In comparison to 2023 income was: -

- Planned giving was £235,462 including Gift aid. In 2023 giving was £214,016.
- Gift Aid was £35,912 of the planned giving. In 2023 Gift Aid was £39,575.
- The trading activities of Occasional Offices, room hire and Car park rental, totalled £19,997. In 2023 was £16,571.
- There was Other Income of £393.
- In addition, there was grant income of £6,053 used to replace the flat roof, a further gift of £25,000 towards the main church roof.
- Overall Income was £286,905
-

In comparison to 2023 expenditure was as follows: -

- The total cost of staff was €94,106. In 2023 it was £75,561.
- Groups and meetings expenditure was £11,663. In 2023 it was £12,075.
- Spend on buildings, equipment etc was £76,909. In 2023 it was £58,097.
- Parish Share was £80,000. In 2023 it was £80,000
- Gifts to supported organisations was on budget at £23,270. In 2023 £32,400 was given to these organisations. The support percentage of forecast income was reduced from 12% to 10% from 2023 to 2024 hence the drop in amount given away
- Overall expenditure was £285,948, In 2023 it was £258,303

Overall, this resulted in a surplus of £957 in 2024 on unrestricted funds. In 2023 the deficit was £27,619. This leaves cash in the bank at year end of £35,590 in the general account plus £29,792 in a designated building fund for St John's, so a total of £65,382 in unrestricted funds.

Thus, the finances of The Bridge Benefice are in a stronger position at the end of 2024 with unrestricted and designated funds representing 22.7% of the turnover in 2024 which is above the target range of 10% to 15%.

The strong year end financial position is thanks to donations totalling £45,000 in the last few months of 2024.

The fiat roof at St John's was replaced in the spring of 2024. The overall cost of the project was £86,646. This was funded by:

- A grant paid directly to the contractor by the grant funding body of £60,974 ex VAT
- recovering the VAT on the project of £15,894
- The Church using its designated building fund to cover the balance of £16,494

To grow the continuing work of the church, as we hope to do, we need to encourage some further increases in regular income

The buildings at both St Stephen's and St John's require investment

- At St John's a new roof for the main church building plus associated add-ons. This is yet to be costed but likely to be over £1,000,000.
- At St Stephen's is continuing consultation with the Canley Community Centre to build a new building which is both a church and a community centre. Further preparatory work will continue in 2025.

God's generosity and blessings are again recognised by the Joint Council as He continues to grow His work, and we continue to seek His will to further develop and grow His kingdom through His churches St John's Westwood, St Stephen's Canley.

It is expected that St James Fletchamstead will join the Bridge during the second half of 2025.

Jeff Smailes (Treasurer)

St James Fletchamstead

At first glance, it could appear that 2024 was a year in which we managed to balance the books in that all our charitable enterprises made a net operating profit of £4k taking our total funds to

£214k (See statement of financial affairs). This however masks a significant challenge in that a considerable amount of our unspent income came from restricted grants for upgrades to the Hall. We knew at the outset that 2024 would pose a number of challenges as we navigated our way through an interregnum, hence we had agreed to set a deficit operating budget of £12k, but the financial reality was tougher in that our net deficit in general funds was over £22k. This was due principally to a reduction in both regular and one off donations of £14k. We managed to offset this with a reduction in expenditure of £4k.

The net result is that going into 2025, we no longer have any cash reserves to draw down on, so expenditure cannot be allowed to exceed income. A neutral budget has been set and agreed by the PCC on this understanding. It has also been assumed that giving from donors will increase by £10k. We are expecting a number of cost increases, but have reduced the proposed

expenditure by £14k. To balance the books, we have reduced the Parish Share by £20k to £37k. This is not sustainable in the long term if we expect to continue to have a full time minister leading our congregation.

Whilst we need to exercise prudence, there is much to give thanks for and celebrate. Our charity shop continues to be an effective source of help and support to our local communities, whilst adequately balancing the books. We have also embarked on major upgrades to the Hall.

During 2024 we raised £74.5k in grants, of which £45k has been spent on building repairs and improvements. This will culminate in the full refurbishment of the kitchen which is scheduled to be completed by the end of April 2025. We have committed to continuing this work with a plan to raise a further £100k for additional improvements to the Hall and adjacent facilities.

Going into 2025, we know that we need to address issues such as a heating system that needs replacing, a building that needs major repairs to make it fit for purpose, as well as a need to strengthen and grow our community. We need to continue to pray for growth in engagement of current and new members, spiritually and practically. Please pray that we will be given the wisdom to use what we have and what we receive effectively. Pray that we will see an increase in financial support from our donors, and that we are diligent and successful in finding grants, developing income streams and reducing expenditure.

Dave Cuttler (Treasurer)

ELECTORAL ROLLS REPORT

This report is for the year January to December 2024. The Electoral Roll included the two congregations of St John's and St Stephen's. We began the year with 149 people on the electoral roll.

The electoral roll has been revised for 2025 with the following numbers:

- 20 members at St Stephen's Church, Canley
- 97 members at St John the Baptist, Westwood.
- 40 members at St James, Fletchamstead

DEANERY REPORT

David Hammond continued as Area Dean there has been a continued commitment to praying together and building relationships between churches.

Deanery Synod acts as an intermediary between the Councils of each parish and the Synod of the diocese as a whole. With representatives from each parish.

While typically Coventry South and Kenilworth have met together in the past - more recently we have been having separate meetings (for Coventry South) allowing us to spend more time on local matters roughly twice a year.

Parishes take it turns to present the battles, breakthroughs and blessings that they are having.

Tim Pollard (Deanery and Diocesan Synod Representative)

MISSION HUB REPORT

2024 marked our second year as a Mission Hub. To summarize our journey so far: 2023 was about laying the foundation, and 2024 has been the year we've started to build upon it.

We continue to gather church leaders from our local area for monthly prayer and mutual support. We continue to be a supportive and encouraging presence at our monthly deanery meetings, always looking for ways to bless and support those churches around us.

Highlights

Some highlights include the launch of a new worshipping community in the Garden of Hope and the growing opportunities to collaborate in mission with other churches in our deanery.

We have received a warm welcome from and strengthened our connections with our local schools, we have also had opportunities to connect with several secondary schools in our area. One significant highlight is the grant we have received to launch a Growing Faith Learning Hub in our local church of England school. There is great vision for this and a hope that in coming years this will not only lead to church growth but also the creation of new communities of faith in our wider community.

New Growth

Early in 2024 we saw Hope Springs join St John's with Steve Elton taking on leadership of the church, this has brought renewed missional energy to the church and we are excited for what God has in store as we seek him for new opportunities to plant or to graft in the coming years.

We have appointed a volunteer student worker who has gathered and galvanised a wonderful group of students at St John's. This new growth is significant for our ongoing vision to plant new worshipping communities. Through grant applications, this role has become paid for 2025, as Mark takes on the role of *Student & Social Media Discipleship Enabler*, with a missional focus on the role of social media for Gen Z students.

The addition of Steve and Mohammad to the Bridge Leadership Team, alongside David, Erin and Sarah, has fostered a more collaborative approach to shaping the Mission Hub Flight Plan. After many years of conversation and prayer, the decision was made for St James Church in Tile Hill to join the Bridge Benefice. We feel privileged, as a Mission Hub, to come alongside St James as they seek revitalisation and growth after a very difficult year. This step forward has brought fresh energy and a renewed sense of anticipation as we look ahead to the coming season and explore contextual, differentiated expressions of suburban mission together.

Throughout the year we have come to a greater understanding that the Mission Hub is not a stand alone project or something that is only for the 'leaders', but is a way of life that is weaved into everything we do and everything we plan. Just as Jesus commanded his disciples to go into all the world and share the good news, we are called to follow the example of the apostles in planting new seeds of faith and strengthening existing believers wherever God may lead us. This is our shared mission, woven into the very fabric of who we are and what we do.

THE BRIDGE
www.thebridgecoventry.org

AGM annual finance report for 2024 - St James Fletchamstead

At first glance, it could appear that 2024 was a year in which we managed to balance the books in that all our charitable enterprises made a net operating profit of £4k taking our total funds to £214k (See statement of financial affairs). This however masks a significant challenge in that a considerable amount of our unspent income came from restricted grants for upgrades to the Hall. We knew at the outset that 2024 would pose a number of challenges as we navigated our way through an interregnum, hence we had agreed to set a deficit operating budget of £12k, but the financial reality was tougher in that our net deficit in general funds was over £22k. This was due principally to a reduction in both regular and one off donations of £14k. We managed to offset this with a reduction in expenditure of £4k.

The net result is that going into 2025, we no longer have any cash reserves to draw down on, so expenditure cannot be allowed to exceed income. A neutral budget has been set and agreed by the PCC on this understanding. It has also been assumed that giving from donors will increase by £10k. We are expecting a number of cost increases, but have reduced the proposed expenditure by £14k. To balance the books, we have reduced the Parish Share by £20k to £37k. This is not sustainable in the long term if we expect to continue to have a full time minister leading our congregation.

Whilst we need to exercise prudence, there is much to give thanks for and celebrate. Our charity shop continues to be an effective source of help and support to our local communities, whilst adequately balancing the books. We have also embarked on major upgrades to the Hall. During 2024 we raised £74.5k in grants, of which £45k has been spent on building repairs and improvements. This will culminate in the full refurbishment of the kitchen which is scheduled to be completed by the end of April 2025. We have committed to continuing this work with a plan to raise a further £100k for additional improvements to the Hall and adjacent facilities.

Going into 2025, we know that we need to address issues such as a heating system that needs replacing, a building that needs major repairs to make it fit for purpose, as well as a need to strengthen and grow our community. We need to continue to pray for growth in engagement of current and new members, spiritually and practically. Please pray that we will be given the wisdom to use what we have and what we receive effectively. Pray that we will see an increase in financial support from our donors, and that we are diligent and successful in finding grants, developing income streams and reducing expenditure.

Dave Cuttler
Treasurer - St James Fletchamstead

Balance Sheet detailed

	As at 31/12/2024	As at 31/12/2023
Fixed assets		
40000005: PCC house	126,000	126,000
40000007: Grand Piano	1,200	1,200
Total Fixed assets	127,200	127,200
Current assets		
A1502: Co-op current account xxxx5805	45,781	29,398
A1505: CCLA deposit account xxx968-001	10,462	10,884
A1550: Petty Cash	59	74
Z05: Accounts Receivable	3,152	10,970
St James Fletchamstead Other	1,360	1,170
Community Care Centre	36,893	40,839
Total Current assets	97,707	93,336
Liabilities		
Z04: Accounts Payable	11,185	11,190
Total Liabilities	11,185	11,190
Net Asset surplus (deficit)	213,722	209,346
Reserves		
Excess / (deficit) to date	4,376	-14,755
Z01: Starting balances	209,346	224,101
Z03: Gains and losses own use	—	—
Total Reserves	213,722	209,346

Represented by Funds

Unrestricted	16,581	28,164
Designated	165,453	180,093
Restricted	31,688	1,088
Endowment	—	—
Total	213,722	209,346

Summary

St James Fletchamstead Income	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2024 Budget	2025 Budget
Resources from donors	68115	57188	71500	66400
Other Voluntary Income	4869	975	0	500
Fees	1614	751	1000	800
Activities for generating funds	8920	15743	15549	19100
Investments	8713	8526	9340	8850
Other	495	0	0	0
Unrestricted INCOME	92726	83183	97389	95650
Restrctied INCOME		79725	83000	25000
TOTAL INCOME	92726	162908	180389	120650
Expenditure	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2024 Budget	2025 Budget
Contributions to wider Church	54000	57000	57000	37000
Ministry Expenses	183	1698	750	750
Church Buildings	9448	10006	15000	13825
Worship resources	877	1419	2250	1500
Hall	15304	18224	8150	18100
PCC houses	956	-235	1150	3600
Vicarage	975	517	674	1000
Parish Office/Communications	3405	3440	4850	3980
Fees	1456	248	800	400
Mission	7338	8188	8500	9500
Education	844	55	400	200
Giving	12219	4900	10000	5500
Pastoral & Social	0	91	100	150
Other	600	127	0	0
Unrestricted EXPENSES	107603	105678	109624	95505
Restrctded EXPENSES		49098	83000	25000
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	107603	154776	192624	120505
Excess (Income - Expenses)	-14876	8132	-12236	145

Current Assets/Liabilities	175469
Accounts Receivable Z05	3152
Accounts Payable Z04	-11185
Co-operative account A1502	45781
CCLA account A1505	10462
Cash in hand A1550	59
Fixed Assets	127200

Funds	167337	175469
Designated	138084	127200
Restricted	1088	31688
Unrestricted	28164	16581

Delta

-10884

30600

-11583

16726

Monthly turnover

divide by

8807

equals

1.88

Operating margin (months)

divide by

7959

equals

2.10

					Variance
					2024
Income	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2024 Budget	2025 Budget	
<u>Resources from donors</u>					
Regular giving (Giftaided)	37776	12509	14500	12500	-1991
Regular Giving (PGS)		22743	26500	27500	-3757
Plate Collections	2073	3091	3000	2800	91
One off gifts (gift aided)	6562	3772	3000	3500	772
Tax Recovered (SJF)	11759	4928	5000	4000	-72
Tax Recovered (PGS)		5286	6000	6100	-714
Regular giving (not gift aided)	9945	4620	9750	6000	-5130
One off gifts (non-gift aided)	0	239	3750	4000	-3512
Sub total	68115	57188	71500	66400	-14313
<u>Other Voluntary Income</u>					
Legacies	0	500	0	0	500
Donations - general fund		475	0	500	475
Grants (Restricted)	2228				0
<i>Intern support</i>	472		0		
Youth Work/Leaving Collections	2170		0		
Sub total	4869	975	0	500	975
<u>Fees</u>					
Wedding and funeral Fees	1614	751	1000	800	-249
Sub total	1614	751	1000	800	-249
<u>Activities for generating funds</u>					
Church Lettings	370	0	300	300	-300
Hall Lettings	7364	14875	14500	17500	375
Land Rent	275	300	275	300	25
Photocopying		55			55
Other		40	0		40
<i>Vicarage Gas</i>	912	473	474	1000	-1
Sub total	8920	15743	15549	19100	194
<u>Investments</u>					
Other funds generated	153	0	100	0	-100
Interest on accounts	0	711	400	0	311
PCC House	8560	7815	8840	8850	-1025
<i>PCC house deposit</i>	0		0		
Sub total	8713	8526	9340	8850	-814
<u>Other</u>					
Other	495	0	0		0
Sub total	495	0	0	0	0
Unrestricted INCOME	92726	83183	97389	95650	-14206
Hall Grants (Restricted)	0	74500	80000	25000	-5500
AV Upgrade	0	5125	3000	0	2125
Other Restricted Funds		100			100
Restricted INCOME		79725	83000	25000	
TOTAL INCOME	92726	162908	180389	120650	

					Variance
Expenditure	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2024 Budget	2025 Budget	
Parish Share	54000	57000	57000	37000	0
Sub total	54000	57000	57000	37000	0
Ministry Expenses					
Incumbent expenses	183	0	500	500	-500
External ministry costs		55	0		55
Recruitment		1642	0		1642
Vicars training/retreats/books	0	0	250	250	-250
Sub total	183	1698	750	750	948
Church Building & Grounds					
Gas (Utility)	2610	2623	3750	4375	-1127
Electricity (Utility)	1742	1986	1750	2100	236
Insurance	4164	3172	3750	3300	-578
Church Building R & M	149	1700	1000	750	700
Church Fittings R & M	758	445	3000	2000	-2555
Furnishings & Equipment	0	0	250	250	-250
Church cleaner	0	0	1150	800	-1150
Church Consumables		0	100	100	-100
Upkeep churchyard	24	80	250	150	-170
Sub total	9448	10006	15000	13825	-4994
Worship resources					
Upkeep of services	208	170	450	250	-280
Flowers	0	0	100	50	-100
Organ/piano tuning	0	0	750	0	-750
Music and music group	0	0	100	0	-100
Operational Licences & Subs	669	1250	850	1200	400
Sub total	877	1419	2250	1500	-831
Hall					
Gas	663	1452	0	3100	1452
Electric	3349	6594	0	6000	6594
Insurance	1593	1057	0	1250	1057
Operational Costs	582	340	500	500	-160
R & M (inc. grounds)	3720	984	1000	1250	-16
Staff (cleaning/caretaker/admin)	0	2979	1150	5500	1829
Upgrades (General Fund)	5396	4818	5500	500	-682
Sub total	15304	18224	8150	18100	10074
PCC houses					
Water (+ Gas/Elec/Council)	0	0	250	0	-250
Insurance	456	461	500	500	-39
Agents Fees				1100	
R & M	500	4	400	2000	-396
Deposit		-700	0		-700
Sub total	956	-235	1150	3600	-1385

Expenditure	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2024 Budget	2025 Budget	
Vicarage					
Redecoration	0	0	100	0	-100
Vicarage Gas	975	477	474	1000	-3
Maintenance	0	40	100	0	-60
Sub total	975	517	674	1000	-157
Parish Office/Communications					
Salary of parish administrator	2252	2459	3500	2700	-1041
Photocopier (rent)	480	480	550	480	-70
Office supplies	0	0	150	150	-150
Postage	21	3	50	50	-47
Printing	123	138	200	200	-62
Telephone/Broadband	530	359	400	400	-41
Sub total	3405	3440	4850	3980	-1410
Fees					
Dioc.Board of Fin.	1456	248	800	400	-552
Sub total	1456	248	800	400	-552
Mission					
FME	6780	8188	8000	9000	188
Youth Work	558	0	500	500	-500
Sub total	7338	8188	8500	9500	-312
Education & Training					
Adults		55	100	100	-45
Young People	844	0	200	50	-200
Creche & JIMS	0	0	100	50	-100
Sub total	844	55	400	200	-345
Giving- tithe					
Overseas missionary Societies	4000	1900	4000	2500	-2100
Home mission	6000	3000	6000	3000	-3000
Giving to individuals	2219				
Sub total	12219	4900	10000	5500	-5100
Pastoral & Social					
Social Events/Hospitality	0	91	100	150	-9
Sub total	0	91	100	150	-9
Other					
Miscellaneous	489	127	0		127
Account Charges	111		0		
Sub total	600	127	0	0	127
Unrestricted EXPENDITURE	107603	105678	109624	95505	-3946
Hall Grants (Restricted)	0	45162	80000	25000	
AV Upgrade		3022	3000		
Other Restricted Funds		914			
Restricted EXPENDITURE		49098	83000	25000	
Total EXPENDITURE	107603	154776	192624	120505	

Statement of Financial Activities

For the period from 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

Charity name

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST JAMES
FLETCHAMSTEAD COVENTRY**

Charity number

1180328

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds	Prior Year Total Funds
<i>Incoming Resources</i>						
Incoming resources from donors	57188		595		57783	68115
Other voluntary incoming resources	975		79030		80005	4398
Activities in furtherance of the councils objects	751				751	1614
Activities for generating funds	15743		100		15843	9608
Income from investments	8526				8526	8322
Other incoming resources		2382			2382	2644
Community Care Centre		15617			15617	18264
Total Income	83183	17999	79725		180907	112964
<i>Resources Used</i>						
Costs of generating funds	18466		45962		64428	956
Grants	4900				4900	12219
Activities relating to the work of the Church	82312		3136		85448	91063
Support costs						3405
Other resources used		2191			2191	2411
Community Care Centre		19564			19564	17682
Total Expenditure	105678	21755	49098		176531	127736
<i>Gains / losses on investment assets</i>						
Net Inc. / Exp. before transfer	-22495	-3756	30627		4376	-14772
<i>Transfers</i>						
Gross transfers between funds - in	10932	10884	10904		32720	133510
Gross transfers between funds - out	-20	-21768	-10931		-32720	-133510
St James Fletchamstead Outreach						
Community Care Centre						
<i>Other recognised gains / losses</i>						
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use						17
Net movement in funds	-11583	-14641	30600		4376	-14755
<i>Reconcilliation of funds</i>						
St James Fletchamstead Main	28164	138084	1088		167337	182923
St James Fletchamstead Other		1170			1170	937
Community Care Centre		40839			40839	40240
Total funds brought forward	28164	180093	1088		209346	224100
St James Fletchamstead Main	16581	127200	31688		175469	167337
St James Fletchamstead Other		1360			1360	1170
Community Care Centre		36893			36893	40839
Total funds carried forward	16581	165453	31688		213722	209345
Fixed Assets		127200				
Liquid Assets	16581	38253	31688			



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name

St JAMES FLETCHEMSTEAD (SJF)

On accounts for the year
ended

2024

Charity no
(if any)

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above
charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD / MM / YYYY.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation
of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act
2011 ("the Act").

Independent
examiner's statement

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out
under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I
have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission
under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have
come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with
the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material
respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of
the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection
with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a
proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

BBG

Date:

12-5-25

Name:

BABY DARBOE

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

AAT

Address:

3 ALDRICH AVENUE
TILE HILL
COVENTRY, CV4 9LS

Accounts

St. James

FLETCHAMSTEAD

"Deeper in and further out"

Annual Parochial Church Meeting
1.15pm, 19th May 2024

Annual Parish Meeting Agenda

Minutes of 2023 AGM

Election of Church wardens

Appointment of deputy wardens

AOB

Annual Parochial Church meeting Agenda

Minutes of 2023 APCM

Reports followed by questions on reports

Elections:

Electoral Roll Officer

Treasurer and secretary

Election of PCC members

AOB

Future vision

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Page 5	Parochial Church Council 2023
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Page 12	JIGSAW
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Page 15	Emergency Prayer Chain and Community Shop
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Church Wardens Report 2023

This year has been a very busy year as we prepared for an interregnum and said goodbye to Steve and Kathy in October after nearly 20 years of ministry with us. Also in saying goodbye to Anne Lancaster a very long time active member of St James'. We were able to say a sad goodbye to all three and wished them God's richest blessing in the years ahead and look forward to seeing them again on occasions in the future.

One of the legacies from Steve's time as Vicar was to prepare a strong leadership team who are doing an amazing job in keeping the ship sailing as we press on towards God's plans to bring His Kingdom in our community and City. We are also thankful for the new people God is bringing to us who are bringing their gifts and service and to the long time faithful servants who give of themselves tirelessly and we wish to thank all who are part of our fellowship.

We are also thankful for the support and ministry of the Bridge Group churches including David Hammond who was appointed as our Priest in Charge earlier this year and Kathrine Hammond who has been regularly administering communion and preaching at our Wednesday morning service and others who spread the load in ministering at Sunday services. Thanks also go to Clive, who for many months was able to provide communion services (monthly) at both our 9am and 1045 services as well as preparing sermon and home-group material. During 2023 the PCC engaged in a number of discussions regarding the future of St James – specifically whether we would be seeking an appointment of another Vicar or something else. We eventually decided to begin a process of merging with the Bridge benefice group of churches; with the intention that our next Vicar would be part of the Bridge Team (technically to be known as an Associate Minister). To advertise for the post, the PCC have produced what's called a 'parish profile' outlining the details of our church and also the type of person (their strengths and giftings) that we are seeking to appoint to lead us forward. So far we have advertised once, and had one set of interviews – however we decided to not appoint at that time. We are now in the process of advertising more nationally and seeking to interview as soon as David Hammond has returned from sabbatical. Archdeacon Barry has also been very helpful in various discussions - meeting with the PCC prior to Steve leaving and also in his role on the interview panel.

Also this year there have been exciting developments in the use of the Church Hall and our connections with the various outside organisations who use this facility. One notable partnership is with Coundon Care, who are providing day care for the elderly three days a week. To meet their needs, we and they first had to upgrade the hall's facilities, which had become very run down. That initial phase 1 included the installation of two disabled toilets as well as decoration and improvements to the Kitchen. We are currently working with a fundraiser and project manager on Phase 2 with the hope to complete more upgrades this year (2024). Coundon Care has expressed great satisfaction with our relationship, and we've recently learned that they are attracting more people interested in joining. Tim and I would particularly like to thank Dave Cuttler our treasurer who has been and is working very hard with Coundon care and the upgrade process.

Our relationship with the uniformed organisations who use the hall is also growing and they have recently started a new group called Squirrels. Also with Delveen's the children's dance group on Saturdays and recently a new start up group, Little Leaf Nature Play on Thursday mornings.

Finally as you read the reports presented here let's be thankful for all that God is doing in our midst from the youngest to the eldest in our fellowship and community and again to all you who are ministering and fellowshiping with us we thank you for your faithfulness and hard work.

Tim & Des

Parochial Church Council

The Clergy: Steve Burch (Vicar 2004 - October 2023)

Officers: Tim Pollard (Warden since 2019) Des French (Warden since 2022) Des French (Secretary since 2020) Dave Cuttler (Treasurer since 2022)

Members: Until 2026: Helen Kearney; Arthur Street; vacancy.

Until 2025: Emmanuel Davidson; Sue Clayden; vacancy.

Until 2024: Anne Lancaster - September 2023; Trecia Davdson; Marlene Pearson..

Other Roles: Parish Safeguarding Officer: Anne Lancaster (2017 - September 2023)) Sue Clayden (since September 2023)

Electoral Roll Officer: Sue Clayden (since 2022)

Deanery Synod Reps: Tim Pollard; Sue Clayden.

The PCC is constituted in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. Its business is to “work in cooperation with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church; pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical,” by working with the Vicar and the leadership team to ensure the smooth running of the church. The PCC met 9 times in 2023 . Buildings, Finances and Safeguarding are set items.

The main additional items on the agenda were the interregnum, linking with the Bridge group of churches, preparation of the Parish Profile, and Hall upgrades with Coundon Care which resulted in an increased number of meetings.

Our charitable giving in 2023 included: Core Charities: Coventry City Mission £1000; Coventry Youth for Christ, £1000; Gilead Health Development, £1000; Bible Society, £1000; Theophilus Bible Club, £500; HOPE Coventry. £1000; Thrive, £500; Resource Centre for the Blind, £500; Lighthouse Trust, £500; CPAS, £500; Food Bank, £1000; Open Doors (persecuted Christians) £500; Christ Care Kuria Rescue Shelter, £500. As well as support for individuals.

Des French

Buildings and Fabric

In 2023 there were no significant building works. A few minor jobs (e.g. replacing a faulty light switch, re-screwing in legs on a table) have been carried out by the Wardens and volunteers, but no major work was required on the main building this year.

Church Hall: A Phase 1 upgrade was completed with Coundon Care to enable them to rent the Hall for their work with the elderly and included 2 disabled toilets. Phase 2 is currently underway with the help of a paid part time fundraiser and project manager. This work commenced after various surveys on the building, so that the PCC could be confident it will last.

The boundary fence behind the hall was also replaced. There were no major building issues with the House Rental

An inspection of the church inventory was carried out by Tim in May – including photographs of all valuables. All items of value were accounted for, including new materials/toys for the church youth.

The revised inventory has been presented to PCC prior to AGM.

Tim & Des

Safeguarding

No new safeguarding issues or concerns have been raised.

I took over as Parish Safeguarding Officer in September 2023 when we said goodbye to Anne Lancaster and Steve Burch. Helen Kearney and Dave Cuttler have also joined the team. Since then I have been busy updating the posters, online links and databases as well as the safeguarding statement and action plan.

The group met 5 times in 2023

8 people have renewed their DBS certificates.

11 people have renewed their safeguarding training including 2 at leadership level.

Risk assessments for all church activities involving children and vulnerable adults, including a new risk assessment for the worship team have been reviewed and approved by the PCC. Three new hall user groups have signed the safeguarding appendix to the hall hirers agreement.

We follow the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy and this was updated this year and adopted by PCC. The Safeguarding Action Plan and Ex-offenders Recruitment Policy were reviewed and approved by the PCC.

Our Safeguarding Records comply with GDPR regulations and are retained according to the diocesan guidelines.

The PCC has complied with the duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops guidance in relation to safeguarding.

Special thanks to the team, past and present.

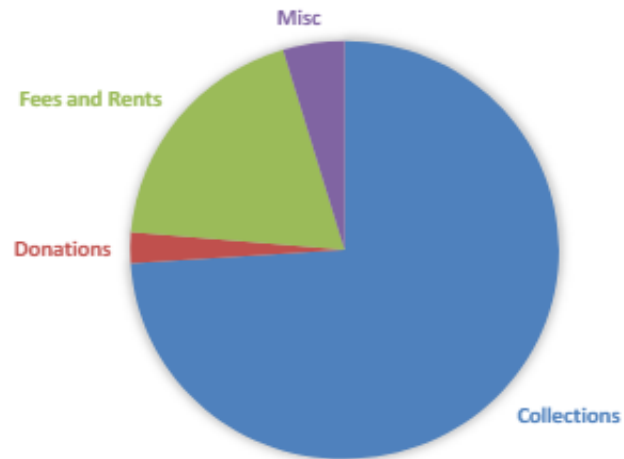
Deanery Synod

Deanery Synod acts as an intermediary between the parochial Church Councils of each parish and the Synod of the diocese as a whole. It comprises of the clergy and elected lay representatives of each parish. Tim and Sue are our parish reps.

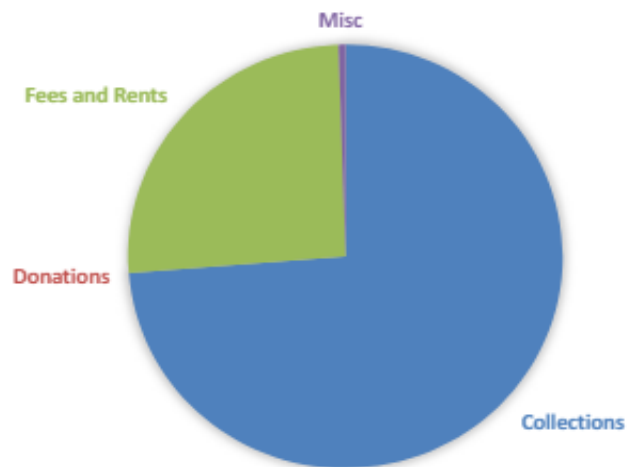
Coventry South and Kenilworth synod meets twice a year in one of the churches within the deanery. Parishes take it turns to present the battles, breakthroughs and blessings that they are having.

We pray for the parishes and have further guest speakers and prayers.

**ST JAMES FLETCHAMSTEAD
2023 - ACTUAL INCOME £92,056**

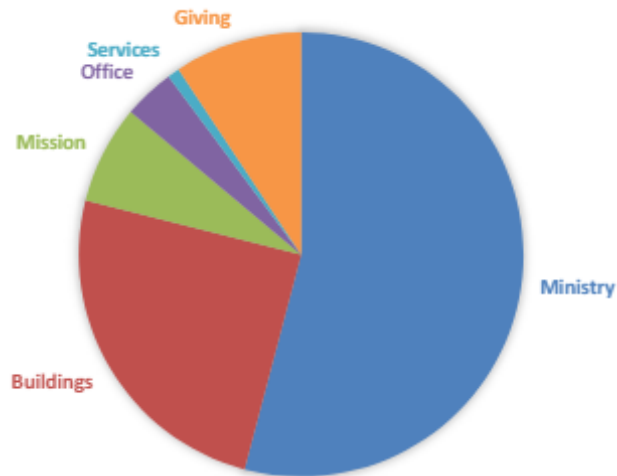


**ST JAMES FLETCHAMSTEAD
2024 - BUDGET INCOME £96,915**

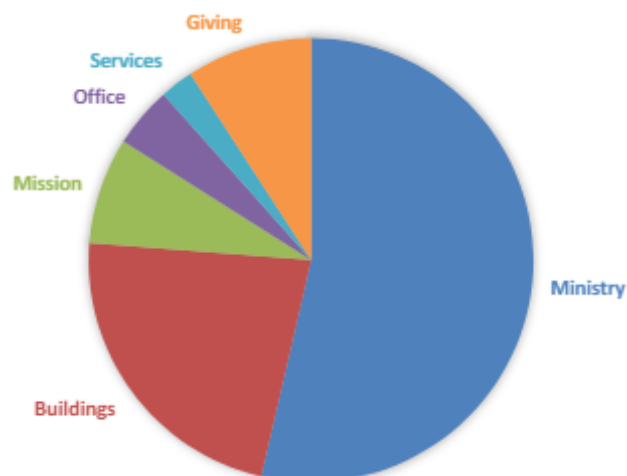


Income	Actual 2023	Budget 2024	
Collections	£ 68,115	£ 71,500	Regular, Gifts & Rebates
Donations	£ 2,170	£ -	
Fees and Rents	£ 17,513	£ 24,915	Church, Hall & PCC House
Misc	£ 4,258	£ 500	Grants, Interest & Misc
TOTAL	£ 92,056	£ 96,915	

2023 - ACTUAL EXPENDITURE £107,643



2024 - PLANNED EXPENDITURE £109,400



Expenditure	Actual 2023	Budget 2024	
Ministry	£ 58,230	£ 58,650	Parish Share, Minister, Pastoral & Social
Buildings	£ 26,722	£ 24,750	Church, Hall, Houses
Mission	£ 7,729	£ 8,500	Family & childrens' enabler, Materials
Office	£ 4,005	£ 4,850	Staff, Equipment & Services
Services	£ 957	£ 2,650	Licences, Organ, Supplies, Education & Training
Giving	£ 10,000	£ 10,000	Home & Overseas
TOTAL	£ 107,643	£ 109,400	

Children and Youth

Sunday morning Children's Church

We have 14 children on our register with ages ranging from 3 to 13 which can mean that planning has to be creative, using materials from Scripture Union, Cheeky Pandas and Youth for Christ.

We did pilot running 2 groups of different ages, but with variable attendance of between 2 to 10 children each week there sometimes weren't enough of each age group to fill both groups.

The children enjoy learning about and meeting with God through games, cartoons, Bible stories, discussion, craft, activities and songs.

Sue

Youth Group

Our fortnightly Sunday afternoon group for age 10 and above is growing in strength. It is an informal, safe space for the young people to chill with friends and play games. It's not always quiet, with favourite games being football (with a foam ball) and karaoke! Some of the group are very talented musicians. We were fortunate to receive the gift of an air hockey table from Warwick Baptist Church and a generous gift has also enabled us to continue to provide free snacks.

We have been able to invite the young people to Christian Youth events. Firstly we took three of them to Thrive "Base" in Warwick. Then five young people came with me to Basecamp, a Christian residential at the Pioneer Centre. And recently, 7 young people from our group joined others from the Bridge and another 350 youth from around Coventry at the first Youth City Prayer and Praise. It was a joy to worship and pray with them.

Sue

Schools and uniformed groups.

Our links with Leigh C of E Academy are developing as we are one of three churches that take it in turn to deliver weekly assemblies. A team from St James was able to run an after school Advent Club and the Headteacher Mrs Lee came into church to read a lesson at the Carol Service. The joint churches Easter Trail in Leigh school was very successful and several volunteers from St James worked hard to feed a large number of people.

I continue as a Governor at Leigh and am now Vice Chair which is a huge privilege as we prepare for our SIAMS inspection. Both Mount Nod and Templars Schools had booked the church for their Christmas services but unfortunately, staff illness and bad weather caused them both to make last minute cancellations. I was invited to join in with Mount Nod's Easter assembly in school and was pleased to hear the children's understanding of the resurrection. We've had two visits to church by the uniformed services. On Armistice Day, the Scouts, Cubs, Beavers and Squirrels attended the service with their flags. They really enjoyed it and asked if they could come again, so on Easter Day they returned to church for a joyful celebration!

Sue

Seasonal Family Activities

A number of Family Activities ran over the last year. Following on from the success of the Diocesan School's Praise party 'Alive' at Stoneleigh, we joined with other churches to run 3 follow up family events called Hive. The first 2 of these took place at St James. The Light Party was very popular and it was a joy to be able to share that Jesus is the Light of the World with almost 100 people from the local community, including many in Halloween costume. At Christmas we had made decorations in Jigsaw for the church Christmas tree and invited children to come with their families to children's carols. Several of them arrived with extended families to hang up their decorations and join in with others of all ages in the pop up Nativity. Mother's Day cake and crafts was also very well attended and enjoyed. At Easter, we joined with the Bridge churches and Isingpop, to put on our third Hive event; an Easter trail on Palm Sunday at Leigh School. It was wonderful to see many familiar faces there, including pupils and staff from school, church and Jigsaw families and Bishop Ruth. I wasn't able to run a Holiday Club in 2023 due to being called for Jury Service and spending all of June and July in a court room. This year, plans are already underway for a Summer Holiday Club.

I would like to especially thank everyone on the children and youth team. We are privileged to have a lot of knowledge and experience amongst the leaders many of whom are also regularly leading worship in the Gathering on Sunday mornings. We are also very blessed to have the

support of the congregation who value the importance of children and youth and are encouraging of the missional opportunities that we have.

Sue Clayden

Jigsaw

God has continued to bless us as we have sought to provide a safe place where parents/grandparents and toddlers (average attendance 55) can experience something of the Kingdom of God. Our prayer time before each session has enabled us to draw on God's amazing resources to love as He has loved us, and from that has come increasing trust and willingness to share problems and joys and maybe ask for public or private prayer.

At JIGSAW parents/grandparents are encouraged to help their children learn to play safely, share toys and develop language and manual skills, and to enjoy craft sessions celebrating God's wonderful creation. We thank God for the increased willingness of parents/grandparents to be involved in whatever their child is doing and provide the necessary encouragement and monitoring, Tea/squash and toast time provides opportunities for building friendships and developing children's social skills, while tidy-up time tries to instil the discipline of returning the right toy to the right box. We never lack young enthusiastic volunteers for this activity! Song time, signalled by the lighting of the JIGSAW candle, at the end of the session is a special time to come together as the JIGSAW family to share information and prayers, celebrate birthdays and to enjoy songs and remind ourselves that our God is a great big God who holds us in His hands. This song time often ends with a queue of children waiting to practise blowing out the candle, so they can do it successfully when it is their birthday.

We thank God that Jigsaw families are beginning to take up invitations to come to other church activities such as the children's service on Christmas Eve. We are so encouraged by this as our hope and prayer is that JIGSAW might be a gateway through which families meet the real Lord Jesus and come into a saving relationship with Him. God has given us a greater freedom to talk about our faith as well as demonstrate it.

Rosemary Line

Pastoral Care Ministry

The Pastoral Care Team has had 1 meeting so far this year but continues to function. We are aware that going through an interregnum means keeping a closer watch on people within the Church and those in the team are great at staying in touch with the folks of St James'.

We now have 5 people on the Pastoral Care Team who stay in touch with those people who are not in life groups within the Church. New members in the Church have been encouraged to join Life Groups so that Life Group Leaders/members can stay in touch with them.

We are aware that since Covid some members of our Church have not returned or visit infrequently so it is our intention to make contact with these people and ensure they are safe and well and maybe encourage them to return now the Church environment is a safe environment to return to. We thank God for his Pastoral Gifting of our team members and pray that the needs of St James' congregation and the surrounding areas are met with his love and care.

Since our last meeting Rev Steve Burch and Anne Lancaster have left the Group/Church due to retirement. We would like to thank them for their service as part of the team and wish them both well in this new chapter in their lives and that God will bless them both in their ministry and gifting.

Helen Kearney/ Chris Maud

Open Doors

Open Doors is for people over the age of 50 years and we meet on Monday afternoons during school term times between the hours of 2.00pm – 3.30pm. We have a regular attendance of around 28-30 members who are both Church members and non-Church members. We are a friendly group who welcome new members to come in and have a chat over a cuppa, cake and engage in various activities. These include Quizzes, Beetle drives, Craft activities, gentle armchair exercises, guest speakers /entertainment, skittles, occasional outings, and seasonal meditations. We have also introduced a prayer time during the session as some members and their families/friends have suffered ill health or difficult circumstances. We have seen answers to prayer and consider this to be an important part of our ministry.

Over the past year we have had several people leave the group due to becoming fragile or incapacitated and moving into care homes or moving home. We continue to welcome new members into the group who soon settle in. In their words “ they would not like the group to close as everyone is extremely friendly and enjoy the group”. Anne Lancaster who also led the group left due to retirement and moving home. Des French and Diana Bartlett have become new leaders with Helen and have settled into the role amazingly. If anyone else would like to join us then you would be made very welcome.

Helen Kearney, Des French & Diana Bartlett

Eco Manager

This first year has been a learning curve. The basis of the job was to bring people inside church out and people in the community in. To do this we want to use the biodiversity of the garden.

The first year, the time was spent clearing away rubbish and getting areas prepared for planting.

This year, the aim is to get some colour involved in the garden and with God’s help we are achieving this.

Anyone who would like to join us would be very welcome.

Arthur Street

Life groups

Life Groups are a valuable support network for our journey through life as a Christian. They are safe places where members can ask questions, pray for each other, study the Word, have fun together, challenge each other and learn from each other. They generally meet in people’s homes and consist of about 6-8 people, meeting on different days or evenings weekly or fortnightly.

We encourage everyone in church to belong to a Life Group, speak to one of the leadership team if you are not yet a member of a group.

Emergency Prayer Chain

The emergency prayer chain has been available for anyone in the church family to contact for urgent prayer for many years. Anne Lancaster set it up but has now moved to the Cotswolds to be with her daughter and family. We are so thankful to her for all her service to the church family in practically all areas of our church life. She will be sorely missed and we pray she will be blessed & be a blessing in her new church family.

If you need urgent prayer there are 20 folk on the prayer chain who will lift you up to the Lord.

Please contact
Chris Maud 07702841804

Or if you would like to join our ministry please give me a call or text.

Philippans 4 v 6-7

Do not be anxious about anything but in every situation by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God and the Peace of God that passes all understanding will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Community Shop

2023 proved to be very busy for the community charity shop and are delighted to say we have been able to give thousands of pounds to several different charities. We are still only able to open Tuesday to Saturday 10 am to 1pm due to lack of volunteers.

Sadly during the year we have witnessed more people struggling with every day living. Elderly and vulnerable people often come into the shop just for company and a little chat. We also noticed people struggling to buy shoes and clothes for themselves or their children, because of this we decided to start regular sales of two pound for ladies or mens clothing and kept the children's clothes at a low price, this seems to be working well.

In the area there has been a large increase of families coming from abroad who do not speak English they often come into the shop looking for something . Whenever possible the staff do their best to help by pointing to several items on the shelves etc. which can end up with everyone laughing. It must work because the customer always comes back .

We have also had a few miracles, one lady came in desperate for a cot for her child unfortunately we had not had one for over 12 months so we took her particulars the very next day someone came and asked if we would take some children's items the first thing out of her van was a baby's cot and Mattress.

Thank you to everyone who has donated or helped at the shop and If anyone has any items they wish to donate then please think about us. We are still desperate for helpers so if you could spare just three hours a week please consider volunteering for us, if you don't want to serve behind the counter there are always other jobs that need doing such as sorting items or steaming the clothes etc. I can assure you that you will be made very welcome and even get a cup of tea/ coffee and even some biscuits or cake.

Jacky Cashmore. (Shop Manageress)

Shawl Ministry

Our Shawl Ministry mission is to 'use our knitting skills to share God's love in a practical and tangible way,' and we feel privileged to have been able to do this over the past year. We have given out 27 shawls and 2 scarves. We were pleased to give 3 of these shawls and a scarf to those who came to St.James for Confirmation in October last year. We also gave an additional 18 shawls to Anne Richards for her ministry at Coventry University.

The shawls are always well received, welcomed not only by Church members, but also by those in the wider community. We feel that God is definitely working through the ministry, not only by blessing both those who receive the shawls and those who knit them, but also through both our colour choice and timing. Whenever we choose the colour of wool or of a completed shawl for someone, one colour always stands out to us.

This is reliably the recipient's favourite colour. Recently, I intended to give my neighbour a shawl. She is often away, coming home only fleetingly, and I missed three opportunities to see her. When I did catch up with her, she was delighted with her shawl. She said 'How did you know? I haven't told anyone, but I'm just recovering from a heart attack.' I knew nothing about this, but God's timing was perfect once again.

I am pleased to report that we remain in a sound financial position.

I should like to thank all our knitters for the excellent work they do, especially Carol Bloxham's friend Val who very generously knits so many shawls for us.

Looking to the future, we should welcome more knitters to join us, maybe from contact through The Bridge. The good news is that the ministry is expanding, thanks to Jenny. Although she is no longer a member of St James, she still belongs to our Knitting Group, and is about to launch a shawl ministry at her church in Allesley.

Diana Bartlett

Knitting Group

The Knitting Group meets fortnightly on Thursdays afternoons from 1.45-3.30pm at church, we have about 8 regular members.

We knit shawls and scarves for the Shawl Ministry, and we knit for shoeboxes, we also knit for ourselves.

We give a donation to the church, and shoeboxes.

We have tea, coffee and biscuits and chat while we knit. New members always welcome.

Marlene and Carol

Thank you!!!

Being in interregnum can be challenging but there are blessings too as we've had so many opportunities to step up.

So, our thanks go to you, whether you've been up front singing, dancing, leading or preaching, or whether you've crept in unseen to clean toilets and change light bulbs.

For all who've moved chairs, poured tea, knitted, made cakes (or bought them), pushed the vac round, cleaned the windows, trimmed a hedge, emptied bins, arranged flowers or operated the computer. Thank you so much!

Thanks to the teams; kids and youth, worship, tech, welcome, Open Doors, Jigsaw, safeguarding and pastoral.

To the prayer warriors, in church, in the services, groups and at home-
Thank you!

Thank you to life group leaders.

Thank you to the PCC, the leadership team, the lay readers, church wardens and treasurer.

Thanks to our visiting speakers and Vicars.

If you have been blessed or encouraged by anyone in the church, there are many opportunities for you to pass that blessing on by helping out on a team. Pray about what you feel God is calling you to and speak to one of the leaders who will help to direct your gifting.

And our biggest thanks are to God, who is always good and for whom we do all this in order to glorify him and to expand the Kingdom.

Our Parish

From Hearsall Common, westwards to the city boundary.

We serve the communities of Tile Hill South, Tile Hill Village, Tile Hill Lane, the 'trees' and 'cotes', Mount Nod and Coventry Business Park.

Our Mission

The church we envisage is God-centred;

- that everything we do is rooted in him
- that we live out the Father's love and compassion with one another and the communities we live in
- that we are joyfully sharing the Good News about Jesus with everyone - that we are seeing the releasing and transformation of lives in the power of the Holy Spirit
- that we are generously giving as we have received

St James Church, 395 Tile Hill Lane, Coventry,
CV4 9DP

02476 466262

www.stjamesfletch.org.uk |
admin@stjamesfletch.org.uk



@stjamesfletch



@stjamesfletch

Statement of Financial Activities

For the period from 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

Charity name	THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST JAMES FLETCHAMSTEAD COVENTRY					
Charity number						
1180328						
	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds	Prior Year Total Funds
<i>Incoming Resources</i>						
Incoming resources from donors	61553				61553	64007
Other voluntary incoming resources	8590		2370		10960	20703
Activities in furtherance of the councils objects	2594				2594	8080
Activities for generating funds	8628				8628	2088
Income from investments	8322				8322	8537
Other incoming resources		2644			2644	2500
Community Care Centre		18264			18264	17262
Total Income	89686	20908	2370		112964	123178
<i>Resources Used</i>						
Costs of generating funds	956				956	550
Grants	11061		1158		12219	10330
Activities relating to the work of the Church	90239		824		91063	78981
Support costs	3405				3405	2118
Other resources used		2411			2411	2500
Community Care Centre		17682			17682	13477
Total Expenditure	105661	20093	1982		127736	107956
<i>Gains / losses on investment assets</i>						
Net Inc. / Exp. before transfer	-15975	815	388		-14772	15222
<i>Transfers</i>						
Gross transfers between funds - in	1000	131810	700		133510	
Gross transfers between funds - out	-132510		-1000		-133510	
St James Fletchamstead Outreach						
Community Care Centre						
<i>Other recognised gains / losses</i>						
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use		17			17	
Net movement in funds	-147485	132642	88		-14754	15222
<i>Reconcilliation of funds</i>						
St James Fletchamstead Main	175649	6275	1000		182923	171486
St James Fletchamstead Other		937			937	937
Community Care Centre		40240			40240	36455
Total funds brought forward	175649	47451	1000		224100	208878
St James Fletchamstead Main	28164	138084	1088		167337	182923
St James Fletchamstead Other		1170			1170	937
Community Care Centre		40839			40839	40240
Total funds carried forward	28164	180093	1088		209346	224100
Fixed Assets		127200				
Current Assets	28164	52893	1088			

Heading	heading1
Incoming resources from donors	Incoming resources
Other voluntary incoming resources	Incoming resources
Activities in furtherance of the councils objects	Incoming resources
Activities for generating funds	Incoming resources
Income from investments	Incoming resources
Other incoming resources	Incoming resources
Total income	Incoming resources
Costs of generating funds	Resources used
Grants	Resources used
Activities relating to the work of the Church	Resources used
Support costs	Resources used
Total expenditure	Resources used
Gains / losses on investment assets	
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	
Gross transfers between funds - in	Transfers
Gross transfers between funds - out	Transfers
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	Other recognised gains / losses
Net movement in funds	Other recognised gains / losses
Total funds brought forward	Reconciliation of funds
Total funds carried forward	

	3	4	5	6	7
heading2	heading3	isdh1	isdh2	isdh3	
Incoming resources from donors		1	1	0	
Other voluntary incoming resources		1	2	0	
Activities in furtherance of the councils objects		1	3	0	
Activities for generating funds		1	4	0	
Income from investments		1	5	0	
Other incoming resources		1	6	0	
Total income		1	7	0	
Costs of generating funds		2	1	0	
Grants		2	2	0	
Activities relating to the work of the Church		2	3	0	
Support costs		2	4	0	
Total expenditure		2	5	0	
Gains / losses on investment assets		4	0	0	
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer		6	1	0	
Gross transfers between funds - in		10	1	0	
Gross transfers between funds - out		10	2	0	
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use		20	0	0	
Net movement in funds		20	0	0	
Total funds brought forward		30	0	0	
Total funds carried forward		40	0	0	

8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
itemnote	printctrl	Designated Funds sumdes	Endowment Funds sumend	Prior Year Total Funds sumprev	Restricted Funds sumres	Total Funds sumtotal	Unrestricted Funds sumunr
		0	0	0	64006.99	0	61553.03
		0	0	0	20703.38	2370	10959.82
		0	0	0	8080	0	2593.96
		0	0	0	2088.27	0	8628.02
		0	0	0	8536.91	0	8321.57
		0	0	0	0	0	0
	1	0	0	0	103415.55	2370	92056.4
	0	0	0	0	549.63	0	955.82
	0	0	0	0	10330	1157.71	12218.81
	0	0	0	0	78980.53	824.1	91063.31
	0	0	0	0	2118.23	0	3404.95
	1	0	0	0	91978.39	1981.81	107642.89
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	1	0	0	0	11437.16	388.19	-15586.49
	0	131809.85	0	0	0	700	133509.85
	0	0	0	0	0	-1000	-133509.85
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	1	131809.85	0	0	11437.16	88.19	-15586.49
	1	6274.61	0	0	171486.21	1000	182923.37
	1	138084.46	0	0	182923.37	1088.19	167336.88

Statement of Financial Activities

For the period from 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

Sub Group

ST JAMES FLETCHAMSTEAD Midweek

Charity number

1180328

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds	Prior Year Total Funds
<i>Incoming Resources</i>						
Open Doors	0	1610	0	0	1610	0
Jigsaw	0	884	0	0	884	0
Knitting Group	0	150	0	0	150	0
Total Income	0	2644	0	0	2644	0
<i>Resources Used</i>						
Open Doors	0	1560	0	0	1560	0
Jigsaw	0	701	0	0	701	0
Knitting Group	0	150	0	0	150	0
Total Expenditure	0	2411	0	0	2411	0
<i>Gains/Losses</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net Inc. / Exp. before transfer	0	233	0	0	233	0
<i>Transfers</i>						
Open Doors	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jigsaw	0	0	0	0	0	0
Knitting Group	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net movement in funds	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Reconcillation of funds</i>						
Open Doors	0	625	0	0	625	0
Jigsaw	0	312	0	0	312	0
Knitting Group	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total funds brought forward	0	937	0	0	937	0
Open Doors	0	675	0	0	675	625
Jigsaw	0	495	0	0	495	312
Knitting Group	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total funds carried forward	0	1170	0	0	1170	937

St James Fletchamstead - weekly/bi-weekly mid

Group	2023	
	Income	
Combined	2644.02	
Open Doors	1609.64	Actual
Jigsaw	884.38	Actual
Knitting Group	150	Estimate

week groups - all funds are unrestricted	
--	--

	Funds brought forward from 2022	Funds carried forward to 2024
	936.65	1169.51
All income and expenditure is recorded.	624.75	674.51
All income and expenditure is recorded.	311.9	495
£6/wk - 25 weeks	0	0

	Net Inc/Exp	Expenditure
	232.86	2411.16
	49.76	1559.88
Estimate, based on entries in book.	183.1	701.28
Need to verify at next audit	0	150

Income				
Till Sales - Cash/Cheque	9386.72			
Till Sales - Card	7096.95			
Sale of Rags	1599.00			
Donations and Efforts	131.00			
Direct Payments (Refunds)	0.00			
Bank Interest	50.22			
	18263.89	0.00	1	
Less Expenses				
Rent	4600.00		1	3
Rates	74.25		1	4
Repairs	510.00		2	5
Donations and gifts	8164.00		5	
Insurance	896.34		4	
Electricity	2031.29		3	
Card Fees	119.79		4	
Telephone	72.00		4	
Water	248.84		3	
Office Supplies	219.90		4	
Container	576.00		1	
Cleaning (incl windows)	11.02		2	
Sundries	38.44		4	
Bank Charges	110.03		4	
Misc.	10.00		2	
	17681.90	0.00		
Surplus for the year	581.99			
Balance brought forward from	2022			
31/12/22	Business Money Manager	3273.87		
10/01/23	Community Account	36914.98		
	Cash	51.22		
		40240.07		
plus surplus for 2023		581.99		
Carry forward to 2024 (based on Receipts & Payments)		40822.06		
Account Reconciliation				
31/12/23	Business Money Manager	3324.09		
02/01/24	Community Account	37498.92		
31/12/23	Cash	16.25		
Carry forward to 2024 (based on account reconciliation)		40839.26		
	Variance (AR-R&P))	17.20		

Income

Till Sales	16484
Sales of Rags	1599
Other	181
TOTAL	18264

Expenditure

Rent & Rates (Inc. Container)	5250
Repairs & Maintenance	531
Utilities	2280
Operational Fees	1457
Donations & Gifts	8164
TOTAL	17682

Community Care Centre	2023
Income	
Till Sales	16484
Sales of Rags	1599
Other	181
TOTAL	18264
Expenditure	
Rent & Rates (Inc. Container)	5250
Repairs & Maintenance	531
Utlities	2280
Operational Fees	1457
Donations & Gifts	8164
TOTAL	17682

Net Gain / Loss 582

Brought Forward 40240

Gains/Losses 17

Carried Forward 40839



CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. JAMES FLETCHAMSTEAD
COVENTRY

On accounts for the year
ended

2023

Charity no
(if any)

1180328

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above
charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD / MM / YYYY.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation
of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act
2011 ("the Act").

Independent
examiner's statement

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out
under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I
have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission
under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have
come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with
the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material
respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of
the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection
with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a
proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Date:

3.5.24

Name:

BABA DARBOE

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

AAT
15061

Address:

3 ALDRICH AVENUE
CV4 9LS
COVENTRY

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

N/A

Accounts

The background of the entire page is a photograph of St. James Church in Fletchamstead. The church is a large, multi-story brick building with a prominent steeple and several tall, narrow arched windows. In the foreground, there is a dense, low-lying hedge or garden bed filled with small white and yellow flowers. The sky is a pale, clear blue.

St. James

FLETCHAMSTEAD

"Deeper in and further out"

Annual Report 2022

Annual Parochial General Meeting

1.15pm, 2nd April 2023

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Page 6	Church Warden's Report
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Back	Our Parish & Our Mission

Annual Parochial Meeting Agenda

Annual Parish Meeting

Minutes of 2022 AGM

Election of Church wardens

Appointment of deputy wardens

AOB

Annual General Church meeting

Agenda

Minutes

Reports

Elections:

Treasurer and secretary

5 PCC members

2 Deanery Synod members

Future vision

Vicar's Report 2022

'Deeper in and further out'

Empowering leadership.

Gift-orientated ministry

I begin with a thank-you to all of you and all who have given time and talents over the last year. Thank you to all who have ministered in leadership. In 2018 we created a new larger Leadership team. It has been exciting to work with this team and see them stepping up in leadership.

A new Pastoral team was created and

trained and launched early 2020. This has taken up the need to connect with people and particularly those not in life groups during the pandemic. It has continued to connect by telephone calls and support. Anne and Helen have led this so effectively.

Passionate spirituality.

Our corporate prayer meetings on Thursdays at 7pm have been well supported. This has a faithful group who pray week by week.

I have been encouraged with the engagement by so many of the congregation with the bible readings and thankful for so many contributing to written reflections.

Inspiring worship.

22 was the year of returning in terms of congregation numbers. A gentle growth as the congregation found their way back to Sunday Gatherings. This showed at Christmas with the numbers at Carols and the early evening Christmas eve Communion.

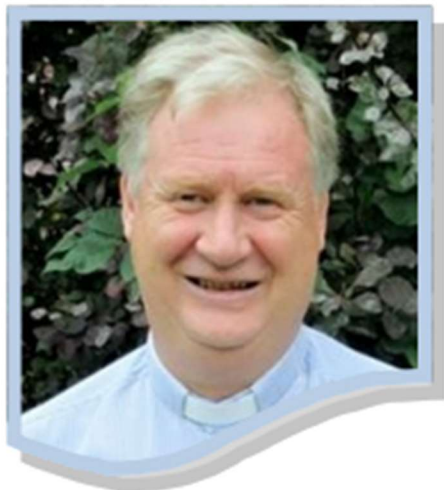
We have been wonderfully blessed by our musicians of both generations leading us. We have made some tentative steps towards re-introducing Prayer ministry and in 23 we will take this forward. The Café time returned and has been a great way for encouragement and congregation meeting. We have seen many people share 'Faith stories' and use Spiritual gifts.

Holistic small Groups.

These groups are a key part of discipleship and fellowship. There were 5 running with over 40 people taking part in 22. We look forward to growing these in 2023.

Need-orientated outreach.

As a church we support the food banks. A Life Group has links with St. Judes, residential home. The community shop is a place where people can be supported. We were able to be generous in giving away profits to the



community. Jigsaw and Open Doors are activities where we invite in the community and continue to meet needs.

The group producing prayer shawls is thriving and these are being received with thanks. The 'Community fun day' in May was a great success. We have congregation members who work for Hope Coventry. It's a blessing to support them.

A group has taken part in the Evangelism Hub which ran from September 21 until September 22. We will continue to encourage people to engage with the 4 key activities: Pray for 5, take 15 minutes a day for scripture study/ prayer, share Faith Stories, and look for connections to invite others.

Loving relationships.

The pandemic saw many church members step up in showing love and care to congregation members and neighbours. This continued in 22.

Functional Structures.

The PCC along with the leadership team have meet and help to lead us forward. In September 2018 we had a church away day to look at vision. With two tracks of growth identified: **A. Growing as disciples who make Disciples, and B: Meeting and transforming the community.** We are refocusing on these again in 2023.

Personal Notes Firstly Thank you to Kathy for her support of me and her sacrificial ministry to the church. 2022 for us was a year of sickness. My thanks go to those who have encouraged and supported Kathy and I, and who have upheld us in prayer, please keep praying for us. We really value the encouragement.

Yours in the Father's love



Looking forward in 2023:

*Continue emphasis on mission; re-introduce Prayer Ministry
Growing Discipleship: to use Life shapes and Father Heart of God
teaching*

Focus on: **A: Growing as disciples, who make disciples,
and B: Meeting and transforming the community.**

Parochial Church Council

The Clergy: Steve Burch (Vicar since 2004)

Officers: Tim Pollard (Warden since 2019)

Des French (Warden since 2022)

Des French (Secretary since 2020)

Dave Cuttler (Treasurer since 2022)

Members: Emmanuel Davidson; Sue Clayden; vacancy. (Until 2025)

Anne Lancaster; Trecia Davdson; Marlene Pearson. (Until 2024)

Jonathan Burch; Dwayne Cooke; vacancy. (Until 2023)

Other Roles: Parish Safeguarding Officer: Anne Lancaster (since 2017)

Gift Aid Officer: Jonathan Burch (since 2016)

Electoral Roll Officer: Sue Clayden (since 2022)

Deanery Synod Reps: Tim Pollard; Jess Day Pollard.

The PCC is constituted in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. Its business is to "work in cooperation with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church; pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical," by working with the Vicar and the leadership team to ensure the smooth running of the church.

The PCC met 5 times in 2022. Buildings, Finances and Safeguarding are set items. A number of items were discussed/agreed, including staffing, services, link to the 'Bridge' group of churches, Leading Evangelism course, Warm Space; Gas, electricity and telecoms contracts.

Our charitable giving in 2022 included: Core Charities: Coventry City Mission £1000; Coventry Youth for Christ, £1000; Gilead Health Development, £1000; Bible Society, £1000; Theophilus Bible Club, £500; HOPE Coventry. £1000; Thrive, £1000; Resource Centre for the Blind, £500; Light House Trust, £500; CPAS, £500; Food Bank, £1000; Open Doors (replacing Barnabas Fund) £500; Toilet Twinning, £180. As well as support for individuals.

Buildings report: In 2022 a number of electrical jobs were carried out including blanking of sanctuary lights, corona removal and repairs to upstairs sockets and lights. New front sign, replacing Hall boiler electrical board.

Des French

Safeguarding

No new safeguarding issues or concerns have been raised.

Four people have renewed their DBS certificates.

One person has completed Basic Safeguarding Training, one has finished Foundation and one has completed Leadership.

The safeguarding core group consisting of Anne Lancaster, Sue Clayden and Steve Burch has met 7 times during the year. Helen Kearney has agreed to join the group. The Social Media Policy, Responding to Concerns and Allegation, Revision of risk assessments for all church activities involving children and vulnerable adults and Ex-offenders Recruitment Policy have all been approved by the PCC. All church and non-church activities that involve children and vulnerable adults have been approved by the PCC.

Our Safeguarding Records comply with GDPR regulations and are retained according to the diocesan guidelines. We follow the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy and the Safeguarding Action Plan is regularly reviewed and approved by the PCC.

The PCC has complied with the duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops guidance in relation to safeguarding. My special thanks to Steve and Sue Clayden for their invaluable help and support.

Anne Lancaster

Prayer Ministry

The Emergency Prayer Chain

The Emergency Prayer Chain has been a great means of support to many. Urgent prayer requests for Church members are quickly passed round the congregation by email or text message. If you would like to join please speak to Anne Lancaster.

- Anne Lancaster.

Church Wardens' Report

I have been serving as Church Warden for just over 3 years now since 2019 – and been a part of PCC for much longer. However, I still feel like I've not really learnt how to 'warden a church' fully.

As such I want to start by thanking all the many people who have been involved in running the church over this past year – especially as it often feels as though Covid isn't that far in the past and we are new to "in person church". Between Des, Dave and myself we have held the roles of Warden, PCC-Chair, PCC-Secretary and PCC-Treasurer – and I do think they have done the majority of the 'hard work' so I want to record a thank you to them for the various ways they've helped.

Also thanks go to the deputy wardens, who are often proactive in making sure that someone is around to lock up (even when I once forgot my keys...) which has been a great help knowing there is one less thing to worry about.

Maintenance of the buildings is a topic touched upon in PCC meetings – earlier in the year Des and I inspected the cracks in the church hall – and I have gone back to record them on several occasions to confirm they are not growing. Needless to say, while not in imminent danger, the church hall could benefit from a lot of upgrade work.

Perhaps most notable improvements to the main building have been (internally) the removal of the old light-corona, and (externally) the new sign. The design was deliberated over a few times – and hopefully will last now many years looking smart, professional, and importantly welcoming.

Finally, I want to thank again all those who give their time to the life of St James – both those who have helped in the organisation/functional roles of church life behind the scenes, as well as those who have helped with other vital roles (such as church youth).

- Tim Pollard

Buildings & Fabric Report:

In 2022 a number of electrical jobs were carried out including blanking of sanctuary lights, corona removal and repairs to upstairs sockets and lights. Also replacing Hall boiler electrical board. Also last year it was decided to replace the front sign with a new front sign and has been well received.

An inspection of the church inventory was carried out by Tim in March – including photographs of all valuables. All items of value were accounted for, including new materials/toys for the church youth. The revised inventory has been presented to PCC prior to AGM.

Deanery Synod

Deanery Synod had three meetings in 2022/3 which included talks on [Eco-Church, Support for Cost of Living, and Mission Hubs]. Also, this year we have a new Area Dean (David Hammond – also Vicar of the Bridge-Benefice Coventry), who is also Area Dean of Kenilworth Deanery.

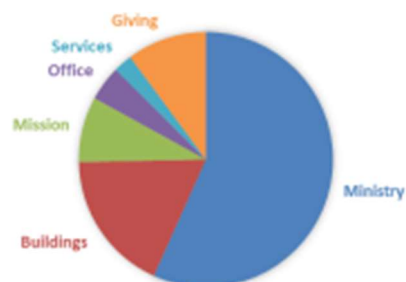
A new structure for synod meetings has been trialled recently, this includes a parish presentation from the church we visit, followed by 3-short (under 5 minute) parish presentations. This is then followed by time to pray for the 4 churches, in this way we hope to cover all churches in the deanery in prayer over the deanery cycle. We then have a 10-minute slot for local business before ending with a main speaker. This new structure will be reviewed over the next year.

- Tim Pollard

Accounts

Income	2021	2022	2022	2023
	Actual	Actual	Budget	Budget
Collections	75078	82469	75000	72000
Fees and Rents	17289	17520	13850	13330
Misc	8648	3185	1500	1830
Donations	0	241	0	0
INCOME TOTAL	101015	103416	90350	87160
Expenditure	2021	2022	2022	2023
	Actual	Actual	budget	Budget
Contributions to wider Church	50235	52840	52840	54000
Ministry Expenses	985	316	2000	1750
Church Buildings	8039	9833	11950	11400
Worship resources	1186	1393	1800	1950
Hall	3226	3843	3750	5250
PCC houses	2932	384	850	900
Vicarage	803	795	0	100
Parish Office/ Communications	5668	2118	5175	3975
Fees	784	1902	0	0
Mission	7325	7181	7500	8175
Education	100	360	400	400
Giving	9988	10330	10000	10000
Pastoral & Social	19	166	50	50
Other	0	519	400	400
Expenses Total	91290	91978	96715	98350
Excess (Income - Expenses)	9725	11437	-6365	-11190

2023 - PLANNED EXPENDITURE



Expenditure - Budget 2023

Ministry	£ 55,800	Parish Share, Interns, Minister, Pastoral & Social
Buildings	£ 17,650	Church, Hall, Houses
Mission	£ 8,175	Family & childrens' enabler, Materials
Office	£ 4,375	Staff, Equipment & Services
Services	£ 2,350	Licences, Organ, Supplies, Education & Training
Giving	£ 10,000	Home & Overseas
Total	£ 98,350	

2022 - ACTUAL INCOME



Income	Actual 2022	Budget 2023	
Collections	£ 82,469	£ 72,000	Regular, Gifts & Rebates
Donations	£ 241	£ -	
Fees and Rents	£ 17,520	£ 13,330	Church, Hall & PCC House
Misc	£ 3,185	£ 1,830	Grants, Interest & Misc
INCOME TOTAL	£ 103,416	£ 87,160	

Children, Youth & Families

Youth Group

Youth Group began at the end of 2021. It runs fortnightly on a Sunday afternoon as an informal space for young people aged 10 and above to chill with their friends and play games. The team of adults, myself, Dave, Arthur and Jess are available to join in or organise games and to listen to the young people.

We began by sharing a meal each time but in early 2022 the Covid advice for churches was not to share food so we moved to snacks and that worked better for all.

In the Spring we ran a Youth Alpha course in the hour before Youth Group.

Numbers have steadily grown over the year with a core of about 15 children coming regularly and others coming occasionally. We start 2023 with a successful grant application for updating equipment.

Season family activities

The first seasonal event of 2022 was Love your Mums which was cancelled after I contracted Covid. We went on to have a successful 'Tombraders' on Good Friday and a very well attended Scripture Union Summer Holiday Club. Wonderzone allowed the children to explore Science and Nature whilst noisily and messily learning about God's wonderful creation. We made rainbows, explosions and even stepped inside a bubble. For the Light Party this year I changed the Pumpkin Heroes format and ran a worship disco with flashing lights and glow sticks. In Advent, instead of having a Christingle service I put on a Christmas craft afternoon. One of the crafts was to make a Christingle so when I saw that everyone had made one, we had a little impromptu Christingle service. We finished the year with children's carols and had a lot of fun dressing up and using the Bible Society pop up Nativity script to act out the Christmas story.

I'm immensely grateful to everyone who has stepped in to help and support the activity days and holiday club.

Schools

After a long period of not being allowed into schools I was happy to be invited to do some regular weekly assemblies at Leigh School. Rosie and I have also joined the Academy Governing Committee there which we find very interesting. Steve remains a governor at Mount Nod School. For Harvest I was invited to take a special assembly at Leigh and also ran a Harvest after school club using their Forest School and Prayer Garden. Steve and I spoke at a Harvest assembly at Mount Nod School, which had to be repeated in order to accommodate the many parents that attended. At Christmas, Mount Nod school walked to St James for their Christmas service. It was wonderful to have the church filled again with hundreds of children and their staff and parents.

I joined Youth for Christ at Finham 2 for a session on Mental Wellbeing and hope to develop links there in the future.

Kids Church

We had a gentle start to the Sunday morning children's group in 2022. Steve began the year with more all age services, including an all age Holy Communion. As families became more confident to return to church, our numbers of children began to grow and so did the team. We had one group of children aged from 3 to 11 and tried to follow the same themes that Steve was teaching on. We were delighted to see some of our older children begin leading worship on a regular basis. They are extremely gifted! Two of our children were Baptised by full immersion. By the end of the year the group has grown to the point where we are now ready to have 2 age differentiated groups and so we are looking to grow the team even further.

Sue Clayden

Life groups

Life Groups are a valuable support network for our journey through life as a Christian. They are safe places where members can ask questions, pray for each other, study the Word, have fun together, challenge each other and learn from each other. They generally meet in people's homes and consist of about 6-8 people, meeting weekly or fortnightly.

We encourage everyone in church to belong to a Life Group, speak to Steve if you are not yet a member of a group.

Community Shop

2022 was a very strange year for the Community Shop, due to Covid and lack of volunteers. During lockdown we lost several of our staff, 2 long term ladies who left Coventry to be near family and sadly 2 others who caught Covid and were too afraid to return to the shop. We urgently need more volunteers to help for a few hours each week as at the moment we can only open Tuesday to Saturday 10am till 1pm.

The aim of our shop is not only to sell items at a reduced price but raise money for other charities and offer help and support to anyone who needs it, this could be just a smile, kind word, or even a hug.

During the last year we have noticed that some people come in regularly each week not necessarily to buy but to have someone to talk to, there has also been an increase of new people moving into the area from other countries who can not speak English and need our help. The volunteers are wonderful and always do their best to help.

A lot of hard work goes into the shop and over the last few years our profits have increased so much that at the end of 2022 we were able to share £10,000 amongst several charities, give money for a fun day trip for local children during the summer holiday and arrange a free trip to the Belgrade Theatre.

If you would like to donate items or help us in the shop for a few hours a week you will be very welcome.

Jackie Cashmore (Shop manageress)

Pastoral Care/ Bereavement Ministry

The Pastoral Care Team has continued to function throughout the year. We have had one meeting since the end of lockdown and we discussed those members we care for and their needs who are not in life groups. We have had people we care for who have moved house and also people who have passed away so our numbers have changed quite significantly.

We continue to have 7 members on the Pastoral Care Team who maintain friendships with those who are not in Life Groups and stay in touch with them if they are not in Church or unwell.

We are constantly assessing numbers of new members within the Church and encouraging them to become Life Group members so that Life Groups can stay in touch and for those who choose not to be in Life Groups then we as a team will befriend and stay in touch with them. We have had Lanyards made for our team members to wear in Church each Sunday and we ask that if you are concerned for the needs of someone else please let us know.

We pray that through the Pastoral gifting of our team, the needs of Christ's people are met.

Helen Kearney & Anne Lancaster

Open Doors

Open Doors is for people aged 50 years and over and we meet on Monday afternoons during school term times from 2.00pm-3.30pm. We have a regular attendance of around 28-30 members who are both regular Church members and non-Church members.

We are a friendly group who welcome new members to come in and have a chat over cake and a cuppa and engage in a range of activities.

These include Quizzes, Beetle Drives, Craft ideas, gentle armchair exercises, occasional outings, guest speakers, name that tune, music, skittles and seasonal meditations.

Over the past year we have had members leave the group and move to new homes. We continue to get new members who feel welcomed and soon settle in. If anyone would like to join us then you would be made very welcome.

Helen Kearney & Anne Lancaster

Jigsaw

God has continued to bless us as we have sought to provide a safe place where mums and toddlers (average attendance 58) can experience something of the Kingdom of God.

Our prayer time before each session has enabled us to draw on God's amazing resources to love as He has loved us, and from that has come increasing trust and willingness to share problems and joys and maybe ask for public or private prayer.

JIGSAW is prepared, run and tidied away by the following:

Rosemary, Helen, Heather, Sue Clayden, Diana, Sue Savage and the very welcome addition of Rosie Dalman, with Steve helping to move furniture and Irene providing emergency café support.

At JIGSAW parents/grandparents are encouraged to help their children learn to play safely, share toys and develop language and manual skills, and to enjoy craft sessions celebrating God's wonderful creation.

Tea/squash and toast time provides opportunities for building friendships and developing children's social skills, while tidy-up time tries to instil the discipline of returning the right toy to the right box.

Song time at the end of the session is a special time to come together as the JIGSAW family to share information and prayers, celebrate birthdays and to enjoy songs and remind ourselves that our God is a great big God who holds us in His hands. This God has given us a greater freedom to talk about our faith as well as demonstrate it.

- Rosemary Line

Shawl Ministry

The Shawl Ministry is still thriving, despite a drop in demand due to the pandemic.

In 2019 we gave out 68 shawls and 5 scarves, to both Church members and to people in the wider community, in times of illness and bereavement. Since fewer funeral services are now held in Church, we have not given out so many shawls, but at the Memorial Service in 2021 we gave shawls to those remembering loved ones lost during the pandemic.

Wherever they are given, the shawls are very much appreciated.

One lady who had lost her husband was delighted with her shawl and was amazed that someone would knit one for her. She had no Christian faith, but has found so much comfort from her shawl that she shows it to friends and family, telling them all about it.

We feel privileged to be able to use the gift of our knitting skills to share God's love freely in this practical and tangible way.

As we do not sell the shawls, we aim to be self-financing through donations and fund-raising. We have received several donations recently which have kept us financially viable.

I should like to thank Steve again for his continued support and to thank all our knitters for the excellent work they do. Val, Carol Bloxham's friend, deserves a special mention for knitting so many shawls for us. We always welcome new knitters either to join the Church Knitting Group or to knit shawls at home.

Diana Bartlett

Knitting group

Knitting group meet fortnightly on Thursday afternoons from 1.45—3.30pm at church, we have about 8 regular members.

We knit shawls and scarves for the shawl ministry and we knit for shoe boxes, we also knit for ourselves.

We give a donation to the church and to shoeboxes.

We have tea, coffee and biscuits and chat while we knit. New members always welcome.

Marlene and Carol

We celebrate all the good things that God does among us; the signs of his kingdom that we see. As you have read the reports you will see there is much to celebrate. So a very big.....



Thank you to all who have served the kingdom of God. Thank you for all the giving of time energy finances love and compassion. Thank you to those who serve in our structures on PCC and the leadership team. Thank you to those who support the children's and youth ministries. Thank you to those who are involved in giving pastoral care and support. Thank you to those involved in Sunday Worship gatherings up the front and at the back or in the kitchen. Thank you to those who have lead Life groups. Thank you to those involved in our outward facing ministries.



You will see that we need support in various areas as we seek to go deeper in and further out.

Teams for children and youth need further volunteers.

Musicians are required to develop the 10:45 music teams.

Welcome and café: Could you offer to help in the kitchen or greet people at the door?

Finances: We have a substantial deficit in the Budget for 2023.

Could you start giving or give a little more? If you don't gift aid could you?

Our Parish

From Hearsall Common, westwards to the city boundary.

We serve the communities of Tile Hill South, Tile Hill Village, Tile Hill Lane, the 'trees' and 'cotes', Mount Nod and Coventry Business Park.

Our Mission

The church we envisage is God-centred;

- that everything we do is rooted in him
- that we live out the Father's love and compassion with one another and the communities we live in
- that we are joyfully sharing the Good News about Jesus with everyone
 - that we are seeing the releasing and transformation of lives in the power of the Holy Spirit
- that we are generously giving as we have received

St James Church, 395 Tile Hill Lane, Coventry, CV4 9DP

02476 466262

www.stjamesfletch.org.uk | admin@stjamesfletch.org.uk



@stjamesfletch



@stjamesfletch

Summary - St James Fletchamstead Church

St James Fletchamstead Income	2021	2022	2022	2023
	Actual	Actual	Budget	Budget
Collections	75078	82469	75000	72000
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Expenditure	2021	2022	2022	2023
	Actual	Actual	Budget	Budget
Contributions to wider Church	50235	52840	52840	54000
Ministry Expenses	985	316	2000	1750
Church Buildings	8039	9833	11950	11400
Worship resources	1186	1393	1800	1950
Hall	3226	3843	3750	5250
PCC houses	2932	384	850	900
Vicarage	803	795	0	100
Parish Office/Communications	5668	2118	5175	3975
Fees	784	1902	0	0
Mission	7325	7181	7500	8175
Education	100	360	400	400
Giving	9988	10330	10000	10000
Pastoral & Social	19	166	50	50
Other	0	519	400	400
Expenses Total	91290	91978	96715	98350
Excess (Income - Expenses)	9725	11437	-6365	-11190

2022 - Income		2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2022 Budget	2023 Budget
<u>Collections</u>					
Gift Aid direct debit		42539	34808	45000	40000
Gift Aid Blue envelopes		959	630	1000	1500
Tax Rebate		10994	11917	13000	11500
Regular giving (not gift aided)		9371	13351	5500	8000
Plate Collections		3838	3301	4000	4000
One off gifts (gift aided)		4631	2750	5000	2000
One off gifts (non-gift aided)		2746	15712	1500	5000
TOTAL		75078	82469	75000	72000
<u>Fees and Rents</u>					
Wedding and funeral Fees		781	3060	450	750
Church Lettings		0	440	0	0
Seashell Play Group		5911	0	0	0
Hall Lettings		2512	5020	5000	4000
<i>Hall Letting Deposits</i>		<i>0</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
Land Rent		0	500	0	0
PCC House		8085	8400	8400	8580
TOTAL		17289	17520	13850	13330
<u>Misc Income</u>					
Other funds generated		75	253	0	50
Grants		3000	2000	0	500
Furloughed staff refund		4065	0	0	0
Interest on accounts		5	137		30
intern support		0	0	1000	1000
<i>PCC house deposit</i>		<i>700</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Vicarage Gas</i>		<i>803</i>	<i>795</i>		<i>0</i>
Misc Income		0	0	500	250
TOTAL		8648	3185	1500	1830
<u>Donations -designated</u>					
Funday / Ukraine			241		
TOTAL		0	241	0	0
INCOME TOTAL		101015	103416	90350	87160
Income		101015	103416	90350	87160
Expenditure		91290	91978	96715	98350
(Income - Expenditure)		<u>9725</u>	<u>11437</u>	<u>-6365</u>	<u>-11190</u>

2022 - Expenditure		2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2022 Budget	2023 Budget
Parish Share		50100	52840	52840	54000
External ministry costs		135	0		
TOTAL		50235	52840	52840	54000
Ministry Expenses					
Incumbent expenses		25	316	750	500
Vicars training/retreats/books			0	250	250
Intern support		960	0	1000	1000
Curate					
TOTAL		985	316	2000	1750
Church Buildings					
Gas		1501	2461	4000	2750
Electricity		642	1048	1000	2500
Insurance		3289	3071	3350	3350
Church R & M Building		830	0	1000	1000
Church R & M Fittings		1527	2850	500	500
Furnishings & Equipment		0	403		
Church cleaner		210	0	2000	1200
Upkeep churchyard		40	0	100	100
TOTAL		8039	9833	11950	11400
Worship resources					
Upkeep of services		207	86	500	500
Flowers		103	0		
Organ/piano tuning			362	700	600
Music and music group				100	100
Operational Licences & Subs		876	944	500	750
TOTAL		1186	1393	1800	1950
Hall					
Gas		990	364	1000	1000
Electric		875	1982	1000	2500
Insurance		1294	1064	1250	1250
Operational Costs			72		
R & M		66	320	500	500
Deposit refunds			40		
TOTAL		3226	3843	3750	5250
PCC houses					
Water (+ Gas/Elec/Council)		255	0		
Insurance		425	384	350	400
R & M		1552	0	500	500
<i>Deposit</i>		700			
TOTAL		2932	384	850	900
Vicarage					
Redecoration					50
<i>Vicarage Gas</i>		803	795		
Maintenance					50
TOTAL		803	795	0	100

2022 - Expenditure		2021	2022	2022	2023
		Actual	Actual	Budget	Budget
Parish Office/Communications					
Salary of parish administrator		4636	996	4000	2500
Photocopier (rent & printing)		560	507	600	700
Office supplies			69	200	250
Postage		26	0		25
Printing		43	87		
Telephone/Broadband		403	459	375	500
TOTAL		5668	2118	5175	3975
Fees					
Dioc.Board of Fin.		415	1902		
Account Charges		369	see below		
TOTAL		784	1902	0	0
Mission					
FME		6825	6969	7300	7475
Alpha/Emmaus/streams			0	50	50
Buying books			0	50	50
Bible material			0	50	50
School Links			0	50	50
Other (mission activity)		500	212	0	500
TOTAL		7325	7181	7500	8175
Education & Training					
Adults		100	360		
Young People				200	200
Creche & JIMS				200	200
TOTAL		100	360	400	400
Giving- tithe					
Overseas missionary Societies		3488	3080		
Home mission		5000	6750		
Giving to individuals		1500	500		
To be decided					
TOTAL		9988	10330	10000	10000
Pastoral & Social					
Social Events			166	50	50
Funeral Follow-up					
Token Gifts		19			
TOTAL		19	166	50	50
Other					
Miscellaneous			0	400	400
Secular Appeals			250		
Account Charges		see above	269		
TOTAL		0	519	400	400
Expenditure Total		91290	91978	96715	98350
Income		101015	103416	90350	87160
Expenditure		91290	91978	96715	98350
(Income - Expenditure)		9725	11437	-6365	-11190

FINAL REPORT		St James Community Care Centre	(Charity Shop)
Accounts for the year 2022 - as of			7-Feb-2023
Income			
Till Sales - Cash/Cheque			8656.33
Till Sales - Card			6396.35
Sale of Rags			1530.00
Donations and Efforts			673.50
Direct Payments	(Refunds)		0.00
Bank Interest			6.01
			<u>17262.19</u>
Less Expenses			
Rent			3632.51
Rates			140.80
Repairs			100.00
Donations and gifts			6523.54
Insurance			480.81
Electricity			1050.44
Card Fees			107.91
Telephone			60.00
Water			224.80
Office Supplies			119.42
Container			576.00
Cleaning (incl windows)			0.00
Sundries			194.92
Bank Charges			116.16
Misc.			150.00
			<u>13477.31</u>
Surplus for the year			3784.88
Balance brought forward	from	2021	<u>36455.19</u>
			<u>40240.07</u>
Bank Reconciliation			
		Business Money Manager	3273.87
		Community Account	<u>36966.20</u>
Balance carried forward	to	2023	<u>40240.07</u>
			Variance (Bank v Receipts) 0.00
Outstanding liabilities		Container	48.00
to be paid in	2023	Phone	12.00
		Vouchers	40.00
		Theater Trip	300.00
		Global Care	1000.00
		Zoe's Place	1000.00
		Light House	1000.00
		Salvation Army	<u>1000.00</u>
			<u>4400.00</u>

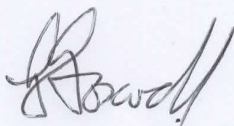
St James Fletchamstead Church
Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2022

Independent Examiner's Statement

The procedures taken for an independent examination do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and subsequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

In connection to my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives any reasonable cause to believe that in any material aspect the Trustees' responsibility to keep accounting records and prepare accounts which comply with accounting standards have not been met or to which in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Graham Foxwell



16th March 2023

134 Torbay Road

Coventry

(Accounts reports dated 15th March 2023)

Accounts

Annual Report year 2021

‘Deeper in and further out’

Annual report

We’ve had a second difficult and very different year. For most of the year we were in some form of lockdown. We managed to have ‘online’ worship and used zoom for pastoral connections and meetings. From Easter we began to have some in person worship using the gardens for outside singing. In September we began the slow return to church activities.

Empowering leadership. Gift-orientated ministry

I begin with a thank-you to all of you and all who have given time and talents over the last year. Thank you to all who have ministered in leadership. In 2018 we created a new larger Leadership team.. **A new Pastoral team was created and trained and launched early 2020.** This has helped to connect with people and particularly those not in life groups during the pandemic. There were a number of changes in 2021: including the moving on of Hannah our administrator and Si our worship Pastor. We bless them in their new lives and thank them for their ministries.

Passionate spirituality.

Our corporate prayer meetings on Thursdays at 7pm have been faithfully attended by a small group. With bigger numbers for the open air ones in the summer. This has been a great support and encouragement. I have been encouraged with the engagement by so many of the congregation with the bible readings and thankful for so many contributing to written reflections.

Inspiring worship.

My thanks go to Si and our musicians, leaders and preachers. Particular thanks To Kathy taking on an extra load in leading the music team. We have had the mix of lockdowns and in person; masked and distanced communion and a mix of online worship. The zoom services until May

The PCC is constituted in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. It’s business is to “work in cooperation with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church; pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical,” by working with the Vicar and the leadership team to ensure the smooth running of the church.

The PCC met 5 times in 2021. Buildings, Finances and Safeguarding are set items. A number of items were discussed/agreed, including staffing, house rental and repairs, shop constitution revisions, signage, services and Covid response, issues of race and inclusion.

Our charitable giving in 2021 included seven of our eight Core Charities (Enkesuma is winding up) and the extra giving, as follows: Core Charities: £1000 Coventry City Mission, £1000 Coventry Youth for Christ, £1000 Barnabas Aid, £1000 Gilead Health Development, £1000 Bible Society, £600 Kidz Klub, £600 Theophilus Bible Club,. Extra: £1000 HOPE Coventry. £400 Thrive youth ministries, £500 Resource Centre for the Blind, £500 Light House Trust, As well as support for individuals.

Buildings report:

In 2021 the Main church roof had slipped tiles replaced. The boiler had repairs and maintenance carried out following flooding in the boiler room. The church hall had a storage heater replaced. The rental house had decorating and driveway repairs.

Annual Parish Meeting

1. Minutes
 2. Election of Church Wardens
 3. Election of Deputy Wardens
- Annual Parochial Church Meeting
1. Minutes
 2. Matters Arising
 3. Electoral Roll and Election of Electoral Roll Officer
 4. Proceedings of the PCC
 5. Finances
 6. Church Buildings and Fabric
 7. Deanery Synod
 8. Other Areas of Church Life
 9. Clergy Comments
 10. Election of Secretary and Treasurer
 11. Election of PCC Members
 12. Election of Deanery Synod Representative
 13. A.O.B.
 14. Future Vision

Parochial Church Council 2021

Clergy: Steve Burch (Vicar since 2004)

Officers: church wardens

Tim Pollard (since 2019) Marlene Pearson (2019-20, Dave Cutler 2020-21)

Secretary: Des French Oct 2020

Treasurer: Lorna Russell (since 2012) Dave Cutler September 2021

PCC Members:

Anne Lancaster, Trecia Davidson, Marlene Pearson (until 2024)

Jonathan Burch, Dwayne Cooke, Dave cutler (until 2023)

Emmanuel Davidson, Arthur Street, Helen Kearney, (until 2022)

Other Roles: Parish Safeguarding Officer Anne Lancaster since 2017

Gift Aid Official Jonathan Burch since 2016

Electoral Roll Officer Hannah McGough (2017 – July 2021)

worked well with around 35 participating each week. Thank you to those who have been actively involved in all the social media and I.T. support. From September to December we had masked and social distanced worship. Despite the frustrations we thank God for the sense of his presence, peace and power.

Holistic small Groups.

We encourage all congregation members to connect with a Life group to grow their own discipleship, to support each other and share in mission. These groups are a key part of discipleship and fellowship. During 2021 the Life groups found different ways of meeting both online and using church or gardens and have been invaluable in supporting each other. These continue to be an essential part of the life of the church.

Need-orientated outreach.

As a church we support the food banks. The **community shop** is a place where people can be supported. Despite lockdowns and limited opening times in 2021, we were able to be generous in giving away profits to the community.

Jigsaw and Open Doors are activities where we invite in the community and continue to meet needs. These didn't reopen fully until the autumn. But have been growing in numbers since then. These have both increased in numbers and in 'spiritual' content. 2022 looks to be an exciting year.

Anne and Helen do a fantastic job of leading Open Doors.

Pre Jigsaw starting up; Sue led a small stay and play around the Wednesday Communion which enabled some connection back into church. Jigsaw re opened at the end of the summer term. Its numbers grew through the autumn as did the opportunities to pray for those coming and share faith stories. Rosemary, Helen and Sue along with a team of helpers do a great job of befriending and supporting those who come whilst looking for the chance to introduce Jesus to them.

The group producing **prayer shawls** is thriving and these are being received with thanks.

The 'Community fun day' in May had to be postponed. But we had a garden day and gave away lots of plants to bless the community.

Loving relationships.

The pandemic has seen many church members step up in showing love and care to congregation members and neighbours. Our pastoral team and life group leaders did a great job in keeping in contact and helping those in need.

Functional Structures.

The PCC and the leadership team have met regularly either online or in person; and help to lead us forward.

In September 2018 we had a church away day to look at vision. With two tracks of growth identified:

A. Growing as disciples who make Disciples,

B. Meeting and transforming the community.

This was to give us a shape as we moved forward. However with the pandemic most of the plans we laid out went on hold.

Hannah moved in July 2021 and since then the office tasks have been undertaken by Steve Burch and Sue Clayden.

Our treasurer Lorna Russell eventually moved in the spring of 2022 but had handed on the role of treasurer to Dave Cutler in the autumn of 2021. We thank Lorna for her many years of work as treasurer and the wisdom she brought to the leadership team.

Vicars Personal Notes

Firstly: Thank you to Kathy for her support of me and her sacrificial ministry to the church. Secondly: My thanks go to those who have encouraged and supported Kathy and I, and who have upheld us in prayer, please keep praying for us. We really value the encouragement. I found the pandemic a very stressful time and had stress related stomach issues. I'm very thankful for the

Yours in the Father's love 

This was our vision for 2021:

Phase 1 Begin return to gathered worship and activity April - June.

Phase 2 renewing relationships and setting vision July- September.

Phase 3 Learning together and loving others October – December

Focus on: **A: Growing as disciples, who make disciples**

B: Meeting and transforming the community

As you will be aware the return to more 'normal' activity didn't really happen. Therefore some of these were only partly fulfilled.

Vision 2022:

Focus on: **A: Growing as disciples, who make disciples**

B: Meeting and transforming the community

Spring:

Continue return to 'unrestricted' gathered Worship and activities. Grow serving teams. (Hospitality, children/ youth work, music)

Learning activities: Gospels course (cancelled by Diocese) Alpha course, 'Difference course' and first links with Living in Love and Faith

Summer:

Create 'connection with the community' activities. (e.g. fun day)

Explore links with other churches

Autumn:

More 'Community connections', Alpha course, Church vision day

St James Fletchamstead			
Income	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Budget
Collections	73613	75078	75000
Fees and Rents	13807	17289	13850
Misc	13570	8648	1500
Donations	1120	0	0
INCOME TOTAL	102110	101015	90350
Expenditure	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Budget
Administration			
Contributions to wider Church	50000	50235	52840
Church Buildings	14010	8039	11950
Worship resources	1672	1186	1800
Hall	4558	3226	3750
PCC houses	1124	2932	850
Vicarage	0	803	0
Parish			
Office/Communications	9630	5668	5575
Ministry Expenses	3330	985	2000
Fees	560	784	0
Outreach	6825	7325	7500
Education	0	100	400
Giving	10000	9988	10000
Pastoral & Social	0	19	50
Expenses Total	101709	91290	96715
Excess (Income - Expenses)	402	9725	-6365

Annual report 2021

Presented at AGM 3rd April 2022



‘Deeper in and further out.’

St James Fletchamstead - EOY statement 2021

Summary

St James Fletchamstead Income	2020	2021	2021	2022
	Actual	Actual	Budget	Budget
Collections	73613	75078	68000	75000
Fees and Rents	13807	17289	22300	13850
Misc	13570	8648	8400	1500
Donations	1120	0	0	0
INCOME TOTAL	102110	101015	98700	90350
Expenditure	2020	2021	2021	2022
	Actual	Actual	Budget	Budget
Administration				
Contributions to wider Church	50000	50235	50000	52840
Church Buildings	14010	8039	14000	11950
Worship resources	1672	1186	2650	1800
Hall	4558	3226	4375	3750
PCC houses	1124	2932	825	850
Vicarage	0	803	0	0
Parish Office/Communications	9630	5668	9500	5575
Ministry Expenses	3330	985	3450	2000
Fees	560	784	0	0
Outreach	6825	7325	7032	7500
Education	0	100	400	400
Giving	10000	9988	10000	10000
Pastoral & Social	0	19	50	50
Expenses Total	101709	91290	102282	96715
Excess (Income - Expenses)	402	9725	-3582	-6365

St James Fletchamstead - EOY statement 2021

2021 - Income					
		2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2021 Budget	2022 Budget
<u>Collections</u>					
Gift Aid direct debit		40474	42539	44000	45000
Gift Aid Blue envelopes		1720	959	1500	1000
Tax Rebate		11415	10994	12000	13000
Other planned giving (Yellow)		10281	9371	4000	5500
Plate Collections		2383	3838	4000	4000
Gifts		2690	4631	2000	5000
Non gift aid		4650	2746	500	1500
TOTAL		73613	75078	68000	75000
<u>Fees and Rents</u>					
Wedding and funeral Fees		772	781	400	450
Church and Hall rents		785	2512	7000	5000
Seashell Playgroup		5045	5911	7000	
PCC House		7205	8085	7900	8400
TOTAL		13807	17289	22300	13850
<u>Misc Income</u>					
Other funds generated		1654	75		
Grants		3520	3000	2500	
Furloughed staff refund		7166	4065	3500	
Interest on accounts			5		
intern support		1230		2400	1000
<i>PCC house deposit</i>			<i>700</i>		
<i>Gas 395</i>			<i>803</i>		
Misc Income					500
TOTAL		13570	8648	8400	1500
Donations -designated specific		1120			
		1120	0	0	
INCOME TOTAL		102110	101015	98700	90350
Income		102110	101015	98700	90350
Expenditure		101709	91290	102282	96715
(Income - Expenditure)		402	9725	-3582	-6365

St James Fletchamstead - EOY statement 2021

2021 - Expenditure		2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2021 Budget	2022 Budget
Parish Share		50000	50100	50000	52840
External ministry costs			135		
TOTAL		50000	50235	50000	52840
Ministry Expenses					
Incumbent expenses		847	25	800	750
Vicars training/retreats/books		283		250	250
Intern support		2200	960	2400	1000
Curate					
TOTAL		3330	985	3450	2000
Church Buildings					
Gas		4125	1501	5200	4000
Electricity		572	642	1000	1000
Insurance		3140	3289	3200	3350
Church R & M Building		960	830	500	1000
Church R & M Fittings			1527	500	500
Church cleaner		5174	210	3500	2000
Upkeep churchyard		39	40	100	100
TOTAL		14010	8039	14000	11950
Worship resources					
Upkeep of services		925	207	1000	500
Flowers			103		
Organ/piano tuning				700	700
Music and music group				100	100
Operational Licences & Subscriptions		747	876	850	500
TOTAL		1672	1186	2650	1800
Hall					
Gas		850	990	1600	1000
Electric		1010	875	1025	1000
Insurance		1250	1294	1250	1250
R & M		1448	66	500	500
TOTAL		4558	3226	4375	3750
PCC houses					
Water (+ Gas/Elec/Council)		334	255	325	350
Insurance			425		
R & M		790	1552	500	500
Deposit			700		
TOTAL		1124	2932	825	850
Vicarage					
Redecoration					
Gas			803		
Maintenance					
TOTAL		0	803	0	0

St James Fletchamstead - EOY statement 2021

2021 - Expenditure				
	2020	2021	2021	2022
	Actual	Actual	Budget	Budget
Parish Office/Communications				
Salary of parish administrator	7482	4636	7750	4000
Photocopier	617	560	750	600
Office supplies			200	200
Postage		26		
Printing		43		
Telephone	375	403	300	375
Miscellaneous	1156		500	400
TOTAL	9630	5668	9500	5575
Fees				
Dioc.Board of Fin.	560	415		
Account Charges		369		
TOTAL	560	784	0	0
Mission				
FME	6825	6825	6832	7300
Alpha/Emmaus/streams			50	50
Buying books			50	50
Bible material			50	50
School Links			50	50
Other (mission activity)		500		
TOTAL	6825	7325	7032	7500
Education & Training				
Adults		100	200	
Young People			200	200
Creche & JIMS				200
TOTAL	0	100	400	400
Giving- tithe				
Giving to missionary Societies	3050	3488		
Home mission	5950	5000		
Giving to individuals	1000	1500		
Secular charities				
Funeral charities				
TOTAL	10000	9988	10000	10000
Pastoral & Social				
Social Events			50	50
Funeral Follow-up				
Token Gifts		19		
TOTAL	0	19	50	50
Expenditure Total	101709	91290	102282	96715
Income	102110	101015	98700	90350
Expenditure	101709	91290	102282	96715
(Income - Expenditure)	402	9725	-3582	-6365

<u>Income</u>	
Till Sales - Cash/Cheque	9414.63
Till Sales - Card	3705.13
Sale of Rags	1335.00
Donations and Efforts	58.30
Direct Payments (Refunds)	116.21
Bank Interest	0.36
	<u>14629.63</u>
<u>Less Expenses</u>	
Rent	3500.00
Rates	200.16
Repairs	106.00
Donations and gifts	3183.30
Insurance	480.71
Electricity	738.01
Card Fees	61.88
Telephone	152.00
Water	198.29
Office Supplies	61.35
Container	624.00
Cleaning (incl windows)	0.00
Sundries	7.95
Misc.	100.00
	<u>9413.65</u>
Surplus for the year	5215.98
Balance brought forward from 2020	31235.07
Balance carried forward	<u>36451.05</u>

<u>Bank Reconciliation</u>	
balance per bank statement	
Business Money Manager	3267.86
Community Account	33187.33
outstanding lodgements	
	<u>36455.19</u>

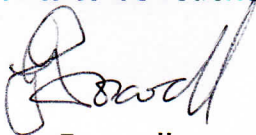
St James Fletchamstead Church

Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2021

Independent Examiner's Statement

The procedures taken for an independent examination do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and subsequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

In connection to my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives any reasonable cause to believe that in any material aspect the Trustees' responsibility to keep accounting records and prepare accounts which comply with accounting standards have not been met or to which in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Graham Foxwell

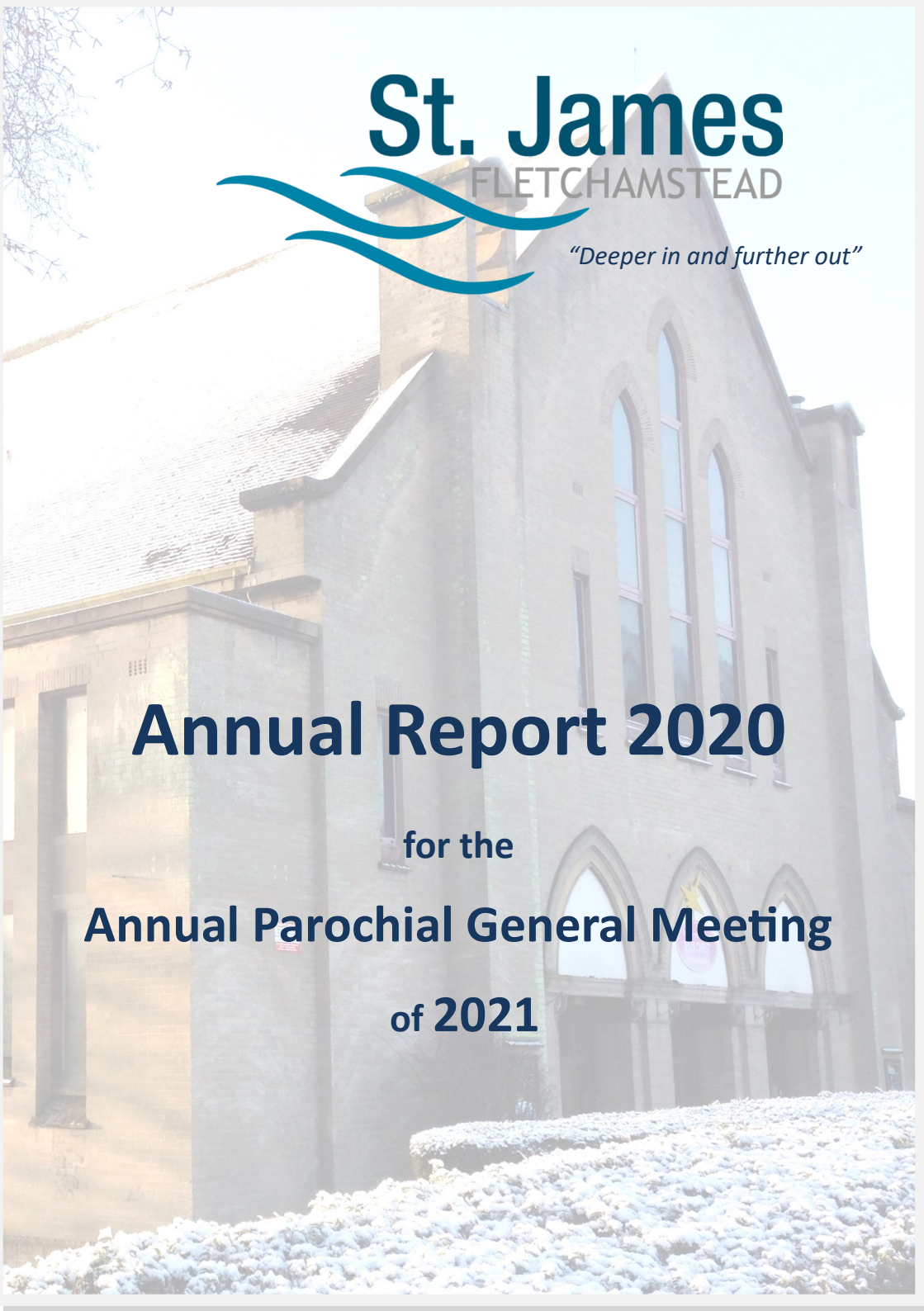
23rd March 2022

134 Torbay Road

Coventry

(Accounts reports dated 21st March 2022)

Accounts



St. James

FLETCHAMSTEAD

"Deeper in and further out"

Annual Report 2020

for the

Annual Parochial General Meeting

of 2021

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Annual Parochial Meeting Agenda

Annual Parish Meeting

1. Minutes
2. Election of Church Wardens
3. Election of Deputy Wardens

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Minutes
2. Matters Arising
3. Electoral Roll and Election of Electoral Roll Officer
4. Proceedings of the PCC
5. Finances
6. Church Buildings and Fabric
7. Deanery Synod
8. Other Areas of Church Life
9. Clergy Comments
10. Election of Secretary and Treasurer
11. Election of PCC Members
12. Election of Deanery Synod Representative
13. A.O.B.
14. Future Vision

Vicar's Report

This report will be very different because we've had a difficult and very different year.

Empowering leadership

Gift-orientated ministry

I begin with a 'thank you' to all of you and all who have given time and talents over the last year. Thank you to all who have ministered in leadership. In 2018 we created a new larger Leadership team. It has been exciting to work with this team and see them stepping up in leadership. **A new Pastoral team was created, trained and launched early 2020.** This has taken up the need to connect with people and particularly those not in Life Groups during the pandemic.

Passionate spirituality

Our corporate prayer meetings on Thursdays at 7pm have been well supported. We switched this to Wednesday during Lockdown with a mix of in-person— outdoors and in— and zoom, depending on the lockdown restrictions. A faithful group have kept meeting and praying.

The deepening encounter with God's presence in gathered worship continued in the spring, then life changed dramatically. I have been encouraged with the engagement by so many of the congregation with the Bible readings and thankful for so many contributing to written reflections.

Inspiring worship

We began the year with real excitement and a deep sense of God's presence with us. My thanks go to Si and our musicians, leaders and preachers. From March we have had the mix of lockdowns and restricted opening. We have had both in-person masked and distanced communion and a mix of online worship. The zoom services



from September have worked well with around 35 participating each week. Thank you to those who have been actively involved in all of the social media and IT support.

Holistic small Groups

We encourage all congregation members to connect with a Life Group to grow their own discipleship, to support each other and share in mission. In 2017 we had 5 Life Groups; in 2019 we had 7 groups meeting. These groups are a key part of discipleship and fellowship. During 2020 the Life Groups found different ways of meeting and have been invaluable in supporting each other.

Need-orientated outreach

As a church we support the Food Banks. A Life Group has links with St. Judes residential home. The Community Charity Shop is a place where people can be supported. In 2019 and early 2020 the shop grew in volunteer numbers and also in its efficient running. We were able to be generous in giving away profits to the community. JIGSAW and Open Doors are activities where we invite in the community and continue to meet needs. These had to be put on hold from March. The group producing prayer shawls is thriving and these are being received with thanks. The 'Community Fun Day' in May had to be postponed. We saw congregation members join Hope Coventry. It's a blessing to support them.

Loving relationships

The pandemic has seen many church members step up in showing love and care to congregation members and neighbours.

Functional Structures

The PCC along with the leadership team have met and help to lead us forward. In September 2018 we had a Church Away Day to look at vision. With two tracks of growth identified: **A. Growing as disciples who make Disciples, and B: Meeting and transforming the community.**

We are thankful to Hannah for the wonderful job she does in the church office; she makes a huge contribution to the smooth running of the church.

Personal Notes

Thank you to Kathy for her support of me and her sacrificial ministry to the church. I have found the pandemic a very stressful time and had stress related stomach issues. My thanks also go to those who have encouraged and supported Kathy and I, and who have upheld us in prayer, please keep praying for us. We really value the encouragement.

Yours in the Father's love,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Burch". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Steve" and last name "Burch" clearly legible.

Rev. Steve Burch

Looking forward in 2021:

Phase 1 Begin return to gathered worship and activity: April - June.

Phase 2 renewing relationships and setting vision: July- September.

Phase 3 Learning together and loving others: October - December.

Focus on: **A: Growing as disciples, who make disciples,**
and B: Meeting and transforming the community.

A photograph of a waterfall with white, frothy water cascading over dark rocks. The water is in motion, creating a sense of energy and flow. The background is a mix of white and grey tones, suggesting a natural, outdoor setting.

Our vision...

St. James church family will go '**deeper in and further out**' with God by: worshipping God, making new disciples and transforming communities.

Parochial Church Council 2020

The Clergy: Steve Burch (Vicar since 2004)

Officers: Tim Pollard (Warden since 2019)

Marlene Pearson (Warden since 2019)

Hannah McGough (Secretary 2018– Oct 2020)

Des French (Secretary since Oct 2020)

Lorna Russell (Treasurer since 2012)

Members:

Sue Mace (until Oct 2020)

Dwayne Cooke, Emmanuel Davidson, Anne Lancaster (until 2021)

Arthur Street, Helen Kearney, *vacancy* (until 2022)

Dave Cuttler, Jonathan Burch, *vacancy* (until 2023)

Other Roles:

Anne Lancaster (Parish Safeguarding Officer since 2017)

Jonathan Burch (Gift Aid Official since 2016)

Hannah McGough (Electoral Roll Officer since 2017)

Deanery Synod Reps:

Tim Pollard, Lorna Russell, Jess Day-Pollard

The PCC is constituted in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. It's business is to *“work in cooperation with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church; pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical,”* by working with the Vicar and the leadership team to ensure the smooth running of the church.

PCC Meetings

The PCC met 6 times in 2020. Buildings, Finance and Safeguarding are set items. A number of items were agreed, including changes due to COVID-19 and charity giving.

Our charitable giving in 2020 included our eight Core Charities and extra giving, as follows:

Core Charities: £1000 Coventry City Mission, £900 Coventry Youth for Christ, £900 Barnabas Aid, £900 Gilead Health Development, £900 Bible Society, £1200 Kidz Klub, £600 Theophilus Bible Club, £600 Enkisuma.

Extra: £1500 HOPE Coventry, £200 Trussell Trust, £300 Christians Against Poverty

Deanery Synod

Deanery Synod meetings migrated mid-year to Zoom, this year we had three Synod meetings in 2020 which included talks on “General Synod and Synodical Structures”, “Collective Trauma”, and “an introduction from the (then) new Archdeacon Missioner”. Also this year the previous Area-Dean stood down, and Rev Matt Taylor (of St Martin’s, Finham) has been appointed as the new Area-Dean. I have been re-elected for another term as Lay-Chair.

The Deanery also has sub-committees for discussing and agreeing parish share, and others for discussing parishes in vacancy and longer term strategy – including preparing a draft deanery plan that will be presented at synod soon.

- Tim Pollard

Church Wardens' Report

For obvious reasons being a church warden in 2020 was quite different to 2019. Many thanks to Steve who has continued to regularly check the church building, managed producing risk-assessments for re-opening periods and led planning for how to carry out services.

I was encouraged by our attempt to do a streaming service for Christmas Carols – as well as streaming PCC meetings and the AGM via Zoom. Some have had 'mixed' success, but overall it was a good year at 'keeping church going' even if not always in the church building.

Church Hall

It will not be any surprise to regular members that the hall is falling apart and needs serious work. This may mean demolishing and rebuilding. A working party has been established at a recent PCC meeting to look at the various options. We will explore the future requirements of the hall (as we come out of lockdown) and consider what may be the best way forward (bringing future proposals to PCC). Various options have been explored in the past – we are hoping to get more clarity on what is possible and what is necessary (and where God is calling us).

My thanks to all those who have assisted with the various building issues and risk assessments. Hopefully next year will be more normal.

Fabric

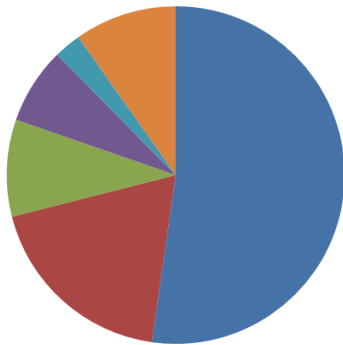
Inspection of Church Inventory was carried out by the Church Wardens Tim Pollard and Marlene Pearson in March 2020. We have not had a chance to repeat this in 2021; but do not envisage any changes due to the building being closed to public services for large parts of the year.

The detailed Inventory was last shared with the PCC members on 18th March 2020, we will aim to share a new copy later in 2021 once the church re-opens.

Accounts

Income	2019	2020	2020	2021
	Act Dec	Act Dec	budget	budget
Collections	79093	73613	83000	68000
Fees and Rents	24865	13807	23600	22300
Misc	8712	2884	1340	4900
FME Grant		3520	3000	0
Furlough Refund from HMRC		7166		3500
Donations	295	1120	2000	0
INCOME TOTAL	112965	102110	112940	98700
Expenditure	2019	2020	2020	2021
	Act Dec	Act Dec	budget	budget
Contributions: wider Church	60500	50000	60000	50000
Church Buildings	18465	14010	16450	14000
Worship resources	3876	1672	2880	2650
Hall	3968	4558	5050	4375
PCC houses	393	1124	2300	825
Vicarage	0	0	200	0
Parish Office/Comms	9498	9630	9950	9500
Ministry Expenses	2421	3330	2250	3450
Fees	537	560	0	0
Outreach	6909	6825	7700	7032
Education	410	0	600	400
Giving	9312	10000	10000	10000
Pastoral & Social	112	0	100	50
Expenses Total	116400	101709	117480	102282
Excess (Income - Expenses)	-3435	402	-4540	-3582

Budget 2021

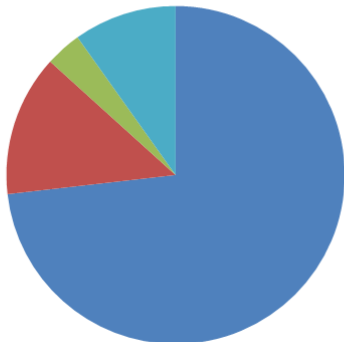


- ministry
- building
- office
- mission
- Sunday
- giving

Budget 2021 (Expenditure)

Ministry	£53450 (Parish share intern cost)
Buildings	£19200 (Church, hall, house: insurance & repairs, utility cleaner)
Mission	£7482 (Family and children's enabler)
Office	£9500 (support officer telephone print)
Sunday	£2650 (copyright, organ and church supplies)
Giving	£10000
<u>Total</u>	<u>£102282</u>

This is a reduced budget from last year: 2020: £117480



- giving
- rent/fee
- grants
- misc

Income 2020 & Budget 21

Congregation Giving £74733	Budget 21 £68000
Buildings Rent/Fees £13807	Budget 21 £22300
Grants £3520	Budget 21 £2500
Misc. £10050 (inc. furlough)	Budget 21 £5900
<u>Total: £102110</u>	<u>Budget 21 £98700</u>

Our 2021 budget means a deficit of approx. £3582.

This means our income needs to rise by a minimum of **£300** per month.

Safeguarding

One Person has renewed their DBS certificate.

Four people have completed Leadership (C2) safeguarding training.

No new safeguarding concerns have been notified.

A core group that was formed with the diocese over an existing concern has met virtually. The group concluded that the person involved should no longer work with children, but continue with all other activities.

No role description reviews were carried out as all the activities have temporarily ceased due to the pandemic restrictions.

The PCC has complied with the duty to have “due regard” to the House of Bishops guidance in relation to safeguarding.

- Anne Lancaster

Prayer Ministry

Due to the fact that we have had very limited services in church the formal prayer ministry on these occasions has not been taking place. However, informal prayer support at has continued. Life Groups have stepped up to the mark and continued this ministry and also individuals have taken on this mantle as before.

The Emergency Prayer Chain has flourished; over 60 messages have been circulated either via text or email and many, many people have been supported in this way. We praise God for answered prayer.

The Prayer Vine has 18 members who undertake to pray for each other on a regular basis. This is a vital support for the church and not too onerous, as you only pray for one person each week.

The weekly Prayer and Praise continues via Zoom with a small core of people for half an hour on a Wednesday evening.

We would love to encourage more people to join in these activities.

- Anne Lancaster

Children, Youth & Families

In April of 2020 I was put on furlough and therefore not permitted to do work of any kind within church. In July, it became possible to be semi-furloughed so I was able to work first 5, then 8 hours a week.

I began by running a summer online holiday club, “Adventuring with God at Home”. It ran daily for a week with resources made through a collaboration of churches in Coventry and Warwickshire. I sent out packs of materials to the 14 children registered.

In September I started making weekly videos of stories, songs and crafts, following the same theme and Bible passage as church. These are uploaded to Facebook every Sunday morning. As I became more adept at editing and uploading, and as my hours increased, I have developed a Facebook group where I can add weekly files of crafts and activities. I’ve also been sharing useful posts from other sites.

For October 31st, I made a Light Party video and sent out activity packs to families. 16 of these went out, mostly to non-church families. In Advent I shared daily Muddy Church activities and at Christmas I made a sheep trail around the local businesses.

When churches briefly reopened, face to face children’s work was not recommended within the weekly service. We considered starting a ‘picnic church’ which we were calling Family Fuel, but took no bookings. We managed one successful face to face service just before Christmas which was a Christingle. 5 families attended and were given packs of everything that they need to make the Christingles as well as other crafts to do at home. I’m currently in the process of making up Lent boxes which will be posted to church families.

I’ve found it supportive to connect online with other local children and youth leaders and have attended a number of online conferences and training sessions. I’m grateful that, while furlough limits what I can do practically, I am not prevented from praying for our children, families and young people.

- Sue Clayden

Pastoral Care

The Pastoral Care Team, which consists of 8 members, were commissioned in November 2019 and had 2 meetings before the country went into lockdown on 17th March 2020. At those meetings each member of the team was allocated several people who were not in Life Groups to stay in contact with once permission was gained.

Life Groups would stay in regular contact with their own members and give assistance if support was needed. During this year of lockdown the team have stayed in regular contact with their allocated people either by telephone conversations, texts, emails or on some occasions socially distanced face to face meetings when support was needed. The team have offered prayer support, assistance with shopping and also passed on prayer shawls and prayed for those in need.

The team has offered prayer and support to one another and occasional emails, texts and phone calls to ensure that they too are coping. As a team we value one another's opinions which is vital to ensure that we provide the best support for those in our care.

Feedback has been good from those we have supported. Our contact has been appreciated as many of the people have been isolated and living alone. Each member of the Pastoral Care Team has felt equally blessed staying in touch with the people of St James' and giving them physical, social, emotional and spiritual support when needed.

Luke 6:38 "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

We would never have imagined when the team was being developed that it would be thrown into a pandemic and be so vital in supporting our brothers and sisters in Christ. We thank the Lord for his gifts and the blessings he has bestowed on us as a team, so that we can bless others and give all the glory to our Lord Jesus Christ.

- Helen Kearney & Anne Lancaster

Life Groups

Life Groups are a valuable support network for our faith journeys. They allow members to safely ask questions, pray for each other, study the Word, have fun together, challenge each other and learn from each other. This year, changes have been made to adapt to the regulations against meeting in person, but Life Groups have continued in some form.

Fiona and Hannah's ladies group have kept in contact daily on WhatsApp for prayer, encouragement, sharing verses/photos/videos/stories/songs. They've had weekly WhatsApp video calls to catch up and each discuss a Psalm, and have engaged in YouVersion Bible App plans together. It has been a time of great support, growth in faith and answers to prayer.

Rosie has been supporting Janet in a leadership role for their group. They have been texting and calling each other frequently. Rosie sends an email out once a fortnight to update everyone on each other and share a 'God moment'; an encouraging Bible story, incident, or answer to prayer.

Kathy's group have been using Zoom to meet socially on a fortnightly basis. They have been praying for each other between group times and have experienced several answers to prayer.

Dwayne, Sandra & Jonathan's Young Adults group have continued to meet weekly on Zoom. They 'check in', each answering 3 questions: "how are you?", "what 5 things are you thankful for this week?" and "how are you and God and where do you see God working in your life?". They have fortnightly Bible reflections, each preparing something a given chapter, and a weekly prayer list from which they have experienced answers to prayer.

Anne's group have been meeting on Zoom to study Ephesians together. Members find the regular contact important for their spiritual lives and have been able to share helpful comments.

Helen's group kept in touch by phone calls and texts until they were able to set up meeting on weekly group phone calls towards the end of the year. They have been able to share the highs and lows of life, and support one another in prayer and thankfulness for answered prayer.



Community Charity Shop

The Community Charity Shop, 36 Nickson Road is a part of our outreach; a place where we can raise money to support those who need it in the community, and where we can show people God's love.

In 2020 we gained one new volunteer, and although we were closed on and off due to the pandemic, we were still able to make our presence known in the community, support those in need with clothing and other goods, and raise funds for the following causes: HOPE Coventry, Coventry City Mission, Your Local Air Ambulance, Zoe's Place, The Light House Christian Care Ministry, Coventry Haven Women's Aid, Tile Hill Food Hub, and funds for computer equipment for the following schools: Mount Nod Primary School, Leigh Church of England Academy and Templars Primary School.

We were really pleased to receive letters of thanks from the children at Templars school and to hear how important the funds had been for various other charities; particularly The Light House, who were able to use the money to provide extra counselling for those struggling during the lockdown period.

- Hannah McGough

Our Parish

From Hearsall Common, westwards to the city boundary.

We serve the communities of Tile Hill South, Tile Hill Village, Tile Hill Lane, the 'trees' and 'cotes', Mount Nod and Coventry Business Park.

Our Mission

The church we envisage is God-centred;

- that everything we do is rooted in him
- that we live out the Father's love and compassion with one another
and the communities we live in
- that we are joyfully sharing the Good News about Jesus with everyone
- that we are seeing the releasing and transformation of lives in the
power of the Holy Spirit
- that we are generously giving as we have received

St James Church, 395 Tile Hill Lane, Coventry, CV4 9DP

02476 466262

www.stjamesfletcher.org.uk | admin@stjamesfletcher.org.uk



@stjamesfletcher



@stjamesfletcher

St. James Parochial Church Council - Accounts

Accounts

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St. James Community Shop – Accounts

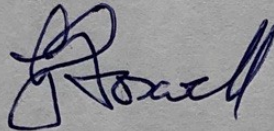
FINAL REPORT	Community Care Centre				
Accounts for the year 2020 - as of				31-Dec-2020	
Income					
Till Sales - Cash/Cheque				8844.88	
Till Sales - Card				1456.97	
Sale of Rags				1259.00	
Donations and Efforts				36.00	
Direct Payments	(Refunds)			10140.80	
Bank Interest				2.54	
					21740.19
Less Expenses					
Rent				3628.55	
Rates				140.80	
Repairs				0.00	
Donations and gifts				6036.00	
Insurance				480.71	
Electricity				553.95	
Card Fees				30.87	
Telephone				55.00	
Water				181.36	
Office Supplies				468.02	
Container				624.00	
Cleaning (Incl windows)				17.43	
Sundries				51.41	
Misc.				472.34	
					12740.44
Surplus for the year					8999.75
Balance brought forward	from 2019				22235.32
Balance carried forward					31235.07
Bank Reconciliation					
balance per bank statement					
			Business Money Manager	3267.50	
			Community Account	27974.44	
			outstanding lodgements	0.00	
				31241.94	
unpresented cheques				0.00	

Independent Examiner's Statement

The procedures taken for an independent examination do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

In connection to my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives reasonable cause to believe that in any material aspect the Trustee's responsibility to keep accounting records and prepare accounts which comply with accounting standards have not been met or to which in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Graham Foxwell



Date...14/3/2021...

134 Torbay Road

Coventry