

DIOCESE OF CHELMSFORD

**THE PARISH OF
ST. JOHN THE
EVANGELIST,
MOULSHAM**



**ANNUAL REPORT AND
ACCOUNTS 2023**



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Report of the Priest-in-Charge

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” Romans 8:28

I was trying to find a metaphor to describe my first year as your priest and I think it is like a game of snakes and ladders. When taking up the position, I was told by Archdeacon Mike Power to “go steady, don’t rush, look” and though the majority of the year has been going steady, we’ve had some celebrations and climbed some ladders, but we’ve also had some setbacks, sliding down some snakes.

I think the saddest point in the year was when we had to say goodbye to Mary Ubee who was such a big part of our family and, as a family, we mourned her passing but we also celebrated her life and she will be in our hearts and memories.

The biggest snake we’ve faced in the year must be the extended time I needed off for my operation. When I took up a role as your priest-in-charge, it was known I was due to have a major operation. This was originally expected to be in the summer, but due to the complexities of the surgery it was put back to December, the worst time in the church calendar for a priest to be absent. There were complications from the operation, and it is taking me a long time to get my strength and energy back - something that is standard from the operation - I very much underestimated the time that would take. But the good news is that I’m pain free for the first time in at least 4 years and no further treatment is needed.

However, even though I slid down the snake and was out of the picture, the great thing about St John’s is that as a church it is unfazed and very much able to keep climbing on without a priest. That is testament to the amazing church you are. Bishop Adam, the Bishop of Bradwell, and Archdeacon Jonathan, the Archdeacon of Chelmsford, both commented how much they enjoyed coming to take services, as did Revd Sharon Quilter, the Diocesan Racial Justice Officer.

Thankfully over the year we’ve faced more ladders than snakes and there is much to be thankful for, as this report reminds us of all that has happened in the last year.

I am so grateful to all those who have given so freely of their time in so very many ways to keep St John’s moving forward as a church. I am mindful we need to be a church not just for extroverts and activists, of which we have many. We need to be a place of prayer, rest and drawing closer to God just as we are, without technology, or food, or craft, or shifting pews and tables. Important, necessary and wonderful as those things are, we must continue to “be Christians” as well as “doing” Christian things to serve others. And we must do Christian things because we love to serve the Lord not just because we love to “do”.

I think we need to be a little more mindful of the cost of what we do together as church family. Church and ministry can invigorate but can also be draining. It gives God no glory to have people burning out. Writing this report I have been quite conscious of the number of times I have called to mind the individual names of a small but faithful band of volunteers. So, my prayer for the next year is for a year of growth, maturity, faithfulness to the Lord.... more of God. A year where more people

can step up and add their gifts and talents in growing the church, sharing the load. No church can be successful if run only by one person. Moses needed to build a team around him to be successful and at St John's we also need a team, both in practical support and in prayer support.

This is my prayer for the year that we will continue to grow as a church and to be a place of love, prayer, growth and service.

Hannah

ST JOHN'S CHURCH MOULSHAM ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

Aims and Purposes

Moulsham St John's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility to co-operate with the Priest-in-Charge in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical and to oversee that during a period of vacancy. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the church of St John the Evangelist, Moulsham Street, Chelmsford and its Church Hall on Vicarage Road, Chelmsford.

St John's is also a member of the Deanery of Chelmsford.

Objectives and Activities

As a church, our mission statement is to be a demonstration of the love of Christ to one another and to express that love in the wider community of Moulsham. We summarise our vision statement as "Love, Grow, Serve".

At the start of the year, to take forward our vision, the PCC had some immediate priorities and these were:

1. To continue to engage with our architect, landscape architect, the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) and the Chelmsford City Council in developing our major plans for our churchyard and the building, transforming St John's into a thriving community hub, with a strong worshipping community at its centre.
2. To continue to develop our worshipping community, particularly through our regular services, Messy Church and through digital services. We also looked forward to the recruitment of a new priest-in-charge to help this aspect of our work.
3. To continue to grow and develop as an Eco Church.
4. To continue to engage with our community and respond to their needs, through outreach and our community café.

Achievements and Performance 2023

With God's grace, we have achieved progress in all four of our start-of-the-year objectives. At the end of 2023 we can record considerable progress on the major development programme. Our plans for the outside work – building a new church entrance into the north transept, work on the drains, and landscaping the churchyard – have now achieved planning consent from the City Council and we have petitioned

for a Faculty to proceed. As the new year starts, we are awaiting news on bids for grants to commission the work.

In May, we were delighted to welcome Revd Hannah Robinson as our new half time Priest-in-Charge and half time chaplain at Anglia Ruskin University (Chelmsford campus). We recognise that she has taken on a huge and challenging role and we will support her as she develops new types and patterns of worship going forward.

We continue to grow as an Eco Church, as our lifestyle survey confirmed, and as one of our Eco Team this year took on the role of Deanery Environmental Advocate and also a Gold Eco Church assessor for ARocha UK, the charity overseeing the Eco Church scheme.

Our work with Ukrainian refugees has continued throughout 2023, gently tapering off at the end of the year as our guests settled into their own homes, supported by their own sense of community. What a privilege it has been for all of us at St John's to be of service to them and to see them achieve their independence in the midst of an appalling struggle at home in Ukraine.

JubiLatte, our community café, has gone from strength to strength this year. It has been a joy to see so many members of the community making use of the café, extending our church family. We have had great Scrabble sessions and started "Café Crafting" during the year.

Let's follow our usual Annual Report format and enjoy looking back at the year.

January is always a lovely month at St John's, as we continue through the Christmas season to Candlemas. Our life-size knitted nativity stays up all month, complete with a new sheep that appeared this time. Spoiler alert – although many of us suggested Revd Jean might follow up with a life-sized camel, she did delight us by producing a donkey for December this year. We also enjoyed a great Burns Night supper this month and, of course, our annual Big Garden Bird Watch in the churchyard.

This month also saw Revd Suzanne taking her leave of us, as she was licensed as Associate Priest at St Luke's.

In **February** as it was LGBT History Month, two of us attended an Open Table service in Colchester and started to wonder if this might be something St John's could offer in the future.

This month we also interviewed for a new priest – finally we could begin to look beyond a time of "holding things together" to having priestly leadership.

24th February was the first anniversary of Russia invading Ukraine, so a difficult time for our Ukrainian families. We were pleased to be invited to be interviewed on local radio about the last year of our work with Ukrainians and their hosts.

Our Lent course – Walking the Way of the Cross – started and was ably led by Jean and Rex, and we responded to the call of the Disasters Emergency Committee after the awful earthquakes in Turkey and Syria.

In **March** we were invited to a first Citizens' Assembly, where our Ukrainian choir overcame their nerves to sing, and where the Salvation Army then played the Ukrainian National Anthem. It was very moving to see our choir members, hands on their hearts, singing their anthem.

We also celebrated Earth Hour on 25th March, with everyone encouraged to switch off their lights for an hour and to spend the time talking or thinking about actions we could take to live a greener life and care for God's creation.

In **April**, the highlight of the month, of course, was Easter. It is such a wonderful occasion, to come through a quite sombre period of Lent, through Good Friday and the crucifixion, to Easter Day. He is risen – Alleluia! Such a sense of joy and renewed hope.

Glynis and Karen organised a wonderful Easter Fayre and Jeanette won the prize in the Easter Bonnet Parade.

BBC Radio Essex sought us out for another interview about our gold Eco Church award and the fact that we attended a very large protest about climate change where hundreds of Christians gathered at St John's in Waterloo for a service before marching to Parliament Square.

And what a great time our intrepid team, led by David, had on the Unlock Walk, through Abbey Wood and Thamesmead.

May – what a month! On 4th May we had the licensing service for Revd Hannah, our new Priest-in-Charge and Chaplain to Anglia Ruskin University. What a joyful service! This was rapidly followed by a number of us gathering in JubiLatte for a live screening of the Coronation of King Charles III, sharing in an important moment in history. Then, on Hannah's first Sunday, we had a special service for the Coronation followed by a shared lunch. For the first time in the life of most of us we sang "God save the King"!

Later in the month, we held a coffee morning for Christian Aid Week and on 21st May the Annual Parochial Church Meeting saw us elect two churchwardens, Will and Nanette. To top it off, Café Crafting was launched in JubiLatte.

In **June**, Archdeacon Mike led a visit of the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) to hear our plans for the reordering of the church, to become a thriving community hub. Once again, we were really encouraged by the DAC visit, especially the Archdeacon's encouraging comment that "All churches should do this".

Our Pentecost Messy Church focused on wind and fire – not just because fire is a good excuse for toasting marshmallows! Also, this month saw an intrepid group of 18 walkers (and 2 dogs) take part in a 9 mile pilgrimage walk from Pleshey church, ending with prayers in Chelmsford Cathedral.

In **July** several of us redoubled our efforts to live through Plastic Free July – it's hard work but, as ever, there is always someone with a good idea or who knows where you can buy strawberries that aren't wrapped in plastic.

Our wardens were duly licensed this month, and a new member of the congregation arrived – Benson, the vicarage puppy, who is being trained as a therapy dog, so needs to mix in with the congregation. He writes well too – now contributing his own column to the church magazine.

In **August**, we once again enjoyed services with hymns chosen by members of the congregation. We also met Dr Loo, the lesser known cousin of Dr Who, who emerged each Sunday from his Tardis with his glamorous assistant.

September once again saw people flocking to our Heritage Open Day and autumn fayre, where the Scouts' cooked breakfast was a firm favourite! Friends of the church, Colin and Nicola from The Cricketers, were married this month.

The month ended with sadness for very many in Old Moulsham, as our dear friend Mary Ubee died. Mary was such a longstanding member of our congregation, who served for many years as Churchwarden, and was dearly loved. Her family joined the church family for an evening of sharing memories and finishing with Compline.

Shortly after Mary died, Dick Malyon also died, ending his long association with St John's. May they both rest in peace and rise in glory.

In **October** Claire led our Harvest Festival service and we were pleased to deliver a large amount of food donations to the Foodbank, as the crisis in the cost of living continues and Foodbank demand is rising.

In many ways October was overshadowed by the Hamas attack on Israel and Israel's increasingly concerning retaliation in Gaza. Our thoughts and prayers were focused on the need for a peaceful solution in the Middle East.

Church life goes on. As part of Black History month, we celebrated black climate activists and some of our Nigerian families led us in singing a hymn in Igbo. Our thanks to Karen for another very enjoyable "at home" on an international theme this month, celebrating Black History Month and our diverse congregation. And, as ever, Christine carved an amazing pumpkin and we celebrated All Hallows Eve outside the Church Hall by giving out gallons of hot chocolate to passers-by!

On the fifth Sunday, we held a Green Communion as part of a new pattern of worship for fifth Sundays.

In **November**, our All Souls and Remembrance services were well attended. As ever, our Scouts, Cubs and Beavers were a really valued presence (thank you Claire for your amazing leadership).

We undertook our annual environmental lifestyle survey as a church and the results of that confirm we are continuing to “grow greener”, as individuals and as a church community.

December was, as ever, a busy month and we were very sad that Hannah had to miss her first Christmas with us, as she had major surgery. St Anne’s School held a Christingle service in the church and this was followed by our own ever popular Christingle service. Moulsham Junior School also returned to hold their Christmas Concert. Our lifesize “Knitivity” (knitted in the first lockdown) took its place once again, with the addition of a larger sheep and a donkey, whilst our knitted Posada enjoyed travels round Moulsham and beyond. Our Crib Service (joint with Christ Church URC) was enjoyed by all in a church that was full. At our Carol Service, last year’s Tamil carol was followed this year by a Nigerian carol which we all learnt. Roger led community carols at JubiLatte, interspersed with a couple of readings and innumerable cracker jokes!

It was a real privilege to start Christmas with the new Bishop of Bradwell, Bishop Adam, presiding at Midnight Mass.

2023 has once again seen great support from our singers and musicians – thank you to all of you, and to all our worship leaders, readers and intercessors, for enhancing our worship.

In 2023, our clergy conducted 5 baptisms, 3 weddings and 12 funerals.

Our special thanks to all our worship leaders who have enabled us to continue to grow and develop spiritually as a church family. And a very special “thank you” to those behind-the-scenes volunteers who continue to do the quiet, often unseen work that sustains the life of the church. You are a true blessing to us all.

Supporting Charities

As part of our discipleship, we have always recognised the importance of supporting organisations working to support others locally, nationally and globally. We have adopted a policy of supporting charities for 3 years across Lent, Harvest and Christmas collections, and this is our second year of the current charities. In Lent our national charity was the Alzheimer’s Society. Our Harvest charity was the World Land Trust, a global environmental charity, and at Christmas we supported the Children’s Society generally with our Christingle collection, and more specifically

gave to the Society's Hidden Harm project which works with young carers across Essex who live with parents with drug or alcohol addiction. In addition, we collected for Christian Aid and responded to the Disasters Emergency Committee appeal following the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria.

15th CHELMSFORD (ST JOHN'S) SCOUT GROUP

At the 15th Chelmsford, we have provided Scouting for over 75 young people this year, helping them gain skills for life, experiences they will never forget and friendships that will last a lifetime.

Young people appreciate physically being with their friends, camping or being outdoors, learning new skills, hiking, navigating, fire lighting and putting those skills to the test.

The leaders and supporters have completed a full year of activities that has stimulated and excited the young members in delivering Scouting to young people. The Cub and Scout sections both successfully ran camps. They also held their annual parent and child camp in Roxwell. Once again there were over 100 at the camp, taking part in activities based on the theme Explorers.

As a Scout Group we rely on our team of leadership volunteers, a few who have been at the sharp end for over 30 years, some others for decades and many for just a few months or years while they are involved with the Group.

Whilst there is a strong leadership team, we need to plan for the future and attract new leaders and interest people in the joys of taking 30 youngsters to camp, run an activity, help with some admin, help plan activities or do some mass catering!

The job of keeping this successful Scout Group alive and healthy is a continuous challenge. It is assumed that this Group will be here in 5 or 10 years time, but without a succession of the leadership team it may not be such a certainty.

Our gratitude and thanks go to all of the Group's uniformed leaders, section helpers, and young leaders for the time they have given during the past year.

The Trustee Board led by the Chair, Alex, has planned and overseen the strategy and finances of the Group, and our thanks goes to each of them for their support.

Finally thanks to the Church for the support given to us. Without the ability to have use of the halls and to be able to store vast amount of equipment, we simply would not be able to offer the activities to the young people of Old Moulsham. We are also grateful for the opportunity to fundraise with the breakfast at the Open Church in September. The marquee was full for the 3 hours, with much chatter and laughter. Whilst it was a fundraising activity for us, it was also important for the group to support the church with the event, and also for the Scout group to be seen in the community.

Claire Hopkins
Group Scout Leader

Church Fabric and Facilities

Repairs and enhancements during 2023 included:

- Fire blankets were fitted in the kitchens and the chancel (due to presence of candles) to improve safety
- The fire doors on both ends of the lounge were fitted with new door closers and hinges replaced to ensure that they close correctly
- The tower interior was cleaned of pigeon guano and stainless steel mesh fitted inside the belfry louvres to prevent future bird nesting inside the tower
- A brass plaque was installed on the organ to commemorate Jane Ashley, who was our organist for many years and left a bequest in her will that enabled last year's restoration works
- The stones with the boot scrapers beside the entrance (which were bridging the damp proof course) were moved away from the wall
- The sound desk mixer unfortunately developed faults and has been temporarily replaced with a second hand one, pending the planned upgrade of the whole sound system as part of the major project phase 2.
- A "CollecTin" credit-card donations machine has been mounted on a temporary stand, pending a decision on final location and permanent installation next year.
- Failed fluorescent tubes have been replaced with LED tubes during the year - the intention is to finish the process of upgrading all lights to LED where possible next year.

A Quinquennial Inspection was conducted by our architect in the middle of the year and the Priority A recommendations were added to the schedule of tasks managed by the Fabric Committee. Some of the recommendations were resolved during the year but the larger items are carried forward into 2024 and the status continues to be reported to the PCC.

The church and rooms continue to be well-used by the community including local schools, the College, support groups, concerts, and others. The use of the upstairs room has been restricted during the year whilst awaiting installation of a new heating system and we hope to make more use of it next year.

The Church Hall

St John's Church Halls are situated in Vicarage Road and continue to be well used. They generate a healthy level of income which is reinvested in the hall facilities. The front hall is mainly used by the uniformed organizations – Brownies, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts on three nights a week whilst the back hall is used by a selection of community groups, Martial Arts Group, Pilates, Yoga, Flying Club, Dance Class and children's birthday parties. We have also provided a facility for the College, for a

period of two months for students who were not ready to enter college life on campus.

Good Gym have continued to help by clearing the Autumn leaves and clearing the grounds.

For Health & Safety reasons we have had the front hall entry doors moved out so that when open they are flush with the wall and not reducing the entrance space. We have also had the two doors from the front hall into the lobby replaced, making the building more accessible.

As part of our journey to net zero, we have started to explore the possibility of installing solar panels on the hall roof.

Report of the Deanery Synod

St. John's is part of the Chelmsford Deanery which consists of 33 parishes, with 39 church buildings. Through the Deanery we are able to contribute to the forward planning of the Diocese and keep in touch with the wider issues of the Church of England. The Deanery Synod met four times during 2023 and considered a variety of issues, including: ministry among children with Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND); the role and purpose of the Deanery within the structure of the Church of England; good practice and stories of encouragement from synod members' own churches; and Eco church and our progress as a Deanery. There was a chance to meet Bishop Adam, the new Bishop of Bradwell, and Linda Percival from our own church was appointed Deanery Environmental Advocate, offering help and support to other churches on their Eco journey. Throughout the year, the Synod discussed Deanery finances and the deployment of clergy, and plans were made for a Deanery Day early in 2024 which would be open to all church members.

Financial Review

2023 saw a welcome return to some increased levels of activity. Even so, higher energy costs had a big impact mitigated by the measures taken to reduce energy consumption and to increase the charges for use of the church rooms and the hall. Overall, we ended the year with a small deficit of £1.7k. Total receipts at £104k were £7k less than last year with income increasing by £12k whilst grants received were £19k lower. Payments of £102k were little changed from last year's £103k with church running expenses increasing by £12k balanced by a £13k lower level of major repair expenditure.

Our **General Fund** income increased markedly to £64k, some £7k more than 2022 mainly as a result of higher levels of activity, higher interest rates and a grant from the national church to offset increased energy costs. The pleasing increase of £1.5k in regular giving was offset by a £1.8k fall in service collections and donations. Expenditure also increased but by a smaller amount - £4k – mainly down to increased energy and cleaning costs. After taking account of the release of past

grants, the net result was a surplus of £4.3k (£1.8k in 2022) which provided a further welcome increase in reserves.

The **Hall Fund** saw a significant increase in lettings with income up from £13k to £18.6k, partly helped by higher charges. This increased activity together with higher energy and cleaning costs led to a doubling of running costs to £10k which left a surplus of £6.2k.

The initial costs of preparing plans for stage 1 of the Major Development Programme of £14k in effect utilised all the year's dividend income of the **Development (Income) Fund** – previously called the Investment Fund. Other calls on that fund reduced the accumulated surplus by £9.8k. This included £2k for purchases of equipment – a laptop and card reader; the final Jubilate set-up costs; and redecoration work at the Vicarage. In addition, £7.8k was transferred to cover the deficit of the Fabric Fund.

The **Fabric Fund** received income of £2k – dividends and VAT grants – which together with the transfer from the Development (Income) Fund covered the routine maintenance costs of £1.9k and the major work of fitting netting to the tower (£8k).

With completion of the refurbishment of the organ, there was only a small amount of rectification work of £1.4k met by VAT grants (relating to previous work) and interest, leaving a small addition of £0.6k to the unspent balance of this restricted **Organ Fund**.

The balance of grants from last year of £2.4k held in the restricted **Grants Fund** was transferred into the General Fund and replaced by a new grant of £2.7k to be utilised in 2024 to cover the first-year costs of a community engagement officer.

The value of our investments increased by £50k from £545k to £595k. Of this £48k is the value of perpetual endowments and £547k the value of what had been two other endowments related to houses previously owned by the PCC and categorised as “restricted”. During the year, following research and discussions with the Diocese, it was concluded that these two other endowments are not subject to any restrictions as to how they can be spent. They have now been combined and are now called the PCC **Development (Reserve) Fund** which is a designated fund, the intention being that at least some of the fund will be used for our planned major development programme.

Reserves Policy

The PCC's policy is for the General Fund and the Hall Fund to have reserves of between 3- and 6-months expenditure to cover fluctuations in receipts and unseen urgent expenditure. For the General Fund expenditure excludes the Parish Share component. At the end of the year, the General Fund balance was £13.8k, just above the reserve target.

For the Hall Fund any amounts more than the reserve are held to fund major maintenance and improvement at the hall.

Structure, Governance and Management

The PCC is responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish, including on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. As the PCC Member's Guide states: "PCCs have to focus on the big things and keep an overview. They can't do this if they micro-manage every detail of church life."

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. Members of the PCC are either ex-officio, elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), or elected or co-opted onto the Council by the rest of the PCC. All members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the electoral roll and to consider standing for election to the PCC.

This year, our APCM was held on 21st May. During 2023 the PCC met 10 times, with 82 per cent attendance. In between meetings, the Standing Committee has the power to transact most items of PCC business subject to any directions given by the PCC, and it can also approve urgent financial expenditure up to £1,000. The Standing Committee also agrees the agenda for the PCC meetings.

The electoral roll stood at 67 at the 21st May APCM (68 in 2022).

Safeguarding

At St John's we are committed to safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults facing risks of any kind of abuse, and pastorally caring for them, as well as others involved in, or affected by, the potential abuse. The PCC has due regard for the guidance issued by the House of Bishops (including both policy and practice guidance) on matters relating to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults. We recognise that abuse can come in many forms, including physical, emotional, financial, domestic, spiritual and sexual abuse, coercive control, and modern slavery. We have adopted the suite of Policy and Practice Guidance provided by the National Safeguarding Team for the Church of England, which has been adopted by Chelmsford Diocese.

As such, our aim is to ensure that St John's is a safe environment for everyone, and we do this by ensuring that we safely recruit anyone in the church whose voluntary or paid work involves working with children and/or adults, ensuring our volunteers are well trained, and responding promptly to any concern or allegation that someone might be at risk.

In line with the House of Bishops policy and practice guidance, the PCC considers safeguarding at every meeting, and reviews its policy annually and our safeguarding arrangements are shown on the front page of our website.

This year we have continued to maintain a well trained band of volunteers working in various groups and activities. Whether a volunteer is a sidesperson, a café assistant, or a chalice assistant, we can be seen by others in a position of trust, and so the PCC's Safeguarding Policy specifies the training requirements for each role, and thanks go to everyone who spent time doing one of the various online safeguarding training courses, so that you can help keep people safe should you become aware of any concerns.

Data protection

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) came into effect in May 2018. Our appointed Data Protection Officer, William May (from December 2023), is responsible for the co-ordination of our work on data protection.

Administrative Information

St John's Church is situated in Moulsham Street, Chelmsford. It is part of the Diocese of Chelmsford within the Church of England. The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956 and Church Representation Rules 2022) and a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

The correspondence address for the church is : Church of St John the Evangelist, Moulsham Street, Chelmsford CM2 0JD.

PCC members who have served up until the APCM in May 2023 are:

Incumbent	vacancy
Associate Priests	Revd David Cattle Revd Stephanie Gillingham
Curate	Revd Suzanne McAllister. (to January)
Churchwarden	William May (Vice Chair, Standing Committee)
Deanery Synod Representatives	Anne Ireland (Assistant Churchwarden; Standing Committee; joint PCC Secretary) Linda Percival
Elected Members	Karen Dudley David Ireland (Assistant Churchwarden; Standing Committee) Jacky Langley Glynis Massingham Elizabeth Poole Nanette Wright (Standing Committee, joint PCC Secretary)

Co-opted Member : Revd Jean Halliday

Following the APCM in May 2023 :

Incumbent	Revd Hannah Robinson
Associate Priests	Revd David Cattle Revd Stephanie Gillingham
Churchwarden	William May (Vice Chair, Standing Committee) Nanette Wright (Standing Committee; PCC Minutes Secretary)
Deanery Synod Representatives	Anne Ireland (Assistant Churchwarden; Standing Committee, PCC Secretary)
Elected Members	Karen Dudley David Ireland (Assistant Churchwarden; Standing Committee) Glynis Massingham Jacky Langley Elizabeth Poole

Co-opted Member : Revd Jean Halliday

Other appointments :

Partner Churches Lynchpins	Jacky Langley and Elizabeth Poole
Parish Safeguarding Officer	Nanette Wright
Data Protection Officer	Anne Ireland (to Dec 2023) William May. (from Dec 2023)
Health & Safety Officer	Isobel Liebman (to July 2023)
Joint Treasurers	Roger Louth and Victoria Turner
Verger Deputy Vergers	Rex Broad Stephen Hogben and Christine Yallop
Electoral Roll Officer	Christine Hogben

**Approved by the PCC on 23rd April 2024 and signed on their behalf by
Revd Hannah Robinson, Incumbent and Chair of PC**

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of St John's Church, Moulsham

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees 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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 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 examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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.

Sarah Scott
March 2024

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Unrestricted Fund General	Designated Fund Hall	Fund Development	Restricted Funds (note 3)	Endow- ments (note 2)	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cash Funds							
Bank	12,241			1,161		13,403	39,904
Deposit Fund	1,026	19,739	26,650	26,825		74,241	46,069
Less amount held for others							-68
	13,268	19,739	26,650	27,986		87,643	85,905
Other							
Monetary Assets							
Gift Aid recoverable	1,700					1,700	1,912
Debtors	3,829	6,336				10,165	666
	5,529	6,336	-	-		11,865	2,578
Investment Assets							
Investment Fund at market value (note 2)			547,574		48,190	595,763	545,035
	-	-	547,574	-	48,190	595,763	545,035
Assets retained for church use (not valued)							
Church Hall							
Church furnishings							
Liabilities						-	-
Unpaid invoices	1,243	677				1,920	2,623
	1,243	677	-	-		1,920	2,623
NET ASSETS	17,553	25,399	574,224	27,986	48,190	693,351	630,895

These accounts - Statement of Assets and Liabilities, Receipts and Payments Account and Notes - were approved by the PCC on 23rd April 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

Hannah Robinson (Priest-in-Charge and Chairperson)
and

Roger Louth (Treasurer)

St John's, Moulsham, Parochial Church Council
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Receipts and Payments Accounts

	Note	Unrestricted Fund General £	Designated Fund Hall £	Fund Development £	Restricted Funds (note 3) £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Receipts							
Voluntary Receipts							
Planned giving		31,113	-	-	-	31,113	29,669
Collections at services		2,237	-	-	-	2,237	3,042
Other giving	4a	2,497	-	-	50	2,547	3,551
Gift Aid recovered		8,946	-	-	-	8,946	8,023
Grants		1,558	-	-	5,579	7,137	26,053
		46,351	-	-	5,629	51,980	70,338
Activities for generating funds	4b	9,571	-	-	-	9,571	6,363
Investment Income	4c	2,145	-	14,137	1,405	17,687	16,086
Church Activities	4d	6,354	18,686	-	-	25,040	18,365
Other receipts		-	-	-	-	-	0
Total receipts		64,420	18,686	14,137	7,034	104,277	111,152
Payments							
Cost of generating funds							
Fundraising activities		285	-	-	-	285	37
		285	-	-	-	285	37
Church Activities:							
Parish Share to Diocese		43,224	-	-	-	43,224	42,721
Clergy and staffing costs		449	-	-	-	449	2,698
Jubilatte Café costs		1,321	-	230	-	1,551	1,441
Tots & Tinies		27	-	-	-	27	-
		45,022	-	230	-	45,251	46,861
Church expenses							
Mission and evangelism costs		1,082	-	-	-	1,082	845
Church running expenses	4e	15,983	10,593	-	3,355	29,931	18,552
		17,065	10,593	-	3,355	31,013	19,397
Other expenditure							
		100	-	1,721	-	1,821	259
Major capital expenditure	4f	-	1,840	14,282	8,046	24,168	37,054
		100	1,840	16,004	8,046	25,989	37,313
Total payments		62,471	12,433	16,233	11,401	102,539	103,608
Excess of receipts over payments		1,949	6,253	-2,097	-4,367	1,738	7,545
Transfers between funds		2,425	-	-7,800	5,375	-	-
		4,374	6,253	-9,897	1,008	1,738	7,545
Cash at bank at 1 January		8,894	13,486	36,547	26,978	85,905	78,361
Cash at bank at 31 December		13,268	19,739	26,650	27,986	87,643	85,905

Notes

1 The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.

The Church furnishings are held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC.

2 The PCC's investments are all held in the CBF Church of England Investment Fund. Three holdings are perpetual endowments, where the capital cannot be spent. The fourth holding is not subject to any restrictions but the PCC has designated it for use in developing the mission, ministry and facilities of the church. (Previously this had been classified as two expendable endowments subject to restrictions.)

	2023	2022	
	£	£	Income credited to
Perpetual endowments			
Land Sales	23,788	21,742	General Fund
Henry Guy Church Repairs	18,262	16,692	Fabric Fund
Church Maintenance	6,139	5,611	Fabric Fund
Subtotal	48,190	44,046	
PCC Development (Reserve) Fund	547,574	500,990	Development (Income) Fund
Total	595,763	545,035	

3

	Bal B/fwd	Receipts	Payments	Transfer	Bal C/fwd
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds					
Fabric Fund	-	2,166	9,966	7,800	0
Organ Fund	23,442	2,057	1,435		24,064
Churchyard Project Fund	1,111	50			1,161
Grants Fund	2,425	2,761		-2,425	2,761
Total	26,978	7,034	11,401	5,375	27,986

The **Fabric** Fund holds income which can only be used for fabric maintenance.

The **Organ** Fund consists of a legacy and donations which can only be used for the refurbishment of the organ.

The **Project** Fund represents donations made towards the creation of a memorial garden in the churchyard.

The **Grants** Fund holds grants received which have not yet been spent.

Designated Funds

The **Hall** Fund holds the income from lettings and meets the running costs of the Church Hall with the accumulated surplus retained for major works on the hall.

The **Development** Fund is in two parts. The **Development (Reserve) Fund** holds the investments set aside for the development of the mission, ministry and facilities of the church. The dividends are paid into the **Development (Income) Fund** and used to fund the repair and maintenance of the church building as well as projects to develop the mission and ministry of St. John's.

4 Further Analysis of Receipts and Payments

	Unrestricted Fund General £	Designated Fund Hall £	Fund Investment £	Restricted Funds (note 2) £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Receipts						
a. Other giving						
Donations	2,497			50	2,547	3,551
Special Appeals						-
Legacies						-
	2,497	-	-	50	2,547	3,551
b. Activities for generating funds						
Fundraising	3,341				3,341	1,636
Hire charges	6,230				6,230	4,727
	9,571		-	-	9,571	6,363
c. Investment Income						
Dividends on CBF Funds	650		14,137	667	15,454	15,369
Bank and Deposit Fund interest	1,494			738	2,233	717
	2,145	-	14,137	1,405	17,687	16,086
d. Church Activities						
Parochial fees and charges	1,936				1,936	895
Jubilatte Café	3,914				3,914	3,908
Tots & Tinies	504				504	477
Hall lettings		18,686			18,686	13,086
	6,354	18,686	-	-	25,040	18,365
Payments						
e. Church running expenses:						
Organ, music sound system	1,222			1,435	2,657	1,227
Administration and cleaning costs	3,618				3,618	1,526
Church repairs and maintenance				1,920	1,920	3,285
Insurance	2,950				2,950	2,741
Church utility bills	7,227				7,227	3,800
Upkeep of services	966				966	945
Hall runnings costs		10,593			10,593	5,029
	15,983	10,593	-	3,355	29,931	18,552
f. Major capital expenditure						
Church building				8,046	8,046	15,130
Church hall		1,840			1,840	2,520
Organ refurbishment						19,404
Development Programme			14,282		14,282	
	-	1,840	14,282	8,046	24,168	37,054

Annex 1

St. John's Budget 2024	2024	2023
General Fund		
Income		
Planned Giving	32,000	31450
Service Collections	2,000	3000
Donations	2,000	2200
Coffee Donations	1,250	1450
Gift Aid Recovered	8,000	7900
Fund-raising	3,000	2800
Church Room Charges	6,000	4875
Parochial Fees and Charges	1,000	972
Interest and Dividends	1,000	1000
Tots & Tinies	500	500
Café takings	4,000	4000
Total receipts	60,750	60147
<i>Expenditure</i>		
The Share	44,625	43661
Clergy Expenses	4,100	1345
Mission and evangelism	1,200	1400
Insurance	3,100	3000
Administration	1,000	3000
Cleaning	3,300	0
Upkeep of services	1,200	1200
Organ, sound system, music	1,800	1800
Energy and water	5,000	8450
Fundraising costs	300	280
Café supplies	1,400	1600
Total payments	67,025	65736
General Fund deficit	-6,275	-5589
Release of grant	2,750	2425
General Fund net deficit	-3,525	-3164

St John's Moulsham: Budget for 2024

	2024	2023
Hall Fund		
<i>Receipts - lettings</i>	17,000	13,000
<i>Payments</i>		
Running and maintenance costs	10,000	7,000
Major repairs	7,000	6,000
Surplus	0	0

Development (Income) Fund

<i>Receipts -dividends</i>		
Dividends	15,500	14,000
<i>Payments</i>		
Projects (Café/MPT)	2,500	2,000
Provision for Church Fabric repairs	2,300	2,500
Surplus	10,700	9,500

Church Fabric Fund

<i>Receipts - dividends</i>		
Dividends	700	650
<i>Payments</i>		
Routine maintenance and repairs	3,000	3,000
Fabric Fund deficit	2,300	-2,350
Investment Fund transfer	2,300	2,500
Church Fabric Fund balance	0	150

Annex 2

Cramphorn (St. John's) Charity

This charity - previously known as St John's Churchwardens' Charity - provides relief to the poor of Moulsham. Its name was changed during the year to reflect better its origins and purpose. The Trustees are the Vicar and Churchwardens of St John's Church - Revd Hannah Robinson (Priest-in-Charge from May 2023), William May (Churchwarden) and Nanette Wright (Churchwarden from May 2023). Jacky Langley (former Churchwarden) was a Trustee until May 2023.

Perpetual endowments left by Colonel Cramphorn (as well as John Pollard and Henry Guy) are invested in the CBF Church of England Investment Fund which generates income which is available to make grants. No grants were made during the year as the new Board of Trustees is reviewing the future focus and activities of the Charity.

Revd Hannah Robinson, Will May and Nanette Wright
Trustees
Date April 2024

<u>Receipts and Payments Account for the year to 31st December 2023</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Receipts		
Interest received	112	46
Investment income	926	921
Other receipts	70	124
	1108	1091
Payments		
Grants	0	782
Administration	7	3
Surplus of receipts over payments	1101	306
Opening balance as at 1 January	5,959	5,653
Cashflow	1101	306
Closing balance at 31 December	7,060	5,959

Statement of assets and liabilities as at 31 December 2023

Monetary assets		
Current and deposit account	7060	5,959
Perpetual endowment		
CBF Church of England Investment Fund	33875	30,962
Liabilities		
None		
Total net assets	40,935	36,921