ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, KINGSTON UPON THAMES

England & Wales · Charity number 1181704

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	2019-01-23
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	30 Bloomfield Road Kingston Upon Thames Surrey KT1 2SE
Phone	07851 048782
Email	vicarstjohnskingston@gmail.com
Website	www.stjohnskingston.co.uk

Activities

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

Activities: St John the Evangelist is an Anglican church at the heart of the Spring Grove neighbourhood in Kingston upon Thames. We provide an open, welcoming and inclusive space where people can explore their faith in fellowship with others. We offer regular Sunday services and social events. Our church also hosts community group activities and concerts and has close ties with St John's CofE Primary School.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Religious Activities, Economic/community Development/employment, Recreation
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

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Geography

- Surrey

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£119,792	£124,958	-	-
2023-12-31	£104,892	£108,890	-	-
2022-12-31	£103,839	£94,496	-	-
2021-12-31	£86,902	£86,575	-	-
2020-12-31	£121,223	£161,358	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Lindiwe Maseko		2015-01-01
Michael Wraight		2025-01-01
Monika Sosnowska		2026-03-02

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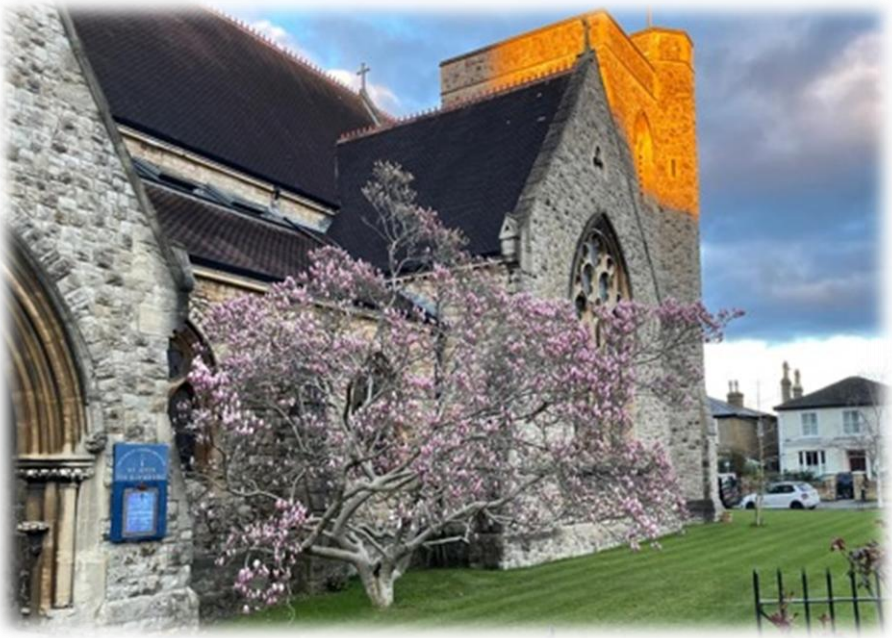
ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, KINGSTON UPON THAMES

England & Wales - Charity number 1181704

Accounts

St John's Church & Hall
St John the Evangelist
Grove Lane, Kingston upon Thames

The Diocese of Southwark



ANNUAL PARISH CHURCH REPORT 2024

CELEBRATING 153 YEARS OF WORSHIP & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

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VICAR'S REPORT 2024

Dear Church Family,
As we come together for our APCM this year, I want to start by saying thank you as we look back over everything that has happened in the past twelve months. Our church family has worked hard to grow in faith, to support each other, and to reach out into the community. The year has gone by quickly, but it's been full of quiet, faithful service and kindness. Week by week, people have turned up, giving their time, energy, and love. That's what keeps our church alive. Whether you've helped once or many times, whether you've been at the front or behind the scenes—you are important, and we are very grateful.

Worship and Life Together

Thank you so much to everyone who helps keep St John's going. Whether it's All Age Communion, Parish Communion, Reflections Services, Confirmation, or the children's groups like Diddy Disciples, Little Groovers and Junior Church, your commitment means so much and keeps our worship fresh and meaningful.

Thanks also to everyone who serves week in, week out—the Ministry team, the Church Warden, Servers, Chalice team, Sidespeople, Verger, Organists, Pianists, Coffee and Cake team, Readers, Prayers, Charities and Campaigns Team, the audio team, First Monday Club, Junior Church team, and all who welcome and support during services. We are truly thankful to God for you all. We also give thanks for our Licensed Lay Pioneer and Pastoral Ministers, Treasurer, Gift Aid Secretary, Safeguarding Officers, and the members of the Standing Committee and PCC, who give their time and skills to lead and care for our church.

A big thank you to those who look after the building and grounds—the Caretakers, the Building Repairs Team, and those who maintain the sound system and hall. Your hard work keeps St John's safe and welcoming.

We are grateful to our Church Administrator, Website Team, and Electoral Roll Officer for keeping things running smoothly.

Thank you, too, to those who run our community groups and activities—the Community Café team, the Licensing (Bar) team, First Monday Club, and the parents who support children's worship. And a special thank you to the local groups who hold surgeries and drop-in sessions here, including the Special Police Community Support Officer, local councillors, Bedelsford School, Refugee Action Kingston, and St John's School. It's wonderful to stay connected with the wider community.

Children and Young People

We are thankful for the children at Junior Church and for those who regularly help lead the service. A special thank you to the young people who gave their time last year as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award. It's great to see their thoughtful service.

Thank You to Those Stepping Down

This year we want to say a big thank you to some special people who are stepping down after many years of service.

Frances Hazelgrove is standing down as Churchwarden after six full terms. Frances has been a steady, kind, and wise presence—always noticing the details and a person we all trust. Frances, thank you so much for everything you have done for St John's.

Tony Hardy is stepping down after 35 years as our Treasurer. What an amazing contribution of care and consistency. Tony, we wish you happiness as you settle into your new home and enjoy time with your grandchildren.

Jo Need, our Gift Aid Secretary, has also stepped down after many years. Jo's careful work has brought in thousands of pounds, quietly making a big difference. Thank you, Jo.

Wendy Malseed has stepped down from several important roles including Organist, Churchwarden, and Deanery Synod Representative. Her musical gifts and quiet strength have been a real blessing.

Finally, a sincere thank you to Pat Askey, who has stepped down as our Parish Safeguarding Officer. Alongside Grant Vanstone, Pat has done this vital work with great care, helping keep St John's safe for everyone. We wish them all every blessing in the next chapters their lives.

Our Ministry Team

Our team here in Kington continues to grow. We warmly welcomed Revd Dr Sylvie Collins-Mayo as Assistant Priest and look forward to Michael Stokes joining us as Pioneer Curate in July. Along with the wider clergy team, we meet weekly to pray, share news, and support each other. We were also delighted to welcome Julie Bishop as a newly licensed Lay Pastoral Minister here at St John's. We are so glad she's part of the team.

In Loving Memory

It is with sadness that we remember Pat Lines and Mick Cooper, two cherished members of our church family who passed away last year. Pat served faithfully as a Churchwarden in the past, and Mick was a Reader for many years. Though both had been unable to join us recently, their absence was felt in the church. We were honoured to hold a funeral service for Pat and a memorial service for Mick here at St John's, where we celebrated their lives and contributions.

There are so many people to thank that it's impossible to name everyone. So, if you have helped St John's in any way this year—cooking, cleaning, fixing, listening, giving, praying, making tea, leading, serving, stacking chairs, or simply turning up—thank you. You help carry the life of the church. We see you, and we give thanks to God for you.

As we look to the future, I believe God is still at work here among us. We are eager to pick up our Mission Action Plan and get moving again. It's an exciting time, full of hope and commitment. Let's carry on with faith, love, and hope—trusting that the One who began this good work in us will see it through to the end. With every blessing,
Reverend Lindiwe Maseko

CHURCH WARDENS' REPORT

St John's had another happy and busy year with our building used for many different activities. Worship was central to everything else going on and the regular pattern was an All Age Communion Service at 10.00am on the first Sunday of the month, Parish Communion on the last two Sundays of the month when the Diddy Disciples joined us for Communion after their own worship, and from September on the fourth Sunday, following a 9.00am said Holy Communion, a new service of Reflection led in turn by Isobel Robinson, Andrea Campanale and Julie Bishop. The Junior Church met on a Sunday afternoon during term time led by Lindiwe and Kath Edwards with the help of Martha and Eve Hallahan and Toby Wraight as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award voluntary service.

Thank you to our loyal Servers Kath Edwards, Neville Hall, Jim Duffy and Raymond Kendall, a Server from September, and our great team of sides people, ensuring our services ran smoothly and everyone received a warm welcome. Thank you to Katy Morbin and Susan Andrew and their team of parents who led the Diddy Disciples worship and to our lovely team who made the coffee and provided delicious cakes for everyone to enjoy after the services. We were very sorry that Wendy Malseed left us at the end of August to be the Organist at St Andrew's church in Ham. We missed her playing and thank her for her contribution to our worship and the life at St John's. We were pleased and grateful to George Short for stepping in to play the organ for our Parish Communion and Reflection services and to Daisy Burton for playing the piano for our All-Age services and Andrew Davies for playing during the confirmation service. We thank Mark Brooks for being our helpful Verger and Sacristan.

Sadly, Pat Lines and Mick Cooper, two dedicated, longstanding and very much-loved members of our church died last year. Pat had been a past Churchwarden and Mick Cooper a Reader for many years, but both had been unable to be with us for some time and were missed. We were able to share in the very special funeral service for Pat and the Memorial service for Mick in our church.

There were six baptisms, one wedding and one funeral during the year.

Our Community Café opened on the first Saturday of the month from 10.00am-1.00pm not only providing a space for people to meet and enjoy the toasted sandwiches and homemade cakes but raising money for our church funds and the charities we support. Thank you to the loyal team who cooked, served coffee, made and sold the cakes and washed up! We were pleased that Simon Briggs, our Special Police Community Support Officer, and Councillors Nicola Nardelli, Roger Hayes and John Sweeney from the Liberal Party continued to hold surgeries with residents. The First Monday Club met each month and Little Groovers continued on a Tuesday morning. Thank you to everyone for making St John's the warm and welcoming church it is and to the many people who give their time and energy to our church life as the reports will testify.

We are grateful and thank Isobel and Andrea for all they do and Julie, who we were so pleased was licensed as a Lay Pastoral Minister in October. Our thanks to Tony, our Treasurer, for his continued hard work and good stewardship of our resources, and Jo Need for her support and help with Gift Aid. Thanks to our Standing Committee, PCC and our Safeguarding Officers Pat Askey and Grant Vanstone. Pat stood down in September, but we thank her for the time she gave to this role. We thank our Charities, Causes and Campaigns Team. Thank you, Michael Wraight, Tony Hardy and Lindiwe, for being involved with arranging the building repairs outlined in the Quinquennial report. Thank you to Colin Bowes who earlier in the year significantly improved the sound system. We thank Ray Symmons for his conscientious care of the church and hall buildings and for looking after our occasional hirers as Caretaker, and also Caroline Overholt for covering for Ray when needed. We were very sorry that Ray gave up the role in September but welcomed Silvana Silva as our Caretaker from November. Thank you Luanne Higgins, our PCC Secretary and Electoral Roll Officer, Evie Ng for continuing to be our efficient and helpful Church Administrator and Emma Peries who with Evie kept our Website up to date.

I have enjoyed being your Churchwarden and as I step down, I thank Lindiwe for her prayerful leadership and friendly guidance, Jan Wheeler and Julie for covering for me on the Sundays I was away and everyone for helping to make my time in the role easier and a very happy one.

Frances Hazelgrove - Church Wardens.

FABRIC REPORT

The church was kept in good order and continued to be professionally cleaned. The annual spring clean went well with a good number of helpers. The recommendations from the Quinquennial Report have been done. Thank you to Tony Hardy and Michael Wraight for your involvement with the building work. A five-year inspection of the electrics found that as only the worship area had new electrics further work was recommended. This will be organised. The accumulated rubbish in the church grounds was removed by a waste management company. The church grounds have been well maintained and kept looking beautiful by our loyal team of volunteer gardeners, Karoline Molberg, Tricia Badham and Chris Stuart, for which we thank them.

Frances Hazelgrove - Church Warden

CHURCH FINANCES

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, KINGSTON UPON THAMES

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL AFFAIRS : YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

INCOME	**Unrestricted**	**Restricted**	**2024**	**2023**
Gift Aid	27459		27459	24410
Income Tax Recovered	9160		9160	8987
Loose Collections/Card Reader	3766		3766	4611
Donations/Grants	3088	5200	8288	4484
Little Groovers	1383		1383	1687
Fund Raising	27148		27148	22857
Church Fees (net)	606		606	1141
Church Hire	20850		20850	16543
University Rent	16675		16675	16675
Interest	1784		1784	1364
Missions	2484		2484	2106
Misc. Receipts	190		190	27
TOTAL	**£114,592**	**£5,200**	**£119,792**	**£104,892**

EXPENDITURE	**Unrestricted**	**Restricted**	**2024**	**2023**
Missions & Affiliation Fees	2593		2593	2112
Education	49	765	814	441
Little Groovers	0		0	399
Parish Support Fund	50580		50580	48960
Clergy Expenses	0		0	522
Church Administrator/PCC Sec	6592		6592	4234
Organist Salary, Organ/Music	3184		3184	1877
Heating & Lighting	17299		17299	13026
Water Rates	323		323	291
Insurance	5988		5988	5815
Fundraising Expenses	12342		12342	12328
Church Repairs/Maintenance	20332		20332	11728
Printing, Postage & Stationery	4452		4452	4638
Sundry Expenses	459		459	2518
TOTAL	**£124,193**	**£765**	**£124,958**	**£108,890**
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	**-£9,601**	**£4,435**	**-£5,165**	**-£3,998**
Transfer to reserves				
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR			**-£5,165**	**-£3,998**
ADD ASSETS FROM 2023 BALANCE SHEET			**£88,553**	**£92,551**
ASSETS FROM 2024 BALANCE SHEET			**£83,388**	**£88,553**

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, KINGSTON UPON THAMES

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	2024	2023
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors	2538	1932
Bank Current Account	14166	19443
Deposit Funds	70337	71182
	£87,041	**£92,557**
LESS : CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Sundry Creditors	-3652	-4004
NET ASSETS	**£83,388**	**£88,553**
REPRESENTED BY :		
Unrestricted Fund	15964	25564
Restricted Fund (A) - Regeneration	39538	39538
Restricted Fund (B) - Legacy	20596	20596
Restricted Fund (C) - Family	7290	2855
	£83,388	**£88,553**

NET ASSETS : 31 DECEMBER 2024	**Unrestricted**	**Restricted A**	**Restricted B**	**Restricted C**	**Totals**
Balances at 1 January 2024	25564	39538	20596	2855	88553
Income	114592	0	0	5200	119792
Expenditure	-124193	0	0	-765	-124958
Transfers between funds	0	0	0	0	0
Balances at 31 December 2024	**£15,964**	**£39,538**	**£20,596**	**£7,290**	**£83,388**

Signed : Church Treasurer

Signed : Team Vicar

Independent Examiners Report

I report on the accounts of St John the Evangelist, Kingston upon Thames for the year ended 31/12/24.
My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Comission.
This includes a review of the accounting records kept by the church and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records.
I have examined the SOFA and Balance Sheet and confirm that these are in accordance with the accounting records, receipts, invoices, statements and documents submitted to me.

Signed : Independent Examiner

TREASURER'S REPORT

Total income rose by 14.2% in 2024 to reach £119,792 with gift aid receipts, fundraising and church hire all showing healthy growth. However, expenditure at £124,958 was up by 14.8% with significant increases especially in energy costs and repairs/maintenance. We closed the year with a deficit of £9,601 in unrestricted (ordinary) funds which was reduced to £5,165 after grants totaling £5,200 (shown as a restricted 'Family' fund) and earmarked for future work with children and young people, were received.

We remain extremely grateful to all who give to St John's via monthly standing orders or envelopes. In total, this contributes 24% of our ordinary income or 32% if the further £9,160 in income tax recovered on Gift Aid payments is included. £16,675 annual rent from Kingston University continues to form a substantial part of our income while church hire to commercial and community groups at £20,850 was 26% up on 2023. Fundraising from the bars at Banquet Records concerts plus the Christmas Fayre, Silent Auction, cafes plus Sunday coffee and cakes amounted to a record £27k.

The cost of running the Church increased in most areas. We gave £50,580 as our Parish Support contribution to the Diocese which pays for the ministry here and assists churches in Southwark, many of whom are significantly poorer than ourselves. While we felt inflationary pressures across the board, energy costs increased considerably, largely reflecting higher use of the building. We continue to be frugal with the thermostat! It is hoped that the autumn will see a substantial reduction in energy tariffs when our contract is up for renewal. The cost of repairs and maintenance at £20k reflected expenditure on the roof & gutters, stonework, PA system, gas and electric in addition to routine upkeep. Expenses on the organ/music included £1,404 for tuning and repairs.

Total reserves at the year-end stood at £83,388. Of this £15,964 is held in unrestricted funds, £39,538 in the restricted Regeneration Fund towards future building work, £20,596 representing the balance of legacies received plus £7,290 from new and residual grants (family fund). It is the policy of the PCC to keep a minimum £30k in liquid reserves to cover unforeseen emergencies or loss of regular income and this is only achieved by including the legacy money.

In 1990 I took over as Church Treasurer - initially on a temporary basis! - and 35 years later, as I write this, I look forward to passing on the role to my successor. It feels strange to be moving away from Kingston where Gill and I made our home after getting married but we do hope to stay in touch with you and wish everyone at St John's the very best for the future. I would like to thank Lindiwe, Frances, Isobel, Julie, Andrea and all the PCC members for their help over the past year. Special thanks also to Jo Need, our Gift Aid Secretary, to Evie Ng, Luanne Higgins, Michael Wraight and the Bar Team, Ray Symons, Silvana Silva and Emma Peries for their invaluable support too.

Tony Hardy - Church & Hall Treasurer

EVENTS & FUNDRAISING

This year was another record year for Fundraising revenue at St John's with income of £27,148. After expenses of £12,342 mainly on stock for the Banquet Records bars, we raised a net £14.8k. Three-quarters of the income came from Banquet shows which also bring in valuable church hire fees. We held a successful Christmas Fayre again in partnership with St John's School PSA, with the church share of proceeds amounting to £996. in addition, we received twice the profit (£1,992) under a workplace charity scheme via a church member to whom we are extremely grateful. The latter sum is included under donations rather than fundraising.

The annual Silent Auction proved very popular this year raising a net £3,131. Contributions to fundraising also came from Saturday cafes, Pancake Day, book sales and Sunday refreshments. Our grateful thanks go to all who help run and staff the bars and assist with all our events over the year. Special thanks go to Adrienne, Jo and Kate from the school PSA who led the organisation of this year's Christmas Fayre so successfully and all those helpers from church and school for their time and talents. Fundraising events continue to play an important social role in adding to the spiritual life of St John's, enriching relationships between church members and welcoming visitors from the local community and beyond, as well as providing vital income to help meet our running costs.

Tony Hardy - Church & Hall Treasurer

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

2024 has been another wonderfully busy year at St. John's, with the church continuing to serve as a welcoming and vibrant space for a wide range of community groups and activities.

We have been delighted to host many of our regular hirers, including the Orpheus Choir, Kingston Spring Grove Morris Dance, Daisy First Aid, Sound Bath, Ginger Tonic, Hartbeeps, and Refugee Action Kingston. The Best Bedelsford Café also continued to run during term time, offering a joyful and inspiring experience as the students served the community with such dedication.

A particular highlight has been our ongoing collaboration with Banquet Records. In 2024, the church hosted 20 gigs, with our fantastic bar team supporting each event. These evenings have not only brought music and energy into our building but also raised significant funds for the church's mission.

Our own church-led groups — the First Monday Club, Little Groovers, Junior Church, Community Café, and Ping Pong—remain at the heart of community life, filling the building with laughter, conversation, and connection.

Both St. John's School and Bedelsford School have continued to make beautiful use of the church for seasonal services, including Easter, Harvest, Christmas, and leavers' celebrations—bringing in joy and a festive spirit throughout the year.

Towards the end of the year, we held a number of successful fundraising events, including the much-loved Christmas Fayre.

Altogether, 2024 has been a year of continued growth, activity, and community engagement. We give thanks for all those who contribute to making St. John's a place of warmth, welcome, and joyful witness.

Evie Ng - Parish Administrator

CHARITIES, CAUSES & CAMPAIGNS TEAM

St John's Church community has continued to give generous support to charities and good causes at home and abroad over the last year. Including payments through the church accounts and direct to Christian Aid and the Children's Society, a splendid total of around £4410 was donated through a combination of cake sales, special collections in church and individual gifts, plus envelopes through local doors during Christian Aid Week. The Lent Appeal for The Leprosy Mission was particularly successful, raising £760, and we were delighted to welcome back Sally Carter-Esdale to update us on the work of TLM. Other charities supported included the UNICEF appeal for Sudan, the Matabeleland Link and Kingston Churches Action on Homelessness.

In addition, generous donations of food and other items were made by St John's School families and church members at Harvest Festival: these were mostly delivered to the Kingston Foodbank, but also some to Refugee Action Kingston. A month later, in early November, 51 filled and wrapped shoeboxes from St John's Church and School and All Saints Church began their journey, in order to reach hard-pressed families and individuals in Eastern Europe in time for Christmas.

The annual Christingle service in aid of the Children's Society was held on Sunday 1 December, and we are pleased to report that the collecting box scheme has been updated and relaunched. A total of £261 from existing box-holders was sent to the Society – thank you all for your loyal support, and thank you, Shona.

For all of this, we are hugely grateful to our church community, who have continued to engage and to give despite current financial difficulties. Your generosity is much appreciated, and has enabled us to continue to reach out in love to those who need our help, whether locally or in the wider world.
Rev. Lindiwe Maseko, Kay Baker, Tony Williams, Shona Pitcher, Isobel Robinson

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JUNIOR CHURCH

Two words spring to mind when reporting on Junior Church's second successful year and they are “fun” and “faith”.

The children have continued to deepen their understanding of key Bible stories, their Christian belief and faith in a fun and interactive way. Lindiwe and I have often been taken aback by the maturity and perceptiveness of the children's questions and thoughts during the sessions and their boundless creativity in the “hands on” activity element to the gatherings.

JC numbers have remained steady this year and the age of attendees to the Sunday tea-time sessions ranges from Reception to Year 4 . We usually have 6-8 children taking part on a regular basis, but the JC twilight gardening evenings have attracted around 12+ children each time.

This particular activity is fast becoming an extremely popular event. Come rain or shine, the children turn up ready to help pull up weeds and clear patches of ground ready for seed sowing and bulb-planting. They are rewarded with a mug of hot chocolate and waffles after their hard work. The session ends with prayer, thanks to God for His beautiful world, and a strong sense of camaraderie. “The best day ever!” and “We are working as a team” are just some of the happy comments made by the children about the gardening sessions.

Our JC indoor sessions have mainly focused this year on the New Testament reading presented in the Sunday morning Holy Communion Service and involve the older children reading the Bible passage to

the group, a viewing of a child-friendly video explaining the story, followed by an invitation to comment and question what they have just heard and seen. This will be followed by music, a craft activity, the children's prayers, and finally the opportunity to break bread together with food kindly prepared by a small group of JC parents. For their help and support, we are extremely grateful.

Although Lindiwe plans for the sessions to follow the scheduled Bible readings, there is flexibility for the children to suggest themes for up-coming sessions or to include activities at short notice in response to events that are important to them. The JC children are very much at the heart of what we do.

The group continues to meet in church at 4.30 - 6pm on Sundays in term time, apart from the first Sunday of each month when the children are invited to participate in the All Age Communion Service at 10am instead. Recently, Lindiwe established an additional JC group which meets every third Sunday in the month in the Parish Hall for children whose parents are participating in the 10am Reflection Service.

We are always keen to welcome new members to the JC groups so if you have a young one who would like to join in the "fun and faith" we would love to hear from you.

Kath Edwards

Diddy Disciples

It's been another busy year for Diddy Disciples, the group is as popular as ever and well attended. We have a core group of parent volunteers running sessions which we are very grateful for, around 10 children attend weekly and we have expanded our core group welcoming new parents and children this year as regular members. We have been known to have close to 20 children in busy and lively sessions some weeks! The children are engaged and active during the sessions with singing and crafts key highlights. In the summer months we use the wonderful church grounds and get outside to incorporate nature and explore the world around us, bringing elements of what we are learning to life.

A key highlight this year was the wonderful Diddy Disciples and Junior Church Christmas party, you'll see from the photos this was a lovely festive event enjoyed by parents/carers and children alike, a great way to celebrate the fantastic church community we have.

Katy Winter

PCC SECRETARY & ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER'S REPORT

PCC

The PCC met six times this year and welcomed 3 new members, 2 elected and one ex-officio.

In May, the PCC held a very productive Away Day for MAP (Mission and Action Plan), planning with a moderator from the Diocese. An outline of a plan was produced, and a working group formed. This is in further development.

In April, the PCC also appointed a new Treasurer following Tony Hardy moving from the area after many years of service. The new treasurer, Monika Sosnowska, will take over once a final handover has taken place.

Electoral Roll

As necessitated by the Church of England, a new Electoral Roll from scratch is being undertaken. This occurs every six years when all of the names from the existing Roll are removed, and all wishing to appear on the new roll must complete a form.

This is a very time-consuming process, and at the time of writing, 57 names appear on the roll, although additional forms have been received and will be added prior to the APCM.

Any new forms received from now will be added to the roll after it is presented at the APCM, so it's never too late!

Luanne Higgins - PCC Secretary & Electoral Roll Officer.

FIRST MONDAY CLUB

Another lively year with up to 10 members meeting for two hours or so each month for entertainment and tea.

We have had interesting talks from: Isobel on The Exploits of her Aunt, from Carolynne on the history of Bentalls and from Ray about his visit to Vietnam and the various religions that he encountered.

Picnic in Marble Hill Park

During the summer months we enjoyed picnics at Polesden Lacey and Marble Hill, a visit to the Lavender Fields and cream teas at Pembroke Lodge.

We were sorry to say Goodbye to Pat Lines, one of our founder members who died in October.

Do come and join us, you will know everyone.

Quiz session in church

- Jo Need & Frances Hazelgrove.

SJC GARDENING TEAM

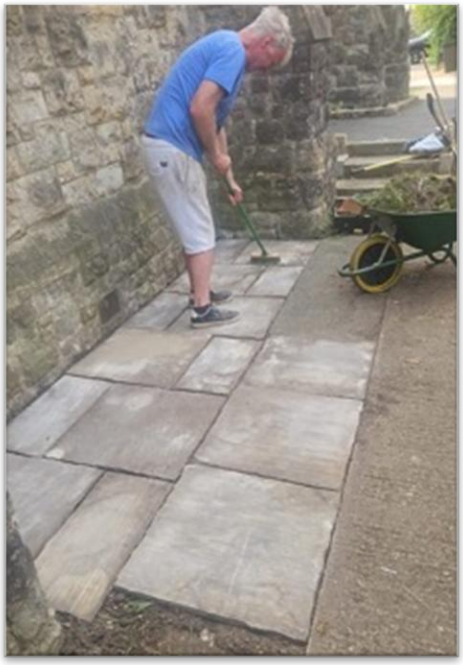
The SJC Gardening Team is dedicated to nurturing the church grounds and creating an area for all to enjoy and experience.

Over the past year, a great deal of care has gone into maintaining the church grounds, with special attention given to the wonderful lawns. A huge thank you to Chris for his dedication—thanks to his hard work, the lawn has been scarified, top-dressed with compost, and overseeded with high-quality dwarf rye grass, the same variety used at Wimbledon. We continue to uphold our commitment to environmentally friendly gardening, avoiding pesticides entirely. Instead, as an example, we protect our roses from greenflies using a gentle spray of water and diluted washing-up liquid.

Another exciting development has been the nurturing of a new wild area to the left of the main gate, beneath the willow tree. This space is gradually being transformed into a haven for wildlife, and a special thanks goes to Trisha for creating a charming bug hotel. In late March, we plan to introduce wildflowers to further enhance this space—our gratitude to Lindiwe for kindly providing the seeds to make this possible.

We have also made great strides in sustainability, sourcing essential gardening materials through Freecycle to keep costs down. This has allowed us to replenish our supply of soil, gravel, and tools while reducing waste.

A big thank you must also go out to Leo for her generous donation of 8 terracotta pots of various sizes, which now add a beautiful, natural touch around the church perimeter.



In addition to our planting efforts, we've also made some practical improvements to the church grounds. One has been the laying of new paving at the rear of the church, where the wheelie bins are collected. This area was previously rough and often muddy, making it difficult to navigate—especially at night. Now, thanks to this much-needed work, the ground is beautifully level, making it far easier to roll the bins in and out. A huge thank you to Ray Symons for his hard work in making this transformation possible. Another is the jasmine that was planted in a 3 meter long bed at the rear of the church by the brick wall. This came about with the work done by the girls from Surbiton High School. They spent 2 days with us in June 2024 working in the grounds as part of their 'Soul in the Community' programme. Lastly, if you've been to the rear of the church, you'll also notice our new locked garden sheds, allowing us to store tools more securely. A big well done to Chris for organizing the team so efficiently—at this rate, we could rival RHS Wisley facilities!

All the team enjoy tending to these grounds and warmly invite anyone with a bit of free time to join us and mother nature.

Chris Stuart, Trisha and Karoline Molberg

LICENSING TEAM

I am writing this report as the Premises License Holder to update you on the activities of the Licensing team throughout 2024.

We had a successful year with 20 concerts taking place in conjunction with Banquet Records hosting the following artists, Fran Carter, Gruff Rhys, Jamie Webster, Benjamin Francis, The Snuts, The K's, Starsailor, While She Sleeps, The Feeling, Jordan Rakei, Bat for Lashes, The Mysterines, Griff, 86 TVs, Cassyette, Paris Paloma, Orla Gartland, Tom Speight and Lauren Mayberry. Many artists also take the time to thank the Church staff and have photographs taken with members of the team and family afterwards.

They also now sign a little note which is displayed on our new Bar Sign as a lasting memory of all the events.

Most of these shows sold out meaning a capacity crowd of 350 were able to come and enjoy the wonderful surroundings of St John's.

From taking time to talk to attendees the most common response was what a lovely building we have and it was so nice to see it being used for such amazing community events.

We cannot underestimate the support of Jon Tolley and his team at Banquet Records for bringing these events to us enabling us to promote St John's within the community and raising much needed funds for the building.

We have a very committed and amazing team of Bar Volunteers who give up their evenings to help with setting up, serving and closing up the bar when we host

these events. And we were able to thank some of them with an evening out at Christmas at The Park Brewery Tap Room.

A special mention should be given to Jan Hartley and Linda Richards who have both taken on the role of Bar Supervisors and Managers in my absence at events.

On behalf of myself and the Church I would like to express my thanks to all the team, without whom none of this would be possible, the effort that each and every one of them gives ensures the smooth running of these events.
Regular training and ensuring compliance with the terms of our license have made the Licensing team not only a great asset to the church but has forged new friendships within the group who now attend other local concerts when not held in St Johns.

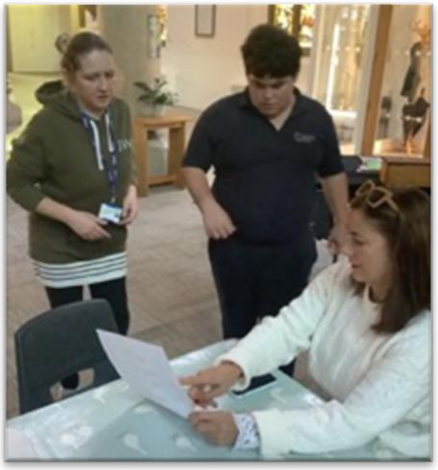
We have managed to align ourselves with local suppliers for our stock, namely The Park Brewery, Against the Grain Cidery and Hampton Court Spirits. This allows us to continue the 'local' community spirit of the Church by supporting 3 local companies and solely stocking their products, this again has proved to be a real 'hit' with our customers and these companies have supported the Church in their fund raising efforts as well.

Their support throughout the year has forged great links between St Johns and each of them with bigger plans in 2025 in the making.

Michael Wraight - Premises License Holder

BEDELSFORD SCHOOL

The Best Bedelsford Cafe has developed greatly over the last year. Students from our Primary and Secondary classes are attending together along with their parents and are having a great time socialising with each other.



Our new sandwich board, kindly supplied by the church, has also helped to increase footfall and we are seeing visitors from the local community on a regular basis.

We have also purchased a new kettle tipper and trolley to help our students make and serve the drinks! We are grateful to Reverend Lindi and to all at St John's Church for the continued use of their space.

Phil Skippon - Head of Secondary and Sixth Form

REFUGEE ACTION KINGSTON

Refugee Action Kingston continue to deliver a key part of their provision at St Johns which is their Community Hub. Using funding from The Big Lottery they run a day centre on Wednesdays with English Language teaching, welfare and legal advice and counselling. There is always a hot lunch and in the afternoons art class and a sewing workshop. Over the last year , the church is visited by up to 50 people a week. There have also been health education sessions, training and social activates for RAK, celebrations of festivals and culture .

Refugees and people seeking asylum from all faiths and backgrounds find the church a welcoming and safe space
and are grateful for the opportunity to come together as a community and find new friends. Following the development of a small plot at the side of the church, they are also looking forward to planning a bed of herbs for communal use.

Jenny Arokiasamy - Learning Manager

HALL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

The hall had another busy year with our regular hirers continuing to enjoy using it for their activity. With the Badminton group, Pilates, Jiu Jitsu, Teddy tennis, the Rose Youth Theatre, a Mother and Baby group, Poco Loco Salsa dance class, the Spring Grove Fringe and a new class of Capoeira, private events, school fund raising events and weekend children's parties, the hall is still an important and sort after venue. The hall continued to be regularly professionally cleaned. Thank you to Ray, our Caretaker, for his care of the hall and for looking after our occasional hirers. Thank you also to Caroline Overholt who so cheerfully and proficiently took over the Caretaker role during the weeks when Ray was away. We were sorry that Ray gave up the role at the end of August and we were very pleased when Silvana Brito da Silva became our

Caretaker in November. We thank her for the conscientious attention she gives to the hall and her friendly manner with our hirers. Our regular hirers were invited to a meeting with the Hall Committee in October to let them know our future plans for the hall renovations and to give them the opportunity to ask questions. Representatives from the Badminton Group and Spring Grove Fringe came and although low in attendance the meeting was helpful.

The Hall Committee met regularly and played an important part in keeping the hall in good repair and in safe condition for everyone to use. Their wisdom and practical support continued to be very much appreciated.

Frances Hazelgrove - Hall Administrator.

ST JOHN'S PARISH HALL - TREASURER'S REPORT

Finance Report for the year ended 31 December 2024

This year the Parish Hall achieved a surplus of £7,592 with total funds rising to £94,210 by the year end. Income was at £24,377 was 19% on 2023 reflecting increased numbers of regular hires. 84% of our income came from regular hirers with highest usage by Jiu Jitsu and Spring Grove Fringe. Income from occasional hire chiefly for children's parties fell slightly, although bookings were steady throughout the year.

Expenses at £16,785 were up by a reasonably modest 5.5% on last year, with energy and water costs surprisingly stable. In addition to weekly cleaning, more was spent this year on repairs and replacements including gutters and pipework plus some redecoration of the toilets. The Hall Committee has started the process of applying to grants and trusts to provide funding on top of our own reserves so that major refurbishment can be carried out on the Hall. This includes improving access and toilet facilities plus replacing the windows and doors and fully redecorating the Hall. The timescale will be determined by how successful we are at achieving external funding.

Sincere thanks are extended once again to Frances Hazelgrove who manages the Hall bookings and invoicing so well for us, to Ray Symons and Silvana Silva for caretaking duties, plus the staff of Paragon Green Cleaning for their service. Thanks also to Michael Wraight for overseeing Hall maintenance, to Jan Hartley for leading the Hall management committee and to all our hirers for their much appreciated support.

Tony Hardy - Church & Hall Treasurer

ANNUAL SAFEGUARDING REPORT

It is the responsibility of the Parish Safeguarding Officers and the PCC to provide an Annual report on Safeguarding and to report that it is in compliance with the duty to 'have due regard' to the House of Bishops' ('HOB') Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance.
Currently Shona Pitcher and Grant Vanstone are holders of the joint role of PSO's.
A review of policies is due by October this year.
Further training sessions for the PSO's are contemplated by the Diocese.
An Audit of Parish Safeguarding was carried out by March 2025 with due regard to the House of Bishops guidance. This review is now complete, and the audit required completed. The PCC members safeguarding certificates need to be checked to see if certificates need to be updated.
Insurance cover and rental agreements have been audited and are in compliance with the HOB guidance.

Safeguarding is at the heart of all activities that the church and PCC are involved in.
Safeguarding is now an agenda item at every PCC meeting.
Formal notices are displayed as advised by the HOB guidance with the contact details of the various officers. Photos are now displayed of the Officers.
We have procedures in place to deal promptly with any safeguarding allegation or suspicion of abuse however this will need to be kept constantly under review and a further audit prior to Oct of 2025 in line with the new changes and audit process introduced by the Diocese after the 2019 review and the restrictions and difficulties caused by COVID 19. A three yearly review and update with regard to Safeguarding policies and training is being implemented and is under review of all members of the PCC's now and in the future.
We have systems in place to ensure that any known offender or others who pose risks to children are identified.
There are some other final checks that need to be reviewed regrading training and certificates although the policies and procedures are in place but as is always the case, they need to be more robust and kept under review.
Risk assessments are carried out in relation to all activities that take place within the church and the areas under its responsibility and guidance is provided to all who hire premises under the church's responsibility.
Thankfully there have been no major issues reported again this year.
Strong and robust procedures tend to ensure the likelihood of any issues become less likely and if arising are dealt with appropriately and without as much pain and difficulty than if there are less stringent checks in place.

SERVERS

Serving at the altar remains one of the quiet joys of our worship at St John the Evangelist. It is a ministry grounded in presence, care, and reverence. Each Sunday,

before the congregation arrives, servers gather in the calm of the sanctuary to prepare the altar – a still moment that connects us to something deeper. A highlight this year was the Confirmation Service in June, when the Bishop of Kingston, Rt Revd Dr Martin Gainsborough, joined us to baptise and confirm candidates. It was a moving and hope-filled celebration, and a privilege for our team to serve on such a meaningful occasion. As always, we would love to welcome new people to the servers' team. No prior experience is needed – just a willing heart and the gift of your time. Training will be offered, and there's always support from the rest of the team. If this is something you feel drawn to, please do speak to Nev, Kath, Jim or Raymond. Serving is a simple act – but in the rhythm of our worship, it becomes something sacred.

SIDES-PEOPLE

Every Sunday – and at our special services too – our Sidespeople are the friendly faces who welcome you at the door. Their kind greeting helps set the tone for worship, offering warmth and calm right from the start. Over the past year, this lovely team has continued to serve quietly and faithfully – giving out service sheets, helping visitors feel at ease, and staying steady when things get busy or unexpected. Whether the church is full or just a few of us, they help everyone feel safe, noticed, and at home. A big thank you to each of you – your time, care, and thoughtfulness mean a lot. Even though your work is often in the background, it really makes a difference. Looking ahead, we'd love to welcome more people to the team. You don't need any experience – just a warm smile and a kind heart. If you're interested, please speak to Frances, David H, Michael, Kay, Carolynne, Jo, Pam, Emmanuel or Adam. We'll give you all the help and support you need. Thank you again for everything you do – your ministry of welcome really matters.
Rev'd Lindiwe

PASTORAL TEAM REPORT

Our pastoral team continues to coordinate our efforts. We meet every two months after church to discuss any pastoral needs within our parish, update each other on current happenings, and agree on our next steps.

If you know of anyone who needs our support or if you would like to join our team, please contact Julie or Lindiwe.

Julie Bishop

TEAM RECTOR'S REPORT

It's been good to see all three churches in our Team Ministry developing new mission initiatives. **St John the Evangelist**, in Spring Grove, have extended their thriving work with pre-school children by adding a Junior Church for primary school children that meets for worship and food every month. **St John the Baptist**, Kingston Vale, have

made great strides in developing a project called the Wellspring Community. This includes ambitious plans to build a swimming pool behind their parish hall. Meanwhile, **All Saints,** in the town centre, has secured funding from the Diocesan Investment Programme to extend their Lifting Young Voices programme in local primary schools.

We continue to offer a joint **Lent Course** with mixed groups in each church discussing the sermons by guest preachers. In 2024 the theme was 'Ways of Praying'. In 2025 we have been thinking about 'Speaking of God' with the help of some experienced chaplains working in challenging settings. This included sermons by our own Mandy Beck and Sarah Williams, both of whom offer chaplaincy alongside their parish ministry.

As a group of parishes, we have started a 12-month **Growing Leaders** course with participants and mentors from all three churches. We hope that the 10 participants will grow in confidence and discern a call from God to offer a variety of ministries within our churches.

Our Clergy Team continues to meet every week for the sharing of news, mutual support and a time of prayer. We are very pleased that **Sylvie Collins-Mayo** has recently joined us as an Assistant Priest and we look forward to welcoming **Michael Stokes** as a Pioneer Curate in July. Expanding the team in this way will mean that we can circulate around the churches a bit more regularly. We're also delighted that licensed lay ministry is growing with the recent addition of **Julie Bishop** as a Licensed Lay Pastoral Minister at St John the Evangelist.

Finally, we look forward to the re-introduction of a joint annual service. This will be on Ascension Day, May 29th, with an outdoor evening service (weather permitting) in the orchard of St John the Baptist Kingston Vale, preceded by picnic and games.

Rev. Joe Moffatt - The Vicar, All Saints Church Kingston

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, KINGSTON UPON THAMES

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL AFFAIRS : YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

INCOME	**Unrestricted**	**Restricted**	**2024**	**2023**
Gift Aid	27459		27459	24410
Income Tax Recovered	9160		9160	8987
Loose Collections/Card Reader	3766		3766	4611
Donations/Grants	3088	5200	8288	4484
Little Groovers	1383		1383	1687
Fund Raising	27148		27148	22857
Church Fees (net)	606		606	1141
Church Hire	20850		20850	16543
University Rent	16675		16675	16675
Interest	1784		1784	1364
Missions	2484		2484	2106
Misc. Receipts	190		190	27
TOTAL	**£114,592**	**£5,200**	**£119,792**	**£104,892**
EXPENDITURE			**2024**	**2023**
Missions & Affiliation Fees	2593		2593	2112
Education	49	765	814	441
Little Groovers	0		0	399
Parish Support Fund	50580		50580	48960
Clergy Expenses	0		0	522
Church Administrator/PCC Sec	6592		6592	4234
Organist Salary, Organ/Music	3184		3184	1877
Heating & Lighting	17299		17299	13026
Water Rates	323		323	291
Insurance	5988		5988	5815
Fundraising Expenses	12342		12342	12328
Church Repairs/Maintenance	20332		20332	11728
Printing, Postage & Stationery	4452		4452	4638
Sundry Expenses	459		459	2518
	£124,193	**£765**	**£124,958**	**£108,890**
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	**-£9,601**	**£4,435**	**-£5,165**	**-£3,998**
Transfer to reserves				
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR			**-£5,165**	**-£3,998**
ADD ASSETS FROM 2023 BALANCE SHEET			**£88,553**	**£92,551**
ASSETS FROM 2024 BALANCE SHEET			**£83,388**	**£88,553**

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, KINGSTON UPON THAMES

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	2024	2023
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors	2538	1932
Bank Current Account	14166	19443
Deposit Funds	70337	71182
	£87,041	**£92,557**
LESS : CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Sundry Creditors	-3652	-4004
NET ASSETS	**£83,388**	**£88,553**
REPRESENTED BY :		
Unrestricted Fund	15964	25564
Restricted Fund (A) - Regeneration	39538	39538
Restricted Fund (B) - Legacy	20596	20596
Restricted Fund (C) - Family	7290	2855
	£83,388	**£88,553**

NET ASSETS : 31 DECEMBER 2024	**Unrestricted**	**Restricted A**	**Restricted B**	**Restricted C**	**Totals**
Balances at 1 January 2024	25564	39538	20596	2855	88553
Income	114592	0	0	5200	119792
Expenditure	-124193	0	0	-765	-124958
Transfers between funds	0	0	0	0	0
Balances at 31 December 2024	**£15,964**	**£39,538**	**£20,596**	**£7,290**	**£83,388**

Signed : Church Treasurer

Signed : Team Vicar

Independent Examiners Report

I report on the accounts of St John the Evangelist, Kingston upon Thames for the year ended 31/12/24.
My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Comission.
This includes a review of the accounting records kept by the church and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records.
I have examined the SOFA and Balance Sheet and confirm that these are in accordance with the accounting records, receipts, invoices, statements and documents submitted to me.

Signed : Independent Examiner

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, KINGSTON UPON THAMES

England & Wales - Charity number 1181704

Accounts

The Diocese of Southwark

St John's Church & Hall
St John the Evangelist
Grove Lane, Kingston upon Thames

ANNUAL PARISH CHURCH REPORT 2023

CELEBRATING 152 YEARS OF WORSHIP & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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Email : vicarstjohnkingston@gmail.com
Website : www.stjohnskingston.co.uk
Facebook : Facebook.com/StJohnsKingstonUponThames

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

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VICAR'S REPORT – REV'D LINDIWE MASEKO

Looking back on the past year fills me with gratitude. Having served as your vicar for the past two years, transitioning from interim minister in 2022 to vicar in 2023, has been a true privilege and a source of joy. Getting to know every member of our congregation has been a deeply rewarding journey, despite the hurdles of commuting from Lewisham to Kingston, particularly during the train strikes. Your encouragement, faithfulness and enthusiasm for worshipping and serving together have been genuinely inspiring. Thank you for your unwavering support.

Gratitude and Appreciation

I want to express my heartfelt appreciation to all those who have tirelessly served our church community. From the dedicated church wardens, the PCC, the Treasurer, PCC Secretary & Electoral Roll Officer, Gift Aid Secretary, the Ministry and Pastoral Care team, to everyone who preaches and delivers talks, our Safeguarding Officers, the Charities, Causes, and Campaigns team, the Website, tech, and audio team, the Bar team, the Gardening Team, the Sides-people, the Servers, the Buildings team, the Coffee team, the Readers, the Caretaker, our Organist(s), the St John's Scratch choir, St John's PSA and those who lead prayers - your exceptional efforts and invaluable service are deeply appreciated and valued. Furthermore, I extend my gratitude to our entire church family and the wider community for your unwavering support over the past year.

In April, we said farewell to Emma and Mimi. We are grateful for all their hard work and contributions to the church. Special thanks to the parents and all who have been instrumental in running Diddy Disciples since April 2023, contributing to its remarkable growth. The newly established Junior Church, launched in September and led by Kath Edwards and myself, assisted by students from the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, who have generously volunteered their time and efforts. The parents help with preparing the meals, and it is going well as we look to invite more children to participate. We welcomed our hardworking new Administrator in June, and she has been doing a great job in our day-to-day keeping us organised.

We were saddened by the loss of a cherished member of St John's – Victoria Koloko. The church was full as many family, friends, and church family said farewell and gave thanks for her life. We extend our thanks to all who offered support and encouragement to Emmanuel and his family during this difficult time.

Worship and Connection

This past year presented opportunities for meaningful worship and community engagement. I had the privilege of providing one day a week ministry cover at St John the Baptist for six months for Rev'd Mandy as she worked an extra day at the hospital. The highlight was initiating Messy Church on the Putney Vale Estate. It is a blessing to work as part of a team with Rev'd Joe, Rev'd Mandy, and Rev'd Sarah. Here at St John the Evangelist, the Pancake Party was a delightful event, drawing

enthusiastic participation from St John's School. Our Ash Wednesday service set a solemn tone for the Lenten season, complemented by the insightful CofE Difference Course. The joint Palm Sunday service with Kingston Methodist Church was a wonderful testament to our collaborative efforts. Throughout Holy Week, we shared solemn and uplifting moments, culminating in a joyous Easter Day celebration, where both familiar faces and new friends joined in.

Our worship services strive to create an inclusive environment for worshippers of all ages, across all services. We welcomed people from diverse backgrounds and had the privilege of hosting services for various occasions, including baptisms, weddings, funerals, Christmas, Easter, Leavers, Harvest, the FW Paine Christmas Memorial service, and visits from local schools. I am particularly encouraged by the engagement of children and staff in Collective Worship, fostering a culture of spiritual growth and enthusiasm within our school community.

Community Engagement and Outreach

Our monthly Community Café remains a vital hub for connecting with our wider community. Huge thanks to the dedicated team who tirelessly raise funds and warmly welcome everyone, including our Ward Councillors. We're grateful for our ongoing partnership with Refugee Action Kingston and the positive impact of working with Bedelsford School. Special thanks go to the St John's Parents-Staff Association for their invaluable support and collaboration, which has significantly contributed to the success of our joint events. We're looking forward to the Christmas Fair and continuing our support for Acts 345, the Bishop's Lent Call, Christian Aid, and the Leprosy Mission.

Looking Ahead

We stand on the brink of exciting opportunities as we set out to shape the future of St John's through the development of a new Mission Action Plan (MAP). Our aim is to build on our current ministry initiatives while infusing fresh perspectives into our journey of growth and discipleship. At the heart of our mission lies a dedication to nurturing a warm and diverse church family, deeply rooted in the love of God and committed to spreading hope throughout our community.
In crafting this forward-thinking MAP, our focus is twofold: to sustain our existing activities while propelling us towards transformative growth and deeper community involvement. We envision a future where our church family thrives, reaching out to welcome over 1,000 more people to the congregation.

Looking ahead, we understand the significance of responsible financial stewardship and the exploration of innovative fundraising methods. Let us embark on this journey together, bound by our shared vision of a flourishing and lively St John's community. In conclusion, our pledge to be a positive influence in our community, guided by our faith, remains unwavering. Through our collective endeavours, we aspire to make a real and lasting difference in the lives of those around us. With prayers and

anticipation, I eagerly await the continuation of our journey together.
Reverend Lindiwe Maseko

CHURCH WARDENS' REPORT

On January 24th, Lindiwe was licensed as Team Vicar by Archdeacon John Kiddle, with Reverend Joe Moffatt leading and presiding at the Holy Communion service. It was a very happy occasion, with many friends and guests joining our congregation and gathering together after the service.

Our church remained at the heart of the community. The regular pattern of worship included Parish Communion at 10am on the last three Sundays of the month, with the Diddy Disciples having their own worship and then joining us for Communion. On the first Sunday of the month, we held an All-Age Communion Service involving our young families. Thanks to Kath, Neville, and Jim, our Servers, and the great team of Sides-people, our services ran smoothly, and everyone received a warm welcome. We extend our thanks to the Parents who led the Diddy Disciples worship and to those who made the coffee and provided delicious cakes for everyone to enjoy after the service.

St John's continued its partnership with the Methodist Church in Kingston, coming together for worship at both Easter and Christmas. Our Christmas Carol Service followed much-appreciated Carol singing in the Spring Grove. We were pleased to have a scratch choir led by Andrew Davies, our Guest Choir Master and Organist for the evening. Again, we welcomed Andrew to play for the Crib Service, with many children acting out the Christmas story. Both services were well attended and greatly enjoyed. The Frederick Paine Annual Memorial service took place in December and was appreciated by many.

Our Community Café continued to open on the first Saturday of the month from 10.00 am-1.00 pm, providing people with the opportunity to meet and enjoy refreshments in a relaxed atmosphere. We were proud to receive a five-star certificate for Food Safety and Hygiene in October, the highest rating possible. Our thanks to those who cook, make the coffee, bake cakes, and help in many ways on the day.

There were sixteen Baptisms, two Weddings, and two Funerals during the year.

Lindiwe continued to maintain links with Surbiton High Junior School. Both St John's and Bedelsford Schools held a service in our church to celebrate Easter, Harvest, and Christmas. Bedelsford School used our kitchen for their own weekly café during term time. The partnership between our church and St John's School has strengthened. In particular, we thank the PSA for their hard work in the organization of our joint Christmas fair, which, together with the successful result from the online Silent Auction organized by Tony Hardy, was a very successful event.

St John's continued to provide facilities and support for Refugee Action Kingston. Banquet Records hired our building for concerts, and we were successful in obtaining a license for the sale of alcoholic drinks, sold by a team of committed volunteers raising much-needed funds for the church. Kingston University continued its hire of the building for examinations, contributing significantly to funds.

We were very sorry that Emma Lloyd-Williams resigned from her role as our Parish Administrator and thanked her for all she had done for St John's. In June, we were delighted to welcome Evie Ng to the role. We were also pleased that Luanne Higgins became our PCC Secretary and Electoral Roll Officer, and we thank them both for the important part they play in the smooth running of the church.

We wish to thank Tony Hardy, our longstanding Treasurer, for his good stewardship of our resources and Jo Need for her help with Gift Aid. We thank Isobel, Andrea, David, and Grant for all they do and for their interesting and inspiring sermons. Julie plays an important role in Pastoral Care, and we thank her for her dedication. Our PCC members, Pat and Grant, serve as our Safeguarding Officers. We appreciate their commitment to this crucial role. Our Charities, Causes, and Campaigns Team, Emma Peries for keeping our website up to date, Colin Bowes for his advice, and Dave Meegan's help to achieve the best results from our sound system all contribute significantly to the smooth running of our church. We thank Ray for continuing to be our helpful and conscientious Caretaker for the church building and Parish Hall, and Caroline for covering the Caretaker role when needed. We extend our gratitude to all those who anonymously contribute behind the scenes. Churchwardens cannot stand alone. We need support, advice, and encouragement, and we have certainly received these. Thank you.

It was an eventful and enjoyable year for our parish, and with Lindiwe, we look forward to developing the initiatives and partnerships that have been established.

Wendy Malseed & Frances Hazelgrove
Church Wardens.

FABRIC REPORT

The church has been kept in good order and has continued to be professionally cleaned. The church's annual spring clean went well with a good number of helpers. Discreet wheels have been attached to the altar to make it easier to move. Most of the recommendations from the Quinquennial Report have been addressed. The roof needs some repair, and the flagpole requires attention, both currently under review. Thank you to Tony Hardy and Michael Wraight for your involvement in organizing the work. The church grounds have been well maintained and kept beautiful by our loyal team of volunteer gardeners: Karoline, Tricia, and Chris. We extend our

heartfelt thanks to them.

Frances Hazelgrove
Church Warden

CHURCH FINANCE

2023 was a tale of two halves. The first six months showed a loss of £8,558 due to high energy costs and income from church hire down by a third as there were no Banquet Records concerts. By the year end losses were stemmed as we hosted several Banquet events and had a successful Christmas Fayre and Silent Auction. Even so, we still recorded a deficit of £3,998 over the 12 months.

Total income for the year was £102,037, almost all of which came from Unrestricted (ordinary) sources. Grants totalling £2,855 (shown as a restricted fund marked Family) were also received and earmarked for future work with children and young people. We remain very thankful to all those who give to St John's via monthly standing orders or envelopes which contributes 24% of our income or 33% if the further £8,987 in income tax recovered on Gift Aid payments is added. £16k annual rent from Kingston University continues to form a significant part of our income.

Income from church hire in 2023 was marginally down but recovered greatly from the opening six months, while the Coronation event, Christmas Fayre, Silent Auction and the bars run at Banquet shows helped lift fundraising by 12% year on year to almost £23k.

While total income was only marginally down on 2022, expenses totalled £108,890 – some 15% higher, reflecting higher running costs in most areas. There was no further expenditure from the Regeneration or Legacy funds. We pledged and gave £48,960 as our Parish Support contribution to the Diocese which supports the ministry here and at churches throughout Southwark, many of whom are significantly poorer than ourselves. While we experienced inflationary pressures across the board, energy costs substantially contributed to the deficit for the year, totalling an unprecedented £13k. This year there was no cushion – Government support for business energy was reduced from 41% to just 2.5% and the scheme has now ceased altogether.

In summary, we ended 2023 with reserves of £88,553 comprising £25,564 held in unrestricted funds, £39,538 in the restricted Regeneration Fund towards future

building work, £20,596 representing the balance of legacies received plus £2,855 from new grants (family fund). The balance of the Refugee Action grant was used to cover subsidised church hire by RAK up to the summer, after which RAK are now paying for hire each term. It is the policy of the PCC to keep a minimum £30k in liquid reserves to cover unforeseen emergencies or loss of regular income.

Finally, I would like to thank Lindiwe, Frances and Wendy, Isobel and all the PCC members for their help over the year. Special thanks go to Jo Need, our Gift Aid Secretary, to Evie Ng, Michael Wraight and the Bar Team, Ray Symons and Emma Peries for their invaluable support too.

Tony Hardy - Church & Hall Treasurer

EVENTS & FUNDRAISING

This year was a record year for Fundraising revenue at St John's with income of £22,857. After expenses of £12,328, we raised a net £10.5k. The expenses are higher than last year as they include St John's School PSA share of proceeds from the Coronation event, joint Christmas Fayre and the Silent Auction plus costs associated with successfully applying for a bar licence. We hosted 10 concerts for Banquet Records, our own show with Nadia Sheikh plus one for regular hirers, Duo. A profit of £4,633 was returned on £8,265 bar sales across these events. Despite the weather, the Coronation Street Party generated a net £1,882 for church funds while the church share of Christmas Fayre and Silent Auction proceeds were £1,285 and £1,535 respectively.

Contributions to fundraising also came from Pancake Day, book sales, Saturday cafés and Sunday refreshments while the Journey of the Magi performance generated a net £375 following the generous sponsorship of the event by a church member and the Nadia Sheikh concert raised a net £822.

Our grateful thanks go to all who help run and staff the bars and assist with fundraising events across the year. Special thanks go to Adrienne and Jo from the school PSA who led the organisation of this year's Christmas Fayre so tirelessly and all those helpers from church and school who put in a shift and a half! Fundraising events also have an important social role in adding to the spiritual life of St John's, enriching relationships between church members and welcoming visitors from the local community and beyond.

Tony Hardy - Church & Hall Treasurer

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, KINGSTON UPON THAMES

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL AFFAIRS : YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

INCOME	**Unrestricted**	**Restricted**	**2023**	**2022**
Gift Aid	24410		24410	25296
Income Tax Recovered	8987		8987	8935
Loose Collections/Card Reader	4611		4611	4530
Donations/Grants	1629	2855	4484	1757
Little Groovers	1687		1687	3261
Fund Raising - General	22857		22857	20285
Church Fees (net)	1141		1141	1102
Church Hire	16543		16543	16613
University Rent	16675		16675	16675
Interest	1364		1364	441
Missions	2106		2106	3494
Misc. Receipts	27		27	1451
TOTAL	**£102,037**	**£2,855**	**£104,892**	**£103,839**

EXPENDITURE	**Unrestricted**	**Restricted**	**2023**	**2022**
Missions & Affiliation Fees	2112		2112	3780
Education	441		441	393
Little Groovers	399		399	2564
Parish Support Fund	48960		48960	48000
Clergy Expenses	522		522	398
Church Administrator/PCC Sec	4234		4234	2496
Organist Salary, Organ/Music	1877		1877	1740
Heating & Lighting	13026		13026	7143
Water Rates	291		291	192
Insurance	5815		5815	5559
Fundraising Expenses	12328		12328	7284
Church Repairs/Maintenance	11728		11728	8874
Printing, Postage & Stationery	4638		4638	3948
Sundry Expenses	2518		2518	2125
TOTAL	**£108,890**	**£0**	**£108,890**	**£94,496**
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	**-£6,853**	**£2,855**	**-£3,998**	**£9,343**
Transfer to reserves				
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR			**-£3,998**	**£9,343**
ADD ASSETS FROM 2022 BALANCE SHEET			**£92,551**	**£83,208**
ASSETS FROM 2023 BALANCE SHEET			**£88,553**	**£92,551**

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, KINGSTON UPON THAMES

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	2023	2022
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors	1932	2379
Bank Current Account	19443	21218
Deposit Funds	71182	72715
	£92,557	**£96,312**
LESS : CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Sundry Creditors	-4004	-3790
NET ASSETS	**£88,553**	**£92,522**
REPRESENTED BY :		
Unrestricted Fund	25564	30676
Restricted Fund (A) - Regeneration	39538	39538
Restricted Fund (B) - Legacy	20596	20596
Restricted Fund (C) - Kingston Refugee	0	1742
Restricted Fund (D) - Family	2855	0
	£88,553	**£92,552**

NET ASSETS : 31 DECEMBER 2023	**Unrestrict**	**Restricted A**	**Restricted B**	**Restricted C**	**Restricted D**	**Totals**
Balances at 1 January 2022	30676	39538	20596	1742	0	92552
Income	102037	0	0	0	2855	104892
Expenditure	-108890	0	0	0	0	-108890
Surplus (Deficit)	-6853	0	0	0	2855	-3998
Transfers between funds	1742	0	0	-1742	0	0
Balances at 31 December 2023	**£25,564**	**£39,538**	**£20,596**	**£0**	**£2,855**	**£88,553**

Signed : Church Treasurer

Signed : Team Vicar

Independent Examiners Report

I report on the accounts of St John the Evangelist, Kingston upon Thames for the year ended 31/12/23.
My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Comission.
This includes a review of the accounting records kept by the church and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records.
I have examined the SOFA and Balance Sheet and confirm that these are in accordance with the accounting records, receipts, invoices, statements and documents submitted to me.

Signed : Alan Smith Independent Examiner

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Since joining the St. John family in June, it has been an absolute joy to witness the bustling activities within our church community throughout 2023. From regular hirers like the Orpheus Choir, Kingston Spring Grove Morris Dance, 8218 Theatre Group, Daisy First Aid, Sound Bath (pilates), Ginger Tonic (yoga), to new initiatives like Hartbeeps (baby & toddler music class) and The National Childbirth Trust (antenatal class), our church has truly become a hub of activity.

One of the highlights of the year was the launch of "The Best Bedelsford Café" by Bedelsford School in the second half of the year. It was heartwarming to see the students' dedication in running the café despite their physical limitations.

Additionally, Banquet Records hosted 10 gigs in the latter part of the year, and with the recent license for the sale of alcoholic drinks, our committed volunteers successfully ran the bar during these gigs, raising significant funds for the church.

Our church-led groups, including the First Monday Club, Little Groovers, Junior Church, Community Café, and Ping Pong, continue to fill our church building with laughter and community spirit.

Furthermore, our church school has been actively involved in hosting various services and celebrations throughout the year, including Easter, Leavers Assembly, Harvest, and Christmas services.

As the year drew to a close, we organized several fundraising activities, including the Christmas Fayre and fundraising concerts featuring talented artists like Nadia Sheikh and Journey to Magi, culminating in a beautiful Christmas concert by Duo.

In summary, 2023 was a year filled with activity, growth, and community engagement. I look forward to the continued success and vibrancy of our church community in the coming year.

Evie Ng - Parish Administrator

CHARITIES, CAUSES & CAMPAIGNS TEAM

In the course of 2023, our church community raised a total of over £3,700 for good causes, of which c.£1600 was paid direct to Christian Aid following CA Week, and the rest went to various charities via the church account. Apart from Christian Aid, the largest amount was £585 raised for The Leprosy Mission, which is in addition to the regular support given by a number of congregation members. We were delighted to welcome back Sally Carter-Esdale of TLM as a preacher in February: her enthusiasm for this inspiring charity is clearly infectious! The other charities to which St John's

gave money were the Bishop of Southwark's Lent Appeal, Princess Alice Hospice, Water Aid, Kingston Samaritans, the Children's Society, Kingston Churches Action on Homelessness and Women and Children First.

Once again, generous donations of food were brought into church in early October for Harvest Festival, and were given primarily to Kingston Foodbank but also some to Refugee Action Kingston; and at the beginning of November, supporters at St John's Church and School and All Saints Church contributed 45 beautifully wrapped boxes of small gifts to the Link to Hope Shoebox Appeal, and these began the long journey to reach hard-pressed families and individuals in Eastern Europe.

Refugee Action Kingston has continued to operate at St John's on Wednesdays, and St John's support for Kingston Community Refugee Sponsorship is also ongoing. KCRS completed its two-year sponsorship of its first family in November, and would like to welcome a second family, but finding the necessary affordable rental property within the Borough is proving very challenging.

Particular thanks this year to Emma Peries, who is standing down as St John's Children's Society rep. We are most grateful to her for all she has down over the last few years; and we are glad to report that Shona Pitcher has agreed to take over from her. And more generally, a heartfelt thank-you to all who have given so generously of their time and resources in these difficult times, enabling St John's to continue to reach out to those who need our help, whether locally or in the wider world.

Rev. Lindiwe Maseko, Kay Baker, Emma Peries, Isobel Robinson, Tony Williams

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JUNIOR CHURCH

Junior Church (JC) began meeting in September last year and has now firmly established itself as an important part of St John's children's ministry. Its young members, currently an enthusiastic group of 6 to 9 regular attendees (including 5 High School students on the team, Rev. Lindiwe, myself, and 7 dedicated parents), meet at 5 pm for an hour of activity in the church most Sundays. Parents are encouraged to stay.

Each week, the children focus on a particular Bible lesson or theme and have the chance to deepen their understanding of key Christian concepts through discussion, questioning, reflection, music, dance, art and craft, and prayer. The children "break bread" together at the end of the session when they gather to share a light meal kindly prepared by one or two of their parents. Although JC was originally aimed at the 7+ age group, some younger siblings have successfully joined the sessions to become keen and enthusiastic members of the group.

Junior Church is fortunate to have the support and input, over the next few months,

of five secondary school-aged volunteers, three of whom are working towards achieving Duke of Edinburgh Awards. A highlight was some of JC singing at the Carol Service.

The focus now for the JC planning team will be to explore how more children could be encouraged to join the sessions and to incorporate the children's ideas and "voice" into the planning process.

Kath Edwards

Diddy Disciples

It's been another busy year for Diddy Disciples; the group remains as popular as ever and is well attended most weeks. Since Mimi and Emma, the founding leaders of Diddy, stepped back in spring 2023, we've had a rota of parents running Diddy each week, with three key volunteers leading a session most months and others supporting on an ad hoc basis. We have between 6-16 children attending weekly and have expanded our core group by welcoming new parents and children this year as regular members. The children are engaged and active during the sessions, with singing and crafts being key

highlights. The congregation have once or twice heard very enthusiastic groups shouting 'hallelujah!' We endeavor to use the wonderful church grounds and get outside when possible to incorporate nature into the sessions and explore the world around us, bringing elements of what we are learning to life.

Katy Winter

CHILDREN AND FAMILES

At St. John's, we've had another eventful year filled with various activities. Our journey began in February with the delightful Shrove Tuesday Pancake Party. It was a well-attended event where everyone enjoyed delicious pancakes with various toppings. Alongside activities and crafts for the children to engage in.

As Lent came it an end, we had the Diddy Disciple's Good Friday workshop. It is designed to present the story of Holy Week in a child-friendly manner, it offered an insightful experience for the children. Later in the simmer, we had a bring-and-share meal, with fun old school sports activities led by Julie and Vaughan, which brought much joy and fun for our little people.

Wrapping up the year, our Crib Service was well attended. Children enthusiastically participated in the story of Jesus's birth; the children got to wear cool costumes lent to us by St John's school.

Our Little Groovers community continues to flourish, with a consistent attendance of 15-20 families each week. We also introduced singing and storytelling which proved to be a hit among the toddler, bring much fun, joy and dancing. We were sad to say goodbye to Emma over the summer. We're grateful for everything she did at John's and wish her well in the future.

PCC SECRETARY & ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER'S REPORT

In 2023/24, we witnessed the growth of our church family with several new additions to the electoral roll. We are grateful for these new members and would like to remind everyone that there is still time to add your names to the 2024/25 roll. Additionally, in the past year, a new challenge emerged as I took on the role of PCC secretary. Fortunately, this coincided with the publication of the new PCC Secretary's handbook, which I am currently navigating. I participated in an online PCC Secretary's conference last year and am scheduled to attend another later in 2024.

Luanne Higgins - PCC Secretary & Electoral Roll Officer.

FIRST MONDAY CLUB

Another fun filled year with the First Monday Club – in church when the weather is chilly with quizzes, and craft activities and outside during the warmer weather with visits to Marble Hill and Claremont gardens, Ham House, Bushey Park and the Isabella plantation. We had a river trip to Hampton Court and back and always tea and cake. Come and join us - Jo Need.

SJC GARDENING TEAM

The SJC Gardening Team is dedicated to nurturing the church grounds, creating a welcoming natural haven for the community to enjoy. As you stroll by, you may find joy in the scent of roses, the sight of the magnolia tree in full bloom, or the cheerful presence of daffodils — we hope each may lift your spirits. While we may not quite rival the renowned gardens of Wisley just yet, our lush, expertly-tended grass is certainly a point of pride, thanks to Chris, our resident grass guru.

As summer approaches, we envision the lawns vibrant with picnickers enjoying the serene setting.

You might also have noticed some new additions at the back of the church. Adjacent to the brick wall, to the right of Helene Keates' camellia bushes, are two young yellow broom bushes. These newcomers have braved the winter and promise to dazzle with bursts of yellow once they bloom. Additionally, miniature pink rose bushes now line the stone steps at the rear and flank the main entrance door at ground level, enhancing the church's charm.

We're particularly proud of the flower bed to the left of the main entrance, which has flourished beautifully. The white choisya bush there is a testament to Trisha's dedicated efforts. On the other side of the church, the purple irises continue to captivate for a second year in the flower bed nearest the high altar. Purple holds significant biblical symbolism, making them a perfect fit for that setting.
Our team thoroughly enjoys the time spent tending to these grounds and warmly invites anyone with a bit of free time to join us. Whether or not gardening is your passion, we encourage you to visit and take in the beauty that nature offers here.
Chris, Trisha and Karoline.

BEDELSFORD SCHOOL

Bedelsford School has accepted a kind offer to use the church space to run a cafe service, the Best Bedelsford Café, on Thursdays in term-time between 10.00 and 11.30 a.m. This has provided our students with valuable work experience as they have taken part in making teas and coffees and serving these, along with snacks, to guests at the cafe. We have welcomed church staff, parents, other pupils, and visitors from other schools, and it has been really valuable for our students to experience the roles of a barista. We would love to welcome all parishioners to our cafe to show you the wonderful things our students are capable of.

Phil Skippon - Head of Secondary and Sixth Form.

REFUGEE ACTION KINGSTON

Refugee Action Kingston (RAK) has been delivering wraparound services in the church on Wednesdays with ten staff members and up to twenty volunteers. This includes advice and guidance, English classes, immigration and welfare advice, counseling, health events, cooking classes, and hot meals. In the last year, they have also been joined by a group of volunteers from a local charity, RBKares, who run a popular afternoon sewing group.

This year, they used the Parish Hall during the exam period and to deliver a Get Active course in partnership with Kingston Council. This work has put St John's at the heart of Refugee Action Kingston's service delivery with up to 60 people dropping in every week and up to 300 different people visiting St John's in the last year. Some of these are the most vulnerable and socially isolated, having very recently arrived with no language, living in temporary accommodation, or in a few cases, homeless; many of them are uncertain of their future.

There is an after-school club for newly arrived refugee children and their parents where children can get support to catch up with their peers, and parents get help with English and understanding how to access services they need.

RAK staff have told us of the difference that working at St John's with us makes to their clients. They have a safe and welcoming place to come where they can feel less socially isolated and lonely, meet their friends, improve their confidence to communicate in an informal setting, and they can try new things while they integrate into the community. Although some of the refugees are Christian, people of all backgrounds and faiths have said how they feel at home and enjoy coming to the church, and in March, a group visited All Saints Church for a guided tour, and others have attended concerts and English conversation there. Happily, their future partnership with us is now secure as they have recently been awarded funding from the Big Lottery Community Fund commencing in April for the next four years.

Jenny Arokiasamy - Learning Manager

HALL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

The hall had another busy year, with our regular hirers continuing to enjoy using it for their activities. With the Badminton group, Pilates, Jiu Jitsu, Teddy tennis, the Rose Youth Theatre, the Spring Grove Fringe, a Mother and Baby group, and a new Poco Loco Salsa dance class, along with private events and weekend children's parties, the hall remains an important and sought-after venue. We were sorry to see the Ballet School leave in March, partly due to parking difficulties. The hall continued to be regularly professionally cleaned.

Thank you to Ray, our Caretaker, for his continued conscientious care of the hall and for looking after our occasional hirers in a friendly manner. Also, a big thank you to Caroline Overholt, who cheerfully and proficiently took over the Caretaker role during the weeks when Ray was away. The Hall Committee met regularly and played an important part in keeping the hall in good repair and safe condition for everyone to use. Their wisdom and practical support were very much appreciated.

Frances Hazelgrove - Hall Administrator.

ST JOHN'S PARISH HALL - TREASURER'S REPORT

Finance Report for the year ended 31 December 2023

The Parish Hall achieved a surplus of £4,556 in 2023 with total funds standing at £86,618 at the year end. Income was down by 12% at £20,460 (£23,367 in 2022) but this is mostly a reflection of the loss of Kingston Kindergarten who closed at the end of the first quarter of 2022. 80% of our income came from regular hirers with highest usage by Jiu Jitsu and Spring Grove Fringe. Income from occasional hire chiefly for children's parties fell slightly, although bookings were fairly buoyant across the year.

Expenses at £15,904 were just £1,000 higher than last year, despite much higher energy and water costs (up 74%). In addition to weekly cleaning, we continued to repair or replace things when necessary while avoiding major expenditure. The Hall Committee has an ambition to radically improve access and toilet facilities plus replace the windows and doors and fully redecorate the Hall. The cost implications are significant, and we will apply for funding from grants and trusts to add to our own reserves. Until we can fully implement this project, we will carry out some minor redecoration.

Special thanks go to Frances Hazelgrove who manages the Hall bookings so diligently for us and to Ray Symons for looking after the Hall and grounds, plus the staff of Paragon Green Cleaning for their service. Our thanks also go to Michael Wraight for overseeing Hall maintenance, to Jan Hartley for leading the Hall management committee and to all our hirers for their valued support.

Tony Hardy - Church & Hall Treasurer

SAFEGUARDING REPORT

It is the responsibility of the Parish Safeguarding Officers and the PCC to provide an Annual report on Safeguarding and to report that it is in compliance with the duty to 'have due regard' to the House of Bishops' ('HOB') Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance.

Currently Pat Askey and Grant Vanstone are holders of the joint role of PSO's.

A review of policies is due by October this year.

Further training sessions for the PSO's are contemplated by the Diocese.

An Audit of Parish Safeguarding was carried out in November 2023 with due regard to the House of Bishops guidance. This review is still not complete, and specific checks still need to be made to see that all PCC members are up to date with their three yearly updates in Safeguarding training.

Insurance cover and rental agreements have been audited and are in compliance with the HOB guidance.

Safeguarding is at the heart of all activities that the church and PCC are involved in.

Safeguarding is now an agenda item at every PCC meeting.

Formal notices are displayed as advised by the HOB guidance with the contact details of the various officers. Photos are now displayed of the Officers.

We have procedures in place to deal promptly with any safeguarding allegation or suspicion of abuse however this will need to be kept constantly under review and a further audit prior to Oct of 2024 in line with the new changes and audit process introduced by the Diocese after the 2019 review and the restrictions and difficulties caused by COVID 19. A three yearly review and update with regard to Safeguarding policies and training is being implemented and is under review of all members of the PCC's now and in the future.

We have systems in place to ensure that any known offender or others who pose risks to children are identified.

There are some other final checks that need to be reviewed regrading training and certificates although the policies and procedures are in place but as is always the case, they need to be more robust and kept under review.

Risk assessments are carried out in relation to all activities that take place within the church and the areas under its responsibility and guidance is provided to all who hire premises under the church's responsibility. Thankfully there have been no major issues reported again this year.

Strong and robust procedures tend to ensure the likelihood of any issues become less likely and if arising are dealt with appropriately and without as much pain and difficulty than if there are less stringent checks in place.

Grant Vanstone – Parish Safeguarding Officer

SACRED SPACE KINGSTON

Unfortunately, Sacred Space has pretty much ceased to function. We still meet up occasionally for a meal together, but our numbers have dwindled to the point where it is no longer sustainable as a Fresh Expression of Church. However, from September 2023 to March 2024, I facilitated a weekly silent meditation at All Saints, and David conducted a spirituality trail for a participant in a yoga class held in St John's Church building. I have some ideas for outreach which I plan to share at the PCC away day. These ideas could potentially revive Sacred Space as a missional community. However, I will not proceed with these plans without the support of the PCC and input from other members of St John's congregation.

Andrea Campanale

SERVERS

As servers in the church, our role is to assist the vicar during the service. We prepare the altar for communion before the congregation arrives, which can be a wonderful, peaceful time to appreciate our beautiful church. Our main duty is to assist during communion, helping with the bread and wine. We would welcome more people to join us in serving. If you feel this could be something for you, please don't hesitate to speak to any of the servers or to Lindiwe.

Nev Hall

SIDES-PEOPLE

A big thank you to our dedicated Sides-people Team for their commitment, warm welcome, and gracious hospitality. They assist with seating arrangements, guidance, and are composed when responding to emergencies. Throughout the past year, they have welcomed hundreds of people to our church, their efforts have ensured that everyone who enters our church feels embraced and valued. Their contributions

make a significant difference on our church and community, and we really appreciate them. Thank you for all that you do - Rev'd Lindiwe

PASTORAL TEAM REPORT

Our pastoral team continues to coordinate our pastoral work. We meet every two months after church to discuss any pastoral needs within our parish, update our progress, and agree on our next steps.

If you know of anyone in need of our support, or if you would like to join our team, please do contact Julie or Lindiwe.

Julie Bishop

TEAM RECTOR'S REPORT

'Now the green blade riseth' is a wonderful Eastertide hymn that comes to mind when thinking of the new signs of growth in all three of our churches in the Kingston Team Ministry.

Rev Lindiwe Maseko was licensed as Team Vicar of St John the Evangelist (Spring Grove) in January 2023. The joy shared at that service has continued to spread through her ministry with local schools, the Little Groovers, the Diddy Disciples and a new Sunday afternoon Junior Church. It's the one church in the team where children sometimes outnumber adults! Meanwhile, a brilliant group of volunteers runs a very successful bar at the regular Banquet Record gigs, engaging warmly with the music fans while ensuring a good income stream for the church.

At St John the Baptist (Kingston Vale) they continue to host a wonderful programme of community events in their orchard. The highlight in 2023 was undoubtedly a fabulous Coronation Garden Party. For much of the year Rev Mandy Beck took on extra leadership responsibility at the Mental Health Trust where she works part-time. Thankfully, Lindiwe was able to offer a day a week to provide some ministerial cover, while Mandy was working an extra day at the hospital. This just shows how helpful it is to have a team ministry. Mandy then took a well-deserved sabbatical in the autumn and is now back to her normal pattern, helping St John's in the Vale to look at some exciting plans for the future.

At All Saints we went big on the Coronation, broadcasting the national online service on the preceding Sunday and then hosting the Borough's celebration with an amazing street procession that culminated in a packed-out church service. This was quickly followed by the Ordination Service for priests in the Kingston Episcopal Area – and the arrival of our curate, Rev Sarah Williams. Sarah has since been involved in many of

our new initiatives, notably a Youth Café on Sunday afternoons and a Bereavement Café once a fortnight. In September we also started 'Lifting Young Voices' which is a project led by our Director of Music, David Condry. It involves him going into two primary schools (St John's CofE and St Joseph's RC) every week to teach class singing lessons. At the same time, he runs a Junior Choir for children aged 7-10. We hope to expand this programme to include more schools and to integrate our Junior Choir into the church community.

I'm very grateful to Mandy, Lindiwe and Sarah. It is a blessing to have a team of colleagues who enjoy meeting up with one another every week for prayer and mutual support. We're also very grateful for the wider ministry team that includes our ordained colleagues, Rev Sandy Cragg and Rev William Allberry, and our licensed lay ministers, Isobel Robinson, Andrea Campanale and Penny Jivani.

Finally, it's good to have a team outing every so often and I was delighted that a coach full of people from all three churches enjoyed a day out to Salisbury Cathedral in October. New friendships always emerge from days like this and I look forward to many more.

As a way of summarising our common faith and fellowship, let me finish with the hymn that I started with:

'*Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green*'

Rev. Joe Moffatt - The Vicar, All Saints Church Kingston

TEAM VICAR'S REPORT

2023 was a blessed year at St John's as new families have joined the congregation and we have begun experimenting with new service styles. It has been a delight on the last Sunday of the month to have a music group playing. Many people stepped-up into new roles, including Vicky Capanna who ran Messy Church on Putney Vale from September after Lindiwe finished her one day a week ministry support covering for Mandy, which was another innovation in 2023. Vicky has also taken on the role of treasurer which was a great deal of work as the books were in a bad state. This has now been resolved by Vicky with our paid bookkeeper Mel. Ki Moon Kwon has been a great churchwarden, learning the ropes alongside Beverley Morley-Brown.

For the first time on Easter Sunday, we had a play and Easter Eggstravaganza with animals to pet in our garden. This is one of the ways we have experimented sharing the joy of the Christian message with the whole community. We have also enjoyed worshipping with the choir and traditional worship on other Sundays. The 9 lessons

and carols service, and crib service were great celebrations.

On a more personal note, as vicar, I took a sabbatical and quite literally walked away. Completing two pilgrimages the Camino Inglés in Spain and Kumano Kodo in Japan. This reminded me of the deep spiritual blessing of prayerful connection to God in the world He created and ancient places of worship. My thanks go to Penny Jivani, John Waddleton, Beverley Morley-Brown, Ki Moon Kwon, Christina Renner-Thomas, Lorna Ailes, Sue Richardson and many others who rose to the challenge and ran things so smoothly with the visiting presidents, especially Carole Bourne.

The relationship between the team churches has continued to grow. At the beginning of the year, Lindiwe Maseko from St John the Evangelist provided cover for one day a week, enabling Mandy to extend her work hours at the hospital. Additionally, Lindiwe initiated a Messy Church project in Putney Vale. and Joe Moffat led services and PCC meetings during my sabbatical. Lindiwe helped at St John's because I had been asked to take on the role of lead chaplain at Southwest London and St George's NHS trust (based at Springfield and Tolworth). Many of you may know that I am employed half-time by the diocese as vicar of St John's and half-time by the NHS as a mental health chaplain. During 2023 my role at the trust was to lead the interfaith team to cover the sick leave of Tuulia Castledene.

The year was not without its challenges, several people within the church have faced personal health struggles and bereavement. Marion Nevill, Pat Moses, Pru Coyne and Pete Hodges, all long-standing members of our congregation, sadly died.

Church members have taken on new roles or continued diligently in old roles, I wish to thank all those who give their skills, time, money and talents to enable our church to serve this community and be a place of worship and fellowship.

I will end on a note of blessing, as we have been blessed at St John's with wonderful people. Once more, we had many parties and events organised by a great team led by Sue Richardson, probably most notably the Coronation Party which even made it onto Slovenian TV! We found ways to reach out and care for others, including raising thousands of pounds for the Turkish Earthquake appeal.

Rev. Amanda Beck
Team Vicar, St. John the Baptist, Kingston & Putney Vale

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, KINGSTON UPON THAMES

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL AFFAIRS : YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

INCOME	**Unrestricted**	**Restricted**	**2023**	**2022**
Gift Aid	24410		24410	25296
Income Tax Recovered	8987		8987	8935
Loose Collections/Card Reader	4611		4611	4530
Donations/Grants	1629	2855	4484	1757
Little Groovers	1687		1687	3261
Fund Raising - General	22857		22857	20285
Church Fees (net)	1141		1141	1102
Church Hire	16543		16543	16613
University Rent	16675		16675	16675
Interest	1364		1364	441
Missions	2106		2106	3494
Misc. Receipts	27		27	1451
TOTAL	**£102,037**	**£2,855**	**£104,892**	**£103,839**

EXPENDITURE	**Unrestricted**	**Restricted**	**2023**	**2022**
Missions & Affiliation Fees	2112		2112	3780
Education	441		441	393
Little Groovers	399		399	2564
Parish Support Fund	48960		48960	48000
Clergy Expenses	522		522	398
Church Administrator/PCC Sec	4234		4234	2496
Organist Salary, Organ/Music	1877		1877	1740
Heating & Lighting	13026		13026	7143
Water Rates	291		291	192
Insurance	5815		5815	5559
Fundraising Expenses	12328		12328	7284
Church Repairs/Maintenance	11728		11728	8874
Printing, Postage & Stationery	4638		4638	3948
Sundry Expenses	2518		2518	2125
TOTAL	**£108,890**	**£0**	**£108,890**	**£94,496**
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	**-£6,853**	**£2,855**	**-£3,998**	**£9,343**
Transfer to reserves				
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR			**-£3,998**	**£9,343**
ADD ASSETS FROM 2022 BALANCE SHEET			**£92,551**	**£83,208**
ASSETS FROM 2023 BALANCE SHEET			**£88,553**	**£92,551**

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, KINGSTON UPON THAMES

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	2023	2022
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors	1932	2379
Bank Current Account	19443	21218
Deposit Funds	71182	72715
	£92,557	**£96,312**
LESS : CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Sundry Creditors	-4004	-3790
NET ASSETS	**£88,553**	**£92,522**
REPRESENTED BY :		
Unrestricted Fund	25564	30676
Restricted Fund (A) - Regeneration	39538	39538
Restricted Fund (B) - Legacy	20596	20596
Restricted Fund (C) - Kingston Refugee	0	1742
Restricted Fund (D) - Family	2855	0
	£88,553	**£92,552**

NET ASSETS : 31 DECEMBER 2023	**Unrestrict**	**Restricted A**	**Restricted B**	**Restricted C**	**Restricted D**	**Totals**
Balances at 1 January 2022	30676	39538	20596	1742	0	92552
Income	102037	0	0	0	2855	104892
Expenditure	-108890	0	0	0	0	-108890
Surplus (Deficit)	-6853	0	0	0	2855	-3998
Transfers between funds	1742	0	0	-1742	0	0
Balances at 31 December 2023	**£25,564**	**£39,538**	**£20,596**	**£0**	**£2,855**	**£88,553**

Signed : Church Treasurer

Signed : Team Vicar

Independent Examiners Report

I report on the accounts of St John the Evangelist, Kingston upon Thames for the year ended 31/12/23.
My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Comission.
This includes a review of the accounting records kept by the church and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records.
I have examined the SOFA and Balance Sheet and confirm that these are in accordance with the accounting records, receipts, invoices, statements and documents submitted to me.

Signed : Independent Examiner

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, KINGSTON UPON THAMES

England & Wales - Charity number 1181704

Accounts

The Diocese of
Southwark

St John's Church
St John the Evangelist & Hall
Grove Lane, Kingston upon Thames

ANNUAL PARISH CHURCH REPORT 2022

CELEBRATING 151 YEARS OF WORSHIP & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

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VICAR'S REPORT

Looking back on the past year, I can't help but feel an overwhelming sense of gratitude and blessing for being a part of the incredible St. John's church family. To all the amazing individuals who have supported, encouraged, and prayed for the church and for me, thank you from the bottom of my heart. The warmth and embrace I've experienced from this church and community have been truly remarkable. We've embarked on a journey together, filled with exciting God adventures that have shaped us all.

Last year, we kicked off the season of Lent with a pancake party that left us all "pancaked out" in the best way possible. The collaboration with St. John's school brought parents and children together, enjoying delicious pancakes and engaging in fun games. It was a fantastic start to the season, followed by a deeply meaningful Ash Wednesday service in partnership with Sacred Space. For Lent we studied Janet Morley's book - *The Heart's Time: A Poem a Day for Lent* to help us prepare for Lent. For Mothering Sunday, as in previous years the dads were generous with their time and made beautiful posies.

One of the true highlights was our joint Palm Sunday service with Kingston Methodist Church. Witnessing the unity and collaboration between our congregations was awe-inspiring, reminding us of the incredible things we can achieve when we work together as Christians.

As Holy Week unfolded, we experienced solemn yet breath-taking moments. The Maundy Thursday meal held in the serene garden of Gethsemane was a deeply moving experience, setting the stage for the reflective gatherings on Good Friday. And when Easter Day arrived, it was a glorious celebration as familiar faces and new friends joined together in the joy of resurrection.

We've continued to nurture our spiritual connection through our morning prayer sessions, available both in person and online. Join us at 9 am, Monday through Wednesday, to be part of this meaningful practice. I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to Wendy, our dedicated organist, for her commitment over the past three years. Gratitude is also due to Frances, who has been a rock, working alongside Wendy, myself, and the PCC to ensure the smooth operation of our church. We've had the privilege of celebrating baptisms, weddings, and funerals together, cherishing life's significant moments.

Let's take a moment to appreciate Emma Peries and Colin Bowes, they are managing our website, social media, and audio-visual equipment. Their tireless efforts in keeping our communications up to date and responding to emergencies have been nothing short of amazing.

Engaging with St. John's school for Collective Worship is both a privilege and a joy. Each week, I eagerly anticipate leading and working with enthusiastic young people who wholeheartedly embrace these sessions. Our weekly Bible Club has been a rewarding experience for everyone involved, as has the opportunity to lead worship services with Bedelsford school. Looking ahead, we hope to deepen our relationship with King Athelstan school, Surbiton High Juniors, and Kingston University Christian Union. Additionally, our collaboration with Refugee Action Kingston every Wednesday has been a blessing. The women's sewing group even created a beautiful turquoise dust cover and a white altar cloth as tokens of their appreciation for our church and our partnership with RAK. We remain committed to supporting Acts 435, making a tangible difference in our community.

It has been an absolute pleasure working as part of the Kingston Team ministry, alongside our team Rector, Joe, and Mandy at St. John the Baptist. Their unwavering support has been invaluable, and I eagerly anticipate the future of our fruitful and affirming ministry.
I'd like to thank the PCC, the ministry team, and every single member of our church family. It is your contributions, big and small, that make St. John's the vibrant and extraordinary church that it is. I want to take a special moment to express my deepest gratitude to Emma and Mimi, who have dedicated several years to Children's ministry, leaving an indelible impact on the young hearts and minds within our community. May the Lord bless you abundantly in all your future endeavours.

As the year progresses, I eagerly look forward to sharing with you in detail our vision and mission action plan. But for now, our immediate priority is to consolidate the growth of our intergenerational church family and collectively transition into the next phase of ministry. Exciting things are on the horizon, and I invite you all to watch this space with anticipation and enthusiasm.

In closing, let us carry the spirit of gratitude, unity, and collaboration that has defined our journey thus far. Together, let's continue to inspire, uplift, and support one another as we navigate the beautiful tapestry of faith and community at St. John's. With God's grace guiding us, I am confident that the coming year will be filled with even more memorable moments, laughter, and shared adventures. Thank you all, and may our hearts be open to the adventures and blessings that lie ahead.
Vicar - Lindiwe Maseko

CHURCH WARDEN'S REPORT

What an incredible year it has been for our parish, filled with momentous changes and exciting developments. Among these changes, we warmly welcomed our new Vicar, Joe Moffatt, at our sister church, All Saint's, Kingston. Alongside this, we are delighted to have Lindiwe, our new team vicar, who has already contributed a lot in such a short time. She has been an inspiration to us. She has forged strong connections within our community, particularly through her collaborations with local schools like Bedelsford and St. John's, where she has been instrumental in guiding and inspiring the children to embrace church life. I have been privileged to witness the services she has held for the children and to experience the unique relationship she has with them; she has a true and natural talent for working with young people!

Lindiwe's installation in January was a truly memorable event. We were honoured to have representatives from every part of her Christian family and previous careers join us. It was good to have the Archdeacon of Wandsworth, The Venerable Rev'd John Kiddle licensing Lindiwe with our team Rector Joe leading and presiding.

Over the past year, our church has continued to be a focus of the community and has celebrated the lives of those who have been born, lived, married and died within our lives. I pray that we can remember them for all that they have given and welcome those who have yet to give.

Many things have happened over the last year, we thankful for our relationship with RAK. This partnership has brought about exciting initiatives and projects that have further enriched our church and community.

The overwhelming support and participation of our local community during the Christmas season filled our hearts with joy. The members of our community choir were a true highlight, lending their incredible voices to our carol service, midnight mass, and Christmas Day services. Their contributions were simply outstanding, and we extend our heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of them.

However, amidst all the joy, we must bid farewell to some cherished members of our community. We should like to express our gratitude to Mimi Fagan, who has contributed so much to our church over so many years. She is an exceptional person with many skills, flower arranging being just one of them! Mimi has held several positions of responsibility over many years, most significantly as leader of Diddy disciples and church warden.

We would like to thank Emma Lloyd-WIlliams for her tremendous support efforts and contributions. She has shown herself to be exceptional in her organisational skills, her ability to communicate with children and their parents. Emma - thank you.

This is a time of transition and, never before, have I felt so optimistic about the times to come. Lindiwe - we look forward to the future to which you will lead us!

Church Wardens
Wendy Malseed and Frances Hazelgrove

EVENTS & FUNDRAISING

2022 was a very successful year for Fundraising at St John's with income of £20,285 compared to £8,488 in 2021. After expenses of £7,284, we raised a net £13k. We hosted 23 concerts for Banquet Records plus five other musical events. The Banquet shows included some big names from the contemporary music scene such as Melanie C, Tom Odell and Olly Murs, the gifted cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason, plus some stellar visitors from the US – Lucy Dacus, Lissie and Beabadoobee. In addition to income from hire charges for these events, the ability to offer a licenced bar at most events through temporary licences has been a significant factor. Bar sales of £15k generated a profit of over £8k over the year. Our grateful thanks go to all who have helped set up and run the bars and we do hope our application for a permanent licence will be successful.

At Christmas the Silent Auction again proved to be a popular fundraiser and this year's online event raised a net £2k for church funds plus £142 for St John's School PSA while our Christmas Fayre event contributed over £1,000. A big thank you to all who contributed to the success of these events. It is also important to recognise that events are not just about raising much needed funds. Their social function is a great adjunct to the spiritual life of St John's and enriches relationships between church members while also giving a warm welcome to visitors from the local community and beyond. Tony Hardy

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Revenue in the latter half of the year from church hire, bars at Banquet Records concerts and our Christmas Fayre and Silent Auction helped us to achieve a surplus of £9,343 for the year with church funds increasing to £92,552 at the close of 2022. This seemed a very unlikely outcome earlier in the year, given that we also faced large increases in energy costs from the autumn. Total income for the year was £103,839, all of which was from Unrestricted (ordinary) sources. We are still heavily reliant on all those who give to St John's via monthly standing orders or envelopes.

Although the total fell by £5k this year, at £25k it still makes up nearly a quarter of our income. Giving through the card reader along with cash collections grew by over 50% against a low base. We received a further £8,935 in income tax recovered on Gift Aid payments while the £16k annual University rent continues to be a significant slice of our income.

The real growth this year though was from church hire income which more than doubled to £16k, while the bars run at Banquet Records events helped lift fundraising to over £20k. We are extremely grateful to all who help run the bars and assist with fundraising. It made a vital difference to our year, both socially and financially. The online Silent Auction raised a net £2k for church funds plus £142 for St John's School PSA while our Christmas Fayre event contributed over £1,000.

Expenses for the year totalled £94,496 and there was no further expenditure from the Regeneration fund. We again pledged and delivered £48k as our Parish Support contribution to the Diocese which supports the ministry here and at churches throughout Southwark, many of whom are significantly poorer than ourselves. Cost increases were experienced in most areas of our operations but the price of energy was most worrying with the cost of gas especially punitive. Without the government subsidy, we would have had a gas bill of £3,000 in December and still paid over £1,700 compared to £511 12 months ago, despite trying to be more frugal with heating. Our Regeneration Building Fund remains at £39,538 which is a handy sum to have in reserve, though not sufficient to kick start a further phase of building development. In summary, we closed 2022 with reserves of £92,552 made up £30,676 in unrestricted funds, £39,538 held in the restricted Regeneration Fund towards future building work, £20,596 representing the balance of legacies received plus a balance of £1,742 from the Refugee Action grant. It is the policy of the PCC to keep a minimum £30k in liquid reserves to cover unforeseen emergencies or loss of regular income.

I would like to thank Lindiwe, Frances and Wendy, Isobel, Mimi and all the PCC members for their support over the year. Special thanks go to Jo Need, our Gift Aid Secretary, to Emma Lloyd-Williams and Alec MacMillan, Ray Symons and Emma Peries for their invaluable help too.
Tony Hardy, Church Treasurer.

TREASURER'S FINANCE REPORT - YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL AFFAIRS : YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

INCOME	**Unrestricted**	**Restricted**	**2022**	**2021**
Gift Aid	25296		25296	30483
Income Tax Recovered	8935		8935	10315
Loose Collections/Card Reader	4530		4530	2916
Donations/Grants	1757		1757	3378
Little Groovers	3261		3261	2025
Fund Raising - General	20285		20285	8488
Church Fees (net)	1102		1102	1079
Church Hire	16613		16613	7739
University Rent	16675		16675	16675
Interest	441		441	138
Missions	3494		3494	3417
Misc. Receipts	1451		1451	248
TOTAL	**£103,839**		**£103,839**	**£86,902**

EXPENDITURE	**Unrestricted**	**Restricted**	**2022**	**2021**
Missions & Affiliation Fees	3780		3780	3497
Education	393		393	300
Little Groovers	2564		2564	1620
Parish Support Fund	48000		48000	47000
Clergy Expenses	398		398	251
Church Administrator	2496		2496	2692
Organist Salary, Organ/Music	1740		1740	2020
Heating & Lighting	7143		7143	4883
Water Rates	192		192	120
Insurance	5559		5559	5412
Fundraising Expenses	7284		7284	3557
Church Repairs/Maintenance	8874		8874	7160
Regeneration Project	0		0	3424
Printing, Postage & Stationery	3948		3948	3377
Sundry Expenses	2125		2125	1261
TOTAL	**£94,496**		**£94,496**	**£86,575**
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)			**£9,343**	**£327**
Transfer to reserves				
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR			**£9,343**	**£327**
ADD ASSETS FROM 2021 BALANCE SHEET			**£83,208**	**£82,881**
ASSETS FROM 2022 BALANCE SHEET			**£92,552**	**£83,208**

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

	2022	2021
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors	2379	1910
Bank Current Account	21218	15298
Deposit Funds	72715	68087
	£96,312	**£85,294**
LESS : CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Sundry Creditors	-3790	-2086
NET ASSETS	**£92,522**	**£83,208**
REPRESENTED BY :		
Unrestricted Fund	30676	20227
Restricted Fund (A) - Regeneration	39538	39538
Restricted Fund (B) - Legacy	20596	20596
Restricted Fund (C) - Kingston Refugee	1742	2847
	£92,552	**£83,208**

NET ASSETS : 31 DECEMBER 2022	**Unrestricted**	**Restricted A**	**Restricted B**	**Restricted C**	**Totals**
Balances at 1 January 2021	20227	39538	20596	2847	83208
Income	103839	0	0	0	103839
Expenditure	94496	0	0	0	94496
Surplus (Deficit)	9343	0	0	0	9343
Transfers between funds	1105	0	0	-1105	0
Balances at 31 December 2022	**£30,676**	**£39,538**	**£20,596**	**£1,742**	**£92,552**

Signed : Church Treasurer

Signed : Team Vicar

Independent Examiners Report
I report on the accounts of St John the Evangelist, Kingston upon Thames for the year ended 31/12/22.
My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Comission.
This includes a review of the accounting records kept by the church and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records.
I have examined the SOFA and Balance Sheet and confirm that these are in accordance with the accounting records, receipts, invoices, statements and documents submitted to me.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

As life has finally returned to normal, the church has become a hub of activity, both for church-related events and for outside hirers. We have welcomed a variety of community groups, such as Refugee Action Kingston, Kingston Morris Dancers, and 8218 Youth Theatre Group. I particularly enjoy coming in on Wednesdays and seeing the church buzzing with all the activities that RAK puts on for their clients. We have also hosted first aid and parenting classes, yoga and Pilates, alongside the extremely successful and profitable Banquet Records gigs. Olly Murs and Tom Odell, to name but a few, were among the highlights of the year. We have also welcomed back some of our regulars, such as the Orpheus Choir, Linden Wind, and U3A, with their wonderful choral and orchestral concerts, meaning there really has been something for everyone.

Our own church-led groups, the First Monday Club and Little Groovers, have continued to thrive, with good attendance and bringing the community together in our wonderful space.

Our church school has also made good use of the space, with termly thanksgiving services and by performing their nativity play at the church. Bedlesford has had a number of services at the church and is definitely appreciating the upgraded facilities we can offer.

After all the years of hard work fundraising to upgrade the facilities, it's so lovely to see the church busy and being used by a wide range of groups.

CHARITIES, CAUSES & CAMPAIGNS

During 2022, St John's continued to support a named charity most months, and was fortunate to welcome inspiring speakers from four of them (A Rocha UK, Anstee Bridge, The Leprosy Mission and Street Pastors). Fund-raising, mostly from individual donations and cake sales, enabled our church to pay a total of £3560 to various charities, the largest amount being £700 in March for the Ukraine Appeal.

During Christian Aid Week, St John's was well-represented at Kingston CA Committee's town centre fund-raising event, when Lindiwe and several others did a 30-minute stint in the Jerusalema dance; and this year, in addition to whatever our members may have given via the local Justgiving site, we were able to bank a total of £1454 from the house-to-house collection, cake stall and Neville's tin. Once again, big thank you to our loyal collectors and to all who helped achieve this magnificent result.

The Autumn shoebox appeal for Link to Hope was enthusiastically supported, with over 50 boxes, from St John's church and school and All Saints church, being picked up in early November to start the long journey to countries in Eastern Europe. At Harvest Festival, the generous gifts of food and toiletries mostly went to Kingston Foodbank, with items not needed there being donated to Enhanceable and Refugee Action Kingston, where they were most welcome.

Refugee Action Kingston has continued to operate at St John's on Wednesdays, and during the year they also started a homework club after school on Thursdays. St John's support for Kingston Community Refugee

Sponsorship has also continued, with Grant Vanstone and Isobel Robinson serving as trustees. Our first family has settled in well in Surbiton, and we are now beginning to think about sponsoring a second family.

Once again, our warmest thanks go to all who have continued in these challenging times to give so

generously of their time and resources, enabling St John's to reach out in response to the needs of the world around us.
(Lindiwe Maseko, Kay Baker, Emma Peries, Isobel Robinson, Tony Williams)

FAMILIES & YOUNG PEOPLE

We've had another busy year at St John's. It started in February with a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Party. The event was well-attended and, besides enjoying the pancakes and their various toppings, the children had a chance to joust with lemons, flip pancakes, and engage in a number of craft activities.

As Lent drew to a close, we had our Good Friday workshop, and the children enjoyed the story of Holy Week depicted in a child-friendly way. They also made their own Easter Gardens to take home and nurture.

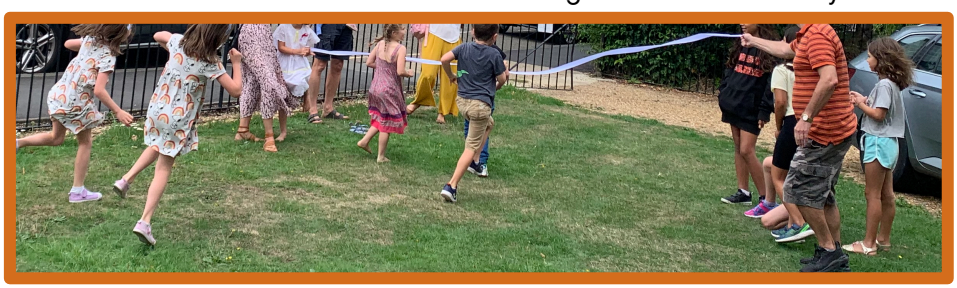
We ended the year with our Nativity Service, which was also well-attended. The children enjoyed taking part in the story of Jesus's birth, and we even had a comedic King who decided to gift a Dinosaur to the new baby!

Away from Church services, Little Groovers continued to thrive, with 15-20 families attending each week. This year, we would like to focus on our young people and develop some activities for them, so watch this space. We look forward to seeing what the future holds.

As life returned to normal, we decided it was time to bring everyone together as one big church family and have one service. This meant that Diddy was back in the service and back in the vestry. However, this has worked very well, and all the children have adapted brilliantly. It also means that parents can worship in the main service in peace! We have 10 to 12 children who regularly attend, and they continue to enjoy the Diddy Disciples material. We have also welcomed a number of new families, which is brilliant.

Sadly, we said goodbye to Mimi Fagan on Easter Day and to Emma at Pentecost this year. They have both been fundamental in setting up and running Diddy Disciples since we first introduced it. We thank them for their many years of service and wish them all the best in their future endeavors. They will be greatly missed.

In the meantime, our dedicated Diddy parents have kindly offered to provide coverage until July. We remain optimistic that we will secure a Children and Young Person's worker by then.



ELECTORAL ROLL

As of our last APCM the electoral role had 113 people and currently in 2022/23 we are at 115.
I would like to express my appreciation to our former Electoral Roll Officer, Jen Powell, for her exceptional work in updating and maintaining our electoral roll. Thanks to her dedication and hard work, the numbers on our electoral roll have largely remained unchanged. Jen stepped down from her role as the Electoral Roll Officer in March 2023. Her contributions to our parish have been invaluable, and we are deeply grateful for her service.

As we move forward, we are now seeking a new Electoral Roll Officer to take on this crucial responsibility. This role is vital in ensuring that our electoral roll is up-to-date and accurate. We are searching for an individual who is committed, dedicated and willing to take on this task.
If you are interested in this role, please do not hesitate to contact us or the parish office. We will be happy to provide you with additional information about the position and answer any questions you may have.

FIRST MONDAY CLUB

Hooray! We managed to have a full program with eight to ten of us meeting either in church or out and about when the weather allowed. We had cultural sessions where we shared our favorite music and poetry, as well as domestic sessions making pancakes and mincemeat. We celebrated the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee by reminiscing about her coronation and the 1950s, and we also visited and strolled through the gardens at Ham, Richmond Park, and Chiswick House. We shared cake, conversation, quizzes, and companionship. If you find yourself at a loose end on a first Monday, please come and join us. You can pick up a program in church.
Frances and Jo

FLOWERS IN CHURCH

Each week, as we entered St. John's, we were greeted by the wonderful flowers that graced our church. The arrangements and designs enhanced our worship experience and created a warm and welcoming space for everyone. We are grateful to the Flower team for their creativity, attention to detail, and dedication in giving their time and effort. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Caroline Overholt, who has played a crucial role in organizing and coordinating the flower team rota. Caroline's commitment and leadership have been instrumental in ensuring that our floral displays are consistently exquisite and well-coordinated. To the entire flower team, we deeply appreciate and are truly thankful for the invaluable contributions you make. We cherish the beauty you bring to our church and the joy you bring to our hearts. God bless. Lindiwe.

GARDENING

The focus of the SJC Gardening Team is to maintain the grounds of St. John's Church and create a welcoming appearance for all. We are a small team of volunteers, numbering 5 to 7, who contribute whenever we can. Our primary attention has been on the perimeter roses and the grass on three sides of the church. Our belief is that by bringing these areas to a high standard, many other imperfections will go unnoticed.
The community greatly appreciates the roses as they pass by. We often receive compliments, although we recognize that it is Mother Nature who truly makes the plants beautiful. The grass has shown significant improvement in the last 12 months, and we are driven by the belief that we will achieve Wisley level quality in 2024.

Many of you may remember Helene Keates, who lovingly tended the grounds for many years. The three camellia bushes at the rear stairs were transplanted from Helen's garden. We are thrilled that they have flowered this year and are flourishing. May they continue to grow and brighten up that area of the church grounds.

We are eager to hear from any active gardeners in the community who might like to join us. It's a very informal and friendly group. Lastly, if anyone has any old gardening tools, compost, ceramic planters, or plant supplements they no longer need, we would be pleased to collect and make use of them.
Please enjoy the grounds; we certainly do!
The SJC Gardening Team.

HALL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

The hall had a very busy year with our regular hirers, the Kingston Kindergarten, Badminton group, Pilates, Jiu jitsu, a Fitness Dance Class, the Rose Youth Theatre, the Spring Grove Fringe, a Mother and Baby group and many private events and children's parties. We were very sad that The Kindergarten closed in April after many happy years. In the Autumn we were pleased to have a Ballet School and Teddytennis join us. The Spring Grove Fringe put on productions in February, May, October and November. The hall continued to be regularly professionally cleaned.

Thank you to Ray, our Caretaker, for his continued conscientious help and support and for looking after our occasional hirers in a friendly way. Thank you also to Caroline Overholt who so cheerfully took over the Caretaker role during the weeks when Ray was away on his charity walk. The Hall Committee meet regularly and play an important part in keeping the hall in good repair and safe condition for everyone to use. Their wisdom and support are very much appreciated.

Frances Hazelgrove
Hall Administrator

HALL TREASURERS REPORT

St John's Parish Hall
Finance & Building Report for the year ended 31 December 2022

Despite the sad loss of our long-standing hirer, Kingston Kindergarten, who closed at Easter, the Parish Hall had a successful year as a surplus of £8,459 was recorded. Total funds rose to reach £82,063 by the close of 2022.

Income was up by 10% at £23,367 (£21,119 in 2021). Of this, 81% came from regular hirers with highest usage by Jiu Jitsu and Spring Grove Fringe. Income from occasional hire mostly for children's parties more than doubled over the year. Some of this reflects increased hire rates, although the Hall still offers excellent value compared to other facilities in the area.

Expenses at £14,909 were considerably up on last year, although we had lower occupation in the first half of 2021 alongside reduced energy and maintenance costs, so the comparison is not quite like for like. Weekly cleaning was maintained to a good standard by Paragon Green Cleaning, and we continued to repair things when necessary but avoid major expenditure.

The Hall Committee is now assessing opportunities to apply for grants to improve access and toilet facilities. In addition, we would like to replace the windows and doors plus fully redecorate the Hall. The cost implications are significant and will need external finance from grants or trusts along with our own reserves, while always maintaining a minimum £20k as a buffer.

Special thanks go to Frances Hazelgrove who manages the Hall bookings so well for us and to Ray Symons for looking after the Hall and grounds, plus the staff of Paragon Green Cleaning for their reliable service. Our thanks also go to Michael Wraight for looking after Hall maintenance, to Jan Hartley for leading the Hall management committee and to all our hirers for their valuable support.

Tony Hardy,
Church & Hall Treasurer

SAFEGUARDING

It is the responsibility of the Parish Safeguarding Officers and the PCC to provide an annual report on Safeguarding and to confirm compliance with the duty to 'have due regard' to the House of Bishops' ('HOB') Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance. Currently, Pat Askey and Grant Vanstone hold the joint role of PSOs.

In October last year, Grant Vanstone undertook a further review of the currency of safeguarding certificates and produced a schedule of safeguarding training and certificates. The Diocese is contemplating further training sessions for the PSOs.

An Audit of Parish Safeguarding was carried out in November 2022, with due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance. This review is still incomplete, and specific checks still need to be made to ensure that all PCC members are up to date with their three-yearly updates in safeguarding training.

Insurance cover and rental agreements have been audited and comply with the HOB guidance. Safeguarding is at the heart of all activities that the church and PCC are involved in. Safeguarding is now

an agenda item at every PCC meeting. Formal notices are displayed as advised by the HOB guidance, with the contact details of the various officers. Photographs still need to be provided for the notices of the PSOs, but this is in progress.

We have procedures in place to deal promptly with any safeguarding allegation or suspicion of abuse. However, this needs to be constantly reviewed, and a further audit is due prior to October 2023, in line with the new changes and audit process introduced by the Diocese after the 2019 review and the restrictions and difficulties caused by COVID-19. A three-yearly review and update with regard to Safeguarding policies and training are being implemented and under review of all PCC members now and in the future.

We have systems in place to ensure that any known offender or others who pose risks to children are identified.

There are some final checks that need to be reviewed regarding training and certificates, although the policies and procedures are in place. However, as always, they need to be more robust and kept under review.

Risk assessments are carried out in relation to all activities that take place within the church and the areas under its responsibility, and guidance is provided to all who hire premises under the church's responsibility. New confidential declaration forms have been issued by the Diocese this week regarding persons involved in children and young person's activities together with others who work with vulnerable persons.

Thankfully, there have been no major issues reported again this year. There was one minor incident reported that involved the possible safety of a lone member of the PCC locking up the Church. The other individual involved may have presented safeguarding issues as well, and this is under review.

Strong and robust procedures tend to ensure that the likelihood of any issues becomes less likely and, if arising, are dealt with appropriately and without as much pain and difficulty than if there are less stringent checks in place.

SACRED SPACE

It has been a difficult year for Sacred Space as we continue to recover from the adverse effects of Covid. Our numbers have dwindled and it is feeling increasingly unsustainable as things currently stand. Despite this we had community meals on 7th June and 15th October, we celebrated the Winter Solstice on 21st December and had discussion meetings on 9th November and 9th February. One of our members, Rachel Michael, has launched her 'Embodied Perspectives' website this year and has offered weekly online meditations during Advent and Lent.

I have been preaching regularly and led a Sacred Space service on the theme of fire on 23rd October. I was able to facilitate an interactive prayer activity for children at the Platinum Jubilee celebrations on 4th June last year, which I'll be recreating at All Saints for the Coronation, and helped host a Lent Difference course, with help from Isobel and Julie. I plan to start a new weekly destress meditation in Kingston town centre as a way of reaching out to those who might consider themselves spiritual but not religious. Once I've attracted enough regular attendees, I will relaunch Sacred Space Kingston as a new monastic community. This is in the hope that a more robust

structure in the will better enable growth and support on-going discipleship. Rev. Ian Mobsby, in the Diocese, is advising me and I secured a small grant of £250 which I will use for publicity purposes.

Andrea Campanale

SERVERS

As servers, our role is to provide essential assistance to Lindiwe before, during, and after the service, ensuring that everything runs smoothly and seamlessly. Our efforts help create a reverent worship experience for everyone.

One of our main responsibilities are to prepare the altar for communion prior to the service. This task offers a moment of tranquility, allowing us to gather our thoughts, appreciate the beauty of our church, and reflect on the sacred act of preparation before the congregation arrives. It is a time of quiet contemplation, where we play a crucial role in setting the stage for a meaningful worship and communion experience.

If you feel called to contribute as a server and would like to help in this role, we encourage you to reach out to any of the current servers or speak directly with Lindiwe. She will be delighted to provide you with more information and guidance. Serving as a server not only allows you to actively participate in the worship service but also enables you to make a meaningful difference within our church community.
Nev Hall

SIDES-PEOPLE

The Sides-people are an invaluable team that warmly welcomes us all to St John's, assists us with seating arrangements, provides constant guidance, engages in compassionate conversations, and remains vigilant in responding to emergencies with calmness and efficiency etc. Their presence gives us a sense of belonging and hospitality. In the past year, they have warmly welcomed hundreds of people. Their efforts ensure a smooth and inclusive experience for all, displaying a willing and can-do attitude that goes above and beyond to make everyone feel welcome. Looking back on the past year, it is evident that their contributions have had a significant impact on our church and community. Everyone in the Sides-People team - thank you very much for your love and service. As we look to the future may God bless you all, as you continue to serve him by serving us.
Lindiwe

PASTORAL REPORT

A team has been set up to coordinate our pastoral work. We meet every two months after church to discuss any pastoral needs, we have as a parish, and agree what we are going to do. We have created a lone working policy as well as home visit risk assessment, which have both been endorsed by the PCC, to ensure we are supporting the members of the pastoral team. If you know of anyone needing our support, please do contact Julie or Lindiwe.

THE TEAM RECTOR'S REPORT – APRIL 2023

It has been a great joy to take up the role of Team Rector for the Kingston Team Ministry since September last year. I've been largely based at All Saints where I've been appreciating the centrality of its location, the strength of its musical tradition, the long pedigree of its history and the friendliness of its café. But I've also enjoyed getting to know the parishes of St John the Evangelist in

Spring Grove and St the Baptist in Kingston Vale, both of which have distinctive and valuable ministries within their local neighbourhoods. And I've been meeting inspiring people left, right and centre from all the various organisations and community groups in Kingston. I can honestly say, there has yet to be a dull day. Indeed, the Queen died on my first day in the job, and its been something of a whirlwind ever since. But I'm slowly finding my feet and starting to feel very much at home.

This is mainly due to the wonderful welcome that I've been given. Thank you for the warmth and friendliness that my family and I have received from so many people. It's been greatly appreciated. I would also like to thank my colleagues who have been a great support since I started and who also did a sterling job in carrying the benefice through the interregnum. In particular, I'd like to thank William Allberry, who did a pretty much full-time interim-vicar job at All Saints, and the two churchwardens, John Dewhurst and Roshan Jathanna, who shouldered a huge amount of work and responsibility. I'm very aware that all three churches depend heavily on small teams of highly dedicated staff and volunteers and I'm hugely grateful for their commitment and talent.

Highlights of my time so far include the big services at All Saints, such as the Thanksgiving for the Queen and the Advent/Christmas/Epiphany Carol Services; the Licensing Service for Lindiwe Maseko as Team Vicar at St John the Evangelist; and the worship at St John the Baptist led by the new Korean families. I also really enjoyed leading confirmation courses, in partnership with Lesley Charlton, my URC colleague, and seeing both young people and adults grow in their faith, their confidence and their sense of belonging.

I've found that keeping our arrangements between the three churches loose and flexible works well as we respond to different contexts, opportunities and challenges. I sense that each church is going through a transition period and needing time and space to work out their own vision and strategy for mission. But as these emerge, I look forward to identifying common themes and opportunities for closer collaboration. So, when the time is right, we'll reintroduce our Team Ministry conference, bringing together our three PCC's, to consider an overall Kingston Team Vision. I hope that, in taking our time, we ensure that this is a 'bottom-up' process, rather than 'top-down'. That is not to say that we shouldn't do as much as possible together in the meantime. I've hugely valued the weekly meetings that I have with my Team Vicar colleagues, Mandy Beck and Lindiwe Maseko, along with Andrea Campanale, our local Lay Pioneer and leader of Sacred Space Kingston.

This ensures that we are regularly praying together, keeping up-to-date with news and remaining alive to new opportunities for collaboration and mission. I'm delighted that all three churches have big plans for the Coronation weekend, involving some exciting community events and celebrations. We have also booked a Kingston Team Outing to Salisbury Cathedral on Saturday October 28 th . Look out for details of how-to sign-up. And in the pipeline is a monthly Kingston Team Ministry e-bulletin

which will help us to share news, stories and reflections between our three churches.
So I'm full of hope for the future. It feels like an exciting journey that has only just begun. Let us pray for one another, that God may guide us on that journey and deepen our faith and friendship along the way. Joe Moffatt

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST – APRIL 2023

In continuity with the past and our faith we have once more sought to serve Jesus in this place, through prayer and acts of loving service.

Thanks to so many wonderful volunteers, 2022 was full of great community events in which we invited our neighbours to join in all kinds of celebrations. We began the year still wearing masks and ended it with delightful church full of laughter and fun with everyone including the donkey crowding into church. Thank you to Sue Richardson and amazing team who put on a Jubilee Party, and a Summer Fair. For the first time Christingles moved outside for a whole light in the dark event and of course the tribute bands were back!

This year has been marked by the of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and our dear friend Vera Francis. In the words of the Queen "Grief is the price we pay for love." We as a Christian community give thanks for those who have gone before us into heaven and of whom we are reminded Sunday by Sunday.

In 2022 we had a new Team Rector, Joe Moffat, and we look to a much more integrated team in the years to come. Our worship during 2022 was blessed by many bilingual services and lunches. We have become a 'be well' church and are seeking to find still more ways to create a loving community. We give thanks for our many blessings as we move into a new year.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, KINGSTON UPON THAMES

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL AFFAIRS : YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

INCOME	**Unrestricted**	**Restricted**	**2022**	**2021**
Gift Aid	25296		25296	30483
Income Tax Recovered	8935		8935	10315
Loose Collections/Card Reader	4530		4530	2916
Donations/Grants	1757		1757	3378
Little Groovers	3261		3261	2025
Fund Raising - General	20285		20285	8488
Church Fees (net)	1102		1102	1079
Church Hire	16613		16613	7739
University Rent	16675		16675	16675
Interest	441		441	138
Missions	3494		3494	3417
Misc. Receipts	1451		1451	248
TOTAL	**£103,839**		**£103,839**	**£86,902**
EXPENDITURE	**Unrestricted**	**Restricted**	**2022**	**2021**
Missions & Affiliation Fees	3780		3780	3497
Education	393		393	300
Little Groovers	2564		2564	1620
Parish Support Fund	48000		48000	47000
Clergy Expenses	398		398	251
Church Administrator	2496		2496	2692
Organist Salary, Organ/Music	1740		1740	2020
Heating & Lighting	7143		7143	4883
Water Rates	192		192	120
Insurance	5559		5559	5412
Fundraising Expenses	7284		7284	3557
Church Repairs/Maintenance	8874		8874	7160
Regeneration Project	0		0	3424
Printing, Postage & Stationery	3948		3948	3377
Sundry Expenses	2125		2125	1261
TOTAL	**£94,496**		**£94,496**	**£86,575**
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)			**£9,343**	**£327**
Transfer to reserves				
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR			**£9,343**	**£327**
ADD ASSETS FROM 2021 BALANCE SHEET			**£83,208**	**£82,881**
ASSETS FROM 2022 BALANCE SHEET			**£92,552**	**£83,208**

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, KINGSTON UPON THAMES

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

	2022	2021
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors	2379	1910
Bank Current Account	21218	15298
Deposit Funds	72715	68087
	£96,312	**£85,294**
LESS : CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Sundry Creditors	-3790	-2086
NET ASSETS	**£92,522**	**£83,208**
REPRESENTED BY :		
Unrestricted Fund	30676	20227
Restricted Fund (A) - Regeneration	39538	39538
Restricted Fund (B) - Legacy	20596	20596
Restricted Fund (C) - Kingston Refugee	1742	2847
	£92,552	**£83,208**

NET ASSETS : 31 DECEMBER 2022	**Unrestricted**	**Restricted A**	**Restricted B**	**Restricted C**	**Totals**
Balances at 1 January 2021	20227	39538	20596	2847	83208
Income	103839	0	0	0	103839
Expenditure	94496	0	0	0	94496
Surplus (Deficit)	9343	0	0	0	9343
Transfers between funds	1105	0	0	-1105	0
Balances at 31 December 2022	**£30,676**	**£39,538**	**£20,596**	**£1,742**	**£92,552**

Signed : Church Treasurer

Signed : Team Vicar

Independent Examiners Report

I report on the accounts of St John the Evangelist, Kingston upon Thames for the year ended 31/12/22.
My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Comission.
This includes a review of the accounting records kept by the church and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records.
I have examined the SOFA and Balance Sheet and confirm that these are in accordance with the accounting records, receipts, invoices, statements and documents submitted to me.

Signed : Independent Examiner

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, KINGSTON UPON THAMES

England & Wales - Charity number 1181704

Accounts

ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22

St John the Evangelist

Grove Lane, Kingston Upon Thames

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St John's Church & Hall
St John the Evangelist
Grove Lane, Kingston upon Thames

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VICAR'S REPORT

The annual report provides an opportunity to show our gratitude and thanks to God, and everyone for your presence, service, participation, for all that you do at St John the Evangelist. It is also a good time to review, listen, reflect, learn, and seek vision for the future and implementation. The last couple of years have been challenging for us all and we have learned so much about the church and community, and our world. Our Annual Meeting falls in Eastertide and it reminds us that we are children of the risen Lord and "Alleluia" is our song. So, the pages of this report indicate how we have best lived out our faith and our firm belief in Christ our Saviour and that death will never have the final word and how we have demonstrated our strength of Christian character, resilience, and recovery in the face of the challenges we have had.

"Everyone is welcome to explore, develop and share their faith together. I look forward to the future of St John the Evangelist."

It has been a wonderful few months, being part of the St John's church family. Thank you, to everyone who has warmly welcomed me. I have had the pleasure of leading and participating in fellowship and worship since Epiphany and now in Eastertide. We had an exciting Pancake Day in collaboration with a St John's school fundraising event. The church was buzzing with parents and children eating pancakes and playing games. We had a poignant Ash Wednesday service in collaboration with Sacred Space, and a joyful Mothering Sunday service. Thank you to all the fathers from Diddy who made the posies. We had a joint Palm Sunday service with Kingston Methodist Church. We look forward to continuing this uplifting collaboration of worship. It was an amazing expression of what we can achieve as Christians working together. We had the opportunity to practice the Jerusalema dance that we will do on 21 May 2022 in Kingston town centre, fundraising for Christian Aid. In Holy week we had a solemn but beautiful Maundy Thursday meal and concluded the service in the garden of Gethsemane, put together for this service. On Good Friday we had a Diddy Disciples service that was followed by a quiet and reflective grown-up event. Easter day was glorious as we had families coming back and new people attending. Our All-Age services are also seeing families slowly coming back.

Our Sunday service attendance is currently stable in numbers and hopefully we will begin to see some growth in the coming months. Let's continue to pray, engage and focus on growth through the various services and events. We continue our morning communion service on Sundays at 10:30am and Diddy Disciples at 9:15am. Diddy is continuing to grow from strength to strength. I would like to commend Emma Lloyd- Williams and Mimi Fagan for their dedication and service.

Morning prayer at 9am continues three days a week (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday) both in person and online. I'd encourage you to join us if you've not tried it. You will be blessed.

I'm grateful to Wendy, our organist, for her commitment over the last two years, and to all who have supported our worship, for their contribution week in, week out, and I look forward to working together developing our music, especially for major services. I look forward to seeing how our fellowship and discipleship for the whole church family will develop in the next seasons. A big thank you too, to Emma Peries and Colin Bowes who are helping us with the website, social media, and audio-visual equipment. They are constantly updating our communications. We are always looking for people with passion to join the AV team; if you want to join let us know.

Assemblies have been held in St John's school whenever Covid has permitted, and a weekly Bible Club had just been launched. Our relationship with Bedelsford school has continued, and we are looking to deepen our links with King Athelstan school and Surbiton High Juniors, as well as Kingston University students and other organisations in our parish.

Refugee Action Kingston continue to run their day centre in the church on a weekly basis on Wednesdays, and our links with Kingston Community Refugee Sponsorship have developed since the arrival of a family from Syria. Our advocacy for Acts 435 has been maintained, and we have continued to partner in mission with various other charities.

I want to commend the Churchwardens, Frances Hazelgrove and Wendy Malseed and the PCC, the Readers, Sides people, Servers, Emma L-W and everyone in the various teams who has served tirelessly, often unseen in keeping things running smoothly in the church.

I appreciate their wisdom, integrity, patience and sense of humour. Thank you too, to everyone doing their bit in reaching out, fundraising, and community engagement.

We are all contributing to the flourishing of our church and community. We are grateful to God for all those who gave and continue to give towards the work of this parish.

Rev'd Mark Stafford left at the end of January 2022. We are grateful for all the hard work he and Lucy put at St John's and we wish them all the best in their new ministry in Ewell. Going forward, the PCC is hard at work putting together the church profile and will keep us updated with the next steps.

Thank you for being a vibrant, inclusive, welcoming community that shares the love of Jesus, which worships in a beautiful space, practices generous hospitality. Everyone is welcome to explore, develop and share their faith together. I look forward to the future of St John the Evangelist.

Interim Minister

Reverend Lindiwe Maseko

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

Over the course of 2021, we have gradually been able to resume our normal pattern of worship following the restrictions that were put in place, due to the pandemic. In addition, we have seen the return of our Community Café, Little Groovers and the First Monday Club, and the church has been the venue for a whole range of popular concerts.

The beginning of 2021 saw us in Lockdown, for the second time. Over the previous year, Mark, our vicar, had developed our on-line presence, using Facebook to stream services and this continued into lockdown. We were grateful for the musical contributions that Eleanor Howard- Williams made to our services, thus enriching our worship.

During this period, also, Mark continued to deliver an evening service on Sundays, as well as a daily morning service. This was the only link that most members of the congregation had with the church during this period, and many expressed their gratitude for the support that it gave them.

In early February we were pleased to welcome Emma Lloyd-Williams as our Church Administrator. Emma has been an invaluable support to everyone during the year. Our usual Mothering Sunday service could not be held but baskets with posies of daffodils were left outside the church with a message inviting people to take them home.

During the period of Lent, the York Lent course was followed, which had an ecological theme and was delivered over Zoom. This enabled wide participation, whilst also allowing parishioners to maintain contact with one another, albeit remotely.

The church re-opened for public worship on Palm Sunday, although with Covid restrictions in place. Communicants were not permitted to drink from the chalice and social distancing had to be maintained. Unfortunately, singing was not permitted and there were restrictions on weddings, baptisms, and funerals. In Holy Week, we were able to deliver services as normal, including Maundy Thursday and a reflection on Good Friday, which comprised bible readings and prayers, interspersed with music. This attracted a small congregation, with there being some nervousness about the resumption of church services.

Following the return to church, Diddy Disciples was also able to resume. Owing to problems with confined space however, the Sunday morning service had to be re-scheduled to start later, at 10.30am, whilst Diddys was moved to 09.15am.

When refreshments were reinstated, later in July, they were served in between the two services, thus enabling members of each group to meet and socialise. At this time, also, there was a relaunch of Little Groovers, run by Emma Lloyd-Williams. Initially, strict Covid restrictions meant that there were restrictions on the number of adults who could attend.We were very pleased to hear that Julie Bishop had been accepted for training in Lay Ministry and wished her well.

In November, Mark announced that he had been appointed as vicar at St Mary's Church in Ewell and that he would be leaving us at the end of January 2022. We were pleased to hear his good news but were sorry for his departure from St. John's. Over the two and half years that he has been with us, he has demonstrated great commitment both to our church and the local community. He worked

closely with our church school and held the position of Chaplain at Kingston Hospital. We know that his contributions in these areas will be greatly missed.

On 30th November we were delighted that Andrea Campanale was Licensed as a Lay Pioneer Minister for our church by Bishop Christopher. We welcomed guests from Sacred Space and the very special service was followed by refreshments.

In early December we had a very busy Christmas Market with the café open and Christmas tree sale. Our Silent Auction was again held online and added to the success of the day.

Once again, this has been a challenging year for us, but we feel that through our collective efforts, we have successively adapted to our circumstances.

Our role as churchwardens brings many responsibilities and we thank everyone for the support we have received during the year. Our church has continued to run smoothly because of a dedicated group of people who generously give their time in so many ways.

Our thanks again to Isobel for your interesting sermons and all you do and to Andrea for your support and sermons which have inspired us.

"Once again, this has been a challenging year for us, but we feel that through our collective efforts, we have successively adapted to our circumstances."

We ended the year by celebrating Christmas. Over the course of the year, we had developed a small choir, who were able to sing for the congregation during the period in which congregational singing was banned. They sang at our carol service, as well as the Midnight Mass and Christmas Day services. There were 5 Baptisms and two weddings during the year.

Mimi Fagan, who for a number of years had looked after the church flower rota and inspired the beautiful church decorating for church Festivals, decided to "retire". We are grateful to her for sharing her talent and for the many beautiful flower arrangements which we so admired and enjoyed. Thank you Caroline Overholt for taking over from Mimi and to everyone who continued to arrange the flowers and help to decorate the church for special occasions.

Mimi had also conscientiously held the position of our Parish Safeguarding Officer but wanted to pass this on. Thank you to Pat Askey and Grant Vanstone for taking over this important role. We were sad to lose Wing as our church and hall Caretaker but were delighted that Ray Symons accepted the position in October.

Thank you to the members of our Standing Committee and PCC for your wise decisions made during another difficult year; for the support of our Assistant Wardens, David for our sidespeople, Emma for the families and children, Jan for the community and Julie for pastoral care; to our Servers Kath, Jim and Neville and to our Sidespeople for the important part you all play to ensure our services run smoothly; to those who read the lessons and led our prayers.

Thanks to Emma P and our camera operators; to Emma, Mimi and Jen (who moved away during the summer and whom we miss) for giving our young children a happy experience of worship; to Mark Brooks for being our Verger and Sacristan; to Colin Bowes and Dave Meeghan for your continuing advice and work to improve the live streaming of our services.

Thank you to our Charities Team for keeping our thoughts on others' needs. Thank you Tony for your continued hard work and good stewardship of our resources and Jo and Alec for your involvement with church giving.

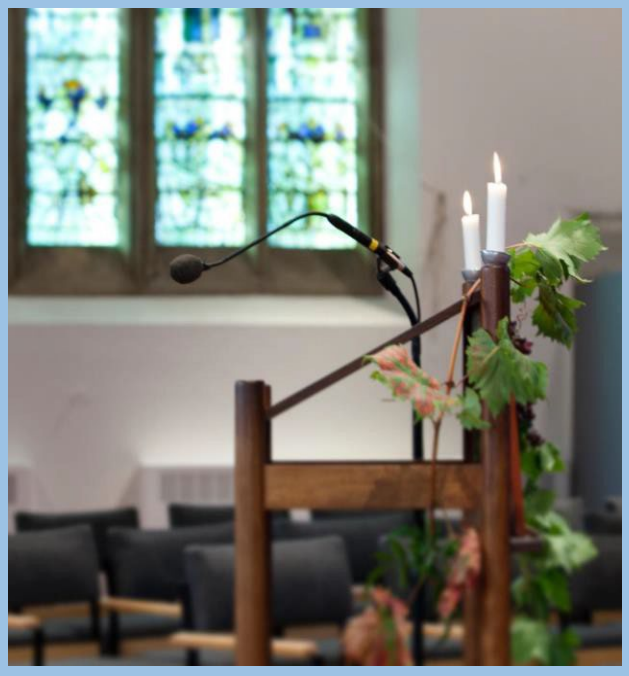
Thank you Alec for being our Governance Officer which included ensuring our compliance to GDPR obligations is accurate; Jen Powell for making sure our Electoral Roll is up to date; Emma, our Church Administrator, for your cheerful support and hard work during the year and Sarah, our PCC Secretary, for your unwavering support over many years – expertly taking our minutes and looking after official detail.

Thank you Jan for looking after the refreshment rota when needed and to those who supplied and served the Sunday refreshments; to the helpers at the Community Café; to Ray for your willing and conscientious help as Caretaker; to Karoline, Emma, Caroline, Trisha, Chris and Alice for your work maintaining our church garden, keeping the outside looking tidy and attractive. Thank you Tony and Emma for booking the Banquet Record concerts and to the bar staff which has increased our church income significantly. There will have been other unknown activities happening behind the scenes which have helped our church remain a spiritual and welcoming place for all.

Thank you everyone.

Frances Hazlegrove and Wendy Malseed

FABRIC REPORT



The church has been kept in good order and has been continued to be professionally cleaned. The grass has been regularly cut and the garden team have kept the church grounds looking attractive. A box shed was bought for their garden tools. The roof needs some repair and this is under review. Thank you to Tony Hardy and Michael Wraight for your involvement with organising the work needed as a result of the Quinquennial Report.

Frances Hazelgrove & Wendy Malseed

TREASURER'S REPORT

Finance Report for the year ended 31 December 2021

Despite another challenging year, a small surplus of £327 was recorded and church funds stood at £83,208 at the end of 2021.

While losses were incurred during some months, we actually closed the year with an increased balance of £20,227 in our Unrestricted funds - those which reflect our ordinary income and expenditure. This was largely due to higher income than expected in the final quarter from concerts and other hirers.

Our Regeneration Building Fund now stands at £39,538 following final Phase 2 payments and installation of the AV system and associated electrics.

We are greatly indebted to Colin Bowes for his expertise and generous donations of cameras and kit, along with the skills of local electrician Dave Meegan.

Total expenses were £86,575 including £5,413 from the Regeneration fund. We again pledged and delivered £47k as our Parish Support contribution to the Diocese which supports the ministry here and at churches throughout Southwark, some of whom are much poorer than ourselves. Remaining costs were capped in most areas.

In summary, we closed 2021 with reserves of £83,208 made up £20,227 in unrestricted funds, £39,538 held in the restricted Regeneration Fund towards future building works, £20,596 representing the balance of legacies received plus £2,847 Refugee Action grant.

"In summary, we closed 2021 with reserves of £83,208"

Total income for the year was £86,902, all of which was from Unrestricted (ordinary) sources. Giving, which totalled over £33k, was 6% up on 2020; the vast majority from monthly standing orders or envelopes. We received a further £10k in income tax recovered on Gift Aid payments. Along with this tax recovery, the £16k annual University rent continues to be very critical to our finances. While church hire income was lower than last year, the bars run at the Banquet Records shows helped to increase fundraising year on year. We are extremely grateful to Alec MacMillan for all the hard work he puts into running the bars along with his team of volunteers. The online Silent Auction raised a net £2,060 for church funds plus £583 for St John's School PSA

It is the policy of the PCC to keep a minimum £30k in liquid reserves to cover unforeseen emergencies or loss of regular income. In practice, we only achieve this level of reserve by factoring in some of the Restricted legacy money in with our Unrestricted fund.

I would like to thank Mark and Lucy, our outgoing minister and his wife, churchwardens Frances and Wendy, Isobel, Mimi and Sarah Price plus all the PCC members for their much- appreciated support over the year. Special thanks go to Jo Need, our Gift Aid Secretary, to Emma Lloyd-Williams and Alec MacMillan, Ray Symons and Emma Peries for all their invaluable help.

Tony Hardy
Church Treasurer

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

For the first part of the year we were still under government restrictions so the use of the church was limited. However as Spring arrived along with it came better news from the government and with the lifting of restrictions we were able once again to hire out the church, starting with our choirs mostly using the outside garden space, entertaining our neighbours with their beautiful singing. Half way through the year it was much better news and we were finally able to throw open the doors and tentatively welcomed our first band 'Duo' in for a concert. This was followed by several more in conjunction with Jon Tolley and Banquet records.

With the world getting back to normal and with word about the church's new improved facilities getting about, we have had a number of bookings from new hirers including the NCT, Linden Wind Orchestra, Daisy first aid as well as our old regulars The Morris Dancers, Theatre group 8218 and Orpheus Choir. It's so wonderful to see the church being used as a community space once again.

The church has also organised a number of its own events such as The First Monday Club, Community Café and a much smaller Christmas sale which was enjoyed by all. We have once again started welcoming local schools back into the Church for worship these include our own church school St John's, Bedelsford and Surbiton High.

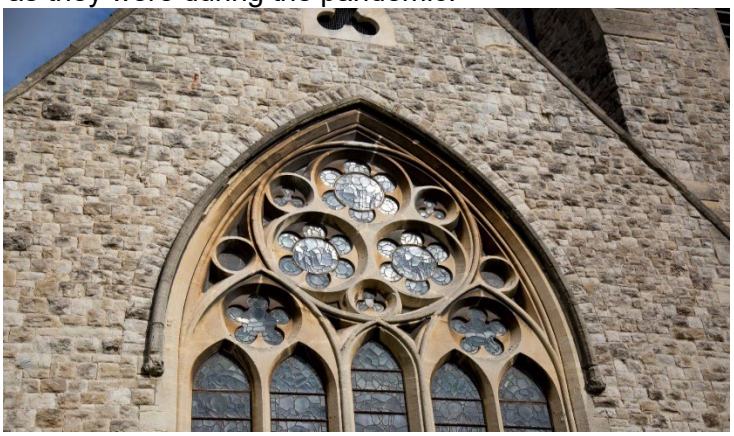
We look forward to welcoming even more people in 2022 to ensure that the church remains a viable community space for both worship and events.

Emma Lloyd-Williams

PCC REPORT

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is the 'governing body' of the church and is chaired by the Vicar. It is responsible for the overall practical and spiritual wellbeing of the church, its building and its people.

St John's PCC meets on alternate months throughout the year. There is also a smaller, Standing Committee of the PCC, which meets as and when required between PCC meetings. Since February 2022, PCC meetings have returned to being held in person rather than online as they were during the pandemic.



In addition to the Vicar, the PCC is attended by other members of the clergy team, the Churchwardens, treasurer, secretary and up to nine members of the congregation who are elected at the APCM to serve for three years.

The PCC represents the congregation and welcomes all thoughts, questions and observations about the church.

The 2021 Vestry Meeting and APCM were held during the service on Sunday May 16th following publication of the Annual Report, thanks to the efforts of Emma Lloyd-Williams and Alec MacMillan.

At the meetings we voted in Wendy Malseed as Churchwarden and two new elected PCC members, Suzanna Travers and Kate Lyon.

There are several vacancies on the committee: anyone who is on the electoral roll is encouraged to apply to the Vicar or Churchwardens if interested in joining us.

Sarah Price, PCC Secretary

SIDESPEOPLE & SERVICES

In 2021 we welcomed one new sidesperson on to the rota, Carolynne Cotton, bringing our total numbers to 9. Our principal duties are to welcome the congregation on arrival to the service, to guide them at communion and take collection during the final hymn. We also remain generally on hand during the service to undertake any additional duties which a specific celebration may demand, for instance during the busy Christmas services, where as many as 5 sidespersons may be on duty at once. The qualifications needed are fairly easy to meet: a welcoming smile on a Sunday morning! If you can find a smile to share with us, and would like to be part of the sidespersons team, please let me or Lindiwe know.

David Hamilton

ELECTORAL ROLL

The electoral roll for 2021/22: There are 113 people currently on the roll in 2022.

- 7 people have left the roll
- 6 people have joined in the 2021/22 year up until 30th April 2022

If you are baptised and would like to be added to the Elec toral Roll please fill out an application form which can be
found at the back of the church or you are welcome to contact the Electoral Roll Officer, Jen Powell,

Joining the Church Electoral Roll means that you can vote on Church matters, attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) and stand for election to the PCC. Any person entitled to attend may raise any question of parochial or general church interest.

Jen Powell

SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding is at the heart of all activities that the church and PCC are involved in. Safeguarding is now an agenda item at every PCC meeting.

It is the responsibility of the Parish Safeguarding Officers ('PSO's') and the PCC to provide an Annual report on Safeguarding and to report that it is in compliance with the duty to 'have due regard' to the House of Bishops' ('HOB') Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance.

Last year Pat Askey and Grant Vanstone were appointed to take up the joint role of PSOs. In October 2001 Grant Vanstone undertook the Parish Safeguarding Induction training and Pat Askey is due to undergo her full induction training shortly. Further training sessions for the PSOs are contemplated by the Diocese.

An Audit of Parish Safeguarding was carried out in November 2021 with due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance. This review is still not complete, and specific checks still need to be made to ensure that all PCC members are up to date with their three yearly updates in Safeguarding training.

Insurance cover and rental agreements have been audited and are in compliance with the HOB guidance.

Formal notices are displayed as advised by the HOB guidance with the contact details of the various officers. Photographs still need to be provided for the notices of the PSOs. These are in hand.

We have procedures in place to deal promptly with any safeguarding allegation or suspicion of abuse however this will need to be kept constantly under review and a further audit undertaken prior to Oct of 2022, in line with the new changes and audit process introduced by the Diocese after the 2019 review and the restrictions and difficulties caused by COVID 19.

A three yearly review and update with regard to Safeguarding policies and training will be required of all PCCs in the future.

We have systems in place to ensure that any known offender or others who pose risks to children are identified. Strong and robust procedures tend to ensure the likelihood of any issues become less likely and if arises they are dealt with appropriately and without as much pain and difficulty than if there are less stringent checks in place

There are some other details that need to be reviewed regarding training and certificates although the policies and procedures are in place but as is always the case they need to be more robust and kept under review.

Risk assessments are carried out in relation to all activities that take place within the church and the areas under its responsibility and guidance is provided to all who hire premises under the churches responsibility.

New confidential declaration forms have been issued by the diocese this week regarding persons involved in children and young persons activities together with others who work with vulnerable persons.

Thankfully there have been no issues reported again this year.

Pat Askey & Grant Vanstone

SERVERS

Would you like to be a server in church? As a server we set up the altar for communion before the service begins. This can be a very peaceful and rewarding time. Maybe a moment to collect your thoughts and to connect with God.

We then assist the Vicar during the service. Please come and talk to myself, Kath or Jim, if you would like to be part of the serving team.

Neville Hall.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook live continued to be a valuable connection to the Church that so many were missing in 2021 as COVID continued to have its hold over our lives. Mark would lead morning prayer every day and Sunday services from the vicarage during lockdowns. Our Facebook online services continued throughout the year even when the Church was able to be open with socially distanced, mask wearing services for those who didn't feel able to come to Church.

As Mark left early 2022, the PCC decided to keep these services online, as despite there not being a big call for it live, there is an audience that like to catch up who are not able to make the service for various reasons. The only service that is no longer filmed is All Age Service on the first Sunday of the month.

EMMA PERIES

SACRED SPACE

It's been another difficult year as we have had to continue to meet on Zoom for the most part. However, Sacred Space were awarded a Bishop's Mission Order and we were able to meet in person for Andrea Campanale's Licensing service at St John's on 30th November last year. We have also been to a couple of concerts at St John's and one of our community, Rachel Michael, was able to lead the congregation in a specially written Ash Wednesday service that was not shame inducing.

"Sacred Space were awarded a Bishop's Mission Order"

We plan to start meeting in person again for regular community meals, at first eating outside to avoid any risk of Covid infections, and I have a couple of dates so we can choose one for a day of reflection on art that a friend will host for us in her garden during the summer. In addition, I have put a proposal to the Diocese for working alongside pioneers in other locations to see if it would be possible to create more Sacred Space communities across Southwark Diocese. I await their response.

ANDREA CAMPANALE

FLOWERS IN CHURCH

Anyone is welcome to arrange a vase of flowers in the church, there is no special skill required! For the bigger occasions, we tend to get a few of us volunteer arrangers together to create something on a slightly larger scale. We work against a monthly rota when each of us sort out the flowers in time for Sunday service. It's great fun and always a happy and sociable team effort and also a great way of getting to know people in the church! We're always looking for volunteers, so if you're tempted, have a chat with me! Thank you

Caroline Overholt

MUSIC

This has, again, been a challenging year for us all and one in which we have been unable to meet as a community during the period of lockdown. We have, nevertheless, strived to maintain our links via other means, namely the internet. Between the New Year and Easter, our church was closed but we were able to deliver services over Zoom. We were grateful for the contributions of Eleanor Howard-Williams, of All Saints' Kingston, who sang for us regularly, whilst I played the organ at the Sunday morning and evening services.

We were able to welcome our congregation back to church on Palm Sunday but, unfortunately, communal singing was not permitted.

Choral singing was, however, allowed and we developed a small group of choristers who sang at our Sunday service. Their contributions enriched our worship and were much appreciated by members of the congregation.

Christmas is usually a highlight of the year and this year our small choir sang at our Carol Service and Christmas Day services.

Following the relaxation of Covid restrictions, we were able to hold weddings and baptisms in church and we have been pleased to have provided music to celebrate these occasions.

I know that musical contributions to our church are much appreciated by members of the congregation and hope that, in the future, we can attract a broader range of musicians of all ages to join us in our worship.

Wendy Malseed
Director of Music

CHARITIES, CAUSES & CAMPAIGNS

During 2021, the Team met five times on Zoom, and we are glad to be able to report that St John's maintained its support for a range of charities, despite all the problems of on/off lock-downs and restrictions. As the Community Café had to remain closed for most of the year, we continued to have a nominated 'Charity of the Month' as a way of focussing attention and raising funds; and we were able to welcome visiting speakers from The Leprosy Mission (TLM), Kingston Samaritans and Princess Alice Hospice to help us do this. Our Lent Appeal for TLM was particularly successful, raising £760, which will have been doubled by match-funding. A total of nearly £3,500 was paid to charities through the church account, and since each of our charities was able to provide a link for online donations, there may well have been additional contributions by that route.

Christian Aid Week was another highlight of the year, with Mark and other local clergy carrying buckets of water from church to church in order to raise funds via the local Just Giving page. Kingston CA Committee as a whole raised a grand total of over £22,000, and of this, £2,050 was banked from St John's, in addition to whatever our members may have given online, so a big thank you to all who helped achieve this magnificent result.

Refugee Action Kingston was able to return to St John's on Wednesdays in the later months of the year, and in November we responded to a request for gift cards to enable some of their more recent arrivals (including from Afghanistan) to go shopping for personal essentials. St John's link with Kingston Community Refugee Sponsorship has also continued, with Grant Vanstone and Isobel Robinson serving as trustees.

"Our church community to continue its commitment to reach out to those who need our help, whether locally or in the wider world."

A number of individual church members hold Children's Society collecting boxes at home, and this has raised over £250 this year (with a few still to be opened and counted); and a further £120 was donated at the Christingle service at the beginning of December.

The Autumn shoebox appeal for Link to Hope was well-supported once more, with the 50 or so boxes we were able to hand over to the local rep in early November much appreciated at a time when fewer groups than usual had felt able to take part. Gifts in kind were also collected for the Foodbank, both at our Harvest Festival and throughout the year via the collecting box outside the vicarage.

We were finally able to welcome our first family – mother and father and two young children – who arrived at the beginning of November and are now living in an apartment in Surbiton, supported by a group of KCRS volunteers including Mimi.

In conclusion, we are truly grateful to all those who have helped us in any way,and enabled our church community to continue its commitment to reach out to those who need our help, whether locally or in the wider world.

Isobel Robinson

Charities Team - Mark Stafford, Kay Baker, Emma Peries, Tony Williams and Jenny Holden

FIRST MONDAY CLUB

The First Monday Club was only able to meet for the second half of 2021, the highlight of which was Rosalind Hardy's talk on ' My Life with Asperger's Syndrome' which had been postponed from the previous year - a fascinating insight into the challenges and joys that she had faced growing up. This exceptional young woman has since been presented with a British Citizen's Award which she received in March at the Palace of Westminster.

We have been back to Pembroke Lodge in Richmond Park and ended the year domestically making pumpkin pies in November and sweets for Christmas in December.

We are hoping to manage a complete year in 2022.

Jo Need

CHRISTMAS AUCTION

The Legendary Silent Auction has been a feature of our annual Christmas event for many years and a key fund raiser for us. In 2020, lockdown prevented us from holding a social event in church so it was decided to run the Auction element online.

This proved both popular and very successful so we repeated it in December 2021, even though we could host a limited event in church. Using the Jumblebee web platform, 68 lots were posted, all kindly donated by church and community members plus local businesses. For those lots sourced by St John's School PSA, proceeds were shared 75/25 between the PSA and the church.

The Auction went live on 20 November and closed on 4 December. Bids were received for every lot and totalled £2,768. After deduction of the small Jumblebee fee, the Auction raised £2,060 for church funds and £583 for the PSA.

Once we can host the full Christmas event in church again, the plan is to continue to hold the Auction online. Special thanks again go to Jo Campbell for her kind help and support in running the Auction and to Emma Lloyd-Williams and Agnieszka van Eijnsbergen from the School PSA for all their hard work. And naturally a big thank you to all who contributed by bidding.

Tony Hardy

DIDDY DISCIPLES, FAMILIES AND PEOPLE

We have once again seen big changes to the way we run Diddy Disciples this year.

Having emerged from lockdown we needed to look at how we could run sessions safely but still make them fun and engaging for the children. A decision was made that due to space issues we would run the session before the main service to allow us use of the whole church space. This has worked really well and we regularly have 14-16 families attending most weeks.

It's great to have space to run the session and then move to another area for the creative response.

However, we would now like to work towards merging the two services together again so that we can once again be one church family.

Emma Lloyd-Williams

Despite the restrictions we were able to offer a number of activities for children and young people this year. We started with our Good Friday Diddy Disciples workshop which was well received, and the children enjoyed making their own Easter Gardens. We had a number of All Age services which all had an interactive element and were enjoyed by all young and old.

We also started to look at our offering for older children and ran a couple of sessions using new material from 'A Joyful Path'; this was welcomed by the children who attended and we hope to continue building on the success of last year.

In June we were finally able to re-open the much loved Little Groovers much to the relief of mums, dads and childminders.

We ended the year with a Nativity Trail and service, sadly with covid numbers being what they were, only a small number attended although those that did had a fantastic time, we are very grateful to those who dressed up and acted the part and provided some much needed Christmas cheer.

Emma Lloyd-Williams

GARDENING GROUP

The gardening group has worked very hard to keep the church grounds looking neat and tidy. The group meets as and when they can to prune, weed and to make the grounds a lovely space for the community to enjoy. A rose called “The Lady Gardener” was purchased and planted in memory of Helene Keates. Helene was a resident of Bloomfield Road and a long-standing member of the congregation at St John’s.

She was an RHS member and exhibitor who gave so much advice on many aspects of gardening including looking after the beautiful roses in the grounds.

If anyone would like to join the team, extra pairs of hands are always welcome. Also, if anyone has any spare gardening tools, planters, pots or bulbs, in good condition, donations would be gratefully received.

Alice Fowles

ECO GROUP

The Eco group was suspended while completion of the building works took place and then we were unable to meet due to the pandemic. Since restrictions were lifted the group has met again. A virtual advent calendar was suggested and Laura Whelan worked to make this a reality. It was available on the website, giving a tip or suggestion on sustainability each day. Ideas for home as well as church use, made it a fun, informative way to mark advent. Moving forward the aim is to work towards the Bronze Eco Church Award which was started before the building works.

To this end we invited Andy Atkins, the CEO of A Rocha to come and talk to us about how as a community we can be greener and more sustainable in church and in the wider community. Encouraging us all to make small achievable changes in our lives to help sustainability and to become more eco- friendly was the main message.

Alice Fowles

HALL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

For the first three months of the year our hall was silent because we were in a lockdown. Hall life gradually returned to normal in April with Kingston Kindergarten, Badminton group, Jiu jitsu, Rugbytots, British Theatre Academy, the Rose Youth Theatre and the Spring Grove Fringe returning to use the hall. Sadly Perform had to close due to lack of customers, but in May a new Pilates class joined us. The first private hire took place in September and these continued for the rest of the year. The Spring Grove Fringe were able to put on a production in June and November.

The hall continued to be professionally cleaned each week. In August the Hall Committee spent a Saturday morning sorting and cleaning the kitchen cupboards, dusting in high places, carrying out small repairs and checking the hall's general condition. All the members play an important part in keeping the hall in good repair and safe condition for everyone to use.

Their wisdom and support are really appreciated.

Wing, who had been our hall (and later church) Caretaker for nearly eight years, sadly decided that for family reasons she could no longer fulfil the role. We were really sorry to lose her and thank her for her conscientious help and support for so many years. We send her and her family very best wishes. We were very pleased that Ray Symons accepted the Caretaker role from the beginning of October and immediately took on the tasks in a positive and helpful way and we thank him for this.

Frances Hazelgrove

HALL TREASURER'S REPORT

Finance & Building Report for the year ended 31 December 2021

Although Covid continued to impact on hire income in the first half of the year, the Parish Hall had a successful year as a surplus of £12,877 was recorded. Total funds rose to reach £73,604 by the close of 2021. Income increased by 26% at £21,119 (£16,729 in 2020). Of this, 90% came from regular hirers with highest usage by Kingston Kindergarten followed by Jiu Jitsu and Spring Grove Fringe. Income from occasional hire mostly for children's parties recovered strongly in the second half of the year.

Expenses at £8,242 were 29% below last year, reflecting lower occupation in the first half of 2021 alongside reduced energy and maintenance costs. Weekly cleaning was maintained to a high standard by Paragon Green Cleaning and we also benefitted greatly from having our new caretaker, Ray Symons, on board.

The Hall Committee is looking ahead to 2023 when we should be able to apply for a grant to improve access and toilet facilities. In addition, we would like to replace the windows and doors plus redecorate the Hall in time. The cost implications are significant and will require external finance from grants or trusts along with our own reserves, while maintaining a minimum £20k as a buffer at all times.

Special thanks go to Frances Hazelgrove who manages the Hall bookings so well for us and to Ray Symons for his fine work, plus the staff of Paragon Green Cleaning for their professional and reliable service. Our thanks also go to Michael Wraight for looking after Hall maintenance, to Jan Hartley for leading the Hall management committee and to all our hirers for their valuable support.

Church & Hall Treasurer Tony Hardy

ALL SAINTS CHURCH

This has surely been another year like other! At the time of the last Annual Parish Meeting in May 2021, we were cautiously feeling our way back to a kind of 'new' normality, with in-person services resuming, albeit with face- coverings requested and a substantial proportion of the congregation continuing to 'attend' services via our YouTube channel. Something approaching normal service has been resumed this year, but it has been a rather stop- start process. In addition to the usual three Sunday Services, first one and then a second mid-week service was added to the weekly roster of services, and

Wednesday afternoon's Choral Evensong began to get confidently back into its stride. The Bishop of Kingston conducted a Confirmation Service on the afternoon of Sunday 13th June, and the Kingston Episcopal Ara Ordination Service took place on Saturday 3rd July. In addition, the annual Mayoral Service was held on the afternoon of Sunday 27th June, with the Crown Court Service on Monday 4th October and the Civic Remembrance Service in Memorial Square on Sunday 14th November.

But above everything else, Jonathan's announcement on Sunday 13th June that he would be leaving All Saints after a fifteen-year ministry amongst us, was surely the defining moment of the year. His last service, Choral Evensong on Sunday 17th October was followed by a joyous celebration in the East End, wonderfully catered for by Sarah and her team and with a stylish musical entertainment provided by the Choir. Jonathan's final inunction to us at the end of the service, drawing on the New Testament reading, was 'Only be strong, and very courageous', something that we've all tried to keep at the forefront of our minds ever since. Since then, the Kingston Team Ministry has been without a Team Rector and we at All Saints have been without a Vicar. But we have been enormously well-served by a whole host of clergy, led by Sandy and William, and we are extremely grateful especially to William for putting together a weekly service rota which currently extends deep into the summer. Week by week, the Opus Dei at All Saints continues to thrive.

The run of Christmas services, from Advent through Christmas to Epiphany, went very well. The congregations at each of the services were rather smaller than usual, mainly because of lingering anxieties about the Covid-19 situation, but they were watched by considerable numbers of people via our YouTube livestream. We are immensely grateful to our excellent musicians: the organists, the choir and the bellringers, for everything they did to make these special services, and also our routine weekly services, so successful. A particular highlight was the commemoration of the Accession of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on Sunday 6th February.

All Saints has been kept going during the potentially challenging months of the Vacancy, which are set to continue into September, by the sterling efforts of a huge number of people, both our immensely hardworking staff (Jenny, Pippa and Richard), and our many volunteers and especially those who coordinate their activities from behind the scenes. Special mention must be made of the invaluable contributions of Isabel Isaacson, PCC Secretary and Alastair Deller, Honorary Treasurer. Paul Thompson, deputy churchwarden with delegated responsibility for premises and insurance, has worked extremely hard to tackle a number of complex issues during the last few months. The separate reports of the many and varied group activities that take place week by week (below) are an eloquent testimony to the rich tapestry of life at All Saints.

The church continues to be open to visitors throughout the week from 10.00am until 4.00pm, and the Café, now superbly managed by Sarah and her team of highly professional assistants, continues to attract a loyal and steady following of both regular customers and occasional visitors. The Vergers and the Listeners combine to ensure that there is a warm welcome for visitors, whatever their reason for coming into the church. On Saturday mornings, members of the Gardening Group often chat to passers-by as they work in the north and south churchyards, providing another form of mission outreach activity to the local community. The building has continued to work very hard for its living, being regularly hired for weekly rehearsals, frequent concerts both at lunchtimes and in the evening, receptions of various kinds, popular exhibitions and most recently the new once a month 'Pop-Up Shop' held on a Saturday, selling 'vintage pre-loved fashion clothing', which in addition to providing much needed income has attracted a whole new demographic into our beautiful and infinitely adaptable space. We often say we need to attract more young people!

The Kingston Team Ministry Profile, an impressively professional-looking document, was produced as a result of an excellent team effort by many contributors, and can be found on the website. It was made available to potential applicants through the Church Times adverts that appeared throughout March. By the time this report appears the shortlisting meeting will have taken place (26th April) and the preferred candidates will have visited the three parishes that make up the Kingston Team Ministry (Saturday 7th May). Interviews are scheduled for Wednesday 11th May and we hope very much that the successful candidate will be in post by the beginning of September. The appointment panel consists of the Archdeacon of Wandsworth (representing the Bishop of Southwark), the Dean of King's College Cambridge (representing the College, which is our Patron), Revd Mandy Beck (Team Vicar, St John the Baptist) and representatives from our three PCCs.

The Churchwardens would like to extend their heartfelt thanks the Clergy, the Deputy Wardens, the PCC and the whole congregation for their support over the last year. It has been very much appreciated.

John Dewhurst & Roshan Jathanna

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH

2021 a year of blessings and challenges. The world and St John's continued to be buffeted by the effects of the COVID pandemic. We began the year with services seated at social distances wearing masks. In the summer we could all rejoice and sing together again in church. At Christmas due to the Omicron variant caught by many including myself, we had services of The Word in the church and outside at which Andrew Bignold, the churchwarden, stepped in to lead.

At every opportunity this year our other churchwarden, Beverly Morley-Brown, found ways to make any event into a celebration, so gardening now includes delicious pastries. The opportunity of celebrating the work Tony Wilkinson has done over the years in the garden was complete with champagne. Sue Richardson and the whole outreach team began organising events again, including storytelling and pop-up suppers. Members of the church have really stepped forward to care for neighbours and to enable the rota and services to run. The organising and encouraging of those teams have been ably led by Penny Jivani. Our children's work this year has been a great success with the Summer Holiday Club and Halloween Orchard Church at dusk being over-subscribed. Vicky Clark, our children's worker, encouraging a whole team of leaders Sunday by Sunday.

Andrew Taylor stepped in as treasurer after Cheong Wong's many years in the role. Our finances in 2021 were not good however, with us once more making a loss. With the opening of the new nursery and the encouragement of members to join the Parish Giving Scheme, we are looking to turn this around in 2022. In 2021 we asked people what they hoped for in the community and from the church, and peoples' love of our church was clear. What also came across was an acknowledgement of the isolation and hardship many were facing. It is in the light of the resurrecting hope of Christ, we acknowledge these struggles and look to God's leading with new initiatives to meet these needs. So we have developed Orchard Church and Be Well Church. We are now much better placed to share what is happening at church with the wonderful new website created by Lorna Ailes and hosted with Andrew Cadman's help. We have been blessed by God and by one another in 2021 and look to God's leading into the future.

Rev Mandy Beck

CONTACTS FOR ST JOHN'S

www.stjohnskingston.co.uk

www.inclusive-church.org.uk

Vicar: Rev Lindiwe Maseko:
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Church Warden & Hall bookings: Frances Hazelgrove
email: parishhall@stjohnskingston.co.uk

Church Warden: Wendy Malseed
email: wmalseed@hotmail.co.uk

Parish Administrator: Emma Lloyd-Williams
Email:stjohnschurch.kingston@gmail.com

Reader & Charities Team leader: Isobel Robinson

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Pat Askey & Grant Vanstone
Email: safeguarding.stjohnskingston@gmail.com

Treasurer: Tony Hardy

PCC Secretary: Sarah Price

Additional PCC Members: Mimi Fagan, Michael Wraight, Alec MacMillan, Grant Vanstone, Colin Bowes, Julie Bishop, Suzannah Travers, Kate Lyon

https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsKingstonUponThames
https://www.instagram.com/stjohnskingston/

DONATE TO ST JOHN'S

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, KINGSTON UPON THAMES

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL AFFAIRS : YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

INCOME	**Unrestricted**	**Restricted**	**2021**	**2020**
Gift Aid	30483		30483	29197
Income Tax Recovered	10315		10315	12228
Loose Collections/Card Reader	2916		2916	2189
Donations/Grants & VAT Reclaim	3378		3378	40547
Little Groovers	2025		2025	365
Fund Raising - General	8488		8488	7454
Church Fees (net)	1079		1079	657
Church Hire	7739		7739	9693
University Rent	16675		16675	16675
Interest	138		138	242
Missions	3417		3417	1918
Misc. Receipts	248		248	59
TOTAL	**£86,902**	**£0**	**£86,902**	**£121,223**

EXPENDITURE	**Unrestricted**	**Restricted**	**2021**	**2020**
Missions & Affiliation Fees	3497		3497	1964
Education	300		300	300
Little Groovers	1620		1620	0
Parish Support Fund	47000		47000	47000
Clergy Expenses	251		251	0
Church Administrator/expenses	2692		2692	2602
Organist Salary, Organ/Music	2020		2020	1602
Heating & Lighting	4883		4883	5071
Water Rates	120		120	243
Insurance	5412		5412	5686
Fundraising Expenses	3557		3557	2047
Church Repairs/Maintenance	5171	1989	7160	8993
Regeneration Project	0	3424	3424	81033
Printing, Postage & Stationery	3377		3377	3354
Sundry Expenses	1261	0	1261	1463
TOTAL	**£81,162**	**£5,413**	**£86,575**	**£161,358**
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)			**£327**	**-£40,135**
Transfer to reserves				
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR			**£327**	**-£40,135**
ADD ASSETS FROM 2020 BALANCE SHEET			**£82,881**	**£123,016**
ASSETS FROM 2021 BALANCE SHEET			**£83,208**	**£82,881**

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, KINGSTON UPON THAMES

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

	2021	2020
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors	1910	2431
Bank Current Account	15298	2496
Deposit Funds	68087	94435
	£85,294	**£99,362**
LESS : CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Sundry Creditors	-2086	-16481
NET ASSETS	**£83,208**	**£82,881**
REPRESENTED BY :		
Unrestricted Fund	20227	14100
Restricted Fund (A) - Regeneration	39538	44951
Restricted Fund (B) - Legacy	20596	20596
Restricted Fund (C) - Kingston Refugee	2847	3234
	£83,208	**£82,881**

NET ASSETS : 31 DECEMBER 2021	**Unrestricted**	**Restricted A**	**Restricted B**	**Restricted C**	**Totals**
Balances at 1 January 2020	14100	44951	20596	3234	82881
Income	86902	0	0	0	86902
Expenditure	81162	5413	0	0	86575
Surplus (Deficit)	5740	-5413	0	0	327
Transfers between funds	387	0	0	-387	0
Balances at 31 December 2021	**£20,227**	**£39,538**	**£20,596**	**£2,847**	**£83,208**

Signed : Church Treasurer

Signed : Team Vicar

Independent Examiners Report

I report on the accounts of St John the Evangelist, Kingston upon Thames for the year ended 31/12/21.
My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Comission.
This includes a review of the accounting records kept by the church and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records.
I have examined the SOFA and Balance Sheet and confirm that these are in accordance with the accounting records, receipts, invoices, statements and documents submitted to me.

Signed : Independent Examiner

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, KINGSTON UPON THAMES

England & Wales - Charity number 1181704

Accounts

APCM ANNUAL REPORT 2020

St John's Church & Hall

St John the Evangelist, Grove Lane, Kingston upon Thames

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VICAR'S REPORT

2020 has been an historic year to say the least, a year that started well, but by March launched us into a period of unprecedented change. The Church, like so many other institutions, companies, and individuals, started 2020 with a plan of things we would have liked to have achieved, new initiatives, social events and developments. However, as the covid pandemic took hold, these plans needed to be shelved, modified, or consigned to the "this will not be possible for a long time to come" file to allow us to focus on managing day to day.

That said, 2020 has still been a busy year for us as a Church and we have remained proactive in ensuring that whilst the Church building has been closed, the Church has remained accessible and available.

- We have offered almost daily worship opportunities online.
- We have introduced 2 new services (in addition to making morning prayer accessible).
- We have moved Diddy Disciples onto zoom.
- Where possible we have provided socially distanced physical services.
- We have used the email list to have regular contact with our local community.
- The pastoral team have made regular phone calls to members of the congregation.
- We have provided online collective worship to school and also children being home educated.
- We have supported our community through the foodbank, food4 kids and Acts435.
- We have been actively involved in Christian Aid and fund raising for other charities.
- We have supported our refugee community and made referrals to other agencies.
- We have continued to maintain contact with the community resulting in new growth.
- As a congregation we have welcomed new families and people both online and in face-to-face private prayer and worship.
- Physically we have completed the work on the Church, updated and upgraded our AV capacity.

All of this would not have been possible without a lot of hard work from a lot of people, so thank you to all who have donated, filmed, played, sung, printed, distributed, emailed, phoned others, attended meetings, read and re-read risk assessments, kept an eye on our finances, cleaned the church after services, positioned cameras and microphones, taught us how to use the broadcast equipment, zoomed, preached, led home groups, led children's groups and done all the other jobs needed to keep the Church alive and active throughout lockdowns, tiers and the glimpses of what has been described as the "new normal".

VICAR'S REPORT CONTINUED

The worship life of the Church in the past year has changed beyond anything we could have imagined. We have stopped singing together, the peace has become a wave and smile from behind a mask, hand sanitiser has become the first part of our gathering, communion in one kind and no tea and coffee after the service. However, we can take some comfort in that during lockdown we have continued to offer almost daily worship through our Facebook page and website. Whenever possible we have met, and we have offered a sacred space where people could sit and reflect in silent prayer.

The candle of hope has been lit most nights and the Church bell rung to remind people that even when the doors are locked, the Church is still praying for them. Thank you to all who have helped keep the Church open and available to those who want to pray.

I want to thank the PCC and Standing Committee for all the work they have done in steering the Church through this tricky time. The Church of England, the Diocese and the Government have all been issuing regular updates regarding what can and can't be done, all of which need to be read, and then transposed into our situation, turned into risk assessments and then used to create patterns of worship.

I am sure that many parents and children have really appreciated and benefitted from Diddy Disciples continuing throughout lockdown using Zoom. I would like to thank Jen, Emma, and Mimi for all their hard work and dedication to Diddy Disciples through 2020. We can't wait to see the children and families back in Church in 2021.

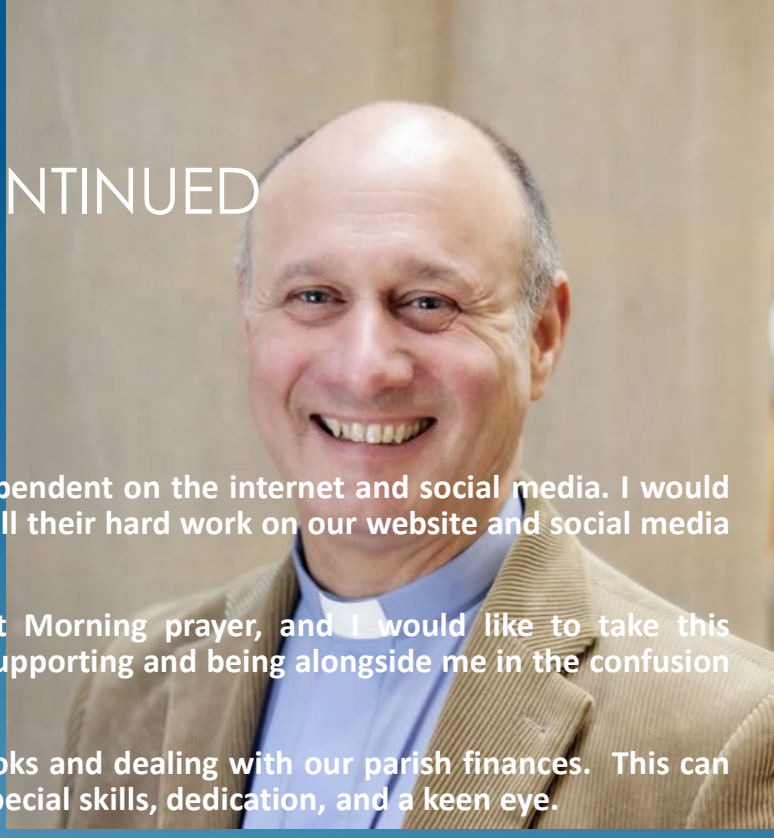
The 1st Monday club met at the start of the year and were very creative in thinking of ways they could meet and maintain social distancing and the "rule of 6". Unfortunately, as lockdown deepened the club was no longer able to meet physically but has remained a source of support and friendship. Thank you for this valuable activity and contribution to the life of our Church, and again we look forward to a time when the club will once again be able to meet in Church.

During lockdown we were able to work on the Church grounds, which has been brilliant. Both access ramps are now finished, helping us to be more inclusive. The gardening team have maintained the Church gardens for keeping weeds at bay, roses trimmed and the garden creating an inviting space, which many young families have appreciated during the pandemic. Many thanks to all who came and helped to paint the Church railings.

Thank you to all who maintain the inside of the Church for the cleaning, the tidying and of course the wonderful floral displays.

I would like to thank the worship team. Special thanks to Wendy and Eleanor for the music and singing during our services and special thanks to Emma and Lucy for filming the services too. Many thanks to Colin and Dave for all the hard work and generosity in designing, providing, and maintaining our Audio-Visual system.

VICAR'S REPORT CONTINUED



During 2020 we became much more dependent on the internet and social media. I would like to thank Emma, Dave and Tony for all their hard work on our website and social media offerings.

Isobel has been a constant support at Morning prayer, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for listening, supporting and being alongside me in the confusion and frustration of lockdown.

Thank you to Tony for balancing the books and dealing with our parish finances. This can be a thankless task and one that takes special skills, dedication, and a keen eye.

The Church Hall continues to be a valuable community resource. The hall has remained open for childcare through lockdown, thank you to the Hall management group for all your hard work in reading and preparing risk assessments and ensuring that the hall remained a Covid secure community resource.

I am proud to say that despite the pandemic, as a Church, we have continued to be outward looking. We have supported local charities through special collections, services, and ongoing relationships. Special thanks to Isobel and the Charities team. We have supported those on the margins through Acts435, Food4kids, the foodbank and referrals to other charities and support networks.

The links between us and our local schools remain strong. We have provided weekly collective worship and online worship activities when the school was closed. The school decorated the Church for us for Remembrance Day and managed to get to Church to film their Christmas worship in a socially distanced manner; I remain on the board of governors of the school and have really appreciated and admired the dedication of all our school staff in providing for the children during lockdown.

As part of the pandemic response, I have been working 2 days a week as part of the hospital Chaplaincy team. This has been both deeply satisfying, at times upsetting, but mostly a wonderful opportunity to be beside people during a challenging time in their lives. I would like to thank those of you who have been praying for our hospital.

Thank you one and all, this year has been one of loss, of change but also of hope, and I hope that as we enter into our new socially distanced, mixed mode world we can continue to explore new and vibrant ways of celebrating God's presence with us and proclaiming this to a waiting world.

Mark Stafford

CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT

Church Life

2020 was a year like no other in our memory. It began with our All Age service for Epiphany and our usual pattern of services followed until Ash Wednesday.

We were aware of the Covid 19 virus but when on March 16th the country was put on lockdown our church life as we knew it changed dramatically. The Church of England declared all church buildings closed even to clergy so our Sunday and weekday church services were broadcast on Facebook from Mark's home. Sadly we were still closed during the Easter period. But it did not pass uncelebrated.

A large wooden cross was erected by the main door at the beginning of Easter week and was covered with coloured ribbons on Easter Sunday. This stayed in place until after Whitsunday. The children were invited to colour an easter egg picture to put in their windows around the parish. Isobel prepared the little Easter Garden at the entrance to the church, the Magnolia tree blossom was as beautiful as ever and the daffodils bloomed to bring some joy to passers by. Diddy Disciples ran weekly on Zoom from June right through the year. This was organized and run by Emma, Mimi and Jen.

Our Community Café, Little Groovers and the First Monday Club could not continue and planned events including a parish weekend at Wychcroft had to be cancelled. But before the lock down we were able to host four Banquet Records concerts which were thoroughly enjoyed by the large audiences. Thank you to those who planned and helped during the concerts. Unfortunately others that had been booked for future months had to be cancelled.

In June we were invited to decorate or paint stones (Spring Grove Rocks) to reflect our thoughts and feelings at the time which were blessed and placed along the fence in the church rose bed.

To enable the church to be ready to open for public worship again, the building was deep cleaned, a risk assessment was put in place and the chairs in the church had been arranged to comply with distancing regulations; in June the church began to be opened at certain times on a Sunday and Thursday for private prayer. We were pleased that from 5th July, with the wearing of masks, distancing and sanitizing, those who were able could attend services again. The services continued to be live streamed.

In October we were able to hold our Harvest Festival with the young families joining us. The gifts were as usual donated to the Food Bank. Later that month the children enjoyed a Halloween pumpkin search around the parish followed by hot chocolate.

We were locked down again in November and although our service for Remembrance Day with the Act of Remembrance could only be broadcast, our church looked beautiful, decorated with pictures of poppies by children from St John's School and handmade poppies from members of the congregation. We were very pleased a grant for which we had applied from All Churches Trust was approved to allow us to buy four good user-friendly cameras. These with new microphones that were already in place greatly improved the quality of the live streaming; and the church bell began to be rung before services as a reminder that prayers were being said.

CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT CONTINUED

The Black Lives Matter Movement prompted the PCC to increase its awareness of issues of diversity and inclusion; thankfully no worrying monuments were found in St John's. We were not able to hold our usual Christmas Spectacular on which we rely to provide a healthy sum to subsidize our regular income to pay our bills. But an on-line auction was held in November. Thank you Tony and Jo Campbell for organizing this and to everyone who contributed in any way to make the auction such a success.

We were able to have an All Age Christingle service early in December when everyone was able to safely make a Christingle to take home and light. The young families joined us again. Sadly because of a new lockdown we were not able to have the children's Christmas Crib service but the Midnight Mass and Christmas Day services were able to be held and were live streamed. Sarah our Parish Administrator was about to leave early in the new year to be the Administrator at St John's School. Sarah had done so much for us during her three years and she cheerfully coped with the disruption and extra work the pandemic caused her when she was not able to work in the church. We were sorry to be losing her.

There was one Baptism in January and we were able to hold a Wedding Ceremony in October which proved to be a very happy occasion. During the year we welcomed Jonathan Wilkes, Sandy Cragg, Andrea Campanale, Heather Palmer for African Vision Malawi to preach and Catherine Duce from St Martin in the Fields, London to tell us about how we might benefit from becoming more closely connected with HeartEdge (churches working at the heart of culture, community and commerce). As part of the church's care for others, through the year items of food were collected for the food bank, Acts 435 a crowd funding giving site for those in need was in action and free meals offered to children in need during the school Christmas closure.

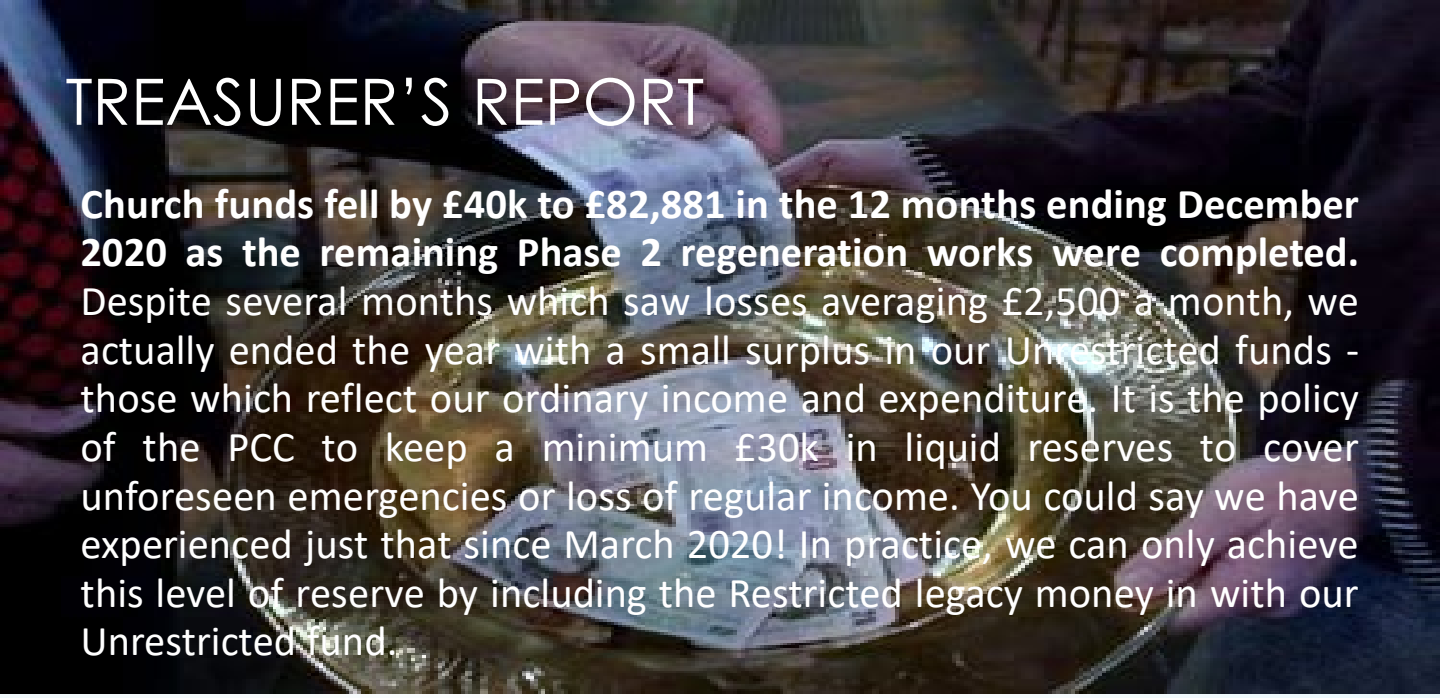
The church only runs smoothly because a dedicated group of people give their time so generously. Thank you Isobel for all you do and for your sermons during the year. Thank you Assistant Wardens for your support during this difficult year. Thank you members of our PCC for your contributions in making decisions to keep our church "open for business" and our congregation safe. Thank you Servers and Sidespeople; you have had to be very flexible and have helped the services we were able to hold run smoothly. Thank you Wendy for playing the organ every Sunday and at other special services and to Eleanor for beautifully singing the hymns for us. Thank you to those who read the lessons and led our prayers. Thank you Emma P, your helpers and Lucy for ably operating the cameras. Thank you Mimi and team for the beautiful flower arrangements and making displays for special services. Thank you Emma, Mimi and Jen for your dedication to our young children. Thank you to our Charities Team for keeping our thoughts on other's needs. Thank you Tony for your hard work and good stewardship of our resources and Jo and Alec for your involvement with church giving. Thank you Sarah, our PCC Secretary, for having managed the difficult task of taking the Minutes of our zoomed Standing Committee and Parochial Church Council meetings and keeping us organized. Thank you to Colin and Dave Meeghan for your help with the microphones, and for all your advice and work enabling us to improve the live streaming of our services. Thank you to the helpers at the Community Café and those who supplied the Sunday refreshments before the lock down – which are sadly missed. Thank you members of our church for humping chairs and tables around when needed. Thank you Karoline, Emma and Alice for your work and care of our church garden.

And thank you Mark for your guidance, untiring support, hard work and commitment to our parish in a year which was so different to what we had planned and hoped for.

Church Fabric

By January work on the new kitchen and toilets was completed. The very old well worn red carpet was removed and replaced with grey tiles to match those at the west end of the church which was a great improvement. A new notice board was put in the entrance lobby. The church bell was overhauled and found to be safe. In the summer two outside access ramps were built. New microphones and the purchase of four new cameras improved the quality of the live screening of our services. A project to paint the railings around the church, initiated by Bill Price, was very successful with many local residents joining members of our congregation completing most of the panels. The front south side will be completed when possible. The grass has been cut regularly and the garden team have kept the garden looking tidy and attractive.

FRANCES HAZELGROVE



TREASURER'S REPORT

Church funds fell by £40k to £82,881 in the 12 months ending December 2020 as the remaining Phase 2 regeneration works were completed. Despite several months which saw losses averaging £2,500 a month, we actually ended the year with a small surplus in our Unrestricted funds - those which reflect our ordinary income and expenditure. It is the policy of the PCC to keep a minimum £30k in liquid reserves to cover unforeseen emergencies or loss of regular income. You could say we have experienced just that since March 2020! In practice, we can only achieve this level of reserve by including the Restricted legacy money in with our Unrestricted fund.

Over the year we spent £81k on regeneration works to finish Phase 2 but against this had income of £40k from final grants draw downs, VAT reclaimed under the Listed Buildings scheme and donations. This leaves us just under £45k towards future building work; a useful sum, though not sufficient to contemplate a Phase 3 just yet!

Total income for the year was £121k, of which Unrestricted income was £81k. Giving, which totalled over £31k, was almost 16% up on 2019, despite the periods the church was closed and collections were not possible. The core of this sum is from those who give via monthly standing orders or envelopes and we also benefited from some generous extra gifts beyond this and the introduction of the QR code as a contactless payment method. We received a further £12k in income tax recovered on Gift Aid payments. Together with this tax recovery, the £16k University rent continues to be very critical to our finances. Despite the pandemic, church hire income was 14% up year on year thanks to the Banquet concerts in Jan/Feb and commercial training hire. The online Silent Auction raised £2,592 and the bars run at the four Banquet Records' shows contributed £2,351. This meant that general fundraising was only a little down on last year despite no Christmas event.

Total expenses were £161k. Of these, Unrestricted costs accounted for £79,485 – 5% lower than last year. We again pledged and delivered £47k as our Parish Support contribution to the Diocese which supports the ministry here and at churches throughout Southwark, some of whom are far poorer than ourselves. Remaining costs were generally lower than last year, reflecting the strange year we've had and much frugality.

In summary, we closed 2020 with reserves of £82,881 made up of £44,951 held in the restricted Regeneration Fund towards future works, £20,596 representing the balance of legacies, £3,234 Refugee Action grant and £14,100 in unrestricted funds.

I would like to thank Mark and Lucy, Frances and Julie, Isobel, Mimi and Sarah P plus all the PCC members for their great support over the year. Special thanks also go to Jo Need, our Gift Aid Secretary, to Alec and Emma, Sarah GD and Emma P for their valuable work on stewardship, church admin and our website/social media.

Tony Hardy

ADMINISTRATOR'S & PCC SECRETARY'S REPORT

PARISH ADMIN

Due to the pandemic most of the Church events and hires, including many Banquet Records' gigs the Christmas Bazaar and Little Groovers were sadly postponed during 2020 but we were happy to facilitate Jack and Caitlin's wedding, the School Halloween Trail and various socially distanced hires that we were able to allow under the changing regulations; including the Orpheus Choir, Sing it Back and the Morris Dancers.

Sarah Grant Duff has worked as the Church Administrator since 2018 and sadly left the post in 2021. However we are pleased to know that she won't be too far away as she is now working as the St John's School administrator.

I took over from Sarah as church administrator in 2021 and I would like to express our thanks to Sarah for all of her work in undertaking the role of Church Administrator for the past 3 years.

Following the easing of restrictions we are now receiving an increasing amount of requests for hires, including weddings, gigs, training facilities and Polling station use and we look forward to further hire and event activity in 2021, including the long awaited return of Little Groovers. Watch this space for further exciting news...

Emma Lloyd-Williams

PCC SECRETARYS REPORT

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is the 'governing body' of the church and is chaired by the Vicar. It is responsible for the overall practical and spiritual wellbeing of the church, its building and its people. St John's PCC meets on alternate months throughout the year. There is also a smaller, Standing Committee of the PCC, which meets on those months when there is not a full PCC meeting (with the exception of December, when there are no meetings at all). From March 2020 all these meetings were held online rather than in person, due to the pandemic.

In addition to the Vicar, the PCC includes other members of the clergy team, the churchwardens, treasurer, secretary and up to nine members of the congregation who are elected at the APCM to serve for three years.

We delayed the 2020 APCM originally scheduled for April, although production of the Annual Report continued and it was published in July, thanks to the efforts of Emma Peries. The meeting then took place on 6 September during a socially distanced Sunday service. At it we welcomed two new elected members, Colin Bowes and Wendy Malseed, while Julie Bishop finished her term of office as Church Warden, having performed sterling work on the church regeneration.

The PCC represents the congregation and welcomes all thoughts, questions and observations about the church. Since September 2020 we have found it helpful to structure the meeting topics under the 4Cs of church life set out in the HeartEdge model: Congregational, Commercial, Compassion and Culture. There are several vacancies on the committee: anyone who is on the electoral roll is encouraged to offer themselves for election. For more information please contact the Vicar or Churchwardens.

Sarah Price

CHARITIES

Early in 2020, we were raising funds for African Vision Malawi and Kingston Churches Action on Homelessness in our usual way by selling cakes and refreshments at the Community Café; but after that everything changed and we had to find new ways to reach out to those who need our help, both in Kingston and further afield. Many thanks to all who contributed in any way to help our church community remain outward looking at this difficult time.

Because of the increased pressure on KCAH we decided to continue our support for this wonderful local charity after our Lent Appeal for them had ended, and we continued to raise money (mostly from the sale of face masks) and collect donations in kind, including new underwear, toiletries and, during the heatwave, sunscreen. Collecting for the Foodbank also continued through the year, with donations being dropped off at Mark's house and taken by him to the depot in Tolworth.

In another initiative to help those in our local community who have been struggling financially, St John's signed up to the Acts 435 scheme, which enables small-scale online crowd-funding for emergency needs; and Mark as our nominated Advocate was able to respond to several requests for help.

Christian Aid Week proved amazingly successful and Kingston CA Committee as a whole managed to raise £18,527 + £1792 Gift Aid through its 'Walk for a Whole World' campaign and Just Giving page, which turned out to be by far the best total for any area in the country. St John's played a very active part in this: Mark was one of six local clergy who undertook to walk 300,000 steps each during May, and our loyal house-to-house collectors used a combination of envelopes and social networking (no knocking on doors this year) to raise £980.

The Link to Hope Shoebox appeal in the Autumn also met with a generous response, and we managed to send off 55 filled and wrapped boxes just in time before the second lock-down on 5 November. This was warmly welcomed by the charity as so many of the usual contributors had not felt able to do boxes at all.

On our first Sunday back in church in December we were able to hold a Christingle service, with socially distanced families making their christingles from previously assembled 'kits': a lovely occasion, and £105 was raised for the Children's Society. In addition, 45 Children's Society collecting boxes are held at home by individuals and families, and we appreciate their continuing support for the charity.

For the last four months of the year we had a nominated 'Charity of the Month', which sought to raise awareness of Cancer Macmillan, Water Aid, Help for Heroes and Women and Children First, taking each in turn and giving information about its work and a link for online donations. In the nature of things, we've no way of knowing how much was given online, but cash donations totalling £600 were received and have been passed on to the designated charities.

Isobel Robinson

SAFEGUARDING

The care and protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults involved in church activities is the responsibility of the whole church.

Everyone who participates in the life of a church has a role to play in promoting a safer church for all.

The diocese of Southwark of which St John's is part is committed to establishing an environment where children and young people are nurtured and protected, and where all people, especially those who are vulnerable for any reason, "are able to pursue their faith journey with encouragement and in safety". Our Safeguarding policies and contact details for those with safeguarding roles are displayed on the church notice boards and our Safeguarding manual, A Safe Church, is stored in the parish office and available for anyone to see. I can confirm that the PCC has complied with the duty to have 'due regard' to the House of Bishop's guidance in relation to safeguarding. There have been no reported incidents.

This year with so little opportunity to worship together, our activity for very young children, Diddy Disciples took place on Zoom; a comprehensive Risk Assessment was presented to the PCC as this was a new experience, and in the early stages of Zoom fraught with potential safeguarding concerns; no problems of this nature were encountered.

Other activities including children's church for those aged 6 plus and our toddler group, Little Groovers were suspended during lockdown.

We had hoped to be able to carry out a full safeguarding audit, however the diocese has rolled this over to next year. We have reviewed our policies and checked that all PCC members as well as those working with children have a current enhanced DBS certificate, a requirement of the Charity Commission, and that everyone involved in the church organisation is keeping up to date with Safeguarding Training.

Our targets for next year will be to carry out a full audit under the diocesan framework, to review the agreements with hirers of our church and hall; to ensure risk assessments are conducted prior to recommencing any additional activities with children or adults who are vulnerable, to ensure all training is up to date and to achieve gender balance in leadership groups for children's activities.

Mimi Fagan

Parish Safeguarding Officer

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

I was appointed as Director of Music at the end of 2019, so have now been at St John's for the last eighteen months.

We all know too well what an unusual time this has been and have had to adapt in so many different ways. Although we have not been able to meet as a community and as a congregation through periods of lockdown, we have nevertheless strived to maintain our links via other means, such as the Internet. So far as has been possible, we have live-streamed Sunday services on Facebook and music has been played on the organ despite the fact that singing has not always been permissible.

One of the highlights of the year was one of the Christmas services that we were able to deliver, both in Church and on Facebook, in which members of the local community sang carols. We are extremely grateful to those who participated in this event, which benefited so many. Although life has not been normal for any of us, there have been other opportunities we have grasped. Our sister church, All Saints, Kingston, has a thriving choir and has been unable to sing as a result of Covid restrictions. We are grateful, therefore, that choir members have offered to sing at St John's. In particular, Eleanor Howard-Williams has sung on a regular basis over the last few months and we are extremely grateful for her contributions. More recently, other members of the choir have volunteered their services and we are grateful also for these.

I look with hope and anticipation to our future.

Wendy Malseed

Director of Music

SACRED SPACE

Sacred Space Kingston is a fresh expression of church for spiritual seekers with a particular emphasis on the arts and creativity. We have built a link with St John's Church over the last few years and have led your Sacred Space services on the third Sunday of each month during 2020. Like the rest of the church, Sacred Space Kingston went online in 2020. We held a service for Easter over Zoom with members of the community contributing readings, prayers and videos as we reflected together on the death and resurrection of Jesus. We have had regular virtual catch ups and shared resources that we've engaged with to keep us spiritually active and encouraged including online retreats, art and poetry classes and yoga sessions.

In the summer we got together, socially distanced in the garden for our own mini Greenbelt Festival with live streamed talks, panels discussions and music. We did an interactive labyrinth on an IT platform called gathertown and have had fun socials playing games such as Pictionary on our smart phones, as well as a Christmas quiz on Zoom. We've also done a Lent course using an app called Sarx focusing on Christianity and animals. Some members of the community have got involved in a new initiative called SpiritSpace which is a once a month virtual gathering for spiritual seekers in the UK and US, although now attracting attendees from France and Australia as well.

We produce meditations that are Christ inspired, but sensitively communicate with people who feel outside or even hostile to the church. There are also discussions and the opportunity for one-to-one encounters in break out rooms for dream interpretation, prayer for healing or Ruach card readings, for example. The latter is what I offer online. The last card in these Christian card readings is a verse of scripture and I use this to pray a blessing for those who are willing, wherever they are located around the world. Through this I have seen how the screen is no barrier to people being encouraged and touched by God.

I am reliably informed Sacred Space has been granted its Bishop's Mission Order and Bishop Christopher wants to formally recognise me as Licensed Lay Pioneer. However, he would like to wait until he can do this in person and have it witnessed by both members of Sacred Space and St John's. This is something to look forward to hopefully later in the year.

Andrea Campanale

FAMILIES & CHILDREN

We started off 2020 welcoming a number of new families to the church which is always lovely. We managed to hold two 'All age' services before the country was plunged into lockdown, the last of which was well received by most of the younger worshippers especially when they got to take home their freshly baked rock cakes.

Sadly due to the restrictions in place for most of the year, we were unable to have many children taking part in the services and could not hold our crib service. We had hoped to hold a Nativity trail around the parish over Christmas but sadly it was not to be. Going into 2021 we look forward to a brighter future and to once again be able to offer a wider range of activities for the children in the parish. We will particularly be looking at our offerings for children aged 6+, our young teenagers, whilst also relaunching Little Groovers. If anyone if interested in getting more involved please speak to either Mark or myself.

Emma Lloyd-Williams

CHILDRENS CHURCH

Children's church met on 8 Sundays in 2020 where the children had a session based around that days Bible reading with activities. Due to the lockdown restrictions and social distancing it has not been possible for the children's church to meet since March 2020 We hope to get together soon and will be looking at new ways to engage with our children. Sessions can only go ahead with the help of our dedicated team of helpers

Carolynne Cotton

Diddy Disciples

At the start of 2020 Diddy Disciples was being attended by abut 20 families. Its regular pattern of songs, stories and craft were enjoyed by our younger worshippers, little did we know that by March that we would all be in lockdown. By June, we had decided that the probability of us all coming together to worship was small, so after a bit of research, some practice sessions and by slightly rewriting the script, so that it would work online we launched Diddy Disciples at home via "Zoom". This was immediately a big hit and we were regularly being joined by a large number of followers.

We were truly amazed by how well the sessions ran on Zoom and how engaged the children were. Whilst we missed the interaction that you get from 'face to face' sessions, it was great to keep a connection to our families and continue worshipping together. As we move into the next phase of our post pandemic lives, we will look again at how we can adept the Diddy format to ensure that we can meet and worship safely.

Emma Lloyd-Williams

FIRST MONDAY CLUB

Well what a strange year that was!

We started the new year with Bingo, a pantomime quiz and a planning meeting. In February we made marmalade and in March had a great talk by Jon Cotton, "Archaeology, my life in Ruins" followed by a time test in which we had to put a variety of ancient objects into chronological order - not including members of the FMC!

Then we went into coronavirus lockdown.

Things looked up a bit in August and September but we were only able to meet six at a time and had to bring our own drinks and eat pre-packaged biscuits (thank you Pat Askey) quite unlike our customary cream teas! Because of this limit on numbers we had to postpone a talk by Rosalind Hardy which promised to be well attended and we will look forward to hearing her soon if she can fit us in. We managed two sessions in October to make poppies for display on Remembrance Sunday then,

Back to lockdown. I can't tell you how much we are all looking forward to resuming our meetings and having a FMC reunion party.

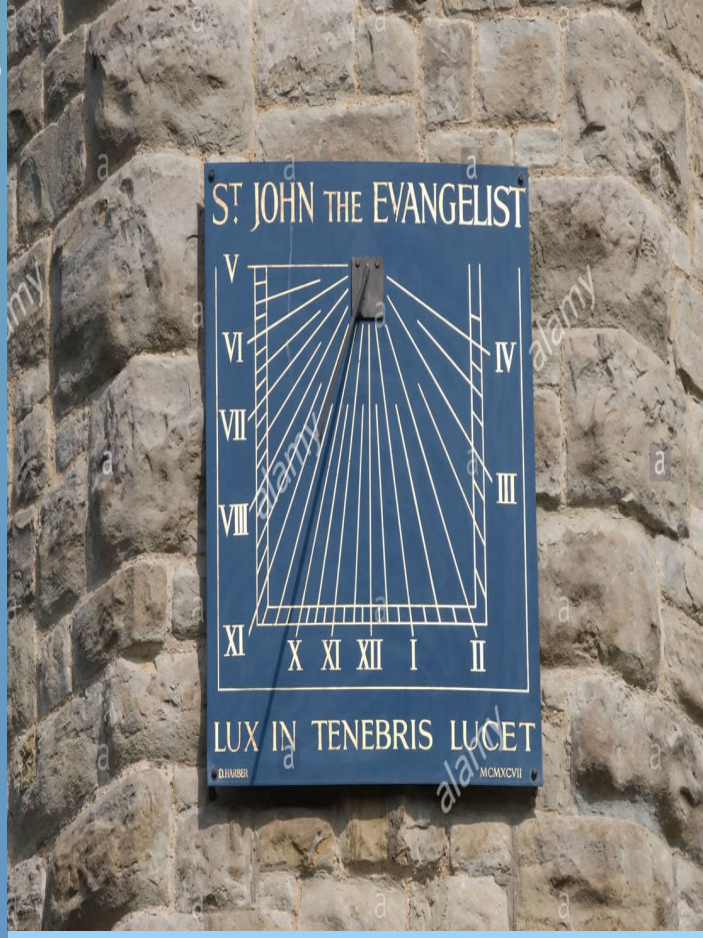
Perhaps you will join us.

Jo Need

REGENERATION GROUP

Phase 2 of our Regeneration Project was finally completed with the external ramps to the north and south doors finished and internal snagging done. While a little of this work ran over into 2021 mainly due to ground conditions and delays in getting materials due to Covid, any outstanding costs were included in the year-end provisions. Internally the main body of the church now benefits from a unified floor covering to replace the old carpet. A generous donation was received towards the cost of the new carpeting. I would like to record our sincere thanks to John Borthwick of Edwards Building Services for his and his team's hard work in achieving the improvements to access to the church and its enhanced interior we can now all enjoy. Just under £45K is carried forward at the year-end and reserved towards future building improvements in a Restricted fund.

Tony Hardy
Church Treasurer



ECO GROUP

The Eco Committee has not met during the pandemic. We were waiting until all the building work was completed before reassessing and continuing with working towards the Bronze Eco Church Award.

The Environmental Policy remains the same and will be reviewed in the coming year to take into account our beautiful new church environment, reduced carbon foot print and our more sustainable ethos.

Alice Fowles

SERVERS & SIDESPEOPLE

Servers

Serving in church can be so rewarding.

As servers we assist Mark throughout the service. We currently have 3 servers. We really could do with a couple more. If you think this would be something you would like to be part of, please talk to any of the servers or Mark.

Thank you and bless you.

Neville Hall

Sidespeople

We have 12 friendly volunteers on our sides people rota at St John's. Our duties are to ensure our congregation and any new visitors receive a warm and friendly welcome, to guide them at communion and to take the collection and a note of the number of attendees. We are on hand throughout Sunday services to provide additional support as needed, and to help with extra duties during specific seasonal services e.g. Carols by Candlelight at Christmas when congregational numbers are high.

The only qualification is a warm smile so, if you would like to join our team, please let me or Mark know. We'd be delighted to have you.

David Hamilton

FLOWERS & GARDENING

Flowers in church

Anyone is welcome to arrange a vase of flowers in the church, there is no special skill required! For the major festivals, a team of arrangers is usually pulled together to create designs on a larger scale; it's always a happy and sociable team effort and a way of getting to know people in the church. If you would like to get involved in any way with flowers in church, regularly or occasionally, or if you would like flowers arranged, as a celebration of a special event or in memory of a loved one, have a word with Mark or Frances.

Mimi Fagan

Gardening Team

The gardening team of Emma Lloyd Williams, Karoline Molberg, Trisha Badham and Alice Fowles have continued to look after the grounds during the last year, as restrictions allowed. Karoline's brother propagated some rose plants and these have been used to fill in gaps along the perimeter fence. A rose called "The Lady Gardener" has been planted in memory of Helene Keats, who was so knowledgeable about roses and shared her expertise with the team. New gravel was purchased to replenish along the rose border to help with weed control and to show off the beautiful roses. The gardening sessions really help to keep the church grounds looking neat and tidy, which have been enjoyed by local residents during the lockdown.
Many thanks to all the team.

Alice Fowles

SILENT AUCTION

The Legendary Silent Auction has been part of our annual Christmas event for many years and has always been a big fund raiser for us.

The lockdown meant that it was impossible to stage any kind of social event in church so it was decided to run the Auction element online. Using the Jumblebee web platform, a total of 75 lots were kindly donated by church and community members plus local businesses. The Auction went live on 2 December and closed on 12 December.

Bids were received for every lot and a net £2,592 was raised for church funds. A number of the lots were sourced by St John's School PSA and in this case, proceeds were shared 50/50 between the PSA and the church. This contributed a further £411 to PSA funds bringing the net total raised to £3,003.

It is hoped now that the online Auction will be part of our Christmas event for years to come, even when we are able to hold the event in church again. I'd particularly like to thank Jo Campbell for her invaluable help in setting up the Auction and Emma Lloyd-Williams and Agnieszka van Eijnsbergen from the School PSA for their great efforts in securing the many items that benefited both church and school.

Tony Hardy, Church Treasurer

SOCIAL MEDIA

Well, what a year 2020 was for the Church and its congregation.

It was amazing that social media could help keep us together as Coronavirus took its grip and continued for the whole year and more.

When we launched the Facebook and Instagram pages in April 2019, it was just a means for communication and publicising events. Within a year, we were broadcasting services live on Facebook. At the beginning of 2020, the feeds were populated with who was going to be playing in concerts at St Johns and the up-and-coming church cafes but on March 18th the heart wrenching decision to close the church was posted and that weekend saw our first live service on Facebook.

I filmed the services on my mobile, broadcasting live on Facebook and the recordings are saved on the social platform and uploaded to the website. Many thanks to Lucy for her support and always standing in when I couldn't be there. Mark did an amazing job of broadcasting everything on Facebook, morning prayer, Sunday services and Holy Communion. Also posting a daily message to keep up morale.

Despite the Church re-opening for some periods, we decided to keep live streaming on Facebook for those that didn't feel comfortable coming back to Church during the pandemic. Filming on a mobile certainly had its limitations and we often had problems with the sound. Thanks to Colin for hooking us up with a professional mic system, but sometimes we still had issues.

Mark successfully applied for a grant to fit cameras and a new system for broadcasting the services. As the news hit that the Church would have to close for Christmas, we quickly scrambled to ensure the new system was up and running for then.

Not to be in Church for most of the year was strange enough, but we hope broadcasting the services live or watching them pre-recorded was a lifeline for many in this unprecedented year.

Emma Peries

ELECTORAL ROLL

The electoral roll for 2020/21 :

- There are 114 people currently on the roll in 2021
- 0 people have left the roll
- 3 people have joined.

All new members of the church congregation are welcomed to reach out to me and we can get you signed up to the electoral roll as soon as possible to ensure that you are eligible for voting at next year's APCM and that we can also have an accurate picture of the congregation.

Jen Powell

PARISH HALL NEWS

2020 started well. January, February and the first two weeks of March 2020 were very busy with the Kindergarten, Badminton group, Jiu jitsu, Rugbytots, British Theatre Academy, Perform, the Rose Youth Theatre, the Spring Grove Fringe and the ballroom dance group all using the hall as usual. There were several private parties and in early February the Spring Grove Fringe put on their production of Jack and the Beanstalk.

Then from the 16th March all use of the hall stopped.

We were in the first lock down because of the covid virus. No one could use the hall. The Spring Grove Residents' Association Barn dance originally booked for the end of March had been cancelled and occasional bookings could no longer be held for the immediate future.

A weekly professional deep clean was arranged and a risk assessment for the hall was produced. Future hirers were asked to supply their own. We were very pleased that The Kindergarten and some of the teaching groups were able to return in August but we had to close again on 22 November for 2 weeks and again from 20 December.

A large notice board for the front of the hall was purchased and put in place by the front fence and the heating boiler which had broken down was replaced with a new one.

Thanks must be given to Wing, our caretaker, for her support and to the hall Committee for their helpful advice during the year.

It has been a very difficult time for all our groups but they have kept in touch hoping things would improve and looking forward to the time when they can permanently return to our hall.

Frances Hazelgrove

PARISH HALL FINANCE

Finance & Building Report for the year ended 31 December 2020

Despite a considerable reduction in hire income due to Covid closures, Parish Hall funds actually grew from £55,697 at the start of the year to reach £60,727 by the end of 2020. This represented a surplus for the year of £5,030, compared to an £18k profit the previous year.

Income was down by over 50% at £16,729 (£34,718 in 2019). Of this, 99% came from regular hirers with highest usage by the Kindergarten which was able to remain open, Jiu Jitsu and Spring Grove Fringe. Occasional hire for events like children's parties, meetings, music and quiz nights virtually disappeared due to Covid restrictions.

Expenses at £11,699 were 27% below last year, due to lower occupation, wear and tear and energy usage. Maintenance and replacement costs were significantly down on last year, although cleaning had to be maintained at a high level to comply with Covid safety.

After contributing £41k from surplus Hall funds to the main Church Regeneration Fund in recent years, no further transfers were made in 2020. The Hall Committee still has the aim to replace windows and fire doors plus undertake some redecoration in the future. There is a longer-term ambition to improve accessibility and toilet provision but this will require external finance from grants or trusts to match our own reserves. The Hall Committee agreed to keep a minimum £20k in reserve and will review this going forward.

Once again, sincere thanks go to Frances Hazelgrove who manages the Hall bookings and our caretaker and cleaner, Wing Wong, who stepped down in the spring. Weekly cleaning at both the church and Hall is now undertaken by Paragon Green Cleaning who has been an effective and reliable contractor. We also offer thanks to Michael Wraight for looking after maintenance and to Jan Hartley for leading the Hall management committee.

Tony Hardy

Church & Hall Treasurer

TEAM MINISTRY

The Kingston Team

There are times when sheer survival is an enormous achievement, when simply being able to stand firm and stand still in the face of an onslaught represents an immense accomplishment and a great triumph.

I think this last year has been one of those times. Simply to have provided for the spiritual and other needs of friend and stranger, as best we can and in whatever way seemed possible at the time, has been a great feat of ingenuity and stamina. We must thank everyone for the work they have done and the part they have played to make this possible. From clergy and Wardens, doing their best to provide and to hold, right through to deprived congregants, patiently bearing the limitations of what was given, we have weathered the storm thus far. We are still standing, we have survived as local institutions, and thus we are ready and waiting to continue serving our community and sharing the good news of love that Jesus proclaimed.

Our profound thanks to those who have worked so hard to provide services, support neighbours and given so generously so that the financial storms raging around us have had some hope of being weathered. Your generosity and love are deeply appreciated. Thank you to all.

Let us join in hope and expectation for what might lie ahead, and trust in the presence of God from which nothing can separate us.

Jonathan Wilkes

Team Rector

ANNUAL REPORT ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

How shall we sing the LORD'S song in a strange land? Psalm 137

2020 has been a year of exile from so much. Can you believe in January here at St John the Baptist we had a Bollywood night with a hall full of people drumming, curry and dancing. In February we had a special service to dedicate our beautifully restored green Altar frontal. At the end of February we even had a Messy Church with a hall bursting with people the Yollin church supporting the music and great plans for the year ahead. Then came lock down. We could not go to the church building. I continued to go to Springfield hospital each week, training and reaching out in new ways.

We learned to sing the Lord's song in a strange land. I recorded Easter services from my living room and garden. Christina Rene Thomas shared sermons from her car. Joseph Shim sang from his kitchen. All of us shared messages and showed love and care for our neighbours by phoning, by buying one another food, and most importantly by staying home. One of our church magazines was filled with little notes about people finding God, in bird song, and quiet prayer. Other magazines would be filled with messages of thanks for those who had brought comfort and joy through hard times.

In the summer things opened up a little the church was opened for in person worship, but now with hand sanitiser masks and social distancing. In September we invited neighbours to join us for an outside concert all safely distance. At Christmas not only was the church spectacularly decorated by Sue Richardson and her team, but so was garden and even the hall grew wings.

This year we have been exiled from so much which is familiar, we have been kept apart from those we love. Very sadly some in our parish have been bereaved, and all have experienced loss of some kind. Yet we have found new ways of doing things, we have had zoom coffee mornings with Vera Francis in her hundredth year, joining us from the nursing home across the street. We have printed and distributed magazines, cakes and flowers. We improved the wifi in church so services could be livestreamed from church all over the parish and indeed all over the world with people joining us from literally all over the place. We had a zoom AGM at which we thanked Kevin Jenkins and Andrew Bignold for their work over the previous year and appointed Beverly Morley Brown as a new church warden to work with Andrew in caring for the church. Andrew and Beverly alongside all in the church have enabled the church to service in new ways. This year we have been blessed by God. As we have said each Sunday "God is not in a building, God is in my heart and yours, in each act of love and care, longing to meet us in prayer.

2020 was not been how any of us expected, yet God has been with us enabling us to deal with the changes.

Mandy Beck

CONTACTS FOR ST JOHN'S

www.stjohnskingston.co.uk
www.inclusive-church.org.uk

Vicar: Rev Mark Stafford vicarstjohnkingston@gmail.com Tel: 020 8546 9542

Church Warden & Hall bookings: Frances Hazelgrove parishhall@stjohnskingston.co.uk

Parish Administrator: Emma Lloyd-Williams stjohnschurch.kingston@gmail.com

Reader & Charities Team leader: Isobel Robinson

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Mimi Fagan mimifagan@gmail.com Tel: 07764 188653

Treasurer: Tony Hardy

PCC Secretary: Sarah Price

Additional PCC Members: Michael Wraight, Alec MacMillan, Grant Vanstone, Jennifer Marshall, Wendy Malseed, Colin Bowles, Ailce Fowles.

https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsKingstonUponThames
https://www.instagram.com/stjohnskingston/

St John's Church & Hall
St John the Evangelist
Grove Lane, Kingston upon Thames

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, KINGSTON UPON THAMES

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL AFFAIRS : YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

INCOME	**Unrestricted**	**Restricted**	**2020**	**2019**
Gift Aid	29197		29197	21911
Income Tax Recovered	12228		12228	9694
Loose Collections/Card Reader	2189		2189	5181
Donations/Grants & VAT Reclaim	338	40208	40547	157702
Little Groovers	365		365	396
Fund Raising - General	7454		7454	7951
Fund Raising - Regeneration	0		0	592
Regeneration - Blossoms	0		0	4290
Church Fees (net)	657		657	319
Church Hire	9693		9693	8468
University Rent	16675		16675	16675
Interest	242		242	949
Missions	1918		1918	1987
Misc. Receipts	59		59	2078
TOTAL	**£81,015**	**£40,208**	**£121,223**	**£238,192**

EXPENDITURE	**Unrestricted**	**Restricted**	**2020**	**2019**
Missions & Affiliation Fees	1964		1964	2032
Education	300		300	300
Parish Support Fund	47000		47000	47000
Clergy Expenses	0		0	867
Church Administrator/expenses	2602		2602	2748
Organist Salary, Organ/Music	1602		1602	1755
Heating & Lighting	5071		5071	5223
Water Rates	243		243	204
Insurance	5686		5686	5741
Fundraising Expenses	2047		2047	2047
Church Repairs/Maintenance	8993		8993	14239
Regeneration Project		81033	81033	252870
Printing, Postage & Stationery	3354		3354	3326
Sundry Expenses	623	840	1463	2872
TOTAL	**£79,485**	**£81,873**	**£161,358**	**£341,226**
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)			**-£40,135**	**-£103,033**
Transfer to reserves				
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR			**-£40,135**	**-£103,033**
ADD ASSETS FROM 2019 BALANCE SHEET			**£123,016**	**£226,049**
ASSETS FROM 2020 BALANCE SHEET			**£82,881**	**£123,016**

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, KINGSTON UPON THAMES

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

	2020	2019
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors	2431	29803
Bank Current Account	2496	3420
Deposit Funds	94435	97802
	£99,362	**£131,025**
LESS : CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Sundry Creditors	-16481	-8009
NET ASSETS	**£82,881**	**£123,016**
REPRESENTED BY :		
Unrestricted Fund	14100	12170
Restricted Fund (A) - Regeneration	44951	85945
Restricted Fund (B) - Legacy	20596	21267
Restricted Fund (C) - Kingston Refugee	3234	3634
	£82,881	**£123,016**

NET ASSETS : 31 DECEMBER 2020	**Unrestricted**	**Restricted A**	**Restricted B**	**Restricted C**	**Totals**
Balances at 1 January 2020	12170	85945	21267	3634	123016
Income	81015	40208	0	0	121223
Expenditure	79485	81202	671	0	161358
Surplus (Deficit)	1530	-40994	-671	0	-40135
Transfers between funds	400	0	0	-400	0
Balances at 31 December 2020	**£14,100**	**£44,951**	**£20,596**	**£3,234**	**£82,881**

Signed : Church Treasurer

Signed : Team Vicar

Independent Examiners Report

I report on the accounts of St John the Evangelist, Kingston upon Thames for the year ended 31/12/20.
My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Comission.
This includes a review of the accounting records kept by the church and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records.
I have examined the SOFA and Balance Sheet and confirm that these are in accordance with the accounting records, receipts, invoices, statements and documents submitted to me.

Signed : Independent Examiner