

PCC Annual Report 2024

The Parish of St. George's Chesterton



This is the annual report of the St. George's Chesterton Parochial Church Council (PCC), covering activities during 2024 at St. George's Church and Hope Church. This report allows us to hear and celebrate what God has been doing among us. It is also a formal requirement where the PCC members, as charity trustees, set out what has been achieved for church members and for the community, and how we use money and buildings.

Aim and Purposes

As a Church of England PCC our aim is to cooperate with the vicar, Andy Atkins, in promoting the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of St. George's Church building, the church hall and the house at 39 St. Kilda Avenue.

Public Benefit Statement

The PCC have had due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

The mission of the Church includes sharing the gospel, discipling people for growth, serving people in need and fostering community in our local area - we want to be people who are eager to do what is good (Titus 2:14). We work to make our services, events and groups accessible and welcoming to as many people as possible. Our activities during 2024 and their outcomes are outlined in the next sections of this report.

Worship and Prayer

Church Services

Weekly communion services with children's church were held on Sundays at St. George's at 10am, with around 30 people attending. Special services were held on Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday, the night of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Morning prayer was said on Wednesdays at 8am. St. George's started bring-and-share lunches and held three during 2024, with services at 11am those weeks and the congregation enjoying food and fellowship together afterwards over lunch.

Hope Church met on Sundays at Shirley Primary School, from 11am for brunch before an 11:30am all-age service, with creche for pre-schoolers when needed. An average of 64 people attended, including around 25 under-16s. The themes during 2024 were 'The Jesus Way', 1 Corinthians, Friendship, and Deuteronomy: Learning to be the People of God.

Once a month the service included communion, and once a month there was a bring-and-share lunch after the service. Arbury Community Church joined us for an Easter Sunday service.

In October the first 'Something Bigger' youth service was hosted at St. George's church, where local church youth groups and their friends came together for worship and games, with around 30 young people. On 1st December the young people at Hope Church prepared and led the Hope Church Sunday service, including the music, talks and prayers.

Small Groups and Prayer Meetings

St. George's cell group met on Monday mornings to look together at the Bible passage from the Sunday service. People in the group continue to be encouraged by growing confidence in reading and discussing together.

Three Hope Church home groups met on weekday evenings, one morning group met on Thursday mornings, and discipleship groups for young people met on Sunday evenings. The home groups follow a rhythm of Bible study, small group discipleship, and monthly meals together.

Every six weeks or so one of the Hope Church home groups led Prayer Central, praying for each other, upcoming church events, the local community and global mission. Most Sundays before the service people gathered to pray for these themes and for the service.

Mission, Evangelism and Pastoral Care

Alongside encouraging members to work and witness in all areas of the parish, St. George's Church and Hope Church have engaged in mission, evangelism and pastoral care in the following ways.

Baptisms, Confirmations and Marriages

During 2024 one young person was baptised at Hope Church, and one baby was baptised at St. George's. One young person was confirmed at St. George's and three young people were confirmed at Hope Church, with Bishop Graham Kings leading both confirmation services.

Two weddings were held at St. George's Church for people from Hope Church: Cheryl and Krystian in February, and Nikki and Darren in September. In August Mark and Joanna's wedding anniversary was celebrated by a special service and renewal of marriage vows in St. George's Church. The church building and vicarage garden were beautifully decorated venues for these events. In January Tim and Chootin's golden wedding anniversary was celebrated in a Hope Church service, where they and their family spoke about God's blessings over the years.

Alpha Courses

Two Alpha courses were run on Sunday evenings in 2024, for people to meet each week, share a meal together and explore faith in Jesus.

Songs of Praise

In April, St. George's Church hosted a Songs of Praise event where various people chose a hymn for the congregation to sing, and shared about what the hymn meant to them personally. This event was appreciated by church members, and by local people who don't normally come to church.

Children's Work

Children's church continued at St. George's, with around seven children each Sunday exploring a story creatively together, then joining the service at communion.

Hope Kids ran on Wednesdays after school at St. George's Hall, for children in school years 3 to 6, with Bible videos, games and snacks. Around ten to fifteen children joined each week.

Victoria Goodman visited many Cambridgeshire primary schools as part of her work for the Church Schools Trust, including Shirley Primary School and Chesterton Primary School which are in St. George's parish. Victoria mentored children, took assemblies and led creative storytelling in classes.

Anna Bickerstaffe and Chloe Walker visited Shirley Primary School for Easter, Harvest and Christmas assemblies, and Chesterton Primary School for a Christmas assembly. Both schools visited St. George's Church for Christmas carol services. Andy Atkins is a governor at both Chesterton and Shirley Primary Schools.

Youth Work

Hope Youth Hub continued on Monday evenings in St. George's Hall, with around 20 local young people from school years 7 to 11 joining for games, snacks and a Bible thought. Around 8 young people from church joined Sunday Xplore at leaders' houses for a Bible study with games, and marshmallows around the firepit were especially popular. At the end of October the youth leaders hosted a Youth Light Party for around 30 young people at St. George's Church.

Connor Kennedy and Chloe Walker helped at Youth for Christ (YFC) Drop-in sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the No. 40 Hub in central Cambridge, which encouraged several young people from Chesterton who knew Connor and Chloe to go to those sessions. Some of the young people from Hope Church joined Connor and Chloe on the Fort Rocky YFC weekend in February.

In January Hope Church youth leaders and young people joined the Gathering at Christ Church for young people across East Anglia to sing, pray, play games and hear from God's work together. In July youth leaders took four young people from Hope Church to a praise and inspiration event "The Send" in Wembley Arena.

Summer ventures were a great opportunity for fun and discipleship, and Hope Church sent groups to ventures Woolhampton 1 and Orwell 1, which are part of the ministry of the charity CPAS. Fifteen young people aged 11-14 went to Woolhampton (from the church and also some of their friends who didn't attend church), as well as six adults and four children under

11 (who had a parent serving on the venture). Five young people aged 15-17 went on the Orwell venture.

Chloe continued mentoring at North Cambridge Academy (NCA), meeting with eight young people each week. Chloe and Connor started a Christian Union on Friday lunchtimes at NCA, creating a space for young people to be together at lunchtime, with a Christian influence, with around 15 young people, who aren't otherwise engaged with church.

Lunch Club

Volunteers ran a monthly Lunch Club, providing a two course meal with tea and coffee, and a special Christmas dinner for over 40 people. People from the church and the community enjoyed sharing these lunches and meeting friends. Through Lunch Club several people formed connections and then joined other church events such as the Songs of Praise.

Exercise Class

The Exercise Class continued strong in 2024, offering strength and balance exercises for older people. Around 12 members took the class each week. They gave and received friendship and support, and several members came to Lunch Club.

Baby Club

In November volunteers started a Baby Club for new parents and their babies, on Thursday afternoons in St. George's hall. After a quiet start, word spread and a few families started coming and enjoying the space, toys and welcome.

Woodlands Care Home Visiting

Jackie Riglin visited Woodlands each Monday afternoon, spending time with residents and their relatives and giving pastoral support and bereavement counselling. She took services on the first Monday of each month. At Christmas, Jackie and volunteers from St. George's ran a Woodlands Nine Lessons and Carols and served mince pies.

Hope Fairbite

Hope Fairbite is a community shop run in partnership with Cambridge City Foodbank, where members can choose items from a range of food and household products for a small fee. There were 80 members, with around 58 attending each week across two sessions, Mondays and Tuesdays. The Hope Fairbite manager Karen McGuire is employed part time by the PCC.

Pop-ups started in 2024 and are now held every three months, where charities and businesses come to Hope Fairbite to help Fairbite members access their services and advice. At each pop-up the local council offered support with housing questions, and other organisations offered services such as health advice, support with pet care, or help getting reduced water rates for single people on benefits.

Hope Fairbite held two Christmas parties which were appreciated by members, and gave out 80 Christmas hampers.

Mission partners

During 2024 Hope Church started a partnership with missionaries sharing the gospel in the Middle East, with a mission group at Hope Church coordinating updates, prayers and financial giving.

Christians Against Poverty Partnership

Hope Church partner with the charity Christians Against Poverty (CAP), and during 2024 Hope Church provided one-to-one debt advice and offered practical support for local individuals and families. The church gave six Christmas hampers to people CAP were supporting.

Hope into Action Partnership

Hope into Action own a house locally, as a safe home for homeless people for up to two years, until they move somewhere more permanent. During 2024 a family moved into the house. Hope Church provide practical support, and a befriending team to meet with the family living in the house.

Hope Weekend Away

Around 70 people from Hope Church went away Saturday 5th to Sunday 6th October to a Rock UK site in Northamptonshire, spending time together in worship, games, crafts and gathering round a bonfire in the evening. Danny Driver, the vicar of Christ the Redeemer church in Barnwell, joined us to teach the Bible for us, and volunteers from other Cambridge churches came to run children's groups.

Phab Club Visits

Phab is a national charity inspiring and supporting disabled and non-disabled people to make more of life together. Andy Atkins hosted a summer barbeque for the Cambridge Phab club, where around 70 people came. He also visited the club at Easter and Christmas.

Community Events and Facilities

Easter Trail

On Easter Saturday Hope Church and St. George's created an Easter Trail in Green End Road park. Nine stations each had a scene for people to discover, an item to collect and an actor to interact with, and together they told the Easter story of Jesus' death and resurrection. There were Easter crafts, face painting and refreshments to enjoy, and Easter eggs were given out. Over 150 children followed the trail.

Holiday Club

In the October half term Hope Church hosted a fish themed Holiday Club for around 40 primary school children in St. George's Hall and church. Over three days the children enjoyed

games and crafts, and heard from actors, puppets, storytellers and talks about miraculous catches of fish, and how Jesus wants people to follow him.

Carols in the Park

200 people gathered in Green End Road park for Christmas carol singing led by musicians from St. George's and Hope, and a carol performed by Chesterton Primary School choir. We shared a short talk about Christmas, and mince pies and hot chocolate.

Christmas Wreath Making

A wreath making event run by church volunteers in St. George's Church was very popular with local people, with about 70 people coming to make a wreath for £5. Several people brought children and made a wreath as a family Christmas activity.

Church and Hall Hire

Cambridge Community Circus have a specialist rig in the church building, and rented the building four evenings a week plus Sunday afternoons. Several community groups make use of the church hall, in particular Playlanders preschool who run three days a week. During 2024 the church and hall were also rented out for events and sound recordings.

Financial Report

Accounts

The 2024 accounts have been prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis to the nearest whole pound, and are shown on the standard Charity Commission CC16a template for this type of accounts. The restricted funds shown in the accounts are for Hope Church and for Hope Fairbite.

Volunteers

Much of the mission of the church is not visible in the accounts because the work is unpaid, and the PCC are grateful for many volunteers who serve the church in formal and informal roles. Karen McGuire manages hiring of the church and hall as a volunteer (in addition to her part-time job as Hope Fairbite Manager). Youth worker Connor Kennedy and student youth worker Chloe Walker volunteer with a team of others serving young people in many ways, as outlined above. We are grateful to Jess Soanes who joined Hope Church as an ordinand training at Ridley Hall and volunteered with church activities.

Volunteers serve in children's work, creche and Baby Club. People cook, serve and clear up after meals for Lunch Club, Alpha and church brunches, and provide refreshments at many services and events. People serve on St. George's Forum and Hope Church Council, and as churchwardens, Parish Safeguarding Officer, safeguarding administrator, treasurer and bookkeeper. Volunteers lead services, prayers and home groups, play music, read, act, manage sound and set up and clear up each Sunday, and more.

We are grateful for the support church members offer to each other and to their neighbours in many different ways.

Financial Review

Overall in 2024 the PCC received £112,801 and paid out £118,209. The PCC cash funds at the end of 2024 were £141,936.

The payments relate to:

- Administration — General office running costs
- Buildings — Maintenance and utilities for the various buildings for which the PCC is responsible, plus insurance which covers both buildings and activities
- Diocese — Payment of ministry share to Ely Diocese, who provide stipends and housing for clergy in the Diocese, including Andy Atkins
- Ministry — Provision of services and events
- Staff — Employing Karen McGuire as Hope Fairbite Manager

Regular donations are declining in real terms, as most donors have kept their giving unchanged, and costs are going up with inflation. A new card reader has made one-off donations easier at St. George's and at Hope Church, and has made Hope Fairbite shop payments easier.

Donations specifically for Hope Church do not cover the relatively large costs of Hope Church mission (costs for activities described above). This deficit is sustainable over the timescale of a few years, because reserves were built up in the years after Hope Church started in 2019, including during the pandemic when rent was not paid.

Hope Fairbite receipts generally cover Hope Fairbite payments, as during 2024 there was an increase in the rate members pay each week at the shop. We are hoping to secure a grant from the council for continuing employment of the Hope Fairbite Manager, as we have done in previous years.

The church hall and the house on St. Kilda Avenue provide steady sources of income. Hiring income has gone down for the church building as the circus slightly reduced their hours, and because there were fewer bookings for sound recordings, which were a significant source of income in previous years.

Reserves Policy

Our reserves policy is that St. George's, Hope Church and Hope Fairbite should each maintain minimum cash reserves of two months operating expenses.

Safeguarding

The PCC complies with its duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. We do everything we can to ensure that our

policies and practice conform to Diocesan and National Church guidelines and policies, and have adopted the latest Safeguarding Policy from the Diocese of Ely. During 2024 our Parish Safeguarding Officer was Jackie Riglin, and Sophie Ng was the designated safeguarding person and responsible person for Hope Church. Sophie Ng took over as Parish Safeguarding Officer from the start of 2025. Celia Gitterman was (and is) our Parish Safeguarding Administrator.

St. George's Church and Hope Church take the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults extremely seriously and have robust safeguarding procedures in place. If anyone has any information or concerns relating to the safety of children, young people or vulnerable adults within the church environment or the wider community they should please share them without delay with the relevant Church or Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser, the Police or the relevant Local Authority Social Care Department. Further details on these organisations can be found on the Diocesan Safeguarding pages [here](https://www.elydiocese.org/safeguarding/helplines-and-contact-numbers/):

<https://www.elydiocese.org/safeguarding/helplines-and-contact-numbers/>

Structure, Governance and Management

St. George's Church is part of the Diocese of Ely within the Church of England. PCC members are appointed as set out in Church Representation Rules, and are ordained clergy, churchwardens and members elected by the people on the electoral roll of the church.

PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish, including deciding how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

Hope Church Council and St. George's Forum are groups from each congregation who meet regularly to pray, discuss and plan, structured as committees of the PCC with delegated pastoral and missional oversight of the respective congregations.

The PCC met seven times during 2024. We had regular reports from Hope Council and St. George's Forum and finance reports, and we considered safeguarding in the church at every meeting. We received reports on the activities described above in this report and in the annual church fabric report. Among other things we considered:

- Maintenance needed on the building, including work that had been identified by the quinquennial (five-yearly) inspection
- Hiring rates, which were increased in September 2024
- Acoustic panels for the church hall, to reduce noise when groups use the hall
- Nest boxes for swifts in the bell tower, requested by a local Action for Swifts group

Administrative Information

Name: The Parochial Church Council of the parish of St George's, Chesterton

Address: St. George's Church, 8 Chesterfield Road, Cambridge CB4 1LN

Charity Status: The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2020) and a registered charity number 1206241.

Trustees (PCC members) during 2024

Ex-officio members (ordained clergy, churchwardens, Deanery Synod representatives):

- Andy Atkins — Vicar
- Jackie Riglin — Associate Vicar
- David Andrew — Associate Minister, Chair
- Celia Gitterman — Churchwarden
- Rosie Weston — Churchwarden, Vice-chair from APCM 2024
- Anna Bickerstaffe — Secretary, Deanery Synod representative
- Victoria Goodman — Deanery Synod representative

Elected PCC members:

- Tish Berkeley
- Jeremy Bickerstaffe — Treasurer
- Joyce Coupe
- Joy Deane
- Jeremy Dickens (from APCM 2024)
- Ant Ng – Vice-chair (until APCM 2024)
- Kwadwo Oti-Sarpong

St. George's Forum members (Appointed by the PCC)

Andy Atkins

Jackie Riglin

Tish Berkley

Mick Green

Celia Gitterman

Karen McGuire

Hope Church Council members (Appointed by the PCC)

Andy Atkins

Ant Ng

Debbie Dickens

Rosie Weston

Jeremy Bickerstaffe

Anna Bickerstaffe



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name
St George's Chesterton PCC

No (if any)
1206241

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	01/01/24		31/12/24

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations & Grants	14,890	37,845	-	52,735	72,497
Rental Income	45,774	-	-	45,774	63,620
Other Income	3,897	10,394	-	14,291	9,529
Rounding	-	1	-	1	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	64,561	48,240	-	112,801	145,646
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	64,561	48,240	-	112,801	145,646
A3 Payments					
Administration	3,077	1,887	-	4,964	5,183
Buildings	32,265	1,116	-	33,381	25,373
Diocese	15,993	15,993	-	31,986	30,990
Ministry	2,796	31,130	-	33,926	30,375
Staff	-	13,952	-	13,952	19,777
Rounding	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	54,131	64,078	-	118,209	111,698
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	54,131	64,078	-	118,209	111,698
Net of receipts/(payments)	10,430	15,838	-	5,408	33,948
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	90,284	57,060	-	147,344	113,397
Cash funds this year end	100,714	41,222	-	141,936	147,345

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Co-Op and CCLA accounts	100,714	41,222	-
			-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	100,714	41,222	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	D.N. Andrew	D.N. ANDREW (chair)	28.4.2025
	Joany Bickerstaffe	SEREMY BICKERSTAFFE	28.4.2025

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH
OF ST GEORGE'S, CHESTERTON, CAMBRIDGE**

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

**TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF
ST GEORGE'S, CHESTERTON, CAMBRIDGE**

I report to the PCC on my examination of the accounts of the Church for the year ended 31 December 2024.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND BASIS OF REPORT

As the members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').


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

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS' STATEMENT

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me any cause to believe that in any material respect.

- accounting records were not kept in respect of the Church as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with those records; or

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



Geoff Mann
Geoff Mann Limited
Dee House
Highworth Avenue
Cambridge
CB4 2BQ