



ANNUAL CHURCH MEETINGS

Sunday, 27th April 2025

ANNUAL MEETING of PARISHIONERS for the ELECTION of CHURCHWARDENS

in the Church at 12.15

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

in the Church at 12.30

Meeting Documents

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The Parish of St Mark South Farnborough

Annual Meeting of Parishioners for the Election of Churchwardens

Sunday 27th April 2025 at 12.15 in the Church

Agenda

1. Opening Prayer
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the meeting, Sunday 17th of March 2024
4. Election of Churchwardens

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Minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting of Parishioners for the Election of Churchwardens

Sunday 17th March 2024 after the 10.30 Eucharist in Church

Present: Revd. Phil Roche, (Chairman) and 36 parishioners.

Opening Prayer, it was decided by the Chairman to forgo the opening prayer as all had attended the 10.30 am Eucharist immediately before the meeting.

Apologies for absence were recorded from, Mrs Ann Ient, Mr Michael Evans, and Mrs Sue Evans.

Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Sunday the 17th March 2024 had been distributed previously and were approved as a true record of the proceedings.

Proposed by Mrs Daryl Bates, and seconded by Mrs Christina Fane Gladwin with all present in favour.

Before the election of the Church Wardens, the Chairman asked those present at the meeting if they objected to including the votes of people on the Electoral Roll who could not attend in person. He also asked if those present had any objections to accepting “postal votes” from persons on the Electoral Roll. After a short explanation, it was explained that a 2/3 majority of those present was required to pass this motion.

Proposed from the Chair, that St Mark’s Church accept “postal, and proxy” votes for matters arising out of the Meetings to Elect Church Wardens, and matters arising from the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Votes for,	29	Votes against	0	Abstentions	1
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Six people attending were not eligible to vote.

This being the result of the vote, it was decided to allow postal and proxy votes for the meetings to elect Church Wardens, and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting starting in 2025.

Election of two Churchwardens

There were three nominations for the position of Churchwarden, there being only two vacancies it was decided to hold a paper vote, and voting papers were distributed.

e nominations were: -

- Mr Deglan Rowe, proposed by Mike Palmer and seconded by David Jennings,
- Mr Michael Palmer, proposed by Colin Lagor and seconded by Paul Collins, and
- Mrs Hilary Bellamy proposed by Mick Smith and seconded by Chris Wright.

The voting papers were counted, and the results are as follows: -

- Mr Deglan Rowe 25 votes
- Mr Mike Palmer 7 votes
- Mrs Hilary Bellamy 22 votes

This being the result of the vote, Mr Deglan Rowe and Mrs Hilary Bellamy were duly elected to serve as Church Warden for the period of one year.

The Chairman thanked Mike Palmer for standing as Church Warden after the death of Mrs Phillipa Nicholas, and being a steadying influence on the Parochial Church Council.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.45 pm

The Parish of St Mark South Farnborough

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

**Sunday 27th April 2025 in the Church following immediately
after the meeting to elect Churchwardens**

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the previous meeting Sunday 17th March 2024
3. Election of the Honorary PCC Secretary
4. Election of the Honorary PCC Treasurer
5. Election of Parochial Church Council Members
6. Aldershot Deanery Synod and election of Deanery Synod Representatives
7. The Electoral Roll
 - a) acceptance of the Roll
 - b) appointment of an Electoral Roll Officer
8. Financial Report from the Treasurer
9. Independent Examiner
 - a) Note of thanks
 - b) Appointment of the Independent Examiner
10. Safeguarding
11. Report on the Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council for 2024
12. Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church
13. Reports from Church Groups
14. Any other business, to *be notified in writing to the Chairman not less than seven*
days before the meeting
15. Closing Prayer

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, The Parish of St Mark, South Farnborough

Sunday the 17th March 2024

Immediately following the meeting to elect the Churchwardens.

Apologies for absence: as for the previous meeting, with the inclusion of David Jennings.

Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting held on Sunday the 23rd of April 2023 had been previously distributed and were approved as a true record of the proceedings.

Proposed by Christina Fane Gladwin and seconded by Jaqui Nicol. All present in favour.

Election of the Honorary Secretary

There was one nomination for the post of Honorary PCC Secretary,
Mr Colin Lagor nominated by Hilary Bellamy and seconded by Chris Wright.

There being no further nominations from the floor, Mr Colin Lagor was duly elected to serve as Honorary PCC Secretary for one year.

Election of the Honorary Treasurer

There was one nomination for the post of Honorary Treasurer,
Mr Mick Smith, nominated by Deglan Rowe and seconded by Hilary Bellamy.

There being no further nominations from the floor, Mr Mick Smith was duly elected to serve as Honorary Treasurer for the period of one year.

Election of four PCC Members

There were three vacancies as a result of members resigning since the APCM last year, and one vacancy from a member whose three-year term is at an end. There were four nominations to fill these vacancies: -

- Mrs Rebecca Hartley, nominated by Chris Wright and seconded by Hilary Bellamy
- Mr Chris Wright, nominated by Colin Lagor and seconded by Daryl Bates
- Mr David Jennings, nominated by Mike Palmer and seconded by Anne Rowe
- Mrs Daryl Bates, nominated by Hilary Bellamy and seconded by Mike Palmer

There being no further nominations from the floor, all four were elected to serve for three years.

Aldershot Deanery Synod report

Is attached as part of the 2024 APCM document pack. Mr James Podger has resigned as a Deanery Synod Representative. This creates one vacancy for the Aldershot Deanery Synod. There were no nominations for this vacancy, so a volunteer will be sought from the “New PCC” to serve until the APCM 2025.

There were no questions to Mrs Gibbon’s report.

The Electoral Roll

- a) Composition:** Mrs Judith Gibbons reported that there were 63 members on the Electoral Roll at the date of the 2024 APCM, and there were 56 at the close of the 2023 parish year. The breakdown is: 39 members within the Parish, and 24 outside of the Parish.

Next year, 2025, the Electoral Roll is disbanded, and a completely new roll will be established.

- b) Appointment of Electoral Roll Officer:** Mrs Gibbons agreed to continue as Electoral Roll Officer, but did ask for some help in the coming year. She was proposed by Deglan Rowe and seconded by Jim Ennis. All present in favour.

Finance Report

The Treasurer's report and the 2024 accounts are part of the 2024 APCM document pack.

There were no questions to the report

Independent Examiner

- a) Note of thanks:** - A note of thanks was sent to the Independent Examiner of the Accounts, Mr Patrick Brown.

- b) Appointment of an Independent Examiner:** Mr Patrick Brown will be willing to continue as the Independent Examiner for our accounts for one final year, then he will retire, so we will need to start looking to find another Independent Examiner.

Safeguarding

Report is part of the APCM document pack. There were no questions to the report.

Report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council

This report is attached as part of the 2024 APCM document pack. There were no questions to the report.

Fabric, Goods and Church Ornaments

The report is attached as part of this APCM pack. The Quinquennial Inspection is due this year on the 17th April. Thanks are due to Hilary Bellamy for arranging to have work done on the fabric of the building. There were no questions to the report.

Reports from Church Groups

Hall.

The Hall Manager's report is attached to this document pack. Daryl reported that she intends to retire as Hall Manager at the 2025 APCM, and the PCC will have to investigate how the hall is managed after her resignation. She pointed out the importance of a properly maintained and managed hall as it brings in between half and two thirds of the total Church income.

Any other Business

The Chairman offered a vote of thanks to Paul Collins who provides the music for all our Worship. There being no further business, the meeting closed with prayers from the Chairman who gave thanks for the building we worship in, and the people who regularly attend.

Time of closing 13.00pm.

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Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council for 2024



Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council for 2024

1 Administrative Information

Information

St Mark's Parish Church is situated on the corner of Reading Road and Alexandra Road, Farnborough, Hampshire. It is part of the Diocese of Guildford, within the Church of England. The Parish has administrative support as and when required. The address for correspondence is: -

St Mark's Church Parish Office
Reading Road
Farnborough
Hants
GU14 6ND

The Parish became a fully registered charity, registration number 1188893, with the Charity Commission on 3rd April 2020.

2 Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is as set out in the Church Representation Rules. The PCC would normally operate with sub-committees: Finance, the Fabric/Quinquennial and Hall Management which are chaired by one of the Church Wardens. The Executive Committee would consist of the Church Wardens, the Treasurer and, until 31st October 2024, the Priest-in-Charge. There were financial meetings and to discuss procedure with work on the quinquennial report to review progress.

3. Objectives and Activities

PCC Role

- Work with the Incumbent to promote the Church in the Parish, and its mission and how to improve this.
- Care for the Church and its future and structure.
- Promote links with St Mark's School.
- Ensure that all who wish to contribute to church life have the opportunity to do so.

At the end of October 2024, Rev Phil Roche resigned as Priest-in-Charge, leaving a vacancy. The Council has since been guided by Archdeacon Catharine Mabuza, and Area Dean Gemma Foster.

Colin Lagor, PCC Secretary

4 Electoral Roll

The reported/ recorded number of persons on the Electoral Roll last year was 63 persons. Since that report, one person was added, and two people were removed. The figure at the time of writing THIS report is therefore 62.

Given that a complete revision of the Roll is required this year, before the APCM, and reviewing the outgoing Roll, I fear that there will be quite a reduction in this reported number when the new Roll is published.

Judith Gibbons

5 PCC Membership

The membership from March 2024 to March 2025 was:

Position	From 2024 APCM	At 2025 APCM
Priest-in-charge	Rev Phil Roche (1)	Vacancy
Lay Minister	Mrs Helen Roche	Vacancy
Churchwardens	Mr Deglan Rowe Mrs Hilary Bellamy	Mr Deglan Rowe Mrs Hilary Bellamy
Aldershot Deanery Synod	Mrs Judith Gibbons (2) Vacancy	Vacancy Vacancy
Honorary Treasurer	Mr Michael Smith (3)	After Michael Smith's resignation, Chris Wright was appointed Treasurer but resigned in November 2024. Michael Smith was then reappointed as acting Treasurer.
Honorary Secretary	Mr Colin Lagor	Mr Colin Lagor
Elected Members (Full council = 9 members)	<p>Mrs Daryl Bates (6) Mr Jim Ennis Miss Angharad Nicholas-Podger Mrs Margaret Lapwood (4) Mrs Christina Fane Gladwin Mrs Hilary Bellamy (5)</p> <p>(1) <i>Revd Phil Roche resigned from his post as Priest in Charge October 2024</i> (2) <i>Mrs Judith Gibbons resigned from the PCC in December 2024, thus leaving a second vacancy as Deanery Synod representative</i> (3) <i>Mr Michael Smith resigned as Treasurer in July 2024.</i> (4) <i>Mrs Margaret Lapwood resigned from the PCC in December 2024</i> (5) <i>Mrs Hilary Bellamy was elected as Church Warden at the 2024 APCM</i> (6) <i>Mrs Daryl Bates' term of office was up at the APCM, she was reelected to serve for a further 3 years</i></p>	<p>Mrs Daryl Bates Mr Jim Ennis Miss Angharad Nicholas-Podger Mrs Christina Fane Gladwin Mrs Rebecca Hartley Mr Chris Wright (*) Mr David Jennings (**)</p> <p>4 Vacancies</p> <p>(*) <i>Mr Chris Wright was appointed Treasurer in September 2024 but resigned as Treasurer and from the PCC in November 2024</i> (**) <i>Mr David Jennings resigned from the PCC due to relocation in October 2024</i></p>

6 Review of the year January to December 2024

Until October 2024 our part-time priest, the Rev Phil Roche was in attendance for most of the Sunday services and also of assistance on other days. Rev Phil also made himself available to deal with correspondence as and when it was received.

There were numerous activities during the year and attendances appeared to be improving. The Children's Den was supported by our families and Mary and Angharad assumed responsibility for the children's activities. Phil had already indicated that he intended to leave the Parish in July 2025 with a view to hopefully a new Priest-in-Charge being appointed who could allocate more time in the Parish. The vicarage itself remained let out. Although the ultimate intention is to re-appoint a full-time vicar and take back the vicarage, current finances do not allow for this to happen.

We met with Adam Hieke of Nye Saunders who made the five yearly inspection of the church on 17th April 2024, and we later received his Quinquennial Report. He was pleased to note that much had been done already – in particular the church seems to be water-tight. More detail appears in the Fabric Report,

In late summer as a result of discussions with the diocese Phil decided to resign from his position with effect from 31st October 2024. The Area Dean, the Rev Gemma Foster, became responsible for running PCC meetings and liaising with the two Church Wardens.

As of the end of 2024 it was hoped that a new Priest-in-Charge/vicar could be appointed in the New Year.

Deglan Rowe, Churchwarden

7 Report on the Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council for St Marks' Church South Farnborough 2024-2025.

The Parochial Church Council consists of six 'Ex Officio' members who serve for 1 year only, 2 Church Wardens, the Treasurer, the Secretary, and 2 Deanery Synod members, plus the Priest in Charge who is the Chairman and the Lay Minister.

Revd. Phil Roche resigned as Priest in Charge at the end of October 2024 leaving the post vacant, subsequently Mrs Helen Roche resigned as Licensed Lay Minister. Revd. Gemma Foster (Rector of Cove, and Aldershot Area Dean) is acting as Chairman of the Council until the appointment of a new Priest.

The main body of the Council consists of 9 elected members who serve for 3 years, there were 4 vacancies which were filled at the APCM.

During the past year there has been much change in the make-up of the PCC, Mr Mick Smith resigned as Treasurer and his place as Treasurer was taken temporarily by Mr Chris Wright, who subsequently resigned from the Council. Mrs Judith Gibbons resigned as the only Deanery Synod representative, Mr David Jennings resigned from the Council due to relocation, and Mrs Margaret Lapwood resigned from the Council. This has had a marked effect on the remaining members of the Council.

Mr Mick Smith agreed to return to the post of Treasurer to complete the 2024 Accounts. We have two vacancies for Deanery Synod Representatives and have 4 vacancies on the general Council.

It is important to the running of the Parish that these vacancies are filled at the 2025 APCM.

During the past year, the PCC has met for six ordinary meetings, 2 special meetings and 1 meeting with the Archdeacon of Surrey and the Aldershot Area Dean. In addition to these there have been 2 "Vacancy" meetings.

Subjects discussed included: -

- The Quinquennial Inspection and Report.
- Approving the Schools application to become part of the “Prospect Academy Trust”.
- Discussing St Mark’s Church becoming a member of “Inclusive Church”, and its subsequent joining.
- The need for a Treasurer as Mr Mick Smith intends to stand down at the APCM 2025.
- The need for someone to take over as Hall Manager and Bookings secretary as Mrs Daryl Bates has indicated her intention to retire at the APCM 2025.
- Approving the Accounts before sending for Examination.
- Formation of the new sub committees.
- Approving the Review Report and APCM packs before publication.
- Meeting with the Archdeacon of Surrey and Aldershot Area Dean, following the resignation of Revd Phil Roche.

In addition to the above subjects, they discussed the day-to-day maintenance and running of the Church and Church Hall.

Colin Lagor, PCC Secretary

8 Churchwardens Report for 2024

As stated above, we continued with a Priest-in-Charge, the Rev Phil Roche in situ. The pattern of services was to continue the main 10.30 am service with the 8am service once a month, with breakfast between the two services. We did also organize some 8am services mid-month, to see how well they would be attended and at least one evensong service. The Church was also open on Friday mornings for prayer and Crafty Coffee, which appeared to be gathering support.

The year started with a Games Evening on 27th January. Volunteers assisted with maintenance of the Church Hall and the grounds.

We also saw more members of the congregation able to assist in serving at Communion and occasional preachers, the occasional preachers consisting of David Jennings Jim Ennis, Angharad Nicholas-Podger Deglan Rowe and Daryl. Bates. It was good to see better involvement within the Church in the running of services. Colin and Neo continued to assist at ‘front of house’ and Paul Collins provided the music welcoming us into Church and during the services.

Judith held the usual Pancake Party, which was well attended, and we held an Ash Wednesday evening service in the Church.

On 29th February 2024 we celebrated the life of Gwen Miller who had passed away aged 102. Gwen had been attending St Mark’s since her birth and was a real character who could recount stories of life in England both before the Second World War and after it.

Rev Phil Roche organised a Lent to Ascension Course in the evenings and Daryl Bates chaired the Ascension Course during the day with lunch afterwards.

Easter is always celebrated very well at St Mark’s Church and is indeed known for this elsewhere. Jim Ennis provided a Taize reflection; Phil led the Maundy Thursday service and the Church was also beautifully decorated. Easter Day was celebrated with a Dawn Service and Easter celebrations in the Church, with breakfast.

Church life continued with an Ascension Day service in May and the Flower Festival on 31st May for the week. There was then the Summer Fair in August 2024 and on 6th October we were pleased to welcome the Bishop of Dorking, the Very Reverend Paul Davies, who conducted a Confirmation Service at St Mark's.

As Phil left the Parish on 31st October 2024 we were then left without a priest. We were pleased to receive support from our neighbouring Churches, and in particular, Richard Cobbold, Mark Chester, Steven Maurant, Thea Edwards Mark Rudell, Bruce Nicol and the relatively new Archdeacon of Surrey, Catharine Mabuza.

Towards the end of the year we held an Advent Festival, with the Church decorated with Christmas boxes provided by various sources, including the school. The Cecilia Singers rejoined us for an evening of entertainment.

At Christmas we were pleased to have a Carol Service with Mark Chester. As we had no priest available for Christmas Eve, we decided to not hold a service, but instead we had a very good attendance on Christmas Day morning itself.

It has been good to see how the team has worked together, particularly after 31st October 2024 and particular thanks go to Mick Smith who returned back to resume his role as Treasurer and due to his hard work placing everything in good order for the Finance Report 2024 to be completed. This was no easy task as we had been effectively without a treasurer for a number of months

Deglan Rowe and Hilary Bellamy, Churchwardens

9 Safeguarding report for APCM 2025

At St Mark's, we fully endorse and comply with the principles of "Promoting a Safer Church".

In the past year we have:

- Reviewed and updated our Safeguarding Policy
- Undertaken training for the PCC and Safeguarding Officers
- Reviewed and made the safeguarding page of our website more user friendly with links to necessary and helpful information.
- Effectively managed Safeguarding from the parish, diocese and national alerts.
- Maintained regular contact with the diocesan Safeguarding Advisor.
- Safeguarding as a standing agenda item at PCC meetings.
- Distributed both Church of England and Hampshire County Council Safeguarding Literature.

From April we will be attending Safeguarding workshops online with the diocesan Safeguarding Team.

IF YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS ABOUT SAFEGUARDING, PLEASE CONTACT US ON 07725261208, OR SPEAK TO THE CHURCHWARDENS OR PCC MEMBER.

Jim Ennis & Shiroma Perera

10 Deanery Synod report

I took over the role of deanery Synod representative late in the year so this will be a short report. There have been three meetings.

The first meeting I attended looked at the change of Rural dean to the Rev. Gemma Foster and reports from the deanery parishes. The second meeting at Tongham focussed on The Green Church initiative which was

interesting. The final meeting I attended with Hilary and Deglan and this focussed on parish Development Plans.

I will be giving up the role following the APCM and handing over the reins to two other willing volunteers.

Jim Ennis Deanery Synod Representative

11 Fabric Report

It has been a very busy and productive year regarding maintenance and repairs to our much-loved Church.

Many of the priority safety issues on the Quinquennial Report have also been addressed, with more work still in process.

I am pleased to say that much of the necessary pointing has been replaced.

Several historic roof leaks have been repaired, and resulting damage to internal paintwork required remedial internal painting, which has been completed.

Both the front and rear Church doors have been stripped and treated.

An electrical upgrade, including boxing in the server, was undertaken and the server has also been repainted.

Some crumbling stonework has been repaired, with further work planned.

A defibrillator has also been installed in the Church entrance.

Various other works, too numerous to mention, or not necessarily listed, have been completed without further costs.

Very importantly, as the Church Hall supplies our main source of income, some works have also been included, keeping the Hall in good repair to be worthy of future hire, i.e.:

New lighting

An electrical update with new circuit boards.

However, more work is required and currently quotes are in hand for new/repair of stage curtains and new a new/repair of the Hall floor.

I can quite honestly say that it has given me great pleasure in being involved in the under-budget completion of this work!

11.1 St Mark's Quinquennial Report 2024

A quinquennial inspection was done on 17th April 2024, the report written April to June 2024, which identified a list of works that must be completed within five years. The most urgent have been prioritised and completed, with other works pending.

An historic item of asbestos was safely removed, transported to Basingstoke and disposed of by specialists. The disposal certificate is available on request.

Crumbling stonework at upper right of the vestry door, and which had started to dislodge, has been made safe. All outstanding stonework is scheduled for repair/remedial work, including the finial on the vicarage side as noted in the report.

The finial above the north side of the church door has been repaired.

Ingress of water in the Northwest corner of the Baptistry deemed to be historical and repainting is scheduled.

Baptistry roof tiles replaced and stonework repaired after attempted theft of lead.

All church guttering has been cleaned and is in good order. An annual inspection and maintenance schedule has been arranged.

Further non-urgent stone work repairs have already been undertaken.

The roof of the coal cellar was deemed to be unsafe. This has been caused by the garden planted on the roof of the cellar with small tree roots compromising the integrity of the roof coupled with retention of water in the soil and plant roots.

This is being addressed with the guidance of the local borough council's structural surveyor.

Church and Church Hall Electrical upgrade with certification. This includes all circuit boards that have now replaced to comply with current regulations.

Hilary Bellamy, Churchwarden

12 Children's Work APCM 2025 Report

Over the past 12 months the children and youth ministry has grown not only in size but also reputation. The work we do on a Sunday morning, ensuring the children are kept in the service while learning about God's work through craft and fun activities has proven to be popular not only among our regular and sporadic attendees but also visiting clergy and the Diocesan leaders with regards to children and youth work.

With the encouragement of Rev Phil Roache and his wife Helen, LLM, I was asked to take on this role and with the help of Mary and support of others including Judith and Becki "The Den" is now firmly a fixture a part of St Mark's and our 10:30 service.

With the logo of St Mark's featuring a lion it seemed only right that the children's area should carry that theme and with Marcus the lion already in place, "The Den" was the name decided for the new children's area. The hope is that in the near future, the area will be spruced up with new floor coverings and furniture with money raised at events and donations given specifically for the work of children's area.

The Lion Trail has been a welcomed addition especially by some of the families who are new to church and also the school who are using it as part of their curriculum this term. This trail is a series of wired lions that are located around the church placed at areas of interest or importance. Each lion begins with the letter "M" and is named after a character from the Bible and comes with a laminated picture explaining the character backstory and why the lion is placed where they are.

The children of "The Den" start their sessions either reading the Gospel or Psalm the craft or activity relates to for the day which enhances the understanding. The activity they complete is shared with congregation at the end of service and they then share a prayer. Topics covered over the last year include Easter, Ascension, Trinity, St Peter and St Paul, Harvest, Noah's Ark, Creationtide, I am statements, Advent, Christmas,

Epiphany, Miracles of Jesus including the feeding of Five Thousand and Calming the Storm and the Sermon on the Mount.

Our work was shared with the local community with the Christmas Eve Crib Service which saw a large attendance from St Mark's School children and other local schools. It was an event that was enjoyed by all and even saw a real-life baby play the Baby Jesus. Planning is already under way as to what we can do this year not only for the major events but also in trying to engage new children, families and volunteers to the work of "The Den".

Angharad Nicholas- Podger, Lead for Children & Youth Ministry

13 St. Mark's APCM Report - Relationship between St. Mark's Parish Church and St. Mark's CE School

St. Mark's Church hosted school services for Easter, Year 6 Leavers and Harvest. The Church was also used as the venue for the Key Stage 2 Show Performance in July 2024 and the School Nativity Performance in December 2024. Pupils from the school once again contributed artwork for the Advent Festival, and the Reception class children visited the church to see all of the wonderful creations in December 2024. Collaborating on these events allows the church to welcome school families on a regular basis, and encourages the children to make links between the school and their local church.

Whilst Rev. Phil was in post, he held a place on the school governing body and also regularly attended at school to lead and support the weekly pattern of Collective Worship. In July 2024, Deglan Rowe resigned as a foundation governor after many years supporting the school and holding a strong link between the school and the church; Deglan was recognised by the Diocese for his dedication in this role. The governing body is still being chaired by Michael Hartley, a member of the St. Mark's Church congregation. Angharad Nicholas-Podger, our children's leader, also spent time in Emerald Class during Advent to share the Church of England's 'Bright and Calm' Advent campaign.

Following a school inspection by Ofsted in May 2024, in which the school received a 'Good' grading, the school also received a visit from the Schools Inspectorate for Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS). The subsequent report highlighted the strength of the relationship between the school and the church, commenting that "considerable investment from leaders and foundation governors has ensured that this relationship is highly valued and productive".

Congregation members contributed to the school's fundraising by baking cakes and treats for the school's weekly T-Set bake sale. The Church Christmas Fair hosted stalls from the St. Mark's Primary PTA in the church; this strengthened the bond between the two groups, and allowed for shared resources, supporting collaboration and fundraising efforts on both sides.

As we look ahead to 2025, the school is going through the process to join the Prospect Academy Trust, allowing the current leadership team from Frimley Junior School to continue sharing their expertise and working with staff and pupils at St. Mark's School. The 'Lion Trail' that has been introduced in the church building will be used for school pupils to explore the church building as part of the KS1 RE unit on places of worship.

Becki Hartley

14 Annex – Reports from Church Groups for 2024

A1 Church Hall Committee

I had hoped that this was to be my last report, but it would seem that God has other ideas!

The Hall continues to flourish. There are always some changes but many of the hirers I have now known for over 13 years. The hall is used by diverse groups of people, starting with the Baby Clinic, toddler

sessions, Rainbows, Brownies and continuing up to the more senior members of the U3A. We provide a space for Community groups such as the Nepalese community and those seeking help in a number of ways.

Running the hall is now a much larger responsibility than when I started. It is necessary to be aware of many more legal requirements. Following an incident in 2024 it was necessary to re-write our terms and conditions of hire.

At the moment, I do my best to be the administrator, general maintenance operative, health and safety expert, groundswoman, and anything else that needs doing.

I should like to thank Colin Lagor for giving us a new microphone which is a great improvement to the sound system. Thanks also to Hedley, Jason and Arthur for help with maintenance and those few who volunteer on Work Days.

The Hall is indebted to Mrs Shanti Gurung (and family) who clean it with such dedication.

I am very thankful to have Hilary's enthusiasm in getting quotes so we can begin to consider what needs to be done in the next year. In particular, we are considering the state of the hall floor and curtains.

I really do hope that I am not still writing a report this time next year.

Daryl Bates

A2 Music

Paul Collins has played the music for all of the 10:30 Eucharist and other services for the reporting period 2024 to 2025. Paul's system is based on a Denon Professional Blu-ray / SD player and a 12 inch television. It uses a large keyboard-amplifier and loudspeaker that is matched to St. Mark's church and is positioned in the Chancel to emulate the sound of the church pipe organ. The system was first used for Eucharist services in 2012. It is basically a computer-based music player. One advantage of using a computer is that any music can be played and there are no unnecessary interruptions during worship. The hymns are chosen by Michael Hartley who also plays the piano for services and directs the St. Mark's pop-up choir for special occasions.



Paul Collins

A3 St Mark's Floral Team

Another "Decorative" year seems to have flown past. Since last year's report was written we have achieved a number of noticeable "positives".

Lent 2024 saw the continuation of my Lenten Tableaux, which I began about 6 years ago. The tableaux proved a little more difficult to achieve in 2024 as there was a request not to use my traditional "sackcloth and ashes" approach. I did manage SOME degree of success however. Decorating for the Easter Services was a wonderful experience, with participation from a super mix of our "flower ladies" AND "novices" of all genders and ages. It was a very positive experience.

End of May, beginning of June saw our first 'Flower Festival' for well over 10 years. It was a beautiful spectacle on the theme of "An English Country Garden", with participation at various levels, and from a

number of flower teams from our fellow Deanery churches. It was a LOT of hard work, but WELL worth it.

During the festival it was thrilling to find many of our participants tackling their projects WITHOUT the use of floral foam (e.g. Oasis). I have been trying this for a couple of years now, and whilst the trend is spreading rapidly in Churches all over the UK, I have not enforced it at St Mark's.

Our "week by week" floral decor relies strongly on a small team of ladies, who very generously offer their time AND equally generously provide the necessary flowers without asking for payment. I cannot thank them enough. We could not make St. Mark's beautiful without these contributions.

Don't forget, that should anyone need a memorial in flowers at any time, they only have to let us know. It is NOT necessary for monetary contributions to be offered, but obviously we would never say "No" to any such.

I hope that we can continue to make St Mark's, florally, a beautiful church.

Judith Gibbons

A4 St Mark's Library

Thanks to all who have made enquiries about the Church Library. I try to display books about upcoming seasons and festivals on the top of the bookshelves.

We have been fortunate to receive some generous additions to the library, firstly from Jim, which is a fascinating book about the hidden treasures in churches and cathedrals across the country entitled. "Steeple Chasing". Paul and Helen Prescott gave us a variety of books which adds to the diversity of the library so we are grateful for those. I also added two books, one by Rev Richard Cole called "Bringing in the Sheaves" describing his experiences as a Priest. And, on a lighter note Derek Nimmo's "Oh Come ON All Ye Faithful" which is hilarious.

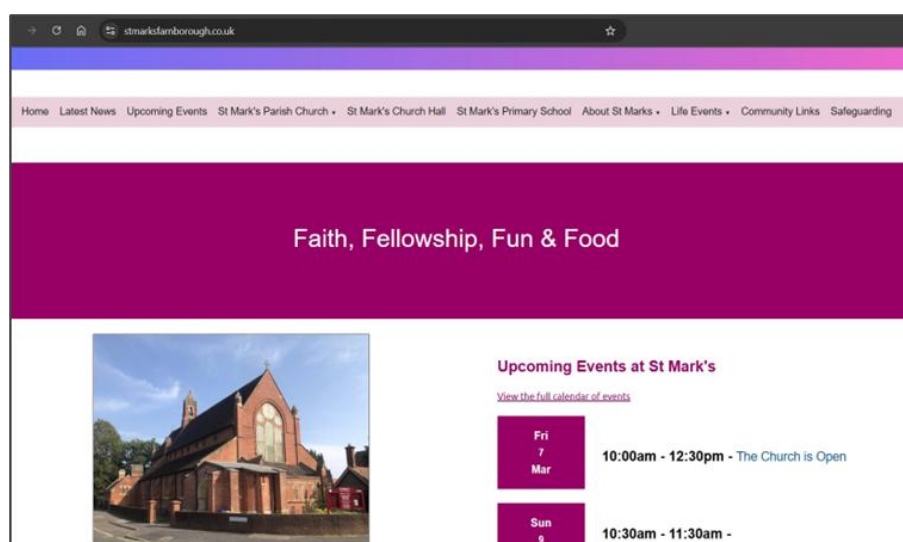
Up to now, since I took over the Church Library, we have not used the 'Loaned Books' Notebook but I think it might be a good idea if we started using it again.

Any suggestions as to how I can improve the library would be very welcome.

Jacqui Nichol

A5 St Mark's Website

<https://www.stmarksfarnborough.co.uk/>



At a glance:

I took over the management of the St Mark's website after the previous website manager left both their position and the church. With over a decade of experience in CMS (Content Management System), website management, and digital content, I volunteered to assist the team by handling updates and adding new content. No formal handover or training was provided, I was granted access on August 28, 2024. As a result, this report focuses solely on the work I've completed since taking over

Immediate changes in the 1st month:

Content Management System First week: Analysis of strengths and weaknesses, test support team, product capabilities, features, etc.

Home Page: Changes, Improvements and Fixes to Content and Design First days: A number of improvements were made to the home page including:
Pictures on homepage updated, including picture of the church (on-site photography, replacing tired old image, with a nice angle, blue sky etc).

Branding, formatting, hyperlink formatting copy all cleaned up, including paraphrased long copy to make it easier to read, scan to read. I restored font sizes to default font sizes to make the text easier to read and ensure consistency across the page. I restored font colours to ensure consistency across the page. Fixed spelling and grammar, and in places I felt relevant, re-wrote and improved some of the descriptive words on the page.

Removed, deleted and then re-built blocks previously built incorrectly on the home page.

Removed blue box borders on each widget all over the home page.

Sitewide: Fixed the main navigation menu The font size was reduced so that it appears on one line. The design is now much cleaner and easier on the eye.

Sitewide: New Features tested and released Enable breadcrumbs, introduced search and Favicon created, adopting the Church of England for consistency.

Sitewide and Top Level Pages: Mobile UX Fixes and Enhancements When accessing the website on a mobile device, some top level pages would not display correctly, or load at all - these were fixed as a priority.

Home Page and Top Level Pages: Removing images where text is more appropriate The site can take a great deal of time to load due to it being image heavy. Some text used in images could not be changed with the text editor. Moving forward, to streamline updates and improve layout and design, I increased the use of copy on the website and reduced the use of extensive images.

Top Level Pages: Spelling, Grammar, Punctuation and Inconsistencies Fixed I caught and fixed spelling, grammar, and punctuation errors on top-level pages. The website has many inconsistencies and errors in the code. I continue to correct these as I go along, page by page, widget by widget, and text by text.

New Functionality Enabled: Links I've enabled 'Links'; you will see the new 'Links' page in the Navigation Menu.

Noteworthy Projects Completed to Date after the 1st Month:

Phase 1 Homepage Redesign Completed I've re-structured and re-organised content and blocks on the home page. The most frequently changing items should move nearer to the top of the page so that the user does not need to scroll down a long way on each visit. - <https://www.stmarksfarnborough.co.uk/>

New Section Created for Latest News I created a new section needed to accommodate the need for news, announcements and updates. Now, to date we have close to 20 pages in this section. It is continuing to grow and is now one of the most popular sections on our website for our visitors. - <https://www.stmarksfarnborough.co.uk/latest-news/>

Sitewide CSS Stylesheet Fixed, Updated and adopted I fixed and implemented the CSS (Cascading Style Sheets) stylesheet. CSS is a file that controls how a website looks. It sets things like colours, fonts, spacing, and layout, separating the design from the content. CSS helps make sure the design is consistent across all pages and easier to update. It also makes websites look better, load faster, and work well on different devices, like phones and computers. Basically, CSS is important because it improves how a site looks and feels for users. Previously the CSS was not adopted or acknowledged across the website.

This work included the roll out of a newly designed, styled Call To Action (CTA) Button style on the site which is in use in a number of pages of the site already.

Events Calendar Fixed, Updated & Improved There were several issues with the Events Calendar which have been fixed, including CSS, layout, formatting etc.- <https://www.stmarksfarnborough.co.uk/calendar/>

St Mark's Church Hall Section Fixed, Updated & Improved-
<https://www.stmarksfarnborough.co.uk/st-marks-hall/>

Life Events Section Fixed, Updated & Improved

1. <https://www.stmarksfarnborough.co.uk/life-events/>
2. <https://www.stmarksfarnborough.co.uk/life-events/baptisms/>
3. <https://www.stmarksfarnborough.co.uk/life-events/weddings/>
4. <https://www.stmarksfarnborough.co.uk/life-events/funerals/>

New Slider Image Gallery added to the Home Page More fresh content, updated regularly, has been included on the home page.

Safeguarding Page Updates Updated, live and in progress.
<https://www.stmarksfarnborough.co.uk/safeguarding/>

Several Support Tickets Raised and Completed

Nikos Patsalides

A6 Social Committee

It is rather difficult to give a full report on this as I was not involved for many months and was not aware that the Committee could be re-instated from November 24 onwards.

The highlight of last year was undoubtedly the Flower Festival in May-June. This was organised beautifully by Judith on the theme of a Cottage Garden.

We also had an excellent Harvest Lunch and an entertaining Tear Fund Quiz. Once again, the Christmas Festival was another example of Judith's creativity both in planning and execution. Her ideas and encouragement are wonderful. We were delighted to share the Christmas Fair with the School and with this and the Cecelia Singer's Concert we were able to increase the attendance at the Festival.

In 2025 we are planning the usual monthly breakfasts as well as a Teddy Bear's Picnic, Jane Austen themed Tea Party, Summer Fair with the School, Harvest Supper and Games Evening.

We thank everyone for their continued support and look forward to all these events.

Daryl Bates

A7 Church Cleaning

In the absence of anyone being officially in charge of this, I have been asked to write a report. During the last year there has been some disruption in the regular cleaning of the Church following the resignation of the previous organiser.

Since then, the Church has been cleaned by a number of people at different times. I can name the following who have all helped: Hilary, Colin and Carole, Peter and Christina, Yvonne, Lynda, Judith, Sally and myself. I apologise if there are others I should have mentioned. All these people have done a great job and the Church always looks clean and well loved.

However, we need someone to take responsibility in the future, in order to prioritise what needs to be done and what purchases need to be made.

Daryl Bates

St Mark's CE Primary School

2024-25



St Mark's CE Primary School have had a busy year full of exciting events linked to the church and local community. On Wednesday 27th March 2024, St Mark's held a very special Pause Day which included our Easter Service. We began the day with reflective activities set up in the hall, focusing on please, thank you and sorry. Each class took turns to enjoy the activities and then spend time in their classrooms focusing on the journeys of the Easter story. Our thanks go to one of our governors, Mrs Kahkonen who joined us for the morning and later at the church for the beautiful service. This year Sapphire Class performed the folktale of the Three Trees supported by Ruby, Emerald and Diamond Class choirs. The children sang beautifully and created a powerful image of God's plan for everyone.



The Year 6 children were invited by the Diocese to attend a special Leavers' Service in Guildford Cathedral. This was a special occasion to mark and reflect upon their time at primary school.

The children participated in 4 reflective prayer activities:

- A thank you moment - for someone that they are thankful for at primary school.
- Please - thinking about something they are worried about, something that they wish to put in God's hands.
- A reflective moment - time to consider something they wish they had done differently, not done at all or an opportunity that they wish that they had taken.
- A wow moment - something that they have enjoyed / are proud of / made them go or feel WOW.

These activities were followed by a service in the beautiful cathedral, in which the children thought about the journey ahead to secondary school. The children even had a train ticket to remind them that Jesus will be with them throughout their journey.



Year 6 also had a fantastic day out at Wintershall, watching the fully immersive production of the "Life of Christ".



In July we were able to return to the church for our school Leavers Service to wish our fantastic Year 6 good luck in the next stage of their education journey.

We also said a sad farewell and huge thank you to our Head teacher for the year, Vicky Ellis. During her time with us, St Mark's was inspected twice, firstly by Ofsted and then followed 2 weeks later by SIAMs. Both inspection reports are available on the school website.

"St Mark's School have developed a highly inclusive and aspirational Christian vision and associated values that have community at their heart."

As the new academic year began, we were delighted to welcome the arrival of a new Leadership team, comprising of Mrs Clare Wright, Mrs Rachel Jones and Mrs Sally Williams from Frimley CE Junior School, ready to lead St Mark's on the next phase of our journey. This also began the process of St Mark's joining the Prospect Trust Academy, which Frimley are one of three schools and colleges. The academisation process is ongoing and we are hopeful to have further updates later this year.

Our focus for our daily worship for the Autumn term reflected on some of Jesus' words in the 'Sermon on the Mount', containing the statements known as the 'Beatitudes' which set out the topsy-turvy manifesto of God's Kingdom. We reflected on how these ideas might help to shape our school community life in the way that we try to treat each other. The 'how-to-be-at(t)itudes' also lined up with significant calendar events during the term, such as Harvest and Remembrance, and even towards Christmas, when we celebrated the topsy-turviness of the story of how God came to earth as a tiny baby through some prophecies, including Mary's own song of worship on hearing the news from Angel Gabriel.

Rev Phil warmly welcomed us for this year's Harvest celebration focused on apples. Each class took a different apple themed part to share with a packed church the joy of apples during harvest. Ruby Class began the service with a gorgeous song all about different types of apples. They sung to the familiar tune of "Twinkle, twinkle little star whilst holding up large apple paintings. Diamond Class told the story of how the Bramley apple got it's name and started the idea

of from something very small great things can grow. Mary Brailsford took the tiny seeds from the apple tree in her garden and from these very small pips the great Bramley apple was born. The story illustrated the importance of small beginnings and the miracle of harvest. The fact that Mary's tiny pip grew has meant fantastic crops of apples have been produced year after year and brought enjoyment to lots and lots of people. Small beginnings can bear much fruit. Emerald Class then told the parable of the mustard seed from Matthew 13, using a little class poem as a reminder of the story:

Jesus said, God's pattern for life is like this.

Once a man sowed a tiny seed. 'So small!'

It grew and grew into a large tree. 'How tall!'

The tree became so large that lots of birds came to nest in its branches. 'For all!'

Sapphire Class added to the celebration of apples by learning two beautiful poems which focused on the gift of apples and the beauty of harvest. The children sang a selection of harvest based hymns and choir performed "What we sow" with confidence. Each class wrote thoughtful prayers to show their understanding of harvest and our theme this year of small beginnings growing into great things.

St Mark's displayed a huge selection of items for the Farnborough Food Bank which joins the donations from the church and went towards supporting families in need across the Farnborough area.



St Mark's held our special Remembrance Service with the theme "We hold the memory of love and hope in our hands." This year each class made a beautiful wreath using their hands as inspiration. The focus for remembrance is the 80th Anniversary of the battles of 1944, the last full year of the Second World War. We talked about D-Day being the codename of the Allied invasion of Europe. On June 6th, 1944, they landed on the beaches of Normandy in France, which helped change the course of the war and brought hope that peace was possible.

We hold the memory of love and hope in our hands

As Christmas drew near we began our celebrations with a Christingle worship in school and a focus on Advent. All the children arrived at school with an orange ready to decorate it with ribbon, sweets and a candle, before lighting these in a special collective worship.



The word Christingle means "Christ's Light". Each element of a Christingle has a special meaning and helps to tell the Christian story:

- *The orange represents the world
- *The red ribbon (or tape) symbolises the love and blood of Christ
- *The sweets and dried fruit represent all of God's creations

*The lit candle represents Jesus's light in the world.

The children sang an uplifting Christingle song and sat in quiet awe of the darkened hall with the candles alight. A very special moment!

Emerald Class were delighted to welcome Angharad Nicholas- Podger, Lead for Children & Youth Ministry, to our class to deliver four sessions based on the Church of England's Advent workshops "Follow the Star". The children thoroughly enjoyed building the nativity scene whilst learning more about aspects of Advent.



We visited the Advent Festival at St Mark's Church to see our Christmas boxes on display. The theme this year was Christmas traditions from around the world. Each class took a different country and researched the various traditions that occur. These ranged from shoes in Spain and spiders in Ukraine, to Advent bags in Germany and a Portuguese nativity in a walnut shell! We really enjoyed spotting all the different countries and learning about their traditions.



The St Mark's Infants, supported by the Junior Choir, performed a brilliant nativity at the church in front of a packed congregation. The children presented this very special story with plenty of joyful songs and of course an added character or two! The final song "There's a party and you're invited" summed up the feeling of St Mark's celebrating the birth of Jesus and this incredible gift to the world.

Our thanks to St Mark's church for allowing us to once take over the church with staging and costumes and to Rev Dianna Gwilliams for a beautiful blessing to close our afternoon.



We also held our now traditional Carols around the campfire in the school playground. It was a joyous celebration of the school, church and local community coming together to enjoy festive snacks, warming drinks and cheery carols. Our thanks to Rev Bruce for joining us to complete the evening with a Christmas blessing.



The New Year brought a focus for Collective Worship on a series of themes based on "Songs from the Heart". At the beginning of a new term and a brand new year, we begun a new series of themes, reflecting on the life and writings of King David, who contributed much of the content of the book of Psalms in the Bible. We used the title 'Songs from the heart', because this is exactly what the Psalms were: heartfelt expressions of joy, sadness, frustration, hope and longing, giving voice to experiences and emotions that pupils of all faiths and none can relate to. Because Easter Day is just before the start of the Summer term, we will be marking Resurrection Day on the first day of the summer term.

In school our Spirituality Team have continued to run JAM Club (Jesus and Me) for the younger children. Each week they choose a different Bible story to explore through craft and drama activities.

Most recently we have begun our preparations for Easter, learning the hymns for our Easter Service. We are very much looking forward to this event which will take place in church, with the invitation extended to our parents, families and the church community. Our term will end with a traditional Pause Day, taking the time for quiet reflection, creative activities and personal prayers. We look forward to sharing more of our school events within the church and with the wider St Mark's community throughout the rest of the school year.

Mrs Nicola Smith
Senior Teacher

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PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL
PARISH OF ST MARK SOUTH FARNBOROUGH (0108)

Financial Statement and Treasurer Report
Year Ending
31st December 2024

PRESENTED
TO THE
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL
PARISH OF ST MARK'S SOUTH FARNBOROUGH (0108)
27 April 2025

Report of the Independent Examiner for the Year Ending 31 December 2024

ST MARK'S PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of St Mark's, Farnborough

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

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

It is my responsibility to

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- To follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act); and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission.

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

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:

- a. To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
- b. To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act.

Have not been met; or

2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached



Mr Patrick Brown
6 Kingsley Court
Windsor Way
Aldershot
Hants
GU11 1HZ

22nd April 2025

1 - Financial Statement for the Year Ending 31 December 2024

St Mark's has undergone some major changes throughout the year as the priest-in-charge resigned in October. With help from the Diocese St Mark's has managed to have communion services regularly and a service of the word on Sundays where no communion service could be provided.

The Diocese parish share for 2024 started at £2,101.49 per month. This figure was for a parish with no vicarage and a part-time priest-in-charge. The Parish share for 2024 has been paid in full.

Works to deal with some quinquennial items were discussed and a plan and budget for these works was put in place. The work was conducted during 2024 shown as expenditure. Those projects completed came in on budget or slightly under.

The Church Hall is still making up the shortfall in monthly church giving, so church giving needs to increase. As the congregation continues to expand as it has been, this will become less of an issue.

The Church income for 2024 was £71,784.41 with expenditure of £63,598.96, with a restricted income of £573.70.

The Hall income for 2024 was £57,500.00 with expenditure of £22,987.95

The introduction of the Bank Card gifting device has been the latest addition to increasing the income by £2,796.40 (this is included in the £71,748.41 income figure) and continues to add to the general fund.

Once again, as the Treasurer, I would like to thank everyone for their continuing support of St Mark's.

2. 2024- Income

In 2024 the total income increased slightly from £103,803.01 to £131,260.23 in 2024, helped by claiming the outstanding HMRC Gift Aid for the previous four years.

Without the Gift Aid claimed of £26,674.81 it would indicate there was a slight increase in income of £782.41 in 2024.

Planned Giving:

A) Monthly Standing Orders (SO) have seen an increase from £25,155 in 2023 to £28,025.00 in 2024. This is an increase of £2,870.00. A big thank-you to the people who now donate by Standing Order. This regular planned giving gives the finance committee a better idea for planning and budgeting. There is however, a note of warning that the year started at £2,430 per month donation but dropped to £1,750 in December due to some parishioners move away from the parish.

B) Gift Aid envelopes:

The Gift Aid envelope scheme has seen a decrease from £2,575.00 in 2023 to £1,230.00 in 2024, a decrease of £1,345.00. Some of the reduction may be because people have switched to a different form of donating.

C) Gift Aid Blue envelopes:

The blue envelope scheme has seen a decrease from £2,366.00 in 2023 to £1,773.00 in 2024, a decrease of £593.00

D) Open Plate Collection:

The open plate has seen a decrease from £3,697.92 in 2023 to £2,779.59 in 2024, a decrease of £918.33.

The number of people attending services has been slowly increasing but the use of the envelope donations is decreasing. This may be due to people moving to SO giving or donating using the card reader. I would ask if the taxpayers could use the Gift Aid form for the brown or blue envelopes, standing orders and the card reader as your donation is increased by 25% if you are a taxpayer (Please check before signing up for gift aid).

The SO planned giving, yellow envelope, blue envelope, open plate, donations and card reader donations income for 2024 was ~£42,471.58 which is an increase of ~£5,875.26 in 2024.

The introduction of the Bank Card machine (Card Swipe) has added to the income by £2,796.40 since its introduction.

The Church Hall is the biggest contributor of income to general funds. Despite the Hall being practically fully booked, 2024 has seen a small decrease in income from ~£61,000 in 2023 to ~£57,500 in 2024. Without Hall income, life would be vastly different at St Mark's.

Many thanks to Mrs D Bates and her team for their tireless work in invoicing and maintaining the hall that is so vital to St Mark's survival.

2024 Income

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted		Total	Total
	Church	Hall	Development Fund	General Fund	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£		£
Voluntary Income						
Planned Giving Standing Orders	28,025.00			0.00	28,025.00	25,155.00
Planned Giving Yellow Envelopes	1,230.00				1,230.00	2,575.00
Gift Aid Blue Envelopes	1,773.00				1,773.00	2,366.00
Open Plate Unrestricted Cash	2,779.59				2,779.59	3,697.92
Gift Aidable Donations	801.00				801.00	220.00
Donations	5,066.50				5,066.50	2,582.40
Insurance claim not income				0.00	0.00	
Dev Fund 7625 Acc deposits			375.00		375.00	
SumUP Donations	2,796.49				2,796.49	
HMRC Refunds	26,674.81				26,674.81	
	69,146.39		375.00	0.00	69,521.39	36,596.32
Income from Investments						
Bank interest & compensation	719.44		56.62		776.06	454.05
	719.44		56.62	0.00	776.06	454.05
Income from church activities						
Cakes, coffee, crafts	120.00		0.00		120.00	
Monies to be paid out (Rest collected to be pa	0.00				0.00	
Fund raising Fayres (Any)	1,209.58		1,250.00	329.70	2,789.28	4,587.80
Church Hall Lettings (Income)		57,500.50			57,500.50	60,999.99
Hire of Church	0.00				0.00	200.00
St Mark's PCC Fees	553.00				553.00	963.00
Refund on utilities	0.00				0.00	1.85
	1,882.58	57,500.50	1,250.00	329.70	60,962.78	66,752.64
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	71,748.41	57,500.50	1,681.62	329.70	131,260.23	103,803.01

3 - Expenditure:

The total expenditure for 2024 was £86,586.91. This is a decrease of £2,076.42 from the £88,663.33 figure for 2023.

The parish share for 2024 was £30,617.88 and was completely paid. St Mark's paid the parish share by a monthly standing order of £2,101.49.

The financial situation remains unchanged from previous years; all expenditure has been put on hold and only essential and safety works have been, and will be, carried out to keep the expenditure as low as possible. The works will be carried out over the course of 2024 will be detailed in the fabric report.

The finance committee is closely monitoring the utility bills. The electricity contracts for both the hall and church renewed in 2022 and will need negotiating in September 2026. Currently the church hall electricity cost is 22.34p/kWh and the church 22.59p/kWh with the standing charge 144p/day.

Gas is still on contract with British Gas until August and October 2025. A further one-year contract with British Gas has been put in place, but the cost is at the best price obtainable at 9.32/kWh and standing charge 200p/day. This means that the church and hall heating bills will be two-and-a-half times larger after August and September 2024, further increasing the dependence on the hall income.

A renewed effort is now required for fundraising for the Church building and roof fund. The Quinquennial report lists some work that is needed promptly to maintain the integrity of the building. After April 2024, this list will be added to, placing a further burden on the limited income.

2024 Expenditure

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds		Total	Total
	Church	Hall	Development Fund General	Phillipa Nicholas	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£	£	
CHURCH ACTIVITIES						
Ministry						
Diocesan Parish Share	30,617.88				30,617.88	32,621.93
Working Expenses	1,213.55				1,213.55	1,171.41
Vicarage Expenses	138.80				138.80	695.80
Visiting Clergy	227.86				227.86	1,036.32
Upkeep of Services	1,294.40				1,294.40	1,499.34
Church					0.00	
Insurance	4,956.76	2,424.63			7,381.39	6,806.40
Utilities	6,421.99				6,421.99	4,216.78
Boiler Maintenance	719.00	127.00			846.00	311.40
Repairs, Maintenance Certifications	9,199.99	576.27			9,776.26	4,555.60
Church & Hall Notice Boards					0.00	5,460.00
Church Music	195.00	1,520.26			1,715.26	326.76
Church Verger / Organist / Flowers W,F,B	312.00				312.00	378.98
Hall					0.00	
Running Costs		8,282.68			8,282.68	6,897.14
Utilities		7,586.64			7,586.64	5,513.75
Hall Sundries		805.67			805.67	1,122.47
Hall Major Expenditure Repair Maint		984.00			984.00	6,195.86
Hall Bad Cheques Refunds & Deposit Returns		680.80			680.80	
Other Parish Expenses					0.00	
Church Charity donations & paid out	609.70				609.70	286.07
Church Management and Administration					0.00	
Church Parish Admin	0.00				0.00	45.00
DBS Chcks	322.64				322.64	329.40
Church Quinquennial Inspections/works	7,369.39				7,369.39	9,192.92
					0.00	
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	63,598.96	22,987.95	0.00	0.00	86,586.91	88,663.33

4 – 2024 Statement of Assets and Liabilities

<u>Assets</u>	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024	Total 2023
Nat West Bank Balances				
NatWest Bank 2526 Account	113,044.56	687.11	113,731.67	71,429.41
NatWest Bank 7625 Account	6,074.00	11,087.62	17,161.62	15536.62
CCLA Bank Accounts Balances				
C of E CBF No. 2 Account	13,672.52		13,672.52	12983.39
C of E CBF No. 3 Account	601.46		601.46	571.15
C of E CBF Account No.4		1,123.49	1,123.49	1066.87
Total Assets	133,392.54	12,898.22	146,290.76	101,587.44

5 – Movements in Restricted Funds during the year 2024.

	Bal B/fwd	Receipts	Payments	Transferred to General Funds	Loans	Bal C/fwd
NatWest 7625 Account	8,615.23	1,625.00	0.00		0.00	10,240.23
NatWest 7625 Account - Memorial Chapel	587.39					587.39
NatWest 7625 Account - Roof works	260.00					260.00
NatWest 7625 Account - Philippa Nicholas	2,470.00		0.00	-2,470.00	0.00	0.00
Reserved funds held in NW2625 Gen Fund	357.41	329.70				687.11
CBF No.4 004D Restricted	1,066.87	56.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,123.49
TOTAL	13,356.90	2,011.32	0.00	-2,470.00	0.00	12,898.22

The NatWest 7625 account is an account with restricted and unrestricted funds, to be used by the PCC for both general and specified (restricted) projects.

At the close of 2024 the NatWest 7625 Account balance was £17,161.62 of which £6,074.00 was unrestricted and £11,087.62 was restricted. The movement in the restricted funds are highlighted below:

- 1) The non-specific restricted fund of £8,615.23 received £1,625.00 during 2024 leaving a balance of £10,240.23.
- 2) In 2024 the remaining balance of the restricted Philippa Nicholas memorial Notice board fund of £2,470.00 was transferred to the general fund.
- 3) The restricted Memorial Chapel fund of £587.39 did not change during 2024.
- 4) The restricted Church Roof Works fund of £260.00 did not change during 2024.

6 Forward to 2025 and future years

As in last year's 'Forward into 2024', St Mark's is still at the point of unsustainability and some major actions will need to be taken to ensure the future of St Mark's

For the year 2024, St Mark's Parish Share was set at £25,217.93 and this has been paid in full. The 2025 parish share has been set at £27,587.04 which equates to a monthly payment of £2,298.92. The parish share for a parish with a full-time priest living in the vicarage would be more than £70,000 a year, this needs an additional church income of ~£3,400.00 per month. This is unachievable with our current income from the church of ~£4,000.00 per month including gift aid. In the current climate of increasing costs, and the Church income is likely to be maintained or fall slightly, but the parish share still needs to be paid as this is the cost of Ministry. Ministry includes the vicar, their housing costs, pension, and support from the Diocese.

In April 2024, Nye Saunders produced a quinquennial inspection report that cost ~£1,400.00. This has highlighted areas of concern which will require extra funds to cover existing issues, and any subsequent problems discovered during works.

A budget of £25,000 plus 10% has been set aside for very urgent work—to make safe the stonework that has deteriorated to such a state as to be dangerous.

The Church Hall is still the saviour of the church, raising a surplus of approximately £35,000 per year which enables the church and hall to sustain themselves.

St Mark's is so grateful for the hard work and dedication of Mrs Daryl Bates, her family and team, in keeping the Hall in good order and the bookings extremely high throughout 2024. There are some major works required for the hall to ensure that it is kept in a desirable condition for the hires. Planned work throughout 2025 will require funding (~£25,000), the account balances and hall income can deal with these bills.

Regarding the weekly/monthly collections and giving, if you have not reviewed the amount, you are giving, please could you consider increasing your donations to help address the shortfall in income against expenditure. The treasurer would ask if it would be possible to change your method of donation to a Standing Order as this gives a reliable and regular income to enable better budgeting.

With an Electoral roll of 63, the potential £70,000 parish share would equate to a donation of approximately £95 per month or £22 per week per person. Increasing the congregation is essential to cover this amount. Please also remember this would not cover the costs of the church insurance (£4,956.76 for 2024), utilities (£6,421.99 for 2024) and repairs (£5,807.48 for 2024) and Quinquennial works (£7,369.39 for 2024), therefore we do need to increase our income independently of the church hall.

St Mark's, since August 2024, is now on an increased tariff for gas, which is just over twice the price prior to August 2024. November through to February 2025 has seen monthly gas bills of £2,100 plus. Dig deep if you wish to keep warm.

7 Bank Account Functions

General funds

NatWest Account ---2625 - this is the account used for the day to day running of the Church and Church Hall.

C of E CBF No.2 account - this is the savings account for general non-restricted funds.

C of E CBF No.3 account – this is a designated account that was designated for music at St Mark's.

Restricted Accounts

NatWest Account ---7625- is an account with restricted and unrestricted funds, to be used by the PCC both general and specified (restricted) projects.

C of E CBF No.4 Account - the fund in this savings account are restricted for music and have the same restrictions as for the NatWest Account