

# 2024/2025 APCM Reports



The Church of England  
in Essex and East London  
Diocese of Chelmsford



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

**Vestry meeting – 12.10 pm**

**Appointment of Church Wardens**

Lorna Oakley proposed, Jane Osborne seconded and all agreed that Corinne Osborn and Paul Siddall remain as Church Wardens for 2024-25.

**Appointment of statutory roles**

The following roles were re-appointed:

Treasurer	• Lorna Oakley
Secretary	• Lizzie Ridout
Deputy Church Warden	• Pam Straw & Dudley Howard
Electoral Roll Officer	• Paul Siddall
Chair of Finance Committee	• Pam Straw
Chair of Buildings Committee	• Matt Siddall
Gift Aid Officer and Payroll	• Jane Osborn

+Standing Committee – made up of roles above.

It was agreed that Karen Warbis would need to instruct solicitors to be involved in the lease for the nursery.

**The Vestry meeting closed at 12.15pm.**

# MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (APCM) HELD AFTER MASS ON SUNDAY 28<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2024 AT ST JAMES'S CHURCH AT 12.30PM

## 1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

- Paul Rawlinson
- Anthony Le Cras

The sign-in sheet was completed to be attached to the minutes.

## 2. Election of all positions to serve on PCC for three years

Paul Siddall proposed, Corrine Osborn seconded the proposal, and all agreed that the following PCC Members be re-elected to serve a three-year term:

- Chris Aguda
- Marjorie Appleyard
- Dudley Howard
- Fr Justin Hutcherson
- Anthony Le Cras
- Susan Morley-Souter
- Lorna Oakley
- Corinne Osborn
- Jane Osborne
- Paul Rawlinson
- Elizabeth Ridout
- Dee Scates
- Matt Siddall
- Paul Siddall
- Pam Straw

Neil Stedman chose to resign as an ex-officio member of the PCC as he was no longer licensed.

It was noted that David Lowman and Phillip Nead were licensed but not able to join the PCC, and Susan Wiggins hoped to obtain her license soon.

## 3. Adoption of Minutes of 2023 Meeting and Matters Arising

The Chairman proposed the minutes be approved as a correct record and all agreed.

## 4. Treasurer's Presentation and Adoption of the Annual Accounts

The 2023 Annual Accounts had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Chair proposed, and all agreed to adopt the 2023 Annual Accounts.

The main focus of the accounts was the cost of gas at St James. There was a plan to engage with an Energy Consultant to investigate the utilities further.  
The Nursery contribution had also been increased.

## **5. Receive APCM reports**

The reports had been circulated prior to the meeting and were noted.

Following Fr Justin's announcement that he would be leaving the parish in the summer, he outlined his hopes for a full-time replacement vicar. The PCC would be considering a new parish profile to submit to the Diocese to accompany the job advertisement.

Matt Siddall updated verbally from the Buildings Committee which had focussed on general maintenance for the year. 2024 was a quinquennial year which, following a survey, would provide a schedule of works going forward. Thanks to Dudley Howard for work at St Christopher's and to Paul Rawlinson for work at St James undertaken during the year.

## **6. Election of one person to serve on the Deanery Synod for three years**

It was noted that Pam Straw had two years remaining on the current term and Paul Siddall was also a member.

Jackie Siddall proposed and Lorna Osborn seconded that Pam Straw and Paul Siddall continue as Deanery Synod members.

One vacancy was noted and those wishing to join were to contact Fr Justin.

## **7. Appointment of Independent Examiner (Auditor)**

Ellie Eames was reappointed as the Independent Examiner of the accounts for 2023.

Lorna Oakley undertook to purchase a small gift as thanks for her services.

## **8. Appointment of Sidespersons**

Sidespersons were now also DBS checked and the following people had been added to the existing list:

- Teresa Appleby-Kemp
- Dee Scates

- Shirley Bolton

## **9. Appointments of Safeguarding Officer and Parish Safeguarding Representative**

The Chair proposed that Barbara Newton remain the Safeguarding Officer and Parish Safeguarding Representative, however it was noted that a replacement and/or additional Safeguarding Officer would be welcome.

The meeting closed at 1:16pm.

### **APCM Reports 2025**

#### **Vice-Chair's Report**

Welcome to this year's APCM; one that's somewhat different from our normal meeting because, of course, we have no priest. Actually, that was the case when I started this report, but I've had to amend it since we found out on the 4<sup>th</sup> May that Fr Matt Simpkins will be taking over as our parish priest in the not-too-distant future. This is indeed good news!

I must start by issuing quite a lot of Thankyous to people. First, somewhat strangely, to Fr Justin as, before he left us in July, we met and started the process of transitioning to being in interregnum. That started with the formation of an Interregnum Committee and with getting retired priests to help out at both St Christopher's and here at St. James's.

One of the first things the committee did was to choose who would be our representatives when the interviews, etc. for the new priest began. We chose Pam and Jane at the required PCC meeting once Fr Justin had left. We also suspended mid-week services and just had the Wednesday service here and the Thursday service at St. Christopher's. The creation of a new Parish Profile to showcase our parish was started. This meant that when the PCC met with the Bishop and Archdeacon Ruth, quite a lot of what was needed to be in place for the interregnum was already started, and we were commended for that.

Of course, our thanks have to go to those who have helped us by taking the services since July.

These are Fr David and Fr Philip, in particular, for all their help and especially for Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter. Thanks, too, to Fr Henderson and Fr Stephen. I've really enjoyed going to Jaywick and listening to Fr Stephen's sermons! A special thanks to Mthr Susan who, eventually, was licensed and so could take our services; especially Midnight Mass.

The others I need to thank are Pam and Corinne who, with myself have been there to take the Morning Praise services when no-one else was available, plus taking the Stations of Cross during Lent.

Thanks, too, to all our church members and volunteers who continue to help out at such things as the Tuesday Coffee morning here and the Thursday one at St. Christopher's. Plus the Saturday Drop-in staff. I'm sure I've forgotten someone and/or something, so please forgive me if I've missed you out. I hadn't expected to have to plan for an APCM and collate all the reports, etc. (as well as fulfil my Electoral Roll duties in a year that's a FULL revision) when the last APCM came about – and where Fr Justin announced he was leaving us. I think we are *very* lucky to have managed to get a new priest only 53 weeks later!

The Patronal Festival service was well attended, and we celebrated it with the wider members of the church and community afterwards at a BBQ and bring-and-share lunch. It was a bitter-sweet moment as this was the day we said, "Goodbye" to Fr Justin, Anna and the boys.

Over Christmas we had excellent attendance at the combined Carol Service where we had over 200 people in the congregation. The Christingle and Midnight Mass (both led by Mthr Susan) were quite well attended too. Pam and I are now governors at Oakwood Primary School and we have both attended and taken some of the services that they hold there along with Fr Stephen. It's good to be involved with the school and they have visited our church during the past year.

With Gilli's help we have managed to continue to hold the occasional Evensong in the parish and the last one was very well attended. Again, we were helped by some members of Clacton Choral and I hope that this collaboration will continue.

One major change that I introduced this year was the venue for our services when we changed the clocks to BST. We held the first Sunday in the church, the others in the hall, and the last Sunday was held at Jaywick. There were a few 'teething problems', but it worked well. Not everyone was happy with this, but the main reason for doing this was that, unlike domestic electricity and gas, there is no cap for businesses and our costs have gone up four-fold since 2022. So, if anyone finds the odd £2,000 in the back of their sofas, please let Lorna know as I'm sure you'll make her very happy! We simply cannot afford to heat St. James's every Sunday.

Related to the above, we had planned to hold a sermon or two on giving to the church, but that didn't happen after we were in interregnum. However, I have a plea, and that is that if you are able to give just £1 a week more to the church that even this would help us out immensely.

As I write this there are 71 people on the electoral roll and if everyone gave us the approximate £50 per year extra that would be just over £3,500 extra per year towards our running costs. Of course, feel free to give way more than that! 😊 I can write this now as, since last October, I officially became a pensioner, and I know that most people who attend our churches are the wrong side of 55... It really is the case that *every* little helps us out; more so if you pay tax and can gift aid it to us.

So, we're looking forward to having Fr Matt start and continue to guide us on our journey of faith.

As a dear friend of mine who worked with me in the late 1970s at the Coalite Smokeless Fuel plant in Chesterfield used to say, "Interesting times ahead".

God Bless,

Paul

### **Bible Study Group**

Our fortnightly Bible Study has been exciting, knowledgeable, surprising, questionable and we are learning much more of what the Bible has to say to us, and can teach us.

A few of the topics we've explored - Parables, Corinthians, Joseph, the Lord's prayer, Joel and Habakkuk. We are now on women of faith, starting with Eve. It's good to hear from our group, which has between 6 and 11 members, what their thoughts and views are and why.

Our prayers are that the Holy Spirit will help us grow closer to God, to know Him more personally, and hopefully evangelise.

Tea, coffee and biscuits afterwards, thanks to Corinne!

Yvonne Danaher

### **Buildings' Committee Report**

The most important thing to report for the last year is that we had the Quinquennial Inspection by our architect, Simon Marks in July. We received the report some time later and, as expected, there are a lot of things that need attention. These are classes as category A to F, where A are things which need sorting out as soon as possible. There are 71 of these to be actioned; though most are roof and/or tile related. However, they need to be done sooner, rather than later and we are in the process of getting quotes for this important work. Our thanks go to Anthony LeCras for all he does in regards to the Quinquennial work and his liaising with the architect and Chelmsford.

During the year we also met with representatives from the Diocese to discuss the heating situation we have at St. James's. We just cannot afford to heat the building using the old gas boilers with the price of gas being what it is. This is one reason the decision to have the Sunday services in the Hall, and at St. Christopher's was taken.

We have received a report on the heating and some suggestions as to how to replace the system in place. This is for not only the church, but the hall (and church rooms). The Diocese are actively looking to go 'Carbon Neutral' and so

we are seeing if we can make the move towards that – and seeing if there are grants available to help us change over our heating system(s).

We will keep the congregation updated on the heating system changes as, and when, they happen.

We've also dealt with the more 'mundane' things that go on, but need attention such as fixing doors, mending leaky toilets, getting the lighting replaced; the list goes on. If you've not really noticed all this going on, then we've done a good job!

The committee also oversees things external to the building, such as the lawns and gardens both here and at Jaywick. Our thanks go to Dudley at St. Christopher's for all he does as Sexton there and to Chris who looks after our lawns, etc. here at St. James's

Matthew and I would also like to thank Paul Rawlinson for all he does for the buildings' committee – most of it 'behind the scenes'.

Matthew and Paul Siddall

### **Report from Choir Leader**

Our Youth choir joined in for the Evensong held in May last year, for which several friends sang with members of the Church Choir. The next 'big' musical service was in July when a special setting of the mass was sung for Father Justin's last service, together with other music chosen especially for the day.

The highlight of the year was probably our Christmas Carol Service when our adult and youth choirs were supported by about 25 singers from Clacton Choral Society for a well-publicised event, attracting an amazing congregation of around 200! I received several enquiries from an ad placed in the Look magazine, and I'll continue to advertise major church events in there when I'm able to, as well as on Facebook.

In February I wrote 3 chants for the choir to sing during the mass led by Bishop Guli, and more recently an Introit and Blessing for the Evensong held earlier this month. The anthem was written by choir member David Wood, and specially arranged for our choir, and more traditional music (found in the organ loft and sung by previous choirs in our church) was used for the Canticles. Congregation numbers were higher than usual for this service, which was encouraging, and Mother Susan guided us through, giving many references to page numbers. I was also able to provide a little background information on the music chosen. The aim was to make the service more accessible – and I believe it was successful, with many people reporting that they felt much more comfortable. Home-made cakes were enjoyed by all after the service.

We hope to continue to raise awareness of our choir and musical events in the future, thereby attracting new members.

Gilli Dulieu

### **Churchwarden's report**

A year ago we had just received the surprising and very sad news that Father Justin was leaving St James' for a new parish, causing a great deal of anxiety to many, not least your churchwardens! A year on, we were delighted to be able to announce, at the parish Mass on May 4th, the appointment of our new priest, Rev. Matt Simpkins.

It has been a very busy year, and thanks must go to all our parishioners who have been so supportive and understanding during the Interregnum. We have been immensely grateful to Father Philip Need, Father David Lowman, Mother Susan Wiggins, Reverend Stephen Chandler and Father Henderson George who have led our worship on so many occasions over the past twelve months, and Pam Straw has worked hard to coordinate all this, enabling us to maintain four services each week at St James' and St Christopher's. It was sad to end Messy Mass and Brigade (with the Edward Bear group currently facing an uncertain future) but good to see our Sunday School continuing thanks to a small but very hardworking team of helpers. We also maintain links to Oakwood school, where Pam Straw and Paul Siddall are governors.

The Quinquennial Inspection took place in July, resulting in a very lengthy document for the attention of the Buildings' Committee. Plans have been started to address the heating issue, and we are hopeful that costs were reduced in the interim by holding two Sunday services per month in the church hall over the winter.

We now look forward to organising, with the help of the Diocese, the redecoration of the Vicarage in readiness for the arrival of the Simpkins family, and to the licensing in June of our very own Lay Minister, Pam Straw.

Corinne

### **Tuesday Coffee Morning**

We continue to welcome old and new friends to our coffee mornings each Tuesday, and thanks must go to our great team of volunteers who make all this possible. Shirley Bolton's craft group, which runs at one end of the hall, is becoming ever more popular, attracting a growing number of people each week.

The stall selling good quality household items, clothing and books now occasionally has plants, home-made cakes and jams for sale, thanks to the efforts of one of our helpers. This stall alone has raised over £1,200 during the past year.

In December we held a special Christmas coffee morning with decorations, gifts and cakes for sale, a very enjoyable and well-attended event which raised over £450 for church funds.

Our aim each week is to provide a warm, welcoming space for all who need it - and a good cup of coffee!

Corinne Osborn

### **St James Flower Guild**

There are now six of us that arrange flowers at St James on a regular basis.

Chris Aguda

Sandra Oswick

Heidi Wiggam

Marjorie Appleyard

Sue Faulkner

Ellie Eames

We try to have at least two arrangements in the church every week but no flowers at all during Lent and Advent. The two arrangements are in the sanctuary and by the side altar.

We have Christmas Memorial Stars and Easter Memorial Flowers which help towards the cost of flowers. We are happy to arrange flowers at other times in memory just speak to Chris or Sandra.

My thanks to all members of the Flower Guild, but a special mention to Sandra who helps me so much to water and look after arrangements. We're a good double act!

Chris Aguda

### **Clacton Foodbank**

The Foodbank has processed this year (April 2024 - March 2025) 1,337 vouchers, providing food for 3,123 people, of which 1,203 were children. This is a 7% reduction on the previous year.

Families, particularly, were needing to use the Foodbank more.

Of the total people fed, 51% were adults in the 25-64 age range, and 38% were children. Only 65% of clients needed to visit the Foodbank just once, at a time of crisis or hardship in their lives.

While the warehouse does have sufficient stocks of food at present, 12% of the food has needed to be purchased this year to cover essential items such as long-life milk. The main donation of food comes from supermarket collections, with donations from individuals and churches the other main sources.

Clients are very grateful for the help they receive but it can only continue with our help. Thank you to all who donated food or money donations from St James and St Christopher's. If you are able, please add items of food needed to the blue box by the noticeboard in church. There is a list there of most-needed items.

Thank you.

Sandra Oswick (May 2025)

### **Pastoral Assistant Report**

I continue to carry out Pastoral Assistance care in the parish and the wider community. I have been taking communion to Care Homes and to some who are house bound.

I also continue to represent St James and St Christopher at the Community Forum quarterly meetings for the vulnerable in our community.

Marjorie Appleyard

## **Safeguarding Annual Report**

There have been various reports of potential or actual safeguarding incidents or situations this year. In the most serious incident, the police were called immediately by the Saturday Drop in staff and acted promptly to resolve the situation. Other situations have been resolved after consultation with the Diocesan Safeguarding Team, either by referral or by meetings with the people involved to come to a decision on how to proceed. In January the Rev Susan Wiggins led us in training on how to keep ourselves safe. This meeting was well attended and appreciated by all. The church leadership team and the PSO are currently undertaking safeguarding leadership training. DBS checks are being updated now the initial 3 year period is coming to an end. This will also mean that safeguarding training will need to be updated for most people in the next 12 -18 months. Safer recruitment procedures are being followed.

Barbara Newton

## **Servers Report for 2025 Annual Parochial Meeting**

This year I must start by giving heartfelt thanks for their time and dedication to those Servers who filled in so admirably during my extensive absences following surgery. Without them the Services would have been incomplete. It is the purpose of Servers to support the clergy by helping to make the activities within an Anglo Catholic Service as seamless as possible. This involves a lot of preparation and dedication from the Serving Team, which, in turn, relies on having enough willing people to fulfil all the required roles. To start off with at the beginning of the year we were fortunately in the position of being able to give some Servers "time off" as we had sufficient to undertake our tasks. Unfortunately, as the year went on, several had to drop out temporarily for medical reasons, but for prolonged periods, and we are still short of a full complement. Consequently, we are looking for volunteers whom we could train to become Servers to ensure that the Serving Team is complete every Sunday and for Holy Day services. If you feel this is something you would like to be part of, please let me know. Ideally we would also like a child or children to be "boat boys" to assist the Thurifer ( "boat boy" is the title and does not mean that girls would be excluded, indeed we have had girls in the past who have developed to take various other roles in a Serving Team, including currently Lizzie Ridout who is regularly our Thurifer now). Full training will be given to all volunteers.

Anthony Le Cras  
Head Server

## **TEECH (Moldova appeal)**

Telecommunications Eastern European Challenge.

Together with Eileen Graham from the United Reform Church I represent St James Church supporting TEECH. Rob from the charity collects donations from us twice a year, in the summer and at Christmas, takes our boxed items and personally transports them over to Eastern Europe where the aid is most needed. Usually to Moldova as the country is supporting so many refugees from Ukraine. Everything we send gets to the people that need aid. During the summer trip volunteers install flushing toilets and showers to village schools, orphanages or old people's homes. Something we all take for granted. On the Christmas trip he takes things to individual needy families. We send gift bags for older children, knitted items including blankets which are always needed. There is information about TEECH on the blue notice board in St James along with photos of previous trips. There you can see photos of the children receiving their gift bags and the sort of items we include in them There is also a website TEECH.ORG My thanks to all who support the charity either with items, or donations of money for us to buy things for gift bags, it is much appreciated.

Chris Aguda

## **Mothers Union Report 2024**

The theme for Mothers' Union continues to be "Transformation – Now" and how we are re-imagining the organisation during 2024/2025. Globally membership numbers continue to fall due to the older demographic members rather than younger people. Numbers have fallen by one-third and the worrying concern that, as an Organisation, we are in danger of closing altogether by our 150th Anniversary in 2026. Within the St Osyth Deanery, we are now the only branch remaining!

During 2024 we have had a variety of speakers including learning about a dog rescue charity as well as craft activities, including making a cross-in-your-pocket, card making, Christmas arrangements and what was your favourite book and why. Within our own community, we learnt about a local charity named "The Tom Bowdidge Youth Cancer Foundation" formed in 2014 following the death of Tom Bowdidge aged 19 years old from a rare and aggressive form of cancer with only 200 cases reported globally and a poor prognosis. Tom was diagnosed in 2012 with cancer aged 18 years. His hospital treatment was split between UCLH in London and Colchester Hospital Oncology Ward. At that time, there were no wards designed especially for children whilst undergoing treatment, so Tom spent his time amongst adults. Tom knew more help and support was needed, specifically for teenagers, young adults and their families whilst living with a cancer diagnosis. He held quiz nights and pizza nights and raised a staggering £175,000 in his last year of life. He persuaded Colchester Hospital to have a recreation room which allows young people to leave their beds and come together with others and friends so that they feel less isolated. The Foundation has now been able to open eight hospital rooms/spaces in Colchester, London and Sheffield. The Foundation has also been funding a research project at the Institute of Cancer Research which focuses on cancers that affect young people. The aim is to offer teenagers and young people with rare cancer less toxic treatment that targets the specific molecular flaws that drive the growth of these deadly tumours.

Sadly, within the past year we have lost three long standing members, namely, Pim Lock, Audrey Scott and Patricia Lucas.

Our meetings are held on the fourth Friday of the month (except August) in the Church Hall at 2.15 pm until 4 pm. So, if you want to know more about Mothers' Union, why not come along and join us - all are welcome, including men, and we are a very friendly group.

Pam Straw  
Branch Leader

## **Children's Activities**

Since the departure of Fr Justin and family in July 2024, we have suffered to a certain extent a drop in the number of children attending both our Sunday School here at St James's as well as the Edward Bear group in Jaywick. Sadly, we had to close the Jaywick site in December 2024 due to lack of volunteers and children attending. The posting of Mthr Louise to her new parish in Saltdean back in February 2024, also had an impact at Jaywick. The loss of Messy Church and Brigade has also had an impact.

I am pleased to say however, that through the hard work of a small group of volunteers, numbers have picked up once again in our Sunday School activity and heartfelt thanks must go to this merry band of helpers! It is also good to see an increase in families attending our Church once more.

The Edward Bear group at St James's continued to thrive and thanks must go to Tralee Perkins who led this activity until recently, for her hard work in leading this. Thanks also to Sue Green and Viv who helped in the kitchen with refreshments. Unfortunately, Tralee left us at Easter with very short notice given, which meant that there was no replacement activity leader in place and no additional volunteers coming forward to help out.

Having spoken to our Churchwardens and not wanting to lose yet another vital outreach activity for local families, a decision was taken to have a short break and then resume the group as best we can, with hopefully other volunteers coming forward to help out until our new Priest arrives. So, if anyone can assist in helping out, on a rota basis, even for just one hour, with a planned craft activity, reading a story etc, then do please come and have a chat with me. Together we can make this work to the benefit of our parish.

Pam Straw

## **Finance Committee Report**

Our Finance team continue to work hard to ensure that our overall finances are monitored closely and spending is kept to a minimum, where possible. In particular I want to thank the finance group (Corinne Osborn, Lorna Oakley, Jane Osborne and Karen Warbis) for their hard work during this past year. Special thanks must go to Lorna Oakley for keeping our finances in order and for challenging the Utilities companies, where applicable, over our named accounts and for complaining to the Energy Ombudsman which resulted in us winning compensation over the handling of our account with E-On over many weeks.

One of the biggest challenges this past year has been the various utilities costs and associated high charges which resulted in an annual gas bill for St James's of £56,717.06. This was an increase of £48,926.54 on 2023, mainly due to grossly under-estimated bills over a few years and which has since been rectified. Our gas boilers are over 30 years old and parts are becoming obsolete. As a Church, we cannot sustain these high heating costs and so with the assistance of the DAC Heating Advisor, we are looking into the various options available to us to replace the heating system for the whole site. Our reserved funds are rapidly depleting in order to pay these bills and this cannot be sustained indefinitely.

With the assistance of the Diocesan Solicitor, we are working together on a new Lease Agreement with Little Jimmy's Pre-School for sole use of the Church Rooms and all associated costs with using these rooms. This process is taking much longer than originally anticipated, as we now have to go to the Land Registry Office to have the Church Hall and Church Rooms added onto our land ownership records, as it was recently discovered that these buildings had never been added to our plans originally! Again, thanks must go to Karen Warbis for her hard work in getting to this stage over many months, and hopefully it won't be too long before we can come back to the PCC for their final approval prior to the Lease being signed by all relevant parties.

Pam Straw

## **St Osyth Deanery Synod Report**

The Rev Phil Ritchie has been appointed as the new Area Dean for St Osyth Deanery following the retirement of Rev Laurie Bond.

We currently have a vacancy for a Lay Chair and if anyone is willing to take on this role, then Wendy King would be willing to offer help and advice to anyone taking on the role.

Little Clacton, Great Bentley, St Osyth, and Weeley parishes are to be known as The Priory Parishes benefice and had recently appointed Rev Sharon Guest as their new Vicar. In addition, Lt Clacton and Weeley were finally, after 8 years, very happy to have a priest of their own, even though shared with two others as well.

There is some uncertainty surrounding the future of the CAP (Christians Against Poverty) Debt Centre and the appointment of a Debt Adviser, which is currently a part-time position, and to which Parishes are asked to contribute towards the cost. Please pray that this vital role will continue, in whatever format, in the future ahead.

Pam Straw and Paul Siddall

## **Electoral Roll Report**

This year the Electoral Roll was completely revised and a new Roll created.

At the closing date of the update the figures are as follows:

Total number on the Roll:	78
Resident in the parish:	33
Resident outside the parish:	45

Paul Siddall (Electoral Roll Officer)

## Treasurer's Short Report

### **Notes on the Financial Statement for the year ended 31/12/2024**

Total receipts on ordinary unrestricted funds were £83,212.18 and are detailed in the financial statements. The Church Hall provided a gross income of £25,604.39, a decrease of £772.95 compared to 2023.

£151,231.92 was the total ordinary and essential expenditure used to provide the Christian Ministry from St James's and St Christopher's church, including the contribution to the diocesan Parish Share of £26,026.08.

The net result for the year was a deficit of receipts over payments of **£68,019.74**. This is an increase in deficit of £48,406.49 compared to 2023.

The following factors should be considered:

(a) the cost of gas for St James Church, Hall and Rooms increased by £48,926.54. This was because gas usage had been grossly under-estimated for a few years and was finally brought up-to-date in February 2024. Meter readings are now submitted monthly, so the correct amount is being paid every month;

(b) the obvious and significant impact of the increase in the cost of utilities;

(c) the Parish Share being increased by £15,943.92;

(d) organ and piano maintenance increased by £1,292.00; and

(e) the nursery did not make their rent payments for September to December 2024 (totalling £6,400.00) until February 2025. They still owe us £3,200.00 for July and August 2024.

The total fund value is £129,473.45 as of the 31 December 2024, a reduction of £69,359.64.

### **Notes to the Accounts**

*1. The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, using the Receipts and Payments basis.*

*2. Fixed and tangible assets are outlined in the church inventory.*

## St James Church

### Balance Sheet detailed

	As at 31/12/2024	As at 31/12/2023
<b>Current assets</b>		
Z06: St Christophers Church	1,034.52	1,375.96
Z07: St James Church	5,916.33	2,342.81
Z08: St James Church Hall	1,334.09	684.56
Z09: St James Church Savings Account	16,528.04	1,382.76
Z10: CBF C of E St Christophers	12,016.94	11,411.25
Z11: CBF C of E St James Church	44,679.44	153,646.60
Z14: CBF C of E Clacton-on-Sea St James Church	49,163.64	32,521.15
<b>Total Current assets</b>	<b>130,673.00</b>	<b>203,365.09</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
6699: Agency collections	1,199.55	4,532.00
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>1,199.55</b>	<b>4,532.00</b>
<b>Net Asset surplus (deficit)</b>	<b>129,473.45</b>	<b>198,833.09</b>
<b>Reserves</b>		
Excess / (deficit) to date	(69,359.64)	(19,287.44)
Z01: Starting balances	198,833.09	217,925.02
Z02: Other gains/(losses)	—	195.51
<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>129,473.45</b>	<b>198,833.09</b>

<b>Represented by Funds</b>		
Unrestricted	53,079.78	121,099.52
Designated	74,350.84	74,099.02
Restricted	2,042.83	3,634.55
Endowment	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>129,473.45</b>	<b>198,833.09</b>

**St James Church**

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

Class and nominal code	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	Last year
<b>Current assets - Cash at bank and in hand</b>						
Z06 : St Christophers Church	927.73	—	106.79	—	1,034.52	1,375.96
Z07 : St James Church	13,224.95	794.22	2,917.59	—	16,936.76	13,363.24
Z07 : St James Church	—	(3,020.43)	(8,000.00)	—	(11,020.43)	(11,020.43)
Z08 : St James Church Hall	1,116.09	—	218.00	—	1,334.09	684.56
Z09 : St James Church Savings Account	8,528.04	—	8,000.00	—	16,528.04	1,382.76
Z10 : CBF C of E St Christophers	12,016.94	—	—	—	12,016.94	11,411.25
<b>Total</b>	35,813.75	(2,226.21)	3,242.38	—	36,829.92	17,197.34
<b>Current assets - Investments</b>						
Z11 : CBF C of E St James Church	(31,897.61)	76,577.05	—	—	44,679.44	153,646.60
Z14 : CBF C of E Clacton-on-Sea St James Church	49,163.64	—	—	—	49,163.64	32,521.15
<b>Total</b>	17,266.03	76,577.05	—	—	93,843.08	186,167.75
<b>Liabilities - Agency accounts</b>						
6699 : Agency collections	—	—	1,199.55	—	1,199.55	4,532.00
<b>Total</b>	—	—	1,199.55	—	1,199.55	4,532.00
<b>Net total assets</b>	53,079.78	74,350.84	2,042.83	—	129,473.45	198,833.09
<b>Represented by</b>						
Unrestricted - General	53,079.78	—	—	—	53,079.78	121,099.52
Designated - Choir	—	—	—	—	—	750.00
Designated - ECC	—	—	—	—	—	298.72
Designated - Easty	—	56,202.00	—	—	56,202.00	56,202.00
Designated - Ed-Bear	—	546.91	—	—	546.91	493.68
Designated - Flower	—	1,247.31	—	—	1,247.31	—
Designated - Quin-Rep	—	16,354.62	—	—	16,354.62	16,354.62
Restricted - Brighter	—	—	2,042.83	—	2,042.83	2,918.25
Restricted - Rewild	—	—	—	—	—	677.30
Restricted - StCHeat	—	—	—	—	—	39.00
<b>Total</b>	53,079.78	74,350.84	2,042.83	—	129,473.45	198,833.09