

ST PATRICK'S CHURCH BARKING

England & Wales - Charity number 1201642

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 2023-01-19

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

Contact

Address 79 Sparsholt Road
Barking
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Activities

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

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities

Geography

- Throughout England

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£56,602	£52,912	-	-
2024-12-31	£36,418	£44,554	-	-
2023-12-31	£52,947	£46,578	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Chris Bolster	Chair	
Linda Needham		
Marion Hull		
Matthew Harding mcnlharding@aol.com		
Patricia Durant		
Wendy Boenke		

ST PATRICK'S CHURCH BARKING

England & Wales - Charity number 1201642

Accounts

The Parish of St Patrick's Barking



**Annual Report
for 2025**

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting
10th May 2026
at 11.30am**

**St Patrick's Church Barking
Annual Parochial Church Meeting
10th May 2026 at 11.30am**

AGENDA

Opening Prayer

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the last APCM on Sunday 11th May 2025
3. Matters arising from those Minutes
4. Presentation of the Annual Audited Accounts
 - Questions on the Accounts
 - Acceptance of the Accounts
 - Appointment of External Auditor
5. Church Council Elections
 - Wardens
 - Deanery Synod Representatives
 - PCC Representatives
6. Questions for Clarification on Annual Reports
7. Any Other Business
8. Closing Prayer

**St Patrick's Church Barking
Annual Parochial Church Meeting
11th May 2025 at 11.30am**

Minutes

Opening Prayer

Present:- Matthew Harding (Chair), Marion Hull (Secretary), Patricia Durant, Lorraine Allen, Catherine Harding, Tricia Wilken, Pat Edmund, Robert Lawrence, Monica Kessie, Jamie Hughes, Linda Needham, Aileen Arlotte, Marion Ledger, Bernard William-Barrow, Gladys Coleman, Taolo Tsimako, William Coleman, Mary Coleman, Rizwana Niazi, Anna Yousaf, Carol Dunsdale, Jean Cousins, Sheena Tariq, Sehrish Tariq.

1. Apologies for Absence

None

2. Minutes of the last APCM on Sunday 12th May 2024

Proposed – Aileen Arlotte, seconded Jean Cousins

3. Matters arising from those Minutes

The BDAC has closed

4. Presentation of the Annual Audited Accounts

Matthew Harding presented the accounts. There is a loss of £7000. Partly because the BDAC closed. Although trying to get even. There is a lot of work to be done on the Church following the Quinquennial report, so there needs to be a bog drive for fund raising.

To remove pigeons from the tower = £6000 + VAT
Repairs to the Roof = £24,000 + VAT
Fuse box needs replacing }
Hot water for kitchen and toilets}. = £2,000 + VAT
Replace heating = £50,000 + VAT

It was advised by heating experts that the best way to heat the Church was by having a heat pump and fans.

There has been an application to Essex Churches for funding. Linda said that it is looking favourable. London Over the Border is a fund which Churches can apply for money. An application has gone in for the roof.

We also need to raise funds ourselves. The summer fete will be a fund-raising event. Matthew asked people to kindly continue to donate in the white envelopes.

- **Questions on the Accounts** - Timmy (Gladys's son) asked what happens when we get the birds out? Should we start with the smaller cost items. Matthew replied that is exactly what we are going to do. First, the hot water supply to the sink and toilets then it will be getting the pigeons out of the tower and we will work our way up the list.
- **Acceptance of the Accounts** – Trish Wilken and Anna Yousef
- **Appointment of External Auditor** – Matthew Is the treasurer, who said it is a team effort. The accounts are put together by Peter and Iris Chandler. The external auditor is Danny Keech from a Church in Southend. We donate £50 to his Church in lieu of paying him a fee. Matthew Harding proposed and Linda Needham seconded.

5. Church Council Elections

- **Wardens** – Linda Needham and Marion Hull continue as Wardens.
- **Deanery Synod Representatives** – Matthew Harding and Marion Hull continue as Deanery Synod representatives.
- **PCC Representatives** – There should be 12 representatives of the PCC. 1 member would be the Vicar (but we are in interregnum) Linda and Marion are automatic as wardens. Matthew is automatic because he is the licensed Lay minister.
- There are 6 nominations – Lorraine Allen, Gladys Coleman, Pat Durant, Sheena Tariq, Anna Yousef, Hina Yousef, Jean Cousins and last minute nomination Sehrish Tariq. All nominations accepted onto the PCC. The next PCC meeting is 7:30pm at St Patrick's Church.
- **Treasurer** – nominated Matthew Harding – proposed by Linda Needham and seconded by Pat Durant.
- **Electoral Roll** – nominated Catherine Harding – proposed by Lorraine Allen and seconded by Hina Yousef.

6. Questions for Clarification on Annual Reports –

There were no questions on the annual reports

7. Any Other Business –

Process for replacing the Vicar. At each deadline the Archdeacon has missed. Now the timetable is the advert goes into the Church Times 23rd May. The short list is 18th June, interviews 8th July. Linda and Marion along with the Archdeacon Chris Burke and Area Dean Martin Court.

Monica asked why we couldn't advertise before Chris left? – Matthew said we couldn't do anything for 6 months after Chris had left, because of Church of England bureaucracy. Linda said according to CofE rules there needs to be a cooling off period for the congregation before the next Vicar is advertised.

Marion Ledger asked if there was a lot to do in the vicarage. Matthew said it looks lived in. It has got very heavy security on it because it was broken into shortly after Chris left. Linda said we will be given money for 1 room per year and technically it is our responsibility. The garden is in a terrible state, but once we know who is coming into the vicarage, we can get the work done.

Any Comments –

We have had Holy Communion at least 3 Sundays in a month at the insistence of the Archdeacon. Tricia said we have had great support. Matthew replied "We are the only Church with a vacancy. Lydia is covering in August. Everyone has enjoyed officiating at St Patrick's.

Linda gave a vote of thanks to Matthew for his support and dedication during the interregnum. Matthew said it is a team effort and thanked everyone who has stepped up for the rota.

8. Closing Prayer –

Linda said the closing prayer.

LICENSED LAY MINISTER'S REPORT 2025

This report covers January to December 2025 which was a period of interregnum for the entire year. This meant that we had to continue to work through the various processes needed to appoint a new Vicar. I was the acting chair of the PCC, and may I take this opportunity to thank all members of the PCC for their support during the interregnum which was most gratefully received. Interregnums are normally not easy times in the life of a church, but I feel we navigated our way through this one better than most. Of course, Revd. Sade Barnes was installed as Vicar of St Patrick's in January 2026, and we are very glad to welcome her here.

Most weeks I managed to arrange for a visiting member of clergy to come and lead our Family Communion services. We are very grateful to Archdeacon Chris Burke, Sam Pollard, Liz Brown, and Tony Hurle for their time that they gave generously to St Patrick's. But a very special thank you must go to Lydia Hurle who was the most regular visiting priest to St Patrick's to lead our services. We even had a visit from the Bishop of Barking, Lynne Cullens, who led a family communion service in February. One of the advantages of interregnum is that we got to experience many different styles of churchmanship from our guest service leaders.

I wear many hats – Licensed Lay Minister, Parish Safeguarding Officer, Treasurer, and Community Payback co-ordinator. As PSO I had to organise some face-to-face safeguarding training in January – with the extra reward of cake for those who preferred attending in person rather than doing their training online. We completed two modules – Basic Awareness and Foundations – and the face-to-face environment seemed to work well, so thank you to those of you who attended. Safeguarding is a key component of our work with children, and grateful thanks must go to Linda, Lorraine, Gladys, Pat Edmund, Anna and Ashi who have faithfully served in the Sunday School during the year. It is always a pleasure when the children come forward at the end of the service to show us what they have been working on.

My Treasurer's and PSO reports follow later. In addition, St Patrick's is a registered charity, PCC members serve as trustees, and our 2024 submission to the Charities Commission was made during the year.

We had our first full year of the Community Payback team working in the garden, and they also performed small maintenance jobs in the church from time to time. They have also been invaluable in helping set out the church for various social functions and major services. They come every other Wednesday throughout most of the year, and we are very grateful to them and their leaders Abul and Lee.

In late 2024 we received our Quinquennial Inspection report regarding the condition of our church building, and this revealed much maintenance work that needed to be done. We began with the most urgent items on the list – the biggest of which was repairs to the church roof for which we applied and received a grant of £10,000 from London Over The Border. These works were completed over the summer. Also, we received £5,000 from Friends of Essex Churches towards removing the pigeons from the church tower which was completed in September. Other urgent works to kitchen hot water, fuse-board etc were also undertaken. We continue to work through the list depending on urgency and funding.

Another cold winter reiterated that we need to do something about our church heating sooner rather than later.

In May we met on a Saturday morning at church to carry out some of the more minor tasks identified by the Quinquennial Inspection report. And in October we held a work-day at the vacant Vicarage in Sparsholt Road to make sure that was properly maintained. Many thanks to all of you who attended one or both of these events.

Thank you to the members of the Worship Group who sing at our All-Age services once a month, and who also give up their time to do midweek rehearsals. And a big thank you to Gladys, Taolo and Bernard for all they do on our AV. Timmy now regularly plays the piano for the Worship Group, and his siblings are soon to be involved musically as well!

During the year we were required to refresh our Electoral Roll, and many thanks to Catherine for ensuring this was done. If you wish to be on the Electoral Roll for St Patrick's then please let us know.

Christmas 2025 was a joyful celebration with some great services. We also welcomed over 200 children from Eastbury and Ripple Primary schools in December, spread over a week, which gave us the opportunity to share what we believe about Christmas and what it means to us.

Thanks to everyone who appeared on a rota in 2025. Churches are famous for their rotas, and through various influencing techniques and arm-twisting we now have a lot more people involved on our Intercessions, Bible Reading and Prayer Ministry rotas. Many thanks for your service.

Special thanks to Marion Hull for the great work she does on our social and community outreach work (more of which in her report), and also for her work as PCC Secretary. During the year we had some great social events including a St Patrick's Day Quiz Evening, VE Day celebrations, St Patrick's 85th Anniversary Fete, Afternoon Tea to raise funds for Breast Cancer Now, Open House in September, and a Christmas Fair. Also, thanks to Aileen and Marion Ledger for their contribution to the Craft and Natter Group that continues to meet on Tuesdays.

And the last thank you must go to our fantastic churchwardens Linda Needham and Marion Hull for their tireless efforts and their continued dedicated service to the life of our church. We really are blessed to have them.

Matthew Harding
Licensed Lay Minister

TREASURER'S REPORT 2025

During 2025 we managed to stabilise our church finances after a very difficult year in 2024. Our General Fund had a surplus of just over £1,000 in 2025. This was partly due to very close liaison with TACCI church, who rent our premises on Sunday afternoons, to ensure they were up to date with their payments.

The Quinquennial Inspection of our church building which took place in 2024 identified a number of maintenance issues that need to be addressed and we began work on this in 2025. We secured grant funding from London Over the Border of £10,000 to repair our leaky roofs and renew the solar paint. We also secured funding of £5,000 from Friends of Essex Churches to remove the pigeons from the church tower, do a thorough clean-up, and secure the tower with new wire mesh.

We also self-funded works to our electrical fuse-board, provided hot water to the kitchen, and repaired lighting in the toilets. Despite all these calls on our finances, we still managed to grow our Buildings Projects Fund by over £2,000 to £4,347.20 which is largely earmarked towards replacing the church heating. Thanks to everyone who generously donated to the buildings project fund, and to those who organised and supported fundraising events.

As usual we fully met our Parish Share contribution of £12,663 which was significantly lower than the prior year (£16,838 in 2024).

In terms of Mission Giving, we continued to support children around the world via Compassion UK, through whom we sponsor Ben in Ghana, Taniska in Bangladesh, and Florentin in Burkina Faso. During the year we also financially supported the Barking Foodbank, Breast Cancer Now, and Barking Churches Unite.

We have ambitious plans to improve the facilities at St Patrick's, including the heating, and therefore we need to imagine new ways of raising funds. "Easyfundraising" is an easy way to generate funds for the church via your online shopping – please contact Matthew for details.

Thanks once again to all the people involved making sure our banking and accounting processes run smoothly. Thanks especially to Aileen Arlotte, Pat Durant, Pat Edmund, Catherine Harding, Marion Ledger, and Linda Needham.

Thanks also to Gladys Coleman for setting up the GoFundMe page for St Patrick's fundraising towards the new heating.

Thanks to Peter and Enid Chandler who continued to provide an excellent accounting service to St Patrick's. The audited 2025 accounts will be presented for approval at the APCM.

And thanks to you for supporting St Patrick's financially, and for your generosity.

Matthew Harding
Treasurer

PCC REPORT 2025/26

Introduction

Throughout the year, the Parochial Church Council (PCC) has shown steadfast commitment to preserving both the spiritual wellbeing and the physical upkeep of St Patrick's. Their efforts have ensured that the church remains a vibrant and welcoming place for all members of the community.

PCC Achievements During Interregnum

Despite the challenges presented by the interregnum, St Patrick's has continued to flourish, a testament to the dedication and hard work of the PCC. The council's ability to maintain momentum during this period has been crucial to the ongoing success of the church.

Commitment and Skills of PCC Members

Serving on the PCC demands a high level of dedication, and it is worthy of note that every member has consistently risen to this challenge. The team brings together a wide array of expertise, which has enabled the council to embrace modern technology and progressive approaches at St Patrick's. We even have a Church mobile phone. These innovations are expected to enhance the visibility of the church and raise awareness of its presence within the wider community.

Attendance at PCC meetings from May 2025 – April 2026

PCC meetings are held approximately every 6-8 weeks in Church, from 7.30pm until 9.00pm. There have been seven PCC meetings since the last APCM. Absences are often due to work commitments, holidays or being unwell.

Attendance was as follows:

Lorraine Allen	6
Sade Barnes	2 (from February 2026)
Gladys Coleman	7
Jean Cousins	6
Pat Durant	6
Matthew Harding	7
Marion Hull	7
Linda Needham	7
Sheena Tariq	2
Anna Yousaf	3
Hina Yousaf	1

Administration and Risk Management

Administrative matters are handled efficiently, thanks to Linda's meticulous attention to detail. Every event hosted at St Patrick's undergoes a thorough risk assessment to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all participants.

Vicar Selection Process

This year, Linda and I were involved in the process of selecting the next Vicar for St Patrick's, marking an important milestone for the church's future leadership.

Repairs

This year has been challenging due to the extensive repairs required after the quinquennial inspection. Thanks to generous contributions from London over the Border, Essex Churches, and fundraising by the St Patrick's family, we managed to raise enough money to address several key issues. These included finally clearing pigeons from the tower, repainting the lightning protection on the roof, and replacing the hot water boiler, among other repairs. We are steadily checking off items from our repair list. However, one major issue remains unresolved: the heating system.

We anticipate beginning the replacement of the heating system this summer to ensure it is operational by winter. Year-round heating will support our church's ongoing role as a valued presence within the community.

The Year so Far

The start of the year has been full of activity. In January, Bishop Lynne, (Bishop of Barking) installed Rev Sade Barnes as the new Vicar of St Patrick's. Bishop Guli (Bishop of Chelmsford) led the confirmation of 18 young people at St Patrick's in Barking and visited the church during her pastoral walk in Barking. We organised a fundraising silent auction, along with a special celebration for the opening of Kennedy Footbridge, an event sponsored by Network Rail and attended by Bishop Lynne, Councillor Dominic Twomey, and MP Nesil Caliskan.

St Patrick's has been truly blessed.

Marion Hull

PCC Secretary St Patrick's

WARDEN'S REPORT 2025

With thanks to everyone who helps with the upkeep and running of the Church. Wardens would be lost without the support of members and every ounce of help is much appreciated.

An update on progress following the 2024 Quinquennial Report recommendations, and essential repairs to the fabric of the building, have been covered in the LLM Report. Replacing the inefficient and expensive heating system remains our highest priority. Quotes for both gas and electric heating systems are actively being sought. Fundraising continues apace but it will be necessary to seek external grants before such work can be commissioned. The Community Pay-back team has helped enormously with keeping the church grounds looking attractive and well-kept.

All legal and statutory checks and inspections of gas and electrical appliances, including fire extinguishers, were completed. Annual music/AV licences have been renewed. Annual Accounts were audited for 2025, in compliance with legal and CofE regulations, and are being presented for your approval at the APCM. In July, we renewed our Insurance Policy Cover with Ecclesiastical Insurance for a further three years.

LETTINGS:

It was necessary to enforce the financial terms and conditions of our Agreement with TACCI and payment of all fees for 2025 were received before the year end. The Barking Photographic Society continues to meet fortnightly and that also generates formal income. The Craft and Natter Group kindly make regular voluntary contributions to church funds.

Please continue with your prayers for God's guidance and blessings upon our church building and family life at St Patrick's, together with prayer for the next incumbent, Revd Sade Barnes and her husband Arthur.

Marion Hull and Linda Needham
Wardens

ELECTORAL ROLL 2025

You can go on the Electoral Roll if you are over 16 and have been baptised. Please ask for a form if you would like to go onto it. At the time of writing there are 47 on roll and nothing further to report.

Catherine Harding
Electoral Roll Officer

SAFEGUARDING REPORT 2025

At St Patrick's we are committed to safeguarding children, young people, vulnerable adults, and victims of domestic abuse.

Everyone who serves on our PCC, and in our Sunday School, has to undergo Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks every three years, and also has to undertake training on safeguarding Basic Awareness and Foundations. Those who work with children also have to undertake training in Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse (optional for PCC members). We offer online training and also face-to-face training for those who are not so comfortable doing it online. Those in leadership roles in the church have to undertake additional training. We have also implemented the Safer Recruitment process for all eligible roles.

We make use of the Safeguarding Dashboards which are facilitated nationally, and these are useful in tracking our progress against the various safeguarding requirements including risk assessments and policy adoption. We have also begun to make use of the newly launched Safeguarding Hub which helps track who needs to do what.

As the Parish Safeguarding Officer, I continue to work closely with the incumbent (when in post), PCC, and diocesan safeguarding team to ensure compliance with national and diocesan policies. Safeguarding is an agenda item at every one of our PCC meetings.

As a church we have formally adopted the national “Promoting a Safer Church” policy. No safeguarding concerns were raised in 2025. Priorities for the coming year include ensuring training compliance.

The PCC confirms that St Patrick’s has complied with its duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops’ guidance on safeguarding. Safeguarding remains an ongoing commitment, and we will continue to strive for best practice in creating a safe and welcoming environment for all.

Matthew Harding
Parish Safeguarding Officer

CHURCH AUDIO VISUAL REPORT 2025

We are pleased to report positive developments within the church AV team. We have been blessed with an increase in volunteers, strengthening our capacity to support services and events. The current team now includes Bernard, Arthur, Taolo, and Gladys, whose contributions have been greatly appreciated.

There have also been several updates made to the AV system. These improvements carried out by Matthew and Taolo, have enhanced overall performance, and the system has been working fairly well so far. In addition, we have recently introduced a new church computer, which will support our operations and efficiency.

While there have been a few minor challenges along the way, we remain optimistic that these issues will be resolved soon. Overall, the progress made is encouraging, and we look forward to continued improvement and stability in the system.

Gladys Coleman
AV Team Leader

SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT 2025

From conversations with all the volunteers, being a Sunday School teacher can be challenging, fun and very rewarding. It is great when all is going well. The children are focused and enjoying the class and the age-related materials we have provided. Most weeks we have between 4 and 10 children per session.

We have been trying to recruit more volunteers, to help especially with the older children, and are pleased to report that we have been very fortunate that both Matthew and Taola will be taking up this position going forward which will be a great help. The protection of children is of paramount importance and all volunteers are required to complete Safeguarding courses and an Awareness of Domestic Violence course. We are again very grateful to Matthew for running these courses at his home, it especially helps those who do not have a computer or smartphone.

Participating in children's ministry, to help young people to grow in their own personal journey of faith, is a wonderful experience. We continue to pray for further volunteers to join the team – either as leaders or assistants – which could lead to more frequent sessions.

May the Lord continue to bless and empower us as we continue to do His work.

Lorraine Allen
Sunday School Co-ordinator

CRAFT AND NATTER GROUP REPORT 2025

The Craft and Natter Group met throughout 2025, with sessions held generally on the first and third Tuesday of each month, from 1.00pm to 2.30pm. Eight to ten ladies enjoy a variety of crafts, from making cards, knitting, crossstitch and crocheting. It has to be said that there is sometimes more Natter than Craft! Food is a main feature too. There is regular Tea and Biscuits and during the year we enjoyed Cream Teas, a Harvest Lunch, an Easter celebration including Hot Cross Buns and Eggs, and a Christmas gathering with nibbles, crackers and traditional fayre.

Members thoroughly enjoy their time together and, through their generosity, the Group has made a number of donations to church funds. Should you know of anyone who might enjoy being part of the group, please do not hesitate to let us know. The more the merrier!

Aileen Arlotte and Marion Ledger
Craft and Natter Leaders

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND OUTREACH JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2025 **AT ST PATRICK'S CHURCH**

Throughout 2025, St Patrick's has organised several community events that have contributed to increasing the church's visibility and engagement within the local area.

The year commenced with a fundraising quiz night on 15th March in celebration of St Patrick's Day. The event attracted significant participation from the community, and Barking Football Club generously donated tickets for their final home game of the season, along with other prizes. Quiz masters Matthew and Marion facilitated the evening.

On 6th May, the church marked the anniversary of VE Day. To support the event financially, St Patrick's received a £500 grant from LBBDD. Volunteers from Roding Rubbish collaborated with the parish for a litter pick preceding the celebration lunch. The afternoon featured traditional tea and archival footage from VE Day 1945, enhancing the nostalgic atmosphere. Melissa assisted with photography and children's activities.

June saw collaboration with St Margaret's Church, Christ Church, Church at Barking Riverside, St Cedds, and St Erkenwalds for the Pentecost Open Air Service. Led by Bishop Guli, the Bishop of Chelmsford, the service was enriched by her address regarding the Holy

Spirit in Barking, accompanied by a notable breeze. Entertainment was provided by a Christian juggler, engaging attendees of all ages, and complimentary ice cream was offered.

In July, St Patrick's commemorated 85 years of ministry in Eastbury with a summer fete. The event included a barbecue prepared by parish resident and volunteer Terry Tompkins, there was candy floss, a plant stall, tombola, nearly new items, and children's games to name a few. This successful event raised £900 for the heating fund.

Also in July, St Patrick's hosted the Deanery Synod and invested in community well-being through a First Aid Course led by the British Red Cross. The course was open to all and received positive feedback from participants outside St Patrick's.

August featured Afternoon Tea for Breast Cancer, raising £245 for charity. Demonstrating the generosity of the St Patrick's Church Family.

In September, St Patrick's participated in the annual Open House Festival alongside Eastbury Manor, hosting exhibitions from the Barking Photographic Society, Barking Historical Society, Roding Rubbish B&D Community Litter Pickers, and Thames Life. The event attracted visitors such as members of Essex Chase Heritage Walkers, prompting a return visit with an expanded group in February 2026.

For October and November, St Patrick's observed All Saints Day with an autumn bonfire and firework display, offering an alternative seasonal celebration. Attendees enjoyed warm food and entertainment despite inclement weather.

December, traditionally a busy month, began with the Christmas Bazaar. Fundraising efforts throughout the year have supported ongoing repairs to St Patrick's Church, addressing both scheduled and unforeseen maintenance needs.

These accomplishments were made possible by the dedication and contributions of volunteers who consistently support St Patrick's events. Their commitment is greatly appreciated and has fostered greater community spirit within the parish.

Sincere thanks are extended to all volunteers whose efforts have enabled St Patrick's Church to positively impact the wider Parish and community.

Marion Hull
Church and Community Events Organiser

RESCUE AND CARE IN GHANA 2025

I have recently returned from a visit to Ghana, where our mission work amongst prisoners continues.

Colleagues and I had lunch with Ahinsan Prisons on 31st January 2026 to mark the 70th birthday of our Facilitator.

Winniba Prisons in the Central Region in Ghana had contacted us for help and we paid them a visit during my trip. We have made a commitment to donate drinking water sachets to inmates every month since June 2025.

We supported Akuse Female Prisons with financial assistance in 2025. We still need sponsors for individual inmates. As RCTF is self-funded we were not able to accomplish much in 2025.

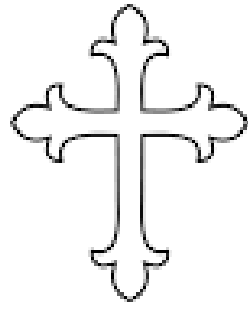
One prison release in March 2026 is back with his family and we engaging with him and his family.

The website remains a work-in-progress focus and we will also need help to test the website when it is up and running. Meanwhile anyone can check it out and comment or provide support at <http://rctf.in-gh.com>.

Monica Kessie

Women of Purpose

(Equipping Women for Good Works)



Barking St Patrick Charity No 1291642

Fund movement summary

Selected period: 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

Fund	Fund balances brought forward	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Gains and Losses	Journal Entries	Fund balances Carried forward
General Unrestricted	20,303.78	35,519.81	34,431.67	21.99	-	-	21,413.91
Sub-totals	20,303.78	35,519.81	34,431.67	21.99	-	-	21,413.91
Buildings Restricted	2,000.00	20,707.24	18,360.04	-	-	-	4,347.20
Sub-totals	2,000.00	20,707.24	18,360.04	-	-	-	4,347.20
Gardening Restricted	712.97	375.00	120.00	-	-	-	967.97
Sub-totals	712.97	375.00	120.00	-	-	-	967.97
BDAC Restricted	21.91	0.09	-	(21.99)	-	-	0.01
Sub-totals	21.91	0.09	-	(21.99)	-	-	0.01
Hall Deposits Restricted	500.00	-	-	-	-	-	500.00
Sub-totals	500.00	-	-	-	-	-	500.00
Totals	23,538.66	56,602.14	52,911.71	-	-	-	27,229.09

13/2/26

Independent examiner's report to the PCC of Barking St Patrick

I report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2025, which are attached.

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

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

It is my responsibility to

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- Follow procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

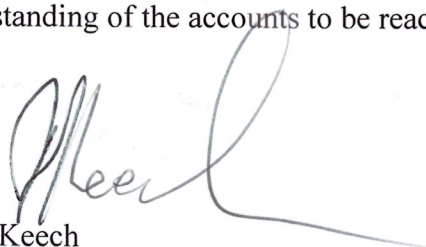
Basis of Independent Examiners Statement.

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 a full audit, and consequently I do not express an opinion on the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
 - to prepare accounts, which accord with these accounting records 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.



Daniel Keech
38 Shepard Close
Leigh on Sea
SS9 5YR

13/2/26

Barking St Patrick Charity No 1291642

Statement of Assets and Liabilities (by fund)
As at: 31 December 2025

			Balance	Previous balance
Cash At Bank And In Hand				
6501: Barclays 207289 80052221				
General fund	Unrestricted		10,748.81	9,782.08
Building Projects Fund	Restricted		4,347.20	2,000.00
Gardening Fund	Restricted		967.97	712.97
			16,063.98	12,495.05
6505: Barclays BP 207289 60833657				
General fund	Unrestricted		10,658.49	10,513.54
Hall deposit	Restricted		500.00	500.00
			11,158.49	11,013.54
6506: Barclays BDAC 202519 2057619				
Barking Debt Advice Centre Project Fund	Restricted		0.01	21.91
			0.01	21.91
6590: Petty cash				
General fund	Unrestricted		6.61	8.16
			6.61	8.16
Cash At Bank And In Hand			27,229.09	23,538.66
Grand Total			27,229.09	23,538.66

 13/2/26

Barking St Patrick Charity No 1291642
Receipts and Payments Account
For the period from 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Receipts						
Donations and legacies	22,542.35	-	20,256.90	-	42,799.25	23,189.59
Income from charitable activities	12,549.00	-	-	-	12,549.00	12,809.80
Other trading activities	153.51	-	825.34	-	978.85	234.49
Investments	144.95	-	0.09	-	145.04	184.18
Other income	130.00	-	-	-	130.00	-
Total Receipts	35,519.81	-	21,082.33	-	56,602.14	36,418.06
Payments						
Raising funds	551.02	-	-	-	551.02	261.62
Expenditure on charitable activities	33,880.65	-	18,480.04	-	52,360.69	44,292.68
Total Payments	34,431.67	-	18,480.04	-	52,911.71	44,554.30
Excess of receipts over payments before transfer	1,088.14	-	2,602.29	-	3,690.43	(8,136.24)
Transfers:						
Gross transfers between funds - in	301.99	-	280.00	-	581.99	669.17
Gross transfers between funds - out	(280.00)	-	(301.99)	-	(581.99)	(669.17)
Excess of receipts over payments before other gains	1,110.13	-	2,580.30	-	3,690.43	(8,136.24)
Net movement in funds	1,110.13	-	2,580.30	-	3,690.43	(8,136.24)
Reconciliation of funds						
Excess of receipts over payments at beginning of the year	20,303.78	-	3,234.88	-	23,538.66	31,674.90
Excess of receipts over payments for the year	21,413.91	-	5,815.18	-	27,229.09	23,538.66
Represented by						
Unrestricted						
General fund	21,413.91	-	-	-	21,413.91	20,303.78
Restricted						
Barking Debt Advice Centre Project Fund	-	-	0.01	-	0.01	21.91
Building Projects Fund	-	-	4,347.20	-	4,347.20	2,000.00
Gardening Fund	-	-	967.97	-	967.97	712.97
Hall deposit	-	-	500.00	-	500.00	500.00

M. Keel 13/2/26

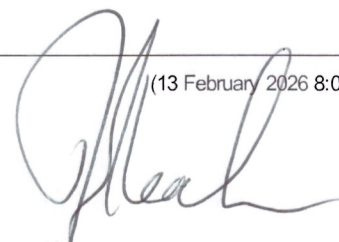
Barking St Patrick Charity No 1291642

Analysis of Receipts and Payments
Selected period: 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Total Last year
Receipts						
Donations and legacies						
0101 - Gift Aid - Bank	5,400.00	-	-	-	5,400.00	8,005.00
0103 - CAF	-	-	-	-	-	200.00
0110 - Gift Aid - Envelopes	5,307.00	-	-	-	5,307.00	2,937.00
0201 - Other planned giving - small donations	4,136.00	-	3,086.00	-	7,222.00	4,484.51
0301 - Loose plate collections - GASDS	506.00	-	-	-	506.00	523.15
0302 - Sumup offertory - GASDS	1,118.38	-	-	-	1,118.38	1,304.76
0304 - Sumup offertory - Non Gasds	380.00	-	-	-	380.00	968.90
0550 - Donations appeals etc	205.00	-	102.00	-	307.00	113.00
0553 - Donations - Gardening Fund	-	-	375.00	-	375.00	180.00
0555 - Donations - Building Projects Fund	-	-	953.40	-	953.40	-
0601 - Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	2,529.97	-	-	-	2,529.97	3,040.05
0602 - GASDS - Govt Top Up	2,181.00	-	-	-	2,181.00	1,433.22
08A1 - Non-recurring one-off grants	500.00	-	15,000.00	-	15,500.00	-
0901 - Other funds generated	279.00	-	740.50	-	1,019.50	-
Donations and legacies Totals	22,542.35	-	20,256.90	-	42,799.25	23,189.59
Income from charitable activities						
1101 - Fees for weddings and funerals	168.00	-	-	-	168.00	78.00
1230 - Hall Letting Fees	12,381.00	-	-	-	12,381.00	12,731.80
Income from charitable activities Totals	12,549.00	-	-	-	12,549.00	12,809.80
Other trading activities						
0910 - Fundraising	153.51	-	825.34	-	978.85	234.49
Other trading activities Totals	153.51	-	825.34	-	978.85	234.49
Investments						
1020 - Bank and building society interest	144.95	-	0.09	-	145.04	184.18
Investments Totals	144.95	-	0.09	-	145.04	184.18
Other income						
1310 - Insurance claims	130.00	-	-	-	130.00	-
Other income Totals	130.00	-	-	-	130.00	-
Receipts Grand Totals	35,519.81	-	21,082.33	-	56,602.14	36,418.06
Payments						
Raising funds						
1720 - Costs of stewardship campaign	38.50	-	-	-	38.50	-
1730 - Costs of fetes & other events	512.52	-	-	-	512.52	261.62
Raising funds Totals	551.02	-	-	-	551.02	261.62

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	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Total Last year
Expenditure on charitable activities						
1801 - Charitable Giving	1,769.00	-	-	-	1,769.00	3,814.00
1910 - Parish share	12,663.12	-	-	-	12,663.12	16,837.92
2050 - Salary of BDAC administrator	-	-	-	-	-	3,241.75
2101 - Working expenses of incumbent	1,133.50	-	-	-	1,133.50	313.06
2130 - Vicarage expenses	481.86	-	-	-	481.86	-
2201 - Parish training and mission	-	-	-	-	-	167.66
2301 - Church running - insurance	2,111.36	-	-	-	2,111.36	1,958.98
2310 - Church office - telephone	788.46	-	-	-	788.46	736.66
2330 - Church maintenance	1,757.03	-	-	-	1,757.03	3,777.45
2331 - Cleaning	2,490.00	-	-	-	2,490.00	2,290.00
2332 - Cleaning materials	-	-	-	-	-	9.00
2340 - Upkeep of services	1,189.97	-	-	-	1,189.97	844.35
2350 - Upkeep of church garden	-	-	120.00	-	120.00	130.63
2360 - Administration	1,123.61	-	0.70	-	1,124.31	2,057.97
2362 - Sumup charges	17.44	-	0.34	-	17.78	22.97
2370 - Visiting priests	283.45	-	-	-	283.45	40.00
2375 - Sundry expenses	74.85	-	-	-	74.85	428.44
2401 - Church running - electric	2,101.94	-	-	-	2,101.94	1,983.39
2410 - Church running - gas	4,146.88	-	-	-	4,146.88	4,915.54
2420 - Church running - water	1,688.18	-	-	-	1,688.18	667.91
2601 - Governance costs examination/audit fee	60.00	-	-	-	60.00	55.00
2701 - Church major repairs - structure	-	-	17,423.20	-	17,423.20	-
2710 - Church major repairs - installation	-	-	935.80	-	935.80	-
Expenditure on charitable activities Totals	33,880.65	-	18,480.04	-	52,360.69	44,292.68
Payments Grand Totals	34,431.67	-	18,480.04	-	52,911.71	44,554.30

 13/2/26

ST PATRICK'S CHURCH BARKING

England & Wales - Charity number 1201642

Accounts

The Parish of St Patrick's Barking



**Annual Report
for 2024**

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting
11th May 2024
at 11.30am**

**St Patrick's Church Barking
Annual Parochial Church Meeting
11th May 2025 at 11.30am**

AGENDA

Opening Prayer

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the last APCM on Sunday 12th May 2024
3. Matters arising from those Minutes
4. Presentation of the Annual Audited Accounts
 - Questions on the Accounts
 - Acceptance of the Accounts
 - Appointment of External Auditor
5. Church Council Elections
 - Wardens
 - Deanery Synod Representatives
 - PCC Representatives
6. Questions for Clarification on Annual Reports
7. Any Other Business
8. Closing Prayer

St Patrick's Church, Barking

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

12th May 2024 at 11.30am

Held at St Patrick's Church

Minutes of the meeting

- 1. Present:-** Chris Bolster (Chair), Marion Hull (Secretary), Robert Lawrence, Lucy Gilbert, Pat Durant, Pat Edmund, Catherine Harding, Emmanuel Akintunde, Funky Jaiyeola, Linda Needham, Bernard Williams-Barrow, Aileen Arlotte, Gladys Coleman, Mary Coleman, Naomi Bolster, Monica Kessie, Joanne Wason, Jean Cousins, Matthew Harding.
- 2. Apologies:-** Lorraine Allen, Tricia Wilkens, Wendy Boenke
- 3. Opening Prayer:-** Chris Bolster
- 4. Minutes from APCM 2023:-** Proposed by Matthew Harding, Seconded Catherine Harding, unanimously accepted.
- 5. Matters Arising from those minutes:** - There were no matters arising.
- 6. Annual Accounts:-** There were no questions about the accounts. If there are any questions, please see Matthew or Chris.
- 7. Church Elections:** - Robert Lawrence stood down from PCC. Emmanuel Akintunde and Lucy Gilbert were elected onto the PCC.
- 8. Next PCC meeting:** - The next PCC meeting is on 20th May 2024 at St Patrick's Church.

LICENSED LAY MINISTER'S REPORT 2024

This report covers the period from January to December 2024 which was quite eventful for St Patrick's. In October we said goodbye to Chris, Naomi, Joshua and Samuel Bolster as they moved to their new church in Enfield. It was sad to see them go at the end of five years that had largely been disrupted by the Covid pandemic and all that entailed, and further impacted by Chris sharing his time with, firstly, St Elisabeth's in Becontree and then, secondly, his ecumenical work in Essex and East London.

This of course meant we were placed once again into interregnum and the PCC continue to work through the various processes that have to be gone through to appoint a new Vicar. Our aim is to return to having a Vicar 100% dedicated to St Patrick's and that is what we are working towards.

Most weeks since October I have been able to arrange for a visiting member of clergy to come and lead our Family Communion services, and a big thank you to Archdeacon Chris Burke, Sam Pollard, Liz Brown, Ray Descombes and, of course, Lydia and Tony Hurle for doing that, and for their continued assistance through into 2025. It has been good to hear new voices leading and preaching – and it has also been good to hear new voices of those from the congregation who have come forward in recent months to do Bible readings and lead intercessions, so thank you to you.

As usual, a time of vacancy has meant that a lot of people have had to step up and take on additional responsibilities and as a church we are very grateful to those who have got more involved. With Naomi leaving we had to cover the gap in the leading of our Sunday School, so grateful thanks to Lorraine Allen and Pat Edmund for their continuing service, and also to Linda Needham and Gladys Coleman for joining the team. Also, some new volunteers have come forward and will be added to the team once we have completed the Safer Recruitment process and we are grateful to them.

I took on the role of Parish Safeguarding Officer towards the end of 2024, and grateful thanks to Wendy Boenke who previously held this role. When I took over I was astonished at the sheer scale of the work that being PSO involves, and it has taken a great deal of effort to get our DBS checks and training up to date, so thank you to those who have been involved in making sure our church remains safe.

I extend my thanks to the PCC who have been involved in putting together the Parish Profile which is needed for the recruitment process. Also during a vacancy the PCC tends to meet more regularly so thank you to the members for doing that, and also to Gladys Coleman and Lorraine Allen who we have co-opted on to the PCC during this period. As we look to strengthen our PCC during the interregnum we do have some vacancies to be filled so do please consider if you are able to serve in this capacity.

In 2024 we received our Quinquennial Inspection report regarding the condition of our church building, and this has revealed much maintenance work that needs to be undertaken and which will necessitate fundraising. More on that in other reports. Also the cold winter reiterated that we need to do something about our church heating sooner rather than later.

Last year we forged a link with Community Payback who now come in regularly to work on our church garden and perform some small maintenance jobs in the church. This is something we will look to maximise in the coming year. Thank you to all who came out on the various gardening Saturdays last year to help keep the gardens looking good.

Thank you to the members of the Worship Group who sing at our All-Age services once a month, and also give up their time to do midweek rehearsals. And a big thank you to Gladys Coleman for all she does on our AV, and also to Bernard Williams-Barrow who has stepped up to help with the AV each week.

We had another undisrupted and joyful Christmas period due to favourable weather and health conditions, and it was a particular joy to hear Timmy play the piano at our Nine Lessons and Carols service. Also, it was good to welcome the children from Eastbury Primary School into our church during the lead up to Christmas and to have the opportunity to talk about what Christmas means to us as Christians.

Thanks to everyone on the Prayer Ministry team for their support in 2024. Although prayer requests after a service are not as regular as they once were, whenever the need is there the Prayer teams respond and I know this is much appreciated.

Special thanks to Marion Hull for the sterling work she does on our social and community outreach work (more of which in her report), and also for her work as PCC Secretary.

And the last thank you must go to our Churchwardens Linda Needham and Marion Hull for their tireless efforts and their continued dedicated and valuable service to the life of our church.

Matthew Harding
Licensed Lay Minister

TREASURER'S REPORT

It was a tough year financially for St Patrick's in 2024 as funds reduced overall by just over £8,100. Almost half of this loss was due to costs associated with the Barking Debt Centre as that was wound up, but the other half of the loss was in general funds which is not a sustainable position. Therefore, efforts will be made in the coming year to reduce costs and increase income. Our Parish Share commitment which is money we pay to the Diocese of Chelmsford will decrease by £4,175 in 2025 which will help, and the PCC is in the process of reviewing our Mission Giving this year. Also, the Quinquennial Inspection of our church building which took place in 2024 has identified a number of maintenance issues that need to be addressed and this will require fundraising.

In brighter news, we collected about £2,300 via our contactless card reader in its first full year of use (please note that Gift Aid can still be claimed for contactless donations of £30 or less. Donations via the card reader greater than this amount will require a Gift Aid form to be signed in order for us to claim the tax back. (Please see Matthew or Linda for a form.) Also, Easyfundraising generated over £200 in its first full year of operation which is an easy

way to generate funds for the church via your online shopping – please contact Matthew for details.

Thanks once again to all the people involved making sure our banking and accounting processes run smoothly. Thanks especially to Aileen Arlotte, Pat Durant, Pat Edmund, Catherine Harding, Marion Ledger and Linda Needham.

Thanks also to Peter and Enid Chandler who continue to provide an excellent accounting service to St Patrick's. The audited 2024 accounts are attached and will be presented for approval at the APCM.

And, finally, thanks to all of you who continue to give regularly towards the work of the church, and also those who give to our partners at the Barking Foodbank through Harvest donations etc. Whenever called upon, your generosity is demonstrable and we will have to call upon that generosity again in 2025.

Matthew Harding
Treasurer

ST PATRICK'S CHURCH SECRETARY'S REPORT 2024/2025

As secretary, I ensure that our PCC meetings, held every six weeks, are fully recorded and signed by the Chair. The Chair is usually the Vicar, but since October, Matthew, our Lay Minister, has excellently taken on this role.

I have served as the secretary for over 10 years, and this is the second time St Patrick's has undergone an interregnum during my tenure. We have been in an interregnum since 31st October. My responsibility as the secretary involves ensuring all necessary documentation is correctly submitted to the Bishop and the Diocese's barrister, as well as coordinating with the Archdeacon to initiate the process of selecting a suitable candidate for St Patrick's.

We pray that God's Holy Spirit will guide and direct us during this time so that the right person of God's choosing comes to join the St Patrick's Church Family.

The PCC is responsible for managing and administering the church building and discussing all policies and procedures. PCC members will participate in appointing a new incumbent. At the APCM in May 2025, elections will be held for new PCC members.

Marion Hull
Secretary to St Patrick's Church.

WARDEN'S REPORT

Thank you to everyone who has helped to keep the church looking and running well during the past year, your support is much appreciated. We have also benefitted from the help given in the garden by the Community Pay-Back team.

Legal and statutory checks and inspections have been completed and licences obtained where necessary. The Accounts were audited for 2024 and are being presented for your approval at the APCM.

A Quinquennial Inspection was carried out in May 2024 and the Report confirms that our building is structurally safe and conforms to all legal requirements. The Surveyor's recommendations for action have mostly been made in respect of the roofs and tower. The need for a replacement heating system is well known. Estimates for the costs involved are being sought and a substantial amount of fundraising will be necessary, along with grant applications to Funders. Our priorities are: eradicating pigeons from the Tower, reapplying solar paint to all roofs and seeking advice on the most suitable heating replacement system.

Hire agreements with TACCI and the Barking Photographic Society continue to generate formal income. The Craft and Natter Group, and the Pakistan Prayer Group, continue to run and contribute to church funds.

Marion Hull continues to mastermind social and outreach Events! Please see her separate Report.

Please pray for God's continuing guidance and blessings upon our church life at St Patrick's, especially during this time of Interregnum.

Marion Hull and Linda Needham
Wardens

ELECTORAL ROLL

This is the year when the Electoral Roll is completely re-done. We have 40 forms so far. The deadline for this year's APCM was Sunday 13 April but forms can be submitted at any time.

Catherine Harding
Electoral Roll Officer

AUDIO VISUAL REPORT

The St. Patrick's AV sound desk system is currently functioning well, providing clear audio for events and services. It has three working microphones, ensuring reliable sound coverage. The connected laptop is also performing efficiently, supporting seamless audio management. Additionally, plans are underway to create a backup for the system to enhance reliability and prevent disruptions in the future. I should like to thank William Coleman, Bernard Williams-Barrow and Timmy Coleman for their faithful assistance at the AV desk, your help is much appreciated.

Gladys Coleman
AV Team Leader

SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT

We would like to record our thanks to Naomi Bolster for leading children's ministry during her time at St Patrick's. Following her departure, we were blessed with a number of volunteers willing to continue with this vital work and who have undergone Safeguarding training – namely, Gladys, Anna, Ashi, Pat E, Linda and myself. Others may yet join the team. Throughout the year the number of children regularly attending Sunday School sessions ranged from 3 to 10, aged from 2-9 years old. Leaders often base sessions on scripture which is being read on that day and it always involves some form of craft work appropriate for their ages. Sessions are held twice a month in the Lady Chapel and activity folders are available on all other Sundays. May God continue to equip the leaders and bless our children on their journey of faith.

Lorraine Allen

CRAFT & NATTER GROUP REPORT

Marion and myself took over responsibility for running the Craft and Natter group when Naomi and Chris Bolster moved to Enfield. We thank them for establishing and running the group in those early times. Members meet twice a month in the Hall on Tuesdays, between 1.00pm and 2.30pm. We have 10 people who regularly attend and we always enjoy talking over a hot drink and biscuits. Some members bring crafts such as Knitting, Cross-Stitch and Crystal Art, and others just come to Natter. We had a Christmas Party for members and guests, and that was a great time of fun and fellowship. We would welcome new members joining us, so please spread the word that our group exists! May God continue to bless all who come to our sessions.

Aileen Arlotte and Marion Ledger

ST PATRICK'S SOCIAL EVENTS AND COMMUNITY OUT REACH FOR 2024/2025

Over the past year, we have hosted several remarkable and well-attended events. The success of these events would not have been possible without the dedication and collaboration of everyone in the Church.

Eleanor Shoultz, a community psychologist from Northeast London Foundation Health Trust (NEFLT), and Izzy Wolf from Creative Arts have contacted us to assist St Patrick's in reaching out to the larger community. Additionally, Sarah Robertson at John Smith House was contacted to share and advertise events at John Smith House.

I contacted James, the manager at Eastbury Manor, to collaborate during the Open House Festival in September 2024. This collaboration proved to be highly successful, creating a strong partnership between St Patrick's and Eastbury Manor, making this festival the most outstanding event we have hosted to date. Reaching out to James has provided another valuable opportunity to promote events and services at St Patrick's.

In September, St Patrick's hosted the inaugural GP Drop-In clinic in the Eastbury Ward, facilitated by the doctors from Ripple Road Surgery and supported by the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham (LBBD). Lucy Lee, then affiliated with Thames-Life, provided valuable guidance for the event. The clinic was well received and featured representatives from various organisations who offered insights into well-being, mental health support, and financial assistance.

Here are the highlights of 24/25:

Mother's Day Refreshments – Men were on duty and served with dignity and grace!

St Patrick's Day – Supper and Karaoke was a huge success. Never before have we seen certain members come alive to music!

Easter Egg Hunt – our children found all the hidden eggs! Even the Easter Bunny paid a visit.

Pentecost Service and Family Day in May in the Abbey Grounds. This was a warm and joyous day of coming together with other Christians in the Borough in an open-air setting. The event was organised by a team of people including myself and Rev. Chris Bolster from St Patrick's, Rev. Mark Adams, Cecilia and Carol from St Margarets, Rev. Unesu from Christ Church, Rev. Sam Pollard from the Church at Barking Riverside and Rev. Urbain from St Erkenwald's

The Big Help Out and Big Community Lunch in June – with the support of Roding Rubbish, Litter pickers successfully worked their way from the Flyover to the Church and then enjoyed a scrumptious lunch in Church. Roding Rubbish also won the Community Impact Aware which recognised all their endeavours at keeping our Borough clean.

Bradwell Pilgrimage in early July– our first major outing for some time was made to this historic and holy site. Despite almost hurricane type weather, morning Services were enjoyed, a great lunch was shared – and sun came out in the afternoon for the final Service of the day. Our thanks go to Naomi Bolster for driving the mini-bus, which was provided by the Barking & Dagenham Deanery.

Drop-in Clinic in September was greatly appreciated by residents. Free medical and general advice services were busy and many church members enjoyed a massage.

London Open House in September saw 72 visitors to St Patrick's. We had co-ordinated with Eastbury House in advertising this event and it was good to see the church so busy. The 13th Barking Scouts troop participated, along with the Photographic Society, the Historical Society, Thames Life and Thames 21 and other community groups.

Farewell Lunch in October – a fond farewell and expressions of thanks were said to the Bolster Family after being with us for five years.

I am looking forward to promoting other events. Especially fund raising events to help with the massive task of raising money to do essential repairs to the Church.

Marion Hull
Events Organiser

RESCUE AND CARE IN GHANA

In May 2024 the team visited the prison and had fellowship and lunch with the inmates and staff. In Ghana the budget to inmates is less than £1 per prisoner per day reason the prisons community depends on agencies and farming tendered by inmates to provide meals for them.

With the help of SPB we donated 10 student mattress, standard first aid medication and 250 packs of breakfast for inmates and staff in October 2024. Also, Lorraine Allen donated clothing which was then donated to Central Female Prisons in December 2024.

We are in collaboration with The Ashanti Region Prison Ministries to champion Prison Associates (PA's) resettlement programme. The Church of Pentecost has now recognised the challenge of offenders journey that without proper resettlement programme most prison associates re-offend.

Rescue and care has receive invitations from Manyhia and Akuse Female Prisons following the work we are doing with our adopted Ahinsan Prisons.

We visited both Manyhia, Central Prisons in Kumasi and Akuse Female Prisons in Somanya districts in December 2024 and February 2025.

In 2024 we planned to developed our website with a goal to launch the website in October 2024 but the developer disappointed us without completing the project. By God's grace we managed to get refund.

We made application for permit for Rescue and Care Team which was so frustrating and discouraging are some of the challenges we came across last year.

We are exploring to find a new web developer to create the website this year and focus more on the resettlement programme in collaboration with the church of Pentecost.

Akuse Female prisons are looking for sponsors for individual inmates and the chaplain has a passion for the prison work.

There was work with agencies to campaign for extension of probation service for adult prison associates. Currently social services facilitate this for young offenders.

We currently have 2 prison associates. 1 accepted Christ and is baptised into his local Pentecost Assembly. The other one we have lost contact but the team is trying to reach out to him.

Please do pray for strength and guidance to help Rescue and Care navigate the best path ways.

Monica Kessie

Women of Purpose

(Equipping Women for Good Works)

Independent examiner's report to the PCC of Barking St Patrick

I report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are attached.

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an Independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- Follow procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiners 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 a full audit, and consequently I do not express an opinion on the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
 - to prepare accounts, which accord with these accounting records 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.

Daniel Keech
38 Shepard Close
Leigh on Sea
SS9 5YR



13/2/25

Barking St Patrick Charity No - 1201642

**Statement of Assets and Liabilities (by fund)
As at: 31 December 2024**

		Balance	Previous balance
Cash at bank and in hand			
6501: Barclays 207289 80052221 - Asset			
General fund	Unrestricted	9,782.08	13,804.52
Family support	Restricted	—	469.17
Gardening Fund	Restricted	712.97	663.60
Heating Replacement Fund	Restricted	2,000.00	2,000.00
		<u>12,495.05</u>	<u>16,937.29</u>
6505: Barclays BP 207289 60833657 - Asset			
General fund	Unrestricted	10,513.54	10,151.14
Hall deposit	Restricted	500.00	500.00
		<u>11,013.54</u>	<u>10,651.14</u>
6506: Barclays BDAC 202519 2057619 - Asset			
Barking Debt Advice Centre Project Fund	Restricted	21.91	4,033.55
		<u>21.91</u>	<u>4,033.55</u>
6590: Petty cash - Asset			
General fund	Unrestricted	8.16	52.92
		<u>8.16</u>	<u>52.92</u>
	Cash at bank and in hand	<u>23,538.66</u>	<u>31,674.90</u>
	Grand Total	<u><u>23,538.66</u></u>	<u><u>31,674.90</u></u>



13/2/25

Barking St Patrick Charity No - 1201642

Receipts and Payments Account

For the period from 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Receipts						
Donations and legacies	23,009	—	180	—	23,189	38,619
Income from charitable activities	12,809	—	—	—	12,809	11,210
Other trading activities	234	—	—	—	234	—
Investments	162	—	21	—	184	167
Other income	—	—	—	—	—	2,950
Total receipts	36,216	—	201	—	36,418	52,947
Payments						
Raising funds	261	—	—	—	261	267
Expenditure on charitable activities	39,928	—	4,364	—	44,292	46,310
Total payments	40,190	—	4,364	—	44,554	46,577
Excess of receipts over payments before transfer	(3,973)	—	(4,162)	—	(8,136)	6,369
Transfers						
Gross transfers between funds - in	469	—	200	—	669	4,951
Gross transfers between funds - out	(200)	—	(469)	—	(669)	(4,951)
Excess of receipts over payments before other gains	(3,704)	—	(4,431)	—	(8,136)	6,369
Net movement in funds	(3,704)	—	(4,431)	—	(8,136)	6,369
Reconciliation of funds						
All assets at 01 January 2024	24,008	—	7,666	—	31,674	25,305
All assets at 31 December 2024	20,303	—	3,234	—	23,538	31,674
Represented by						
Unrestricted						
General fund	20,303	—	—	—	20,303	24,008
Restricted						
Barking Debt Advice Centre Project Fund	—	—	21	—	21	4,033
Family support	—	—	—	—	—	469
Gardening Fund	—	—	712	—	712	663
Hall deposit	—	—	500	—	500	500
Heating Replacement Fund	—	—	2,000	—	2,000	2,000

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

[Handwritten Signature]

13/2/25

Independent examiner's report to the PCC of Barking St Patrick

I report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are attached.

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an Independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- Follow procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiners 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 a full audit, and consequently I do not express an opinion on the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
 - to prepare accounts, which accord with these accounting records 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.

Daniel Keech
38 Shepard Close
Leigh on Sea
SS9 5YR



13/2/25

Barking St Patrick Charity No - 1201642

**Statement of Assets and Liabilities (by fund)
As at: 31 December 2024**

		Balance	Previous balance
Cash at bank and in hand			
6501: Barclays 207289 80052221 - Asset			
General fund	Unrestricted	9,782.08	13,804.52
Family support	Restricted	—	469.17
Gardening Fund	Restricted	712.97	663.60
Heating Replacement Fund	Restricted	2,000.00	2,000.00
		<u>12,495.05</u>	<u>16,937.29</u>
6505: Barclays BP 207289 60833657 - Asset			
General fund	Unrestricted	10,513.54	10,151.14
Hall deposit	Restricted	500.00	500.00
		<u>11,013.54</u>	<u>10,651.14</u>
6506: Barclays BDAC 202519 2057619 - Asset			
Barking Debt Advice Centre Project Fund	Restricted	21.91	4,033.55
		<u>21.91</u>	<u>4,033.55</u>
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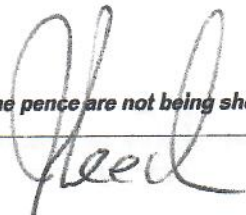
Barking St Patrick Charity No - 1201642

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Represented by						
Unrestricted						
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Restricted						
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Gardening Fund	—	—	712	—	712	663
Hall deposit	—	—	500	—	500	500
Heating Replacement Fund	—	—	2,000	—	2,000	2,000

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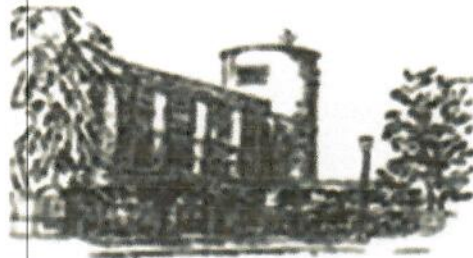
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ST PATRICK'S CHURCH BARKING

England & Wales - Charity number 1201642

Accounts

The Parish of St Patrick's Barking



**Annual Report
For 2023**

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting
12th May 2024
After the Sunday Service**

**St Patrick's Barking
Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

**Sunday 12th May 2024
After the Sunday Service**

Opening Prayer

Apologies for Absence

Minutes of the last APCM on Wednesday 24th May 2023

Matters arising from those Minutes

Presentation of the Annual Audited Accounts

- Questions on the Accounts
- Acceptance of the Accounts
- Appointment of External Auditor

Church Council Elections

- PCC Representatives

Questions for Clarification on Annual Reports

Any Other Business

Closing Prayer

St Patrick's Church Barking
Annual Parochial Church Meeting
24th May 2023 held at St Patrick's Church

Minutes

Present

Rev. Chris Bolster (Chair), Marion Hull (Secretary), Matthew Harding (Lay Minister) Catherine Harding, Pat Durant, Pat Edmunds, Linda Needham, Robert Lawrence, Marion Ledger, Wendy Boenke, Ben Boenke, Amos Ginanasingh. Tricia Wilkins

Opening Prayer

Rev. Chris Bolster opened the meeting in prayer

Apologies

Aileen Arlott, Naomi Bolster and Lorraine Allen

Minutes of last APCM on Sunday 25th May 2022

The minutes was deemed correct. Proposed by Matthew Harding and seconded by Wendy Boenke that they are accepted as a correct record of the meeting.

Matters Arising from those Minutes

There were none

Presentation of the Annual Audited Accounts.

- Questions on the Accounts - no questions
- Acceptance of the Accounts - Proposed by Tricia Wilkins and seconded by Robert Lawrence
- Appointment of External Auditor - Daniel Keech proposed to continue as External Auditor. - Proposed by Matthew Harding and seconded by Pat Durant.

Church Council Elections

- Deanery Synod Representatives - Marion Hull and Matthew Harding proposed by Amos Ginanasingh and Catherine Harding.
- PCC representatives - Amos Ginanasingh - proposed by Linda Needham and seconded by Tricia Wilkins

The next PCC meeting is on 12th June, 7:30pm at St Patrick's Church.

Questions for Clarification of Reports

There were not any questions about the reports

Any Other Business.

Marion Ledger informed Matthew about an easy way to raise funds for the church called easyfundraising. If we can up to this we will be able to raise funds for church through doing online shopping. Matthew Harding said that he would look to get us set up.

Everyone was in favour.

Closing Prayer

Matthew Harding closed the meeting in prayer.

Vicar's Report for 2023

This report covers the period from January to December 2023. 2023 was another busy year in the life of St Patrick's with lots happening within church life and the wider community.

It was with great sadness that in February we heard of the sad news concerning the death of the Revd Maro Lopes. This was both sudden and unexpected. It was lovely that so many from St Patrick's were able to attend his funeral in March. In March we also said goodbye to Paul Wheaton who died after not being well for some time. It was good that St Patrick's was full for his funeral, with many people that knew him.

During Lent we had 'Worship Wednesdays' at St Patrick's. This then continued once a month right through to the summer. Grateful thanks to Wendy Boenke who prepared all the music and to those who helped to lead each evening. Thank you to everyone who sponsored me. Our services for Holy Week and Easter all went well.

In May we gathered together for nine days from Ascension to Pentecost to take part in Thy Kingdom Come which is a National Prayer Initiative. We met in the morning to reflect and pray together.

I continue to have links with our two local schools and have hosted a number of school visits. Children always enjoy visiting the church and learning about Christianity.

Early in the year I was asked to be on the Executive Committee of the 8th Barking Scout Group where both our sons attend. We hosted two meetings at St Patrick's where I led the Beavers through their Faith Badge.

Sunday Services continue to go well. In September we returned to receiving communion at the High Altar for the first time since the start of the pandemic. It was deemed much safer to do so. During the summer and autumn we worked our way through the book of Acts which people seemed to enjoy. Thank you to Matthew Harding for sharing in the ministry of leading and preaching, and for overseeing prayer ministry and the music group. Thank you also to those who lead intercessions and read from the bible. Thank you to Gladys Coleman who prepares all the music and liturgy week by week.

Community engagement continues to be strong. In March we had a special St Patrick's Day Presentation and Supper with lots of interesting history. In May we celebrated the Coronation of King Charles with a special lunch. In September St Patrick's took part in Open House with a steady footfall throughout the day. Grateful thanks to Marion Hull for her organizing of these events, along with all those who helped. The Craft & Natter Group continues to go well. On a personal level, I continue to take an active part at the Barking Photographic Society which I very much see as an important part of my ministry. I also continue to attend the Eastbury Ward Panel Meetings.

In June I finished as Priest in Charge of St Elisabeth's in Becontree and started work as the County Ecumenical Officer for Churches Together in Essex and East London. It was great to be able to return to a 10am service. I have enjoyed not having to rush off and be around to chat to people over refreshments. I currently work 4 days for the parish and 2 for CTEEL.

In September we started work on the Ladies Toilets. The floor had to be removed and replaced due to leaking cisterns which also needed to be replaced. The whole cost was covered under our buildings insurance, and Matthew Harding was able to reclaim the VAT back too.

Thank you to Naomi Bolster for faithfully leading our Sunday School, and to Pat Edmunds and Lorraine Allen for helping. A register is kept for safeguarding purposes.

There is nothing to report on the Safeguarding and continued to thanks to Wendy Boenke for all that she does in this area.

In January we got registered with the Charity Commission which means that we now have a Charity Number. After a successful grant application, the Barking Debt Advice Centre received £9000. Unfortunately, we had to suspend the Debt Advice Centre in September due to Wendy Boenke going in the back surgery. Since then we had to take the painful decision to close it permanently due to lack of grant funding going forward. Grateful thanks to both Catherine Harding and Wendy Boenke for all that they have done since the start of this project in 2017.

Our Christmas Services went well. It was also great to gather in unity from Barking Churches at the United Carol Service at the Jo Richardson School. The year ended with my personal Walk for Home to raise money for Shelter.

Thank you to all who continue to make our church garden and grounds look nice and thank you to those who help out at the Saturday garden mornings.

Thank you to Matthew Harding, Pat Durrant and to all those who count our collection, and for all that they do with regards to taking care of our finances. We are also very grateful to Peter and Enid Chandler from the Parish Accounts Service for looking after our Accounts. Thank you to Robert Lawrence for looking after our rent from the Ghanian Church.

We now have an electronic giving device which people are using more of. Many people have now signed up to easyfundraising which is proving a good way of raising extra funds.

Thank you to Linda Needham and Marion Hull, for serving our church and parish as wardens. I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their continued service within the life of the church. Your service is very much appreciated. Please consider ways in which you can help particularly by joining the PCC of which there are vacancies.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their financial giving in 2023. The running costs of our parish increase year on year. It is incumbent upon everybody to give generously to the church and to increase their giving on annual basis where possible.

Our giving is supplemented from the Ghanian Church, Rent, the Barking Photographic Society and the Pakistani Fellowship.

With every blessing

Chris Bolster
Vicar of St Patrick's Church

Licensed Lay Minister's Report 2023

Last year seems such a long time ago now but a lot happened in 2023 that sticks in the memory.

Starting with the end of the year first, it was good to have an undisrupted Christmas season compared to the previous year as weather and health were kinder, and The Longest Night service on December 21st was particularly moving when we remembered those who would not be joining us for our Christmas celebrations.

Earlier in the year I was fortunate to go to Israel on a pilgrimage in February which was the fulfilment of a long-held ambition. This has given me a lot of inspiration for sermons (apologies to those who do not share my enthusiasm!). It is so sad to see the current situation in the Holy Land and I know as a church we continue to pray for peace in that troubled region.

The coronation of King Charles III in May also stands out, which we celebrated with a volunteer litter-pick and a Big Lunch. Thanks to Marion Hull for organising such a successful event, and our other now regular social events. Open House for example last September was a great success.

The Worship group continues to sing at our All-Age services once a month. Thanks to all members of the group for their dedication and enthusiasm and making our rehearsals so enjoyable. We have a new method whereby each member picks a song for the upcoming service and that seems to be working well. Thanks especially to Wendy and Gladys who operated the AV desk at our practices last year – it makes a big difference and thanks to them both for their time. And of course thanks to all who have manned the AV system over the past 12 months at our services.

Thanks to everyone on the Prayer Ministry team for their support in 2023. Although prayer requests after a service are not as regular as they once were (which might be a good thing!), whenever the need is there the Prayer teams respond and I know this is much appreciated.

Catherine and I spent a lot of time tending to the church garden in 2023, and during the summer months struggled with the dry conditions. Thanks to the people who turn out on gardening Saturdays for their assistance – the garden does look good and is often remarked upon. Part of our gardening duties includes picking up the litter from the church and surrounding area. For years our neighbours have studiously avoided eye contact when they see us out litter picking, but in recent weeks we have even received a few encouraging smiles!

Thanks as always to all of you for your continued support of my work as an LLM. The little words of encouragement I regularly receive are more encouraging than you could possibly know.

Matthew Harding – Licensed Lay Minister

Treasurer's Report 2023

The good news was that the finances of St Patrick's in 2023 were in a healthy position with a surplus on the general fund in the year of just over £8,000.

This was driven by a reduced Parish Share at around £10,000 which we paid in full, and increased income at just under £40,000. This enabled us to maintain our Mission Giving at around £4,000 for the year. Based on 2023 income the PCC made the decision to Tithe 10% of our income to Barking Foodbank (£1,350), the Bishop of Chelmsford's appeal for the Diocese of Jerusalem's healthcare ministry (£1,000), Rescue and Care Ghana (£500) and ongoing support for Compassion children's charity (supporting three children in Bangladesh, Ghana, and Nicaragua).

However the current year of 2024 looks as though it will be more challenging as Parish Share has increased to around £17,000 and pressure continues regarding increased utility bills.

We continue to explore new ways of raising funds for St Patrick's. In April 2023 we purchased a contactless card reader and collected just under £800 at our services via this method in the remaining part of the year. Please note that Gift Aid can still be claimed for contactless donations of £30 or less. Donations via the card reader greater than this amount will require a Gift Aid form to be signed in order for us to claim the tax back.

In addition we launched Easyfundraising which helps St Patrick's raise funds when members do online shopping. With one extra click St Patrick's can receive additional donations from the online vendors. We have had 18 members sign up with Easyfundraising but only 8 members have actively used it, so there is a little way to go. However those 8 active members have managed to generate donations of over £200 for our church so far which puts us in the top 20% for our size category. If you are interested in participating then please let me know.

Looking ahead, one negative development is that the Barclays branch in Barking will be closing down in May 2024. We currently pay-in cash and cheques at this branch and so will need to do this at the Post Office in future, which will not be as convenient due to the numerous rules the Post Office impose on banking services.

Now it must be said that we will accept any money you wish to give to the church in any form! But it would make life a little easier if more people switched to giving money to the church via standing order, or via our contactless card reader on Sundays, if at all possible. Also if anyone would like to register for Gift Aid Joyce Williams-Barrow can give details on how to maximize your giving.

Also looking ahead, the PCC have decided to close our Family Support Fund and transfer the remaining funds to the general account which will happen in 2024.

As usual we must pass our thanks on to the dedicated Counting/Banking team of Pat Durant, Marion Ledger, Catherine Harding, Aileen Arlotte, Linda Needham and Pat Edwards. Being Treasurer at St Patrick's is really a team effort and many thanks to the team for all they do. And additional thanks to Linda for making sure everything runs smoothly.

Thanks also to Peter and Enid Chandler who continue to provide an excellent accounting service to St Patrick's. As usual our annual accounts sailed through the audit process thanks to their hard work. Full accounts for 2023 are available to any member on the Electoral Roll, please let me know if you wish to have a copy. The accounts will be presented for approval at the APCM.

And finally thanks to all of you who continue to give regularly and generously towards the work of the church. Also, whenever we hold a special appeal for the Children's Society or the Barking Foodbank (or whomever it may be) I am always staggered by the generosity you show.

**With grateful thanks.
Matthew Harding – Treasurer**

WARDENS' REPORT 2023

Another year has passed by in the life of St Patrick's. Thank you to **everyone** for their support during 2023 and for helping to keep our church looking good inside and out. The preachers, PCC members, gardeners, cleaners, brass polishers, tea-makers, Counters, audio-visual operators, litter-pickers, Sunday service helpers – our Team spirit continues to thrive!

Statutory checks were carried out on electrics and boilers during the year; Music Licenses were renewed; Insurance premiums were paid; annual submissions were made to the Diocese; formal records were inspected and adhered to regulations; and the Accounts were audited.

The fabric of our church building remains in reasonable order but attention is planned to remedy faulty brickwork at the Hall doorway Porch area and the approaching paving stones. A Quinquennial inspection will take place in May 2024 when every aspect of the building's structure will be examined. Remedial action will be taken where necessary and may prove to be expensive. The inefficient heating system remains a priority for replacement.

Hire agreements continue with TACCI and the Barking Photographic Society, and this brings in much-needed revenue. We should not forget, though, that hirings present wear and tear on our facilities. We are pleased that the Craft and Natter group, and the Pakistan Prayer Group, continue to use the Hall and both groups make donations towards our costs. Continuing thanks to Robert Lawrence for his faithful overseeing of lettings.

Thank you to Marion Ledger for doing various floral arrangements throughout the year and for organizing the Mother's Day tributes. Marion's arrangements always help to enhance the ambiance of the church building.

The Local Authority continue to refuse to sell us Parking Permits - claiming we are a 'business' - so should anyone have influence with Councilors please make the case for our obtaining Visitor Permits. We currently have a supply through a local resident but this situation would severely inhibit a new regular letting.

Marion Hull continues to mastermind Events! Please see her separate Report.

Your Wardens remain dedicated in their efforts to ensure the Church is run well and in accordance with all legal requirements. Please pray for God's continuing guidance and blessings upon our life at St Patrick's.

**Marion Hull and Linda Needham
Wardens**

Electoral Roll Report

There are 51 names currently on roll, with several being added over the course of the last year. Please ask for a form if you are not already on the roll but would like to be.

Catherine Harding

Children's Ministry Report

The children's group at St Patrick's has continued to meet every Sunday this year, except for All-age services or during school holidays. The number of children on the register has gradually increased this year and there are now 14 children on the register, 13 of whom have attended the group at least twice and a number of children who attend at least once a month. We have 5 children who are guaranteed to attend weekly.

We have continued to work our way through the Bible systematically, telling the main stories of the Bible using versions of the Bible that have been written in child-friendly language. I occasionally use my 'out of the box' story box allowing those listening to *wonder* at the stories of the Bible in a more general way. Children explore and wonder more about the Bible stories through related crafts and other activities. We have occasionally paused in the programme to focus on the Church seasons, e.g. Christmas, Lent and Easter.

I lead the group most weeks with Chris stepping in occasionally to lead the group.

We continue to be very grateful for the volunteer helpers who enable the group to keep running; for their enthusiasm and support.

Naomi Bolster

Craft and Natter Group

The Craft and Natter group has continued to meet twice a month on a Tuesday afternoon, usually between 1-2.30pm. There are 10 regular attendees, of whom 7 are members of St Patrick's.

We have met in the back section of the Church to chat, have refreshments (tea, coffee, cakes, biscuits and savoury snacks) and those who choose to bring a craft of their choosing to do while they are at the group. We have those who knit, crochet, create diamond cards and do other paper crafts.

We met for a social party at the end of the summer and autumn terms.

A voluntary contribution is made each week by those who attend. Some of this money has paid for the refreshments and the remainder has been given to the general running costs of St Patrick's Church.

Naomi Bolster

St Patrick's Church Social Events 2023-2024.

There have been several social events during 2023-24, which have seen the doors of St Patrick's opened up to the Community.

8th May was the King's Coronation. We got the bunting out again and decorated the Church to mark the event. The theme from King Charles was 'helping out'. St Patrick's Church congregation rallied to the call. Teaming up with Roding Rubbish there was a community litter pick starting from the Ripple Road flyover, over the rail way and finishing at St Patrick's Church. Joining in the community litter pick was Cllr Alison Cormack, Cllr Jack Shaw and Cllr Kashif Haroon, also the 13th Barking Scout Troop. We collected over 50 bags of rubbish and various other items such as mattresses, shopping trolleys etc. After the litter pick, we returned to St Patrick's for the Community Big Coronation Lunch. The Church was filled up with people from the whole community. There were loads of goodies brought in by the Church family for the bring-n-share lunch. It was a lovely time of fellowship and friendship.

In July we hosted Deanery Synod, thank you to everyone who helped with refreshments.

Open House in September was another opportunity to reach out to the Community and beyond. There were representatives from various community groups. Including, Roding Rubbish, Kevin from Ripple Nature Reserve and Footpath 47, John Blake and Colin Green from the Barking Historical Society, Barking Photographic Society, Talking Therapies, Matt Scott from Thames-Life, Dawn who supports people with grief counselling and representatives from the Safer Neighbourhood Ward police team. There was a slow and steady flow of visitors. Some stayed to enjoy St Patrick's Church hospitality. Open House 2024 is on 21st September and this time there will be collaboration with Eastbury Manor House.

In December there was the Barking & Dagenham Churches together Christmas Carol Service.

St Patrick's Day March 2024, we had the first Gospel Karaoke and supper. It was well supported and everyone enjoyed finding and singing those modern pop songs which had that hidden spiritual meaning. The event was so much fun and popular that another event is planned in October as Harvest Supper, Gospel Karaoke. The date is yet to be confirmed.

Also in March St Patrick's congregation was invited by Christ Church to a pancake party. It was a lovely time of fellowship.

Other events in the pipeline are the, Barking Churches Pentecost Service on 19th May, Big Help Out and Big Community Lunch with Roding Rubbish on Saturday 8th June, Deanery Synod 25th June and the first St Patrick's Church outing in a very long time to Bradwell-on-Sea Saturday 6th July.

During the year St Patrick's also hosts the Eastbury Ward Safer Neighbourhood meetings, which occur at 10 weekly intervals.

None of these events would be made possible without the support and help of everyone, who helps out with the preparations and the clearing up afterwards. Thank you all very much.

Marion Hull
Church Warden
St Patrick's Secretary
Social Secretary

Independent examiner's report to the PCC of Barking St Patrick

I report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are attached.

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an Independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- Follow procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

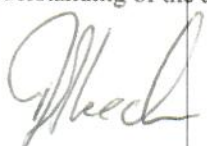
Basis of Independent Examiners Statement.

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 a full audit, and consequently I do not express an opinion on the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
 - to prepare accounts, which accord with these accounting records 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.


Daniel Keech
38 Shepard Close
Leigh on Sea
SS9 5YR

15/2/24

Barking St Patrick Charity No - 1201642
Statement of Financial Activities - summary
For the period from 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Total income	39,977.90	—	12,969.35	—	52,947.25	37,566.24
Total expenditure	31,854.48	—	14,723.04	—	46,577.52	34,067.62
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	8,123.42	—	(1,753.69)	—	6,369.73	3,598.62
Gross transfers between funds - in	1,099.51	—	3,851.53	—	4,951.04	6,484.30
Gross transfers between funds - out	(3,851.53)	—	(1,099.51)	—	(4,951.04)	(6,484.30)
Net movement in funds	5,371.40	—	998.33	—	6,369.73	3,598.62
Total funds brought forward	18,637.18	—	6,667.99	—	25,305.17	21,706.55
Total funds carried forward	24,008.58	—	7,666.32	—	31,674.90	25,305.17
Unrestricted						
General fund	24,008.58	—	—	—	24,008.58	18,637.18
Restricted						
Barking Debt Advice Centre Project Fund	—	—	4,033.55	—	4,033.55	3,710.39
Family support	—	—	469.17	—	469.17	(436.08)
Gardening Fund	—	—	663.60	—	663.60	893.68
Hall deposit	—	—	500.00	—	500.00	500.00
Heating Replacement Fund	—	—	2,000.00	—	2,000.00	2,000.00

Barking St Patrick Charity No - 1201642
Statement of Assets and Liabilities (by fund)
As at: 31 December 2023

		Balance	Previous balance
Cash at bank and in hand			
6501: Barclays 207289 80052221 - Asset			
General fund	Unrestricted	13,804.52	8,499.08
Barking Debt Advice Centre Project Fund	Restricted	—	(1,480.29)
Family support	Restricted	469.17	(436.08)
Gardening Fund	Restricted	663.60	893.68
Heating Replacement Fund	Restricted	2,000.00	2,000.00
		16,937.29	9,476.39
6505: Barclays BP 207289 60833657 - Asset			
General fund	Unrestricted	10,151.14	10,050.70
Hall deposit	Restricted	500.00	500.00
		10,651.14	10,550.70
6506: Barclays BDAC 202519 2057619 - Asset			
Barking Debt Advice Centre Project Fund	Restricted	4,033.55	5,190.68
		4,033.55	5,190.68
6590: Petty cash - Asset			
General fund	Unrestricted	52.92	87.40
		52.92	87.40
Cash at bank and in hand		31,674.90	25,305.17
Grand Total		31,674.90	25,305.17

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Barking St Patrick Charity No - 1201642
Receipts and payments
Selected period: 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

<i>Note</i>	From To	01 January 2023 31 December 2023	01 January 2022 31 December 2022
General - General fund (Unrestricted) Fund			
Income and endowments			
Donations and legacies			
Gift Aid - Bank		10,000.00	9,170.00
Charities Trust		—	1,750.00
CAF		—	100.00
Gift Aid - Envelopes		3,475.66	3,403.50
Other planned giving - small donations		3,874.78	4,319.38
Loose plate collections - GASDS		970.88	528.13
Sumup offertory		769.00	—
Regular gift days		—	410.05
Donations appeals etc		830.58	940.58
Tax recoverable on Gift Aid		3,230.92	3,162.13
GASDS - Govt Top Up		1,404.64	1,342.28
Non-recurring one-off grants		1,140.00	—
Other funds generated		21.00	—
	<i>Total Donations and legacies</i>	<u>25,717.46</u>	<u>25,126.05</u>
Income from charitable activities			
Fees for weddings and funerals		345.00	831.00
Hall Letting Fees		10,865.00	10,995.00
	<i>Total Income from charitable activities</i>	<u>11,210.00</u>	<u>11,826.00</u>
Investments			
Bank and building society interest		100.44	10.08
	<i>Total Investments</i>	<u>100.44</u>	<u>10.08</u>
Other income			
Insurance claims		2,950.00	—
	<i>Total Other income</i>	<u>2,950.00</u>	<u>—</u>
Total income and endowments		39,977.90	36,962.13
Expenditure			
Raising funds			
Costs of stewardship campaign		—	131.97
Costs of fetes & other events		267.32	463.36
	<i>Total Raising funds</i>	<u>267.32</u>	<u>595.33</u>
Expenditure on charitable activities			
Charitable Giving		3,950.00	1,187.00
Home Mission		100.00	100.00
Parish share		10,062.36	12,773.00
Working expenses of incumbent		—	344.90
Parish training and mission		20.21	33.89
Church running - insurance		1,857.12	1,737.22
Church office - telephone		676.62	—
Church maintenance		3,875.14	1,892.14
Cleaning		2,240.00	2,280.00
Cleaning materials		40.00	—
Upkeep of services		1,001.22	541.14
Administration		1,016.90	476.36
Sumup charges		9.53	—
Sundry expenses		38.37	—
Church running - electric		2,233.37	1,220.34

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Note	From To	01 January 2023 31 December 2023	01 January 2022 31 December 2022	
		Church running - gas	3,919.47	1,528.26
		Church running - water	446.85	87.48
		Governance costs examination/audit fee	100.00	100.00
		<i>Total Expenditure on charitable activities</i>	<u>31,587.16</u>	<u>24,307.73</u>
		Total expenditure	31,854.48	24,897.06
		Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure	8,123.42	12,065.07
		Brought forward balance	18,637.18	9,988.97
		Transfers to/(from)	(2,752.02)	(3,416.86)
		Total carried forward balance	24,008.58	18,637.18

BDAC - Barking Debt Advice Centre Project Fund (Restricted) Fund

Income and endowments

Donations and legacies

Donations - Barking Debt Advice Centre

370.20

—

Non-recurring one-off grants

12,000.00

—

Total Donations and legacies

12,370.20

—

Investments

Bank and building society interest

66.98

5.61

Total Investments

66.98

5.61

Total income and endowments

12,437.18

5.61

Expenditure

Expenditure on charitable activities

Salary of BDAC administrator

10,065.08

5,261.34

Working expenses of incumbent

1,416.30

710.58

BDAC Travel Expenses

—

192.60

Education

—

165.00

Parish training and mission

—

65.00

Church office - telephone

—

575.23

Administration

2,386.58

1,160.81

Total Expenditure on charitable activities

13,867.96

8,130.56

Total expenditure

13,867.96

8,130.56

Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure

(1,430.78)

(8,124.95)

Brought forward balance

3,710.39

7,998.48

Transfers to/(from)

1,753.94

3,836.86

Total carried forward balance

4,033.55


3,710.39

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<i>Note</i>	From To	01 January 2023 31 December 2023	01 January 2022 31 December 2022
FamilySppt - Family support (Restricted) Fund			
Income and endowments			
Donations and legacies			
Donations - Family Support Fund		387.17	596.50
	<i>Total Donations and legacies</i>	<u>387.17</u>	<u>596.50</u>
Total income and endowments		387.17	596.50
Expenditure			
Expenditure on charitable activities			
Family Support Fund		480.00	1,040.00
	<i>Total Expenditure on charitable activities</i>	<u>480.00</u>	<u>1,040.00</u>
Total expenditure		480.00	1,040.00
Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		(92.83)	(443.50)
Brought forward balance		(436.08)	7.42
Transfers to/(from)		998.08	—
Total carried forward balance		469.17	(436.08)
Gardening - Gardening Fund (Restricted) Fund			
Income and endowments			
Donations and legacies			
Donations - Gardening Fund		145.00	102.00
	<i>Total Donations and legacies</i>	<u>145.00</u>	<u>102.00</u>
Total income and endowments		145.00	102.00
Expenditure			
Expenditure on charitable activities			
Upkeep of church garden		375.08	—
	<i>Total Expenditure on charitable activities</i>	<u>375.08</u>	<u>—</u>
Total expenditure		375.08	—
Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		(230.08)	102.00
Brought forward balance		893.68	791.68
Total carried forward balance		663.60	893.68

Note	From To	01 January 2023 31 December 2023	01 January 2022 31 December 2022
Ghana - Ghana Tithe (Restricted) Fund			
		—	420.00
		—	(420.00)
		<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
HallDepos - Hall deposit (Restricted) Fund			
		500.00	500.00
		<u>500.00</u>	<u>500.00</u>
Heating - Heating Replacement Fund (Restricted) Fund			
		2,000.00	2,000.00
		<u>2,000.00</u>	<u>2,000.00</u>


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